



FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ
AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



**2ND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**



“Prepare the way
of the Lord.”
- Mk 1:3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

7:00 p.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

WEDNESDAY

8:00 a.m. – Holy Cross Harding

THURSDAY

8:00 a.m. – St. Michael’s Buckman

FRIDAY

8:30 a.m. – St. Joseph’s Pierz

SATURDAY

4:00 p.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

6:00 p.m. – Holy Cross Harding

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. – St. Michael’s Buckman

10:00 a.m. – St. Joseph’s Pierz

**See inside cover for any changes for the upcoming week

**DECEMBER 10TH, 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY: 3:30 p.m. St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

SUNDAY: 7:30 a.m. St. Michael’s Buckman

*Confessions 30 minutes before each weekday Mass and by appt.

*First Weekend of the Month: After 6 p.m. Mass at Holy Cross Harding and after 10 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph’s Pierz

Fr. Aaron Nett, Pastor: 320-468-6033, frnett@midco.net

Michael Pekar, Pastoral Associate: 320-221-1134

Deacon Craig Korver: ckorver@molschool.org

Deacon Leo Wehseler: leowehseler@gmail.com

St. John/Holy Cross Office: 320-360-9720

St. Joseph/St. Michael Office: 320-468-6033

GOSPEL MEDITATION

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 10, 2023


2nd Sunday of Advent

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

~ *Father John Muir*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12 – DECEMBER 17	
<p><u>Tuesday, December 12</u> 10:00 a.m. Villa Word/Communion Service (<i>only for Residents</i>) 7:00 p.m. Lastrup +Joelle Hayes</p> <p><u>Wednesday, December 13</u> 8:00 a.m. Harding +Bob & Shirley Happke 8a.m.-8p.m. Buckman All Day Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><u>Thursday, December 14</u> 8:00 a.m. Buckman Those Suffering from Miscarriage 10:00 a.m. Villa +Dale & Dominick Dahmen (<i>only for Residents</i>) 6:00-8:00 p.m. Pierz Confession Service</p> <p><u>Friday, December 15</u> – <i>HT School Mass: Staff / Students</i> 8:30 a.m. Pierz +Eugene "Gene" Gruber 10:00 a.m. Villa Word/Communion Service (<i>only for Residents</i>) 3-6:00 p.m. Pierz Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><u>Saturday, December 16</u> 2:00 p.m. Buckman <i>Wedding:</i> Sarah Klehr & Ryan Pick 4:00 p.m. Lastrup +Virgil, Evelyn, Jeff, Bruce & Vickie Ortman 6:00 p.m. Harding +Larry & Lawrence Weitalla</p> <p><u>Sunday, December 17</u> 8:00 a.m. Buckman +Reiny, Ceil, Duane & Leon Przybilla 10:00 a.m. Pierz +Lea Marie Block</p>	<p><u>Christmas Eve Mass Times:</u> *4:30 p.m. in Pierz *4:30 p.m. in Buckman *12 a.m. (midnight) in Harding</p> <p><u>Christmas Day Mass Times:</u> *8:00 a.m. in Lastrup *9:00 a.m. in Harding *10:00 a.m. in Pierz</p> <hr/> <p><u>Extra Advent Confessions:</u> Tues., Dec. 19th in Lastrup 6 – 7 p.m. Wed., Dec. 20th in Buckman 7 – 8 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 21st in Harding 6 – 7 p.m. Fri., Dec. 22nd in Pierz 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>*The Dec. 24 bulletin deadline is Thursday, Dec. 14. You can email stjoes@midco.net, mail PO Box 428, Pierz MN 56364, or call 468-6033</p> <hr/> <p>*Emergency Contacts: If you have an emergency and need a priest, for Pierz/Buckman call Michael Pekar at 320-221-1134 or 468-2316. Lastrup or Harding, call Teresa at 320-360-9720.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Pierz & Buckman Office Hours:</u> Located in Pierz. Mon, Tue, Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fridays closed.</p> <p><u>Lastrup & Harding Office Hours:</u> Call 320-360-9720</p> <hr/> <p>*If you are seeking information on baptism, marriage, or RCIA preparation or would like to sign up as a new member of the parish, please call 320-468-6033 (Pierz and Buckman) or 320-360-9720 (Lastrup & Harding).</p>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</p> <p>St Joseph Pierz – Fridays 3-6 p.m. St. Michael Buckman – Wednesdays 7-8 p.m. and the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Holy Cross Harding – Adoration chapel always open</p> </div> </div>	
<p>"Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the most tender of friends with souls who seek to please Him. His goodness knows how to proportion itself to the smallest of His creatures as to the greatest of them. Be not afraid then in your solitary conversations, to tell Him of your miseries, fears, worries, of those who are dear to you, of your projects, and of your hopes. Do so with confidence and with an open heart." – St. Damien of Molokai</p>	

