



FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- Mt 2:10-11

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

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

January 5, 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

SEEK Conference 2025

Dear Friends,

One of the most exciting things going on in the Catholic Church these days, I believe, is happening on college campuses around the United States. FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) send missionaries to campuses that are willing to ignite a fire of faith in college students. It was founded in 1997 by Curtis Martin and it has been tremendously successful as Catholic Newman Centers in Fargo, Mankato, Duluth and Brookings, SD have changed many student's lives.

Each year FOCUS puts on a retreat, for mainly college students and some high school students. This year the retreat is in Salt Lake City Utah and also Washington DC. I will be heading off Tuesday morning to Salt Lake City, Utah with a group of over 20 students and chaperones from our ACC. They expect over 20,000 students in attendance. Please pray for a fruitful retreat for these faithful youth! You can check out FOCUS at, <https://seek.focus.org/> Below are two testimonies of high school seniors from the SEEK retreat last year. Thank you for your support of youth ministries!

God bless you, Father Aaron

"I went to the SEEK conference last year and I can confidently say that it changed my faith life completely. By the end of the conference I not only had written in every single page of the notes in the book they offered, I had to get another one because I ran out of space. SEEK is different than any other conference/retreat I have been on. For me, I began to finally understand some of the reasons behind my faith versus just questioning. I learned to "pray the Mass like never before" from Father Mike Schmitz. I learned the importance and details of relationships from Cameryn Fradd. I gained a new view on "Why God doesn't answer my prayers" from Ben Akers. But for me what made the conference so memorable and faith changing was the fact I am not alone in my struggles, that there are other people who have experienced things I have. My thoughts were not as unique as I assumed. I really did find my identity in Christ, and I hope everyone does in some form. I couldn't be more excited to see what God has planned for my life and these future conferences!" - Reagan Winscher

"Last year 2024, I had experienced the SEEK conference in St. Louis, Missouri for the first time. During this time we participated in daily mass, heard from religious speakers, and had Eucharistic Adoration. The part that impacted my life the most is Eucharistic Adoration. I had experienced the love of God so powerfully while worshipping with 25,000 other Catholics who yearned to deepen their faith in God. Other factors of the conference I enjoyed were the talks given from father Mike Schmitz along with the other speakers talking about religious relationships. I also enjoyed having Mass and seeing all the priests and bishops as they walked into the stadium. I am headed to SEEK 2025 in Salt Lake City, Utah with the hope to deepen my faith and experience the love of God." -Natalie Knutson



MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 7 – JANUARY 12

Tuesday, January 7

7:00 p.m. Lastrup +Bernard Brisk

Wednesday, January 8

8:00 a.m. Harding +Mike Sobiech

8a.m.-8 p.m. Buckman All Day Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, January 9

7:00 a.m. Buckman +David Herold

10:00 a.m. Villa +Fr. Ken Brenny

Friday, January 10 – HT School Mass: Mrs. Radunz's 1st Grade Class

9:00 a.m. Pierz +Harry Jansen & +Amy Jansen

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

Saturday, January 11

4:00 p.m. Lastrup +Roman, Marie & Neil Meyer

6:00 p.m. Harding For the people of the parishes

Sunday, January 12

8:00 a.m. Buckman +Donald Marshik

10:00 a.m. Pierz +Donald & Yvonne Pick

***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 the parish office at 320-468-6033 and press 1.

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

EUCHARISTIC 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



SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Lector: Faye Diederich

Servers: Ellie Thomsen

Ushers: Colin Boser & Donny Schommer

E. Minister (Choir): Stacey Thomsen

Rosary: Faye Diederich

Sacristan: Mark Loidolt

Weekday Mass Lector for January: Louise Welle

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 at the rectory.

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 21st: Adult env. \$480.00, Adult loose \$120.00, Children loose \$38.00, Immaculate Conception \$30.00

Mass attendance December 14th: 175

Mass attendance December 21st: 182

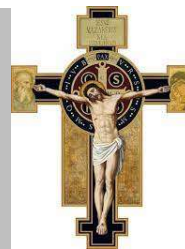
Mass attendance December 25th at 8 a.m.: 129

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 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Lector: Will Corbett

Servers: Elliott Carmona

Ushers: Dave Skwira & Kevin Dembouski

E. Minister (Choir): Gary Matlock

Rosary: Gloria Woitalla

HOLY CROSS WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

*Saturday, December 21st: Adult env. \$1,165.00, Adult loose \$114.00, Children env. \$7.25, Children loose \$3.00, Immaculate Conception \$20.00, Christmas \$140.00.

Mass attendance December 21st: 129

Mass attendance Christmas Eve @ 4:30 p.m.: 411

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



SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 at 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Nathan Gruber

E. Ministers: Donna Solinger & Connie Kieffer

Servers: Isaac Herold & William Dehler

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



CUF MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST:

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

THANK YOU: Thank you to John Blissenbach with JB Tree Farm for furnishing the Christmas trees for our outdoor nativity.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/WOMEN MEETING: Our next CW/M meeting will be on Thursday, January 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the parish center in Buckman. Groups 11/12 to bring bars.

