

# PAXCHRISTI NEWS

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie January 2019

## **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!**

Join us for a  
Minnesota Mardi Gras  
Page 14

## **LIVING FAITH WITH PURPOSE**

Welcome All to Joyfully Experience the Peace of God's Love and Mercy



# PAX CHRISTI

*Catholic Community*

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208  
Phone: 952-941-3150 Website: www.paxchristi.com

### Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8:00am–4:30pm  
Friday 8:00am–12:00pm

### Mass Schedule

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm  
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Nursery available at all weekend Masses.  
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

#### Weekday Masses

Mondays 8:30am  
Tuesdays 8:30am with Rosary to follow  
Wednesdays 6:00pm  
Thursdays 8:30am  
Fridays 8:30am

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

**Mission Statement:** As a community of faith nourished by the Eucharist, we are committed in our discipleship with Christ to act for justice, be of generous service, and authentically welcome all to Pax Christi Catholic Community.

**Values:** God-Centered, Justice, Inclusion, Spiritual Growth, Stewardship, and Lay Leadership.

THE PAX CHRISTI NEWS IS PRINTED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF PAX CHRISTI OF EDEN PRAIRIE. EMAIL COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO MELISSA NAULT, COMMUNICATION ARTS DIRECTOR, MNAULT@PAXCHRISTI.COM, OR 952-405-7221.



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Dear Friends  
by Fr. Michael Byron



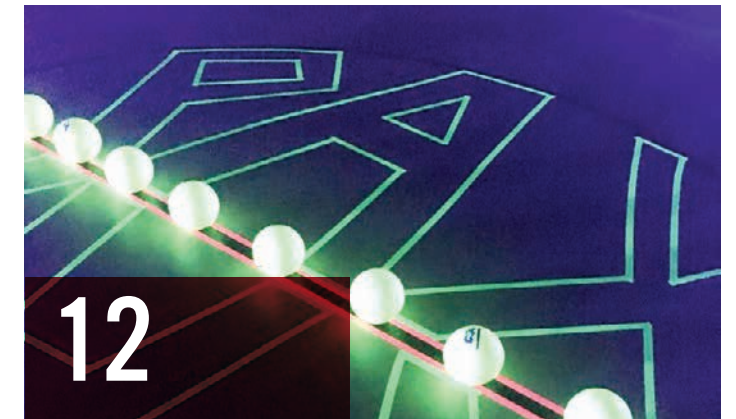
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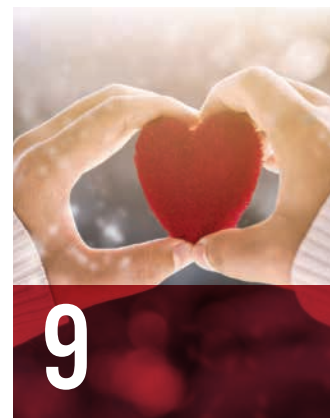
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# DEAR FRIENDS...



Fr. J. Michael Byron  
Pastor

**IF YOU** have never heard the word “scrupulous” raised in a religious conversation, then you probably don’t speak with enough Irish Catholics. Okay, it’s not the sole proprietary claim of the Celts, and it is certainly not confined to Catholics (although Protestant Christians tend to use different words for it, like Puritanism or a rigid Calvinism). What am I talking about? Scrupulosity is an affliction—and it is an affliction—that convinces devout people of earnest faith that their every waking moment is rightly an experience of their own sinfulness, unworthiness, and rejection by God. It’s really nothing to make light of because those who are tormented by scrupulosity tend to live very unhappy lives, needlessly. Priests encounter scrupulous people in the sacrament of Reconciliation every so often. I will never forget the day that I was “hearing confessions” at a downtown church some 25

years ago and a man came in to tell me that his previous confession had been one hour earlier. I asked what he’d spent the last hour doing and he responded that he’d been attending Mass. He’d never even left the building and he was crushed by the awareness of whatever minor infraction he believed had separated him from God, requiring confession.

Scrupulosity is not necessarily common among Christian believers, but neither is it rare (and it is less rare among the Irish). And to those who experience it, it can be paralyzing and terrifying. I think that one of the reasons I’m sensitive to such people is that I believe that I moved through a season of being a “scrupe” when I was a young man. I was taught to be so by the youth group at my church, and I believed it, and it made me miserable for a few years.

Of course it needs to be remembered that we are indeed all sinners, all unworthy of the promises of God, but that condition only endears us to God’s mercy all the more. It doesn’t cause God to recoil from us in disdain, and the much greater sin on our part is when we tell ourselves otherwise.

It really is a sin to distort God’s message in any attempt to make “God” something other than who and what God is, and that’s the very essence of the Third Commandment in the Bible, “You Shall Not Take the Name of the Lord Your God in Vain.” It is common to interpret that commandment as if it were all about using swear words, and that’s worthy of our repentance, too. But that commandment is about something WAY bigger than cussing. To “take God’s name in vain” is to attribute to God or God’s will things that have nothing to do with either...like a partisan political agenda, or a corrupt church apparatus, or (to return to the point) an imagined personal hostility between God and ourselves.

Scrupulous people are imprisoned by the idea that God won’t love them as they are, and that where they are can never be a good-enough place. Our Catholic doctrinal tradition has taught against this belief explicitly at least since the time of the (Irish!) “Jansenist” controversy in Europe more than 300 years ago. But that is of little consolation or persuasive force to those who simply cannot believe it.

...OUR RECENTLY COMPLETED PAX CHRISTI STRATEGIC PLAN DECLARES THAT OUR COMMUNITY EXISTS IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE ALL WHO PASS THROUGH OUR DOORS “TO JOYFULLY EXPERIENCE THE PEACE AND LOVE OF GOD’S MERCY.”

