## December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent

## Father Randal Kasel, Pastor frkasel@bevcomm.net

Josefina Meyer & Sara McNamara, Staff

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL 749 South Main St., Zumbrota, MN 55992 Office: 732-5324 Fax: (507) 732-5347 Email: stpauls@hcinet.net OFFICE HOURS: Tues & Thurs 9am-noon,1-5pm, Wed Closed, Fri 9am-noon CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL 451 5th St. SW, Pine Island, MN 55963 Office: 356-4280 Fax: (507)356-2080 Email: stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net OFFICE HOURS: Tues-Thurs 9am-noon & 1 pm-5pm, Fri 9am-noon

Website: http://www.stpaulstmichael.com
BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE All articles for the bulletin are due by noon

on Wednesday. Please e-mail Saint Paul articles to stpauls@hcinet.net and Saint Michael articles to stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net. The business office reserves the right to edit articles as time and space allows.

### From Father Kasel

Praised be Jesus Christ through Mary!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

This weekend we celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. I encourage you to remain focused on the Graces of Advent, for we will soon celebrate Christmas! I especially encourage you to receive the Sacrament of Confession sometime in the next few weeks. Please see the bulletin for times to celebrate this Sacrament of our good Lord's Mercy!

This weekend I want to give particular attention to the events of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe, whom we honor each year on December 12. My hope is that the miraculous events surrounding the Virgin Mary's appearance to St. Juan Diego in December, 1531 - in what is now Mexico City, will draw us all more close to Jesus through Mary!

The Virgin Mary first appeared to St. Juan Diego December 9, 1531. Our Blessed Mother asked St. Juan to go to the local bishop to ask that a church be built on the barren hill of Tepeyac which is now part of Mexico City. Mary desired to show her merciful and motherly love to world. The bishop asked St. Juan for a sign that he should build a church. On December 12, the Virgin Mary again appeared to St. Juan and he told her of the bishop's request for a sign. Our Blessed Mother's response was to provide St. Juan with Castillian roses (which did not grow in Mexico at that time), the bishop's favorite flower, and also provided a miraculous image of herself on St. Juan's tilma. When St. Juan was in the presence of the bishop he opened his tilma to show him the flowers and there, along with the flowers, appeared the image of the Virgin! The image of the tilma is miraculous and cannot be explained by science. It was also easily understood by the native peoples of that time. Here are some the amazing facts about the tilma and the image of Our Lady:

- 1. "The Lady stood in front of the sun She was greater than their dreaded Aztec sun-god 'Huitzilopochtli.'
- **2.** Her foot rested on the crescent moon She had clearly vanquished their foremost Aztec deity, the feather serpent 'Quetzalcoatl.'
- 3. The stars strewn across the mantle She was greater than the stars of heaven which they worshipped. She was a virgin and the Queen of the heavens for Virgo rests over her womb and the northern crown upon her head. She appeared on December 12, 1531, for the stars that she wore are the constellation of stars that appeared in the sky that day!
- **4.** The blue-green hue of her mantle She was a Queen for she wears the color of royalty.
- **5.** The black Cross on the brooch at her neck Her God was that of the Spanish Missionaries, Jesus Christ her son.
- **6.** The black belt She was with child for she wore the Aztec Maternity Belt.
- **7.** The four-petal flower over the Womb She was the 'Mother of God.' The flower was a special symbol of life, movement and deity the center of the universe.
- **8.** Her hands are joined in prayer She was not God but clearly there was one greater than Her and she pointed her finger to the cross

## Welcome to the Churches of



We are happy that you are here! If you are new to our parishes, please call or stop at the Parish Office. We would love to meet you and answer any questions that you might have!

#### **SACRAMENTS**

**Confession -** Saturday 4:00pm at St. Michael; Sunday 8:25am at St. Paul and 8:00am before daily weekday Holy Mass at both parishes. **Baptism -** Please contact the parish office.

**Matrimony -** Please call Father Kasel at least six months prior to make arrangements.

**Anointing of the Sick -** This is for someone who is seriously ill, dealing with major surgery or infirm. Please contact Father Kasel to make arrangements.

#### **WEEKEND HOLY MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Church of Saint Paul - Sunday** Confessions at 8:25am, Rosary at 8:20am, Mass at 8:45am

**Church of Saint Michael - Saturday** Confessions at 4:00pm, Rosary at 4:35pm, Mass at 5:00pm

Church of Saint Michael - Sunday Mass at 7:00am, Rosary at 10:05am, Mass at 10:30am

#### **WEEKDAY HOLY MASS SCHEDULE**

Church of Saint Paul - Tuesday and Thursday

Confession 8am & Mass 8:30am, Rosary at 8:10am before Mass

Church of Saint Michael - Wednesday and Friday

Confession 8am and Mass 8:30am

on her brooch.

