



# ST. PIUS X

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## MOBERLY, MO

JAN/FEB/MAR 2026

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## CROSSING GUARD MINISTRY PUTS STEWARDSHIP AND SAFETY IN STUDENTS' CAREFUL HANDS

Our parish school dedicates itself to the formation of young minds. This includes the spiritual aspect of education, through which Catholic teachings and values are prioritized. This means that our students are offered unique opportunities for daily Mass, adoration, and other faith-related activities.

The middle schoolers, in fifth through eighth grades, go to the church three or four times a week. The street they cross is busy, so the students themselves act as crossing guards for their fellow students.

"Usually we have two kids, set up on a rotation," says teacher Mike Barner. "They'll wear vests and hold stop signs. They will go out once we have a clear street, hold the crosswalk

there in front of the rest of the kids."

The responsibility is important to the students and their classmates. Since it is an active area and it is a matter of safety, the kids take their job very seriously.

"We don't ever want to have an accident, and we never want it because someone isn't paying attention or not caring about fellow students," Mr. Barner says. "We use it as a teaching issue for us — we teach our kids about safety and how they have to be disciplined."

In a world that is distracted, the students are taught an important lesson about maintaining focus on the task at hand and being truly present to what is in front of them.

"I can't reiterate enough, making them

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ST. PIUS X  
MOBERLY, MO

## MAKING TIME FOR

# Prayer:

## A Stewardship Resolution to Keep

Time is one of the greatest gifts God has given us in this life. And yet, how easy is it for us to take it for granted, especially when it passes by so quickly — it seems the days, weeks, and months go by faster and faster with each new year.

Like all gifts from God, time was given to us for a purpose. Because God is the author of time, only He knows how best it can be used to make us happy. How do we find out what God wants for each of us in this earthly life? Just like any loving relationship, to know the *desires* of the lover, one must first get to know the lover *himself*.

As it turns out, our Divine Lover wants nothing more than an intimate friendship with us for all eternity. We can begin that relationship right now. The means through which we become friends with Jesus in this life can be summed up in one simple word: Prayer.

Prayer may be a simple word but putting it into practice takes effort. Nevertheless, if there is one goal that is worth all the time and effort we have on this earth, it is to develop the habit of prayer. Prayer is, essentially, a loving relationship with God, without which our lives are meaningless. St. Augustine says, “You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” St. Teresa of Avila further explains, “Prayer is nothing else than an intimate friendship, a frequent heart-to-heart conversation with Him by whom we know ourselves to be loved.”

The new year is a great time to ask ourselves if we need to renew our commitment to prayer and to think of ways to cultivate that intimate friendship Jesus wants to have with us.

While there are numerous ways to pray, every spiritual authority includes a few essential elements in developing a life of prayer. Here are some of them:

- **Make it a daily affair:** Even if it means starting at five minutes a day, set aside some time each day for conversation with Jesus, and then build from there. Proceed in little steps.
- **Give it some structure:** Reading the Scriptures and other spiritual material or studying a picture of Jesus and reflecting on scenes from His life are some great ways to focus your mind on the Lord. Include opportunities to talk to Him, thank Him, express sorrow, or anger, and ask Him for the desires of your heart. Talk to Him as you would your closest friend.
- **Allow for silence:** Choose a quiet place where you won't be disturbed and where you won't disturb others. Remember, Jesus often withdrew to pray. This makes sense. People who truly love each other often desire to be alone. Jesus loves each of us individually and wants to whisper words that only we can hear. Silence is necessary if we want to hear Him speak to our hearts.
- **Make time for family or group prayer:** Praying with others strengthens us, holds us spiritually accountable, and is a good example to others. Try praying the Rosary with your family.
- **Turn everyday undertakings into prayer:** When we perform any action, even the smallest one, out of love for Jesus, it becomes a prayer. We can make our entire day a prayer if we remember this simple concept.
- **Don't be discouraged when you encounter struggles:** However distracted we become, or however unfruitful our prayer seems to be, Jesus is *always* pleased when we spend time with Him. In fact, it is often when we persevere during difficult times that He is *most* pleased. And when we feel unworthy, we should run to Jesus in prayer. He alone holds the key to our healing and happiness; He is the only one who can transform us into the persons He created us to be.