I’m reflecting on all this here because part of the Purpose Statement that emerged from our recently completed Pax Christi Strategic Plan declares that our community exists in order to encourage all who pass through our doors “to joyfully experience the peace and love of God’s mercy.” This vision comes straight out of the New Testament, and it has never been more needed than it is right now. The hardened “scrupe” may represent a small



minority of believers today, but there are waves of people (us) who are craving an experience of true joy, unqualified love, and a deep peace of the heart that is rooted in God. Our encounters with daily living can be soul-crushing, bereft of the very things that our Purpose Statement holds out as ultimate values for our community.

For the scrupulous person, it is his/her own self-narrative that pronounces one to be

unlovable, unworthy of God’s joy or mercy, and far from inner peace. But in case one’s own psyche isn’t doing that job well enough, then we need look no further than to Twitter, or to hateful internet venues, or to shameless loud politicians, or to bullies in the hallways, or to manipulative media outlets. Any or all of these will be happy to assume the responsibility of reminding us that we are perpetually bad, disordered, ignorant, or even sinful people. The “scrupes”

are unique among us only in that their condemnation is self-generated.

All this is why we need to return to our religious roots, including the biblical Third Commandment, in order to remember just who God really is and what God really thinks of us.





# JOYFULLY EXPERIENCE! MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AT PAX CHRISTI

**IN THE RECENTLY ADOPTED** Strategic Plan, member engagement is woven throughout. In line with that, the Lay Leadership Development Council (LLDC) has added this statement to its mission and purpose: "encourages all parishioners to active engagement in parish life." The other responsibilities for LLDC are:

- 1) manage the leadership discernment process,
- 2) oversee the Leadership Development Fund, and
- 3) provide resources for leadership development.

Why have we added this? Let's look to the new Strategic Plan's purpose statement, which says, **"Welcome all to joyfully experience the peace of God's love and mercy."**

Our focus is on hospitality: welcoming, nourishing, acting, serving. You will see more of these four words in the coming months. A classic example of hospitality is found in Genesis 18:1-14, when Abraham invites three strangers into his house and gives them food and drink. Then his life changed dramatically (teaser: read it to see how).

It is up to the laity, in partnership with clergy and staff, to provide experiences—joyful experiences—that bring people peace through God's love and mercy.

Member engagement means participation that involves serving others by giving of one's talents and time. And there is reciprocity in serving others as grace and love flow back to those serving.

As we have written across the past 18 months or so, engagement increases when more parishioners are participating in one or more of the approximately 158 activities here at Pax Christi. Thus, we have numerous opportunities to contribute to parish life, and many parishioners already do so. If you are not currently acting/serving, or if you are and wish to do more, you can look for opportunities in:

- the weekly bulletin,
- the monthly PaxChristiNews magazine,
- the Pax Christi website,
- talking to any ministry council member, or
- talking to a staff person.

All you need to bring are your talents, a passion for helping others, and a heart open to return love.

All are welcome to participate; all are encouraged to welcome, nourish, act, serve. We all need each other.

*Written by the Lay Leadership Development Council Members*

# LEADERSHIP RETREAT: LIVING INTO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE

On Saturday, September 29, the leadership council members and staff of the parish participated in a morning retreat that would help to focus each of the eight ministry councils and the Community Council toward the future of the parish, with special attention given to the overarching goals of the strategic plan as it relates to each council. The councils were then given the task to imagine how they might attend to those goals of **Belonging and Believing**, creating reasonable markers to achieve the target by April 1, 2019.

## THE TARGETS OF EACH COUNCIL ARE:

**Arts, Campus, and Gardens:** Present and display a Landscape Master Plan that encompasses the vision of our diverse community to create a sense of belonging through ownership.

**Care and Support:** Connect with staff and shared ministers of our current and various ministries so that they may reflect upon and share their experiences to identify needs within the community, as well as identify the things we are doing well.

**Faith Formation:** Create and develop a full parent ministry, with a goal to achieve five percent parental participation.

**Finance:** Build a dynamic list of potential members, with the range of relevant skills we believe will best serve this council both now and in the future, to allow us to fully staff our council on an ongoing basis.

**Justice:** Educate members, both young and old, about justice issues, leading to capacity for social action.

**Lay Leadership:** Review and assess the mission statement and purpose as it relates to the Strategic Plan.

**Stewardship:** Develop a database mapping program to assist in the creation of large and small interactions. Create better visibility for service opportunities to be communicated.

**Worship:** Foster the community's praise of God and service to the world by mobilizing the gifts of word, song, hospitality, and environment, and by guiding the preparation and design of its worship.

**At-Large on the Community Council:** Nourish the environment that will encourage the achievement of the Pax Christi mission and purpose, and conduct regular evaluation of the progress.

The councils will continue to report to the Community Council about their progress, obstacles, and revisions to their goals. Additionally, the three at-large members of the Community Council, the two trustees, the pastor, and parish director are reviewing the structure of the ministry councils and the governance of the parish to ensure the current model is reflective of the parish's current needs.

The highlights of the Strategic Plan can be found at [www.paxchristi.com/strategicplan](http://www.paxchristi.com/strategicplan). For a copy of the full 38-page document, contact Jane Schmitz, Parish Director, [jschmitz@paxchristi.com](mailto:jschmitz@paxchristi.com).

*Written by Jane Schmitz, Parish Director*



# CONVERSATION CIRCLES: OUR CONTRIBUTION TO JUSTICE IN THE CHURCH

**ON TUESDAY**, November 20, the parish hosted the second Conversation Circle, looking this time at the parish's financial contribution to the Victim's Fund, as well as exploring what can be done as individuals or as a faith community to continue to contribute to justice within the church. The evening began with a summary of the first Conversation Circle, held on September 18 (see the November magazine, page 14). The evening was facilitated by Fred Baumer, at-large member of the Community Council.

