

24 Reasons To Enroll Your Child At Saint Pius X School

As told by students, parents and graduates



“ St. Pius School has the best curriculum and environment of any Downriver grade school --public or private..... ”

*----Mark & Maryanne Karaba,
parents of Nathan Karaba (2003) and Emily (2008)*



A BRIEF HISTORY OF SAINT PIUS X SCHOOL

After World War II, the city of Detroit expanded out to the suburbs and new communities were established to the south. The area now making up Southgate had a population of less than 2,000 in 1940, growing to 10,000 in 1950; the population continued to rise for the next 20 years to over 29,000 in 1960. The city became incorporated in 1958.

In response to the rapid population growth, Saint Pius X Parish was established in 1950. The Reverend William G. Swift was the founding pastor, arriving on July 13, 1950, and offering the first parish Mass 10 days later at the McCann School. Mass continued there on a weekly basis with the first Mass in the newly constructed parish church occurring on Easter Sunday, 1951.

August 13th of that year saw the ground being broken for a school consisting of eight classrooms. While the school was under construction, classes began for first graders in the social hall of the Church. In 1954, Cardinal Mooney blessed and dedicated the completed section of our school. Three more sections were added later for our current total of thirty-two classrooms. Plans for an Activity Center began in 1992 under Father Henry Roodbeen, our fourth pastor, and this facility was dedicated on June 11, 1995.

Our patron saint, Pius X, was born on June 2, 1835 as Giuseppe Melchore Sarto in the small village of Riese near Venice. He was ordained at the age of 23. Cardinal Sarto was elected Pope in 1903, assuming the name Pius X. He took as his motto the passage from Paul, "To restore all things in Christ, that Christ might be all and in all" (I Cor. 15:28). His pontificate lasted eleven years. Pope Pius X is often called the "Pope of the Eucharist", and he urged all Catholics to a frequent reception of Holy Communion, promoting a change in the age of reception of the Blessed Sacrament to begin at age 7.

At St. Pius X Catholic School, we look back and see over 50 years of history to be proud of, and look forward to the challenges of passing on our faith and developing the leaders of the future. These pages provide a small window into what our families, past and present, know....Saint Pius School is a gift to a child that truly does last a lifetime!!!

“ St. Pius School is a wonderful place for children to grow. Our children have flourished here, mostly due to the dedicated teaching staff and a strong curriculum.... ”

“My husband and I both attended St. Pius as children. Although we left the parish and were married elsewhere, when we had children we knew that they would also attend St Pius School. There was never any question. We wanted to give them the same quality education that our parents struggled to give to us. We value the Christian atmosphere of the school and appreciate the dedicated teaching staff....they are second to none! Walking the halls as an adult, and seeing families that I saw as I was growing up gives me a sense of home. We’re home.”

Cheryl and Kevin Loewengruber, St. Pius graduates & parents of Natalie (2011) and Zachary (2013)

“At St. Pius we feel our children are receiving an excellent Catholic education. It is important to us that St. Pius is building the foundation for our children’s future as they grow into Catholic adults. We have made so many friendships at St. Pius we know that they will last a lifetime. For us, St. Pius is more than a school, it’s a community we call our second family. We are proud to be a St. Pius family.”

Annie Mandernach, mother of Kayla (2008), Hanna (2010) and Lily (2015)

“After entering high school I came to realize how well St. Pius prepared me over the past years. St. Pius not only has a strong curriculum, but also a fantastic Catholic environment along with an amazing sports program. I am just so happy that my parents gave me the wonderful opportunity to come here for my elementary education. St. Pius isn’t just academically based, it is also family-oriented. My memories of activities such as I-league sports, Open Houses, Grandparent’s Day, Christmas plays, and many others have been a big part of my life and that’s why I am proud that I went to St. Pius X School.”

Alex Solis, St. Pius graduate (2006)

“After scrutinizing and comparing the choices of Catholic schools Downriver, we chose St. Pius School for our family. We actually changed parishes because we are so convinced that St. Pius provides the best educational environment for our children.

