# Second 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 Midnael 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,

This Sunday, December 8, is the usual day we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, in the Novus Ordo calendar, the celebration of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. Archbishop Hebda has dispensed the faithful in our Archdiocese from the Obligation to attend Holy Mass this year.

The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin is one the most sublime of the doctrines of our Catholic Faith. It is also one of the most hope-inspiring doctrines of our Catholic Faith. You may be wondering: what exactly is this teaching? This is a good time to review our Faith on the Immaculate Conception. Here is what our Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches:

"What the Catholic Faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its Faith in Christ.

'God sent forth His Son', but to prepare a body for Him (Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 10:5), He wanted the free co-operation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of His Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, 'a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary' (Luke 1:26-27): The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life. (Lumen Gentium 56; 61) Throughout the Old Covenant the mission of many holy wom-

en prepared for that of Mary. At the very beginning there was Eve; despite her disobedience, she receives the promise of a posterity that will be victorious over the evil one, as well as the promise that she will be the mother of all the living. (Cf. Genesis 3:15, 20) By virtue of this promise, Sarah conceives a son in spite of her old age. (Cf. Genesis 18:10-14; 21:1-2) Against all human expectation God chooses those who were considered powerless and weak to show forth His faithfulness to His promises: Hannah, the mother of Samuel; Deborah; Ruth; Judith and Esther; and many other women. (Cf. 1 Corinthians 1:17; 1 Samuel 1) Mary 'stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently hope for and receive salvation from Him. After a long period of waiting the times are fulfilled in her, the exalted Daughter of Sion, and the new plan of salvation is established.' (Lumen Gentium 55)

To become the Mother of our Savior, Mary 'was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.' (Lumen Gentium 56) The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as 'full of grace'. (Luke 1:28) In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, (Luke 1:28) was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her concep-

# 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

tion, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin. (Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus (1854): DS 2803)

The 'splendor of an entirely unique holiness' by which Mary is 'enriched from the first instant of her conception' comes wholly from Christ: she is 'redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son'. (Lumen Gentium 53, 56) The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person 'in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places' and chose her 'in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love'. (Cf. Ephesians 1:3-4) (continued on page 4)

## Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of

the Blessed Virgin Mary - No Obligation this year.

Monday, December 9 St. Michael, Pine Island 8:30am

#### **Individual Confession times during Advent\*:**

Saturdays, Dec. 14 & 21 St. Michael, Pine Island 4:00-4:55 pm Sundays, Dec. 8, 15, & 22 St. Michael, Pine Island 7:00-7:45 am Sundays, Dec. 8, 15, & 22 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:30-8:40 am Tuesday, December 17 St. Paul, Zumbrota 4:00-4:55 pm Tuesday, December 17 St. Paul, Zumbrota 6:30-8:00 pm Wednesday, December 18 St. Michael, Pine Island 4:00-4:55 pm Wednesday, December 18 St. Michael, Pine Island 6:30-8:00 pm 9:30-10:30 am Saturday, December 21 St. Paul, Zumbrota Saturday, December 21 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:45 am-noon \*The Sacrament of Confession is also offered before each weekday Holy Mass

The next **Holy Hour for Men** will be Sunday, December 8, at 6:30pm at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Fr. Kasel will have a 'Grill the Priest' opportunity – bring your questions on our Catholic Faith! All men are invited!

The next **Holy Hour for Women** will be Sunday, December 29, at 6:00pm at the Church of St. Michael. All women are invited!

## CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL NEWS

#### **CHURCH OF St. Michael FAITH FORMATION:**

The next Faith Formation session will be on Wednesday, January 15, at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Topic for January: The Church (PreK- Grade 6) & The Eucharist, Center of all Sacramental Life (Confirmation 1, 2, & Adults)

**Youth Group Event!** All Youth, Grades 7-12, are invited for a prayer, food, and game night Friday, December 20, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Fr. Kasel will give a talk. All high school students and confirmation candidates are invited to this youth event. Please RSVP to our parish offices! God bless you! We are planning to have a small gift exchange—if possible, please plan for a gift item of approximately \$5 or so for each of your children.

## 35th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life

Just as Jesus became Man at His conception, likewise, when a child is conceived, they become a member of our human family. This little person now dwells among us. So that our nation and world may accept this truth, conform to God's laws, protect our unborn brothers and sisters and restore health to our country . . . COME PRAY WITH US!

