

April 6, 2025 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Father Randal Kasel, Pastor frkasel@bevcomm.net

Josefina Meyer & Sara McNamara, Staff

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL 749 South Main St., Zumbrota, MN 55992

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OFFICE HOURS: Tues & Thurs 9am-noon, 1-5pm, Wed Closed, Fri 9am-noon

CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL 451 5th St. SW, Pine Island, MN 55963

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OFFICE HOURS: Tues-Thurs 9am-noon & 1pm-5pm, Fri 9am-noon

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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,

The month of April is dedicated to increasing devotion to the Holy Eucharist and the Holy Spirit. Let us strive to grow in heart-felt Love for our Lord Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament and the best friend of our souls, the Holy Spirit!

The Sacrament of Penance or Confession is an unfathomable Grace of Divine Mercy and Goodness. From this Sacrament a soul receives our good Lord's Peace and the certitude of being loved and forgiven by God. I encourage all to not be afraid to approach this Sacrament! Do not be afraid to come to our good Lord and encounter His Infinite Goodness!

I encourage you to go to the Sacrament of Confession sometime in the next few weeks before Easter. Let us persevere in prayer, especially devotion to our Lord's Divine Mercy, the Virgin Mary, and the Holy Rosary and to St. Joseph!

This week I share with you a beautiful meditation on the Sacrament of Penance or Confession. I encourage you to take time to read it through a few times this week.

"Meditation for Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent - Go and Sin No More"

In the Sacrament of Penance it is Christ who forgives.

Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? No one, Lord. Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again. (John 8:10-11) They placed her in the midst, says the Gospel. (cf. John 8:10-11) They have humiliated her and shamed her in the extreme, without the slightest concern for her. They remind Our Lord that the Law imposed the severe penalty of death by stoning for this sin. *What do you say, they ask Him, disguising their ulterior motives so that they might have some charge to bring against Him.* But Jesus surprises them all. He does not say anything; *He bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground.*

The woman is terrified by them all. The Scribes and Pharisees go on asking questions. Then, *Jesus stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.'* And once more *He bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground.*

They all went away, on by one, *beginning with the eldest.* Not one of them had a clear conscience and they were trying to set a trap for Our Lord. All of them went away. *And Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before Him. Jesus looked up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'*

Jesus' words are full of gentleness and clemency, a manifestation of God's infinite mercy and forgiveness. She answered straight away, *No one, Lord.* And Jesus said to her, *'Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.'* We can imagine the enormous joy of that woman, her desire to begin again, her deep love for Christ.

Such a deep change has taken place in that woman's soul, stained by sin and suffused with her public shame, that we can only partly see the alteration in her with the light of Faith. The words of the prophet Isaiah are fulfilled: *Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I am doing a thing... I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert... new* (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

Additional Individual Confession times for Lent:

Tuesday, April 8	4:00-4:55pm	St. Paul
Tuesday, April 8	6:30-7:30pm	St. Paul
Wednesday, April 16	4:00-4:55pm	St. Michael
Wednesday, April 16	7:00-8:30pm	St. Michael
Holy Thursday, April 17	4:30-5:00pm	St. Paul
Holy Thursday, April 17	after the 7:30pm Holy Mass	St. Michael
Good Friday, April 18	4:30-5:30pm	St. Michael
Good Friday, April 18	after evening Liturgy	St. Michael

Holy Week and Easter- 2025

Thursday, April 17 - Holy Thursday Mass of Our Lord's Last Supper 5:30pm St. Paul

7:30pm St. Michael (Latin) - Church open for prayer after Holy Mass

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday Stations & Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion 12:00pm St. Paul - Stations of the Cross

3:00pm St. Michael (Latin) - Veneration of the Cross & Holy Communion

7:00pm St. Michael - Veneration of the Cross & Holy Communion

Saturday, April 19 - Easter Vigil St. Michael 8:30pm

Sunday, April 20 - Easter: regular Sunday Holy Mass Schedule

Divine Mercy Sunday - April 27, 2025

2:00-4:00pm at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island

The Church of St. Michael Men's Club Fish Fries

on Friday of Lent (April 11) from 4:30-7:00pm



STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

Each Tuesday of Lent at 5:30pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

Each Friday of Lent at 7:30pm



The next Holy Hour and Social for Men: Sunday, April 13, at 6:30pm at the Church of St. Michael. Fr. Kasel will give a talk on: *The Relationship between Faith and Works.* All men are invited!

CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL NEWS

CHURCH OF St. Michael FAITH FORMATION: Classes for Faith Formation have ended for this year.



Thank You to our wonderful teachers: Ally & Andy Drees, Maggie Eggerichs, Sara McNamara, Josefina Meyer, Joseph Pass & Margaret Pass, Laurie Schultz, & Jennifer Thornwall; teacher assistants: Ann Kreidermacher, Eric Shultz, Cecilia Lorentz; hall monitors: Pat Smith & Terri Pass; and everyone else who helped in anyway. **A special thank you to those who helped with the meals!** God bless you for your sacrifices this past year! In Christ through Mary, *Fr. Kasel*

Save the dates! St. Michael Homeschool Co-op for Spring, 2025: The Church of St. Michael is offering an opportunity for children ages 3-14 to participate in a Homeschool Co-op on five (5) Fridays: April 25 and May 2, 9, 16, and 23. More details will be available soon. Contact the Office at 507-356-4280 or stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net. Registration forms are in the Church entry.

