



FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*“Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall
be made low.
The winding roads shall be
made straight,
and the rough ways made
smooth,
and all flesh shall see the
salvation of God.”
- Lk 3:5-6*

REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – Immaculate Conception

7:00 a.m. – St. Joseph’s Pierz

6:00 p.m. – Holy Cross Harding

TUESDAY

6:00 p.m. – St. Michael’s Buckman

WEDNESDAY

7:00 a.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

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 8, 2024

2ND 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, dcncraigkorver@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



Come and See

Dear Friends,

In this Second Sunday of Advent we hear the cry of St. John the Baptist, “A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” (Luke 3:4) John the Baptist’s urgent message and “strange” behaviors are brought to light in his proclaiming of the Gospel. The Baptist’s life displays a man madly in love with God who lived only to bring others to him. As a result of his witness, many came out to see and experience and deeper relationship with the living God, the Lord and Savior of the world. We all are called by Christ himself to drink more fully from the font of Christ’s abundant love.

This Sunday evening begins our ACC Advent Mission with Deacon Ralph Poyo called “Come and See.” We have been anticipating this event for several months and are excited about the graces that will be poured out. I hope to see you all there. Come and see!

Below are some reminders of traditions that can add more depth to the Advent Season. May you experience many Christmas graces from your Advent preparation.

“It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.” -Pope Benedict XVI

God bless you, Father Aaron

Lighting the Advent Wreath: As noted, a new candle is lit on the Advent wreath each week, symbolizing the growing anticipation for the Christ Child.

The Christ Candle: Any large white candle can be used for the Christ candle. The idea is to decorate it with symbols of Jesus.

Advent Calendars: These calendars include daily activities or reflections, helping you engage with the themes of Advent each day.

First Sunday of Advent: This Sunday marks the beginning of the season and traditionally focuses on the theme of hope, symbolized by the Prophet’s Candle which points to the long-expected Savior (see Tit. 2:13; John 3:16–17).

Second Sunday of Advent: The focus shifts to faith with the Bethlehem Candle, reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to the city where Jesus would be born (see Mic. 5:2; Luke 2:1–7).

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday): In a departure from the usual purple vestments, priests wear a rose-colored one at this Sunday’s Mass, and rose is also the color of the Shepherd’s Candle. Both symbolize the world’s joy for the long-expected Savior’s birth (see Isa. 9:1–3; Luke 2:8–12).

Fourth Sunday of Advent: The final Sunday before Christmas emphasizes the incomparable peace that our Divine Savior brings (see Isa. 9:6; John 14:27), and which the Angel’s Candle heralds (see Luke 2:13–14).

– Pope Benedict XVI

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 9 – DECEMBER 15

Monday, December 9 – Immaculate Conception

7:00 a.m. Pierz +Ray & Bernadine Loidolt

6:00 p.m. Harding +Tina Brill

Tuesday, December 10 – St. Michael’s Christian Mother/Women Honoree Mass

6:00 p.m. Buckman +Donald Marshik

Wednesday, December 11

7:00 a.m. Lastrup +Rosemary Wagner

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Buckman All Day Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, December 12

7:00 a.m. Buckman Families suffering from miscarriage

10:00 a.m. Villa +Carol Bell

Friday, December 13 – HT School Mass: Staff & Students

9:00 a.m. Pierz +Stella Virnig

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

Saturday, December 14

4:00 p.m. Lastrup Deceased members of Maurice & Theresia Becker family

6:00 p.m. Harding +Darlene Rocheleau

Sunday, December 15

8:00 a.m. Buckman For the people of the parishes

10:00 a.m. Pierz +Lea Marie Block

Deacon Ralph Poyo Mission Schedule:

Sun, Dec 8: Lastrup Adoration/

Confession at 6, Talk at 7. **Mon, Dec 9**

Harding Adoration/Confession at 5,

Mass at 6, Talk at 7. **Tues, Dec 10**

Buckman Adoration/Confession at 5,

Mass at 6, Talk at 7. **Wed, Dec 11 Pierz**

Adoration/Confession at 6, Talk at 7.

Fellowship & refreshments to follow.

***Bulletin Announcement Deadline:** The

deadline for submissions of bulletin

announcements is **Mondays at 3 p.m.**

***The Dec. 22 bulletin deadline is**

Friday, Dec. 13. 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



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Lector: Faye Diederich
Servers: Kimman child
Ushers: Ron & Barb Specker
E. Minister (Choir): Julie Laney

GAMBLING COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, December 10th at 7 p.m., after 6 p.m. Mass.

COME JOIN THE PARTY! Lastrup's 1st Annual Holiday Celebration will be held at Lastrup City Hall on Sunday, December 15 from 12-2 pm. Kids will be able to get their picture taken with Santa and receive a small gift from him. We will also be offering hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee and Christmas cookies. All free of charge. Everyone is welcome. Sponsored by the City of Lastrup and St. John Nepomuk Parish.