#### Church of St. Michael, December 8-9, 2024 9:00 pm Sunday to 1:00 am Monday

Join in Unity of Prayer across America to restore the protection of LIFE, the FAMILY and the CHURCH to establish PEACE and inspire courage in our NATION!!!

National Hour of Unity is 11pm – 12am CT

**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. 15. 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!

Consecration of Those Governing to the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculate Mary, Patroness of the United States of America, Queen of Heaven and of Earth, beneath whose sway are subject all things that are lower than God, sorrowful and mindful of our own sinfulness and the sins of our nation, we come to thee, our refuge and hope. Knowing that our country cannot be saved by our own works and mindful of how much our nation has departed from the ways of thy Son, we humbly ask that thou wouldst turn thine eyes upon our country to bring about its conversion. We consecrate to thee (the peaceful transition of power) and all of those governing our republic, so that what is spiritually and morally best for the citizens of our nation may be accomplished, and that they would govern according to the spiritual and moral principles which will bring our nation into conformity with the teachings of thy Son. Bind any forces, spiritual or human, that would seek to Wednesday, December 11, 2024 inflict harm or evil on our country or those who do good for our nation by their governance. Give Grace to the citizens of this land so that they may merit leaders who will govern according to the Sacred Heart of thy Son, that His Glory may be made manifest, lest we be given the leaders we deserve. Trusting in the providential care of God the Father and thy maternal care, we have perfect confidence that thou wilt take care of us and wilt not leave us forsaken. O Mary Immaculate, pray for us. Amen.

**DIAPER DRIVE**: Make a donation to Olmsted County MCCL! MCCL has partnered with EveryLife, the nation's first and only prolife diaper company, to provide affordable, premium diapers to moms and babies in need! Pregnancy centers in YOUR area are low on diapers, especially sizes 3-6. Here's how you can help: Go to EveryLife.com, use code MCCL10 for 10% off at checkout and have your order delivered to 60677 227th Ave, Mantorville MN

Or make a donation to Olmsted County MCCL, who will purchase diapers at 25% off and distribute them to the Rochester area PRCs in need! Contact Linda McGuire 507-259-4035 for more information

Pine Island Food Shelf: Items requested for December: Your choice!

## WEEKLY TITHING November 30 - December 1, 2024

Sunday Envelopes: 4,815.00 Plate: 1,733.75 EFT: 2,645.00 **Total:** 9,193.75

**KC Meeting:** The next St. Padre Pio Knights of Columbus Council 16016 Membership meeting will be held at 7:00PM on Wed., December 11 at the Church of St. Michael in Pine Island.

#### Hour of Grace: Noon to 1 PM on Sunday, December 8!

During the period of November 24, 1946 to December 8, 1947, the Blessed Mother appeared to Sister Pierrina in a little church in Montichiari, Italy, eleven times.

On the first appearance, the Blessed Mother told Sister Pierrina that She wanted to be known as the 'Mystical Rose' and that an hour of grace should be kept at noon, December 8, in all the Catholic Churches of the world. The Blessed Mother wanted this to be known through all of Italy and the entire world. During the Hour of Grace, many spiritual graces would be granted. The most hard-hearted sinners will be touched by the grace of God. The Blessed Virgin promised that whatever a person asked Her for during this Hour of Grace (even in impossible cases) would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the will of the

Request of Blessed Mother for the Hour of Grace:

- 1. Day and time of Hour of Grace December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception – to be started at 12 noon and will continue until 1 PM (one full hour of prayer)
- 2. During this hour the person making the 'Hour of Grace' either at home or in the Church must put away all distractions (do not answer the telephone or the door or do anything but totally concentrate on your union with God during this Special Hour of Grace)
- 3. Begin the Hour of Grace by praying three times the Psalm 51 with outstretched arms.
- 4. The rest of the Hour of Grace may be spent in silent communication with God, meditating upon the Passion of Jesus, saying the Holy Rosary, praising God in your own way or by using favorite prayers, singing hymns, meditating upon other Psalms, etc. Remember to pray for your country during this hour.

