

December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Father Randal Kasel, Pastor frkasel@bevcomm.net

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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 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 Sunday we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. I share with you a reflection on the Virgin Mary's Virginity and our purity. I encourage you to reflect over this message a few times this week:

"Mary's Virginity - Our Purity, Virginity, apostolic celibacy and marriage: Mary's virginity is a privilege intimately united with her Divine Maternity, which is in perfect harmony with her Immaculate Conception and her glorious Assumption. Mary is Queen of virgins: *the dignity of virginity stems from the Mother of God.* (St. Augustine, *Sermon 51*)

The Blessed Virgin is the most perfect example for every life that is completely dedicated to God.

The renunciation of human love for God's sake is a Divine Grace which drives and encourages a person to surrender body and soul to Our Lord with all the possibilities that the heart possesses. God is thus the one and only focus of this unshared love. It is in God that the heart finds its fulfillment and its perfection, without the intervention of any earthly love. The result is that God grants a bigger heart which, in Him, is capable of loving all creatures.

The vocation to apostolic celibacy, *for the love of the Kingdom of Heaven* (Matt. 19:12), is a special Grace from God and one of His greatest gifts to His Church. In the words of St. John Paul II, *virginity keeps alive in the Church the awareness of the mystery of marriage and defends it against all attempts to impoverish it or reduce its importance. It frees the heart of man in a special way... bearing witness to the fact that the Kingdom of God and its justice is a pearl of great price to be preferred to any other treasure however great its value may be. Moreover, virginity should be sought as the only real object of value. The Church, therefore, throughout its history, has defended the superiority of this Divine Gift over matrimony, because of its particular link with the Kingdom of God. Even though a person has renounced physical parenthood, as a virgin he or she can assume a spiritual parenthood towards many by co-operating in the development of the family according to God's plan.* (St. John Paul II, *Apostolic Exhortation, Familiaris Consortio*)

From those who are called by a specific vocation to renounce human love, God asks that they give their whole heart, and they find in Him the fulfillment of loving. To live virginity or apostolic celibacy means to live the perfection of love.

Celibacy and perfect chastity give the soul, the heart and the external life of those who profess them that freedom which the apostolate needs so much if it is to serve with maximum generosity the good of other souls. This virtue which makes men spiritual and strong, free and agile, helps them to see around them other souls and not merely bodies, souls who hope for the light of their word and of their prayer, and the charity of their time and of their affection. We should have a great love for celibacy and chastity, because they are concrete and tangible proofs of our love of God, and are at the same time sources which make us grow continuously in that same (continued on page 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 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

*We invite you to worship our Savior with us this
Advent and Christmas Season!*



Individual Confession times during Advent**:

Tuesday, December 21	St. Paul, Zumbrota	4:00-4:55 pm
Tuesday, December 21	St. Paul, Zumbrota	6:30-8:00 pm
Thursday, December 23	St. Michael, Pine Island	6:30-8:00 pm
Friday, December 24	St. Michael, Pine Island	10:30am-noon

**The Sacrament of Confession is also offered before each weekday Holy Mass

Holy Mass on Christmas Eve: Due to COVID-19, Archbishop Hebda has granted pastors permission to begin Christmas Eve Holy Mass as early as 2pm this year.

Friday, December 24 St. Paul, Zumbrota 3:00 pm

Friday, December 24 St. Michael, Pine Island 4:30 pm

Holy Mass on Christmas Day:

Saturday, December 25 St. Michael, Pine Island 7:00 am (Latin)

Saturday, December 25 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:45 am

Saturday, December 25 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:30 am

(No evening Holy Mass for Sunday Obligation on December 25.)

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 7:00 am (Latin)

Saturday, January 1 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:45 am

Saturday, January 1 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:30 am

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

The next Holy Hour for Women will be **Sunday, December 19**, at 6:00pm at the Church of St. Michael, PI. All women invited!

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.

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!

The Mystery of the Reign of Christ Jesus

"The new world order is this - God lets Himself be so influenced by His love for His image and likeness that He becomes a little baby. He lets Himself be laid in a crib to show that He will be both shepherd and pasture for His people. He, who is eternity without ageing, subjects Himself to the human law of becoming older. Although He is God, He takes all suffering onto Himself like a weak human being. He does this to put an end to the law of death and to enable us to share in immortality. God's power is this: that He can be what He is not and yet still remain what He is. He is our God - the Eternal Son of the Eternal Father. He is God and He is human, because He stands in the middle, between the Father and us. The reality of His flesh is revealed in His weakness and the reality of His majesty is revealed in His miracles." St. Zeno of Verona (St. Zeno was a fourth century bishop and martyr.)

