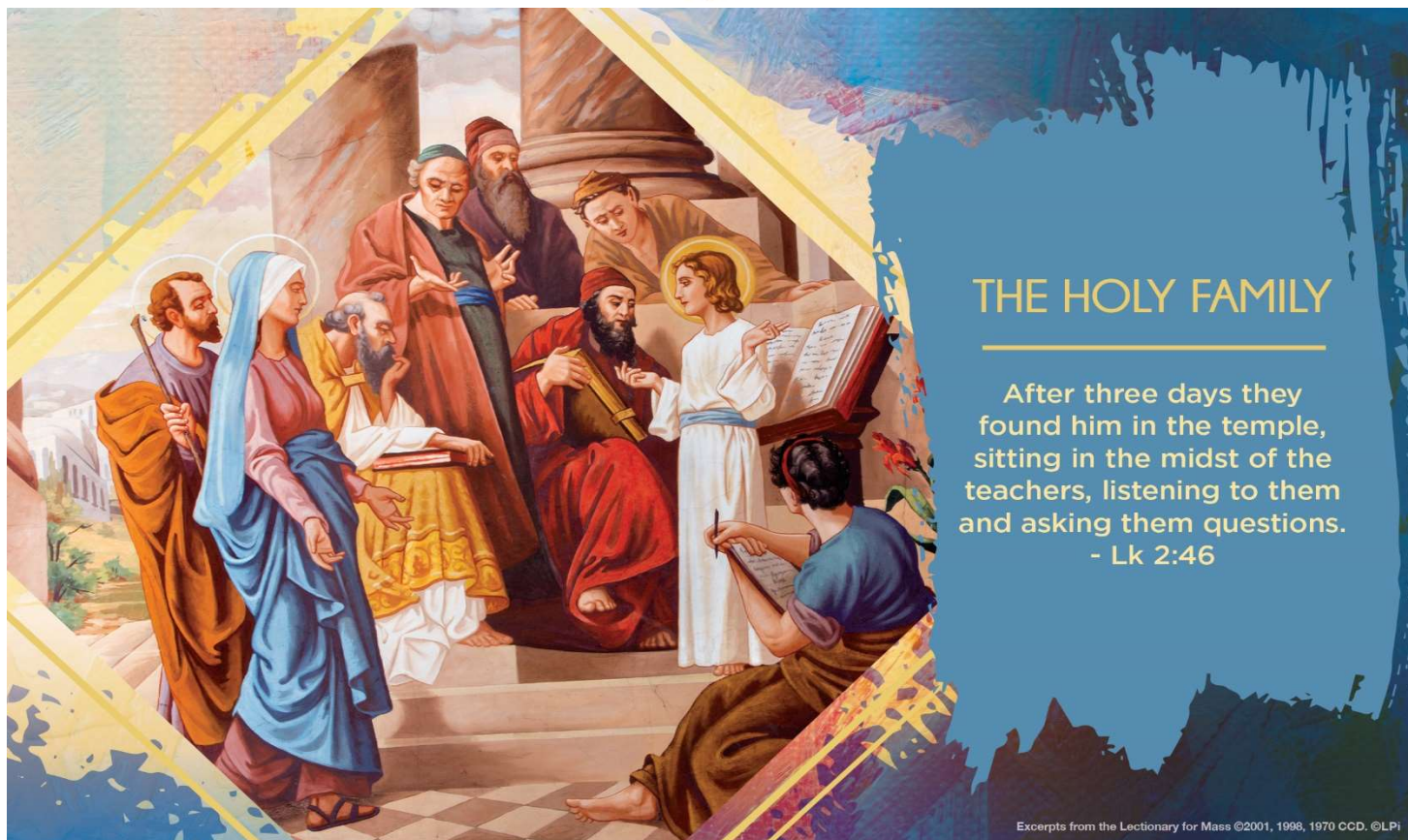




FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
- Lk 2:46

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

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

5:00 p.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

WEDNESDAY – Solemnity of Mary

9:00 a.m. – St. Joseph's Pierz

THURSDAY

7:00 a.m. – St. Michael's Buckman

FRIDAY

9:00 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

December 29, 2024

THE HOLY FAMILY

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

Adam Hermanson, Pastoral Administrator: 320-468-6033, ahermanson@midco.net

Deacon Craig Korver: 320-468-6033, dcnrcraigkorver@gmail.com

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

New Year Blessings



Dear Friends,

At the start of the New year it is common for people to make resolutions for ways in which they can improve aspects of their lives, serve others or do the things that have been put off for too long. However, let us not forget to make a resolution or more to improve our spiritual lives and make us more Christ-like. Here are some ideas that may help.

I want to thank all who gave to me special cards, gifts, prayers and well wishes for Christmas. I am always a little overwhelmed by your generosity and thoughtfulness! May God bless you and your loved ones in abundance in the New Year.

In Christ our Hope, Father Aaron

1. Get more involved with your parish

Getting more involved with your parish allows us many opportunities to serve and help others. It can also allow us to grow in our relationships with other people of faith.

2. Make more time for spiritual reading

St. Jose Maria Escriva said, "Don't neglect spiritual reading. Reading has made many Saints."

3. Make good stewardship a lifestyle

Pope Francis has often spoken of the dangers of materialism. Practicing good stewardship over the gifts God has given us is something each of us are called to do.

4. Share your Catholic faith with others

Share the Good News of your faith and relationship with God to others, especially with someone who may be lonely and searching in their life of faith. Ask God for the gift of courage you need!

5. Bring back regular penances