**9.** The design on her rose-colored garment - She is the 'Queen of the Earth,' for she is wearing a map of Mexico telling the Indians exactly where the apparition took place.

#### Scientific Study of the Image

- 1. The image to this date, cannot be explained by science.
- 2. The image shows no sign of deterioration after 450 years! The tilma or cloak of Juan Diego on which the image of Our Lady has been imprinted, is a coarse fabric made from the threads of the maguey cactus. This fiber disintegrates within 20-60 years! (continued on page 4)

## Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, December 8 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:30am

Monday, December 8 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament St. Michael, Pine Island 10:00am-12:00pm

Monday, December 8 St. Michael, Pine Island 5:30pm

Monday, December 8 St. Michael, Pine Island 7:00pm (Latin)

Individual Confession times during Advent\*:

Saturdays, Dec. 6, 13 & 20	St. Michael, Pine Island	4:00-4:55 pm
Sundays, Dec. 7, 14, & 21	St. Michael, Pine Island	7:00-7:45 am
Sundays, Dec. 7, 14, & 21	St. Paul, Zumbrota	8:30-8:40 am
Tuesday, December 16	St. Paul, Zumbrota	4:00-4:55 pm
Tuesday, December 16	St. Paul, Zumbrota	6:30-8:00 pm
Wednesday, December 17	St. Michael, Pine Island	4:00-4:55 pm
Wednesday, December 17	St. Michael, Pine Island	6:30-8:00 pm
Saturday, December 20	St. Paul, Zumbrota	9:30-10:30 am
Saturday, December 20	St. Michael, Pine Island	10:45 am-noon
Wednesday, December 24	St. Michael, Pine Island	1:30-3:00pm
Wednesday, December 24 St. Michael, Pine Island 1:30-3:00pm *The Sacrament of Confession is also offered before each weekday Holy Mass		

The next **Holy Hour and Social for Men** will be Sunday, **December 14, at 6:30pm** at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Fr. Kasel will give a talk on: *Current Events in the Church*. All men are invited!

#### CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL NEWS

#### CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL FAITH FORMATION

The next Faith Formation session will be on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>January 7, 2026</u>, at the Church of St. Michael.

Below is the schedule:

6:00-6:30pm - Meal

6:35-7:25pm - Children Class/Parent & Adult Session

7:30-7:45pm - Church for Adoration

At 7:30pm all students, parents and teachers gather in the Church for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Our program is open for all of our parishioners to attend and it will benefit all ages!



**Christmas Flowers:** This year we will again be collecting Christmas Flower offerings for the purchase of poinsettias for the Christmas Season. You will find a Christmas Flower envelope in your packet. The suggested donation is \$13. Please put your envelope in the collection basket by Sun-

day, December 14. If you miss this deadline, please drop off donation at the Church office the following week.

#### WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"In the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I trust. Look to the Star, call upon Mary! In danger, in difficulty or in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Keep her Name on your lips, never let it pass out of your heart." *St. Bernard* 

"'Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart' (1 Sm 16:7). And Mary's heart was fully disposed to the fulfillment of the Divine Will. This is why the Blessed Virgin is the model of Christian expectation and hope... In her heart there is no shade of selfishness: she desires nothing for herself except God's glory and human salvation. For her, the very privilege of being preserved from original sin is not a reason to boast, but one for total service to her Son's redemptive mission." St John Paul II

"'Hail, Full of Grace.' By these words the Angel shows that she was altogether excluded from the wrath of the first sentence, and restored to the full Grace of Blessing." *St. Augustine* 

"It is not to be believed that He, the Son of God, would be born of a Virgin, and take her flesh, were she in the slightest degree stained with original sin." *St. Bernardine of Siena* 

"And indeed it was wholly fitting that so wonderful a mother should be ever resplendent with the glory of most sublime holiness and so completely free from all taint of original sin that she would triumph utterly over the ancient serpent." *Bl. Pius IX* 

"The proud spirit endeavored to infect the most pure soul of this Virgin with his venom, as he had already infected the whole human race. But praised and ever blessed be God, who, in His Infinite Goodness, pre-endowed her for this purpose with such great Grace, that, remaining always free from any guilt of sin, she was ever able to beat down and confound his pride..." St. Alphonsus Liguori "Since she is the sure means, the direct and immaculate way to Jesus and the perfect guide to Him, it is through her that souls who are to shine forth in sanctity must find Him. He who finds Mary finds life, that is, Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life." St. Louis-Marie de Montfort

