



FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."
- Lk 1:41-42

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

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REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY – Christmas Eve

- 4:30 p.m. – St. Michael's Buckman
- 4:30 p.m. – Holy Cross Harding
- 12:00 a.m. – St. Josephs Pierz (Midnight Mass)

WEDNESDAY – Christmas Day

- 8:00 a.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup
- 9:00 a.m. – St. Michael's Buckman
- 10:00 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

December 22, 2024 4th 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 OUR PASTOR, FATHER AARON NETT



Emmanuel, God with us

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord!” The Christmas Vigil Mass psalm proclaims a deep desire in our hearts today. God is good and he has come to visit us! Our soul can’t help but sing. Our Lord has not chosen to stay far away but has come to dwell with his people in darkness so to bring the light of peace and salvation to the world.

Christmas time brings a new light of hope for us and the world because God has come alongside of us as predicted from generations before. The little child Jesus is born to his mother Mary in a cold and dark stable. Jesus is born vulnerable and poor. The Creator of the stars shows humility as he comes not to display his power but rather mercy and care for his people. God allows his Divine Son to be held, known and loved. This is the beautiful mystery we celebrate and live. All knees will bend and all heads will bow before him, for he is the God of salvation!

This Christmas there are many to thank who have assisted in a variety of ways, helping make the Advent and Christmas Seasons even more beautiful. I would like to thank the parish staff for their dedication to the Church and people of God. Also, many thanks to our choirs and musicians, volunteers who assist at Mass, Mass servers, decorators, and all who gave of their time, talent or treasure. Thank you!

May we especially keep in mind and heart in prayer those who are struggling with grief, illness, loneliness or addiction during this time of the year. May the warmth and love of God who comes to his people in need, give them hope and the peace of his presence. As I offer my Masses this Christmas, it is my prayer that each one of you experience the warmth, closeness and Spirit of the Little Child Jesus today, the Prince of Peace and the salvation of the world. And that we all become more and more like him. May God grant you every grace and heavenly blessing, for he is truly with us.

Merry Christmas,
Father Aaron

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24 – DECEMBER 29

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- 4:30 p.m. Buckman +Leora Poster
- 4:30 p.m. Harding +Ronnie Gross
- 12:00 a.m. Pierz +Ed & Laura Kapsner (*Midnight Mass*)

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

- 8:00 a.m. Lastrup +Leon Boser
- 9:00 a.m. Buckman +Roy Gall
- 10:00 a.m. Pierz +Ken, Dale & Dominick Dahmen
- 11:00 a.m. Villa +Larry & Helen Schmidtbauer
- Buckman **No Adoration Scheduled**

Thursday, December 26

- 7:00 a.m. Buckman +Frances Stangl
- 10:00 a.m. Villa +Stella Virnig

Friday, December 27 – No School at HT

- 9:00 a.m. Pierz Special intention
- 3-6:00 p.m. Pierz Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday, December 28

- 4:00 p.m. Lastrup +Harold & Romell Welle
- 6:00 p.m. Harding +Joe & Lois Weitalla

Sunday, December 29

- 8:00 a.m. Buckman For the people of the parishes
- 10:00 a.m. Pierz +Gerhard Wilkes family

*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.

***Bulletin Announcement Deadline:**
***The Jan. 5 bulletin deadline is Friday, Dec. 27.** You can email stjoes@midco.net, mail PO Box 428, Pierz MN 56364, or call 320-468-6033.

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

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 952-913-4438.



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



WEDNES., DECEMBER 25 at 8:00 a.m. (Christmas Day)

Lector: Dale Beierman

Servers: Kimmans

Ushers: Ron & Barb Specker

E. Minister (Choir): Carol Welle

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 at 4:00 p.m.

Lector: Louise Welle

Servers: Ellie Thomsen

Ushers: Colin Boser & Donny Schommer

E. Minister (Choir): Dale Beierman

PLEASE JOIN US: Carols will be sung before the 8:00 a.m. Christmas Mass on Wednesday, December 25th.

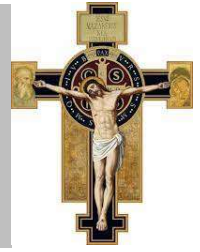
BAR BINGO NEWS: Come to the Fisch House in Lastrup to play bingo every Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. Please come and join us for a fun evening. The jackpot numbers will be posted online and at the Fisch House and also on their Facebook page. St. John's gaming #02115.