Living a penitential life, even outside of Advent and Lent, is an essential practice of faith. The Saints performed penances habitually. Remember that penances aren't meant to be pleasant at first, but the graces that come from them grow sweeter with time.

6. Go an extra day to Mass

Mass is not only the source and summit of our faith but is meant to be the summit of each day. For 2025 you might think of ways you can arrange your schedule and activities so that you can make it to Mass either an extra day each week, or a few extra days a month.

7. Pray the rosary

No Catholic list of New Year's resolutions would be complete without a daily rosary added in. If you already pray the rosary daily, great! Your resolution could be spread devotion to others.

8. Pick a new saint buddy

Perhaps you begin the New Year walking along your pilgrimage of faith with a different Catholic Saint? There are many to choose from with unique stories and powerful prayers for us still on the journey.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31 – JANUARY 5

Tuesday, December 31

5:00 p.m. Lastrup Deceased relatives of Leon Weiss family

Wednesday, January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 a.m. Pierz +Lorraine Athman

7-8:00 p.m. Buckman Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, January 2

7:00 a.m. Buckman +Gloria Lanners

10:00 a.m. Villa +John & Karen Hellie

Friday, January 3 – HT School Mass: Mr. Wolter's 6th Grade Class

8:00 a.m. Pierz Prayers for Our Nation (Prayer Service)

9:00 a.m. Pierz +Ellen Virnig

3-6:00 p.m. Pierz Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, January 4

4:00 p.m. Lastrup +Nathan Rothstein

6:00 p.m. Harding +LeeAnn Pulak

Sunday, January 5

8:00 a.m. Buckman In honor of marriage blessing of Harold & Angie DeSautel

10:00 a.m. Pierz For the people of the parishes

***Bulletin Announcement Deadline:** The deadline for submissions of bulletin announcements is **Mondays at 3 p.m.** You can email stjoes@midco.net, mail PO Box 428, Pierz, or call 320-468-6033.

Weekday Masses When There is a Funeral: When there is a funeral, the regular scheduled weekday Mass will still take place.

Emergency Contact: If you have an emergency and need a priest, please call pastoral associate Adam at 1-952-913-4438.

