



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 3rd 2023: 1st Sunday of Advent

Pastor's Message

Advent - The Yearning and Longing of our Hearts

This morning, I woke up very early - asking for God's help as I prepare for the weekend. I heard it might snow. I looked out through the window, there were signs of snow. As I saw the snow falling: I started singing: what a wonderful world. It is beautiful. My young friend in Penticton has been praying for snow so he can go skiing and play with the snow but I was praying for no snow. My friend won. His name is Gabriel. This morning I told his mom that Gabriel is an Archangel so he's very close to God, hence God heard his prayer instead of mine :)

One of my favorite Advent song is 'O Come O Come Emmanuel.' I found myself singing it already this week. **The song evokes in us a longing, a yearning for a Messiah, for hope, for meaning, for that which will last. As we sing it during this Advent, may it help to give expression to the deep longings of our heart, the hope for a Messiah.**

Advent is a time of pilgrimage: an interior journey that we make with Mary, Joseph and John the Baptist. We are heading to the manger. Dorothy Day once spoke of the manger in a beautiful way. She said: *'I'm so glad Jesus was born in a manger. Because my soul is so much like a manger. It's poor and in unsatisfactory condition - yet I believe if Jesus can be born in a manger, maybe he can also be born in me.'*

As we prepare for Christmas: the beautiful lights and decorations, the shopping and baking, May the manger of our hearts be also prepared so that at Christmas, we can give to Jesus a new heart as we too receive Him anew on Christmas Day.

How can we prepare:

1. **Take inventory of life:** where am I today in my relationship with Jesus?
2. **A resolution to begin again**
3. **Keep awake through prayer:** Deepening my encounter with Jesus at Holy Mass. Maybe attend one more Mass during the week and pray for your family that 2023 Christmas you may be united and be a blessing to everyone. Please pray for families in the Middle East and in Ukraine.
4. **Pray the Rosary as you drive**
5. **Fast from negativity:** resolve to not engage in any negative word, comment of speak about someone in a negative. Change the discussion.
6. **Say Merry Christmas7. Advent Candle lighting with family or by yourself:** dim the light. Determine to be a bearer of hope. As Christians, we bring hope in the midst of obscurity, darkness, absurdity, unrest and war. Evil will never win. Love wins

Confession Times

Every Saturday at 4pm or by appointment .



First Sunday of Advent: Candle of Hope

Dear Heavenly Father, as we gather in the soft glow of this first Advent candle, we embrace the hope it represents: Jesus. As the prophets of old foretold the coming of your Son, we too await His arrival with eager hearts. May the light of this candle remind us that in midst of darkness, your promise shines bright. Fill our hearts with hope and anticipation as we prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ ...Amen.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AND CAROLS

**WHEN: DEC 3, 2023
4 PM - 5:30 PM
ST PIUS X 1346 GORDON**

KICK-OFF THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH CAROLS AND FESTIVITIES

Featuring:

SERAPHIM EARLY MUSIC ENSAMBLE
Tracy Fehr and Heather Allen (Soprano)
Olivia Walsh, Contralto (Cello)
Rev Colin Cross (Bass)

ST PIUS X CHURCH COMBINED CHOIR

FR OBI AND THE AFRICAN DRUMMERS

JENNY AND GRAHAM (PIANIST)

No ticket required
Freewill offerings for St Vincent de Paul

For more details contact 250-762 2587

Pastor's Message Continued:

8. Pray together as family

9. **Christmas Card** - as you write Christmas cards, pray that the person may receive the love of Jesus in a new way this Christmas.

10. **Prayers and word of blessing while driving and in the grocery store:** Words of blessing to the driver before and behind you; same thing as you pay for the grocery, pray for the person before and behind you.

. Christmas Festival and Carols

To kick off the Advent Season and Christmas Festivities, we are organizing a Christmas Festival and Carols. Freewill offering - for St. Vincent de Paul Society to help the poor. Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Featuring:

Seraphim Early Music Ensemble: Tracy Fehr: Soprano; Heather Allen: Soprano; Olivia Walsh, Contralto: Cello; Rev Colin Cross: Bass
St. Pius X Church combined choir, Fr. Obi and the African drummers

Pianist: Jenny Achtem and Graham Vink

Venue: St. Pius X Church - 1346 Gordon Drive, Kelowna.