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



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 at 4:30 p.m. (Christmas Eve)

Lector: Tim Schubert

Servers: Erin Thesing & Tyler Thesing

Ushers: Allen Woitalla & LeRoy Woitalla

E. Minister (Choir): Leonard Thesing

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Lector: Doug Knopik

Servers: Adam Woitalla

Ushers: Allen Stuckmeyer & Russ Woitalla

E. Minister (Choir): Diane Virnig

Rosary: Ted Boser

PLEASE JOIN US: Please join us for Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th. Caroling will begin at 4 so please join and sing along. Also, tree of lights names will be read right before the start of Mass.

DECORATING: We will be decorating and putting the trees up preparing for the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, on Saturday, December 21 immediately after the 6:00 p.m. Mass. We welcome anyone who wishes to help set it up.

MEMORY ORNAMENT TREE: Memory ornament tree is now up and ready for you to put your family ornaments on in memory of your loved ones. Please feel free to bring an ornament with a name on it and hang on the tree.

REMINDER: This is the last week to get names added to the tree of lights. All names will be read before the 4:30 p.m. Mass here on Christmas Eve and they will be prayed for during that Mass. There are sheets in the entry or call Teresa at 320-360-9720 for more information. Names are listed on a colored bulb in the church along with the donors name and are also lit up on the big tree out front of our church. You can be from any parish. We also have a couple wreaths left if anyone is still interested in one.

ACC Faith Study Groups

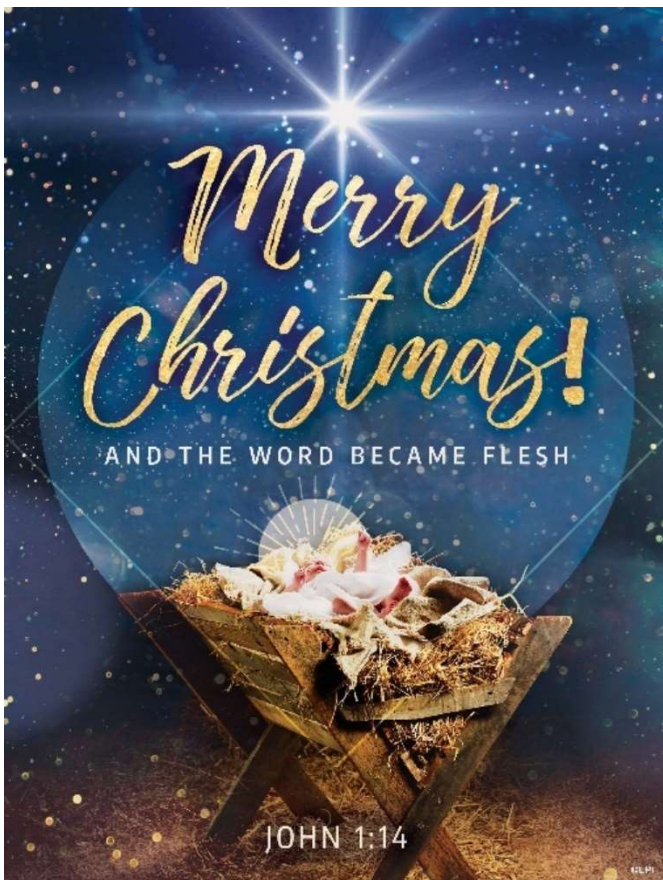
*Bible Study: Thursdays at 9 a.m. is fellowship, begin at 9:30 a.m. Call Joy at 320-630-9130.

*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.



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



TUES., DECEMBER 24 at 4:30 p.m. (Christmas Eve)

Lector: Karen Stangl

E. Ministers: Nicole Lochner & Cindy Scholl

Servers: Maddy Kahl & Alayna Seelen

WEDNES., DECEMBER 25 at 9:00 a.m. (Christmas Day)

Lector: Jane Funk

E. Ministers: Donna Solinger & Connie Kieffer

Servers: Noah Solinger & Cole Solinger

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 at 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Janice Janson

E. Ministers: Jill Hoheisel & Randi Kranz

Servers: Nathan Posch & Jake Posch

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

PLEASE JOIN US: Please join us for the Christmas Eve Mass on Tuesday, December 24th at 4:30 p.m. Beautiful Christmas Choral Music begins at 4:10 p.m., followed by Mass at 4:30 p.m. celebrating Jesus' birth.