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

# EMBRACING STEWARDSHIP, THE DISCIPLE'S WAY OF LIFE, FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear Parishioners,

Grace and peace to you as we begin a new year filled with hope, blessings, and opportunities for spiritual renewal. As we stand at the threshold of 2026, I invite each of us to reflect on how we can more fully embrace *stewardship as a way of life* here at St. Pius X — not as a program or obligation, but as a joyful response to God's love and a daily expression of our discipleship in Christ.

Stewardship, at its heart, is the disciple's way of life. It is how we live out our gratitude to God for all that He has entrusted to us — our time, our talents, and our treasure. When we approach each of these gifts with prayerful intention, we grow in holiness and strengthen the very fabric of our parish community.

Let us begin with the *stewardship of time*. Time is one of God's most precious gifts, and how we spend it reveals what we truly value. I encourage you to make time for prayer and reflection each day, nurturing your personal relationship with the Lord. Participate regularly in the celebration of the Eucharist and the sacraments. Consider joining one of our parish or diocesan opportunities for spiritual enrichment — such as summer camps for youth, prayer groups, or retreats — to grow in faith and fellowship. When we dedicate time to God, our lives are transformed, and our parish life becomes more vibrant and Christ-centered.

The *stewardship of talent* invites us to recognize and share the unique gifts God has given each of us. Every member of our parish family has something vital to contribute. Whether your gifts are best used in liturgical ministry, outreach, education, or behind the scenes, your willingness to serve



helps our parish reflect the compassion and mercy of Christ. I encourage you to review the Ministry Catalog from our 2025 Stewardship Renewal or visit the ministries page on our website at [stpiusx.diojeffcity.org](http://stpiusx.diojeffcity.org) to discern how you might share your gifts in the year ahead.

Finally, the *stewardship of treasure* calls us to use our material blessings in ways that honor God and serve others. Our financial support of the parish is an expression of faith and thanksgiving — a tangible way to give back to the Lord who has given us everything. As we begin this new year, I invite you to prayerfully consider taking a step forward in your giving, mindful that your generosity sustains the many ministries, programs, and outreach efforts that make our parish such a blessing to so many.

As we journey into 2026, may we each renew our commitment to live as grateful and generous disciples. Together, let us build a parish community rooted in prayer, service, and generosity — a community that radiates the love of Christ and gives joyful witness to the Gospel every day.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louis M. Nelen". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fr. Louis M. Nelen,  
Pastor





ST. PIUS X  
MOBERLY, MO

# MEET OUR ROSARY LEADERS

## *A Parish Family that Prays Together*

One of the pillars of stewardship is prayer, and a powerful prayer is the Rosary. About 30 minutes before every weekend Mass, the Rosary Leaders gather to pray the Rosary here at St. Pius X. Carolyn Schumann is their coordinator.

“A person will come up and lead from where the song leader sings,” Carolyn says. “They do either the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, or Luminous Mysteries. Divine Mercy has a wonderful Rosary pamphlet we use as our guide. There are meditations.”

The leaders order the pamphlets from [www.marian.org](http://www.marian.org). There are 12 official Rosary Leaders, but others may volunteer. In months with a fifth Sunday, the Knights of Columbus provide a volunteer lead.

“They’ve served in this capacity for a number of years,” Carolyn says. “It’s nice because you do it once a month. It’s not the same people all the time. I’ve tried to get men involved. It’s a good witness for Jesus to have men. I honestly think we as a parish have rediscovered the Rosary.”

This tradition is 20 to 25 years old in our parish — the inspiration came from another parish.

“We would go over to Reconciliation at another parish,” Carolyn says. “Every Thursday evening, that priest made himself available for Reconciliation. We went to Mass often on Saturday mornings, and they would always have a Rosary before. By their witness, I said we should do the same thing.”

They started with just the months of May and October since those were dedicated to Our Lady.

“When Fr. Joby Thomas came to Moberly, he said he wanted to have the Rosary before each weekend Mass,” Carolyn says. “So did Fr. Nelen, so that’s how we’re doing it.”

