

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saint Pius X Catholic Church Blesses New Bells

September 8, 2016 (Granger, Ind.)— Ringing ten minutes prior to each Mass at Saint Pius X Catholic Church, the existing “bells” that toll are actually an electronic recording soon to be replaced by four cast bronze bells, in the notes of G, A#, C, and D#, visible from the ground from any direction and heard for miles around. On Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11 the new Saint Pius X bells will be formally blessed after each Mass, prior to their final placement in the new bell tower.

For centuries, church bells have played a prominent role in the history of countries, communities, and places of worship throughout the world. Historically, church bells have served as timekeepers, used to mark the hour for work, prayer, and community gatherings. In addition, church bells today often ring to commemorate occasions and events. The melodious sound of cast bronze church bells is timeless. Enclosed in prominent landmark towers and steeples, church bells are known and recognized, both by sight and sound, as local fixtures — representing the enduring quality of community. (Verdin Bell Company)

Following ancient tradition, Saint Pius X leadership chose to name and inscribe each bell with the name before installation, to provide parishioners a historical reference with the names of these four bells. Recently, parishioners were allowed to cast a vote to name two of the bells.

Continuing to follow tradition, Bell #1 (40” diameter, 1,350 pounds) is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, as the bells are used to play the Angelus daily at noon & 6:00 p.m. Honoring the scheduled dedication of the new church on March 25, 2017, the Solemnity of the Annunciation

of the Lord, the inscription for this bell reads: *Our Lady of the Annunciation* on the front, and *Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae* (the Angel of the Lord announced unto Mary) on the back.

Bell #2 (34" diameter, 778 pounds), is dedicated to Saint Gabriel for the Angelus, as are many bell dedications. The Angelus references the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary with great news ~ "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." (Luke 1:28) The second bell will follow this tradition and will read *Saint Gabriel the Archangel* on the front and *Ave Maria, gratia plena* (Hail Mary, full of grace) on the back.

Bell #3 (31" diameter, 653 pounds), furthering the historical timeline, this bell is dedicated in honor of Pope Francis, the Pope at the time of the new church dedication. With the bells being blessed and installed during the Jubilee Year of Mercy, this bell will also honor a Saint of Mercy, as chosen by Saint Pius X parishioners, reading *His Holiness, Pope Francis* on the front and *Saint Teresa of Calcutta*, a recently canonized Saint and patron of the poor, sick and dying, on the back.

Bell #4 (26" diameter, 407 pounds) will be dedicated to our local Church leadership, inscribed with the name of the Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the time of dedication, and the name of a saint who is connected to our Diocese, as chosen by Saint Pius X parishioners and will read *Bishop Kevin C Rhoades* on the front and *Blessed Basil Moreau, CSC* on the back. Blessed Basil Moreau, CSC (patron of religious education) is the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Reflecting his association's zeal to make God known, loved and served, Moreau started sending members to other countries, including six brothers and Rev. Edward Sorin to the U.S., where in 1842, they founded the University of Notre Dame.

The bells will be hoisted to their home in the prominent new bell tower located at the northeast corner of the new church in the next few weeks.

Parishioners and members of the media are invited to attend the blessing of the bells after each Mass on Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11. Mass times are as follows, with the blessing expected to occur approximately one hour after the start time of each Mass:

Saturday, September 10

5:30 p.m. Mass time (blessing at approximately 6:30 p.m.)

Sunday, September 11

7:00 a.m. Mass time (blessing at approximately 8:00 a.m.)

8:45 a.m. Mass time (blessing at approximately 9:45 a.m.)

10:30 a.m. Mass time (blessing at approximately 11:30 a.m.)

12:15 p.m. Mass time (blessing at approximately 1:15 p.m.)

5:30 p.m. Mass time (blessing at approximately 6:30 p.m.)

For more information about the Saint Pius X expansion project, please visit:

StPiusCampaign.com.

About Saint Pius X Catholic Church:

Saint Pius X Parish continues to grow, as we now have over 3,150 families and over 10,000 parishioners. This is a vibrant, faith-filled community dedicated to sharing and living the Good News. Programs and events touching the lives of every facet of the parish provide opportunities for education and spiritual growth. Saint Pius X has been described as a large parish with a small community feel, a true family of faith that seeks to respond to God's wondrous love and grace.

Mission Statement: *Saint Pius X Catholic Church is a faith community that proclaims the Word of God and celebrates the Sacraments, with the Eucharist as the source and summit of our spiritual life. Our parish, rooted in Granger and part of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, invites everyone to respond to God's call to salvation by developing a sense of Christian fellowship. This is done through life-long religious education and stewardship: calling all members to serve others, to share our blessings with those in need, and to promote Catholic social justice.*

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