



FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



**5TH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

“And when I am lifted up
from the earth, I will draw
everyone to myself.”
- Jn 12:32

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

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

7:00 p.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

WEDNESDAY

8:00 a.m. – Holy Cross Harding

THURSDAY

7:00 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

MARCH 17th, 2024

5th SUNDAY OF LENT

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

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

Confession Times: *30 minutes before Pierz, Harding and Lastrup
weekday Masses, 30 minutes after Buckman 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, frnett@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 OUR PASTOR FATHER AARON

Saving our Life



Dear Friends,

In this Fifth Sunday of Lent Jesus proclaims, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.” (John 12:24-25)

As the unseasonably warm weather reminds us that planting season is near it may help us apply the above scripture quote. In order for a seed to bear fruit it first must die and fall into the ground and be planted. Just so, Lent calls us to die to our “old selves” so that we may bear much fruit and grow in holiness of life.


We might ask ourselves, what is the way, or the ways, God is calling each of us to die to ourselves and bear much fruit? Perhaps it is dying to our use of the cell phone, and instead making more time for family. Or dying to unnecessary work on Sundays, and instead making more time for prayer and reading of scripture. Or dying to negativity and speaking ill of others, and instead making more time to encourage and see Christ in others.

In each season of planting there is much labor and effort put into preparing the field and making sure the seed is able to bear good fruit through timely water and sun. It is the farmer who provides the labor and care and God who actually provides the growth. So we also must make efforts through prayer, spiritual discipline, and approaching the sacraments, in order to allow God’s grace to provide the growth. May God bring to completion the good things he has begun in us and save us for eternal life.

God bless you, Father Aaron

Notes:

- Thank you to all who attended the Uncle Fred Talks on the Eucharist. We had great turnouts and the teachings were well received and appreciated. Perhaps Uncle Fred will make a return visit.
- Daily Mass attendance continues to grow in the ACC which is a great grace for all the communities. It is especially wonderful to see the amount of young students and families attending to receive the “source and summit” of the entire Christian faith!
- All ACC’s in the St. Cloud Diocese will be meeting to present to Bishop Patrick and leadership. Our meeting is May 15th. The purpose of the meeting is: for the Bishop to meet us, for our ACC to report the graces and the challenges of the ACC, to present the ways in which we are working together and the ways in which we can work together more. If you have suggestions to be brought forward for this meeting contact one of the ACC committee members or email the office. Thank you for your continue prayers and good work for our ACC and the needs of the Church!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 19 – MARCH 24		<i>Upcoming Lent Confessions:</i>
<p><u>Tuesday, March 19</u> 7:00 p.m. Lastrup +Alcuin Welle</p> <p><u>Wednesday, March 20</u> 8:00 a.m. Harding +Marlene Knopik 7-8 p.m. Buckman Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><u>Thursday, March 21</u> 7:00 a.m. Buckman +Leona Funk 10:00 a.m. Villa +Loretta Gunther</p> <p><u>Friday, March 22 - No School</u> 8:30 a.m. Pierz +Patty Stuckmayer 3-6:00 p.m. Pierz Eucharistic Adoration 6-8 p.m. Pierz Adoration & Stations of the Cross 6-8 p.m. Harding Adoration & Stations of the Cross</p> <p><u>Saturday, March 23 – Palm Sunday</u> 4:00 p.m. Lastrup +Richie Boser, +John Boser, & +John Stoll 6:00 p.m. Harding Holy Name</p> <p><u>Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday</u> 8:00 a.m. Buckman For the People of the Parishes 10:00 a.m. Pierz +Floyd Mathiowetz</p>	<p>*Sat. Mar. 16 at Harding from 7-8 p.m. *Tues. Mar. 19 at Lastrup from 6-7 p.m. *Wed. Mar. 20 at Buckman from 7-8 p.m. *Fri. Mar. 22 at Pierz from 6-7 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>*Stations of the Cross: On Fridays during Lent, there will be Adoration w/ Benediction at 6 p.m. followed by Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. Please see bulletin Mass schedule for locations.</p> <hr/> <p>*March 31st Bulletin Announcement Deadline is Friday, March 22nd.</p> <hr/> <p>*Weekday Masses When There is a Funeral: Going forward, when there is a funeral, the regular scheduled weekday Mass will still take place.</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.</p> <p><u>Lastrup & Harding Office Hours:</u> Call 320-360-9720</p>	
 <p>EUCCHARISTIC 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>		

ST. JOHN NEPOMUK

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



SATURDAY, MARCH 23 at 4:00 p.m.