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

9251 Hwy 25, P.O. Box 428

Pierz, MN 56364

Phone: 320-468-6033

E-mail: stjoes@midco.net

Website: www.stjosephs-stmichaels.org



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 @ 8:00 a.m.

Lector: Randi Kranz

Communion Ministers: Jill Hoheisel & Deb Hall

Servers: Abby Posch & Noah Solinger

Ushers for Dec.: Grant Stangl, Nathan Gruber & Shane Zilka



III. BANNS OF MARRIAGE

(Wedding December 16th)

Sarah Klehr & Ryan Pick

CHOIR NEWS: Choir practice December 14th at 9:00 a.m.
Choir will sing on Sunday, December 17th.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

*Trent Iverson at Emblom Brenny Funeral Service for donating the crucifix on the altar.

*John Blissenbach for the donation of the Christmas trees for the outdoor nativity.

*Roger & Janice Janson for the new sign with Mass times out front of the church in memory of Reine & Jeanette Janson.

Your generosity and kindness are much appreciated!!

SUBSTITUTE TO PRAY ROSARY: We are looking for a substitute person to pray the rosary before Sunday Mass at St. Michael's. Call Patty at 468-2487 for more information.

CHRIST CHILD BABY SHOWER: NEW baby – teens clothing, coats, hats, mittens & diapers are being collected, along with monetary donations for area families in need. Sponsored by the Buckman CM/W. Basket in the church. Any questions, call Cindy Scholl at 320-630-8410.



Christmas Cards to Seminarians:

St. Michael's Council of Catholic United Financial is sponsoring "Christmas Cards to Seminarians." Everyone is invited to pick up a pre-addressed Christmas card from the basket in the parish center entrance, add your personal message, and mail to these young men from our diocese to support and encourage their commitment to God.

POINSETTIAS: If you're interested in donating a red or white poinsettias in memory of a loved one(s) to decorate St. Michael's church for Christmas please contact Jane Funk at 320-630-6854.

ST. MICHAEL WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (Nov. 26)

Adult	\$ 2,429.00
High School	\$ 8.00
Elementary	\$ 9.00
Plate	\$ 140.25
	\$ 2,586.25

October Electronic Contributions: \$ 1,075.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **November 26th** Sunday: 285

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

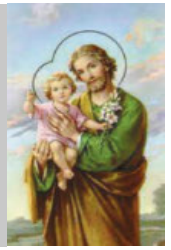
68 Main St N, P.O. Box 428

Pierz, MN 56364

Phone: 320-468-6033

E-mail: stjoes@midco.net

Website: www.stjosephs-stmichaels.org



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 @ 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Al Pekarek

Communion Ministers: Ruth Stuckmayer, Courtney Kroll & Kristie Kroll

Servers: Elizabeth & Anna Stumpf

Ushers for December: Jeremy Virnig, Allan Kroll, Andy Kapsner & Mat Stumpf

New Life in Christ

Aurelia Marie, daughter of Mark & Christen Korf, was baptized on Sunday, December 3rd.

Roran Anthony, son of Preston & Olivia Weber was baptized on Sunday, December 3rd. Congratulations and welcome to our community of faith!



CHRIST CHILD BABY SHOWER: During Advent a basket is placed in church for young children and baby items. Clothes, diapers, blankets, money donations, etc. Items will be taken to Pierz Food Shelf and given to families in need. Sponsored by Pierz Christian Mothers. Questions call 468-6070. Thank you.