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

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.



The staff of Father Francis Xavier Pierz Area Catholic Communities would like to wish everyone a very Merry & Blessed Christmas!

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



TUES., DECEMBER 24 at 12:00 midnight (Christmas Eve)

Lector: Cari Stumpf

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

Servers: Roman Wacker & Elizabeth Stumpf

Sacristan: Keith Marshik

WEDNES., DECEMBER 25 at 10:00 a.m. (Christmas Day)

Lector: Gwen Gruber

E. Ministers: Keith Marshik, Matt Kessler & Sara Stumpf

Servers: Marshik children

Sacristan: Keith Marshik

***Weekday Lector (Friday, Dec. 27 at 9:00 a.m.):** Jan Dahmen

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Keith Marshik

E. Ministers: Wanda Kapsner, Beth Fischer & Jo Loidolt

Sacristan: Jan Kimman

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

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

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!

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 taking off the weeks of Christmas and New Years. We will resume quilting (tying and stitching) on Monday, January 6th at 1 p.m. and Thursday, January 9th at 9 a.m.

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.



GENERAL NEWS

LOOKING AHEAD:

*The parish office will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th & 25th as well as the remainder of the week. We will be periodically checking emails, messages and the drop box during this time. Thank you!

NOTES:

*There are no collection totals or Mass counts in this week's bulletin due to the early deadline. They will be listed in next week's bulletin. Thanks for your understanding & patience!

*There will be no Eucharistic Adoration in Buckman on Wednesday, December 25th.

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.

December 29 ♦ 2025 Jubilee Year – Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope. It will officially open at the diocesan level on Sunday, December 29, 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with a solemn Mass for Opening the Jubilee Year at the Cathedral of St. Mary in St. Cloud at 6:00 p.m., beginning in the lower level. After gathering, a candlelight pilgrimage procession will proceed from the lower level to the front doors of the cathedral and veneration of the diocesan Jubilee Cross. More details about these celebrations will be highlighted in the December issue of The Central Minnesota Catholic magazine.

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

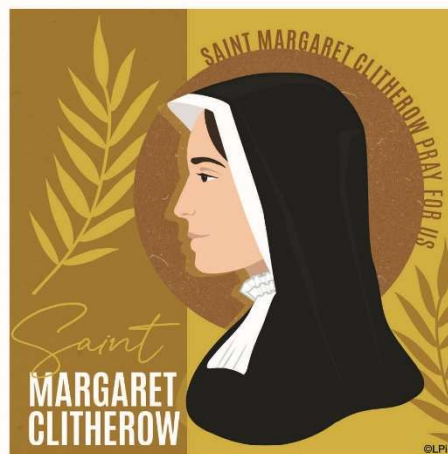
ME...Have you ever encountered someone that has made you say, "I want to be like that"? Someone who, not only talks the talk but walks the faith every day? CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and is designed to help you on your faith journey. 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.



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/>



Saint of the week

St. Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586), the pearl of York hid priests and allowed Mass to be celebrated in her home, a criminal offence at the time. She was pressed to death. Margaret was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970 as one of 40 martyrs of England and Wales.

Prayer for Advent Joy

Dear Jesus,

The news of your coming was met with boundless joy — fill us anew with the wonder of your presence. You are Emmanuel, God with us.

Amen.

*Father Pierz
School of Religion*



320-468-2640

*TEC Retreat in LFD (age 15+) – Dec 27-29

*SEEK Conference SH – Dec. 31-Jan 5

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



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

*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.



Top left: Deacon Ralph Poyo sharing his testimony at FPSR with the high school students.

Left: Deacon Ralph Poyo speaking in Lastrup Parish during the 4-day Parish Mission.

Top right: Deacon Ralph sporting his new Pierz Pioneers hat!

Right: Fr. Aaron, Fr. David, & Deacon Ralph with some of the high school students after the parish mission in Pierz on Wednesday night.

Bottom: St. Nicholas visited Holy Trinity School and taught the students how he gave so much to others in need.

