



FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."
- Mt 2:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

7:00 p.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

WEDNESDAY

8:00 a.m. – Holy Cross Harding

THURSDAY

8:00 a.m. – St. Michael's Buckman

FRIDAY

8:30 a.m. – St. Joseph's Pierz

SATURDAY

4:00 p.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

6:00 p.m. – Holy Cross Harding

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. – St. Michael's Buckman

10:00 a.m. – St. Joseph's Pierz

**See inside cover for any changes for the upcoming week

JANUARY 7, 2023

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 3:30 p.m. St John Nepomuk Lastrup

SUNDAY: 7:30 a.m. St. Michael's Buckman

*Confessions 30 minutes before each weekday Mass and by appt.

*First Weekend of the Month: After 6 p.m. Mass at Holy Cross Harding and after 10 a.m. Mass at St Joseph's Pierz

Fr. Aaron Nett, Pastor: 320-468-6033, fnett@midco.net

Deacon Craig Korver: ckorver@molschool.org

Deacon Leo Wehseler: leowehseler@gmail.com

St. John/Holy Cross Office: 320-360-9720, ltthesing@hotmail.com

St. Joseph/St. Michael Office: 320-468-6033, stjoes@midco.net

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER AARON NETT



Jesus, the King of our Life

Dear Friends,

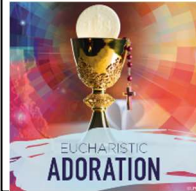
This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany as the Wise men came from the east to honor the newborn King. “Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.” This feast marks the liturgical end of the Christmas Season.

The color of vestment now turns back to green to signify “Ordinary Time.” Ordinary time does not mean “ordinary” as in “normal” or “plain,” but rather “sequence” or “number.” It signifies a set of readings that are given during that time. Ordinary Time color is green because green is a symbol of growth or maturation. It is because between the major seasons of Christmas and Lent, and Easter and Advent, are times meant to be for spiritual growth for Catholics. They are times when God desires to water and give sun to the seeds of faith that have been planted in us in ongoing conversion and times of grace.

During these next several weeks of Ordinary Time we might pick just one area of our spiritual life to grow in. Perhaps it is disciplining oneself to get up right after the alarm clock goes off and not press the “snooze.” In picking just one area to grow in virtue, we slowly but surely travel up the path of holiness and become the Saints that God calls each of us to be. May God bring to completion the good work he has begun.

I would like to thank everyone who was so kind and generous in their Christmas gifts, cards, greetings and prayers. I was very humbled by your thoughtfulness. Eating all those amazing Christmas goodies was quite a sacrifice, but one that I was willing to make...ha! Now a little more time for fasting and in the workout room! I am thankful to God and you all for a wonderful Christmas season.

God bless you, Father Aaron

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9 – JANUARY 14		
<p><u>Tuesday, January 9</u> 7:00 p.m. Lastrup NO WEEKDAY MASS</p> <p><u>Wednesday, January 10</u> 8:00 a.m. Harding NO WEEKDAY MASS 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Buckman All Day Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><u>Thursday, January 11</u> 8:00 a.m. Buckman NO WEEKDAY MASS 10:00 a.m. Villa NO MASS</p> <p><u>Friday, January 12</u> – <i>HT School Mass: Mrs. Marshik’s Kindergarten Class</i> 8:30 a.m. Pierz +Paul Solinger & Special Intention 3-6:00 p.m. Pierz Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><u>Saturday, January 13</u> 4:00 p.m. Lastrup +Kenny Schlegel 6:00 p.m. Harding +Edward Woitalla</p> <p><u>Sunday, January 14</u> 8:00 a.m. Buckman +Jerry Posch 10:00 a.m. Pierz +Bernadine Loidolt</p>		<p>*There will be no weekday Masses Tues. Jan. 9th - Thurs. Jan. 11th. Fr. Aaron will be at a conference and the other priests are at the annual Priest Retreat.</p> <hr/> <p>*Bulletin Announcement Deadline: The deadline for submissions of bulletin announcements is <u>Mondays at 3 p.m.</u> You can email stjoes@midco.net, mail PO Box 428, Pierz MN 56364, or call 320-468-6033.</p> <hr/> <p>*Emergency Contact: If you have an emergency and need a priest, please call Teresa at 320-360-9720.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Pierz & Buckman Office Hours:</u> Located in Pierz. Mon, Tue, Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fridays closed. <u>Lastrup & Harding Office Hours:</u> Call 320-360-9720</p> <hr/> <p>*Contribution Envelopes can be put into any of our 4 area parishes’ collections or the drop box in the entryway of the Pierz parish office and we will make sure they get to the correct parish. Thank you!</p> <hr/> <p>*If you are seeking information on baptism, marriage, or RCIA preparation or would like to sign up as a new member of the parish, please call 320-468-6033 (Pierz and Buckman) or 320-360-9720 (Lastrup & Harding).</p>
 <p>EUCHARISTIC ADORATION St Joseph Pierz – Fridays 3-6 p.m. St. Michael Buckman – Wednesdays 7-8 p.m. and the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Holy Cross Harding – Adoration chapel always open</p>		
<p>“Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the most tender of friends with souls who seek to please Him. His goodness knows how to proportion itself to the smallest of His creatures as to the greatest of them. Be not afraid then in your solitary conversations, to tell Him of your miseries, fears, worries, of those who are dear to you, of your projects, and of your hopes. Do so with confidence and with an open heart.” – St. Damien of Molokai</p>		