Fr. Mike spoke briefly about the bishops' meeting in Baltimore earlier in the month in which the closed gathering of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was instructed by the Vatican that a vote on reform measures be delayed until a major Vatican synod in the new year. It was clear from commentary from this first session that clericalism was a consideration that hadn't been thought of as a reason why the sexual abuse crisis, and particularly the cover-up, was a part of the systemic problem. Pope Francis has insisted that clericalism is at the root of this crisis.

The Consultation Group of seven leaders, led by Fr. Bill, pastor at the time when the decision was made to contribute \$150,000 to the Victim's Fund from the parish's cash reserves, shared the story of the process in considering the parish's contribution. This group then went to the tables to listen to the responses to the questions for the evening, and to report on the conversations. There were numerous comments and observations, with the following capsulizing these general themes:

**QUESTION 1:**  
**What feedback would you like to offer to Pax Christi leadership—staff and councils?**

- Although there was appreciation and support that the parish contributed to the Victim's Fund, there was a frustration that the process seemed to be less than transparent.
- More people need to be invited to be a part of the solution, particularly women and the laity.
- What other ways can the parish be helpful in the process of healing beyond the financial contribution?

**QUESTION 2:**  
**What more can we do as individuals/community to continue to address the clerical abuse justice call within the Church?**

- Create more equality of people and power, and experience ways in which the laity can lead in different ways, particularly at the parish level.
- Relate with and prepare seminarians to integrate more with the parishes in striving to avoid the pitfalls of clericalism.
- Invite other parishes and people at the Archdiocesan level, including the Archbishop, to be a part of these conversations.

The evening ended with a time to share with one other person one take away that could be shared with a person not in attendance. The Community Council will now take up the feedback and decide on our next steps as a faith community, so that we are a people that live our purpose of **Welcoming all to joyfully experience the peace of God's love and mercy.**

*Written by Jane Schmitz, Parish Director*



## READINESS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

How do we decide for whom to advocate and what actions to take for systemic change? One significant way is to go to the people on the margins and learn from them. Recently, John Pullis journeyed to do just that.

Since I arrived seven days ago at the border town of El Paso, TX, my days have been long, leaving little energy for writing, which for me means little time to organize my thoughts to tie these experiences together in a way for others to understand. But, frankly, I don't understand.

I came here to bear witness, to see for myself just who the people are arriving at our southern border seeking asylum. I am working with Annunciation House, a Catholic organization founded in 1978 to serve the needs of the poor and homeless, and whose mission has evolved into a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year operation in service to migrants crossing the border.

All of the refugees arrive with children, infants and toddlers, school-age children, tweens, and teens. They arrive here with nothing but what they can carry, and the Release on Recognizance papers from ICE. They have fled the violence of gangs, political corruption, police abuse, and attacks and assassinations of journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders, and environmental activists. It is impossible to look at the faces of these children without knowing exactly why their parents have made this long and treacherous journey, why they have left everything behind, why they face the possibility of indefinite confinement and family separation.

On Thursday, my second day here, I sent this text: "I keep wanting to cry and I'm having a hard time understanding exactly what I'm feeling. Kind of a gratitude for little kindnesses mixed with sadness that kindness is not the default human impulse." My dear wife responded, "This is the human work my love!"

The actual work I can do feels like a drop in the ocean. There is no word in English for the gratitude and sadness I keep feeling. And there is no word for the frustration, anger, and hopelessness I feel over the fear-mongering, lies, specious arguments, and moral justifications used to deny these refugees their humanity. Words fail.

*Written and photography by John Pullis, Pax Christi Parishioner, El Paso, TX. December 4, 2018*

**JUSTICE—**  
**WE ADVOCATE FOR THE MARGINALIZED AND ACT AS CATALYSTS FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE.**  
**—PAX CHRISTI'S VALUE STATEMENT**

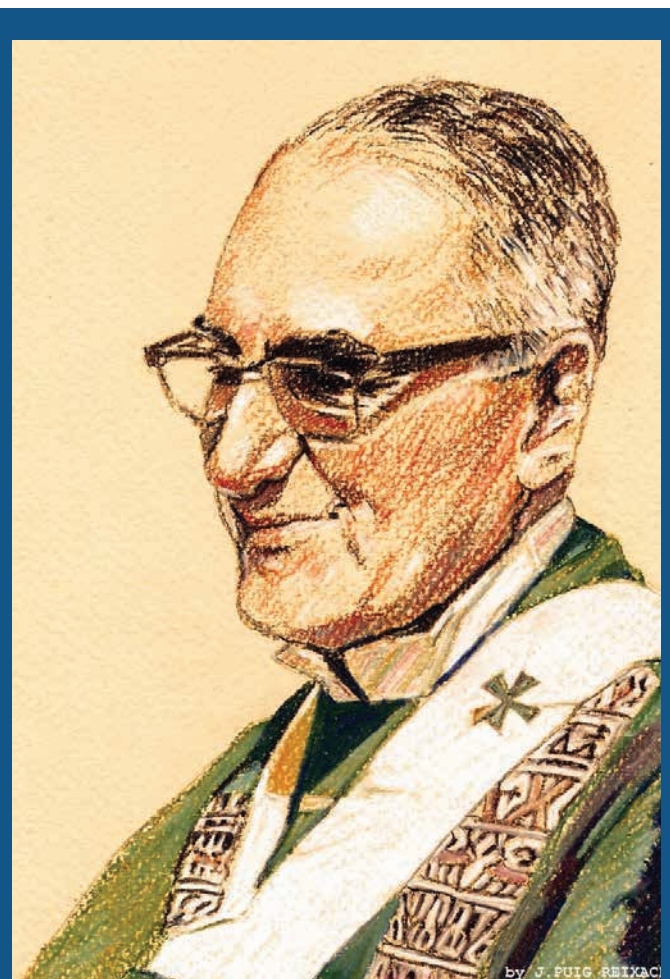
## ST. OSCAR ROMERO MARTYR OF THE CHURCH OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

ON MARCH 24, 1980, many in the Archdiocese of San Salvador, the church in Latin America, and the global church, recognized Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated at the altar after his homily at Mass that day, as a saint and martyr. For decades, others opposed recognizing him as such. On October 14, 2018, Pope Francis, a pope ordained after Vatican II in Latin America, canonized Romero a saint. An important step in this process occurred on February 3, 2015, when Pope Francis expanded the traditional definition of martyr to include Romero who witnessed to a faith expressing biblical justice. At the press conference the next day, the Vatican official assigned to Romero's cause for canonization described Romero as a "martyr of the church of the Second Vatican Council."