Date: December 3.....**Time:** 4pm to 5.30pm.....**No ticket needed.**

Christmas Mass Schedule, Christmas Confession, and Parish Christmas Party.....Check insert for details. Keep the insert as a reminder. For Christmas party, sign up this weekend; there's limited sitting.

Fr. Biju and I look forward to making this journey of Advent with you. We welcome Fr. Harry back. I'm grateful for his help this weekend. May you have a most wonderful weekend!

Multicultural Day Celebration: what a Sunday it was for us. Immense thanks to all the coordinators and all who helped to make it a beautiful celebration. People are already asking when we can have it again next year. Stay tuned.

Your brother,
Fr. Obi

Picture Gallery Multicultural Sunday:



Week Mass Intentions

Saturday Dec 02	5:00 pm	Gino Cimbaro -R-
Sunday Dec 03	8:30 am	Parishioners -INT-
Sunday Dec 03	11:30 am	Michael Lailey-R-
Tuesday Dec 05	9:00 am	Antonio Espejo -R-
Wednesday Dec 06	9:00 am	Melissa Arriole Health-INT-
Thursday Dec 07	9:00 am	Rino Gemin-R-
Friday Dec 08	9:00 am	Gregory Arduini -R-
Saturday Dec 09	5:00 pm	Eleonor Gorges -R-

CHILDREN'S CATECHISM LOOKING FOR HELPERS THURSDAY EVENINGS 6 PM to 7:30 PM

It seems only yesterday we were sat down in the hall enjoying the delicious pasta and sauce. I said on Friday to Fr. Obi that last Thursday was probably my most enjoyable catechism night of the year. I was able to observe several interactions between new friends young and old and enjoy good conversation myself. The Confirmation group had a new member. I was taken by the way in which the existing three members welcomed him to the group and listened attentively to his responses.

As all of our catechism groups continue to grow **we are in more need now of helpers on Thursday evenings**. If you can come along and help out our combined classes from time to time please let me, Mike Wilson or Terry Squire know. Your time would be greatly appreciated.

Contact mwilson@cisnd.ca Tel:250-859-6718.

St. Pius X Parish, is looking for a helper for Children Liturgy, 2 Sundays for month." No Experience is necessary " We will train you ... Call Theresa @ 250-763-08-69

Prayer Group

Come join us!

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" 2 Corinthians 12:9

Greetings! All are welcome to join us...

When: Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm -8:30

Where: St Pius X Parish -for more info call 250215-7100

Starting: October 3rd

Marriage Prep/Course

Are you getting married in the Catholic Church this fall? The next marriage prep session starts Oct 4 at 6:30pm. Attendance can be virtual or in person in Penticton. Contact Deacon Peter d'Aoust or Lynn Hale for more information. lhaledaoust2012@gmail.com or phone 250

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



Catholic Moms Connect Presents:

PEACE & PREPARATION Womens Advent Retreat

WHERE: SETON HOUSE OF PRAYER

WHEN: DECEMBER 8-9 2023

COST: OVERNIGHT \$120 / DAY RATE \$50

INCLUDES: ADORATION, PRAYER AND WORSHIP, OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATION AT SETON HOUSE OF PRAYER, BREAKFAST & LUNCH ON SATURDAY

SPECTACULAR SPEAKERS:

FR. SYLVESTER,

FR. GERALD

MARCIA LAWRENCE &

ALANET MCKINNON

TO REGISTER: SEND E-TRANSFER TO

DUCHARMEMDM@GMAIL.COM,

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME &

EMAIL ADDRESS IN THE NOTES.

REGISTRATION FORM WILL BE

EMAILED TO YOU

QUESTIONS? TEXT MARY 778-581-9898

Our Pilgrimage of Faith Goal is \$41,200.00

So far we have received \$40,935.00 We are so grateful to everyone who have donated. If you are yet to donate, we hope you can prayerfully consider doing so. Together we will work hard to reach our goal. May our dear Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity.