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." St. Teresa of Calcutta

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

"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." St. Leo the Great

"Celebrate the Feast of Christmas every day; even every moment in the interior temple of your spirit, remaining like a baby in the bosom of the Heavenly Father, where you will be reborn each moment in the Divine Word." St. Paul of the Cross

March For Life on January 22 - Knights of Columbus

Saint Padre Pio Council invites all parishioners to participate in the March for Life on January 22, 2022 at the State Capitol Building in Saint Paul. The March for Life occurs every year on the anniversary of the disastrous Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. A prayer service will be held at the Cathedral starting at 10:30am, with the march beginning at noon. Please join us in praying to end abortion. More details concerning carpooling and the day's events to be forthcoming.

Historic Church of St. Rose Candle Lighting Ceremony: All are



invited to attend the 19th Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony at the Church of St. Rose (8778 Cty Hwy 11 Blvd, Kenyon, MN 55946) on Sunday, December 19, at 2:00pm. Music will be provided by Brass Etc. and a reception will follow at the Palof residence. More information about the Church of St. Rose can be found at www.friendsofstrose.org

Pine Island Food Shelf: items requested for December: Canned Tuna and Chicken

WEEKLY TITHING for December 11-12, 2021

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 3,458.00
Plate:	\$ 1,029.00
EFT:	\$ 647.50
Total:	\$ 5,134.50

Retired Religious Collection: \$ 750.00

Kitui Mission Collection: \$ 906.50

EMERGENCY COLLECTION FOR RECENT TORNADO DAMAGE DECEMBER 18-19

Archbishop Hebda is asking all archdiocesan parishes to take an emergency collection to help those suffering from the devastation of tornados in the United States. Gifts will be forwarded to the USCCB Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund.

Advent Prayer

My hidden Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You with profound gratitude for uniting Yourself with fallen humanity. When You first entered into this world, You remained hidden for nine months in the immaculate womb of Your Blessed Mother. She carried You, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, within the sanctuary of her body. She also carried You within her heart as a result of her perfect love for You and her perfect obedience to the Will of the Father.

Dear Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden Presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your Incarnation has on my life and I desire to receive those effects more fully this Advent. May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your Presence into the world.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. I abandon myself to You and seek to put all my trust in Your tender care. Draw me close to You and free me from my sin so that I may love You with a pure and holy heart.

My dear Mother Mary, as You carried your dear Son in your immaculate womb, you also carried Him in your heart. Pray for me, this Advent, that I may surrender myself to the Will of the Father in imitation of you. You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you and never hesitated to fully embrace His Divine Will. Pray that I may imitate your perfect example so as to share a deeper union with you and your Divine Son, Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus! Amen. (from www.mycatholic.life)

HOLY MASS TIMES

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

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

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

Friday, December 24, 2021

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

4:30pm Holy Mass on Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 25, 2021

7:00am (Latin) Holy Mass on Christmas Day

10:30am Holy Mass on Christmas Day

(No evening Holy Mass for Sunday Obligation)

Sunday, December 26, 2021

7:00am (Latin) Holy Mass

10:30am Holy Mass

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

December 22, 2021	† Euvaldo Bittar
December 24, 2021	† Gregorio Tutor Sr. (Leah Chavers)
December 24, 2021	† Nat Anderson (Nancy Anderson)
December 25, 2021	(Latin) Clare Ann Taylor (T. & J. Meyer)
December 25, 2021	Parishioners
December 26, 2021	(Latin) Parishioners
December 26, 2021	Jerome & Ashley S. Family (Joyce M.)



CHURCH OF ST. PAUL 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 & Benediction.

(from page 1) love. (S. Canals, *Jesus as Friend*)

Virginity and apostolic celibacy not only do not contradict the dignity of marriage but presuppose and confirm it. (cf. John Paul II, *ibid.*)

The Church always needs people who offer to God an undivided heart as a *living sacrifice, holy and acceptable*. (Rom. 12:1) The Church also needs saintly families, Christian homes, which will be the true haven of Christ and be themselves the source of many vocations of complete self-surrender to God.

Holy purity in and outside marriage. The fruits of this virtue.

Purity is necessary for love: For both single and married people, Mary's virginity is also a call to live with finesse the virtue of holy purity, which is essential if we are to see God and serve our fellow men. Perhaps this virtue will clash with our environment and be misunderstood by many, blinded as they will be by a materialistic outlook. In fact, it will be scorned and its utility called into question. Nevertheless, holy purity is absolutely necessary for us, even from the point of view of being a little more human, and of being able to look at God. Without the virtue of purity it is simply impossible to be a contemplative soul.