ST. JOHN NEPOMUK

28520 Church St., PO BOX 38
Lastrup, MN 56344
Phone: 320-360-9720
E-mail: ltthesing@hotmail.com
Website: stjohllastrup.org



SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Lector: Faye Diederich

Server: Ellie Thomsen

Ushers: Jonathan Welle & Colin Boser

Eucharistic Minister (Choir): Barb Specker

GAMBLING COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory.

BAR BINGO NEWS: Come to the Fisch House in Lastrup to play bingo every Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. Please come and join us for a fun evening. The jackpot numbers will be posted online and at the Fisch House and also on their Facebook page. St. John's gaming #02115.

MEAT RAFFLE: We now have a meat raffle at the Fisch House every Sunday at 5:00 PM. Please join us for some fun and try and win some meat. St. John's Gaming #02115.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUK WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

***Saturday, December 23rd:** Adult env. \$975.00, Adult loose \$241.00, Children env. \$2.00, Children loose: \$58.00.

Mass attendance: 261

***Monday, December 25th:** Adult env. \$5,270.00, Adult loose \$161.00, Children env. \$2.00. **Mass attendance:** 168

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR LASTRUP & HARDING:

Olivia Waldorf, Horst Hanneken, Pat (Rod) Boser, Jane Weiss, Alice Matlock, Kurt Lucking, Sally Lentner, Lois Weitalla, Rhys Boser, Glen Anderson, Carmen Britz, Doris Weiss, Mary Ann Schomer, Justin Lindgren, Eric Halbert, Aaron Boser, Karen Schommer, Ione Hoskins, Gerard Virnig, Serena Truskowski, Gina Virnig, Donny Schommer, Scott Bednar, Jerod Bursch.

ACC Faith Study Groups

*Bible study is being offered every other Sunday evening for the young female youth (9th grade and older) of our ACC. This is held in the St Joseph Church basement at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please call Jenny (320-360-6650), Kari (320-412-6164), or Rebecca (320-360-7004).

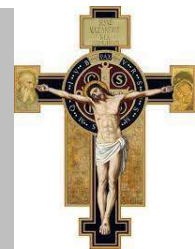
*Man Accountability: Men of all parishes, give us the honors of joining us on Saturdays from 6:45-8AM at the Pierz parish office for Gospel prayer, Acts 2:42, and accountability. Iron sharpens iron! Questions/reminders please text/call Mark Loidolt, 701-388-2323.

*Women's Group meets on Saturday mornings from 8:15-9:30 a.m. We'll meet in St. Joseph's church at 8:15 to pray a rosary followed by discussion in the parish office until 9:30. All women are welcome! Call or text Cari Stumpf with any questions, 320-761-6336.

*The Sunday Night Adult Education Group meets on Sunday night at 7PM in the Pierz parish office meeting room. We watch a short video on a variety of Catholic topics followed by a discussion. For more information, call Al Pekarek at 468-0220.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

29482 243rd Street
Pierz, MN 56364
Phone: 320-360-9720
E-mail: ltthesing@hotmail.com
Website: Hardingchurch.org



SATURDAY, JANUARY 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Lector: Lynn Dukowitz

Servers: Elliott Carmona & Maverick Weitalla

Ushers: Andy Weitalla & Dave Skwira

Eucharistic Minister (Choir): Diane Virnig

Rosary: Phyllis Schmidtbauer

CONDOLENCES: Our sincerest sympathy to the family and friends of Richard (Dick) Lucken who was laid to eternal rest this week. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace!

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: Please pick up contribution envelopes in the back of church.

