



FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them all,
saying, "I am baptizing
you with water, but one
mightier than I is coming."
- Lk 3:16a

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

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

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December 15, 2024

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 TOBIAS ELLIS




About this time of year, I am starting the process of my yearly seminary evaluation. A review board consisting of peers, priest formators at the seminary, professors, and my teaching parish pastor (thanks Father Nett!) recommend to Bishop Neary whether I should continue with another year of formation. These evaluations always make me a little nervous at first, but without fail end up being sources of great grace. It comforts me to know that while I am praying and discerning whether the Lord is calling me to the priesthood, the church is also praying and discerning with me. In every religious vocation, it is not just the man or woman choosing to devote their lives to Christ and His church, but Christ and the church must also choose them.

From our parishes, the Lord is calling men and women to be His priests and religious. For the church to be healthy, we need our young people to answer that call. We as a church and community of parishes need to help them discern. We can do this, first of all, through the power of prayer. Beginning this week, the parishes will pray a prayer for vocations at the end of the petitions at Mass. We pray that those among us might have the courage to step forward and answer God’s call, and for the continued perseverance of those who are already in formation. We also need at times to approach and ask young men and women if they have considered a call to the priesthood or religious life, perhaps even encouraging them by saying that they would make a good priest or sister. To be honest with you, I would get very annoyed and used to roll my eyes when people in my home parish would say this to me. However, I am now extremely grateful that they did. Such comments would prompt me to stop and consider the priesthood. When I finally made the step to enter seminary, the memories of these moments gave me confidence, that all these faithful Catholics saw and believed in my vocation even before I saw or believed it in myself.

Christ has not stopped inviting men and women to come follow him. Through the prayers and encouragement of the church may many accept that call!

Know of my continued prayers for all of you!

Tobias

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17 – DECEMBER 22	
<p><u>Tuesday, December 17</u> 7:00 p.m. Lastrup +Allen Weiss</p> <p><u>Wednesday, December 18</u> 8:00 a.m. Harding +Butch Maleski 7-8 p.m. Buckman Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><u>Thursday, December 19</u> 7:00 a.m. Buckman +Herman & Frances Stangl 10:00 a.m. Villa +Clyde Stangl 6:00-8:00 p.m. Pierz Confession Service</p> <p><u>Friday, December 20</u> – <i>HT School Mass: Mrs. Lanners’ 2nd Grade Class</i> 9:00 a.m. Pierz Andrea, King, and Gast families 3-6:00 p.m. Pierz Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><u>Saturday, December 21</u> 4:00 p.m. Lastrup For the people of the parishes 6:00 p.m. Harding +Stanley & Marilyn Bieganeck</p> <p><u>Sunday, December 22</u> 8:00 a.m. Buckman +Esther Britz 10:00 a.m. Pierz +John Pohlkamp</p>	<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 or email stjoes@midco.net.</p> <p>*Bulletin Announcement Deadline: *The Dec. 29 bulletin deadline is Friday, Dec. 20. You can email stjoes@midco.net, mail PO Box 428, Pierz MN 56364, or call 320-468-6033.</p> <p><u>Pierz & Buckman Office Hours:</u> 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.</p> <p><u>Lastrup & Harding Office Hours:</u> Call 320-360-9720</p> <p><u>Weekday Masses When There is a Funeral:</u> When there is a funeral, the regular scheduled weekday Mass will still take place.</p> <p><i>Emergency Contact:</i> If you have an emergency and need a priest, please call pastoral associate Adam at 952-913-4438.</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 – Blessed Sacrament 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, DECEMBER 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Lector: Julie Laney
Servers: Zach Gall
Ushers: Allen Welle & Jonathan Welle
E. Minister (Choir): Barb Specker

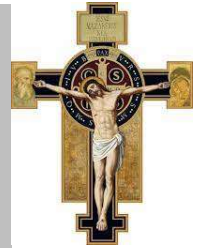
CONDOLENCES: Our sincerest sympathy to the family and friends of Ruth Monson. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace!

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 7th: Adult env. \$955.00, Adult loose \$102.00. **Mass attendance:** 132

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



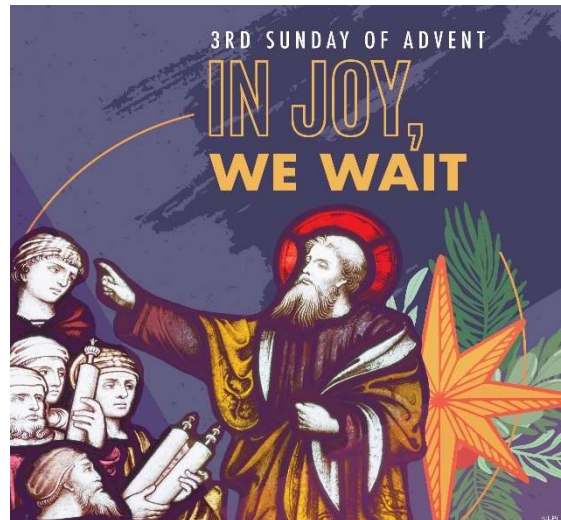
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Lector: Janet Hanneken
Servers: Elliott Carmona
Ushers: Dave Skwira & Willie Rudolph
E. Minister (Choir): Doug Knopik
Rosary: Phyllis Schmidtbauer