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, November 23rd:** Adult env. \$1,200.00, Adult loose \$200.00, Children env. \$2.00, Children loose \$16.00.

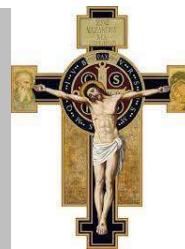
Mass attendance: unknown

***Saturday, November 30th:** Adult env. \$975.00, Adult loose \$169.00, Children env. \$3.00, Children loose \$2.00, Thanksgiving \$320.00.

Mass attendance: 147

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

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



MONDAY, DEC. 9 at 6:00 p.m. – Immaculate Conception

Lector: Tim Schubert
Servers: Erin Thesing & Tyler Thesing
Ushers: Allen Weitalla & LeRoy Weitalla
E. Minister (Choir): Doug Knopik

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Lector: Sheila Rudolph
Servers: Maverick Weitalla
Ushers: Andy Weitalla & Kevin Dembouski
E. Minister (Choir): Diane Virnig
Rosary: Gloria Weitalla

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

CHURCH CLEANERS: Stacy Hayes, Amanda Kloss, Lonnie Rudolph, Nancy Rudolph, Sheila Rudolph

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.

ROSARY SODALITY CHRISTMAS PARTY: Our annual Christmas Party will be on December 15th from 2:00-4:30 p.m. All members are asked to bring 3 dozen cookies for our shut-ins. We will be having a \$15 gift exchange and ask all members to bring a dessert. Other food & beverages will be provided.

HOLY CROSS WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

***Saturday, November 23rd:** Adult env. \$948.00, Adult loose \$207.00, Children env. \$11.75, Children loose \$3.00.

Mass attendance: 126 ***Saturday, November 30th:** Unknown at this time **Mass attendance:** 147

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.

COME AND SEE DEACON RALPH POYO



Dcn. Ralph Poyo is the founder of New Evangelization Ministries, an apostolate committed to assisting dioceses, churches and individuals with services, resources and training in effective evangelization. Prior to launching NEM, Dcn. Ralph served in three different parishes as a Youth Minister and Director of Faith Formation for twenty-three years. He is passionate about sharing the truth of the Gospel in a way that captivates audiences of all ages. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Susan, and they have five grown daughters and five grandchildren.

**JOIN US FOR A
PARISH MISSION**
December 8 – 11, 2024

St. John Nepomuk – Lastrup
Holy Cross – Harding
St. Michael – Buckman
St. Joseph – Pierz

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 8**
Lastrup
6:00 pm holy hour &
confession
7:00 pm talk

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 9**
Harding
5:00 pm adoration &
confession
6:00 pm Mass
7:00 pm talk

**TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 10**
Buckman
5:00 pm adoration &
confession
6:00 pm Mass
7:00 pm talk

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 11**
Pierz
6:00 pm adoration &
confession
7:00 pm talk



FATHER FRANCIS
XAVIER PIERZ
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



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, DECEMBER 15 at 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Nathan Gruber

E. Ministers: Nicole Lochner & Janice Janson

Servers: Gabe Stangl & Isaac Herold

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

CHOIR NEWS: There will be choir practice on Saturday, December 14th at 9 a.m.

ST. NICHOLAS: This holiday season Saint Nicholas sends you a gift of Peace & Happiness. He will be visiting with children after the 8 a.m. Mass in Buckman on December 8th.

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 (Nov. 24 & Dec. 1)

November 24:		December 1:	
Adult	\$4,876.00	Adult	\$3,627.00
High School	\$5.00	High School	\$5.00
Elementary	\$15.00	Elementary	\$10.00
Plate	\$268.00	Plate	\$296.00
	\$5,164.00		\$3,938.00

November 28: Thanksgiving: Envelope \$895, Plate \$197

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **November 24th** Sunday: 330

Mass attendance **November 28th** Thursday: 193

Mass attendance **December 1st** Sunday: 299



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

MONDAY, DEC. 9 at 7:00 a.m. – Immaculate Conception

E. Ministers: *Volunteers needed*

Servers: *Volunteers needed*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Cari Stumpf

E. Ministers: Keith Marshik, Wanda Kapsner & David Stumpf

Servers: Luke Marshik & Addison Marshik

Sacristan: Pat Hartmann

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



Thank you to Jean Sauer and Joelle Fuhrman for the many years of service as money counters for St. Joseph's parish. We greatly appreciate you! May God bless you for all your hard work and dedication!

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. Questions call Ann at 320-468-6070. Sponsored by Pierz Christian Women.

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. These are great Christmas gift ideas!