The faculty provides a disciplined, Christ-centered environment with solid academics that leaves us assured that the Christian values we instill at home are being supported and enhanced in school. They are learning the fundamentals exceptionally well. The teachers care very much about these kids, and it shows.

Watch St. Pius students before or after school, there is a group harmony. You’ll know first hand that the environment is safe, disciplined, fun and nurturing all at the same time. We believe that is what you need for great learning to take place. That’s what you get at St. Pius. It is the best educational choice in the Downriver community.”

Mark and Tricia Sirois, parents of Jacques (2013) and Mary (2016)

“I like St. Pius because the teachers are nice teachers who like kids, and they make learning fun.”

Jacques Sirois

“St. Pius is a great school. Our expectations of what our child has learned so far while attending St. Pius are above what we could ever imagine. The teachers are great and care about the students and vice versa. It’s like having an extended family at St. Pius.”

Rae-Marie and Ken Solesbee, parents of Kyle (2013) and Kerstyn (2017)

“....Having a strong support system and great friends is the invisible advantage we have at St. Pius. I couldn’t ask for better role models, or more fun people to raise my children with....”

“As a teacher, I appreciate the parents and families at St. Pius! There are so many great people who work hard for our school. The parents have always been so generous with their time and resources. Whether it’s helping with a class project, working on something at home, sending in a needed item, or just helping out with something at the last minute - I know all I have to do is ask, and the job will get done. I really appreciate all that our families do!”

Mrs. Deborah Wallace, St. Pius Kindergarten Teacher

“Having six of our eight children graduate from St. Pius (and the last two currently attending here), we can strongly attest to the quality education being offered here. One goal of an elementary school is to successfully lay a solid academic foundation on which to build-on in the high school years. Because of our faith, we also wanted a school to reflect and reinforce the values we teach at home. We feel that St. Pius has accomplished this and more - enabling our children to experience athletics, up-to-date technology, an outstanding library, academic competitions, ...all in a safe setting. Sending our children on to attend a strong academic Catholic high school (Gabriel Richard) and major universities, we can tell you for a fact that our children are well prepared for the challenges ahead. As a family, we are well aware of the enormous sacrifice a private education entails, and for us, St.Pius is worth it.”

Ann and Bill Cooper, parents of Michael (1996), Steven (1998), Katie (2000), Julie (2001), Susan (2003), Mary (2005), Megan (2007), and Emily (2010).

“I like St. Pius because the teachers are nice teachers who like kids, and they make learning fun!”



“...My best memories were made during my 8 years at St. Pius!!....”

“A product of public schools, and a public school teacher myself, I never dreamed of sending my children to a Catholic school. However, when looking for a place where my children would grow spiritually and academically, I was immediately drawn to St. Pius School. Our children began preschool there, and we have been there since! St. Pius offers children a challenging curriculum aligned with state standards as well as helping them grow spiritually. The integration of the two makes it a great place for children to be. At St. Pius, we are one big family, all working together as a community for the betterment of our children. We love St. Pius School!”

Cori Bzura, mother of Lindsey (2012) and Matthew (2014)

“I loved St. Pius School as a kid....and I love St. Pius School as an adult!! As a student at Pius, I was given all the tools I needed to go on to high school and college. My best memories were made during my 8 years at St. Pius!! Now, as a parent, I want the best for my daughter. I know St. Pius offers it all!!”

Kelly Mann, 1982 St. Pius graduate and mother of Lauren (2011)

“I like St Pius because of all the specials (art, library, music, computers and gym).”

Lauren Mann

“St. Pius School has THE BEST curriculum and environment of any Downriver grade school – public or private. St. Pius graduates consistently rank in the top ten when graduating from high school.”

Mark & Maryanne Karaba, parents of Nathan (2003) and Emily (2008)

“I love the fact that not only do I know who my kids are going to school with, but I know their families, which makes going to St Pius a real family experience. With all families there is good and bad, but with a family the good always outweighs the bad!!!

Rachelle Barnes, PTO President, mother of Jordan (2009) and Justin (2013)

“Being with my friends, and playing sports at St. Pius is the best!!!”

Jordan Barnes

“Mrs. Wiggins is the best teacher and I like to go to school because of her.”