Because Romero's ministry, martyrdom, and canonization cannot be understood apart from the church's reception of Vatican II, I want to invite Pax Christi to think about Romero as the patron saint of Vatican II parishes. While Romero was not chosen to be archbishop because of his leadership implementing Vatican II in the Diocese of Santiago de Maria, the martyrdom of his friend Rutilio Grande, SJ, and his desire as archbishop to be a center of unity among the pastoral workers implementing Vatican II in the Archdiocese of San Salvador, led him to read the signs of the times in light of the Gospel. He made a preferential option for the poor that witnessed to God's love for the poor and challenged the government's repression. His homilies, broadcast throughout El Salvador, named human rights violations as contrary to God's reign, and his final Sunday homily instructed the military in this Catholic country to stop killing their brothers and sisters.

Romero's witness reminds us: "*The joys and the hopes, the griefs and anxieties of (hominum—human beings) of the present age, are the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ*" (*Gaudium et Spes* #1). Romero models for us the values of the Gospel reflected in Vatican II that shape our community's values. His witness invites us to consider how we as disciples witness to God's love in ways that transform our world.

*Written by Angela Senander. Angela Senander is a theologian at the University of St. Thomas, a research fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, and member of Pax Christi Catholic Community.*



### THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF WORD AND WITNESS *The Life and Legacy of St. Oscar Romero*

**Tuesday, February 5, 6:30-7:30pm, Thomas Merton Chapel**

Through his ministry as archbishop of San Salvador, St. Oscar Romero preached and lived the Gospel in the midst of a divided church and nation. This presentation will invite reflection on the ways in which Pax Christi Catholic Community can learn from the life and legacy of St. Oscar Romero. Presenter Angela Senander is a theologian at the University of St. Thomas, a research fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, and member of Pax Christi Catholic Community. No need to RSVP.



## NO REST FOR THE WEARY: ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO SEEK PEACE

**ASK ANY TEENAGER**, "How are you?" and their response will almost always be one of two things: "Busy," or "Tired." As adults, it could be very easy to dismiss these claims. After all, it's not like the average teenager has to juggle a full-time job, cart kids to and from school and activities, and get food on the table for dinner each night...not to mention worrying about a mortgage and car payment and insurance and all the other financial responsibilities that come with adulthood. Adults can fall into the trap of labeling teens as "lazy," "unmotivated," or "tech-obsessed"—after all, just look at how much they're on their phones!

But we would be wise to take teens at their word when they say they're busy and tired. They might not have full-time jobs in the traditional sense, but they do have school, part-time jobs, homework, sports and extracurricular activities, time with friends, and family obligations. If a youth intends to pursue post-secondary education, you can also add ACT/SAT preparation, college applications, and scholarship searches to the list of stressors. Studies have shown that today's youth have more strains on their time and are more exhausted and stressed than any previous generation. The average teenager needs 8-10 hours of sleep every night, but two-thirds of U.S. high schoolers get less than seven. And the pressure placed on them by adults isn't exactly helping matters either.

For today's teenagers, peace seems to be rather elusive. Even when they're not at school, their educational and social pursuits and challenges follow them around through their smartphones. This makes it even more important for young people to unplug

occasionally, both from their many obligations and from their technological devices. They need to eat good, nourishing food; to get a full night's sleep; to reconnect with themselves, with others, and with God—face-to-face, in real time.

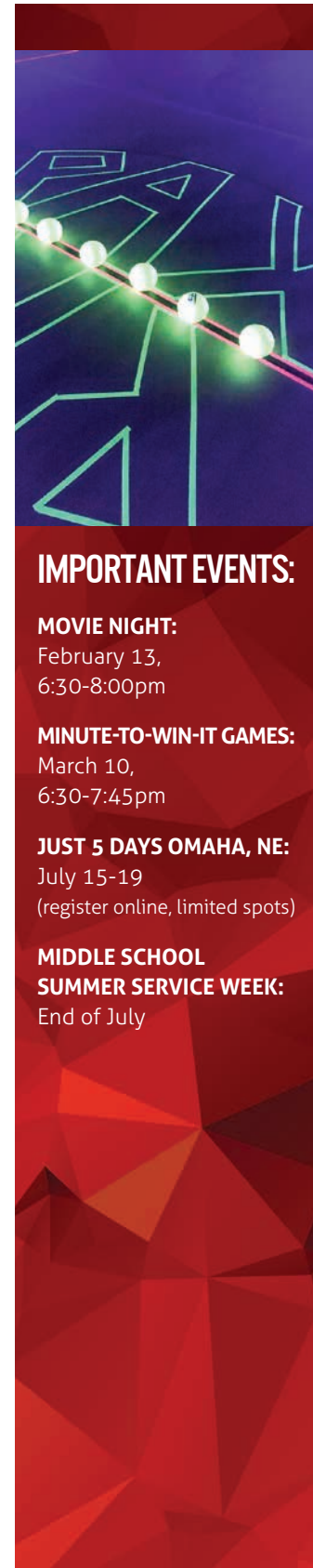
Each week in my Faith Formation classes, I try to teach my students a different contemplative prayer form. Time and time again, I find that lectio divina, Ignatian contemplation, and centering prayer are meaningful experiences for the youth. These practices create intentional space for reflection and rest—things that today's young people need more than ever.

