

ST. PIUS X

3030 GUS THOMASSON  
DALLAS, TX 75228  
972 279-6155

# Pius Times

MARCH 16, 2008

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Visit us at [spxdallas.org](http://spxdallas.org)
- Not registered at the church? Register on-line!
- Did you know? The church steeple is 106 feet high.
- Try our wonderful ethnic food offerings after the 11:30, 1, 2:30 and 4 Sunday Masses

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## Welcome to This Newsletter

In addition to our weekly bulletin we will be publishing a seasonal newsletter. In our bulletin we announce the activities of our various groups and ministries. But in the newsletter visitors and long-time parishioners will have the opportunity to review what are our groups and ministries and why they do what they do.

When Pope John Paul II came to San Antonio in 1987, he dedicated an entire talk to the theme of parish life. He lifted up parish life by saying it is the

fulfillment of the beautiful way of life described in the Acts of the Apostles—"They devoted themselves to the apostles' instruction and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (2:42). The Pope said that every parish is the heart of the Church and thus is built upon solid doctrine, the sharing of life as a community, the celebration of liturgy, and praying together.

As a child growing up in St. Pius I personally experienced all four of those dimensions in a lively

way, and now as pastor I rejoice in the knowledge that our parish continues to grow in those four dimensions.

I hope that you are doing all four, that you do more than just attend Mass, that you are actively involved in the life of the parish, that you allow your faith grow through learning more, sharing more, celebrating more and praying more. Please read this newsletter and feel welcomed and ready to experience the "heart of the Church."

## Why Catholic School?

As parents, we all want what is best for our children. And we believe that St. Pius X Catholic School can help you give your children the best possible educational foundation – a foundation steeped in their Catholic faith and in strong academic and extracurricular programs. Our mission and philosophy are a reflection of the powerful words of the Archbishop of Denver, Charles J. Chaput, who said, "*Catholic schools don't exist to compete with public schools or offer a good "private" education. Catholic schools exist to form young people in a love for Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith. In a Catholic school, the Catholic faith should be the spine of every other field of study.*"

It is this belief that has helped St. Pius X School graduate well-rounded students for

nearly 50 years. The education at St. Pius is truly value-added education. Our students love learning about God, going to Mass and receiving the Holy Eucharist often, learning about our religion's history, and getting to pray daily and as often as they would like. We help parents mold their children into good Christian people who will be able to spread the good news about Jesus once they leave our school. Our rigorous academics challenge our students and prepare them for high school and beyond. We have a proven track record of excellence, as witnessed by the high percentage of our graduates who go on to graduate from high school and college. The strong academic foundation we provide gives our students the ability to choose reputable, fulfilling professions when they are older. In recent years, we have

also added programs to assist our learning different students so that they too will have the same opportunities for success as other students.

Our dedicated teachers and staff work hard to ensure the success of every student. And our teachers are appreciated by the students and their families, as evidenced by the high number of our teachers who have been recognized for outstanding service with Work of Heart Awards. All of these are great reasons why you should choose a Catholic education at St. Pius X School for your children. Won't you join us so that your children can go out into the world and use their Catholic education to make a difference?



# Early Care & Education Center



*“Our Center is recognized as a Four-Star, Rising Star Provider with the Child Care Group and the Texas Workforce Commission.”*

We have one important goal—to give the children entrusted to us the best care possible—loving care centered around Christ and His teachings.

We offer a range of services including day care for infants through age 12, Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 programs mentored by the Texas Education Agency, after school care, summer camp, and school holiday care for spring break, Christmas break, and teacher in-service and parent conference days. Our Center is recognized as a Four-Star, Rising Star Provider with the Child Care Group (CCMS) and the Texas Workforce Commission.

We make sure the children are challenged and happy. We listen to them and we take care of them with tender loving care. The extra hug, gentle touch, and pat on

the head are important so we strive to do these at all times with the safety and education of the children as our primary concern.

How and what we teach are more important than how much we teach. Learning must be fun for these little ones so periods of instruction are kept short and appropriate for each age group. Day care and Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 programs develop the whole child and build a strong foundation for academic and social development.

Play is an important method for young children to learn. We offer learning through outside play, directed play, and free play. The children develop safe and healthy habits with an emphasis on proper hygiene, sound nutrition, exercise and physical care. We also:

**Foster positive self-**

- esteem.**
- Provide opportunities for creative expression.**
- Support the development of social skills.**
- Stimulate cognitive problem-solving skills.**
- Strengthen communication skills.**
- Enhance fine motor and gross motor skills.**

Developmentally appropriate activities are planned and implemented in each age group. The daily schedules provide for a balance between child-directed and teacher-directed activities, quiet and active time, and inside and outside play. Children have daily opportunities to read books, use a variety of art media, explore math and science materials, gain music experience, and work alone or together with friends.

Parents are welcome to visit our Center at 2721 San Vicente, Dallas, Texas, anytime or call 972-279-3232 or 972-270-6266 for more information. Office business hours are 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., and no appointment is necessary to tour the Center.

# Not Just a Country Church



Photo courtesy of Guy Prater

When the Parish Hall was completed as our first church, we were a parish on the edge of the country. Our community and campus have continually changed. The current church is a good example. From the laying of

the cornerstone in 1968 the church has continually been upgraded. The roof, tile floors, and the many wood accents have enhanced the beauty of our facility. Did you know that many of these projects have been parishioner driven? Tom Farrell led the teams of parishioners laying all of the stone tile. Ron

Rhodes is responsible for building the Presider's Chair on the altar, the Baptismal Font (with his son-in-law Robert Valles, Tom Schlachter, and Jody Bailey), the Good Friday Cross, the Hymn Boards and the St. Vincent DePaul Collection Cart. We are very proud of these and all our giving parishioners!

