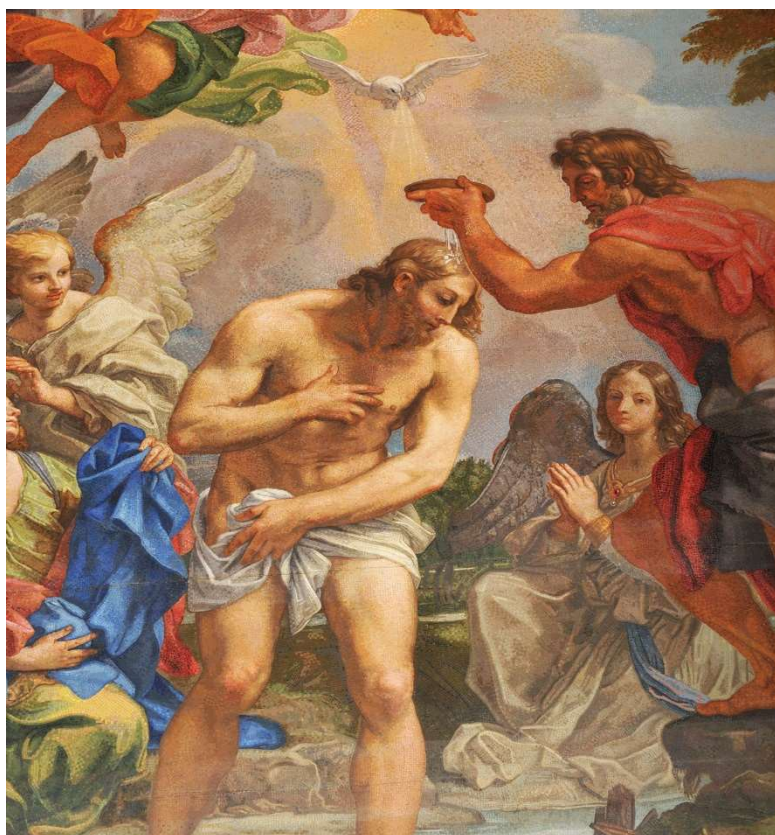




FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.
- Lk 3:21-22a

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

9:00 a.m. – Pierz (HT School Mass)

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 12, 2025 THE BAPTISM 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: DeaconLeoWehseler@outlook.com

St. John/Holy Cross Office: 320-360-9720, ltthesing@hotmail.com

St. Joseph/St. Michael Office: 320-468-6033, stjoes@midco.net

January 12, 2025
The Baptism of the Lord
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words 'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.


But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with me? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

*This is a message taken from our online bulletin library

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 14 – JANUARY 19	
<p>Tuesday, January 14 7:00 p.m. Lastrup +Richie Boser, +John Boser & +John Stoll</p> <p>Wednesday, January 15 8:00 a.m. Harding +Lewis Voitalla 7-8 p.m. Buckman Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p>Thursday, January 16 7:00 a.m. Buckman +Jim Hall 9:00 a.m. Pierz Hearts of Faith (<i>Holy Trinity Mass: Staff & Students</i>) 10:00 a.m. Villa +Joan Konen</p> <p>Friday, January 17 – No School at Holy Trinity 9:00 a.m. Pierz In honor of Alice Kahlhamer 3-6:00 p.m. Pierz Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p>Saturday, January 18 4:00 p.m. Lastrup +Louella Gall 6:00 p.m. Harding Darlene Rocheleau</p> <p>Sunday, January 19 8:00 a.m. Buckman For the people of the parishes 10:00 a.m. Pierz +Josephine & David Hiemenz & +Janet Grittner</p>	<p>NOTE: The Holy Trinity School Mass will be on Thur. Jan. 16 at 9 a.m. in Pierz. The regular weekday Masses in Pierz and Buckman this week will still take place.</p> <p>*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.</p> <p>Emergency Contact: If you have an emergency and need a priest, please call the parish office at 320-468-6033 and press 1.</p> <p>Weekday Masses When There is a Funeral: When there is a funeral, the regular scheduled weekday Mass will still take place.</p> <p>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</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>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>	
<p>"When you are before the altar where Christ reposes, you ought no longer to think that you are amongst men; but believe that there are troops of angels and archangels standing by you, and trembling with respect before the sovereign Master of Heaven and earth. Therefore, when you are in church, be there in silence, fear, and veneration." ~St. John Chrysostom</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, JANUARY 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Lector: Louise Welle

