November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent

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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,
During this month of November, the month dedicated to relief of the Holy Souls in Purgatory, let us ask our Blessed Mother and our good Lord for the grace to show charity to our neighbors, including praying for the Faithful Departed. This Sunday we celebrate the 1st Sunday of Advent. I share with you a reflection on the meaning of Advent. I encourage you to reflect over this message a few times this week:
"First Sunday of Advent - In Expectation of Our Lord: Keeping watch in the period before the coming of the Messiah. *Almighty God, grant us the will to greet our Savior with our good works when He comes, so that we may be worthy to be on His right hand and possess the kingdom of heaven. (Collect of the Holy Mass)*
Everybody knows, even those of us who have lived most unadventurously, says Ronald Knox in a sermon on Advent, *what it is to plod on for miles, it seems, eagerly straining your eyes towards the lights that, somehow, mean home. How difficult it is, when you are doing that to judge distances! In pitch darkness, it might be a couple of miles to your destination, it might be a few hundred yards. So it was, I think, with the Hebrew prophets, as they looked forward to the redemption of their people. They could not have told you, within a hundred years, within five hundred years, when it was the deliverance would come. They only knew that, some time, the stock of David would burgeon anew; some time, a key would be found to fit the door of their prison house; some time, the light that only showed, now, like a will-o'-the-wisp on the horizon would broaden out, at last, into the perfect day.*
This attitude of expectation is one which the Church wants to encourage in us, her children, permanently. She sees it as an essential part of our Christian drill that we should still be looking forward; getting on for two thousand years, now, since the first Christmas Day came and went, and we must still be looking forward. So she encourages us, during Advent, to take the shepherd-folk for our guides, and imagine ourselves travelling with them, at dead of night, straining our eyes towards that chink of light which streams out, we know, from the cave at Bethlehem. (R. A. Knox, Sermon on Advent, 21 Dec. 1947)
When the Messiah came, few really were expecting Him. *He came unto His own and His own received Him not.* (John 1:11) Most men of that time had been blind to what was most essential in their lives and in the life of the world.
Watch, therefore, Our Lord tells us in today's Gospel. *Wake from sleep* (cf. Rom. 13:11), St. Paul echoes. For we too can forget what is most fundamental in our existence, what our life here on earth is about.
Summon the nations, say to the peoples: See, our God and Savior is coming! Tell it, proclaim it; cry aloud. (Divine Office, Responsorial Psalm, Monday of the 1st Week of Advent)
The Church reminds us of this with a four-week period of preparation, so that we can get ourselves ready to celebrate Christmas once more. And at the same time so that, with the first coming to the world of God made Man, we may be heedful of those other 'advents' of God - first when we die, and then again at the end of time. The holy season is thus a time of preparation and of hope.
Come, O Lord, and do not delay. Let us make straight His path… The Lord is soon to arrive. If we are aware that our sight is clouded and that we don't see clearly the radiance emanating from Bethlehem, from the infant Jesus, it is time to rid ourselves of whatever impairs our vision. Now is the time for a specially good examination of conscience and for a thorough interior purification which will befit us to receive and to welcome that expected guest who is God. It is the moment to take note of the things that separate us from Him, to loosen their hold and cast them from us. Our examination, then, must penetrate to the very roots of our actions and scrutinize deep down in our hearts the motives which inspire our actions.
The principal enemies of our sanctity: the three concupiscences. Confession, a way of preparing for Christmas. As we really do want, not vaguely but seriously, to draw and be drawn closer to God at this time, let us look down into our souls in depth. There we will find the real enemies that sustain their unremitting warfare to keep us away from Him. There, in one form or another, are the main obstacles that obstruct and hinder the growth of our Christian life: *the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.* (1 John 2:16)
The lust of the flesh is not confined only to the disordered tendencies of the senses in general or to the disorder of sensuality in particular. It also refers to that love of comfort, to that reluctance to stir ourselves or even to be alert, which drives us to seek that which is least uncomfortable, what is most pleasurable, the path offered us that seems the shorter and less arduous, even at the cost of our failing in faithfulness to God.
The other enemy is the lust of the eyes, a deep-seated greed that sees nothing of value in what cannot be laid hands on. The eyes of the soul are dulled; reason thinks itself to be self-sufficient,(continued on pg. 3)

