

# Saint Pius Calling



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STELLAR by Diane Shamory

### 3—2—1— BLAST OFF !!!!



This year's Vacation Bible School centered around a space theme, with the motto "Shine Jesus' Light." Just like

a star, we are reminded to shine Jesus' light to the world. Our Vacation Bible School was full of Bible adventures, music, games, snacks, and fun activities where we helped kids experience Jesus' love. We transformed the social hall of our church into an out of this world experience for our Stellar Vacation Bible School this summer.



During our outer space adventures, we explored God's love and awesomeness by singing the Stellar songs, playing All Star Games, and through Bible

adventures where we learned stories centered on Jesus' life. We used our creativity and our Imagination Station and sang and crafted at the Arts Station. Our Galactic snacks kept to the stellar theme and sure were tasty.

For our community mission effort, we collected lots of food to donate to Shepherd's Pie. We helped kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life - something that we call God Sightings.



Vacation Bible School was out of this world this year, thanks to so many people's efforts!

## 29th Annual St. Pius X Golf Tournament by Maureen Pagana

This year marked the 29th year for our annual St Pius X golf tournament held at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. We had over 90 golfers participating despite the rainy weather. Combined with our sponsors donations, we had a profit of \$8,428!!

The golf committee members: Charlie and Jess Pagana, Jay and Shaina Pagana, Chris and Erin Andretta, Ethan and Laura Hummel, Ricky and Chelsey Davis, Greg Felty and myself truly enjoy putting this tournament together to foster fellowship among parishioners and our community.

Along with lots of laughs and a little friendly competition for some fun prizes, everyone has a wonderful time, returning year

after year. If you missed out on this wonderful event this year, don't worry... you can volunteer to help at the tournament next year. And please start praying now for sunshine then! Your friend in Jesus!  
Maureen Pagana.



Oh yes! .....  
Charlie Pagana won the Putting contest !!!!!

July / November  
2023

### In this issue:

- Vacation Bible School
- Golf Tournament
- Octoberfest
- PA March for Life
- Selinsgrove Street Fair
- Halloween
- The Advent Season
- St. Nicholas
- National Eucharistic Revival

## ST. PIUS X OCTOBERFEST 2023

by Agnes Janas

This year's Parish Picnic "Oktoberfest" was held in the parish social hall on Sunday October 15th. Coordinators for the affair were Donna Politza and Dianne Hartman, with Beer Meister Bill Houser. It started off with an opening prayer by Fr. Josh and then polka music by Power House DJ Systems.

A multitude of delicious foods were served including roast beef, sausage, deviled eggs, chicken, spaghetti, mac and cheese, and many, many more; with of course coffee and cold beverages.

There was also a Beer Garden for those over 21 with proper ID. There were decorated tables with desserts and snacks of all kinds, including, cookies, cakes, cheese and crackers. A popcorn machine was also available. S'mores were being made outside for the youngsters with Deacon Chris and a few others.

Entertainment was abundant. We had four male polka dancers, Josh Merwine, Deacon Chris, Dave Sabotchick, and Bob Geipel. After that we did the chicken dance, and the YMCA dance and a broom dance. Josh Merwine won the polka dance and Fr. Josh won the chicken dance.

A 50-50 raffle was held and won by Kathy Dalius. The basket raffle winners were called. There were over 18 baskets with great prizes, including two bicycles.

A grand time was enjoyed by all attendees

and Fr. Josh thanked the wonderful committee members including Donna Politza, Dianne Hartman, Bill Houser, Jeff Ettinger, Felicia O'Brien, Josh Merwine, Laura Pomykalski, Liz Pomykalski, and Brian Good. The helpers included Liz Kotarski, Mike and Joyce Seno, Bob and Pat Geipel, Knights of Columbus members and many others.



**Hope to see everyone at next year's picnic 2024!!**

## PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE

by Joyce Seno



On Monday, October 16, 2023, members of St Pius X traveled to Harrisburg to participate in the third annual Pennsylvania March for Life. Approximately 22 people gave of their time to make the event and make their voices heard.

The Rally began at 11 am, with the March following at 12 noon. Mass at Saint Patrick Cathedral was attended after the March at 1:30 pm.

They heard from pro-life leaders about the most pressing issues of today and how you can build a culture of life. There were many speakers for the event including our new Bishop Timothy Senior who gave some inspiring words and blessings.