Justin Barnes

“St. Pius School is a wonderful place for children to grow. Our children have flourished here, mostly due to the dedicated teaching staff and a strong curriculum.

When you walk the halls of St. Pius you feel the warmth and love that surrounds our children every day. You also get an opportunity to see the neat work they have made, or the interesting things they’ve studied recently.

We also had such a phenomenal experience with the St. Pius sports program. Learning teamwork and sportsmanship adds to all that they learn in school. It also gives the children a chance to work toward a goal, and grow stronger and more self-confident. Having parents as coaches is also a constant demonstration that being a good role model starts at home.

With all of these wonderful reasons what else could there be? The parents, of course! Having a strong support system and great friends is the invisible advantage we have at St. Pius. I couldn’t ask for better role models, or more fun people to raise my children with.

St. Pius is a safe, loving environment that focuses on preparing our children to be Christian leaders.”

Clinton and Tania Chico, parents of Jordan (2012) and Brendan (2014)

“St. Pius is a special school because the teachers are nice.”

Brendan Chico

“I agree. Our school is special because the teachers are nice and they really help you learn.”

Jordan Chico

“.....At St. Pius X our children learned such values as standards of excellence, responsibility to community, and the importance of family to one’s emotional well-being.....”

“We have been exceptionally happy with St. Pius. Katie is currently a third grader and has been attending St. Pius since Kindergarten. We had decided at any early age that a Catholic education was going to be most important for our daughter.

We feel that a private education is the most important gift we can give our child. We like the fact that she can speak freely about God and learn about her faith. That cannot happen in a public school.

Being a St. Pius parent has been very rewarding for us. We both volunteer in the classroom, coach the sporting teams, attend field trips, work with the PTO and any other activity that comes along. Being part of the St. Pius family has helped us grow in our faith.”

Kevin and Lisa Logan, parents of Katie (2012)

“As parents of two former students of St. Pius X School, we were pleased by the experience of kindness, honesty, and sincerity from the faculty and staff.

The sense of commitment to our children on both a personal and professional level has given them confidence and a positive attitude.

At St. Pius X our children learned such values as standards of excellence, responsibility to community, and the importance of family to one’s emotional well being.

St. Pius X helped our children to grow in faith and spirituality and nurtured their development much the same as we have ourselves.”

The Doran Family



Saint Pius X Catholic Preschool Quick Facts

Our preschool programs afford our students the following advantages:

- Director is a certified teacher with early childhood endorsement
- Licensed and accredited school
- 4 year –old curriculum includes:
 - ✓ “Letter People” Phonics series
 - ✓ Saxon Pre-math
 - ✓ Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Pre-K Reading
 - ✓ “Walk with Jesus” Religion
 - ✓ Exposure to technology in the classroom
- Experiential field trips

The 3 year-old program operates on Tuesdays & Thursdays, while the 4 year-old program runs on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

PLAYING, LEARNING, GROWING

Our Preschool Parents say:

“...I really like the close-knit feeling between the families and the teachers.”

“...I like that Mrs. Shook has the same children for two years. My child developed his social abilities during the first year and this school year he was ready to learn the Letter People.”

“...St. Pius Preschool has a loving environment that nurtures children’s natural learning process. There is spiritual integration that is practiced. St. Pius’ preschool program is an excellent start to a great school.”





Saint Pius Catholic School Quick Facts

- Founded in 1953
- Preschool through 8th grade
- Accredited by Michigan Assoc. of Non-public Schools
- All teaching staff certified by State of Michigan
- Average class size of 20
- Smart Boards, computers & internet in every classroom
- Up-to-date textbooks (no more than 5 years old)
- Gym, computer, music and art classes for all grades
- State-of-the-art science and computer labs
- Library with over 11,000 titles, electronic checkout
- On-site After-School care
- Extracurricular activities:
 - ✓ CYO Sports
 - ✓ Academic Olympics & Science Olympiad
 - ✓ Science Fair
 - ✓ National Geography Bee
 - ✓ Children's Choir
 - ✓ Altar Service
 - ✓ Scouting
 - ✓ and more!!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.saintpiusschool.org

or call us at

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