Welcome to the Churches of



St. Paul & St. Michael

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 at10:30am

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

Church of St. Michael 53rd Holiday Tea
Saturday, December 5, 2026, 9:00-11:30 AM
ALL ARE INVITED! See page 2 for details.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Holy Day of Obligation) **Tuesday, December 8, Holy Masses:**
St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:30 am
St. Michael, Pine Island 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm (Latin)

The next **Holy Hour and Social for Men**: Sunday, December 13, at 6:30pm at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. All men are invited!

CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL NEWS

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL FAITH FORMATION

The next Formation session will be on Wednesday, **December 2**, at the Church of St. Michael.

Topics for December:

Pre-K: Chapters 8-10: *Good news from the King, The Child Jesus, The Happy Home of the Holy Family*

Kindergarten: Chapters 5 & 6: *The Son of God, Jesus Opens Heaven*

Grades 1-2: Lessons 6 & 7: *The Son of God Becomes Man, Jesus Opens Heaven for Us*

Grades 3 - 4: Lessons 7 & 8: *The Incarnation, The Redemption*

Grades 5-6, Confirmation 1 & 2: Lessons 7 & 8: *The Incarnation, The Redemption*

Below is the schedule:

6:00-6:30pm - Meal
6:35-7:25pm - Children Class/Parent & Adult Session
7:30-7:45pm - All students, parents and teachers gather in the Church for Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

Holy Spirit Novena: December 1 to December 9

SAVE THE DATE! Bowling for Adults-Couples & Singles on Friday, January 1, at Pine Island Pool & Pins/Trailhead Grill & Lanes. Gather at 6:00pm for bowling, fellowship, and food.

Trusting in the Father



Cursed is the man who trust in human beings.... Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord. (Jer. 17:5,7). We need more trust in God. This is why we should stop our inner monologues and look for an ever deeper and more intimate dialogue with the Lord. To Him we can entrust all that we are and all that we have. Our trust should become stronger every day. Isn't trusting in God the most sensible thing to do anyway? But our God-given freedom leaves us a choice: to believe or not to believe in love, in God. For someone who has faith, however, such choice seems to be absurd. Because if God exists and if He is love, then there is only one logical choice: to trust in Him completely. (by *Chiara Lubich)*

Calling all bookworms! Join the Catholic Authors Book Study. We rotate between spiritual books, literature and writings of Doctors of the Church. On December 15th, we will begin discussing *Mystery of the Magi*: *The Quest to Identify the Three Wise Men* by Father Dwight Longenecker. We meet every 2-3 weeks on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm in Rochester. Join us! See https://archspm.groupvitals.com/groupfinder/profile/72459 or contact the parish office.

Candle Lighting Ceremony: All are invited to attend the 24th Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony at the historic Church of St. Rose (8778 County Road 11 Blvd., Kenyon, MN) on Sunday, December 21, at 2:00pm. John Spreiter of West Concord will preside. Music by Brass etc. Reception to follow at the Palof residence. More information at www.friendsofstrose.org.

Words to Live By:

"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern." *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you." *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

"If we would please this Divine Infant, we too must become children, simple and humble; we must carry to Him flowers of virtue, of meekness, of mortification, of charity; we must clasp Him in the arms of our love." *St. Alphonsus Ligouri*

"Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on coming into the Virgin's womb, willed to appear despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that men who were in dire poverty and suffering great need of heavenly food might be made rich in Him." *St. Clare of Assisi*

"Open to the Spirit, [Mary] consecrated herself totally as lowly handmaid to the person and work of the Savior. She received Christ in order to share Him with all the world whose hope He is. In her, we recognize the model of the Church's Faith and our own." *St. Eugène de Mazenod*