The Holy Spirit acts in a special way on the soul that is refined in its chastity. Holy purity produces rich fruit in the soul. It enlarges the heart and helps in the normal growth of the affections. It gives rise to deep internal happiness even in the midst of many obstacles. It makes apostolate possible. It makes us more human, with a greater capacity for understanding and sympathizing with other people's problems. On the other hand, impurity gives rise to insensitivity of heart, to mediocrity and selfishness. It makes a person incapable of real love and produces in the soul all the necessary conditions for it to germinate like weedy growths and nurture every kind of vice and unfaithfulness.

Don't forget that when someone is corrupted by concupiscence of the flesh, he cannot make any spiritual progress. He is unable to do good works. He is a spiritual cripple, fit to be cast aside like an old rag. Have you ever seen patients suffering from a progressive paralysis and unable to help themselves or even to get up? Sometimes they cannot as much as move their heads. Well, in the spiritual order, the same thing happens to people who are lacking in humility and have made a cowardly surrender to lust. They don't see, or hear, or understand anything of primary importance. They are, as it were, paralyzed. They are like men gone mad. Each of us here ought to invoke Our Lord, and His Blessed Mother, and pray that He will grant us humility and the determination to avail ourselves frequently and devoutly of the Divine Remedy of Confession. (J. Escriva, *Friends of God*, 181)

Today let us ask Our Lord in our prayer to have mercy on us and to help us have a more purely refined attitude towards Him. *Jesus, guard our hearts! Make them big and strong and tender hearts, affectionate and sensitive, overflowing with love for You and ready to serve all mankind.* (*ibid.*, 177)

How to live this virtue: Today we can offer our hearts to Our Lady and resolve to strive for greater care in living this virtue. Holy purity is so pleasing to her, and produces so many fruits in our interior life and in the apostolate.

The Church has always taught that, with the help of grace, and especially in this case with the help of the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance, it is possible to live this virtue at every moment and in all the circumstances of life. All we have to do is make use of the appropriate means at our disposal.

What do you want us to do? Go up into the (continued on page 4)

WEEKLY TITHING for December 12, 2021

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 1,240.00
Plate:	\$ 526.00
Total:	\$ 1,766.00

Retired Religious Collection: \$ 464.00

EMERGENCY COLLECTION FOR RECENT TORNADO DAMAGE DECEMBER 18-19

Archbishop Hebda is asking all archdiocesan parishes to take an emergency collection to help those suffering from the devastation of tornadoes in the United States. Gifts will be forwarded to the USCCB Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund.

Congratulations to:

Keaton and Heather Welch on the baptism of their daughter Hazel Joy Welch on December 11, 2021 at the Church of St. Paul.



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*

"The tests which modern society subjects Christians to, in fact, are many, and affect the personal and social life. It is not easy to be faithful to Christian marriage, practice mercy in everyday life, leave space for prayer and inner silence, it is not easy to publicly oppose choices that many take for granted, such as abortion in the event of an unwanted pregnancy, euthanasia in case of serious illness, or the selection of embryos to prevent hereditary diseases. The temptation to set aside one's faith is always present and conversion becomes a response to God which must be confirmed several times throughout one's life." *—Pope Benedict XVI*



†ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT†

Can you spend an hour with Jesus?

Adoration is held at St. Paul, Zumbrota on Tuesdays 9am-5pm and St. Michael, Pine Island on Wednesdays from 9am-5pm.

The **Catholic Daughters** will meet on Monday, December 20, at SS. Peter and Paul in Mazeppa. Christmas potluck at 6pm, meeting starting at 7pm. We will be collecting items for our local food shelves.

HOLY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

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

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

Thursday, December 23, 2021

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

Friday, December 24, 2021

3:00pm Holy Mass on Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 25, 2021

8:45am Holy Mass on Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26, 2021

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 21, 2021	Mike & Louise Kemmetmueller Family
December 23, 2021	Tom & Josefina Meyer (Sara McNamara)
December 24, 2021	†Jerry Smith
December 25, 2021	Parishioners
December 26, 2021	Parishioners



NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from page 3) *mountains and become monks?* - St. John Chrysostom was asked. *What you say is enough to make me weep*, he replied. *That you should think modesty and chastity proper only to monks!* No. *Christ laid down the same laws for everyone. So when He said 'every one who looks at a woman lustfully' He wasn't speaking only to monks, but to men everywhere.* (St. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on St. Matthew*, 7, 7)

Holy purity entails a daily self-conquest, for it is not acquired once and for all. There may be times when the struggle becomes more intense, so that it is necessary to have more frequent recourse to the Blessed Virgin and to use, perhaps, some more unusual remedy. To acquire this virtue it is first necessary to be very humble, a condition clearly shown by sincerity in spiritual direction, for sincerity itself leads to humility. *Remember the poor boy who was possessed by a devil, and was unable to be helped by the disciples. Only Our Lord could free him, by prayer and fasting. On that occasion the Master worked three miracles. The first enabled the boy to hear, because, when the dumb devil gets control, the soul refuses to listen. The second made him speak and the third expelled the devil.* (J. Escriva, *op. cit.*, 188)