TASTEFUL TREASURES COOKBOOK:

The St. Joseph's CM/W cookbooks are available at the parish office. Call the parish office with questions 468-6033. They make great gifts for birthdays, weddings, Christmas etc. They are \$25.00 each.

ST JOSEPHS QUILT CIRCLE: We will be quilting on Monday, December 11th at 1 p.m. and Thursday, December 14th at 9 a.m. Come and go as is convenient for you. Just a reminder we have kits done up with directions and ready to go for tops. Feel free to stop down and observe. We are always looking for new quilters. Questions call Eileen 320-360-2434 or Chris 320-630-0606.

ST. JOSEPH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (Nov. 26)

Adult	\$ 4,981.00
High School	\$ 11.00
Elementary	\$ 10.75
Plate	\$ 312.00
	\$ 5,314.75

Thanksgiving: \$718 (env.) \$210 (plate)

October Electronic Contributions: \$ 3,545.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **November 23rd** Thanksgiving: 179

Mass attendance **November 26th** Sunday: 446



ST. JOHN NEPOMUK

28520 Church St., PO BOX 38
Lastrup, MN 56344
Phone: 320-360-9720
E-mail: ltthesing@hotmail.com
Website: stjohllastrup.org



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 @ 4:00 p.m.

Ushers: Ron & Barb Specker

Server: Ellie Thomsen

Lector: Mark Loidolt

Eucharistic Minister (choir): Carol Welle

FINANCE COUNCIL: There will be a finance council meeting for the gambling committee on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the rectory.

BAR BINGO NEWS: Come to the Fisch House in Lastrup to play bingo every Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. starting this week. Please come and join us for a fun evening. The jackpot numbers will be posted online and at the Fisch House and also on their Facebook page. St. John's gaming #02115.

MEAT RAFFLE: We now have a meat raffle at the Fisch House every Sunday at 5:00 PM. Please join us for some fun and try and win some meat. St. John's Gaming #02115.

MASS INTENTIONS: We have Mass intention times open, so if you are interested in having a Mass read for a loved one, call Teresa at 320-360-9720.

ST. JOHN NEPOMUK WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

***Saturday, November 26th:** Adult env. \$1,259.00, Adult loose \$107.00, Children env. \$2.00, Children loose \$20.00. Thanksgiving env.: \$245.00. **Mass attendance:** 170.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR LASTRUP & HARDING:

Olivia Waldorf, Horst Hanneken, Pat (Rod) Boser, Jane Weiss, Alice Matlock, Kurt Lucking, Sally Lentner, Lois Woitalla, Rhys Boser, Glen Anderson, Sharon Barrett, Carmen Britz, Doris Weiss, Mary Ann Schomer, Justin Lindgren, Eric Halbert, Aaron Boser, Karen Schommer, Ione Hoskins, Gerard Virnig, Serena Truskowski, Gina Virnig, Donny Schommer, Scott Bednar, Jerod Bursch.

ACC Faith Study Groups

*Bible study is being offered every other Sunday evening for the young female youth (9th grade and older) of our ACC. This is held in the St Joseph Church basement at 7:00 pm. The next bible study will be on December 3rd. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please call Jenny (320-360-6650), Kari (320-412-6164), or Rebecca (320-360-7004).

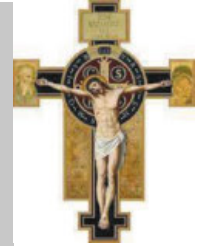
*Man Accountability: Men of all parishes, give us the honors of joining us on Saturdays from 6:45-8AM at the Pierz parish office for Gospel prayer, Acts 2:42, and accountability. Iron sharpens iron! Questions/reminders please text/call Mark Loidolt, 701-388-2323.

*Women's Group meets on Saturday mornings from 8:15-9:30 a.m. We'll meet in St. Joseph's church at 8:15 to pray a rosary followed by discussion in the parish office until 9:30. All women are welcome! Call or text Cari Stumpf with any questions, 320-761-6336.

