



LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. — John 1:5

Dear Family and Friends of St. Pius X,

The words of John 1:5 remind me of all that has occurred since 2020. As the coronavirus pandemic spread, Hurricane Laura upended South Louisiana on August 27, 2020. Two days after the storm, I arrived at our church to survey the damage and salvage what I could carry in my truck. *Devastation was everywhere.* I was so busy visiting parishioners and helping others that I prayed Morning Prayer at 8:30 p.m. It was late, but I knew the Eucharist was our strength. I celebrated Mass at 9:15 p.m. and concluded the day with this prayer: *“We simply need you to be with us, Lord. Help us to help each other as you teach us to do.”*

God answered that prayer. Our parish came together. From sunrise to sunset, hundreds of volunteers spent over a month handing out thousands of pounds of essentials in our parish parking lot. Many groups came from across the state and country to cook and serve more than 10,000 hot meals. The faith of our church animated and sustained everyone. On September 6, 2020, the twelfth day after Hurricane Laura, I wrote: *“When it’s dark outside, lights seem to shine brighter. Today, I am thankful for the darkness. It helps me see the lights.”* Since 2020, our parish has endured six natural disasters: two hurricanes, a flood, Winter Storm Uri, a tornado, and wildfires. Through it all, the light of faith shined through you as we came together in each situation.

The church helped us shine the light. Now it is our time to help the church. **Our parish has grown more than 135% in 10 years.** Weekend Masses are regularly filled, and countless times you’ve heard me say *“We need a bigger church!”* Rooted in faith, our parish wants to build a church to provide for current needs and future generations. **We need a projected \$10 million in the next five years to build that church and nearly triple our current capacity to 575 people.** I hope you will join me and our community to give back to God so the light of faith shines brightly for generations to come at St. Pius X Catholic Church.

Sincerely Yours in Our Lord,

Fr. Jeffrey Starkovich
Pastor | St. Pius X Catholic Church



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