# Catechesis: Handing on the Faith

**“Catechesis is an education in the faith of children, young people and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life.”**

This defines not only *Catechesis* but the Religious Education program at St Pius X. A program dedicated to teaching the children of this parish about their Catholic faith.

We focus on keeping Jesus the center of our Catholic faith. Catholic doctrine is presented by teaching what we believe in (Creed), celebrating the sacraments and a living a life of faith (Commandments) and prayer (The Lord’s Prayer).

Our Religious Education Program (CCD) has grown tremendously in the last few years! Ten years ago we had only 2 Sunday sessions and today we have classes in

English and Spanish on Saturdays and Sundays.

The sacrament of First Communion is usually celebrated in the early grades (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>) allowing for the preparation and celebration of Confirmation in grades 7<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup>. Both programs are a 2 year commitment.

We have a large number of children (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) who continue their Religious Education after they have received First Communion.

Many wonderful activities take place throughout the year. In October all four sessions took part in an outside Rosary around the Holy Family in St. Pius’ beautiful garden. What a fantastic and spiritual event this turned out to be! At Christmas, our Spanish session children re-enacted

A Posada is a re-enactment of the search by Jesus’s parents for lodging prior to his birth.

a Posada. This past Christmas the regular classes and Mrs. Linda Blasiar decorated our Jesse Tree. The children and their teachers all shared in the work that

went into putting this beautiful project together. We have also started a new tradition, an Annual Can Food Drive for the Lenten Season.

The children participate in many events of religious significance. For the third year, six classes of 7<sup>th</sup> graders, headed by Marty and Juli Maxon presented and took part in a Seder Meal. All of our teachers put thought, preparation and prayer into all these projects.

This parish is eternally grateful to all our volunteers that make this program possible. Their time and dedication can never be repaid! Whether they are teachers, assistants or helpers in the CCD office; these good people are here to bring the best Catholic education possible to your children. There isn’t one person who can ever do this alone. We all work together as a team, a very good team indeed!

**No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. Together, we can make a difference in the life of a child!**

## Safe Environment

As Christian adults, we have a moral and legal responsibility and are entrusted by God with the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of minors and vulnerable adults. As they participate in activities within or sponsored by our Diocese, it is our responsibility and commitment to provide an environment which is safe and nurturing.

The Safe Environment Program was adopted for the protection

and well being of everyone in the St Pius X community. The Diocese of Dallas has mandated that everyone who works with children, youth, and vulnerable adults complete Safe Environment training annually. We provide annual training and awareness for clergy, employees and parish volunteers every 4-6 weeks. Visit our website and follow the Safe Environment link to become a volunteer.

**PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION** is the 2008 statewide public

awareness and education campaign on prevention of child abuse which encourages positive choices that will create positive change in society. The pinwheel will represent the theme of ‘Turning Choices into Change... Making a Difference for Children! Each year the month of April is dedicated to Child Abuse Awareness – watch for additional information in our bulletin on this important issue.

# Holy Week

## Monday

7:00 p.m. Confessions

## Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Mass of Chrism at the Cathedral

## Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Confessions

## Holy Thursday

No 6:15 or 8:00 a.m. Masses

No Confessions

7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

## Good Friday

No 6:15 or 8:00 a.m. Masses

3:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion in English

6:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion in English

8:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion in Spanish.

## Holy Saturday

No 6:15 or 8:00 a.m. Masses.

No confessions today—everybody should have been reconciled **before** Holy Thursday.

No 5:00 p.m. Mass.

8:30 p.m. Easter Vigil. This Mass will be half in English and half in Spanish.

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

Volunteer!

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity? Our ministries offer a wide variety of wonderful chances to make a difference in your life.

St. Vincent DePaul	972.278.4815
Tutor at the School	972.279.2339
Pilgrim Virgin Program	972.681.2732
Youth Ministry	972.682.3585
Religious Ed Teacher	972.279.2558

If you don't see anything on this list that you like, please call the church office at 972.279.6155 for additional options.



Interested in St. Pius X School. Contact 972.279.2339 to schedule a tour of the facilities and meet the administration.

# Something for Every Youth



Youth Ministry is a gathering of Catholic teens to socialize, share and grow in our faith through topic discussions, games and various other activities. This is not a replacement for CCD or theology classes but a program that helps teens to better

understand how their faith impacts their every day lives. They have the opportunity to ask questions, learn to defend their faith and stay strong in their beliefs long after formal classes are done.

We enhance what has been learned in formal classes and help the teens to stay connected to our faith

community in a world that has many outside influences.

This is done through weekly gatherings, retreats, service projects and conferences. If someone in your family is in **grades 6 through 12** they are automatically a member! There is no registration fee and they don't have to commit to coming every week or to every event.



Rock'n C Ranch High School Retreat

Come by and check out a ministry that fits your schedule and preferences. We'd love to meet you!!! Additional event information is on our web

page, in the Youth Center in the foyer of the church and by calling the Youth Office at (972) 682-3585.

### SEE what we have happening:

**The EDGE – Middle School Youth Ministry (grades 6, 7 & 8)** – Wednesday evenings in the Youth Room, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**LifeTEEN - High School Youth Ministry (grades 9-12)** – Sunday evenings in the Youth Room, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**Juventud Catolica de Jesus - Spanish Youth Ministry (ages 13-17)** – Sunday afternoons in the Youth Room from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Army 4 God – Teen Bible Study** – Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center.