



St. Pius X is Going Solar!



St. Pius X Catholic Church and School · 7800 Halprin Drive · Norfolk, VA 23518

By the Numbers

822: The number of solar panels to be installed on the roof of St. Pius X School.

396,000: The estimated amount of kilowatts per hour (kWh) of clean solar power generated by the new system.

\$292,000: estimated energy cost savings over the 25-year term of the power purchase agreement (PPA).

9,500: estimated metric tons of carbon pollution avoided over the course of the PPA.

114,000: estimated kWh saved annually by efficiency measures.

71%: amount of the 741,000 kWh used by the parish annually offset by solar energy generation and efficiency savings.

25: length of the PPA in years.

\$0: Cost of this agreement to the parish/school.

What We're Doing

St. Pius X Catholic Church and School has entered into an agreement with Catholic Energies to finance and install a solar photovoltaic (PV) system aggregating 316 kilowatts (kW), along with a comprehensive LED retrofit and power conditioner energy efficiency equipment. In plain language, we're installing solar panels on our roof, and increasing our energy efficiency by replacing our old lighting.

And it's not costing us anything.

Here's how it works:

Catholic Energies is an initiative of the Catholic Climate Covenant, which works with the United States Conference of Cath-

olic Bishops to address growing environmental awareness and the need to implement Catholic social teaching on care for God's creation within the U.S. Catholic Church. Catholic Energies works exclusively with Catholic churches and institutions to evaluate their energy consumption, and design energy "renovations" to reduce our carbon footprint.

Here at St. Pius X, Catholic Energies has helped us contract with Ion Solar, to install a solar panel system on the school roof, and Veteran LED to retrofit lighting systems in our school, parish offices, and parking lots (the church itself has al-

ready been upgraded) to increase energy efficiency. They also find investors who purchase the equipment, and sell the clean energy to us.

So, instead of relying on burning fossil fuels like coal and natural gas at a power plant that sends carbon dioxide into the atmosphere (and drives climate change), we get our energy carbon-free.



Why We Made This Decision

First of all, we're very excited about responding to Pope Francis and the desire to be more environmentally friendly. The seventh principle of Catholic social teaching challenges us to be good stewards of our environment. This is our mission and a challenge to all. Secondly, we realized that this was a very good financial decision. In short, this will save us money. Catho-

lic Energies specializes in helping Catholic organizations figure out this kind of thing, providing project development and management services to organizations with a focus primarily on going solar and improving energy efficiency. Finally, this presents us a wonderful opportunity to invest in the future by taking practical, concrete actions to address the threat of climate change by 2030.

The children who will be sitting under the solar panels on our school are the ones who are going to be living with the choices we make today. As a faith community, our actions here on Halprin Drive — as well as in each of our households — makes a difference.

Questions? Contact us at Church@PiusXParish.org