Pierz & Buckman Office Hours:
Located in Pierz. Mon, Tue, Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday & Friday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Lastrup & Harding Office Hours:
Call 320-360-9720

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** – Blessed Sacrament Chapel always open

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



TUES., DEC. 31 at 5:00 p.m. (Solemnity of Mary Eve)

Lector: Dale Beierman

Servers: Ellie Thomsen

Ushers: Roy Boser & Colin Boser

E. Minister (Choir): Stacey Thomsen

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

Lector: Mark Loidolt

Servers: Kimmans

Ushers: Alan Welle & Cory Loidolt

E. Minister (Choir): Julie Laney

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: Sunday envelopes are ready and on the table in the entry. Please pick yours up as you leave today. If you did not get envelopes, adult or child, and would like some please call Teresa at 320-360-9720.

GAMBLING COMMITTEE: Gaming committee will be held on Tuesday, January 14 after the 7 PM Mass in the office.

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.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUK WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

*Saturday, December 14th: Adult env. \$1,005.00, Adult loose \$128.00, Children env. \$4.00, Children loose \$3.00, Immaculate Conception \$35.00, Thanksgiving \$50.00

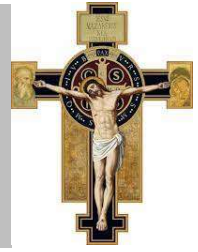
Mass attendance: 175

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR LASTRUP & HARDING:

LeRoy Knopik, Deacon Wayne Lauer, Gary Matlock, Tom Dukowitz, Sara Hanneken, Paul Hoheisel, Ayden Boser, Jeremy Girtz, Olivia Waldorf, Pat (Rod) Boser, Alice Matlock, Kurt Lucking, Rhys Boser, Doris Weiss, Mary Ann Schomer, Aaron Boser, Ione Hoskins, Gerard Virnig, Donny Schommer.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

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



SATURDAY, JANUARY 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Lector: Lynn Dukowitz

Servers: Maverick Weitalla

Ushers: Gary Matlock & Andy Weitalla

E. Minister (Choir): Doug Knopik

Rosary: Ted Boser

THANK YOU: Thank you to all the Rosary Sodality members for all the bars and cookies you brought to help with all our recent activities. Your hard work was very much appreciated.

HOLY CROSS WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

*Saturday, December 14th: Adult env. \$1,178.00, Adult loose \$196.25, Children env. \$4.25, Children loose \$2.00, Immaculate Conception Adult env. \$194.00, Adult loose \$327.00, Children loose \$25.32.

Mass attendance: 109

ACC Faith Study Groups

*Bible Study: Thursdays at 9 a.m. is fellowship, begin at 9:30 a.m. Call Joy at 320-630-9130.

*The Tuesday Adult Faith study group meets on Tuesdays at 3:00 in the parish office. We use videos, a study guide and discussion. Call Hilde Flicker with questions 320-468-2649.

*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.



"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 + 25." 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 25 is the year. There will be blessed chalk available after Mass on the weekend of January 4 & 5.



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



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 5 at 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Randi Kranz

E. Ministers: Janice Janson & Deb Hall

Servers: Logan Janson & Lydia Janson

Ushers for January: Brian Stangl, Gregg Stangl, Roger Janson



New Life in Christ

Jeorgina James, daughter of Derek & Brittny Miller, was baptized on Sunday, December 15th. Congratulations and welcome to our community of faith!



CUF MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST:

Sunday, January 12th in the Buckman parish center after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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

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 (Dec. 15)

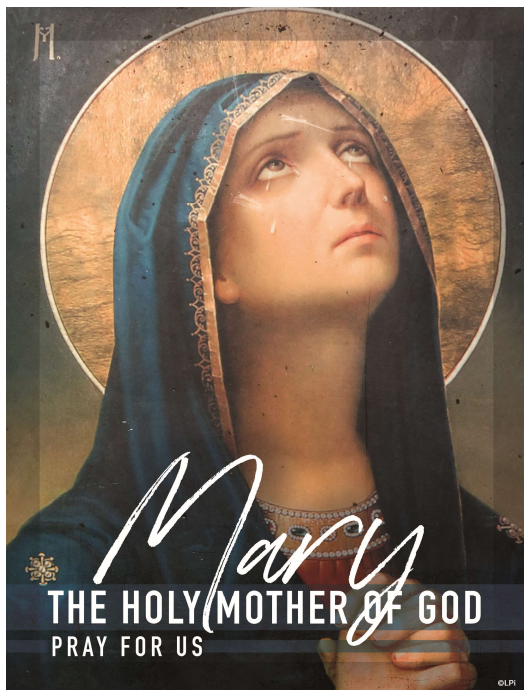
Adult	\$ 2,449.00
High School	\$ 5.00
Elementary	\$ 6.00
Plate	\$ 266.00
	\$ 2,726.00

