

[Mike]

Hello St. Pius Family!

I am Mike Plenzler and this is my wife, Tracey.

This upcoming Labor Day weekend, we will celebrate our 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and we have been SO blessed over the years. We have two beautiful daughters, Ashley and Alissa. Ashley is married to Coilin Walsh and together they have 2 wonderful daughters, Maeve (2) and Ellie Grace (2 months). Alissa continues to establish herself as an accomplished vocalist and instructor.

We moved to this area in 1997 and quickly became members of St. Pius and it felt like home from the first day. Tracey signed up for RCIA that Fall and Ashley and Alissa received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation at the appropriate times. We basically checked the appropriate boxes along the way.

However, nine years ago, we encountered a challenge to our faith life, at least what we thought was our faith life. This challenge caused us to look very closely at our priorities. We decided we needed to learn more about Catholicism because checking the box wasn't what we're called to do..., we needed to own our faith. We turned to prayer, study and of course guidance from our Pastor, Fr. Bill!

We have continued working on our relationship with God since then and He has continued to bless us in so many ways. As a result, when we were asked to be a part of the Capital Campaign for this beautiful Church we just had to say YES. YES to being a part of building the kingdom of God! YES to our family and the communities we are a part of and YES to our *St Pius Family*.

[Tracey]

Please understand this is NOT a disguised pitch for the capital campaign. Rather, over the last 24 years and more specifically the last 8, WE have grown exponentially by giving of our Time, Talent and **Treasure**. As we have said yes to Masses, ministries, committees, and councils we've gained much insight into how a thriving, active parish operates and functions. From human resources to financial resources..., it's quite an operation and our Parish Leadership, staff, school administrators, teachers and volunteers put in long hours to make Saint Pius run smoothly and efficiently!

As we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dedication of our new Church, we reflect on those times when we were busting at the seams on this campus. Our Parish family could not be contained in the facilities we had at the time which included 7 masses in the church and gym each weekend, not to mention Christmas and Easter Masses! Many of us lived through the growing pains of construction with dust flying everywhere, gym only Masses..., and yet St. Pius continued to thrive and fill whatever space was available. The Dedication of our new Church is one of the happiest and proudest days of our lives and what a blessing it was to see the pure joy on Fr. Bills face..., absolutely priceless!!

[Mike]

And blessings continue..., and we still say YES to Father Bill when he asks about opportunities like this one, and of course, as we plan regular giving to the Church with the intent on increasing our giving annually. We remain committed to giving our *first fruits* to further build the kingdom of God.

With God's grace to put the worst of COVID behind us soon, we look forward to seeing all 5 Masses full again without ropes on pews, Parish ministries actively doing their part to build the Kingdom of God and a Parish Picnic once again. What a sight it will be!

So, please, we invite you to join us in giving of your Time, Talent and **TREASURE** to the Church in whatever way you can. As Saint Peter says in 1 Peter 4:10, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Thank you and my God continue to bless you! Saint Pius X, Pray for Us!