The Institute of Catholic Culture presents a free online lecture with His Eminence Raymond Cardinal Burke, ***Mary's Maternal Mission: Our Lady of Guadalupe as Co-Redemptrix***, on Wednesday, December 2, at 7:00 PM. Cardinal Burke will reflect on the apparitions of 1531 and on Mary's unique cooperation in the saving work of her Son. Free registration: https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/events/marys-maternal-mission

WEEKLY TITHING November 21-22, 2026

Sunday Envelopes:	$ 1,380.00
Plate:	$ 684.00
EFT:	$ 1,140.00
Total:	**$ 3,204.00**

Church of St. Michael 53rd Holiday Tea

"Peace on Earth to People of Good Will!"

Saturday, December 5, 2026

9:00-11:30 AM

ALL ARE INVITED!



Baked goods, Crafts, & Raffles items are available.
Enjoy our Holiday Tea Table!

Ladies of the Parish: Please sign up to bring baked goods & other food, volunteer to work, and /or give monetary donations. The sign-up sheet is 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 envelope in your packet. The suggested donation is $13. Please put your envelope in the collection basket by **Sunday, Dec. 13.** If you miss this deadline, please drop off donation at the Church office the following week. Any money collected over the cost of the Christmas flowers will be used for flowers in the sanctuary throughout the year. Thank you and God bless you!



Christmas Holiday Helper

It's "Holiday Helper" time again. We have again been invited to take part with this great project through the Pine Island Schools. It gives families in need at Christmas time, an opportunity to shop for their children. Our churches and organizations, along with our Pine Island students, generously donate to this project. Pajamas, clothing, books, activities, toys, quilts, beauty products and much more are available.

Our parish is happy to participate again this year. Our focus while be on outerwear: mittens, gloves, scarfs, hats, coats, snowpants, etc.

Please consider making a donation by placing a new, unwrapped item in the box in the entryway. That way parents can choose the right size/color for their child.

For anyone wishing to contribute money - the shopping can be done by someone from the committee. Please bring donations by **December 6.** Thank you in advance for your donation!

Pine Island Food Shelf: Items requested for November: Canned meats - tuna, chicken, Spam, salmon

Holy Mass Times

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass
9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday, December 4, 2026
8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass
6:30pm First Friday Holy Mass (Latin)

Saturday, December 5, 2026
4:00-4:50pm Confessions
5:00pm Holy Mass

Sunday, December 6, 2026
7:00am Holy Mass (Latin)
10:30am Holy Mass

Holy Mass Intentions

December 2, 2026	Madalyn Berns
December 4, 2026	James Maina
December 4, 2026	The family of Luke & Jennifer Plenge
December 5, 2026	†Charles & Char Lenn (Shelley Steger)
December 6, 2026	Christina Christenson (Mike & Kathy Winkels)
December 6, 2026	Parishioners

CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL NEWS

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL FAITH FORMATION

The next Formation session will be on Wednesday, **December 2**, at the Church of St. Michael.

Topics for December:

Pre-K: Chapters 8-10: *Good news from the King, The Child Jesus, The Happy Home of the Holy Family*

Kindergarten: Chapters 5 & 6: *The Son of God, Jesus Opens Heaven*

Grades 1-2: Lessons 6 & 7: *The Son of God Becomes Man, Jesus Opens Heaven for Us*

Grades 3 - 4: Lessons 7 & 8: *The Incarnation, The Redemption*

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6:00-6:30pm - Meal

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

7:30-7:45pm - All students, parents and teachers gather in the Church for Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

