December 3, 2023 First 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 though Mary!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

This weekend we begin the season of Advent. What do you know about this season in the Church that is all-too-often overlooked? Here is a brief article that can help remind us of the importance the Advent season:

"The word 'Advent' is from the Latin '*Adventus*,' which means 'coming.' Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year (in the Western churches), and encompasses the span of time from the Fourth Sunday before Christmas, until the Nativity of Our Lord is celebrated. The First Sunday of Advent is the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (which is November 30th), and so it will always fall somewhere between November 27th at the earliest and December 3rd at the latest. The liturgical color for this Season is purple (Usually a deep purple as opposed to the lighter, redviolet shade of purple associated with Lent).

Like Lent, Advent is a preparatory season. It has significance because it is a Season of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for the annual celebration of the event of Christ's birth, and for the time when Christ will come again.

As noted in the New Catholic Encyclopedia, during Advent, the faithful are asked:

• to prepare themselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world as the incarnate God of Love,

• thus to make their souls fitting abodes for the Redeemer coming in Holy Communion and through Grace, and

• thereby to make themselves ready for His final coming as judge - at death and at the end of the world.

Origin and History of Advent: The exact time when the Season of Advent came to be celebrated is not precisely known. Of course, it was not in practice before the celebration of the Nativity and Christmastide began; the earliest evidence shows that the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord was established within the later part of the 4th century. There are homilies from the 5th century that discuss preparation in a general sense, but do not indicate an official liturgical season. A Synod held in 590 established that Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from November 11th until the Nativity would be offered according to the Lenten rite. This and other traditions, such as fasting, show that the period of time now established as the Advent season was more penitential (similar to Lent) than the liturgical season as we know it today.

A collection of homilies from Pope St. Gregory the Great (whose papacy was from 590-604) included a sermon for the second Sunday of Advent, and by (the year) 650, Spain was celebrating the Sundays (five at the time) of Advent. So it seems the liturgical season was established around the latter part of the 6th century and first half of the 7th century. For the next couple of centuries, Advent was celebrated for five Sundays; Pope Gregory VII, who was

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 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

pope from 1073-85, reduced the number to four Sundays. **Advent Today:** The themes and traditions of the Advent season have evolved throughout the history of the liturgical season. As mentioned, the early Advent Season was mainly penitential, close to the theme of the Lenten Season. Today a penitential theme still exists, but it is not as intense as in 7th century. Also, it is blended with the theme of prayerful, spiritual preparation for the second and final coming of the Lord, as well as the joyful preparation for the annual festive remembrance of the Incarnation and Christ's birth. In recent decades, a trend of wearing blue vestments rather than purple during Advent has emerged. However, purple is the appropriate vestment color, as noted in paragraph 346 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, in the section which discusses the prescribed colors for liturgical vestments:

• Violet or purple is used in Advent and Lent. It may also be worn in Offices and Masses for the Dead.

• Rose may be used, where it is the practice, on Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent) and on Laetare Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent). (continued on page 4)

Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception ofthe Blessed Virgin Mary- Holy Day of Obligation: Holy Mass times:Thursday, December 7St. Paul, Zumbrota7:00pm7:00pmFriday, December 8St. Paul, Zumbrota8:45am8:45amFriday, December 8St. Michael, Pine Island5:30pm5:30pmFriday, December 8St. Michael, Pine Island7:00pm (Latin)

Holy Hour and Social for Men: Sunday, December 10, 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 Faith Formation session will be on Wednesday, ž December 6, at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Topic for December: The Virtue of Docility

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! There will be separate presentations for adults & youth.

Individual Confession times during Advent*:

Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, & 17 St. Michael, Pine Island 7:00-7:45 am Saturday, December 9 St. Michael, Pine Island 4:00-4:55 pm Saturday, December 16 St. Michael, Pine Island 4:00-4:55 pm Wednesday, December 20 St. Michael, Pine Island 6:30-8:00 pm Saturday, December 23 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:45am-noon *The Sacrament of Confession is also offered before each weekday Holy Mass

Advent Penances and Act of Charity

Dear Parishioners: As we enter Advent, I invite all to prayerfully consider undertaking voluntary penances and acts of Charity toward God and neighbor appropriate to this Season of the Church year. Doing this together across our parishes will increase our unity

and provide new openings for the Holy Spirit to work in our parishes and our personal lives.

Here are some suggestions: abstaining from meat on Friday and another day of the week; fasting on Friday or another day of the week (fasting is: two half meals and only one full meal during that day, with no snacking in between meals); giving up desserts; volunteer your time at the church; make time for more personal prayer; attend one or two weekday Holy Masses per week; give special financial alms; forgive offenses; make apologies for wrongs and make a good Sacramental Confession. Your may also have some ideas for penances and acts of Charity. Let us make this an Advent that truly prepares our hearts for our good Lord at Christmas! In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Kasel

Want to grow in our Catholic Faith?

You can learn about our Catholic Faith online at any time through FORMED! You will have access to thousands of enriching Catholic movies, programs, audio, & books instantly on FORMED when you sign up through our parishes. There is no cost for you! Just follow these easy steps:

1. Visit: <u>signup.formed.org</u> 2. Enter your parish zip code or name (St. Michael 55963 or St. Paul 55992) 3. Grow in our Catholic Faith!

