

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**P**REPARE



### CHRISTMAS TOY PROJECT

All members of the St. Pius X Parish and visitors are invited to participate in our annual **Toy Drive**. Our objective this year is to provide toys and gifts for Divine Mercy Catholic Haitian Mission here in Fort Lauderdale. This Mission currently is comprised of over 1500 families, with over 200 children in 8 CCD classes, many more ages 3 to school-age, and 70 children ages 12-19 in their Confirmation class. The Mission is currently undergoing Hurricane Wilma repairs. As their church is small, seating for Sunday Masses extends to their social room, with speakers outside the building so they can hear Mass. The Mission has another lot on which to build, but – income is low and they are in the midst of a building drive. They have 37 group activities including a children's choir and an Outreach program caring for their elderly. If you would like to participate, please place a **new unwrapped** toy or clothing, especially sweaters for up to age 10, in the food baskets at the church entrances. Please, no battery-driven toys. If shopping is difficult for you but you would like to participate in this project, cash or a check made payable to "St. Pius X Woman's Club" in an envelope addressed to the "Toy Project" and placed in the food baskets or the collection baskets will be most welcome and will find its way to us. The need is great.

**Charities Committee, St. Pius X Woman's Club**

### FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This **Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, the Patroness of our nation, and it is a **Holy Day of obligation**.

#### MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 7, Vigil Mass, 5:30PM  
Friday, December 8: 8:00AM, 10:00AM & 12:00Noon

#### CONFESSIONS

December 7<sup>th</sup> ..... 4:00 to - 4:30PM

### CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

For the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord, the floral display in our sanctuary this Christmas will be in memory of our departed loved ones and friends. Envelopes for this offering can be found at the church entrances.

#### This Week On The St. Pius X Web...

How Often Should I Go To Confession?  
Christmas Update  
Catholic League's Christmas Grinch Awards  
Saint of the Day  
St. Pius Mini Video Tour.....  
<http://www.saintpiusthetenth.org>

**Next week.... the Choir will Sing at the  
12:30PM Mass, Sunday, December 10**

### Stewardship Meeting

Stewardship Meeting will be Monday, December 4 at 6:30PM in the Rectory Conference Room. Come on out – we need your input.

### CHRIST CHILD TEA

St. Pius X Woman's Club invites all women of the parish to attend **our annual Christ Child Tea on Monday, December 11, 2006, from 1:00 to 3:00PM, in the Parish Hall**. Refreshments will be served and a musical program by the Broward Woman's Chorus will be presented at 1:30PM. As in the past, the collection from our "Silver Bowl" will be forwarded to Providence Place home for abused mothers and children. Your generous donation at the Tea will ensure our continuing to be "Guardian Angels" to these abused, abandoned and neglected families in the care of the Archdiocese. Your charities committee has been gathering new toys for the needy children under the care of the Divine Mercy Catholic Haitian Mission here in Fort Lauderdale. The need is great. Their assets small. If you would like to participate in this project, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Christ Child Tea. May the Baby Jesus keep you all in His care as you continue your ministry of sharing with and caring for His little ones.

**St. Pius X Woman's Club**

### GARDEN NEWS

Phase V is open for the ordering of bricks. Think of that special someone, anniversary birth, death, etc. and consider ordering now so that Phase V will have the necessary number of ordered bricks to go to print as soon as possible. We are looking to Easter for delivery of Phase V. That will only be possible if we have enough brick orders to submit. **Barbara C. Scerbo**, Garden Chairman, 954: 563-3735 or cell, 954: 610-5641-[BSCERBO1935@AOL.COM](mailto:BSCERBO1935@AOL.COM).

### BINGO Every Thursday

"Progressive Game".....

All parishioners and friends of St. Pius are invited to attend **every Thursday. Doors open at 5:30PM** with food and refreshments being served. **Early bird starts at 6:30PM and regular bingo at 7:00PM**. All profits are for the Church Beautification Program.

The St. Pius X Snack Bar serves up coffee, tea, hot chocolate, hot dogs and an abundant array of cookies and snacks to the early birders and during the intermissions.

**Note: We Need Your Help...** Bingo is moving into the Season!!! That being the case, we need people persons who enjoy having fun and giving to the effort of the Beautification Program. Assistance is needed in all areas. Callers, floor persons, door & entry people and food and beverage servers. No experience is necessary and the pay is rewarding! We will be happy to have you for whatever time you can give. We are attempting to establish the winter schedule now, so PLEASE give us SOME of our time and smiling faces. For details call Joe Scerbo 954: 563-3735.