Upcoming Events

1. **Parish Christmas Party:** December 17. Please mark your calendar.

2.. **St. Pius X Christmas Bake Sale**

It's time to fill your cookie jars in preparation for the Christmas festivities and we are happy to help you fill them! Cookies, squares, and tarts will be on sale in the hall on:

Sat. Dec. 9th after the 5:00 mass

Sun. Dec. 10th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

*If able, we ask buyers to please bring containers for their purchases.

Also Quilting items will be available for sale.

Bakers are invited to bring up to 6 dozen of one baked item. Baking is to be dropped off at the church hall, Fri. Dec. 8th between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Thank you. For more information please contact **Joyce (250-762-9689)**.



Our Parish

CWL December 2-3 Announcements

* Thought for the Week: Sisterhood

In this world today, everyone yearns for connections. The Catholic Women's League provides so many ways to form a sisterhood with other women, be it at home, in a parish or through servant leadership. Come join a family of sisters across the country.

***CWL Christmas Party:** Saturday, Dec. 2 at 10:00 am. The parish CWL council is inviting all the women of the parish to join us in some holiday cheer and fellowship. If you have an inquiring mind about the CWL come join us and learn what we are all about!

***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.

***St. Pius X CWL Christmas Bake Sale:** The Bake Sale is coming up on **Sat. Dec. 9th after the 5:00 pm mass and on Sun. Dec. 10th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm**. Bakers are invited to bring up to 6 dozen of one baked item. Baking is to be dropped off at the church hall, Fri. Dec. 8th between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. Thank you. For more information please contact Joyce (250-762-9689).

***Catholic Women's Leadership Program:** The Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, Saint Paul University, Ottawa is pleased to announce that they are accepting applications for the 2024 cohort of their Leadership Program, scheduled to begin in June 2024 at. Details of the content of the different components and timelines can be found on the website at www.cwlfcanada.ca. If you are or know of a Catholic woman who wishes to be a transformational and influential leader, they invite you to complete the application process by **January 15th, 2024** which can be found at www.cwlfcanada.ca/participate.

***CWL Nelson Diocesan Council Bursary:** There are two annual \$500.00 bursaries available from the Nelson Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League. One bursary gives precedence to applicants entering the Medical Science Field and the second is for applicants entering General Courses. For more information please go to the link below and you will find the Guidelines and Application for the bursary. <https://nelsondiocesecwl.org/resources/>

Feed a Family... Feel the Joy!

6th Annual Kelowna Christmas Turkey Drive

Immaculata Regional High School
1493 KLO Road

Proudly Hosted by
IMMACULATA
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

In Support Of
Central Okanagan
Food Bank

December 15th
6:30am - 10:00 am

Accepting both frozen turkeys and monetary donations for the direct purchase of turkeys.



CASTANET **K96.3** **save on foods**

From The Diocese

Rachel's Corner

"In this encounter with the risen Lord, He also meets them in the lowest places of their lives and drains from their hearts the poison of this sin and loss and gives them a new heart and a new spirit."

- Bishop Greg Kelly

Are you ready for a new heart filled with His merciful love for you? No matter how dark things seem, and how low you feel you have fallen since the day of the abortion, He is ready to love you back to life. Join us on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat. Vineyard™ Retreat.

info@rachelsvineyardkelowna.com

www.rachelsvineyardkelowna.com

f Rachel's Vineyard Kelowna

250-762-2273

Bishop Emeritus Eugene Cooney will celebrate his 92nd Birthday on Dec 10. Send him a hug in a card of Blessings to: # 138, 139 Providence Blvd S.E
Calgary, Ab. T2X OX2
He will be thrilled to hear from you SSVP News

Etransfers are accepted at **St Pius X Parish**

Please Send your offering via etransfer to etranfer.spxkelowna@nelsondiocese.org
no password is required.

Pilgrimage of Faith donations are also accepted with no password at etranfer.pof@nelsondiocese.org. Thank you