Lectors: Mark Loidolt & Faye Diederich

Servers: Kimmans

Ushers: Ron & Barb Specker

E. Minister (Choir): Allen Reideman

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, March 9th:** Adult env. \$1,343.00, Adult loose \$167.00, Children loose \$20.00. **Mass attendance:** 210

Faith Talks With "Uncle Fred"

"Increase your love and devotion to the Eucharist this Lent."

Lenten Series with Frederick Blonigen, a member of St. Anthony's parish in St. Cloud. He recently retired from St. Agnes High School, St. Paul, where he was chairman of and instructor in the theology department for thirty-two years. He is currently teaching adult education at St. Anthony's in St. Cloud and St. Agnes in St. Paul. The past 2 years he has also been teaching adult religious education classes at Watkins and Eden Valley. Mr. Blonigen was a longtime board member of Catholic Parents Online, an organization supporting Catholic education, and is the author of many articles and book reviews on Catholic topics.

***Sunday, March 17th 3-4:30 p.m. in Pierz** "Understanding the Biblical and Patristic Basis for the Eucharist"

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).

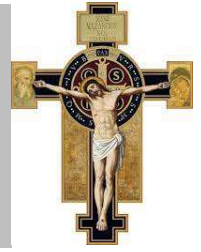
***Man Accountability:** Men of all parishes, give us the honors of joining us on Saturdays from 6:45-8AM at the Pierz parish office for Gospel prayer, Acts 2:42, and accountability. Iron sharpens iron! Questions/reminders please text/call Mark Loidolt, 701-388-2323.

***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: www.Hardingchurch.org



FRIDAY, MARCH 22 at 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross:

Servers: Erin & Tyler Thesing & Elliott Carmona

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Lectors: Sheila Rudolph & Doug Knopik

Servers: Maverick & Adam Weitalla

Ushers: Allen Weitalla & LeRoy Weitalla

E. Minister (Choir): Doug Knopik

Rosary: Gloria Weitalla

CHURCH CLEANERS: Bev Copa, Sheryl Cronquist, Ivy Dembouski, Daisy Dembouski, Dusty Dembouski, Grace Dembouski, Kari Dembouski

HAM BINGO: Today at 2 p.m. in the church basement.

FOOD SHELF: There is a box in the entrance of Harding and Lastrup for donations to the Pierz Area Food Shelf. March is Food Share Month.

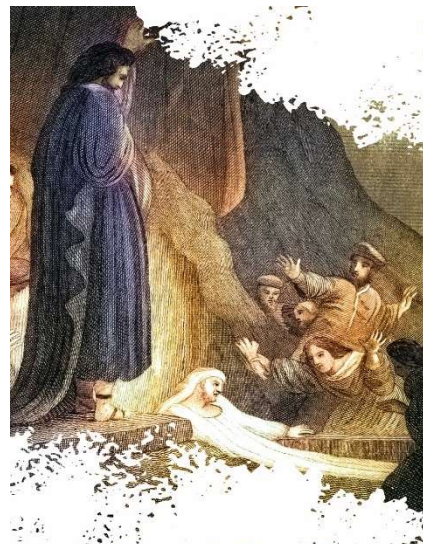
HOLY CROSS WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

***Saturday, March 9th:** Adult env. \$2,118.00, Adult loose \$173.00, Children env. \$5.00, Children loose \$3.00.

Mass attendance: 138

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR LASTRUP & HARDING:

Jeremy Girtz, Diane Schirmers, Mark, Becker, Olivia Waldorf, Pat (Rod) Boser, Jane Weiss, Alice Matlock, Kurt Lucking, Sally Lentner, Lois Weitalla, Rhys Boser, Carmen Britz, Doris Weiss, Mary Ann Schomer, Justin Lindgren, Aaron Boser, Ione Hoskins, Gerard Virnig, Serena Truskowski, Gina Virnig, Donny Schommer, Scott Bednar, Jerod Bursch.



I AM
THE RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE.



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, MARCH 24 at 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Janice Janson

E. Ministers: Cindy Scholl & Donna Solinger

Servers: Noah & Cole Solinger

Ushers for March: Grant Stangl, Nathan Gruber & Shane Zilka

CHOIR PRACTICE: Choir practice on Saturday, March 23rd at 9:00 a.m.



New Life in Christ

Mallory Rose, daughter of Donald & Melissa Hall, was baptized on Sunday, March 10th. Congratulations and welcome to our community of faith!

AT PEACE WITH GOD: *Frances Mary Stangl* passed away on March 6th. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, March 9th at St. Joseph's Church in Pierz with burial in St. Michael's cemetery in Buckman. We extend our sympathy to the families and assure them of our prayerful support.