It's our job as trusted adults to encourage young people to make space for this kind of rest and renewal in their lives. We need to teach them that it's okay to say no to one more activity, that the idea of Sabbath matters, that even if they turn their phone off for a few hours, their friends will still be there when they turn it back on.

Pax Christi high-schoolers and their friends are invited to join us for a weekend retreat, **February 15-17**. There will be games, activities, small group conversations, prayer, and more—all found within a relaxed environment centered around rest, renewal, and reconnection. If you're not sure if a retreat is for you, I encourage you to give it a try anyway! It might just be exactly what you need.

**More information about the retreat can be found at [www.paxchristiyouth.weebly.com](http://www.paxchristiyouth.weebly.com).**

*Written by Jessie Johnson, Sr. High Youth Formation Minister*



# PAXCONNEX: BUILDING CONNECTIONS IN FAITH, SERVICE, AND FUN

## IMPORTANT EVENTS:

**MOVIE NIGHT:**  
February 13,  
6:30-8:00pm

**MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT GAMES:**  
March 10,  
6:30-7:45pm

**JUST 5 DAYS OMAHA, NE:**  
July 15-19  
(register online, limited spots)

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SUMMER SERVICE WEEK:**  
End of July

**PAXCONNEX** is Pax Christi's Middle School faith formation and Youth Ministry program. Covering grades six through eight, PaxConnex is here for the crazy-fast time of change and uncertainty that accompanies the early teenage years, bridging into high school.

As a faith formation program, PaxConnex meets three times a week with three different sets of youth and catechists. Currently, there are 104 officially registered youth taking part in the faith formation sessions on Sundays and Wednesdays. PaxConnex starts with a large group gathering, icebreaker, and large group discussion or teaching. After that the youth split into small groups led by adult shared minister catechists who engage the youth in deeper discussion, prayer, and activities. Our curriculum is handcrafted in house to match the needs and interests of our youth at this critical time of spiritual development.

As a youth ministry program, PaxConnex has several events and activities throughout the year to connect the middle school youth to our community. Black light dodgeball in October, a movie night in February, and a 'Minute to Win It' competition in March are all open to all middle school youth! Other smaller fun activities and service events are planned throughout the year.

Reflecting the values of our community, PaxConnex also provides opportunities for middle school youth to engage in liturgy and service. In the summer months, we offer a five-day Catholic mission trip experience out of town through the national organization Just5Days, and host our own middle school summer service week in July.

This year the youth who go on Just5Days will travel to Omaha, NE, July 15–19, to volunteer at various service sites, meet other youth their age from around the country, learn about Catholic Social Teaching, and engage in meaningful prayer experiences. This is an awesome trip that is the shorter, younger sibling to Young Neighbors in Action—a service and learning experience that Pax Christi sends high school-aged youth to each year.

The Middle School Summer Service Week is five days full of fun and service. The middle school youth who partake in this fun week spend the mornings engaged in service projects in the Eden Prairie area, then do fun activities in the afternoon. This service week connects the youth to local organizations that provide an awareness to the needs of the local community. The youth go home each day to sleep in their own beds, and partake in fun afternoon activities like visiting Cascade Mountain, Bolero Bowling, Grand Slam, Skateville, and a movie day!

All middle school youth are welcome at all PaxConnex events and activities, and parents are welcome, too! Keep your eyes open for events big and small. *Written by Evan Bierer, MS Youth Formation Minister*



# MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

JUST LOOK AT THE NUMBERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018: 157 ACTIVE MINISTRIES WITH 2,694 INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING OVER 88,000 HOURS OF SERVICE. THAT IS LIKE HAVING 42 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES ALL PAYING IT FORWARD!

**NO TRUER WORDS SPOKEN.** Not only do “many hands make light work,” they also comfort those in need of ease, stand strong in unity for those in need of justice, and lighten burdens of those overwhelmed by life. Many smiles light a room. Many prayers lift a spirit. Many words spoken in kindness bring joy, understanding, and peace to a soul. How many times have you lightened the load for someone else? Have you ever let another driver merge ahead of you during rush hour traffic? Open the door for the delivery person? Sent a positive thought or prayer to someone recently diagnosed with a terminal illness? Did you even realize you had affected another’s life? We are all connected by this physical space, this moment in time, this energetic ether. All you do for others takes energy and that energetic cup needs refilling now and then. It is good to practice self care and recharge the batteries. Take a moment to appreciate yourselves and one another for all we do. Many hands make light work, but they also create joy, fun, and a sense of connectedness when gathered together in a moment of appreciation.

The collective pool of talents and gifts at Pax Christi Catholic Community is an amazing sight to see! Just look at the numbers for fiscal year 2017-2018: **157 active ministries with 2,694 individuals providing over 88,000 hours of service.** That is like having 42 full-time employees all paying it forward! All these individuals sharing their gifts with others—that is a mighty force. Take a moment now to look at all the activities that are happening at [www.paxchristi.com](http://www.paxchristi.com). It’s amazing. (Glad to see you made it back from the website!) A founding value at Pax Christi is lay leadership. Lay leadership is where it all starts. They shape that workforce and provide a path for this energetic and engaged parish we call Pax Christi Catholic Community. In yoga there is a term call *Karma Yoga*; a path of work that is a spiritual offering rather than paid employment. The positive energy put forth as one prays for others, serves those in need, and shares talents that God gifted comes back to that person in multiple ways and forms, including a party of celebration. So, let’s take a moment, breathe deeply, and appreciate all that is accomplished by the many shared ministers at Pax Christi Catholic Community.



