



FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



EASTER SUNDAY

He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7

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

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 31st, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

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 NETT



Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad!

Dear Friends,

As believers in the One, True and Eternal God, we proclaim hope in the bright burst of light that shines from under the stone that covered the darkness. Jesus Christ, the Alpha and Omega, He who is, who was, and who always will be, has risen from the tomb to conquer sin and death! He brings healing what is broken and light into our darkness. Easter Sunday is our cause for rejoicing! Jesus Christ has Risen! Alleluia!! Alleluia!!

The responsorial psalm for Easter Sunday is, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”


The Creator has also so wonderfully made the earth to bring about a dying and rising to new life and beauty each year. Even though we have been visited with some late March snow, there is also expectation of a new spring, and the blossoming of nature. However even greater, is the blossoming of our human nature into a new creation from sin to repentance, conversion, and holiness of life through Spirit’s saving grace. The renewal of our hearts is the crowning jewel of the Master’s work of creation.

As your pastor, I am so grateful to have had the blessing to celebrate my first Lent and Easter with you. I am thankful for all who help out so generously. Thank you to: the decorators, ministers at Mass, our wonderful Mass servers, and our choirs and musicians who lead us so beautifully in song. A special “thank you” goes to Father Ken and Father David for their great help with confessions and offering extra Masses for the people. And, of course, to our good Deacons for their great ministry of service in so many ways. And thank you to all for your generous service and witness to Christ!

Even with all that is happening in the world, there is only one reason we need to have joy. It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Lord and Friend, and the promise he gives. One distinguishing mark of the Saints is their joy in the midst of suffering. Their inner joy seemed to come from a deep faith in the power of Jesus’ cross and redemption. Pope Saint John Paul II once said, “The Resurrection revealed this glory ... Those who share in the sufferings of Christ are also called, through their own sufferings, to share in glory.”

My brothers and sisters, I am very blessed and grateful to God to be your pastor. May God abundantly bless you and your families with renewed peace and joy. Happy Easter!

In our Risen Lord, Father Aaron

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 1 – APRIL 7		
<p><u>Monday, April 1</u> 10:00 a.m. Villa +Lorraine Pohlkamp (Easter Mass)</p> <p><u>Tuesday, April 2</u> 7:00 p.m. Lastrup +Eddie Bednarek, Denny Bednarek & +Ardell Killeaney</p> <p><u>Wednesday, April 3</u> 8:00 a.m. Harding +Marian Sauer 7-8 p.m. Buckman Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><u>Thursday, April 4</u> 7:00 a.m. Buckman +Alvin & Rose Janorschke 10:00 a.m. Villa +Clyde Stangl</p> <p><u>Friday, April 5</u> – HT School Mass: Staff/Students 7:30 a.m. Pierz Prayers for Our Nation 8:30 a.m. Pierz Tobias Ellis (Seminarian) 3-6:00 p.m. Pierz Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><u>Saturday, April 6</u> 4:00 p.m. Lastrup +Nathan Rothstein 6:00 p.m. Harding +Galen Matlock</p> <p><u>Sunday, April 7</u> – Divine Mercy Sunday 8:00 a.m. Buckman For the People of the Parishes 10:00 a.m. Pierz John & Dorothy Schraut 12-3p.m. Buckman Divine Mercy Sunday</p>	<p><u>*Bulletin Announcement Deadline:</u> The deadline for submissions of bulletin announcements is Mondays at 3 p.m. You can email stjoes@midco.net, mail PO Box 428, Pierz MN 56364, or call</p> <p><u>*Weekday Masses When There is a Funeral:</u> Going forward, when there is a funeral, the regular scheduled weekday Mass will still take place.</p> <p><u>Pierz & Buckman Office Hours:</u> **The parish office will be closed on Monday, April 1st but will be open Friday, April 5th instead. Located in Pierz. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Lastrup & Harding Office Hours:</u> Call 320-360-9720</p> <p><u>*Emergency Contact:</u> If you have an emergency and need a priest, please call Teresa at 320-360-9720.</p> <p><u>*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).</u></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, APRIL 6 at 4:00 p.m.