## Institute of Catholic Culture Lecture Series

The Filled-up Word: Unlocking Matthew's Vision of Christ's Birth Details: Saturday, December 14, Pre-Class Discussion:10:30AM EST, Instructor: Rev. Devin Roza, LC Lecture: 11:00AM EST

Registration is required. https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/events/the-filled-up-word/

## **HOLY MASS TIMES**

Monday, December 9, 2024 Solemnity of the Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30am Holy Mass

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

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

#### Friday, December 13, 2024

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

## Saturday, December 14, 2024

4:00pm-4:50pm Confessions

5:00pm Holy Mass

## Sunday, December 15, 2024

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

## **HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**



December 9, 2024 **Parishioners** 

**December 11, 2024** †Rita Bodensteiner (Janet Shannon)

December 13, 2024 †Micah Erickson (Terri Pass)

December 14, 2024 Jon & Kate Lenn family

December 15, 2024 †Gerry Arnold (Catherine Arnold)

**December 15, 2024 Parishioners** 

## CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL NEWS

#### **CHURCH OF St. Paul FAITH FORMATION:**

The next **Faith Formation session** will be on Wednesday,
January 15, at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island.

<u>Topic for January</u>: The Church (PreK- Grade 6) & The Eucharist,
Center of all Sacramental Life (Confirmation 1, 2, & Adults)

## I am the Immaculate Conception

"At Lourdes, the Immaculata did not say of herself that she had been conceived immaculately, but, as St. Bernadette repeated, "Que soy era immaculada councepciou": "I am the Immaculate Conception." If among human beings the wife takes the name of her husband because she belongs to him,



is one with him, becomes equal to him and is, with him, the source of new life, with how much greater reason should the name of the Holy Spirit, who is the Divine Immaculate Conception, be used as the name of her in whom He lives as uncreated Love, the Principle of Life in the whole Supernatural Order of Grace?" (St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr)

#### WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"In the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I trust. Look to the Star, call upon Mary! In danger, in difficulty or in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Keep her Name on your lips, never let it pass out of your heart." *St. Bernard* 

"'Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart' (1 Sm 16:7). And Mary's heart was fully disposed to the fulfillment of the Divine Will. This is why the Blessed Virgin is the model of Christian expectation and hope... In her heart there is no shade of selfishness: she desires nothing for herself except God's glory and human salvation. For her, the very privilege of being preserved from original sin is not a reason to boast, but one for total service to her Son's redemptive mission." St John Paul II "'Hail, Full of Grace.' By these words the Angel shows that she was altogether excluded from the wrath of the first sentence, and restored to the full Grace of Blessing." St. Augustine
"It is not to be believed that He, the Son of God, would be born of

"It is not to be believed that He, the Son of God, would be born of a Virgin, and take her flesh, were she in the slightest degree stained with original sin." St. Bernardine of Siena

"And indeed it was wholly fitting that so wonderful a mother should be ever resplendent with the glory of most sublime holiness and so completely free from all taint of original sin that she would triumph utterly over the ancient serpent." *Bl. Pius IX* 

"The proud spirit endeavored to infect the most pure soul of this Virgin with his venom, as he had already infected the whole human race. But praised and ever blessed be God, who, in His Infinite Goodness, pre-endowed her for this purpose with such great Grace, that, remaining always free from any guilt of sin, she was ever able to beat down and confound his pride..." St. Alphonsus Liguori "Since she is the sure means, the direct and immaculate way to Jesus and the perfect guide to Him, it is through her that souls who are to shine forth in sanctity must find Him. He who finds Mary finds life, that is, Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life." St. Louis-Marie de Montfort

#### **PRO-LIFE QUOTE:**

"Oh Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of Life, we honor you as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Thank you for pointing us to Jesus your Son, the only Savior and hope of the world. Renew our hope in Him that we all may have the courage to say YES to life and to defend those children in danger of abortion. Give us your compassion to reach out to those tempted to abort and to those suffering from a past abortion. Lead us to the day when abortion will be a sad, past chapter in our history. Keep us close to Jesus, the Life of the World, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen." www.priestsforlife.org "The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being." Pope John Paul II

## **WEEKLY TITHING December 1, 2024**

 Sunday Envelopes:
 \$ 3,465.00

 Plate:
 \$ 147.00

 EFT:
 \$ 1,515.00

 Total:
 \$ 5,127.00

The members of the St. Paul CCW will be filling fruit/gift baskets after Holy Mass on December 8. Please join us!



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathryn Bucher, (parishioner), who passed away December 4. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kambrynn Ronningen (granddaughter of Stu and Jennifer Ohr, parishioners), who passed away November 22. Eternal rest grant unto her, O

Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**KC Meeting:** The next St. Padre Pio Knights of Columbus Council 16016 Membership meeting will be held at 7PM on Wed., December 11 at the Church of St. Michael in Pine Island.