Immaculate Conception: \$3,639.00

November Electronic Contributions: \$ 1,020.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 15th Sunday:** 280



WEDNES., JANUARY 1 at 9:00 a.m. (Solemnity of Mary)

Lector: Al Pekarek

E. Ministers: Volunteers Needed

Servers: Lance Litke & Travis Young

Sacristan: Wanda Kapsner

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Tracy Voigt

E. Ministers: David Stumpf, Tracy Voigt & Michelle Litke

Servers: Tyler Kimman & Logan Kimman

Sacristan: Pat Hartmann

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

USHERS NEEDED: We are in need of a few more ushers to join our rotating schedule or to be a sub. If you are interested in becoming an usher, please reach out to the parish office at 320-468-6033. Thank you!

MEMORIAL FLOWERS: If anyone would like to donate money for flowers in memorial of someone who has passed, place envelope in the collection basket with name(s) of person and your phone number.

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE RAFFLE TICKETS: Tickets for the Building & Maintenance Raffle (April 25, 2025) will be sold at church entrances after Mass. Tickets are \$100 each and the grand prize is \$10,000. Tickets are also available at the parish office.

ST JOSEPHS QUILT CIRCLE: We will be quilting on **January 2nd at 9 a.m.** We will also be quilting (tying and stitching) on **Monday, January 6th at 1 p.m. and Thursday, January 9th at 9 a.m.**

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS: Thank you to all parishioners for your generosity in your contributions throughout the year! If you are making donations that you want to be attributed to 2024 for tax purposes, please drop off or mail them by December 31st. Donations must be received or postmarked by December 31 in order to be counted as 2024 contributions. If you do online giving, please complete your transactions by December 26 to allow time for bank/card processing. Donations made/processed January 1 or after will be counted as 2025 contributions.

ST. JOSEPH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (Dec. 15)

Adult	\$ 6,504.00
HS & Elemen.	\$ 67.25
Plate	\$ 301.25
	\$ 6,872.50

Immaculate Conception: \$1,878.00

November Electronic Contributions: \$ 3,165.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 9th Monday:** 210

Mass attendance **December 15th Sunday:** 323

GENERAL NEWS

LOOKING AHEAD:

*The parish office hours will be open New Years Eve from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed on New Years Day, with regular hours the rest of the week.

*The *Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God* is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be a Mass on Tuesday, December 31st at 5 p.m. in Lastrup and Wednesday, January 1st at 9:00 a.m. in Pierz.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: Altar Server Training for new servers for all parishes for 4th grade and up is Saturday, January 11th at 10:00am at St. Joseph's Church. Please email leowehseler@gmail.com if you plan to attend to get a rough head count ahead of time. Training will take approximately 1.5 hours. Training for Holy Trinity students is planned for January 10th during school hours.

PRAYERS FOR OUR NATION PRAYER SERVICE: Please join us on Friday, January 3rd at 8:00 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church to pray for our nation. Everyone is welcome to join!

ROSARY AT HARMONY HOUSE: Everyone is welcome to join us pray the rosary every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Harmony House in Pierz (weather permitting). Sponsored by St. Michael's Christian Mothers/Women. Questions, 320-468-2487.