Institute of Catholic Culture Lecture Series:

Et Verbum Caro Factum Est: Poetry and the Prologue of John Join Dr. Anthony Esolen to explore the Semitic poetry underlying the Prologue of John's Gospel, alluding to and fulfilling earlier scriptural accounts of the creation of the world and the coming of the Messiah. This talk will focus closely on the way the poetry works, especially on the strands of significance that John binds together in such motifs as word, light, name, flesh, truth, and glory. Details: Tuesday, December 5, Pre-Class Discussion:7:30PM EST, Lecture: 8:00 PM EST

Instructor: Anthony Esolen, Ph.D. Registration is required. https:// instituteofcatholicculture.org/events/et-verbum-caro-factum-est

Pine Island Food Shelf: items requested for December: Your Choice!

WEEKLY TITHING November 25-26, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 2,490.00
Plate:	\$ 917.02
EFT:	\$ 925.00
Total:	\$ 4,332.02

Prayer to the Virgin Mary: My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to you, and to show my devotion to you, I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my entire self without reserve. As I am your own, my good Mother, guard me and defend me as your property and possession. Amen.

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. 17. 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!

Panthers Holiday Helpers Project:

Dear Parishioners, Panthers Holiday Helpers Project needs your help! This Christmas project collects gift donations for children in need from Pine Island and Oronoco. You may donate any of the following winter wears: hats, caps, scarves, mittens, snowpants, gloves, and/or face masks. These donations will go to both girls and boys, from birth to 18 years. Please consider making a donation to this worthy project. If you wish to make a monetary donation, someone from the Church of St. Michael will shop for you. Families will be coming to the school to choose the items for their children, so please do NOT wrap them. Please bring donations by December 3 and place in the box in the entryway.

Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony: All are invited to attend the 21st Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony at the historic Church of St. Rose on Sunday, December 17, at 2:00pm. Father Henry Doyle of Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault, MN will preside. Music provided by Brass Etc. Reception at the Palof residence. The church is located at 8778 County Hwy 11 Blvd., Kenyon 55946. We look forward to celebrating with you at St. Rose of Lima. Visit www.friendsofstrose.org

HOLY MASS TIMES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023	
8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass	
9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Friday, December 8, 2023 Solemnity of the Immaculate	
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
5:30pm Holy Mass	
7:00pm Latin Holy Mass	
Saturday, December 9, 2023	
4:00pm-4:50pm Confessions	
5:00pm Holy Mass	
Sunday, December 10, 2023	
7:00am Latin Holy Mass	
10:30am Holy Mass	
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Cathy Rossow & family
Pat and Tara Amiot & family (Mary Amiot)
Parishioners
Terrence and Deanne Smith & family
Parishioners
†Ray & LaWanda Keller (Ann Rotondo)

CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL NEWS

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL FAITH FORMATION

The next **Faith Formation session** will be on Wednesday, December 6, at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Topic for December: The Virtue of Docility

Below is the schedule:

6:00-6:30pm - Meal

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

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Our program is open for all of our parishioners to attend and it will benefit all ages! There will be separate presentations for adults & youth. *****

Individual Confession times during Advent*:

Tuesday, December 12	St. Paul, Zumbrota	4:00-4:55 pm	
Tuesday, December 12	St. Paul, Zumbrota	6:30-8:00 pm	
Tuesday, December 19	St. Paul, Zumbrota	4:00-4:55 pm	
Saturday, December 23	St. Paul, Zumbrota	9:30-10:30am	
*The Sacrament of Confession is also offered before each weekday Holy Mass			

The Truth about Confessing One's Sins

"The Holy Spirit says in the Psalms: Your eyes have seen my imperfection and in Your book are all things written. Again, man looks on the face, God on the heart (1 Sm 16:7). The Lord Himself also warns beforehand and forearms us, saying: Let all the churches know that I am the searcher of hearts and minds (Rv 2:23). He sees the hidden things, He contemplates what is concealed and unseen, nor is anyone able to escape the eyes of God who says: I am a God who is near and not a God from afar off. If a man be hidden in hidden places, will I not therefore see him? (Jer 23:23-24). He sees the minds and hearts of individuals and, destined to judge not only regarding deeds but also regarding our words and thoughts, He inspects the minds and wills of us all.

Let each of you confess, I beg you, brothers, his own sin while still in the world, while you can still be allowed Confession, while there is the possibility of making amends, and forgiveness, granted through the priests, is still efficacious with God. Let us turn to God with our whole heart and expressing penitence for our sin with true sorrowing, let us plead with God for His Mercy. Let us prostrate our soul before Him, let us repay our debt with mourning, and let all our Hope rest on His support.