Thank you Weikel Bus for providing the transportation.

## SELINSGROVE STREET FAIR 2023

by Joyce Seno

The Annual Market Street Festival is a much-anticipated and loved event in Selinsgrove. As usual, our dedicated St. Pius Knights of Columbus manned the pierogi stand and made sure that bellies were full and happy. They have been doing this for many years and are a favorite at the festival. They sold 1,560 pierogies at the fair and another 240 after mass on Sunday. Another 24 dozen were donated to Shepards Pie. After all expenses, the net profit was \$ 2,385.00. Despite the wet weather, people who came out to the fair came out to eat. For the second year, the Legion of

Mary joined the event as a “friendly neighbor” to the Knights. They had a book barrow filled with great reads to hand out to any one interested. 250 copies of Matthew Kelly’s Holy Moments book were given away free and another 50 various books were also given away. Along with the books went miraculous medals, rosaries, prayer cards and bracelets. That’s over 300 contacts with the general public that includes all religions. Hope you will join these great groups next year.



**Catholic roots of HALLOWEEN**

**Halloween is a celebration that does not worship the devil.**

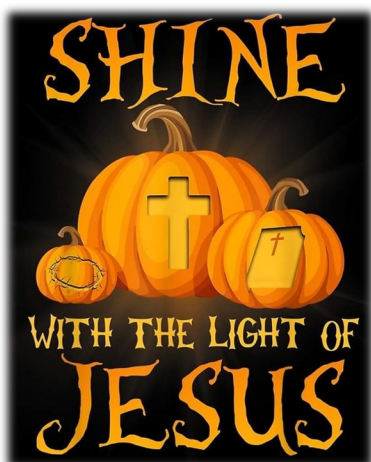
**"Hallows," means "holy." So, Halloween is the celebration of the feast of All Hallows (all saints)**

**It is a day when Catholics celebrate the triumph of the Church in heaven and the lives of the saints on earth.**

## HALLOWEEN !

Halloween. This can be a wonderful day for children and adults alike. Dressing up can be fun. BUT, we do need to be careful. A good question to ask ourselves is, “Does this costume glorify something that is not of God?” Enjoy the day! #sjnlancaster #faith #dailyhomily

Father Dan



## THE ADVENT SEASON

### Christmas Begins the Day After Thanksgiving! (Right?)

Any sensible person wandering through department stores during the month of October might think that the Thanksgiving holiday is all but shoved aside to make room for the Christmas holiday, which would be next up. That same sensible person might also roll their eyes and heave a big sigh because it's "too early." But, not only is it too early, it skips an entire other season.

The retailers' "shop early and often" push has successfully eclipsed the Advent season in many hearts. It has also managed to truncate the Christmas season itself, the proof of which is the sad sight of Christmas trees along curbs on December 26.

And yet, Catholic Christians do celebrate two actual seasons.

How will you  
show up for  
the Lord this  
Advent Season?

The season of Advent is indeed a time of preparation, but not so much in the outwardly sense of shopping, felling a tree, writing family newsletters, etc. but more so an inwardly preparation for our Lord's coming. In fact, during Advent Holy Mother Church helps prepare our hearts for both His birth in Bethlehem and for His second coming at the end of time.

The Advent season begins four Sundays before Christmas.

Tradition provides a wide variety of practices geared toward prepa-

ration and sanctification, including works of charity, adding daily family prayer time, going to Reconciliation, attending a daily Mass, starting a new devotion, using an appropriate Advent calendar with the children, etc. The Advent wreath of four candles symbolizes the four-week proximity of Jesus' coming: Hope, faith, joy, and peace, each of which is accompanied by special prayers. Some references also identify the candles as symbolizing hope, peace, joy, and love.

Think of Advent as practicing an extra sacrifice in a penitential way while at the same time strengthening one's spiritual life. Advent points to Jesus, not to a department store.

Distinguishing the season of Advent from the Christmas season can also be achieved by doing the major portion of decking the halls closer to Christmas Eve (vs. on or after Black Friday).

Most importantly, the last thing one should feel at the end of Advent is the exhaustion of something finally being *over*. Instead, one should feel the excitement of a new beginning...our Lord has finally arrived!...and a new season of celebration.