NFP - First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method: Little Falls Tuesday, January 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the NFP Office in the Unity Specialty Center of St. Gabriel's Hospital. For more info, contact Mary Bontjes at bontjesmary@yahoo.com at (320) 631-5660. For additional teaching sites (320) 258-7609, or <https://stcdio.org/natural-family-planning/>.

CENTRAL MN KOINONIA: COME AND FOLLOW ME...Have you ever encountered someone that has made you say, "I want to be like that"? Someone who, not only talks the talk but walks the faith every day? CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and is designed to help you on your faith journey. The next retreat is scheduled for March 21-23, 2025, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to www.centralmnkoinonia.org for more information and to register for retreats.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at St. Francis Convent (St. Francis Hall), Little Falls on Tuesday, January 7, 1-7 p.m.; Wednesday, January 8, noon – 6 p.m.; and Thursday, January 9, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Anyone who is at least 16 years of age (please bring a parental consent), weighs at least 110 pounds and is considered to be in good health may be eligible to donate blood. There is no upper age limit, and the time commitment is minimal. Please bring your photo identification. Make an appointment to donate blood by scheduling online at redcrossblood.org or by calling Sister Julien Dirkes at (320)632-0663.

Holy Trinity is excited to announce the public launch of our Capital Campaign! Please visit our campaign website at <https://www.holytrinitypierz.org/capitalcampaign> or scan the QR code to find out more! Brochures will also be available in the entryway of all 4 parishes. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to help us reach our goal. Together we are building a foundation rooted in Christ in our community.



MARRIAGE RETREAT: *Feeling disconnected? Every married couple deserves the gift of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend!* The next weekends in this area will be held Apr 5-6, 2025 in BRAINERD, MN and Nov 22-23, 2025 in ALEXANDRIA, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: northmnwwme.org or contact Miki at applications@northmnwwme.org or 507-227-8229.

Diocesan Festival of Families is back! This diocesan event is designed specifically for families! Taking place on February 2, from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell, the day will include a free carnival, breakout sessions for parents, children and teens, Mass and much more! Cost is only \$25 per family (no matter the size), and will include a free carnival, family games, lunch, age-appropriate activities and Mass. Register now at: <https://stcdio.org/event/2025-festival-of-families/>



QUILT BINGO



Sponsored by:

St. Joseph's Church, Pierz, MN

~Beautiful Handmade Quilts

~Free Lunch Served

~Door Prizes

Sunday, February 2, 2025

at 1:00 p.m.

**Holy Trinity School Gym
Pierz, MN**

Catholic United Financial Matching Grant Fundraiser

Catholic United is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial services company, connecting people of faith, protecting their future and generously impacting parishes, schools and communities.



Senior Sales Representative
Dave Stang, FICP
Call or Text (320) 469-4735
dstang@catholicunited.org
catholicunitedfinancial.org/rep-david-stang

Catholic United Financial



*The staff of the Father Francis Xavier
Pierz Area Catholic Communities
would like to wish everyone a peaceful,
healthy & blessed New Year!*

Father Pierz
School of
Religion



320-468-2640

*SEEK Conference
SH – Dec. 31-Jan 5

LOOK WHAT'S
NEW IN THE ACC!

The youth group went
Christmas caroling to 5
different nursing homes in
Pierz & Little Falls and gave
out Christmas presents to
the residents on
Wednesday, Dec. 18.



80 Edward Street South, Pierz MN 56364, 320-468-6446

*COFFEE- Guatemalan coffee is always available for purchase at the school. Holy Trinity makes \$3 on each bag sold and the rest goes to pay the farmers in Guatemala for the coffee beans.

Regular (ground or bean) \$13, in French, Dark, or Medium Roast. Decaf (ground or bean) \$14.

*CAPITAL CAMPAIGN- Holy Trinity is excited to announce the public launch of our Capital Campaign! Please visit our campaign website

at <https://www.holytrinitypierz.org/capitalcampaign> or scan the QR code to find out more!

Brochures will also be available in the entryway of all 4 parishes. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to help us reach our goal. Together we are building a foundation rooted in Christ in our community.