HARDING FIREARM SAFETY COURSE: Local area volunteer instructors who have been certified by the Dept. of Natural Resources have scheduled their annual Firearms Safety training classes. Participants MUST be 11 years old by January 25, 2024 to enroll. Adults are welcome to take the class. All individuals born after 12/31/1979 must complete this course to hunt. A parent or guardian must be present the first class to pay a nominal fee and to gather instructions regarding their child's certification upon the completion of the class and field day. Classes will begin on Thursday, January 25th, 2024 at the Holy Cross Church basement in Harding. Class times are from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. They will run for six consecutive Thursdays. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Hebler 320-630-2736 Dave Skwira 320-277-6135, Ron Will 320-360-0949, Michelle Froelich 320-360-1985, John Weiss 320-630-4034, Tonya Poser 320-423-1050 or Tyler Hebler 320-360-2095. Field day scheduled later and held in Spring 2024.

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Church so beautiful for the birth of Jesus. Thank you, Valerie Thomas, Doug Knopik, Kathy Hoffman Tax, Dave and Sharon Skwira, Leonard and Teresa Thesing, Chad and Meghan Thesing, Alyssa, Erin and Tyler Thesing! We appreciate all the help! It looked great!

Midnight Mass- Thank you Fr. Aaron for the beautiful Midnight Mass. Thank you, Deacon Leo. It was so special! Thank you to everyone who came. We were so pleased with the crowd, and to see so many complete families and children there was amazing! It was a beautiful Mass for the birth of Jesus! A huge thank you to all who helped in any way! Thank You!!

HOLY CROSS WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

***Saturday, December 23rd:** Adult env. \$3,125.00, Adult loose \$170.01, Children env. \$13.50. **Mass attendance:** 123

***Christmas:** Adult env. \$3,534.69, Adult loose \$1,105.00, Children env. \$12.75, Children loose: 43.00. Donation: \$1,000.00 **Mass attendance** **Midnight Mass:** 261. **Mass attendance Christmas Day:** 115

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

9251 Hwy 25, P.O. Box 428

Pierz, MN 56364

Phone: 320-468-6033

E-mail: stjoes@midco.net

Website: www.stjosephs-stmichaels.org



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 at 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Leo Pohlkamp

Communion Ministers: Nicole Lochner & Randi Kranz

Servers: Owen Stangl & William Stangl

Ushers for Jan.: Brian Stangl, Gregg Stangl & Todd Caddy

SCHEDULES AVAILABLE: New lector, eucharistic minister and server schedules are printed off and located in the back of church.

CALENDARS: The 2024 calendars are available at the church entrances for people to take.

WEEKDAY LECTOR: We are in need of a few people to volunteer to be on a lector schedule for the weekday Masses. If you are interested in helping out, please give the parish office a call at 468-6033. Thank you!

FUNERAL GROUPS: As part of being a parishioner, we are all on a funeral group to bury the dead (one of the Corporal Works of Mercy). So if you get called, and you nor your spouse can help with the food for a couple of hours, then call a volunteer on the list. It only happens once in 2 years approximately. God bless you for helping!

BUCKMAN HALL RENTAL: If you are interested in renting the St. Michael's Parish Center for this coming December/January, St. Michael's parishioners may do so after February 1st, non-parishioners after March 1st. Thank you!



CUF MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST:

January 14th in the Buckman parish center after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ST. MICHAEL WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (Dec. 24 & 25)

Regular Sunday:

Adult	\$6,901.00
High School	\$8.00
Elementary	\$12.00
Plate	\$333.00
	\$7,254.00

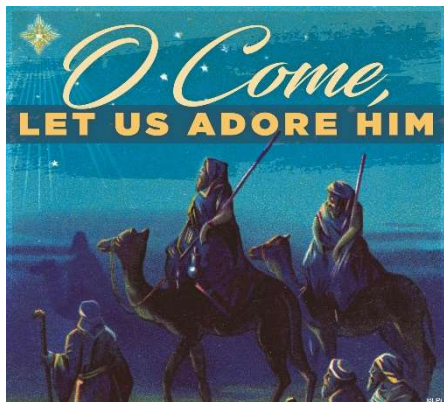
Christmas:

Adult	\$25,096.00
High School	\$2.00
Elementary	\$5.00
Plate	\$1,210.00
	\$26,313.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 24th @ 8 a.m.** Sunday: 268

Mass attendance **December 24th @ 4:30 p.m.** Sunday: 547



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

68 Main St N, P.O. Box 428

Pierz, MN 56364

Phone: 320-468-6033

E-mail: stjoes@midco.net

Website: www.stjosephs-stmichaels.org



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Geri Kasper

Communion Ministers: Keith Marshik, Ruth Stuckmayer & Michelle Litke

Servers: Zajac Family

Sacristans: Mary Kimman & Keith Marshik

Ushers for January: Jim Gruber, Gerard Kimman, Jon Stumpf, Robbie Becker & Jason Sadlovsky

New Life in Christ



Liam Joseph, son of Travis & Theresa Kasper, was baptized on Sunday, December 31st. Henry Joseph, son of Carter & Tayiah Loven, was baptized on Sunday, December 31st. Congratulations and welcome to our community of faith!