God Himself tells us in what condition we must entreat: Return to *Me with all your heart and at the same time with fasting and* weeping and lamentation, and rend your hearts and not your garments (JI 2:12-13). Let us turn again to the Lord with our whole heart." St. Cyprian († 258 - Bishop of Carthage (modern Tunisia) and a *martvr*)

PRO-LIFE QUOTES:

Respect for life and for the dignity of the human personal also extends to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God. St. John Paul II

"All who are genuinely committed to the advancement of women can and must offer a woman or a girl who is pregnant, frightened, and alone a better alternative than the destruction of her own unborn child" Mary Ann Glendon, 4th World Conference on Women, Beiiing, Sept. 5, 1995

"The Gospel of Life is for the whole of human society. To be actively pro-life is to contribute to the renewal of society through the promotion of the common good." (#101) quotes from 'Gospel of Life, St. John Paul II)

Zumbrota Health Service (433 Mill Street, Zumbrota, MN) is hosting an Open House and Holiday Market on Thursday, December 7, from 3:30-6:30pm. Handmade crafts, baked goods, and plant sale.

WEEKLY TITHING November 26, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 385.00
Plate:	\$ 187.00
Total:	\$ 572.00

Church of St. Paul CCW Meeting: All women are invited. Please join us and share your input—we need your help! Tuesday, December 5: 6:00pm- Holy Mass, 6:30pm - Meeting



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

2023 Holiday Community Collection

Christmas Sharing Collection: Please don't forget to drop your donation items by this Sunday, December 3 for those in our community that are need this Christmas. Thank you for your generosity in sharing God's gifts with those in need.

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern." St. Teresa of Calcutta "The season of Advent is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us - to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Christ in whatever form He may come to us." St. Teresa of Calcutta

"To Love is to will the good of the other." St. Thomas Aquinas "The greatest kindness one can render to any man consists in leading him from error to Truth." St. Thomas Aquinas "It is by the path of Love, which is Charity, that God draws near to man and man to God. But where Charity is not found, God cannot dwell. If, then, we possess Charity, we posses God, for 'God is Charity' (1 John 4:8)." St. Albert the Great

Birthright fundraiser! Sunday, December 3, Victoria's Ristorante in Rochester, 7 1st Ave SW, Rochester, MN 55902. Mention "Birthright" to your server and Victoria's will donate 25% of every dine in or carry out, food or drinks, ticket to Birthright of Rochester.

HOLY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass 9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00pm St. Paul CCW Holy Mass Thursday, December 7, 2023 8:00am Confessions/8:30am 7:00pm (Vigil) Holy Mass Immaculate Conception of Bl. Virgin Mary Friday, December 8, 2023 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:45am Holy Mass Sunday, December 10, 2023 8:20am Rosary/8:25am Confessions 8:45am Holy Mass

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

December 5, 2023	†Mary Heppelmann (Karen Ho	dgman)
December 5, 2023	†Ed & Irene Hilbert (Louise Ger	ken)
December 7, 2023	†Frances Kronebusch (Marie Robinson)	
December 7, 2023	Living & deceased Hinrichs far	nilies
December 8, 2023	Parishioners	
December 10, 2023	Parishioners	<u>P</u>



NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from page 1) **Advent Traditions:** Advent celebration and traditions can vary from place to place, influenced by culture. However, some traditions have come to be common throughout the Catholic Church.

The Advent wreath is likely the most popular tradition, and wreaths are typically present in both the parish church and in the home. It is a more recent tradition, with the modern Advent wreath emerging in Germany and spreading throughout Europe and beyond in the 1930's. It is often circular, representing God's eternity, and it includes 4 candles - one for each Sunday of Advent. Many families have a wreath in the home, and will light the candles each Sunday and say Advent prayers together. The Jesse Tree is also a popular Advent tradition. A Jesse Tree, named for the father of David, is a tree that is decorated gradually throughout Advent with symbols or pictures of Biblical persons associated with the gradual coming of the Messiah, Christ. This includes, among others, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Joseph and Mary. The Jesse Tree tradition provides a wonderful teaching opportunity; it is a perfect way to teach and remind children about the preparatory nature of Advent. Advent calendars are another popular tradition, although they most often follow the calendar month of December, not the four Sundays which can begin in November." (from www.aquinasandmore.com) Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, St. Joseph, St. Michael, and St. Paul, may the Holy Spirit help us during Advent to prepare for the celebration of the Birthday of our good Lord Jesus!

In Christ through Mary, Fr. Kasel **Retirement Fund for Religious Collection: December 2-3**

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.

The **next St. Pio Knights of Columbus** membership meeting will be Wednesday, December 13, at 7pm at the Church of St. Michael. All members are encouraged to attend!

 \dagger ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT \dagger

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.

Washington D.C. March for Life 2024

For the first time in recent memory, the Archdiocese is offering a pilgrimage to Washington D.C. for adults and families to attend the National March for Life as well as the trip for high school youth. Though Roe vs. Wade was overturned in June 2022, abortion access is expanding in many states across the nation. It is a great tragedy that despite the victory in the supreme court, many politicians still support this grave evil. Through this trip we have the opportunity to stand in opposition on the national stage and tell everyone how sacred life is from conception to natural death. Please contact Assistant Youth Ministry Coordinator Martin Gawarecki at

gawareckim@archspm.org or 651.291.4506 to get on the contact list for March for Life information. The dates for the pilgrimage are: January 16-21, 2024.