THANK YOU: Thank you to Funeral Group 1 and all the wonderful help for Frances Stangl's funeral. *Great job!*

PALM BRAIDING: If anyone is interested in braiding palms for Palm Sunday, they can come to the parish center on Friday, March 22nd at 9:00 a.m. Also, if anyone is already good at braiding, come teach others.

ST. MICHAEL'S CEMETERY: To purchase St. Michael's Cemetery plots or columbarium niches please contact the parish office in Pierz (320)468-6033.

PRAYER LINE: If you are in need of prayers, please call Mary Brenny at 320-393-2781 or Mary Malinowski at 320-223-9783.

ST. MICHAEL WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (March 10)

Adult	\$ 2,930.00
High School	\$ 4.00
Elementary	\$ 9.13
Plate	\$ 165.75
	\$ 3,108.88

February Electronic Contributions: \$ 970.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance: 199

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



***Weekday Lector: Friday, March 22:** Harvey Kimman

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 at 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross:

Servers: Lance Litke, Kahlee Kasper & Joel Marshik

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Lector & Voice (Passion): Geri Kasper

Narrator (Passion): Karen Gross

E. Ministers: Wanda Kapsner, Keith Marshik & Beth Fischer

Servers: Lilly & Logan Kimman

Sacristans: Keith Marshik & Wanda Kapsner

Ushers for March: Jeremy Virnig (Lead), Allan Kroll, Mathew Stumpf & Andy Kapsner

UNCLE FRED FAITH TALK: At St. Joseph's Church Basement on Sunday, March 17th at 3 p.m.

ITEMS TO EMBROIDER: There are numerous items that we are needing help to get embroidered, such as quilt squares, pillowcases, etc. located in the parish office entryway. Please use sign-out sheet when taking. Thank you!

ST. JOSEPHS QUILT CIRCLE: We will be quilting on Monday, March 18th at 1 p.m. and Thursday, March 21st 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 360-2434 or Chris 630-0606.

PRAYER LINE: If you have a prayer line request, please either call Karen Gross at 320-468-6818 or email Rachel Young at rjyoung0521@gmail.com.

ST. JOSEPH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (March 10)

Adult	\$ 8,327.00
High School	\$ 4.00
Elementary	\$ 15.50
Plate	\$ 233.50
	\$ 8,580.00

March Electronic Contributions: \$ 3,165.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance: 328

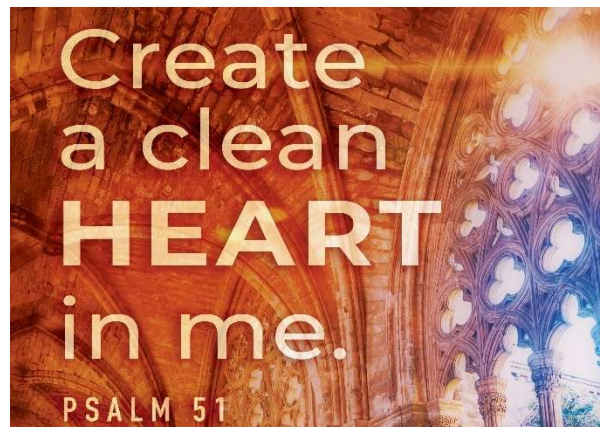
Fundraiser happening from Now to Divine Mercy Sunday April 7. Together, let's support 9-12th graders to attend a Catholic Conference, Steubenville, at the end of July and achieve something special.

Shop Catholic-Inspired Goodies: Explore our diverse selection of Sock Religious socks and faith-inspired stickers, and I would love to raise \$5000 to support our youth.

Why join our Catholic Fundraiser? Making a Difference: 50% of profits go directly to our ministry, changing lives for the better.

https://stores.inksoft.com/father_pierz_school_of_religion/shop/home

For any questions, reach out to Julie Langer @ juliehlmlanger@gmail.com or call 320-630-5927. Thank you for being part of our incredible community!



GENERAL NEWS

USHER & LECTOR MEETINGS: Lectors and ushers are asked to attend one of the following meetings. Meetings are intended to touch base and communicate needs of ministers or changes.

*Usher meetings after the 4 p.m. Mass at St. John's in Lastrup on March 16th and after the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's in Pierz on March 17th.

*Lector meetings after the 4 p.m. Mass at St. John's in Lastrup on April 6th and after the 10 a.m. Mass in St. Joseph's in Pierz on April 7th.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Sunday, April 7th noon-3p.m at St. Michael's Church-Buckman. Adoration, confessions, speakers, pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. *"On that day [Divine Mercy Sunday], the very depths of My tender mercy are opened. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. ...On that day, all divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened."* (Diary, 699). Regarding the graces of Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus told St. Faustina, *"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment"* (699)

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY ON 1 CORINTHIANS: It's not too late to join our weekly Bible study at St John's Parish Center in Lastrup on Mondays at 8 pm. If interested or want more information, contact Mark Loidolt at 701-388-2323 or mark.loidolt@gmail.com. Bring a friend.