**FAREWELL TO A FRIEND**

In my sermon last Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King, (when I wasn't murdering the rousing crescendo of "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah!) I made reference to two kinds of knowledge that we all have—knowledge based of hearsay and knowledge based on experience. As an example of the latter I said "I know that friendship can enrich the meaning and increase the joy of living. Part of my reason for knowing that is hearsay. I have read about it. I have observed it in the lives of other people. But most of my knowledge of friendship is a matter of personal experience. I have some friends with whom I have shared the joys and the sorrows of living. And those people have become more dear to me than life itself." Monsignor Patrick McDonnell, Pastor of St. Sebastian's Church, our next door neighboring parish to the south, was one of those friends. Those words from my sermon were said during the 9:30AM Mass on Sunday. On Monday after Mass, I learned that Msgr. McDonnell had died a few hours earlier. I was shocked, disbelieving, confused and terribly saddened. I hadn't just lost a friend; I had lost the closest friend I have ever had in the priesthood.

We met for the first time towards the end of August 1957 at what was then known as Idlewild Airport in New York, as we waited for the plane to take us to Florida to start our priestly ministry. He looked like a younger version of Mickey Rooney and we hit it off from the beginning. Thus began a precious friendship that has endured and grown over these past 50 years. We learned that we had both been ordained to the priesthood on the same day but in different seminaries in Ireland. What we did not know then was that "Father Pat," as he was affectionately known, was a latent diabetic. Over the early years we shared "the joy of living" the priesthood in South Florida. My definition of a friend is "one who makes no demands and is always there when you need him." Father Pat was that kind of friend. Sadly, with the passage of time, his diabetes became full-blown and then it was time to share "the sorrows of living." Over these past years he had to contend with long sessions of kidney dialysis, the need for a kidney transplant, but first cardiac bypass surgery—7 of them, he told me! After recuperation, he had successful kidney transplant surgery, lovingly donated by his sister Mary, a schoolteacher in Ireland. Later he would have a succession of amputations—a toe here, a finger there, then his right foot, later his right hand, several heart attacks, and the amputation of his left foot. Throughout all this he had never a word of complaint. He retained an incredible sense of humor. And every time I'd call to ask him how he was doing I'd get a ringing response: "TIP TOP"! He laughingly told me that he thought that God was taking him home in small pieces!

Father Pat was an inspiration to all who met him. His faith in God was unquestionable. Never have I known someone who suffered so much—and never a "why me?" God called him to the priesthood; Father Pat took up his cross daily and followed in the footsteps of the Lord Whom he loved and served so well. I talked to him at length by phone last Saturday. We reminisced and laughed and talked about our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination next June. Then God stepped

in last Monday morning and took Father Pat Home for Christmas—all the way Home to the Holy Family in the Stable in Bethlehem. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, loved him and were blessed by his touch. He will be especially missed by me, who am so fortunate to have him as a neighbor, an extraordinarily gifted and holy priest, and my closest friend. Please keep Msgr. Pat McDonnell in your prayers. May he rest in peace!

**Father Pat Slevin**

*Prayer Request for the sick...* Father Thomas Lavelle, George Chinsley, Charles Spevak, Carmela Zanca, Joan Tarris, Thomas & Betty Kelly, William Davis, Kenny Suppa, Mary Elizabeth Catanzaro, Kathy Masotti, Elizabeth Iacobelli, David Weeks, John Paul Sica, Lina DiCicco, Wayne Holman, Dr. Elizabeth McDonald, Colone Twins, Glenn Bowen, Miriam Belchino, Mary Beth Weber, Mihai, Anca Blaga, Tom Fougere, Cathy England, and Vasiliki & Kosta "Gus" Marchelos.

*Prayer Requests for the deceased...* Msgr. Pat McDonnell.

*The Sanctuary Lamp* signals the Eucharistic presence of the Lord Jesus in the tabernacle and burns continuously for 7 days. You may have the sanctuary lamp memorialized for either a sick person, a deceased loved one, or a special intention, for a weekly donation of \$10.00. Please call the parish office to reserve a specific date.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in the Church, in memory of **Kenneth Vinning** - in the Chapel in memory of **Gertrude McArdle**.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY – DECEMBER 2nd**

4:00PM **Simone DeMarco**  
5:30PM **Emma Rita DeRuzza**

**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 3rd**

8:00AM **Tom Hornsby**  
9:30AM **Mary Roberts**  
11:00AM **Dr. Verdi Sciscent**  
12:30PM **Chris McDonald**

**MONDAY – DECEMBER 4th**

8:00AM **Gerstl & Sullivan Families**  
9:00AM **Mary Gillan**

**TUESDAY – DECEMBER 5th**

8:00AM **Sr. Madelon Marie**  
9:00AM **Chris McDonald**

**WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 6th**

8:00AM **Marion & Edward Stitzell**  
9:00AM **Doris Campbell**

**THURSDAY – DECEMBER 7th**

8:00AM **Mary Gillan**  
9:00AM **Theresa Mitchell**  
5:30PM **For Our Parish Community**

**FRIDAY – DECEMBER 8th**

8:00AM **John & Rose Ruvo McDermott**  
10:00AM **Mass of Thanksgiving**  
12:00PM **For Our Parish Community**

**SATURDAY – DECEMBER 9th**

8:00AM **Roy Woods**  
9:00AM **Roy Woods**