



Welcome to St. Pius X Parish, Kelowna

Priest: Father Obi Ibekwe

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Office hours: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday thru Friday

Office Manager: Angelica Ortiz



December 24th 2023: 4th Sunday of Advent-Christmas & New Year

Pastor's Christmas Message

O Holy Night...The Stars are brightly shining

My first Christmas was a difficult one. Edmonton cold almost killed me. I almost lost my ears. I remembered seeing the snow flakes for the first time. It felt like a wonderful world. In the midst of the challenges of first Christmas - without family, lonely, I felt something of the love of God in snow. The snow flakes were all in different shapes and sizes.

The truth is: we all have had lives; Christmas is the celebration of God dwelling with us in the midst of it all. As the snow flakes are different, so we are: unique, irrepeatable, filled with the goodness, love and beauty of God, and with our own unique challenges.

In the midst of it all: war, grief, brokenness, illness, the bells of Christmas still ring. *This man spoke about what happened to him one Christmas. It was a difficult time in his life. He was doing dishes and suddenly he hears the Church bells. He remembers the Church bells that used to ring in his childhood Church. Finished the dishes, and off left for Christmas midnight Mass. That night became a holy night: a new beginning as he rediscovered the God of his childhood years.*

As the bells ring, as we follow the star, let us meet the Christ Child in a manger, with all of lives: O Come Let us Adore Him. Jesus says: "I stand at the door of your heart knocking, if you open the door, I will come in and have supper with you" (Revelation 3:20)

Bishop Bittman in his Christmas letter wrote: *"Every Christmas, we read about the star that led the three Wise Men to Jesus. In the times past and even today, stars serve as beacons to guide people on their way. In a world where it is becoming more and more difficult to navigate, we need to remember that we have Jesus, 'Continue on page 2"*

Confession Times

Every Saturday at 4pm or by appointment .



Fourth Sunday of Advent: Candle of love Lord Jesus Christ. You are the God of Love. This Fourth Sunday of Advent, please teach us how to love the way you loved us. Grant us the Grace to be loving even to the most unlovable people. Guide us, Lord, to persevere in Love. Thank you Jesus, Please come into my heart and soul. Amen

2024 ENVELOPES

Envelopes for the New Year are now out in the entrance of the church. Please do not take/use envelopes that do not belong to you. You do not have the same envelope # you were assigned last year. Please start using the envelopes at the beginning of the year and do not use your 2023 envelopes to avoid confusion and errors. If you are not able to find your name on the envelope boxes in the foyer or you would like a box of envelopes for 2024, please contact parish office at: spxkelowna@nelsondiocese.org or call 250 762 2587

There will no bulletin next week. This one will serve for 2 weeks

Air Purifier

For the duration of Christmas Season, as our Church will encounter full capacity (the choir loft and overflow will be available too), air purifier system will be in place. This system has the unique Active Pure Technology that discharges molecules to destroy germs and viruses in addition to purifying the air. Thanks to the parishioner who lent it to us.

Welcome to St. Pius X Parish

We are happy that your life's journey has brought you here today to pray with us. Welcome. If you are visiting, we pray that your visit with friends and family here in the beautiful Okanagan may be pleasant. May your journey home be safe.

To everyone here today to worship, our great hope is that each Mass will increase in our hearts LOVE for Jesus, His Gospel and for one another.



Marry
Christmas
and Blessed
New Year to you
and
your
family



Priest's Message continued

The Star' God sent us, to help guide and steer us on our life journey. May Jesus, our 'Star,' shine brightly in your hearts and in your lives, not only to guide you, but also so that you too will be stars for others, especially for those who have lost their way"

My prayer is that at Christmas Mass, especially at Holy Communion, we will experience deeply the love of the Father for us personally. See how much love the Father has for us that He sent us His Son, Jesus (John 3:16)

Christmas is a time of joy, love, hope, faith and peace. From my heart to yours; from my family to yours: May you experience the joy, love, hope, faith and peace that Jesus brings.

Maybe it is a difficult season for you. Know that we will be praying for you and family at the Christmas Masses. Please pray for me, too, and for Frs. Biju, Harry, Jim, Wayne.

God is not dead, He does not sleep, He is near and He loves you.

Fr. Biju, Fr. Harry, Angelica, Nuno, Maria and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Your brother....Fr. Obi

Fr.Biju's Christmas Message :

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

My dear Parishioners ,we are celebrating the nativity of the Son of God, our Redeemer.