Holy Spirit Novena: December 1 to December 9

(From Father Kasel... from page 1) *dispensing with God as unnecessary. It is a subtle temptation supported by the dignity of the very intelligence our Father God has given us that we may know and love Him freely. Seduced by this temptation, the human intelligence regards itself as the center of the universe, reverting with delight to the words of the serpent in Genesis, 'you shall be like Gods' (Gen. 3:5) and, being filled with love of self, turns its back on God's love. Our existence can, in this way, surrender itself unconditionally into the hands of the third enemy, 'pride of life'. This is not merely a matter of ephemeral fantasies, the fanciful products of vanity or self-love: it is an all-embracing presumption. Let us not fool ourselves; this is the worst of all evils, the root of every conceivable deviation.* (J. Escriva, *Christ is Passing By,* 5-6)

Since God is coming to us, we have to get ready for Him, to prepare ourselves. When Christmas arrives, Our Lord should find us with everything in order and our soul fit to receive Him, just as He ought to find us in our final encounter with Him. We have to make what adjustment is required to correct the course of our lives and turn ourselves to God who also comes to us. Man's whole existence is a constant preparing to see God, Who draws ever closer. We have an appointment. But in Advent the Church helps us with this solemn consideration in mind to ask in a special way: Lord, make me know Your ways. *Lord, teach me Your paths. Make me walk in Your Truth, and teach me: for You are God my Savior. (Responsorial Psalm, Cycle* C, Ps. 24)

Let us ready ourselves for this encounter in the Sacrament of Penance. Just before Christmas in 1980, Pope John Paul II was with over two thousand children in a Roman parish. And he began his catechesis with this dialogue: *How are you preparing for Christmas*? *By praying*, shout back the children. *Very good, by praying,* the Pope says, *but also by going to Confession. You must go to Confession so that you can go to Communion later. Will you do that?* In an even louder voice, those thousands of children replied: *We will!* And John Paul II tells them, *Yes, you ought to go.* Lowering his voice he whispers: *The Pope will also go to Confession so as to receive the Child Jesus worthily.*

We too will do the same in the weeks between now and Christmas, with an ever greater love and deeper contrition. For we can always receive this Sacrament of the Divine Mercy with better dispositions as the result of a deeper examination of our souls.

Remaining watchful through prayer, mortification and examination of conscience. *At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come… Watch, therefore - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning - lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Watch!* (Mark 3:33-37)

To maintain this state of alertness we need to struggle, for we all have a tendency to live with our eyes fixed on the things of the earth. Especially during this time of Advent let us not forget that *our hearts are darkened by gluttony and drunkenness and the cares of this life*, and so lose sight of the supernatural dimension which every action of ours should have as its milieu. St. Paul compares this guard over ourselves to that of *the well-armed soldier who does not allow himself to be taken by surprise.* (cf. 1 Thess. 5, 4-11) *This adversary tries to wreak havoc in whatever way he can; and since he does not* (continued on pg. 4)

WEEKLY TITHING November 22, 2026

Sunday Envelopes:	$ 2,885.00
Plate:	$ 434.00
Total:	$ 3,319.00

Thank You!

Thank you to all who prayed for me and expressed your good wishes to me as part of the Clergy Appreciation Celebration. Your kindness was greatly appreciated! May our good Lord reward you!

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Kasel

Book Study: Join us for the on-going Advent and Christmas book study. We are discussing *Gaze Upon Jesus, Experiencing Christ's Childhood Through the Eyes of Women*. We are meeting on **Wednesdays** at 6PM at the Church of St Paul the remaining days: December 9 and 16, 2026 and January 13, 20, and 27, 2027. For questions or to obtain a book, please contact Mary Kingsbury or the church office 507-732-3-5324.

ADVENT SMALL GROUP: Advent is a joyful season of anticipation and preparation for our Lord's birth. To help you prepare, you are invited to a small group that will meet after morning Mass on **Thursdays,** December 3, 10, 17, 2026 , and January 7, 2027.

We will be using a special daily prayer journal from Ascension Press called *JOY TO THE WORLD: AN ADVENT JOURNEY WITH THE ANGELUS* that offers Scripture reflections, meditations on sacred art, and journaling prompts. Each week centers on a different line from the Angelus.

We'll gather at the small group meetings for fellowship and to reflect together on discussion questions provided. For questions or to obtain a book, please contact Barb Boraas or the Church Office.

