

St. Pius Church was built in 1955 at 36 E. Naples - see Percy Burnham architect



St. Pius Catholic Church

History of St. Pius X Church In the spring of 1955 Bishop Charles Buddy commissioned Father James McGinley to form a new parish in the Southbay area. Six people attended the first Mass held in a rented home on Ash Wednesday of that year. On the following Sunday, February 27, 1955, 50 people celebrated Mass in the garage of that same home at 42 Palomar Drive in Chula Vista. Father McGinley chose the name of the new parish, that of the newly canonized Pope, St. Pius X. The words on the Saint's coat of arms, "Restaurare omnia in Christum" (to restore all in Christ) were chosen for the motto of the Parish. These words were especially appropriate for the jubilee year, 2000 AD. The beautiful Spanish Renaissance church as it stands today was completed in the fall of 1955. On Thanksgiving Day of that year, the first Mass was celebrated in the newly-constructed Church by Father McGinley. The parish hall, convent, school and the Christian Education Center (CEC) buildings were constructed later. Father McGinley arranged to have the "Sisters of St. Clare" open St. Pius X School in September of 1960. The sisters served the parish and school for 23 years. Since 1986 the school has had an all lay staff. In 1973, Father McGinley was invested as Monsignor McGinley by the Bishop of San Diego. In the summer of 1975, Monsignor McGinley retired as Pastor of St. Pius X and remained in residence as Pastor Emeritus until his death on March 24, 1985. The second Pastor of St. Pius X Reverend Donald R. Kulleck was appointed in the Summer of 1975. Father Kulleck and later Monsignor Kulleck served as Pastor from that time until his retirement in 1998 at which time he was named Pastor Emeritus and is also in residence during his retirement. Following the announcement of Father Don's retirement in November 1998, an elementary school alumni and former parishioner of St. Pius X Catholic Church, Reverend Joseph Masar was appointed as the third Pastor of this Parish. In 2005 the 81. Pius X family celebrated 50 years as a parish. Fr. Masar served

as Pastor until July 2006. Following Fr. Masar, Fr. James Rafferty served from 2006 -2008. Fr. Luke Jauregui was assigned as Pastor at S1. Pius X in July 2008 and is currently serving our parish community. Our current ordained religious include Father Edwin Tutor serving as Associate Pastor; and three Deacons; Deacon Daniel Prado, Deacon Glenn Vecchitto and Deacon Peter Johnson. Through the years the Parish has grown in size and Spirituality. Currently S1. Pius X has over 3000 registered families and 7 separate opportunities to attend Mass are offered on the Campus. The site consists of approximately 7 acres of developed property including a Church, School K-8, 6000 sq .ft. hall, priest residence and parish administration center. S1. Pius X Parish will begin the first phase of its building project within the current year; a new parish hall along with office and school additions. The second phase will be a remodeled and larger worship space. (courtesy of Jim Hunt) ("History of St. Pius X Church," courtesy of Jim Hunt, April 21, 2010.)

1955 - St. Pius X Catholic Church - This church was built in 1955 at 36 E. Naples. The convent and parochial school were designed in 1960 by local architect Percy Burnham. ()

1955/07/21 - new St Pius X catholic church being built in Castle park at Naples and Cuyamaca will have a 75-foot tower (Chula Vista Star-News, July 21, 1955.)

1956/02/23 - Bishop Buddy will dedicate new St. Pius X catholic church at Cuyamaca and Naples (Chula Vista Star-News, Feb. 23, 1956.)

1960/03/27 - Bishop Buddy will dedicate the parochial school at St. Pius X today (Chula Vista Star-News, Mar. 27, 1960.)

1971/11/18 - St. Pius X Catholic Church to celebrate 16th anniv. Sunday, at 36 E. Naples (Chula Vista Star-News, Nov. 18, 1971)

1975/06/05 - Mary Lynn Deddeh named Woman of the Year by South Bay Charter Chapter, American Business Women's Association, is drama teacher at Hilltop JHS since 1959, wife of Wadie Deddeh, taught catechism at St. Pius X Catholic Church (Chula Vista Star-News, 1975.)

1976/09/30 - Bingo still in Chula Vista future; churches may be 1st legal. Sept. 30, 1976 A: 1:3
Legal bingo in Chula Vista has become a weekly ritual for hundreds of South Bay residents. Three organizations, South Bay Pioneers, St. Pius X Catholic Church, and St. Rose of Lima Church, offer weekly games. December 2, 1976 A:14:4 (Star News Index Cards)

1976/11/04 - old tile-domed tower of St. Pius X church, built 21 years ago and with termites, being replaced by copper domed tower - photo of scaffolding p587 (Chula Vista Star-News, Nov. 4, 1976.)



PARISH HISTORY



In the spring of 1955, Bishop Charles Buddy commissioned **Father James McGinley** to form a new parish in the growing south bay area of San Diego County. The first Mass was celebrated on Ash Wednesday of that year in a rented house. Father McGinley dedicated the new church to St. Pius X, and adopted words from that Holy Father's coat of arms for the motto of the parish: "To restore all things in Christ". The first Mass in the new church building was celebrated on Thanksgiving Day 1955. The rectory, which also housed the church office, and the parish hall were completed in 1957. The parish school and the convent followed in 1960. Father McGinley brought the Sisters of St. Clare over from Ireland to teach the children. Father McGinley instituted the parish council and started the parish picnic, an annual event that continues today. Father McGinley, a native of Ireland, was elevated to Monsignor in 1973, and retired in 1975 due to failing health. He remained in residence as Pastor Emeritus until his death in 1985.

Father Donald Kulleck became pastor in 1975. He led the parish through the transition years of Vatican II. Recognizing the needs of the Hispanic community, he provided a Spanish language Mass. Father Kulleck continued to serve the needs of the growing parish population by modernizing the church building and, following the departure of the sisters, utilizing the empty convent building to house the school's library, computer lab, and daycare center. Father Kulleck was made Monsignor in 1985. Father Don retired in 1998 and remains in residence as Pastor Emeritus.

Father Joseph Masar succeeded Father Kulleck. No stranger to St. Pius X, Father Masar grew up in the parish, attended St. Pius X School, and sang in the choir. With the new pastor's arrival, the sacramental preparation programs of the parish were augmented as he met with couples preparing for marriage and parents who brought their children for baptism, as well as the presentations for parents of children preparing to receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Recognizing the growth in the parish population due to development to the east of the church, extra Masses were added to the existing schedule and the music ministry was expanded to cover the additional Masses. The convent building was modernized and reconfigured to provide a central location for parishioners to conduct business. The office building was named the Mother Seton Center and dedicated to the Sisters of St. Clare. The rectory was remodeled to provide a comfortable and attractive home for the three priests that live there. To provide for the needs of the future, Father Joe, along with parish council, building committee, staff and the entire parish, embarked on a building project to build a new parish hall and enlarge the church building. \$4 million was raised for this project in just three years. The annual parish bazaar grew to include amusement rides, and some new traditions were begun, such as the supper club, the annual appreciation party to thank the many volunteers of the parish, and the lovely Memorial Angel Tree was added to the Christmas decor of the church.

Father Masar had the opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. Pius X with the parish community. The yearlong celebration consisted of various monthly events and ended with an anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Brom and a gala dinner in November 2005. The crowning event of the year was the installation of outdoor bronze Stations of the Cross at the St. Vincent de Paul campground, donated in honor of St. Pius X's 50th Anniversary

Father James Rafferty was appointed pastor in 2006. Fr. Rafferty came from St. Timothy's Catholic Church in Escondido, where he was the founding pastor. Fr. James

St. Pius Catholic Church website