Lector: Louise Welle

Server: Zach Gall

Ushers: Roy Boser & Jonathan Welle

E. Minister (Choir): Julie Laney

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.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP: Collection totals & attendance will be listed in next week's bulletin due to the early bulletin submission deadline. Thank you for understanding!

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.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER: 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.

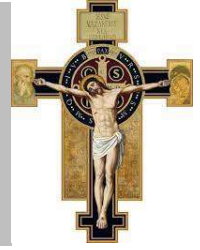
Why join our Catholic Fundraiser?  Making a Difference: 50% of profits go directly to our ministry, changing lives for the better.

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

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

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

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



SATURDAY, APRIL 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Lector: Janet Hanneken

Servers: Maverick Woitalla & Elliott Carmona

Ushers: Willie Rudolph & Kevin Dembouski

E. Minister (Choir): Diane Virnig

Rosary: Gloria Woitalla

SCHEDULES: Please pick up schedules off the table in back of church.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP: Collection totals & attendance will be listed in next week's bulletin due to the early bulletin submission deadline. Thank you for understanding!

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 Woitalla, 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.



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, APRIL 7 at 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Jane Funk

E. Ministers: Deb Hall & Donna Solinger

Servers: Logan Brisk & Gabe Stangl

Ushers for April: Brian Stangl, Gregg Stangl & Roger Janson

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.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP: Collection totals & attendance will be listed in next week's bulletin due to the early bulletin submission deadline. Thank you for understanding!

CATHOLIC Q&A: Spiritual Communion

Question: What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

Answer: The practice of making a "spiritual communion" dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion. Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.

The staff of our Area Catholic Community churches would like to wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Easter!



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, APRIL 7 at 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Keith Marshik

E. Ministers: Wanda Kapsner, Keith Marshik & LeRoy Swanson

Servers: Lilly & Logan Kimman

Sacristans: Pat Hartmann

Ushers for April: Jon Stumpf (Lead), Robbie Becker, Gerard Kimman & Jason Sadlovsky



New Life in Christ

Bennett Kyle, son of Kyle & Nicole Welle, was baptized on Saturday, March 23rd. Congratulations and welcome to our community of faith!

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!

QUILT BINGO: Thank you to everyone who helped make our annual quilt bingo a success. The net profit after expenses was \$5,411.03!

ST. JOSEPHS QUILT CIRCLE: We will be quilting on Monday, April 1st at 1 p.m. and Thursday, April 4th 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.

CEMETERY CLEANUP: Save the date for our community cemetery cleanup day on Wednesday, April 24th starting at 4 p.m. Please make sure to have everything out of the cemetery that you wish to put back up when the cleanup is finished. Call the parish office with any questions (320) 468-6033. Thank you for your cooperation. We hope to see you there!

REMINDER: St. Joseph's Christian Mothers/Women would be honored to pray a rosary at the wake of any parishioner or their family member. Contact Teresa at 320-360-9720 to request, when making funeral arrangements.

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.

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GENERAL NEWS

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

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

FREE APOLOGETICS BOOKLETS: The Knights of Columbus are handing out "A Minute In The Church" Booklets after the Easter Masses on one-minute reads on 37 different teachings using faith, reason, and scripture. Multiple books could be written on each topic but the purpose is to give an explanation in one minute. They are free so please take, read and share!

FOOD SHELF COLLECTION: Thank you to the parishioners in the ACC who generously donated to the Pierz Area Food Shelf in the extra collection. Here are the totals from each parish: Harding: \$553, Pierz: \$720, Lastrup: \$630, and Buckman: \$706. *Thank you for your generosity!*

PRAYERS FOR OUR NATION: Please join us on Friday, April 5th at 7:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church to pray for our nation. Everyone is welcome to join!

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

FAMILY ROSARY NIGHT: Saturday, April 13th. Rosary Night will be held on the second Saturday of each month. Gatherings start at 7:00pm with a potluck-style meal & fellowship. Fr. Aaron will join in after the 6:00 mass in Harding to lead the rosary. **We are looking for someone to host the April 13th Rosary Night.** If you would like to volunteer to host an evening, please call or text Cari Stumpf at 320-761-6336.