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. 22 & 24/25)

Regular Sunday:

Adult	\$2,722.00
High School	\$2.00
Elementary	\$8.00
Plate	\$182.00
	\$2,914.00

Christmas:

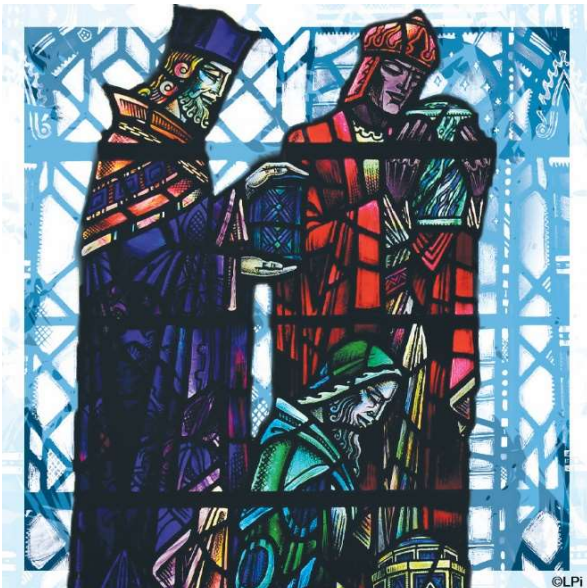
Adult	\$31,336.00
High School	\$113.00
Elementary	\$44.00
Plate	\$2,025.00
	\$33,518.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 22nd Sunday:** 279

Mass attendance **December 24th @ 4:30 p.m. Tuesday:** 457

Mass attendance **December 25th @ 9 a.m. Wednesday:** 242



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 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Karen Gross

E. Ministers: Keith Marshik, Lois & Dan Waytashek

Servers: Brady Young & Travis Young

Sacristan: Mary Kimman

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!

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/WOMEN: Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the parish office. Join us!

THANK YOU: A special thank you to the Pierz Christian Mothers/Women for the treat bags that were given to the children after Mass in memory of the Feast of the Holy Innocents. God Bless you all.

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 have kits prepared in the parish office basement ready to be checked out. We will be quilting (tying and stitching) on **Monday, January 6th at 1 p.m. and Thursday, January 9th at 9 a.m.**

ST. JOSEPH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (Dec. 22 & 24/25)

Regular Sunday:

Adult	\$7,076.00
HS/Elem.	\$26.75
Plate	\$316.00
	\$7,418.75

Christmas:

Adult	\$17,883.00
HS/Elem.	\$125.00
Plate	\$626.00
	\$18,634.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 22nd Sunday:** 337

Mass attendance **December 24th @ Midnight:** 174

Mass attendance **December 25th @ 10 a.m. Wednesday:** 285



GENERAL NEWS

ALL DAY ADORATION: All day adoration to end abortion and for the unborn will be on Wednesday, January 8th from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. at St. Michael's Church in Buckman. Call Patty at 320-468-2487 with questions or to sign up.

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.

FAMILY ROSARY NIGHT: The next Family Rosary Night will be Saturday, January 11th at Troy & Becky Kapsner's house, 29584 153rd Street, Pierz MN 56364. Family Rosary Night is held the 2nd Saturday of each month. Gatherings start at 7:00pm with a potluck-style meal, rosary & fellowship. If you would like to volunteer to host an evening, please call or text Cari Stumpf at 320-761-6336. ALL are welcome, bring a friend!

SEVEN SORROWS ROSARY/CHAPLET: Sunday, January 12th. Please join the Christian Mothers/Women group the 2nd Sunday of each month after Mass, to pray the Seven Sorrows Rosary/ Chaplet. We will meet in the St. Michael's-Buckman cemetery at the crucifix. If weather does not permit, meet in the church. Everyone is welcome. We pray this Rosary to learn to suffer with love, as Mary, the Mother of Jesus, did.

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 & February 4 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: WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSSES, ANOTHER ONE OPENS. Are you feeling like you are stuck between those doors? CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is a Catholic retreat program that can help you find your way. Sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and designed for adults, the next weekend 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.

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

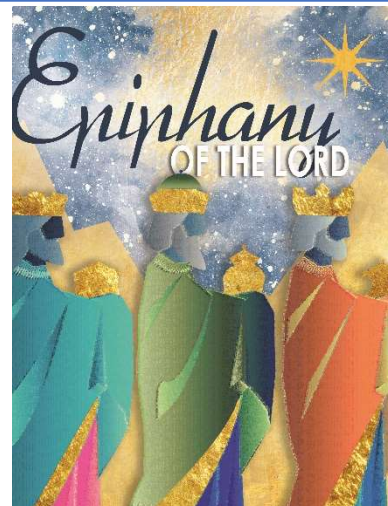
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Call or Text (320) 469-4735
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**Catholic United
Financial**



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.

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

Top: Fr. Aaron speaking to the children at Christmas Eve Mass in Buckman.

Bottom Left: Savannah Stangl carried the Baby Jesus up in Buckman on Christmas Eve.

Bottom Right: Some of the seniors did homeless ministry at the Lincoln Center & Place of Hope in St. Cloud in December and bought Dave a pair of warm winter boots; all he was wearing were insoles on his feet. Dave said it felt like Christmas to him with new boots, new mittens, & a new hat.