The Christmas season is longer than two days, regardless of when radio stations stop playing Christmas music. It begins with the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass and ends with the Sunday Mass celebrating the Lord's Epiphany, which is the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. (Historically celebrated on January 6.) Some cultures observe

by Blondie Lecce

Epiphany as the time to exchange gifts to align with the Magi and their gifts. Other traditions celebrate a longer Christmas season of 40 days, ending on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

By observing Advent properly, many people will find a renewed sense of hope, faith, joy, and peace in celebrating the Christmas season: Cards written and received; family gatherings; ugly sweaters, real trees that are fresh; cookie exchanges; full hearts...



Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas season!

Excerpts from [Catholic.com/magazine](http://Catholic.com/magazine), [Learnreligious.com](http://Learnreligious.com), [aboutcatholics.com](http://aboutcatholics.com), and [hallow.com](http://hallow.com)



## SAINT NICHOLAS IS PRETTY AWESOME

by Blondie Lecce

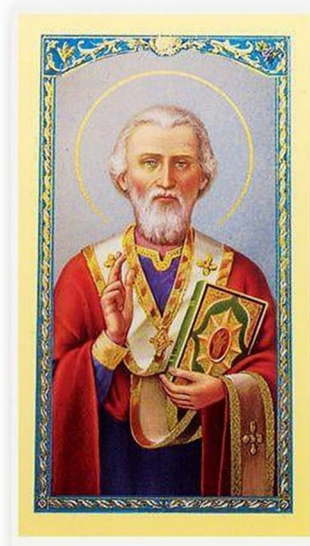
Saint Nicholas is a popular saint among Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Christians, distinguished for his magnanimity and for his purported ability to perform miracles for those in need. His remains are resting in Bari, Italy, a pilgrimage site of note in Europe. Since they were first interred in Myra, they had been reported to exude a sweet-smelling substance believed to be capable of healing. That phenomenon continued upon their transfer to Bari in 1087. Often referred to as liquid manna, a small amount is regularly extracted each May. Scientists at the University of Bari in 1925 found it to be water, but devotees consider it a relic since the liquid comes in contact with the saint's bones.

Little is verifiable about the saint's life, but it has been maintained that he was the bishop of Myra, in what is today Turkey, during the 4th century. The accounts of Nicholas given to us by the Greek Church all say that he was imprisoned during the reign of Diocletian, whose persecutions were waged with great severity. Other accounts may be based more on legend than actual fact, as evidenced by St. Methodius writing about St. Nicholas' life nearly 500 years after his death.



We are familiar with at least one of those legends, where Nicholas secretly gave bags of gold as dowries to the three daughters of an impoverished father so that they could be married. A lesser-known legend is that Nicholas was present at the Council of Nicaea and slapped the arch-heretic Arius in the face! Children and prisoners have also benefitted from Saint Nicholas' interventions; sailors in the Aegean and Ionia seas had their "Star of Saint Nicholas" and wished one another safe voyages with the words, "May Saint Nicholas hold the tiller."

In many countries around the world his feast day is December 6, and it is this day, not December 25, that is the primary gift giving day. Nor is it complicated. Shoes or stockings are left for him on De-



### *A Prayer for Children*

God, Our Father, We pray that through Your intercession of St. Nicholas you will protect our children. Keep them safe from harm and help them grow and become worthy in Your sight.

Give them strength to keep their Faith in You; and to keep alive their joy in Your creation. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

St. Nicholas -- December 6

Abbot -- (ca. 270-342)

Patron of Children

Patron Saint of Russia

The word Santa Claus originated from His name.



cember 5th, often outside bedroom doors, and they are filled during the night with small gifts, fruit or nuts, and special candies and cookies. St. Nicholas gifts are always meant to be shared and not kept for oneself.

His reputation of giving eventually morphed into the popular Santa Claus, with children's letters listing wanted toys, gayly wrapped gifts, etc. During the 1990's action groups sprang up to save or protect Saint Nicholas as their authentic traditional gift-giver. People in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic spoke out as they felt their Saint Nicholas customs were under threat from the American Santa Claus. He was seen as a symbol of consumerism, rewarding self-interest over self-giving, which is in contradiction of who Saint Nicholas actually was.

(Editor's note: It is apparent that honoring the good saint is a traditional devotion as distinct from Christmas as are devotions to other saints throughout the year.)

Families can find a wealth of information about Saint Nicholas, activities for kids and families, customs around the world, special events, and much more at [stnicholascenter.org](http://stnicholascenter.org). The real Saint Nicholas is very much worth celebrating.