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.

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: The Pierz Area Food Shelf staff thanks you for your support of food and/or money to the March FoodShare Campaign. Continued support throughout the year is gratefully appreciated not only during the month of March but throughout the year. God Bless you!

KC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER FOR STEUBENVILLE: The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Breakfast fundraiser for the 140+ students from our ACC going to the Steubenville retreat this summer! Breakfast will be Sunday, April 7th from 8 AM 11:45 AM at the Parish Hall in Buckman. Free will offering/donations! You're invited!

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.

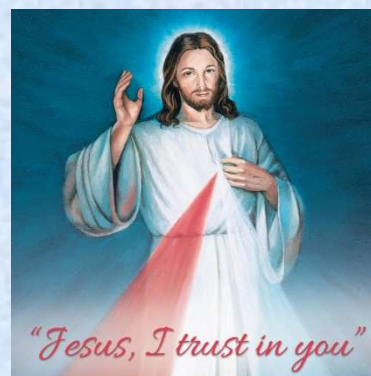
Interested individuals may submit a letter of interest and resume to the parish office. For any questions regarding the position please contact the office or Father Aaron by phone (320) 468-6033 or email (frnett@midco.net).

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."



Divine Mercy Sunday

Join us Sunday, April 7th from noon-3p.m at St. Michael's Church-Buckman. There will be adoration, confessions, speakers, and we will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The grace of Divine Mercy Sunday has been compared to the grace of

Baptism. It forgives all sins and provides for the removal of all punishment due to sin and is fully effective even if our contrition is less than perfect. What is required is receiving Holy Communion worthily with trust in Jesus' promise. To receive the grace of Divine Mercy Sunday, you need to go to confession before or on the day of the feast-sometime during Lent suffices; be in the state of grace on Divine Mercy Sunday itself, and receive Holy Communion with the intention of obtaining the promised grace. We can also receive a plenary indulgence on the same day, which we could give to a poor soul in Purgatory.

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

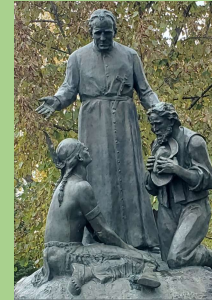
***COFFEE-** Regular (ground or bean) \$13.00, in French, Dark, or Medium Roast.
 Decaf (ground or bean) \$14.00.

***HTCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS-** Holy Trinity is looking for 2 new members for our Board of Directors; one from the Lastrup parish and one member at large (from any of the four parishes). The three-year term will start in August 2024. Expertise in the areas of finance and/or facility/maintenance preferred. Belief in the mission of Holy Trinity and Catholic education is a must. The position requires monthly meetings as well as committee assignments/meetings. This is a volunteer position. Please call/email the school office by May 1st if you are interested. (320) 468-6446 / office@holyltrinitypierz.org

Raffle Calendar Winners:

3/24 \$75 Jay Pawlu, 3/25 \$35 Nicole Finnegan, 3/26 \$35 Matt Lundblad, 3/27 \$35 Ron & Janice Przybilla, 3/28 \$35 Lisa Meyer, 3/29 \$35 Kyle Girtz, 3/30 \$35 Cassie Beierman

*Father Pierz
 School of Religion*



320-468-2640

***Wednesday, April 3rd** – LF Movie

Theater 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

(Adoration 5-6 p.m. Pierz Church)

***Wednesday, April 10th** – JH/SH
 AirMaxx Trampoline Park 5:30 p.m.
 to 9:00 p.m.

**LOOK WHAT'S NEW
 IN THE ACC!**



Some 11th grade Confirmation students attended the Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Thursday, March 21st. At the Chrism Mass the Bishop blessed the oils and consecrates the sacred Chrism that will be used on the day of their Confirmation on April 28th with Bishop Patrick Neary in Pierz! It was a beautiful Mass to celebrate together.