THANK YOU: A kind thank you to the Pierz Christian Mothers/Women for the Holy Innocents bags given out to the children after Sunday Mass last weekend.

ST. JOSEPH'S CM/W MEETING: Our first meeting in 2024 will be held on Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30pm in the Parish Office. We will begin with the Rosary, and will also be installing new officers. We are still prayerfully seeking women for the following positions: Vice President and Secretary. The Vice President works under the President for a year before taking over that position. Training and mentoring available for the Secretary position. These positions would start at the January 2024 meeting. Please call Jo Loidolt at 630-6088 if interested or have any questions.

ST JOSEPHS QUILT CIRCLE: We will be quilting on Monday, January 8th at 1 p.m. and Thursday, January 11th at 9 a.m. Come and go as is convenient for you. **We are again asking for pieced quilt tops.** Just a reminder we have kits done up with directions and ready to go for tops. Feel free to stop down and observe. We are always looking for new quilters. Questions call Eileen 320-360-2434 or Chris 320-630-0606.

ST. JOSEPH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (Dec. 24 & 25)

Regular Sunday:

Adult	\$8,212.64
High School	\$20.25
Elementary	\$24.25
Plate	\$202.00
	\$8,459.14

Christmas:

Adult	\$21,590.86
High School	\$29.00
Elementary	\$19.00
Plate	\$2,100.00
	\$23,738.86

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 24th @ 10 a.m.** Sunday: 232

Mass attendance **December 24th @ 4:30 p.m.** Sunday: 550

Mass attendance **December 25th @ 10 a.m.** Monday: 410



GENERAL NEWS

NOTE: There will be no weekday Masses Tues. Jan. 9th - Thurs. Jan. 11th. Fr. Aaron will be at a conference and the other priests will be at the annual Priest Retreat.

NOTE: Please notify the parish office if there is a break, spill or any problems on church grounds you. Thank you!

ROSARY OF THE SEVEN SORROWS: Everyone is welcome to come pray the Rosary of Seven Sorrows after 8:00 AM Mass in Buckman on January 14th. We pray this Rosary to learn to suffer with love, as Mary, the Mother of Jesus, did. The 7 Sorrows Rosary leads us to understand our suffering, sins, and sorrows. Doing so helps us better live a life of joy in the Lord so that we can serve others like St. Bridget and Marie-Claire did. As we pray with Mary through her seven sorrows, we begin to feel empathy for her suffering, the suffering of her Son, our Savior, our neighbors, and our own.

ALL DAY ADORATION: From 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10th at St. Michael's Church in Buckman. Call Patty at 468-2487 with questions or to sign up.

SUNDAY NIGHT GROUP: Please join us on Sunday evenings starting on January 7 at 7 PM in St. Joseph Parish Center Office for a ten-week video and study series on Catholicism as presented by Bishop Robert Barron – “a stimulating and compelling exploration of the spiritual, moral, and intellectual riches of the Catholic world”. Questions: call Al Pekarek 469-0220.

ADULT STUDY PROGRAM: Join us Tuesdays beginning Jan. 9 at 3pm in St. Joseph's Parish Center for a twelve-week Video and Study series “The Bible and the Virgin Mary” which unveils the mystery of Our Lady that is woven into the fabric of Sacred Scripture. Join us for one, any or all of the sessions. Questions call Hilde Flicker 468-2649.

NOTICE FROM MICHAEL PEKAR: To separate our mail from the church mail our new personal mailing address is Michael and Mary Kay Pekar P.O. Box 421 Buckman MN 56317. When we move to our new residence this mail will get forwarded. Thank You.

DIRECTORIES: We still have directories to sell if anyone is interested call Teresa at 320-360-9720.

CENTRAL MN KOINONIA: If you are in a position to help someone, help them. God may be answering that person's prayers through you. Central Minnesota Koinonia is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and is designed for adults to help you on your faith journey. Retreats are held at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. The next English retreat will be held March 1-3, 2024, cost of the weekend is \$70.00. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and to register for retreats.



Catholic United Financial Matching Grant Fundraiser. Sponsored by St. Joseph's Church. Beautiful handmade quilts, free lunch, and door prizes.