QUILT BINGO/RAFFLE: Sunday, March 17, at St Michael's Parish Center, Buckman, at 1 pm. Coffee cakes for sale, free lunch and door prize, in addition to many tied and stitched quilts for winners to choose from.

GOOD FRIDAY SILENT WALK FOR PEACE: The Franciscan Sisters of LFs invites the community to a Good Friday Silent Walk for Peace on Friday, March 29, 9:30 a.m. Participants will walk together in a silent procession, stopping to pray at various designated places throughout Little Falls. The walk concludes around 11 a.m. In the event of bad weather, this will be cancelled. www.fslf.org or email kmizutowicz@fslf.org.

Tenebrae - A Tradition at St. Mary's Cathedral. Everyone is welcome at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud on Good Friday, March 29, at 8:00 pm for Tenebrae, Latin for shadows or darkness. Participants experience the gradual extinction of all lights in the church, symbolizing the temporary triumph of the prince of darkness over the Light of the World, and loud noises created at the end of the service by the assembly and ministers, suggesting the earthquake described in the Passion Narratives.

PIERZ LIONS EASTER EGG HUNT: Saturday, March 30th at 11:00 a.m. Pierz Pioneer Elementary School, ages 0 to 4th grade.

The Council of Catholic Women of the St. Cloud Diocese/ Eastern Deanery invites you to our Spring event The Fruits of the Mysteries of the Rosary, on Saturday, April 6th from 9a – 1p at St. John's Parish, in Foley for a presentation by Bonnie Jennen, Mary Jane Hay and Nita Hayes. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$10 before March 31st; \$15 for Late or Walk-ins. Make Checks payable to EASTERN DEANERY. Mail to: Nita Hayes, 16695 Jewel Rd., Little Falls, MN 56345. Phone: 320-630-0388 for more information.

JOB POSTING: PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Father Francis Xavier Pierz Area Catholic Community has a full-time salaried position open to assist the pastor in serving the pastoral needs of the four communities. Qualifications for this position are as follows: A love for Christ and his Church, a solid prayer life, skills in personal communication and evangelization, a hunger to bring others to Christ, organized, an ability to collaborate and be flexible to serve the mission of the Church.

Job Duties Include:

- Meeting with families and planning funeral liturgies.
- Coordinating and teaching OCIA or those searching in their faith life.
- Overseeing Homebound ministry.
- Coordinating the Marriage preparation program.
- Collaboration with the pastor and staff on daily operation, evangelism and general planning for the parishes.

Interested individuals may submit a letter of interest and resume to the parish office. For any questions regarding the position please contact the office or Father Aaron by phone (320) 468-6033 or email (frnett@midco.net).

ST. JOSEPH'S CUSTODIAL POSITION OPEN

St. Joseph's Church is seeking to hire a custodian for general building and maintenance work in and around the church. Applicants must have sufficient knowledge and abilities in cleaning, maintenance, repairs and overseeing in the parish. Those interested should contact St. Joseph's parish office by email (stjoes@midco.net) or phone (320-468-6033).

Prayer for the hiring of staff positions in the ACC:

"Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten our minds to perceive the mysteries of the universe in relation to eternity. Spirit of right judgment and courage, guide us and make us firm in our baptismal decision to follow Jesus' way of love. Spirit of knowledge and reverence, help us to see the lasting value of justice and mercy in our everyday dealings with one another. May we respect life as we work to solve problems of family and nation, economy and ecology. Spirit of God, spark our faith, hope and love into new action each day. Fill our lives with wonder and awe in your presence which penetrates all creation. Amen."

SERVERS PARTY: The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a party for all Mass servers for our ACC on Thursday, April 4th from 3:00 (after school) until 5:00pm at Pierz Lanes. Free bowling, shoe rental and food provided. Students should be picked up at Pierz Lanes at 5:00 pm.

2024 MN FoodShare Campaign: March is FoodShare Month. A percentage of donations received are matched by the Minnesota FoodShare Campaign. Will you please join in the effort to help replenish our local food shelf during March? An extra can of soup, veggies or cereal purchased during your weekly grocery shopping trip will be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made payable to the Pierz Area Food Shelf and the address is PO Box 383, Pierz MN 56364 and your donation is tax deductible. The Pierz Area Food hours are 9-11 AM and 5-7 PM on Mondays, or call 320-468-7134 for information. The Pierz Food Shelf is located on Main Street next to the Pierz Fire Hall. Thank you for joining in the efforts to end hunger in our community.