**Pro-Life Diaper Drive:** Catholic Daughters of America is sponsoring a Diaper Drive for First Choice Clinic from December 1- January 5. Sizes 3-7 are most needed. Leave diaper donations in the church entrance. Catholic daughters will match \$1000 worth of diapers donated. Thank you!

**2024 Holiday Community 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, winter gear, and laundry detergent. Reminder notes are available on the board in the vestibule. Return items to the office or the vestibule by **December 10.** 

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 Maggie Eggerichs at 507-951-2316 with any questions.

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

**Zumbrota Health Services** is hosting an Open House and Holiday Market on Thursday, December 12, at 3:30-6:30pm. There will be handmade crafts, baked goods, and plants. All proceeds go to the Activity Department.

### **HOLY MASS TIMES**

## Tuesday, December 10, 2024

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

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

Thursday, December 12, 2024

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

#### Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:20am Rosary/8:25am Confessions

8:45am Holy Mass

## **HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**

December 10, 2024 †Jim & Millie Pauba (Pauba family)

December 12, 2024 †Avonne Marvin (Carol Brekke)

December 15, 2024 Parishioners



# NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from page 1) The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God 'the All-Holy' (Panagia), and celebrate her as 'free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature'. (Lumen Gentium 56) By the grace of God, Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.

At the announcement that she would give birth to 'the Son of the Most High' without knowing man, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary responded with the Obedience of Faith, certain that 'with God nothing will be impossible': 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word.' (Luke 1:28-38; cf. Rom 1:5) Thus, giving her consent to God's Word, Mary becomes the Mother of Jesus. Espousing the Divine Will for salvation wholeheartedly, without a single sin to restrain her, she gave herself entirely to the person and to the work of her Son; she did so in order to serve the mystery of redemption with Him and dependent on Him, by God's grace: (Cf. Lumen Gentium 56)

As St. Irenaeus says, 'Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race.' (St. Irenaeus, Adv. haeres. 3, 22, 4: PG 7/1, 959A) Hence not a few of the early Fathers gladly assert. . .: 'The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her Faith.' (St. Irenaeus, Adv. haeres. 3, 22, 4: PG 7/1, 959A) Comparing her with Eve, they call Mary 'the Mother of the living' and frequently claim: 'Death through Eve, life through Mary.' (56; Epiphanius, Haer. 78, 18: PG 42, 728CD-729AB; St. Jerome, Ep. 22, 21: PL 22, 408)

Called in the Gospels 'the Mother of Jesus', Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her Son, as 'the Mother of my Lord'. (Luke 1:43; John 2:1; 19:25; cf. Matthew 13:55; et al) In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh,

**2024 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:** The liturgical celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be held Dec. 9 this year because Dec. 8 falls on the second Sunday of Advent. People who live or are present in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis on Dec. 9 are dispensed from the obligation to participate in Mass—though they are strongly encouraged to attend, Archbishop Bernard Hebda said in a recent announcement. The dispensation comes as the Holy See clarified that—in contrast to the prevalent understanding in the United State and even as published in the Ordo that gives information about each day's liturgy—the usual obligation to attend Mass on the solemnity applies even when the celebration is transferred to Dec. 9. Archbishop Hebda said he learned that many parishes had already published their Mass schedules and arranged staffing with the understanding that December 9 would not include an obligation to attend Mass. To accommodate that reality, the dispensation was issued, the archbishop said. "All who enjoy the benefit of this dispensation are exhorted to commemorate the Immaculate Conception in another fitting manner, such as by reciting the Liturgy of the Hours or reflecting on the readings for the day, or engaging in prayer either individually, with others, or as a family," the archbishop said. "As we each honor this special day dedicated to our Blessed Mother, the Patroness of the United States of America, let us reflect on her unique role in salvation history and ask her intercession for this nation," the archbishop wrote. (from the Catholic Spirit)

was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly 'Mother of God' (Theotokos). (Council of Ephesus (431): DS 251)"(CCC 487-495)

Through the intercession of the Mary, the Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph, St. Michael, and St. Paul, may God bless our parishes, families and the whole Church with His Peace! In Christ through Mary, Fr. Kasel



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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

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# ST. PIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 16016

#### **JOIN US**

Brother Knights of our Council invite you to join us. Contact the Parish Office visit: www.kofc.org/join