The Rosary is a powerful prayer.

“It helps us to meditate upon the life of Jesus and to take our concerns and our intentions individually for family, friends, the nation, the world, and pray the Rosary for those intentions,” Carolyn says. “Pete, my husband, was born Catholic. I’m a convert, but he had the great privilege of having a family that was very devout and prayed the Rosary. He said he can still see his grandma sitting in her chair and holding the Rosary in her hand, praying it. His mother was the same way. Just recently, our little grandson is learning to pray the Rosary. He watches it on YouTube.”

Instilling the importance of prayer among families is an important tenet of our faith.

“It’s about having a foundation with Jesus and being able to call upon that foundation as you go



*Parishioners pray the Rosary before Mass, with Fred Stephenson leading*

through struggles in life or you have friends that need prayer,” Carolyn says. “It’s asking Our Lady to intercede to her Son, Jesus. It brings comfort to people. When you get older, you can’t do the stuff you used to do. So, when you can say the Rosary, you can sit there and pray for others if they’re going through trials and tribulations. It’s a great tool, a great gift from God.”

Praying the Rosary is powerful — especially when doing so as a parish family.

“We come together and pray,” Carolyn says. “I’m always amazed at the volunteers who are willing to give up their time to come to Mass early and lead the Rosary. I think it’s so profound. It’s an opportunity to rediscover the power of the Rosary, and to take everything and lay it at the feet of Jesus. It’s extremely important in developing and creating that family bond as a parish and taking time to care for one another and pray.”

Carolyn is grateful for all the Rosary Leaders who are willing to lead us in prayer.

“I hope by saying the Rosary, our parish family comes to know they are so loved by God and created with a purpose for this time,” she says.

**If anyone has any questions or wants to get involved, contact Carolyn Schumann at 660-676-1176 (call or text) or [carolynschumann@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynschumann@hotmail.com).**



*Fred Stephenson leads the Rosary before Mass.*

## CROSSING GUARD MINISTRY PUTS STEWARDSHIP AND SAFETY IN STUDENTS’ CAREFUL HANDS *continued from front cover*

safety conscious makes them aware of what’s going on, with cars coming around them,” Mr. Barner says. “The church is at a four-way intersection, so they have to keep their heads up and eyes open.”

This is a valuable teaching for the students. It also encourages them to gain confidence in themselves as they are given the responsibility of stewardship of time and talent for the sake of their classmates.

“This is an activity that can help our kids build that small foundation of confidence, so that they can just keep moving forward with it,” Mr. Barner says. “We have some high expectations for the kids. They have a regular routine — they also make sure the back doors where we come back

are shut and locked. A lot of times, they have to go out early by themselves. It’s an opportunity to gain confidence and establish a discipline.”

In the same way that the students have opportunities to serve at Mass, they are each involved in serving their classmates as they rotate who fulfills the crossing guard duty each week. All of the middle school students have the chance to serve, from the youngest to the oldest. Oftentimes, says Mr. Barner, the youngest students rise to the challenge and do a great job. He likes to take the time to give them positive feedback and encourage them.

“The more times you practice stewardship, the easier it may make it for them to wake up to it,” Mr. Barner says.



ST. PIUS X  
MOBERLY, MO

# ST. JOHN BOSCO:

*A Steward of Youth and Hope*

Many saints have modeled faithful Catholic discipleship and stewardship, and St. John Bosco is a shining example for January, as we celebrate his feast day on Jan. 31.

Known affectionately as Don Bosco (“Don” means “Father” in Italian), he dedicated his life to the care, education, and spiritual formation of poor and neglected youth in 19th-century Italy. His legacy continues to inspire the Church today, particularly those who work with young people or seek to serve with generous hearts.

Born in 1815 near Turin, Italy, John Bosco was raised in poverty by his widowed mother. Even in his youth, he demonstrated a deep devotion to the Eucharist, a love for the poor, and an extraordinary ability to engage and teach his peers. These qualities became the foundation for his lifelong mission of stewardship and discipleship.