Servers: Zach Gall

Ushers: Roy Boser & Allen Welle

E. Minister (Choir): Carol Welle

Rosary: Louise Welle

Sacristan: Dale Beierman

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 28th:** Adult env. \$1,520.00, Adult loose \$153.00, Children env. \$1.00, Children loose \$46.00, Christmas \$2,500.00.

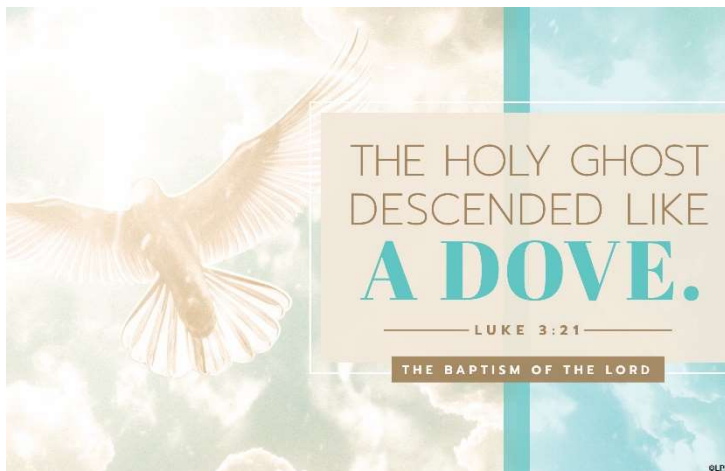
***Saturday, January 4th:** Adult env. \$4,558.00, Adult loose \$106.00, Children env. 3.00, Children loose \$64.00, Solemnity of Mary env. \$168.00, Solemnity of Mary loose \$181.00.

Mass attendance December 31st Wednesday: 178

Mass attendance January 4th: 187

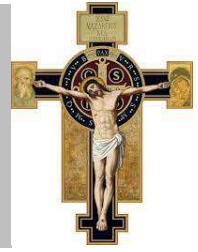
PRAYER REQUESTS FOR LASTRUP & HARDING:

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 18 at 6:00 p.m.

Lector: Tim Schubert

Servers: Erin Thesing & Tyler Thesing

Ushers: Willie Rudolph & Allen Stuckmeyer

E. Minister (Choir): Leonard Thesing

Rosary: Ted Boser

CHURCH CLEANERS: Jackie Hoffman, Helen Schlegel, Chelsea Fleischhacker, Brittany Schubert, Robyn Skwira

THANK YOU: A huge thank you to everyone who supported our tree of lights and wreaths again this year. We sold 58 wreaths, putting 31 of them on graves. We also sold 225 various colored bulbs for the tree. All the names were listed in church and all read on Christmas Eve right before Mass started and they were all remembered in prayer at that Mass. Thank you everyone for participating. Our total profit was \$3,850 which will be used for cemetery improvements. We hope we can do it again next year for the 18th year! Thank you to parishioners of our ACC from other parishes for participating!

HOLY CROSS WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

***Christmas Eve:** Adult env. \$5,062.00, Adult loose \$898.00, Children env. \$30.50, Children loose \$192.00.

***Saturday, December 28th:** Adult env. \$1,626.00, Adult loose \$89.25, Children env \$7.50, Children loose \$5.00.

***Saturday, January 4th:** Adult env. \$6,880.00, Adult loose \$185.00, Children env. \$5.75, Children loose \$8.00, Christmas \$45.00, Solemnity of Mary \$17.00.