Jesus was born in a small town, in poor conditions, in seclusion. He could be seen by those who were humble of heart and those who responded to God's promptings. God gave them the unspeakable grace to see his Son with their own eyes. Jesus also comes to us today in simplicity. He is looking for a lowly, humble heart in which he can make his dwelling. Therefore, let us prepare a home for the child Jesus in our hearts. Let us reject all that is unworthy of God, and let us call him to us with a righteous life, like Mary and Joseph did. Let us join the song of the angels and sing glory to God in the highest and bring peace among people on earth!

With his birth, Jesus mysteriously united heaven and earth. Thus, a wonderful exchange of the heavenly and the earthly took place. He took our mortal body in order to give us heavenly incorruptibility through it. This is the source of our Christmas joy. As we give gifts to each other this Christmas, may our hearts reflect on that wonderful exchange, on that great Gift, on the Son of God, who became Emmanuel – God is With Us.

I wish that Christmas may bring an abundance of joy and God's grace to all parishioners, and people of good will, that you may celebrate it in peace and with your loved ones!

And I wish you a grace filled Merry Christmas and Prosperous New year.

Fr. Biju Cmi

**Parish Christmas Party: A Note of Gratitude
My dear friends of St. Pius X,**

I know I ask a lot of you, especially as I have only joined your parish this summer.

But consistently, you all rise to the occasion, bringing with you great gifts from the Lord.

I so enjoyed being part of our parish Christmas party this past weekend and I know everyone else who attended felt the same.

Thank you to Trish, whom I put tremendous faith in to organize this event. Not only did Trish assemble a team to help her get the work done, but everything was as done so well.

Thank you for every one of you who helped set up, seek out prizes and clean up quickly following the event.

The love of Jesus in our parish makes my heart swell.

Thank you again for all you do to make St. Pius X parish a hospitable and loving community.

I'm grateful for all of you.

Fr. Obi

**2023 Thank You Message and the
Year Ahead**

As the year comes to a close, I look back and I'm filled with gratitude. Thank you for everything you have done to make our parish a beautiful one: a place we come to meet Jesus and to celebrate His love.

I would like to thank our Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Committee, the Catholic Women's League, the Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul Members, Bazaar Committee, our Catechism Team and Children's liturgy Team, Liturgy Group (Sacristans, Flower and Altar Angels, Greeters, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion) and our Alpha Team.

Finally, I'd like to thank our parish staff for their dedication. Please join me to thank them. Thank you Angelica, Maria and Nuno.

God knows all that you do and He knows you by name. If I have forgotten anyone, I'm sorry. Thank you for sharing with our parish the gifts of your talents, time treasure.

Next year, we will continue to build and to bond. Stay tuned. Early next year, after our Parish Council meeting, I will be meeting with all the different groups in our parish to communicate the vision and how Jesus is inviting us to build and to bond.

Fr. Obi

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE ILLS

Please pray for the sick and injured at home and in hospital, especially for...Tessa McGibbon, June Hanushchak, Christine Zlogar, Vince Cummings, Oliver Fabris, James McGlinchey, Rita Gemin, Betty Klinger, Desjardins Family, Trudy Szulkies, Brenda Campbell, Arlene Pilgrim, Ashleigh Landry, Ernie Poitras, Manuela Ungureanu, Dana Duguay, Cathie Lock, Rick Lock, PJ Cuomo, Evelyn Burzminski, Dan Ryder, Patricia Graham, Anita Kurapatwa, Helen Curran, Heather Duguay, Pamela Renzi, Sandra Martinez, Claudia Albarran, Gloria Moyer, Constance Cournane, Fionnuala Kane, Wilai Basuwan, Jennifer Roa, Rugene Valle, Grace Tumale, Beatriz Hernandez, Dalia Whissell, Betty Yarrow, Patricia Cisakowski, Melissa Arriola, Jin Taggart, Majid.

If you have a loved one that you would like on the prayer list or if you know of someone who no longer needs to be on the list please contact Angelica at the Parish office 250-762-2587 or by Email: spxkelowna@nelsondiocese.org

MERCIFUL JESUS, GRANT THEM A HEALING OF MIND AND BODY, AND RESTORE THEIR STRENGTH AND SPIRIT. AMEN



Parish office will be closed for Christmas Holidays on Dec 26th until Jan 3rd 2024.

Merry Christmas and lots of Blessings for new year!
Feliz Navidad

From The Diocese

Rachel's Corner

"It is I, I, who wipe out, for my own sake, your offenses; your sins I remember no more."