#### **Institute of Catholic Culture Lecture**

**SONS OF LIGHT**: The Monastic Life of the Essenes

Even before the Incarnation, some members of God's people felt called to live a religious life set apart from the rest of the world. One notable example is the Essenes, a Jewish sect from the time before Christ. They formed an all-male community in the desert, dedicating themselves to a life of prayer and purity while awaiting the coming of the Messiah. In many ways, their way of life foreshadowed the monastic traditions later found in the Christian Church.

Details: Tuesday, December 9

Pre-Class Discussion: 7:30 PM ET, Lecture: 8:00 PM ET Instructor: John Bergsma, Ph.D, Registration is required. **Visit:** Sons of Light: The Monastic Life of the Essenes

<u>Pine Island Food Shelf:</u> Our Special item for December is actually **YOUR CHOICE.** 

#### WEEKLY TITHING November 29-30, 2025

 Sunday Envelopes:
 \$ 1,745.00

 Plate:
 \$ 637.54

 EFT:
 \$ 960.00

 Total:
 \$ 3,342.54

Kitui Mission Collection: \$ 144.96

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Janice Randall (parishioner), who passed away recently. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 12 noon at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. There will be no visitation ahead of time. 'Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.'



I am the Immaculate Conception: "At Lourdes, the Immaculata did not say of herself that she had been conceived immaculately, but, as St. Bernadette repeated, "Que soy era immaculada councepciou": "I am the Immaculate Conception." If among human beings the wife takes the name of her

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husband because she belongs to him, is one with him, becomes equal to him and is, with him, the source of new life, with how much greater reason should the name of the Holy Spirit, who is the Divine Immaculate Conception, be used as the name of her in whom He lives as uncreated Love, the Principle of Life in the whole Supernatural Order of Grace?" (St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr)

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony: All are invited to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony at the historic Church of St. Rose (8778 County Highway 11 Blvd., Kenyon, MN) on Sunday, **December 21, at 2:00pm.** Deacon Newell McGee will preside. Music by St. Rose Brass. Reception to follow at the Palof residence. More information at www.friendsofstrose.org.

#### †ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT†

Can you spend an hour with Jesus? Adoration is held at St. Paul, Zumbrota on Tuesdays from 9am-5pm and St. Michael, Pine Island on Wednesdays from 9am-5pm.

#### **HOLY MASS TIMES**

**Monday, December 8, 2025** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00am-12:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5:30pm Holy Mass

7:00pm Holy Mass (Latin)

#### Wednesday, December 10, 2025

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass

9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

#### Friday, December 12, 2025

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass

#### Saturday, December 13, 2025

4:00pm-4:50pm Confessions

5:00pm Holy Mass

#### Sunday, December 14, 2025

7:00am Latin Holy Mass

10:30am Holy Mass

#### HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

December 8, 2025 Dan & Barb Kasel families

December 8, 2025 Parishioners

**December 10, 2025** Vietnamese families intentions

December 12, 2025 †Sandra Klouser

December 13, 2025 †Sarah Murray (Brian & Laurie Murray)

December 14, 2025 Parishioners
December 14, 2025 †Renae Kasel



#### CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL NEWS

#### I am your Mother:

"At daybreak one Saturday morning in 1531, on the very first days of the month of December, an Indian named Juan Diego was going from the village where he lived to Tlatelolco in order to take part in divine worship and listen to God's commandments. When he came near the hill called Tepeyac, dawn had already come, and Juan Diego heard someone calling him from the very top of the hill: "Juanito, Juan Dieguito."

He went up the hill and caught sight of a lady of unearthly grandeur whose clothing was as radiant as the sun. She said to him in words both gentle and courteous: "Juanito, the humblest of my children, know and understand that I am the ever Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God through Whom all things live. It is my ardent desire that a church be erected here so that in it I can show and bestow my love, compassion, help, and protection to all who inhabit this land and to those others who love me, that they might call upon and confide in me. Go to the Bishop of Mexico to make known to him what I greatly desire. Go and put all your efforts into this."

When Juan Diego arrived in the presence of the Bishop, Fray Juan de Zumarraga, a Franciscan, the latter did not seem to believe Juan Diego and answered: "Come another time, and I will listen at leisure." Juan Diego returned to the hilltop where the Heavenly Lady was waiting, and he said to her: "My Lady, my maiden, I presented your message to the Bishop, but it seemed that he did not think it was the truth. For this reason I beg you to entrust your message to someone more illustrious who might convey it in order that they may believe it, for I am only an insignificant man."

