December 26, 2021 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary L. Joseph

Father Randal Kasel, Pastor frkasel@bevcomm.net

Josefina Meyer & Sara McNamara, Staff

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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,

Merry Christmas! During this month of December, the month dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and the Infancy of Jesus, let us pray for the grace our hearts need to be prepared for the gifts of Grace our Lord wills to give each of us! This weekend I share with you a reflection on the Birth of Jesus. I encourage you to reflect over this message a few times this week:

"In Bethlehem they did not want to receive Christ. Today, too, many people do not want to receive Him: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. (Luke 2:10)

Now we can see clearly that this decree of the Roman Emperor's was part of God's Providence. It is the reason why Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, and Jesus was born there as had been prophesied many centuries before. (Mic. 5:2)

Our Lady knew that Jesus' birth was about to take place and she set out on that journey with her thoughts centered on the Child who was to be born of her in the town of David.

They came to Bethlehem, both with the joy of having reached the place of their ancestors and with the tiredness caused by travelling along badly-made roads for four or five days. In her condition, Our Lady must have been very tired when she arrived. And in Bethlehem they could not find anywhere to stay. *There was no place for them in the inn* (cf. Luke 2:7), says St. Luke briefly.

Perhaps Joseph judged that the crowded inn was not a suitable place for Our Lady, especially in those circumstances. St. Joseph must have knocked on many doors before taking Mary to a stable on the outskirts of the town. We can well imagine the scene: Joseph explaining time and again with growing anxiety, the same story, that they had come from..., and Mary a few feet away seeing Joseph and hearing the refusals. They did not let Christ in. They shut the doors on Him. Mary feels sorry for Joseph and for those people. How cold the world is towards its God!

Perhaps it was Our Lady who suggested to Joseph that they could stay provisionally in one of those caves, which served as stables outside the town. She probably encouraged him, telling him not to worry, that they would manage... Joseph would feel comforted by Mary's words and her smile. So they made their lodging there with the few belongings they had been able to bring from Nazareth: the swaddling clothes, some items that she herself had prepared with that joy that only mothers can experience when they prepare for their first child.

It was there that the greatest event of humanity's history took place, with the utmost simplicity. *And while they were there,* St. Luke tells us, *the time came for her to be delivered.* (Luke 2:6) Mary lovingly wrapped Jesus *in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger.*

The Virgin had a more perfect Faith than any other before her or since. All her gestures were an expression of her Faith and her tenderness. She would have kissed His feet because He was her Lord, His cheek because He was her Son. She would have remained quietly contemplating Him for a very long time.

Later Mary placed the Child in Joseph's arms. Joseph well knows that this [is] the Son of the Most-High, Whom he must care for, protect and

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

teach a trade. Joseph's whole life centers around this defenseless Child.

Jesus, newly born, does not speak; but He is the Eternal Word of the Father. It has been said that the manger is a Chair of learning. Today we should *learn the lessons which Jesus teaches us, even when He is just a newly born Child, from the very moment He opens His eyes on this blessed land of men.* (J. Escriva, *Christ is Passing By*, 14) He is born poor, and He teaches us that happiness is not to be found in an abundance of earthly goods. He comes into the world without any ostentation, encouraging us to be humble and not to depend on the applause of men. *God humbled Himself to allow us to get near Him, so that we could give our love in exchange for His, so that our freedom might bow, not at the sight of His power merely, but before the wonder of His humility.* (ibid., 18)

We make a resolution to live the virtues of detachment and humility. We look at Mary and we see her filled with joy. She knows that a new era has begun for humanity - that of the Messiah, her Son. We ask her never to let us lose the joy of being beside Jesus.

The Messiah's birth. The *Chair* **of Bethlehem:** Jesus, Mary and Joseph were alone. But God sought out simple people as their companions: some shepherds, perhaps because, (continued on page 3)

We wish all the Parishioners of the Churches of St. Paul and St. Michael a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. God bless you! Fr. Kasel and the parish staff

Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God

Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year:

Friday, December 31 St. Michael, Pine Island 4:00 pm Saturday, January 1 St. Michael, Pine Island 7am (Latin) Saturday, January 1 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:45 am Saturday, January 1 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:30am

(Normal weekend schedule for the evening of January 1 at 5:00pm.)



CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL NEWS

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL FAITH FORMATION

The next Faith Formation class/session will be on Wednesday, January 5, at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island.

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.

Holy Spirit Novena: January 1 to January 9.

Christmas Party at St. Michael!

All families are invited to a Christmas party on Wednesday, December 29, after the 8:30am Holy Mass. The Sisters of Filiae Laboris Mariae will be with us to celebrate the Birth of our Lord during the Octave of Christmas. We will sing Christmas hymns and enjoy great food. Plan now to attend!