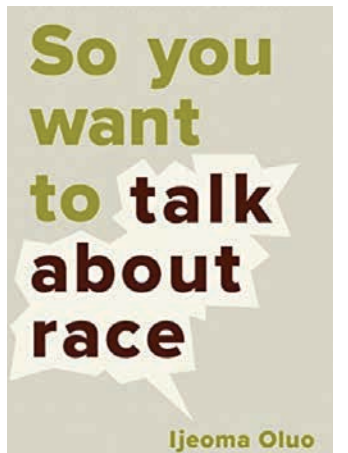
**In gratitude of all the many hands that make light work shared by Pax Christi members, please plan to attend the Shared Ministry Celebration—The Minnesota Mardi Gras, on Saturday, January 26, 2019. After Mass on Saturday evening, join us as we enjoy tasty appetizers, beer, and root beer. Take a moment to visit with fellow parishioners, tell your stories, and have plenty of fun. Chase away the January winter cold with the warmth of laughter and fellowship. Enjoy all the gifts that make this community of faith so amazing. Many hands may make light work, but they also make a great party!**

*Written by Lisa Cox, Community Life Coordinator*

## A STAFF BOOK CLUB REVIEW

Occasionally, various staff members participate in a book club over their lunch time. This fall we read and discussed, *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, based on the recommendation of one staff member. This book is about racism, its history, causes, effects, and what we can do to change our perceptions, preconceived notions, and ultimately our culture.

Following are some of the insights and impressions from the participants in this book club review.



I was immediately drawn into the book because it explained clearly what racism is, what it is not, and how racism and white privilege have existed in my life without my knowledge or even the notion that I may be a participant in sustaining racism as a tool to suppress people of color. The book has helped me understand my role in eliminating elitist structures and promoting a culture of care and opportunity for all. This book has impelled me to read about and study racism in America and challenges me to take action against systemic racism.  
—Ken Reineccius

Understanding all the complexity of how racism exists and plays itself out in our culture can be overwhelming. We live, eat, breathe, and move in a culture that is largely invisible to us. Unpacking all of the ways that we participate in racism is a large task. Ijeoma Oluo shared clear and simple definitions of the experience of racism, and provides straightforward moment-to-moment tips about how to be aware of our participation in this culture and how to be responsible for undoing it on a personal level.  
—Joan Howe-Pullis

Author Ijeoma Oluo makes it clear in her prologue that reading this book will make you uncomfortable at times. She challenges readers as she addresses very difficult racial topics and I could often feel her passion and pain rise from the page while she described stories near to her heart. I sometimes found her language a bit harsh, and her stories difficult to read, so I was uncomfortable, yet in a brave new way. I should be so uncomfortable with our current system of racism that it propels me to say something, to do something. This book gave me new insights and perspectives to do just that, and if others react the same way, maybe some real change can finally happen.  
—Jean Thoresen

Read this book! My eyes, heart, and mind kept snapping open as I traveled through the pages of *So You Want to Talk About Race*. There is so much in this book I never thought about—so much I never knew. A quote from Fr. Richard Rohr that Fr. Bill shared in our December 8/9 bulletin is relevant here: “The addiction to our own way of thinking is probably the greatest addiction we have. We are often not aware of our own addictions.” Ijeoma Oluo’s language is powerful and direct as she challenges us to examine our thinking about race, respond, and bear witness in our world. Many of her suggestions for successful conversation about race can be useful for discussing other areas of conflict in society, too.  
—Mary Ann Callahan

As a person who experiences a great deal of privilege because of the color of my skin, I found this book to be a much-needed primer on the realities of race and racism in our society. Oluo’s tone and style were straightforward and convicting, and the discomfort I felt while reading was heart-opening and soul-stretching. I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking to expand their capacity for justice and compassion.  
—Peace, Jessie

SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE  
BY IJEOMA OLUO

This was a wonderful and challenging read about racism from one woman’s compelling story of living and striving to thrive in a world that places judgment and preconceived notions on how people of color should be, behave, and belong. Oluo’s examination of racism has pushed me to reflect on my past and present thought processes in order to be more inclusive, less judgmental, and deeply aware of how prejudice is formed and activated.  
—Jane Schmitz





**MINISTRIES OF SUPPORT:**

**COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE**  
**Third Thursday of each month; 3:00-4:30pm**

The listening circle provides a safe place for reflection and meaningful conversation for those who find themselves at a crossroad in life, such as loss, caregiving responsibilities, mental illness, grief, chronic illness, or any life transition.

**SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION**

Pax Christi partners with the Southwest Grief Coalition to provide support and education for those who are grieving. Three series are offered each year, hosted by local churches. Each series consists of a light meal, a speaker exploring some dimension of grief, and facilitated small groups specific to particular losses. Information on upcoming sessions can be found on our website.

**ON-SITE 12-STEP SUPPORT GROUPS**

Alcoholics Anonymous, Saturday Sisters AA for Women, Al-Anon/Prairie Peace, and Overeaters Anonymous. These support groups each meet weekly to offer listening, guidance, and hope for those working to overcome a specific addiction interfering with their lives.

**RESOURCES**

Written resources on prayer, grief, relationships, illness, aging, and education/support opportunities are available in the racks at the rear of the worship space and at the kiosk inside the main entrance. Offerings include *Living Faith*, a booklet of Catholic devotions, and *CareNotes*, informative and inspirational pamphlets on a wide variety of topics.

**For additional information visit**  
**[www.paxchristi.com/careandsupportministry](http://www.paxchristi.com/careandsupportministry)**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS AND OTHER "MOVERS"**

How would you like to help Pax Christi save money by a simple email or phone call?