Mass attendance December 28th: 140

Mass attendance January 4th: 122

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



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 19 at 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Jane Funk

E. Ministers: Jill Hoheisel & Nicole Lochner

Servers: Logan Brisk & Max Jacobson

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.

QUILTING: We will be working on tied quilts every Thursday in January (weather permitting) in the Buckman Parish Center. Starting at 8:30 in the morning. Everyone welcome, even for part of the day. Call Janel 320-468-6503 if questions.

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. 29 & Jan. 5)

December 29th:		January 5th:	
Adult	\$2,955.00	Adult	\$3,361.00
Christmas	\$7,040.00	Christmas	\$3,450.00
High School	\$6.00	High School	\$30.00
Elementary	\$5.00	Elementary	\$30.00
Plate	\$250.25	Plate	\$253.00
	\$10,256.25		\$7,124.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 29th Sunday:** 256

Mass attendance **January 5th Sunday:** 273



***Weekday Lector (Fri., January 17 @ 9 a.m.):** Joan Kapsner

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Colleen Lucking

E. Ministers: Wanda Kapsner, Beth Fischer & Tracy Voigt

Servers: Elizabeth Stumpf & Anna Stumpf

Sacristan: Keith Marshik

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 have kits prepared in the parish office basement ready to be checked out. We will be quilting (tying and stitching) on **Monday, January 13th at 1 p.m. and Thursday, January 16th 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 (Dec. 29 & Jan. 5)

December 29th:		January 5th:	
Adult	\$7,575.00	Adult	\$9,010.10
Christmas	\$6,654.25	Christmas	\$2,520.00
High School	\$19.00	High School	\$5.75
Elementary	\$6.50	Elementary	\$1.50
Plate	\$187.00	Plate	\$390.25
	\$14,441.75		\$11,927.60

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 29th Sunday:** 347

Mass attendance **January 1st at 9 a.m. Wednesday:** 319

Mass attendance **January 5th Sunday:** 291



GENERAL NEWS

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. ALL are welcome, bring a friend!

SEVEN SORROWS ROSARY/CHAPLET: Sunday, January 12th. We will meet in the St. Michael's-Buckman cemetery at the crucifix. If weather does not permit, meet in the church.

PIERZ LIONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Sunday, January 19 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Frosty's Bar & Grill in Pierz. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, roll, fruit, juice, milk and coffee. Adults \$12, children ages 6-12 \$6, 5 and under free. Proceeds go toward medical expenses for Mitch Becker.

CCL MARCH FOR LIFE – 2025: The Pierz Knights of Columbus will have a coach bus going to the 'March for Life' in St. Paul on Wednesday, January 22. Bus will pick up at Coborns in Little Falls at 7:30 AM in their North parking lot. Bus will load in Pierz at St Joseph's North parking lot at 8 AM. 10:30 - Ecumenical Service at St. Paul Cathedral, 12 Noon - MCCL March and Program at the Capitol, 1 PM - Meet with our elected officials to share our concerns. Approximately 2 PM - Board bus for Home. Return about 4-4:30 PM. Bring your Family or a Friend, pack a lunch and beverage. Dress for the weather. Come along and enjoy the company with those who stand up for Life in all Stages - From Conception to Natural Death. To sign up for bus reservations, call Dale Beierman, 320-360-7100.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUFFALO RAFFLE/MEAL: Saturday, January 25th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Pierz Ballroom. Please return all tickets (**sold or unsold**) to the Ballroom on that Saturday. Thank you for all your help in making this a great fund raiser for the St. Isidore's Council.

MCCL PRO-LIFE DINNER: Sunday, January 26 at the Little Falls Ballroom. Questions call Sue Houdek at 320-630-7045.

Pierz Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest: The Free Throw contest will be held on Sunday, January 26th at the MAC at the Pierz High School. It will be between 11-2 for all boys and girls ages 9-14. Please come anytime!