Thank you for the Christmas Flower Donations In Memory & Honor of Loved Ones

Nancy Anderson in memory of Carl & Nat Anderson, and Anderson & Spooner families

Janet Bauch in memory of Bauch Families and Kollasch Families

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Arlene Collins in memory of D. J. & Scott Collins

Dean Ferber
Don & Julie Hoerle

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Kathleen Karlen

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Steve & Mary Kingsbury Joan Knutson

Dan & Pamela Kohrs in memory of Peter Schreier, Dorothy Schreier, Merlyn Kohrs, & Bev Kohrs

> Joan Krause James Lee

Char Lenn in memory of Charlie Lenn

Brian & Laurie Murray in memory of June & Carl Murray

Santi & Carolyn Ocariz
Paula Plummer

Leslie & Barb Rolfson in memory of Michael Rolfson Eric & Laurie Schultz

Janet Shannon in memory of Jerry Bodensteiner
Paul & Mary Sutton

Daniel & Margaret Swanson in memory of Lawrence & Gertrude Lofgren and Mitch Jensen

Matt & Jennifer Thornwall

Patrick & Amy Smith in memory Phil, Edith, & Paul Howard
AnneRose Wanjiru

Rosemary Turk in memory of Marcine & Melvin Turk
Keith & Megan Warnke

Fr. Kasel in memory of all deceased relatives

<u>Pine Island Food Shelf:</u> items requested for December: Canned Tuna and Chicken

WEEKLY TITHING for December 18-19, 2021

 Sunday Envelopes:
 \$ 3,653.00

 Plate:
 \$ 667.00

 EFT:
 \$ 2,612.50

 Total:
 \$ 6,932.50

From a Christmas Sermon by St. Leo the Great

"Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of Life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; Life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life. In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's Wisdom, the Son of God took for Himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its Creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the Angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to men of good will as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the Angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through His Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in His great love for us He took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins He brought us to life with Christ, so that in Him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind Who is your head and of Whose Body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's Kingdom.

Through the Sacrament of Baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the Blood of Christ."

HOLY MASS TIMES

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

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

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

Friday, December 31, 2021

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

4:00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, January 1, 2022

7:00am(Latin)Holy Mass for Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God 10:30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God 4:00pm-4:50pm Confessions

5:00pm Holy Mass

Sunday, January 2, 2022

7:00am (Latin) Holy Mass 10:30am Holy Mass

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS



December 29, 2021 Special Intention

December 31, 2021 David Rocca & Family (Trudy Rocca)

December 31, 2021 Mary E. Coyne (James & Connie Swanson)

January 1, 2022 (Latin) Kenny & Jane Lexvold Family

January 1, 2022 Lorraine Keller

January 1, 2022 Abram Efta (Ocariz Family)

January 2, 2022 (Latin) †Robert Felten (Paul & Mary Sutton)

January 2, 2022 Parishioners

CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL NEWS

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL FAITH FORMATION

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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 & Benediction.

(from page 1) as they were humble, they would not be dismayed at find the Messiah in a cave, wrapped in swaddling clothes. It is to the shepherds of that district that the prophet Isaiah referred: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shone. (Is. 9:2) On this first night it is in them alone that the prophecy is fulfilled, And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. (Luke 2:9) And the angel said to them, 'Be not afraid; for behold I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior Who is Christ the Lord'. (Luke 2:10)

That night they are the first and only people to learn the news. On the other hand, today, millions of men throughout the world know of it. The light of that night in Bethlehem has reached many hearts, but nevertheless, at the same time, darkness remains. Sometimes it even seems more intense...The men of that night welcomed the news; they experienced great joy - the joy that comes forth from light. The world's darkness overcome by the light of the birth of God... It does not matter that on this first night, the night of God's birth, the joy of that event should have reached only a few hearts: it does not matter. It is destined for every human heart! It is the joy of the whole human race, a superhuman joy! Could there be any greater joy than this, any greater Good News than this: man has been accepted by God so as to become His son in this Son of God Who has become man? (St. John Paul II, Homily of the Holy Mass of Christmas Night, 1980) God also wanted those shepherds to be the first bearers of the news: they would go around telling all they had heard and seen. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. (Luke 2:18)

In the same way Jesus reveals Himself to us in the midst of the ordinary incidents of each day; and we need the same dispositions of simplicity and humility in order to reach Him. It is possible that throughout our lives He gives us signs that mean nothing to us if we see Him merely humanly. We have to be alert so as to discover Jesus in the simplicity of ordinary life, *wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger*, without any showy manifestations. Everyone who sees Christ feels moved to make Him known straight away. He cannot wait. Naturally, the shepherds would not have set out without taking gifts for the baby. In the eastern world of those days it was inconceivable that anybody should present himself before a respected person without a gift. They would take what they had; a lamb, cheese, butter,

milk, curd. (F. M. Willan, *Life of Mary*, p. 110) Doubtless it is not far removed from reality to imagine the scene as it is portrayed in the countless cribs of our days and in the Christmas carols which Christians sing with simplicity and which many of us may have made the theme of our prayer.

Mary and Joseph, surprised and delighted, invite the shy shepherds to come in and see the Child, to kiss Him, to sing to Him, and to leave their gifts beside the manger. Nor can we go to the cave of Bethlehem without taking our gift.

Perhaps what Our Lady would (thank/ask) us for is that our heart be more devoted, more pure, more cheerful because it is conscious of its Divine Filiation: a heart which we have made better disposed through a contrite Confession, so that Our Lord can live more fully in us. The Confession that perhaps for some time now, God has been waiting for...