If you plan on being out of town and notify the post office to forward your mail, also contact Maria Miller in the parish office, 952-405-7217, or [mmiller@paxchristi.com](mailto:mmiller@paxchristi.com), and she can do a temporary address change for the magazine, the PaxChristiNews. Or you can have the magazine stopped until you are back in town. You always have the option to view it each month online on our "NEWS" page. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.



**BOOMERS & BEYOND**  
**PAX CHRISTI SENIOR MINISTRY**

Sign-up at [www.paxchristi.com/boomers](http://www.paxchristi.com/boomers)  
 to receive info on upcoming events.

**Upcoming events include:**

**January 4:** First Friday Coffee and Conversation

**PARISHIONER NEWS**

**NOVEMBER BAPTISMS**

Sloane Reineccius Seidel	11/4/2018
Carter Thrasher Pierce	11/18/2018
Lillian Patricia Stack	11/18/2018
Cormac Otto Davis	11/25/2018
Owen Matthew Futrell	11/25/2018
Daniel Alexander Soshnev	11/25/2018

**NOVEMBER WEDDINGS**

Morgan Main & Carson Bock	11/3/18
---------------------------	---------

**NOVEMBER FUNERALS**

Constance C. Conradi	11/7/2018
Kimberly May Cano	11/8/2018
Timothy Jon Bierman	11/9/2018
Perry Daust	11/16/2018
Bennie 'Ben' Clark	11/29/2018

**NOVEMBER NEW MEMBERS**

- Craig and Mary Lou Alesso
- Kris Babler
- Thomas and Carol Britt
- Kyle and Elizabeth Bryan
- Shannon Genereau
- Daniel and Jenna Hiebl
- Donna James
- Scott and Kristi Marks
- Kimberly Smith



**READINGS FOR JANUARY**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6, 2019**

Monday:	1 Jn 3:22 -- 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72: 1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19 -- 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30; Acts 10:34-38

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 13, 2019**

Monday:	Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK JANUARY 20, 2019**

Monday:	Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	Heb 7:25 -- 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
Saturday:	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 or Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 3:20-21
Sunday:	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19:8-10, 15; 1 Cor 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 27, 2019**

Monday:	Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday:	Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
Sunday:	Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; 1 Cor 12:31 -- 13:13 [13:4-13]; Lk 4:21-30

## JANUARY

### THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

**January 1, 9:00am in the Sanctuary**

The Solemnity of Mary acknowledges and celebrates Mary's role as the mother of Jesus Christ. It is a holy day of obligation.

### CAST INTO THE DEEP: BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

**Monday, January 7, beginning with a meal at 6:00pm RSVP**

The fourth session of Cast Into the Deep will focus on Bl. John Henry Newman. Through Bishop Barron's beautifully produced video, we will learn about Cardinal Newman's formation as an Anglican priest, and how his deep study of the Church Fathers led to his conversion to Catholicism, and his resulting influence on Catholic theology and Vatican II. The series is non-linear, so it's not a problem if you miss a session or join any time. The series will take place in the Hall of Martyrs. There will be an optional meal served at 6:00pm and an introduction followed by DVD viewing at 6:30pm. There will be table and large group discussion from 7:45–8:15pm. Prayer/Eucharistic adoration will be held from 8:15–8:30pm in the Thomas Merton Chapel. The nursery will be available with minimum 10-day notice.

### FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

**Friday, January 4, beginning with Mass at 8:30am**

Come and join other parishioners for Mass in the chapel at 8:30am, followed by coffee and hospitality on the first Friday of each month. The event is sponsored by the Pax Christi Boomers and Beyond. All are welcome!

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCIENCE:

*Answering the Questions, Exposing the Myths*

**THURSDAYS, January 10–February 7, 6:30–8:00pm RSVP**

Complete details on page 19.

### COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE

**THURSDAY, January 17, 3:00–4:30pm RSVP**

The Compassionate Care Listening Circle gathers monthly and is open to anyone who finds themselves at a crossroads in life. The listening circle provides a safe place for reflection and meaningful conversation as one strives to find an awareness of God in the face of life challenges. These challenges can include loss, caregiving responsibilities, mental illness, grief, chronic illness, or any life transition. In this small group setting we will have time for ritual, prayer, and sharing around a monthly topic. For more information, contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Care and Support Ministry, 952-405-7211, or [jthoresen@paxchristi.com](mailto:jthoresen@paxchristi.com).

### SOCIAL JUSTICE SPEAKERS SERIES:

#### ON IMMIGRATION RIGHTS

**Emilia Gonzalez Avalos, Executive Director, Navigate MN**

**Sunday, January 20, 12:30–2:00pm RSVP**

Emilia is Executive Director of Navigate, a leadership development program for immigrant young adults in Minnesota. She is a Mexican immigrant. Born in Mexico City, raised in Irapuato and Minnesota, she joined her father in Minnesota years after he left their town looking for better job opportunities and a better future for his family. Family separation, border consciousness, and a transnational economy shaped her to become an immigration activist, feminist, and advocate for human rights. Emilia's awards include Mano Amiga from the Latino Economic Development Center, Advocate of the Year by the Bush Foundation and CLUES, the 2017 Outfront Innovator Award, and Governor Dayton's 2016 MLK Distinguished Service Award. Emilia is an alumna of the Hubert H. Humphrey Public Policy Fellows Program, the Roy Wilkins Community Fellows, and an Emerging Leader Fellow with America Votes.

### SOULCOLLAGE® – OPEN CARD-MAKING SESSION

**Tuesday, January 22, 6:00–8:00pm, Room 212 RSVP**

Come enjoy a relaxing and fun art collage session with others. We make 5"x8" cards that reflect aspects of our inner selves, our soul's purpose, and the divine. Once finished with each card, you journal with it by using the journal sheets with three guided questions. Find out what that card is all about. You may also want to make cards for your deck that honor others, so feel free to bring photos of loved ones, loved places, loved pets, and anyone in the world or heaven who has inspired you. There is a suggested \$5 materials fee.