She answered him: "Humblest of my sons, I ask that tomorrow you again go to see the Bishop and tell him that I, the ever Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of God, am the one who personally sent you."
But on the following day, Sunday, the Bishop again did not believe Juan Diego and told him that some sign was necessary so that he could believe that it was the Heavenly Lady herself who sent him. And then he dismissed Juan Diego.

On Monday Juan Diego did not return. His uncle, Juan Bernardino, became very ill, and at night asked Juan to go to Tlatelolco at daybreak to call a priest to hear his confession. Juan Diego set out on Tuesday, but he went around the hill and passed on the other side, toward the east, so as to arrive quickly in Mexico City and to avoid being detained by the Heavenly Lady. But she came out to meet him on that side of the hill and said to him: "Listen and understand, my humblest son. There is nothing to frighten and distress you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and let nothing upset you. Is it not I, your Mother, who is here? Are you not under my protection? Are you not, fortunately, in my care? Do not let your uncle's illness distress you. It is certain that he has already been cured. Go up to the hilltop, my son, where you will find flowers of various kinds. Cut them, and bring them into my presence."

When Juan Diego reached the peak, he was astonished that so many Castilian roses had burst forth at a time when the frost was severe. He carried the roses in the folds of his *tilma* (mantle) to the Heavenly Lady. She said to him: "My son, this is the proof and the sign which you will bring to the Bishop so that he will see my will in it. You are my ambassador, very worthy of trust."

Juan Diego set out on his way, now content and sure of succeeding. On arriving in the Bishop's presence, he told him: "My Lord, I did what you asked. The Heavenly Lady complied with your request and fulfilled it. She sent me to the hilltop to cut some Castilian roses and told me to bring them to you in person. And this I am doing, so that you can see in them the sign you seek in order to carry out her will. Here they are: receive them."

He immediately opened up his white mantle, and as all the different Castilian roses scattered to the ground, there was drawn on the cloak and suddenly appeared the precious image of the ever Virgin Mary, Mother of God, in the same manner as it is today and is kept in her shrine of Tepeyac. The whole city was stirred and came to see and admire her venerable image and to offer prayers to her; and following the command which the same Heavenly Lady gave to Juan Bernardino when she restored him to health, they called her by the name that she herself had used: 'the ever Virgin Holy Mary of Guadalupe.'" (From a report by Don Antonio Valeriano, a Native American author of the sixteenth century. Nican Moppohua, 12th ed., 3-19, 21)

#### **WEEKLY TITHING November 30, 2025**

 Sunday Envelopes:
 \$ 1,050.00

 Plate:
 \$ 155.00

 Total:
 \$ 1,205.00

#### **CHURCH OF ST. PAUL FAITH FORMATION**

The next Faith Formation session will be on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>January 7</u>, 2026, at the Church of St. Michael.

Below is the schedule:

6:00-6:30pm - Meal

6:35-7:25pm - Children Class/Parent & Adult Session

7:30-7:45pm - Church for Adoration

At 7:30pm all students, parents and teachers gather in the Church for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Our program is open for all of our parishioners to attend and it will benefit all ages!

**Fellowship Sunday:** Please consider hosting a Fellowship Sunday, after the 8:45am Sunday Holy Mass. This is a great opportunity to have fellowship with visitors, new families, and parishioners. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board at the entrance of the Church.

Christmas Flowers: This year we will again be collecting Christmas Flower offerings for the purchase of poinsettias for the Christmas Season. You will find a Christmas Flower enve-

lope in your packet. The suggested donation is \$13. Please put your envelope in the collection basket by Sunday, December 14. If you miss this deadline, please drop off donation at the Church office the following week.

**Diaper Drive:** Hosted by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #1864 from November 30 - January 4, 2026 (Advent – Epiphany). Please help us by donating diapers to benefit First Choice Clinic in Red Wing. The number of families in our local community served by First Choice Clinic has continued to rise. They receive no government funding. As many of us have seen an increase in our household costs, the clinic has also seen an increase in their operational costs. Please leave diaper donations in the church entry. Thank You! Contact Sue Hinrichs with any questions.