*The Sunday Night Adult Education Group meets on Sunday night at 7PM in the Pierz parish office meeting room. We watch a short video on a variety of Catholic topics followed by a discussion. For more information, call Al Pekarek at 468-0220.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

29482 243rd Street
Pierz, MN 56364
Phone: 320-360-9720
E-mail: ltthesing@hotmail.com
Website: Hardingchurch.org



SATURDAY, DEC. 16 @ 6:00 p.m.

Ushers: Andy Woitalla & Allen Stuckmayer

Servers: Erin & Tyler Thesing

Lector: Sheila Rudolph

Rosary: Ted Boser

CHURCH CLEANERS: Nicole Brau, Jeanna LeBlanc, Jennifer Brill, Kelly Brill, Stephanie Brill, Tina Brill, Amanda (Andy) Woitalla, Jessica Lucking

RAFFLE CALENDARS: Holy Trinity School Raffle Calendars will be on sale before and after Mass in the entry way on the following dates 12/2, 12/9, and 12/16. Calendars cost \$25 each with 365 chances to win! Thank you for your support of Catholic education.

WREATHS & TREE OF LIGHT: The tree is looking beautiful, still time to add your loved one on to the Christmas Masses in Harding. The forms were found on the back of the bulletin 2 weeks ago. There are extra forms in the back of each church. Wreaths can be put on graves for you or just one for a gift or your door. The names of all bulbs are read before Christmas Eve Mass and they are all remembered during that Mass. All names and donors are hung in the church entry. Questions call Teresa 320-360-9720 or mail 29482 – 243rd St. Pierz, MN 56364.

HOLY CROSS WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

Saturday, November 26th: Adult Envelope \$1,995.00, Adult loose \$53.00, Children Envelope \$10.00, Children loose \$28.00. Thanksgiving \$39.00. **Mass attendance:** 116

Christmas at the Pipe Organ



at

St. Joseph's Church
68 Main Street North, Pierz MN

Saturday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m.



Concert Organist: Bill Messerschmidt

- BA in Pipe Organ – Southern Illinois University
- MA in Church Music & Worship – St. Olaf College-Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Highlights: Contemporary & Traditional Works

- Upbeat arrangements of Christmas Carols
- Rhythmic pieces including "Rise Up Shepherd"
- Noels

Free will offering to support the work of
Labor of Love ministry in Little Falls



GENERAL NEWS

Eucharistic minister meetings for all Eucharistic Ministers and Homebound ministers of the Eucharist of the ACC. The meetings will take place on December 9th after the 6pm Mass in Harding and Dec 10th after the 10am Mass in Pierz. Please contact the office or Deacon Craig if you are not able to make it in order to obtain the information and updates. Thank you.

ALL DAY ADORATION: From 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13th at St. Michael's Church in Buckman. Call Patty at 468-2487 with questions or to sign up.

ROSARY OF THE SEVEN SORROWS: Everyone is welcome to come pray the Rosary of Seven Sorrows at the crucifix in the St. Michael's cemetery in Buckman, after 8:00 AM Mass on December 10th. The purpose of this Rosary is to promote union with Jesus through union with the sorrows that His Blessed Mother endured.

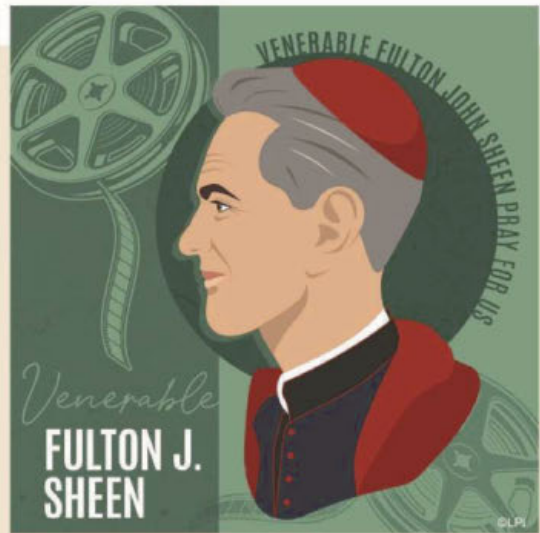
CONFESSION SERVICE: There will be a confession service on Thursday, December 14th from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church in Pierz. There will be extra priests to hear confessions. You can come anytime during those 2 hours.