### MINNESOTA MARDI GRAS

*A Shared Ministry Celebration*

**Saturday, January 26, 6:00–8:00pm**

Complete details on page 14.

### THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF WORD AND WITNESS

*The Life and Legacy of St. Oscar Romero*

**Tuesday, February 5, 6:30–7:30pm, Thomas Merton Chapel**

Complete details on page 10.

## MAKE PLANS NOW



## A Bicycle Built for Two

Oh the Roads We've Traveled!

### ANNUAL CANA DINNER: ENTERTAINMENT BY FR MIKE!

**Saturday, February 23, 2019, 6:00–10:00pm RSVP**

We are Finding New Roads! on "A Bicycle Built for Two: Oh the Roads We've Traveled," this year's Cana Dinner theme, but you won't need to bike to the event as all couples, of all ages (and abilities) are welcome! The evening begins with a hosted wine reception, followed by a catered dinner. **After dinner, enjoy coffee, wine, and dessert while you are entertained by the magical singing voice of our own Fr. Mike Byron!** A couple's photo op will be offered during the evening, so be sure to dress as you would for a cocktail/dinner party. Tickets are available at an early lovebird price of \$70.00 per couple. The rate goes up to \$80 per couple after January 21, 2019. The ticket price includes loving childcare. Register online now! *If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, GO TOGETHER!*

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP 2019

**Week of July 15–19, register online now! RSVP**

Take your summer plans to the next level and go on a Just5Days mission trip! We'll be going to Omaha, Nebraska to be the hands and feet of Jesus while having fun and meeting new friends from around the USA. The total cost for each participant is \$250. There is a limited number of seats for this awesome experience, so don't miss out! For more information, contact Evan Bierer in the Faith Formation office, 952-405-7213, or [ebierer@paxchristi.com](mailto:ebierer@paxchristi.com).

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCIENCE:

*Answering the Questions, Exposing the Myths*

Have you ever found yourself in a discussion with friends or family where some scientific topic has created an uncomfortable moment because your Catholic identity has seemingly put you at odds with the modern world? Well fear not! This class will help you understand how the Catholic Church views the world of scientific endeavor. Through the study of specific topics such as the big bang theory, evolution, artificial intelligence, and even space aliens, you'll understand that perceived conflicts between Catholic church teachings and scientific understanding can be resolved.

### A REAL SCIENTIST DISCUSSES FAITH!

Your class facilitator will be Mark Huschke. Mark, a member of Pax Christi for 26 years, holds master's degrees in engineering and technology and has worked as a mechanical engineer with Dow Chemical for more than 30 years. Mark has been involved with the PREPARE marriage ministry for 26 years, served as a faith formation catechist for five years, and also spent two years with the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute.

A series of five class sessions will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30–8:00pm, starting January 10 and ending February 7. The class will use Benjamin Wiker's book, *The Catholic Church and Science: Answering the Questions, Exposing the Myths*, and will be handed out at the first session. Each class session will review the highlights of a chapter from the book and dive deeper in the topic via group discussion. Register online at [www.paxchristi.com](http://www.paxchristi.com).



TEAR HERE

<h1>JANUARY</h1> <p>See pages 18–19 for details or visit us online at <a href="http://www.paxchristi.com">www.paxchristi.com</a>.</p>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	2 MOM AND KIDS OPEN GYM	3	4 FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL	5
6 FAITH FORMATION	7 CAST INTO THE DEEP	8 BAPTISM CLASS	9 MOMS ROCK FAITH FORMATION	10 THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCIENCE	11	12 NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND
13 NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND FAITH FORMATION	14 LABYRINTH WALK	15 LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	16 MOM AND KIDS OPEN GYM FAITH FORMATION	17 COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCIENCE	18	19
20 SOCIAL JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES FAITH FORMATION	21 MLK DAY MASS	22 SOULCOLLAGE®	23 FAITH FORMATION	24 THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCIENCE	25	26 SHARED MINISTRY CELEBRATION
27 FAITH FORMATION	28	29	30 MOM AND KIDS OPEN GYM FAITH FORMATION	31 THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCIENCE		



## PAX CHRISTI CONTACTS

### PASTOR

Fr. Michael Byron 952-405-7219

### SENIOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Bill Murtaugh 952-405-7245

### DEACONS

Al Schroeder 952-405-7205  
Terry Beer 952-405-7231  
Charles Bobertz 952-405-7239

### PARISH DIRECTOR

Jane Schmitz 952-405-7238

### PARISH FINANCIAL MANAGER

Sue Fier 952-405-7202

### ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Maria Miller 952-405-7217  
Andrea Ward 952-405-7207  
Sally Bergum 952-405-7229

### COMMUNICATION ARTS

Melissa Nault 952-405-7221

### CARE AND SUPPORT MINISTRY

Director Jean Thoresen 952-405-7211  
Care Ministry Specialist Mary Ann Callahan 952-405-7227  
Care Ministry Coordinator Renee Reardon 952-405-7200

### FAITH FORMATION

Director (Adult Faith, RCIA, Preschool) Lynn Schelitzche 952-405-7230  
Grades 1 through 5, CLOW Renee Dignan 952-405-7212  
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Grades 9 through 12 Jessie Johnson 952-405-7210

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Teen Choir Angie O'Brien 952-405-7243

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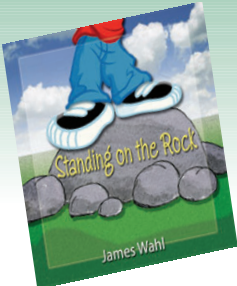
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