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, December 9th at 1 p.m. and Thursday, December 12th 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.

ST. JOSEPH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (Nov. 24 & Dec. 1)

November 24:		December 1:	
Adult	\$4,320.00	Adult	\$4,896.02
HS/Elementary	\$46.55	HS/Elementary	\$22.75
Plate	\$202.50	Plate	\$375.50
	\$4,569.05		\$5,294.27

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **November 24th** Sunday: 301

Mass attendance **December 1st** Sunday: 485

GENERAL NEWS



LOOKING AHEAD:

Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. On Monday, December 9th there will be Masses at 7:00 a.m. in Pierz and 6:00 p.m. in Harding.

FAMILY ROSARY NIGHT WITH DEACON RALPH POYO:

The next Family Rosary Night will be **Saturday, December 7th** with 7 p.m. potluck followed by rosary & fellowship at **Deacon Craig & Diane Korver's house, 23182 South Platte River Drive, Pierz MN 56364**. ALL are welcome, bring a friend!

SEVEN SORROWS ROSARY/CHAPLET: Sunday, December 8th

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.

ALL DAY ADORATION: Adoration on Wednesday, December 11th will be from 8AM to 5PM at St. Michael's Church.

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.

Catholic United Financial St. Michael's Council of Catholic United Financial is sponsoring "Christmas Cards to Seminarians". Simply pickup pre-addressed Christmas cards from the basket in the gathering area, add your personal message of prayer and support, and mail to these young men from our diocese.

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 Little Falls NFP Office at (320) 631-5660. For additional teaching sites, contact Sheila Reineke at sheila.reineke@gw.stcdio.org | (320) 258-7609 or visit <https://stcdio.org/natural-family-planning/>.

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.


BOX OF JOY: Box of Joy was a HUGE success again this year; our biggest year so far! **476 Box of Joy** gifts are in route to children in poverty around the globe thanks to all of your amazing donations! I'd like to sincerely thank you for your help in blessing the poorest of the poor this Christmas. May God bless you in return!

PROLIFE ESSAY: The Morrison County MCCL Chapter invites teens to write a short essay about their pro-life convictions. The essay must answer this question: "Why are you pro-life?" The contest is offered to students grades 7-12. Essays must be 300-500 words and are due by December 16. Winning essays will be presented at the annual Pro-Life Banquet at the Falls Ballroom on Sunday, January 26, 2025. For more information contact Lauren Witt at 320-632-3995.

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 ldobosenki@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.

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!

St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer Card

"Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen"

"It is believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas novena prayer FIFTEEN times each day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested."

*Father Pierz
School of Religion*



320-468-2640

- *Parish Mission: Sun., Dec. 8 – Wed., Dec. 11 7pm-8:30pm
- *Wed., Dec. 11 – JH/SH Deacon Ralph Poyo Mission Pierz Church 7pm-8:30pm
- *Wed., Dec. 18 – SH Holy Spirit Party Bus Christmas Caroling 6pm-9pm



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

- *CHRISTMAS PROGRAM- Our annual Christmas Program will be held on Thursday, December 12 at 1:00pm and 7:00pm in our gym.
- *2025 RAFFLE CALENDAR- The 2025 Raffle Calendar is on sale now at the school office as well as through any HTCS family.
- *HTCS GIVING TREE- If you took a tag from the tree, please return the items by Monday, December 9. We will be arranging times to get the items to the families. Thank you for helping others during this blessed time of year.
- *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 20th at 1:00. Financial donations can be made at F&M Bank.
- *COFFEE- Guatemala for the coffee beans. Regular (ground or bean) \$13.00, in French, Dark, or Medium Roast. Decaf (ground or bean) \$14.00.

GROWING 
WITH THE *Gospel*
CYCLE C

 **COLOR**

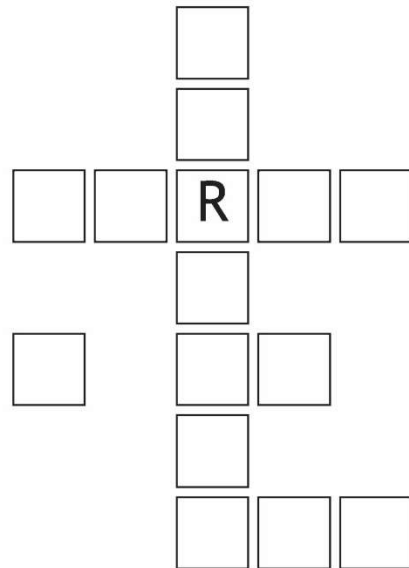
Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



 **PUZZLE**

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

I am the Lord's servant.



 **MISSION**

Before you read a Bible story tonight, get ready. Listen for things you should do differently. Then say, "Yes," to God and trust him to help you.