Ordained a priest in 1841, Don Bosco began ministering to the street children and working-class boys of Turin. Many were orphaned, imprisoned, or left to fend for themselves. Rather than ignoring their suffering, he saw them as precious gifts from God and responded with a heart full of compassion. He opened a youth center that provided food, shelter, education, and spiritual guidance — planting the seeds of lifelong faith and purpose in the lives of countless young people.

Central to Don Bosco’s mission was the understanding that all our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God to be used in loving service to others. He saw himself not just as a priest or educator, but as a steward of souls entrusted to his care. His joyful, approachable spirit and tireless work for the good of others reflect the very essence of a stewardship way of life.

In 1859, he founded the Salesians of Don Bosco, a religious congregation committed to the education and evangelization of youth, especially the poor. Today, the



Salesians serve in more than 130 countries, continuing his vision of loving and forming young people in a Christ-centered environment.

St. John Bosco’s feast day offers us a time to reflect on how we, too, are called to serve others with the same devotion and purpose. He is the patron saint of apprentices, schoolchildren, boys, young people, and juvenile delinquents — a fitting tribute to his life’s mission.

As we grow in our own journey of stewardship, may we look to St. John Bosco as a model of faith in action, and respond to God’s call with the same love, joy, and generosity.

# MARTHA'S MINISTRY

## *Joyfully Sharing in Time and Fellowship to Keep Our Church Tidy*



**W**e all have a role to play in keeping our parishes vibrant and active. No ministry or task is too small — everything matters, and the Lord sees every act done for Him. We are called to serve, and Scripture reminds us how to do so: “Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Regina Summers has been part of Martha's Ministry for about 15 years. In this ministry, volunteers handle the deeper, more occasional cleaning tasks. She has a list of about 40 people who help — some with friends and some alone. Volunteers clean about three or four times a year.

“It's not really consuming of time, but it's a way to help out a little bit and

put an extra touch on the church before Sunday Mass,” Regina says.

That's the reason Regina got involved — it's a way to help that's not high pressure. It's behind the scenes.

“Being able to come in and do something like this helps people and families feel involved,” Regina says.

Not everyone can sing, serve as a lector, or teach religious education. But most of us know how to clean. Regina says some volunteers even bring their children, which is great.

“It's stewardship, and you have to lead by example — that's really what it comes down to,” Regina says. “I always say that simply living your faith is the best way to teach others. You can talk about it, of course, but when people see you doing it, they understand how important it is to you. And hopefully, it sparks something in them too.”

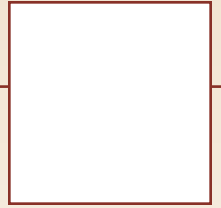
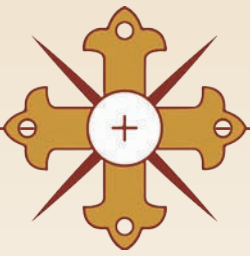
Cleaning is typically done on a Saturday and takes less than two hours. There's a paid role for the normal cleaning — Martha's Ministry members dust, clean windows, water plants, mop, and vacuum, if necessary. When there are two members on hand, they divide the tasks and go to work.

“I think for some women who don't feel like they participate enough or don't have the time, this helps them feel



*(From left) Martha's Ministry members Vicki Ritter and Liz Schopp take their turn cleaning*

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MOBERLY, MO 65270

## MARTHA'S MINISTRY *continued from page 7*

like they're contributing to our church family," Regina says.

Regina enjoys cleaning alongside new partners and says that it has helped her get to know more parishioners. She also believes she's never paired with a fellow member by accident.

"You get to talk personally, and so many times I've felt like, 'Oh, we needed to be together this time,'" Regina says.

For those who don't have much extra

time, Martha's Ministry is perfect. There are no meetings, and it takes less than 10 hours per year.

"Some ladies feel like this is a way to

give back when they don't feel adequate to do other things, like lecturing or being a Eucharistic Minister," Regina says. "I think they feel, 'This, I can do.'"

**Regina Summers at [reginaspx@gmail.com](mailto:reginaspx@gmail.com)  
to get involved in the Martha's Ministry.**

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***"I always say that simply living your faith is the best way to teach others. You can talk about it, of course, but when people see you doing it, they understand how important it is to you. And hopefully, it sparks something in them too."***

**— Regina Summers**

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