MEMORY ORNAMENT TREE: Will be put up in church prior to December 21st. Please bring your ornament with your loved one's name on it to hang on the tree. You can either hang on tree or leave in sacristy for us to hang.

REMINDER: We are doing our annual tree of lights and wreath sales from now until Christmas. Information was in last week's bulletin or there are forms on the table in back of church or on the internet at hardingchurch.org or call Teresa at 320-360-9720. You can be from any parish. Names will be read before the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve as well as posted in church.

HOLY CROSS WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:
 *Saturday, December 7th: Adult env. \$1,161.00, Adult loose \$154.00, Children env. \$3.75, Children loose \$15.00.
Mass attendance: 111



19th Annual
Jared Tomala Toy Drive

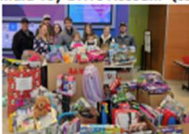


In Loving Memory of Jared Tomala

Thank you all for continuing to help make Jared's dreams come true!

For the 19th consecutive year, the Tomala family is collecting toy and monetary donations for the families at the Children's Hospital of Minneapolis and the Ronald McDonald House. Each year these donations are delivered, families can focus on their child getting better. Jared believed giving toys would help these families have Merry Christmas.

- Donations will be collected now through **Friday, December 20th**
- Monetary and toy donations accepted at: Red's Auto, F&M Bank, Thrifty White, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Baby's on Broadway, J&D's Service, and RJ Meats
- Monetary donations can also be called into F&M Bank in care of the Jared Tomala Toy Drive Account (320) 468-6422



The Tomala Family thanks you sincerely for your continued support and donations year after year. What a generous community we have! Merry Christmas!

Christmas
Mass Times

Christmas Eve
 4:30 p.m. Buckman
 4:30 p.m. Harding
 12:00 a.m. Pierz (Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day
 8:00 a.m. Lastrup
 9:00 a.m. Buckman
 10:00 a.m. Pierz

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, DECEMBER 22 at 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Mary Kay Zilka

E. Ministers: Cindy Scholl & Randi Kranz

Servers: Lydia Janson & Anthony Scheel

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

CHOIR NEWS: Choir practice on Thursday, December 19th at 9:00 a.m.

CHRIST CHILD BABY SHOWER: NEW baby – teens clothing, coats, hats, mittens & diapers are being collected, along with monetary donations for area families in need. Sponsored by the Buckman CM/W. Basket in the church. Any questions, call Cindy Scholl at 320-630-8410.

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. 8th)

Adult	\$ 2,052.00
High School	\$ 9.00
Elementary	\$ 10.00
Plate	\$ 296.00
	\$ 2,367.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 8th** Sunday: 321

St. Michael's Christian Mothers/Women of Buckman MN

**Would like to recognize their Honorees
for their many years of prayerful commitment
to their families and church**

Mothers play a vital role in upholding Christ's presence in the world through their high mission to the family. They nurture souls, teach their children, serve and strengthen their families, model Christian self-sacrifice, and witness to the unfathomable parental love God bears for each of His children.
<https://www.christianmothers.org/>



- 65 Years**
Neddie Leidenfrost
Marlene Przybilla
Jenny Seppelt
- 60 Years**
Ginger Lardy
Mary Jane Marshik
- 50 Years**
Karen Gruber
Janice Przybilla
- 40 Years**
Val Stangl



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, DECEMBER 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Mark Fyten

E. Ministers: Michelle Litke, Rachel Young & Mason Zajac

Servers: Hannah Kuschel & Zajac child

Sacristan: Mary Kimman

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



Thank you to Jim Gerwing for your 17 years of service to the parish as an usher. We appreciate your dedication and may God bless you for all your kindness!

NOTE: The Folk Group Choir will begin singing at 9:40 for the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas morning.

CHRIST CHILD BABY SHOWER: During Advent a basket will be by side altar for baby items. Things needed are new and gently used baby clothes, diapers, blankets, money donations, etc. Items will be given to families in need and Pierz Food Shelf. Call Ann at 320-468-6070. Sponsored Pierz CM/W.

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. These are great Christmas gift ideas!