PIERZ COMMUNITY EDUCATION:

*CPR and First Aid certification and refresher courses. The First Aid Refresher will be January 13 at 3:30pm, CPR Refresher on January 30 at 3:30pm and CPR Certification will be held on February 3 at 6:00pm. Call the office for more info or to register. 320-468-6458 ext 7.

*55+ Driver Discount class in Pierz on Wednesday, January 15 at 5:30pm. Fee is \$24. Call the Community Education office to preregister. 320-468-6458 ext 7.

VESPERS FOR LIFE: Sunday, January 19, at 3:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Church, in St. Cloud, a Rosary for Life will take place prior to the 4:00 p.m. Vespers for Life. Bishop Patrick Neary will preside at the vespers service, which includes music, prayer, Scripture and reflection for the millions of children who have been aborted since 1973. Monetary donations will be accepted for Mother Mary's Fund to assist crisis pregnancy centers in the Diocese of St. Cloud.

NFP - First Instruction in the Billings Ovulation Method:

Little Falls 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: ARE YOU SEEKING SPIRITUAL DIRECTION in your faith life and are experiencing growing pains along the way? CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is 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 info and to register.

DIOCESAN FESTIVAL OF FAMILIES: Are you looking for some mid-winter family fun? Join us at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM for a day of fun celebrating our Catholic faith. 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 your family 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.



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Call or Text (320) 469-4735
dstang@catholicunited.org
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Father Pierz School of Religion



320-468-2640

***Wed, Jan. 15 – SH Broomball @ Pierz Blue Park
6pm-7:30pm (Adoration 5-6pm Pierz Church)**

TEC Retreat in LF – January 18 - 20

***Sun, Jan. 19 – LF Ballroom 9th-12th grade Praise and
Worship with the NET Team, adoration, & free dinner**

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

***CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK-** Please watch our family newsletter as well as our Facebook page and in the church bulletin for information about Catholic Schools Week 2025. We will have many activities and events beginning with student led masses on Saturday, January 25, and Sunday, January 26.

***COFFEE-** 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.

December Calendar Winners

12/1/2024 \$75.00 Adam & Katie Gulden	12/12/2024 \$35.00 Ione Freeman	12/22/2024 \$75.00 Samantha Seelen
12/2/2024 \$35.00 Glenna Soenneker	12/13/2024 \$35.00 Scott Walz	12/23/2024 \$35.00 Pam Kosloske
12/3/2024 \$35.00 Jason Roscoe	12/14/2024 \$35.00 Kristi Godbout	12/24/2024 \$35.00 Jeremy & Jessica Lucking
12/4/2024 \$35.00 Sara Neuville	12/15/2024 \$75.00 Betty Boser & Chloe Boser	12/25/2024 \$500.00 Cynda Storkamp
12/5/2024 \$35.00 Megan Schlegel	12/16/2024 \$35.00 Sharon Zimmerman	12/26/2024 \$35.00 Rod Boser
12/6/2024 \$35.00 Paul & Cindy Pulak	12/17/2024 \$35.00 Mark & Janaye Eno	12/27/2024 \$35.00 Jerry Girtz
12/7/2024 \$35.00 Lynn Strate	12/18/2024 \$35.00 Sharon Schlegel	12/28/2024 \$35.00 Connie Kieffer
12/8/2024 \$75.00 Leander Maus	12/19/2024 \$35.00 Duane Jonas	12/29/2024 \$75.00 Hannah Kuschel & Mary Boser
12/9/2024 \$35.00 Tom & Jo Otremba	12/20/2024 \$35.00 Alan Litke	12/30/2024 \$35.00 Scott Funk
12/10/2024 \$35.00 Jessica Leeb	12/21/2024 \$35.00 Mitchell Robinson	12/31/2024 \$35.00 Hannah Kuschel & Mary Boser
12/11/2024 \$35.00 Chris Lardv		



Photos from the SEEK Conference
 ~Skiing in Utah at Brighton Ski Resort
 ~Dinner with 90 youth from the St. Cloud Diocese
 ~Cathedral of the Madeleine
 "The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host" - Bishop Fulton Sheen