Other ways of caring for and cultivating this virtue are those small, customary mortifications which help to keep the body under control. *If we want to keep intact the most beautiful of all the virtues, which is chastity, we must realize that it is a rose that only blooms in the midst of thorns, for which reason it is only to be found, as are the other virtues, in a mortified person.* (St. Jean Vianney, [The Cure d'Ars], *Sermon on Penance*)

Take very special care of the virtue of chastity and also of the virtues which accompany it - modesty and refinement. They are, as it were, the safeguard of chastity. Don't take lightly those norms of conduct

which help so much to keep us worthy in the sight of God: keeping a watchful guard over our senses and our hearts; the norm of courage - the courage 'to be a coward' - to flee from the occasions of sin; of going to the Sacraments frequently, particularly the Sacrament of Confession; of complete sincerity in our own spiritual direction; the norms of sorrow, contrition and reparation after one's falls. And let all this be imbued with a tender devotion to Our Lady, so that she may obtain for us from God the gift of a clean and holy life. (J. Escriva, *op. cit.*, 185)

We carry this great treasure of purity in *vessels of clay*, fragile and vulnerable. But we have all the weapons needed to conquer temptation, so that with the passage of time this virtue may go on increasing in its refinement, that is, in a greater tenderness towards God. *Let us end this period of conversation in which you and I have been praying to Our Father, asking Him to grant us the Grace to live the Christian virtue of chastity as a joyful affirmation. We ask this of Him through the intercession of Our Lady, she who is Immaculate Purity itself. Let us turn to her, 'tota pulchra', all beautiful, taking to heart that advice that I gave many years ago to those who felt uneasy in their daily struggle to be humble, pure, sincere, cheerful and generous. 'All the sins of your life seem to be rising up against you. Don't give up hope! On the contrary, call to your holy Mother Mary, with the faith and abandonment of a child. She will bring peace to your soul.'* (*ibid.* 189)" (From *In Conversation with God*, by Francis Fernandez)

Through the intercession of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Paul, and all the Holy Angels, may God grant us the grace to be pure in heart through the intercession and help of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

In Christ through Mary,
Fr. Kasel

 <p>Buy one Blizzard at regular price, receive 2nd Blizzard of equal/lesser value FREE! 215 E. 18th St. Zumbrota 732-5910</p>	<p>Pine Haven Community Pine Haven Care Center: skilled nursing care, private rooms, rehabilitation & therapy services. Evergreen Place: senior housing with services.</p>  <p>210 3rd St NW • Pine Island • (507) 356-8304 www.PineHavenCommunity.org</p>	 <p>Hub Food Center 228 West Ave. Zumbrota 507-732-7329 http://www.nilssensfoods.com</p>	<p>Steve Johnson's</p>  <p>Hwy 52 & 58 in Zumbrota 507-732-5127 Home: 651-460-6706 www.zumbrotaford.com</p>	<p>ZUMBROTA MINI STORAGE Lighting—Paved 24 Hour Access 1550 Jefferson Drive, Zumbrota 507-696-4406</p>
 <p>TOM & SCOTT SHANE Commercial & Industrial 507-824-2191</p>	<p>Knollwood Apartments Located next door to the Church of St. Michael Walk to Sunday Mass! Call for more information (507)-356-8448</p>	<p>Mahn Family Funeral Homes Larson Chapel 1475 Jefferson Dr. Zumbrota, MN (507) 732-5444 Mahler Chapel 209 NW 1st Ave. Pine Island, MN (507) 356-4620 mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com</p> 	<p>HEMANN, GROVER & Company Ltd. Certified Public Accountants <i>"Building & managing wealth for your business & family"</i> Glen P. Hemann, CPA ghemann@zumbrotacpa.com 404 Main St. S. Zumbrota 732-7800</p>	<p>Owen Locker Plant</p>  <p>110 2nd St. NE Pine Island, MN 55963 507-356-8612</p>
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<p>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 train- ing) before beginning their service, and to renew every three years while serving. Please contact the Safe Envi- ronment Coordinator for details on how to register for a VIRTUS class, complete the Essential 3, or do updates.</p>	<p>Parish Safe Environment Coordinator: Sara McNamara St. Michael: 507-356-4280 stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net St. Paul: 507-732-5324 stpauls@hcinet.net</p>	<p>Church of St. Michael Cemetery For Plot Information Call the Parish Office 507-356-4280 <i>"Remember To Pray For Our Beloved Departed."</i></p>	<p>Church of St. Paul Cemetery For Plot Information Call the Parish Office 507-732-5324</p>	