Isaiah 43:25

It is painful to realize that if God remembers them no more, why are you still holding on to them? Come on a Rachel's Vineyard® Retreat for men and women, and be free of that burden, so you can finally live in peace and know with all certainty that you are forgiven

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Our Parish

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE- 2023

4th Sunday of Advent 23 & 24 December

Saturday 5 PM

Sunday 9 AM, 11 AM



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 24 & 25 December

Sunday 4 PM, 7 PM and 12 Midnight (midnight for real!)

Monday 9 AM, 11 AM and 4 PM

December 26 - 29 9:00 AM Mass.

Holy Family Sunday 30 & 31 December

Saturday 5 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM, 11 AM

Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day also) 31 December & 01 January (Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday 5 PM (New Year's Eve Mass)

Monday 9 AM & 11 AM (New Year's Day)

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord 06 & 07 January

(regular weekend schedule in effect)

Saturday 5 PM

St Pius X Parish QR CODES ARE HERE!!



The QR codes are now in the foyer for anyone who wishes to use them. These have been used in other parishes with GREAT success to enhance donations and ease to parish giving.

Here's the general process (each device is different... :)

- 1) With the camera on your phone, place the QR code in the center.
- 2) A yellow "Square Link" box will appear, touch that.
- 3) It will take you to St. Pius X Parish site that you can donate. When requested, use "Sunday Collection" as the reason for the donation. Follow the prompts (it should be relatively simple) and pay with your credit card.
- 4) When complete, you will get a text or an email to confirm your donation.
- 5) NOTE: Because you have to include your name and address during the process, you WILL get a tax receipt for your donation.
- 6) NOTE: This is an encrypted system and has been used with success AND privacy in numerous places before (including churches).

Christmas & New Year Mass Intentions

Saturday Dec 23	5:00 pm	Hani Yousif -R-
Sunday Dec 24	9:00 am	Christmas -INT-
Sunday Dec 24	11:00 am	Christmas Eve. -INT-
Tuesday Dec 26	9:00 am	Marco Dordolo -I-
Wednesday Dec 27	9:00 am	Jame & Maria Nguyen -R-
Thursday Dec 28	9:00 am	Helene Sabourin-R-
Friday Dec 29	9:00 am	Carlo Dordolo-R-
Saturday Dec 30	5:00 pm	Mame & Giacole Nguyen-R-
Saturday Dec 30	5:00 pm	Mame & Giacole Nguyen -R-
Sunday Dec 31	9:00 am	SPX Parishioners -INT-
Sunday Dec 31	11:00 am	New year -INT-
Tuesday Jan 02	9:00 am	Maria Jame Th -R-
Wednesday Jan 03	9:00 am	Clarence Kunz -R-
Thursday Jan 04	9:00 am	Rosa To Le -R-
Friday Jan 05	9:00 am	Peter & Anna Nguyen-R-
Saturday Jan 06	5:00 pm	Bibiana Lahay -R-



Prayer Group

Come Lord Jesus come and be born a new in our hearts....
 Prayer group will not be gathering for the rest of December....
 But will resume in January 2024...
 Prayers will continue...Merry Christmas
 For more info please call Piera at **250-2157-100**



Our Parish

CWL Christmas & New Year Announcements

* Thought for the Week: Social Justice

Called by sacred scriptures, church teachings and tradition, Catholic Women's League members commit themselves to furthering God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Join us on this exciting journey to create God's justice here and now!



***CWL Membership Renewal:** November is CWL membership renewal month. The 2023/2024 membership fee is **\$45.00**. The envelope in your Sunday Offering Box was printed before this increase was made - so please make note of the fee change. You will be receiving, via email, a renewal form. Please complete it and add it to your envelope so we can update our files and insure that you get the CWL Newsletter. Thank you.
Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas with your family and friends and many blessings in the New Year!

Christmas Donations can Start

now! If you are getting rid of Christmas items, don't put them away until next year. You can donate them now to our church. Don't hesitate to Call Beryl to help you with that. **250-717-0527.**



For a Eucharistic Life.

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharistic at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationship in very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.



Our Pilgrimage of Faith Goal is \$41,200.00

We have now reached our goal. So far we have received **\$53,244.20** We are so grateful to everyone for your generosity. May our dear Lord bless you abundantly. Any amount we receive over and above our parish goal comes back to the parish.

RCIA

Are you, or do you know someone who is searching, who is asking questions about becoming a Catholic, about deepening relationship with Jesus? Are you a Catholic who has received baptism but not the other Sacraments? Are you from another Church and looking to be received into the Catholic? We look forward to journeying with you in the RCIA program. We would like to hear from you. Please give us a call at **250 762 2587**. Please ask to speak with Fr. Obi. You can also email us at: spxklowna@nelsondiocese.org