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 Sunday, Dec. 13. If you miss this deadline, please drop off donation at the Church office the following week. Thank you and God bless you!



Pro-life Quotes

"If the bringing of children into the world is today an economic burden, it is because the social system is inadequate; and not because God's law is wrong. Therefore the State should remove the causes of that burden. The human must not be limited and controlled to fit the economic, but the economic must be expanded to fit the human." *Blessed Fulton J. Sheen*

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you." *St. Jeremiah 1:5 (Holy Bible)*

2026 Holiday of Hope Collection: We will again be participating in the Zumbrota Holiday community collection for families in need. Suggested items are gift cards ($20 increments), paper products, hygiene products, and laundry detergent. Reminder notes are available on the board in the vestibule. Return items to the office or the vestibule by December 8. Thank you for your generosity in sharing God's gifts with those in need. May our gifts show God's love for them this Christmas. Please contact the parish office 507-732-5324 with any questions.

Holy Mass Times

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

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

9:00am-8:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, December 3, 2026

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

Sunday, December 6, 2026

8:20am Rosary/8:25am Confessions

8:45am Holy Mass

Holy Mass Intentions

December 1, 2026	†Bob Ridenour
December 3, 2026	Fr. Kasel (S. McNamara & J. Meyer)
December 6, 2026	Parishioners

(From Father Kasel... from page 3)

devise his tactics without attention to detail, neither should we. (St. Teresa of Avila, *The Way of Perfection,* 19, 13)

We will remain at the ready if we are attentive to our personal prayer, which enables us to avoid lukewarmness and the dwindling and cooling of our desire for sanctity. We will be constantly on the alert if we do not become slipshod about those little mortifications which keep us awake to the things of God. We will remain attentive through a refined examination of conscience, which makes us look to those points at which, almost without noticing it, we are departing from our path.

Brothers, St. Bernard says to us, *God reveals to you, as He did to the children, what is hidden from the learned and wise: the true ways of salvation. Meditate on them with the greatest attention. Steep yourselves in the meaning of these Advent days. And above all, pay heed to Him who is approaching; think whence He comes and whither it is He advances; consider His purpose in coming, the ripeness of the times, the route He may choose for His approach. Such speculation cannot but be good. Our curiosity is far from being an idle one. The Universal Church would not celebrate this Advent time with such solemnity of devotion did it not contain within it some great mystery.* (St. Bernard, *Sermon on the Six Aspects of Advent*, 1)

Let us go forth with a clean heart to receive the supreme King, for He is to come, and He will not delay, we read among the Advent Antiphons of the Liturgy.

Holy Mary, our Hope, will help us to improve in this season of Advent. She awaits with hushed recollection the birth of her Son, who is the Messiah. All her thoughts are directed towards Jesus, Who will be born in Bethlehem. At her side it will be easy for us to dispose our souls in such a way that the arrival of Jesus will not find us distracted by other things which have little or no importance in the light of the coming of God." (*From In Conversation with God,* by Francis Fernandez)

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Paul, and all the Holy Angels, may God grant us the grace to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord at Christmas!

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Kasel

St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer to Obtain Special Graces

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 piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, 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 piously believed that whoever recites the above prayer fifteen times a day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30) until Christmas (December 25) will obtain what is asked.

Retired Religious Collection - December 5 & 6: They gave their lives in service—now, they need our help. For decades, sisters, brothers, and religious order priests taught, prayed, and cared for those in need. Many now face retirement with little savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious ensures vital support for health care and daily living—so they can age with dignity. Please give generously today, either through the parish collection or online at retiredreligious.org.

SAVE THE DATE! St. Pio KC Chili Cook-off on January 17: The St. Pio Knights of Columbus Council 16016 will host a Chili Cook-off Contest Sunday, January 17, after the 10:30am Holy Mass at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Parishioners will be able to vote on their favorite chili!

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Contact the Parish Office; visit: www.kofc.org/join

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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.

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:
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