You are invited to join us! A small group for retired parishioners meets twice a month on Thursdays after Holy Mass at the Church of St. Paul. We have prayer, fellowship, and often show videos followed by discussion and end with prayer intentions. We meet for about 1-1½ hours. If interested in joining or have questions, contact Barb Boraas 507-735-5877 or Maggie Eggerichs 507-951-2316.

Save the Date! Birthright of Rochester Fundraiser-January 23, 2026! Trivia Night returns! Mark your calendars and gather your smartest (or silliest!) friends for an evening of food, laughter, friendly competition, and support for Birthright of Rochester. Stay tuned for details. You won't want to miss it!

#### **HOLY MASS TIMES**

**Monday, December 8, 2025** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30am Holy Mass

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass

9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, December 11, 2025

8:00am Confessions/8:30am

Sunday, December 14, 2025

8:20am Rosary/8:25am Confessions 8:45am Holy Mass

#### **HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**

December 8, 2025 Parishioners

December 9, 2025 †Kathy Bucher (Bing Bucher)

December 11, 2025 †Paul Pechacek (Karen Hodgman)

December 14, 2025 Parishioners



## NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from page 1)

- 3. There is no under-sketch, no sizing and no protective over-varnish on
- 4. Microscopic examination revealed that there were no brush strokes.
- 5. The image seems to increase in size and change colors due to an unknown property of the surface and substance of which it is made.
- 6. According to Kodak of Mexico, the image is smooth and feels like a modern-day photograph. (It was produced 300 years before the invention of photography.)
- 7. The image has consistently defied exact reproduction, whether by brush or camera.
- 8. Several images can be seen reflected in the eyes of the Virgin. It is believed to be the images of Juan Diego, Bishop Juan de Zummaraga, Juan Gonzales, the interpreter and others.
- 9. The distortion and place of the images are identical to what is produced in the normal eye which is impossible to obtain on a flat surface. 10. The stars on Our Lady's Mantle coincide with the constellation in the sky on December 12, 1531. All who have scientifically examined the image of Our Lady over the centuries confess that its properties are absolutely unique and so inexplicable in human terms that the image can only be supernatural!" (Facts about the image taken from www.catholiceducation.org)

Truly this image is one for us to learn more about and to show much honor and respect. It is a miraculous image of Our Blessed Mother! Let us all take time December 12 to thank the Virgin Mary for her motherly love and ask her to continually be a mother for each of us!

Through the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Joseph and our patrons, St. Michael and St. Paul, may God bless you, your families and our parishes!

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Kasel

The next St. Padre Pio Knights of Columbus Council 16016 membership meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00pm, at the Church of St. Paul, Zumbrota. All members are invited to attend.

### Retirement Fund for Religious Collection: December 6-7

Thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies—often for little or no pay. Now, their religious communities do not have enough savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

#### AN INVITATION FROM JESUS

Do you have no regular commitments during weekday mornings? Are you interested in growing in love with the One who loves you most - Jesus? Consider coming to Holy Mass on weekdays! Holy Mass, Confession and the Holy Rosary are

offered Tuesday through Friday at our parishes. Come to sanctify your weekdays with Jesus - He is waiting for you!

#### PRO-LIFE QUOTE:

"Oh Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of Life, we honor you as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Thank you for pointing us to Jesus your Son, the only Savior and hope of the world. Renew our hope in Him that we all may have the courage to say YES to life and to defend those children in danger of abortion. Give us your compassion to reach out to those tempted to abort and to those suffering from a past abortion. Lead us to the day when abortion will be a sad, past chapter in our history. Keep us close to Jesus, the Life of the World, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen." www.priestsforlife.org

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Safe Environment: The Archdiocese of St. Paul/ Minneapolis requires all volunteers who interact with minors or vulnerable adults to complete the Essential 3 (background check, Code of Conduct, and VIRTUS training) before beginning their service, and to renew every three years while serving. Please contact the Safe Environment Coordinator for details on how to complete the Essential 3 or do updates.

Report Abuse: If you or someone you know has been sexually abused, your first call should be to law enforcement.



Accountants that you can trust Yasmine Ramirez CPA, MBA 718-825-8196

yramirez@mrfinancialsolution.com Fractional CFO, Consulting, Budgeting, Accounting, Bookkeeping Corporate, & Individual tax returns

Parish Safe Environment Coordinator: Sara McNamara St. Michael: 507-356-4280 stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net St. Paul: 507-732-5324 stpauls@hcinet.net

St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese Victim Assistance Program Hotline: (651) 291-4475

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#### ST. PIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 16016

### JOIN US

Brother Knights of our Council invite you to join us. Contact the Parish Office visit: www.kofc.org/join