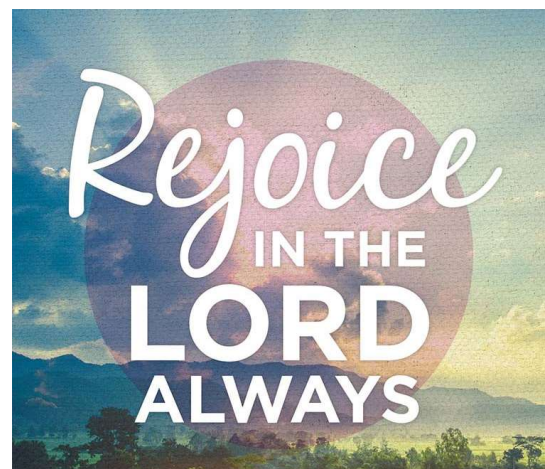
ST JOSEPHS QUILT CIRCLE: We will be quilting (tying and stitching) on **Monday, December 16th at 1 p.m. and Thursday, December 19th at 9 a.m.** We will be taking off the weeks of Christmas and New Years.

ST. JOSEPH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (Dec. 8th)

Adult	\$ 9,808.10
HS & Elementary	\$ 85.25
Thanksgiving	\$ 1,126.00
Plate	\$ 346.75
	\$11,366.10

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 8th** Sunday: 322



GENERAL NEWS

Upcoming Social Sunday - December 15th! We are excited to see you following the 10am mass at St. Joseph's on Sunday, December 15th for this month's Social Sunday! We'll have a lunch-style spread this month along with coffee & juice. Bring your family and some friends!

CONFESSION SERVICE: There will be a confession service on Thursday, December 19th from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church in Pierz. There will be extra priests to hear confessions. You can come anytime during those 2 hours.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: SH Christmas caroling to nursing homes in Pierz & LF on Wednesday, December 18th 6-9pm. Meet at FPSR 6pm. Any community members that want to join are welcome to follow the bus and join along; especially if you can sing 😊! (Photo below from last year!)



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.

TAIZÉ PRAYER: Join the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls for Taizé Prayer on Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space on the campus of the Franciscan Sisters. Enter at the west entrance, Door F. All are welcome! Taizé is a simple meditative practice that includes readings, long periods of silence and brief repetitive songs. Participants find this prayer service to be a time to center themselves and experience quiet contemplation, a perfect way to end a busy day. Each service will be about 45 minutes long. No RSVP is needed. For questions, please contact Linda Dobosenski at ldobosenski@fslf.org or (320)632-0680.

ADVENT HEALING MASS: You are invited to join the Crosier Fathers and Brothers at the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia on Sunday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m., for an Advent Healing Mass. The Mass will include the Anointing of the Sick and the ritual of blessing with the Relic of St. Odilia. Coffee and rolls will be served following the Mass. All welcome! For further info call 320.532.3103 or email onamia@crosier.org.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: We are very grateful to those of you who have already supported diocesan ministries through the Appeal. As of November 18, the Bishop's Annual Appeal for 2024 has raised total cash and pledges of \$1,385,474 toward our goal of \$1,450,000 (98.96%). This was made possible through the generous donations of 7,583 people throughout the 16 counties of our diocese. Will you help these ministries meet their funding needs? Visit www.stedio.org/annualappeal.

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.



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://stedio.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.

NEW LOCATION!

BRainerd's NEWEST CATHOLIC SHOP

DOWNTOWN BRAINERD

Located inside the 218 Urban Nest

Rosaries
Jewelry
Gifts for Kids & Adults
Cards, Books
Veils, Home Decor
Vintage & New Items
& so much more!
... New inventory weekly

nicheboutiquemn.com
facebook.com/catholicnicheboutique

814 Front St.
Brainerd MN
(inside the 218 Urban Nest)



*Father Pierz
School of Religion*



320-468-2640

- *Wed., Dec. 18 – SH Holy Spirit Party Bus Christmas Caroling 6-9pm
- *TEC Retreat in LFD (age 15+) – Dec 27-29
- *SEEK Conference SH Dec. 31-Jan 5

*~Youth Choir under the direction of Adam Kroll did A wonderful job on Sun., December 1st at St. Joseph's.
~Students from FPSR spent their own money & bought gifts, bikes, & clothes at Walmart for the less fortunate families in our community.
~Children met with St. Nicholas after Mass in Buckman.*



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

- *JARED'S TOY DRIVE- For the 19th year HTCS is a collection site for the Jared Tomala Toy Drive. If you are wanting to donate new items, please bring them to HT from 7:30-3:30, Mon-Fri. Donations will be accepted until December 20 at 1:00. Financial donations can be made at F&M Bank.
- *COFFEE- Guatemalan coffee is always available for purchase at the school. Regular (ground or bean) \$13.00, in French, Dark, or Medium Roast. Decaf (ground or bean) \$14.00.

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