Excerpted from [Britannica.com](http://Britannica.com) under History and Society/Philosophy & Religion; and also from [stnicholascenter.org](http://stnicholascenter.org)



by Joyce Seno

The National Eucharistic Revival is a momentous, three-year initiative that will bear fruit for years to come. During the previous Year of Diocesan Revival, clergy and diocesan leaders built the foundation for this movement to thrive at the parish level.



Although it started in 2022, the Revival is still ongoing and building and extends through Pentecost 2025. Listed is an outline of the Revival Timeline in hopes that some of the events might inspire you to do more research and join some of the efforts. Additional information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/eucharisticrevival/> and <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>

## REVIVAL TIMELINE

It takes time to kindle a living, loving relationship—and a relationship with Jesus Christ is no exception. That's why the National Eucharistic Revival allows three years for discernment, encounter, and grassroots response on the diocesan, parish, and individual levels. Read on to understand the key phases of this historic journey and learn how you can get involved.

## THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI JUNE 19, 2022

We launched our national response to the Lord's call with widespread Eucharistic processions and adoration on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

## YEAR OF DIOCESAN REVIVAL JUNE 19, 2022 – JUNE 11, 2023

This first year of the Revival invited bishops, priests, and diocesan staff to respond to the Lord's personal invitation while planning how to share this love with the faithful. While many dioceses began their Eucharistic events and outreaches, the heart of the first year was to pray and fast as we asked Our Lord to revive his Church.

## YEAR OF PARISH REVIVAL JUNE 11, 2023 – JULY 17, 2024

The Revival is now reaching the pews! This year is about fostering Eucharistic devotion at the parish level, strengthening our liturgical life through the faithful celebration of the Mass, Eucharistic adoration, missions, resources, preaching, and organic movements of the Holy Spirit. Find out about how parishes are answering the call.

## THE POPE EXTENDS A SPECIAL BLESSING JUNE 19, 2023



*"I encourage you to continue your efforts to contribute to a revival of faith in, and love for, the Holy Eucharist." Pope Francis from his address to the leaders of the National Eucharistic Congress.*

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### Our Mission

We the members of Saint Pius X Christian Community seek Christ who is our life and has revealed Himself to us. We praise Him by providing a spiritual environment so that all may follow in His footsteps. The realization of the Body and Blood of Christ through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the most important part of our journey. To be one with Christ through the Holy Eucharist is the ultimate expression of the faith.

Visit our Web Site for  
more information.  
[www.stpiusXparish.net](http://www.stpiusXparish.net)



## NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Continued from page 6



## NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS JULY 17 – 21, 2024

### Indianapolis, Indiana

At this historic gathering, Catholics from every corner and every parish in our nation will come together in Indianapolis to reconsecrate their hearts to the source and summit of our faith. Every movement needs a moment... this is ours!



## NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE MAY 17, 2024 – JULY 16, 2024

This will be one of the largest Eucharistic pilgrimages in history. Just as crowds followed Christ throughout his earthly ministry, our nation will process with our Eucharistic Lord over 6,500 miles—through cities, along highways, and past rural towns—on His way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.



The Saint Pius X Special Newsletter is part of our parish level efforts. To date we have published two special newsletters. One in July and one in September 2023. Our next one will be published in March 2024. Let us know if you have not received a copy and we will make sure you get one.

## YEAR OF GOING OUT ON MISSION JULY 21, 2024 – PENTECOST 2025

Having enkindled a missionary fire in the hearts of the American faithful, the Holy Spirit will send us out on mission to share the gift of our Eucharistic Lord as we enter the universal Church's jubilee year in 2025.



Lord Jesus Christ,  
you give us your flesh and blood for the life of the world, and you desire that all people come to the Supper of the Sacrifice of the Lamb.  
Renew in your Church the truth, beauty, and goodness contained in the Most Blessed Eucharist.

Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in me.  
Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me.  
Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me.  
Jesus rising in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me. Jesus loving in the Eucharist, come and love in me.

Lord Jesus Christ, through the paschal mystery of your death and resurrection made present in every Holy Mass, pour out your healing love on your Church and on our world.  
Grant that as we lift you up during this time of Eucharistic Revival, your Holy Spirit may draw all people to join us at this Banquet of Life.  
You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Eucharist,  
Pray for us.



[eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org)