QUILT BINGO: Sunday, February 4th, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the Holy Trinity School Gym in

Knights Of Columbus Local Free Throw Contest: Sunday, January 28th Noon-2pm at the High School MAC gym for 9-14-year-old boys and girls. Goes by what your age is on 1/1/24. You can show up at any time in that time frame. If you can't make it and want to shoot contact Jason 320-360-0001. I tried to find a day there's hopefully no youth tournaments.

KC BUFFALO FEED: Buffalo Feed Appreciation Dinner and Raffle Saturday, January 27th at the Pierz Ballroom from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

MCCL MARCH FOR LIFE: Noon on Jan. 22 at the State Capitol in St. Paul. Event will feature an unforgettable visual commemoration of lives lost. Learn more at mccl.org/march.

PRO-LIFE DINNER: 51st Annual Pro-Life Dinner at Falls Ballroom on Sunday, January 28th. Social Hour 12-12:45 p.m. Chicken & Ham Dinner 12:45-1:45 p.m. Program at 1:45 p.m. Speaker Jennifer Lewerenz, the News Director for KNSI Radio in St. Cloud. Event includes silent auction fundraiser. (Tickets \$18 at door.) Call Sue Houdek at 320-630-7045 for more information.

DIOCESAN FESTIVAL OF FAMILIES: Are you looking for some mid-winter family fun? Join us at Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids on February 11, from 10:30-3:00 PM for a day of fun celebrating our Catholic faith. Cost is only \$20 per family (no matter the size), and will include a free carnival, family games, lunch, age-appropriate activities and Mass with Bishop Neary. Register your family at: <https://stcdio.org/event/festival-of-families/>

Rosary for Life and Vespers for Life – January 21 This event will be held at St. Anthony parish, 2405 1st St N, St. Cloud, at 3:30 p.m. Bishop Patrick Neary will preside. The service includes music, prayer, scripture and reflection for the millions of children who have been aborted since 1973. Monetary donations accepted to Mother Mary's Fund to assist pregnancy resource centers in the Diocese of St. Cloud. For more information, visit <https://stcdio.org/event/vespers-for-life-2024/>.



“Chalking the door,” as it is known, is seen as invoking Christ's blessing not only on the physical house but on the people who live there and those who visit. There is a long tradition of blessing homes, especially on the Epiphany, which falls on Jan. 6 each year. The inscription written over the door changes every year. For this year, you should write: “20 + C + M + B + 24.” The Letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first letters of the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, “May Christ bless the house.” The + signs represent the cross, and 2023 is the year. **There will be blessed chalk available after Mass on the weekend of January 6 & 7.**

Learning with a Faith Foundation

HOLY TRINITY

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Pierz, MN EST. 1991

80 Edward St. N., Pierz MN 56364, 320-468-6446

*MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR! We pray that God blesses each and every one of our families and friends in 2024.

*CONTACT INFORMATION- Don't forget to keep up with Holy Trinity news at holytrinitypierz.org, and follow us on Facebook

at www.facebook.com/holytrinitypierz. You can also watch past events on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/@htcspierz4029

*HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL AND OFFICE- The school and office will be closed from Monday, December 25 through Monday, January 1. Classes and regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2.

*COFFEE- Regular (ground or bean) \$13.00, in French, Dark, or Medium Roast. Decaf (ground or bean) \$14.00.

Raffle Calendar Winners:

12/31/23 \$75 Sandy Virnig, 1/01/24 \$200 Joanie & Tim Watercott, 1/02/24 \$35 Eric Boser, 1/03/24 \$35 Alex Gruber, 1/04/24 \$35 Kali Meyer, 1/05/24 \$35 Gina Lane, 1/06/24 \$35 Curtis Enger

Father Pierz School of Religion



320-468-2640

***Wednesday, January 10th** – JH/SH
Broomball at Pierz Blue Park 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 pm. (Adoration 5-6 p.m. Pierz Church)

***TEC Retreat** – January 13, 14, 15

***Wednesday, January 17th** – JH
Dodgeball & Game Night 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 pm. (Adoration 5-6 p.m. Pierz Church)

LOOK WHAT'S NEW IN THE ACC!

Recent Baptisms

Left/Center: Henry Joseph, son of Carter & Tayiah Loven, was baptized on Sunday, December 31st at St. Joseph's Church.

Right: Liam Joseph, son of Travis & Theresa Kasper, was baptized on Sunday, December 31st at St. Joseph's Church.



Left: Fr. Aaron asked the children to come up and gather around the stable at the Christmas Eve Mass in Buckman.

Right: Hayden Gruber, son of Isaac & Kayla Gruber, the Christ Child bearer on Christmas Eve at St. Michael's.