Mary and Joseph are inviting us to go in. And once inside we say to Jesus with the Church: King of the universe, Whom the shepherds found wrapped in swaddling clothes, help us always to imitate Your poverty and Your simplicity. (Divine Office, Lauds, Prayers, 5 January) Adoration of the shepherds. Humility and simplicity in order to recognize Christ in our lives: Let us all (continued on page 4)

WEEKLY TITHING for December 19, 2021

 Sunday Envelopes:
 \$ 560.00

 Plate:
 \$ 597.00

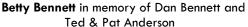
 EFT:
 \$ 1,750.00

 Total:
 \$ 2,907.00

Holy Spirit Novena: January 1 to January 9.



Thank you for the Christmas Flower Donations
In Memory & Honor of Loved Ones



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Eugene & Bonnie Leifeld

Kathy Matthees & family in memory of Jim & Millie Pauba

Gary & Char Murray in memory & honor of Elbert family members and Murray family members

Stuart & Jennifer Ohr

Marie Robinson in memory of Ben & Dorothy Guenther Fr. Kasel in memory of all deceased relatives

Meal in a Bucket

The Catholic Daughters will have the 'Meal in a Bucket' sale for the next three weeks. Pre-order slips will be in the back of Church. Available meals are: BBQ and buns, Chili, Potato soup, Portage soup, buns and cinnamon Rolls. Your support is truly appreciated!

THANK YOU! Our Community Connections group would like to thank you for your support for our Christmas event. We appreciate the many gift cards and products that were donated. Many local people that are in need were supported thru your acts of kindness. Thank you once again. Sincerely, Rene, Katie and Pam.

PRO LIFE QUOTE: "Nothing we do to defend the human person, no matter how small, is ever unfruitful or forgotten. Our actions touch other lives and move other hearts in ways we can never fully understand in this world. Don't ever underestimate the beauty and power of the witness you give in your pro-life work." *Archbishop Charles Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia, April 8, 2011*

HOLY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

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

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

Thursday, December 30, 2021

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

Saturday, January 1, 2022

8:45am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God Sunday, January 2, 2022

8:20am Rosary/8:25am Confessions

8:45am Holy Mass - On 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month versus populum; 2nd & 4th ad Orientem

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

December 28, 2021 †Ernesto Perey (Lyle & Cori Paulson)

December 30, 2021 †Catherine Steger (Tom Steger)

January 1, 2022 †John Perra January 2, 2022 Parishioners



NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from page 3) rejoice in the Lord. For our Savior is born into the world; today true Peace has come down on us from Heaven. (Entrance Antiphon, Midnight Holy Mass) We have heard, my brethren, the announcement, full of sweetness and 'worthy of all acceptance' that 'Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is born in Bethlehem of Judah'. My very soul has melted at the sound of these words and my spirit is burning in my bosom, eager with its constant ardor of desire to communicate to you its own joy and exultation. (St. Bernard, Sermons for Christmas Eve. 6:1)

Let us all set out to contemplate and adore Jesus, for we all need Him. He is the only one we really need.

There is no journey so great as that of seeking Christ, There is no journey so great as that of looking for Christ, There is no journey so great, go the words of a popular Spanish carol, telling us that no path is worth following unless it leads us to the Baby Jesus.

Today our Savior is born. There can be no room for sadness when Life has just been born; that Life which overcomes all fear of death and fills us with the joy of the pledge of eternity. Nobody should feel excluded from sharing in such joy. Our reason for rejoicing is common to all, because Our Lord, destroyer of sin and death, not finding anyone free of sin has come to free us all. Let the just man rejoice, as victory approaches. Let the Gentile rejoice, for he is called to life. For the Son, in the fullness of time... assumed our human nature in order to reconcile the human race with its Creator. (St. Leo the Great. Sermon on the Birth of Our Lord, 1:3) Hence springs the joy of these feast-days, like a river overflowing its banks.

During these days of Christmas we sing with exultation because Love will be among us till the end of time. The presence of the Child is Love among men; the world is no longer a place of darkness; those who seek for Love know where to find it. It is essentially Love that each man needs - even those men who claim to be already fully satisfied.

Today, whenever we go to kiss an image of the Child Jesus, or contemplate a crib or meditate on this great mystery, let us thank God for having wanted to come down to us so that we could understand Him and love Him. Let us make up our minds to become as little children so as to enter one day into the Kingdom of Heaven. We will finish our prayer telling our Father God: Your Son was willing to share in our manhood; grant us a share in His Godhead. (Collect, Christmas Day) Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us." (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 love Jesus above all else! In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Kasel

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at the Christmas-time, not is a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." St. Teresa of Calcutta

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 "Mankind is a great, an immense family... This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas." St. John XXIII

'And in the end... everything else will turn out to be unimportant and inessential, except for this: Father, Child and Love." St. John Paul II 'Lord, you were conceived in the womb of a Virgin and were crucified for all men... for all without distinction. And yet, how differently they pay you back." St. Rafael Arnaiz



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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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"Remember To Pray For Our Beloved Departed."