SCAM WARNING: It has again been brought to our attention that there have been texts and emails claiming to be Fr. Aaron asking for a favor, to get gift cards, or to call him back. Please know that this is a scam, do not reply to these messages. If you are unsure if it is a scam, feel free to call the parish office at 468-6033 and we will make sure it is not Fr. Aaron reaching out.

PIERZ DINING CENTER: The Pierz Dining Center will be having a Christmas Party on Dec. 14th. Free Bingo will start at 3:30, dinner served at 4:45. A special guest will have a gift for all. Everyone 60 years of age or handicapped is welcome. The suggested donation for the meal is \$5. Due to limited space please RSVP to Nancy by Dec. 11th. Come and enjoy us for an evening of fun.

ADVENT HEALING MASS: You are invited to join the Crosier Fathers and Brothers at the National Shrine of St. Odilia in Onamia on Sunday, December 17, at 9:00 a.m., for an Advent Healing Mass. The Mass will include the Anointing of the Sick and the ritual of blessing with the Relic of St. Odilia. Coffee and rolls will be served following the Mass. All are welcome! For further information call 320.532.3103 or email onamia@crosier.org

Diocesan Festival of Families: Registration is now open! Join other families from around the diocese for a day celebrating the family. Cost is only \$20 per family (no matter the size), and will include a free carnival, family games, lunch, age-appropriate activities and Mass with Bishop Neary. Register: <https://stcdio.org/event/festival-of-families/>



Saint of the week

Venerable Bishop Fulton John Sheen was a prominent American Catholic bishop, theologian, and media personality. Considered one of the first televangelists, his charisma and defense of the faith made him a household name for American Catholic families.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, source of all holiness, You raise up within the Church in every age men and women who serve with heroic love and dedication. You have blessed Your Church through the life and ministry of Your faithful servant, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. He has written and spoken well of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, and was a true instrument of the Holy Spirit in touching the hearts of countless people.

If it be according to Your will, for the honor and glory of the Most Holy Trinity and for the salvation of souls, we ask You to move the Church to proclaim him a saint. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Observances for the week of December 10, 2023

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. Damasus I, Pope
- Tuesday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Wednesday:** St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
- Thursday:** St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent



80 Edward St. N., Pierz MN 56364, 320-468-6446

***HTCS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** - Wednesday, December 13, 2023. HTCS Gym. 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

***GIVING TREE** - Thank you for the donations to our Giving Tree. A special thank you to: Pierz Lions Club, Harding Sportsmen's Club, and the Pierz Knights of Columbus for the monetary donations to help fill the remaining tags!

***RAFFLE CALENDARS** - Calendars are on sale for \$25 each now from HT families as well as the school office.

***COFFEE-** Guatemalan coffee is always available for purchase at the school. Regular (ground or bean) \$13.00, in French, Dark, or Medium Roast. Decaf (ground or bean) \$14.00.

Raffle Calendar Winners:

- 12/03/2023 \$75.00 Stacie & Jim Gross
- 12/04/2023 \$35.00 Mason Pappenfus
- 12/05/2023 \$35.00 Ken Knettel
- 12/06/2023 \$35.00 Valora Stangl
- 12/07/2023 \$35.00 Dale & Mary Schraut
- 12/08/2023 \$35.00 Karen Stangl
- 12/09/2023 \$35.00 Penny Jacobson

*Father Pierz
School of Religion*



320-468-2640

December 13th - JH/SH Shop for Giving Tree at Walmart & Bell Ringing 6pm-8pm (Adoration 5pm Pierz Church)

December 11th-15th - Help package gifts for Christmas families 4-6pm @ the LF warehouse

December 20th - JH/SH Snow tubing 5pm-9:30pm

TEC Retreat in Little Falls ~ December 29th-31st

**LOOK WHAT'S NEW
IN THE ACC!**



Recent Baptism
Aurelia Marie,
daughter of
Mark & Christen Korf



*St. Nicholas
visited after
Mass in
Buckman last
Sunday*