Confirmation/Youth Group Retreat! All confirmation candidates and youth, grades 7-12, are invited to a retreat on **Wednesday, April 30**, from 6:30-9:00pm at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. The evening will begin with a meal and include spiritual talks, adoration, and confession. **Confirmation I and II students are required to attend** (anyone with an unavoidable conflict—please contact the parish office as soon as possible). Please RSVP to our parish offices.

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist." *St. Gregory the Great*
 "The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works." *St. Augustine*
 "Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God." *St. John Paul II*
 "The want of proper examination, true contrition, and a firm purpose of amendment, is the cause of bad confessions, and the ruin of souls." *St. Benedict Joseph Labre*
 "In the life of the body a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason he needs medicine so that he may be restored to health; and this grace is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance." *St. Thomas Aquinas*

Catholic Services Appeal for 2025: *Giving is Faith in Action!*

It is such a great reminder of what the Lord has done and calls us to do. Your continued generosity to the Catholic Services Appeal and your faith in our ministries are proof that by offering the Lord what we can, He will provide what we need. The way the Lord gave of Himself for us is a great reminder that we are united as one Church that when we come together and support our ministries we can do so much good. Each of us has benefited from our ministries.

GIVE ON-LINE: <https://www.archspm.org/catholic-services-appeal>

Institute of Catholic Culture Lecture Series:

ABIDING IN GOD—A Study of the Epistles of St. John
 Three rich, yet often overlooked, New Testament books are I, II, and III John. These "hidden" gems reveal fascinating insights about life in the early Church and impart apostolic wisdom on topics such as prayer, holiness, the sacraments, and the nature of love. Above all, they call us to place Christ at the center of our lives.

"So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." -1 John 4:16

Details: Thursdays, May 8, 15, & 22, 2025

Pre-Class Discussion: 7:30pm EST Lecture: 8:00pm EST

Instructor: Scott Powell, Ph.D. Registration is required. Visit to register: <https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/events/abiding-in-god>

WEEKLY TITHING MARCH 29-30, 2025

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 3,090.00
Plate:	\$ 445.00
EFT:	\$ 960.00
Total:	\$ 4,495.00

COME AND JOIN US!

The Church of St. Michael Men's Club Fish Fries
 on Friday of Lent (**April 11**) from 4:30-7:00pm



Both baked & fried fish will be offered!
 Take out Available!

Prices: Adults \$15.00, Children 5-12 \$6.00, Family maximum \$45.00
 Hosted by: The Church of St. Michael Men's Club

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Each Friday of Lent at 7:30pm



Easter Flower Donations: Help to beautify our sanctuary and remember a loved one through a contribution for Easter Flowers! There is an envelope contribution packet for Easter flowers. The suggested donation is \$13. Please consider making a donation and put it in the Sunday collection or return to the office by Sunday, April 13. Thank you!

Congratulations to:

*Matthew & Sarah Keller on the baptism of their daughter
 Regina Marie Keller on March 29, 2025 at St. Michael.*



PRO-LIFE QUOTES:

...the family, based on the marriage of a man and a woman, is not a simple social convention, but rather the fundamental cell of every society. Consequently, policies which undermine the family threaten human dignity and the future of humanity itself...More generally, and with particular reference to the West, I am convinced that legislative measures which not only permit but at times even promote abortion for reasons of convenience or for questionable medical motives compromise the education of young people and, as a result, the future of humanity." *Pope Benedict XVI, January 9, 2012*
 "God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves. Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes." [nefanda sunt crimina] *Vatican Council II, Church in the Modern World #51*

Pine Island Food Shelf: items requested for **April:** Personal Hygiene; such as toothpaste, soap, lotion, and female hygiene products.

HOLY MASS TIMES

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

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

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

Friday, April 11, 2025

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

Saturday, April 12, 2025

4:00pm-4:50pm Confessions

5:00pm Holy Mass

Sunday, April 13, 2025

7:00am Latin Holy Mass

10:30am Holy Mass

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

April 9, 2025	†Robert Buus (Mary Amiot)
April 11, 2025	†Corey Boettcher (Paul & Mary Sutton)
April 12, 2025	†Michael Rolfson (Barb Rolfson)
April 13, 2025	Bill & Nicole McCoy & family
April 13, 2025	Parishioners



CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL NEWS

CHURCH OF St. Paul FAITH FORMATION:

Classes for Faith Formation have ended for this year.



Thank You to our wonderful teachers: Ally & Andy Drees, Maggie Eggerichs, Sara McNamara, Josefina Meyer, Joseph Pass & Margaret Pass, Laurie Schultz, & Jennifer Thornwall; teacher assistants: Ann Kreidermacher, Eric Shultz, Cecilia Lorentz; hall monitors: Pat Smith & Terri Pass; and everyone else who helped in anyway. **A special thank you to those who helped with the meals!** God bless you for your sacrifices this past year! In Christ through Mary, *Fr. Kasel*

(From *Father Kasel*, from page 1) to give drink to My chosen people, the people whom I formed for Myself that they might declare My praise. (Isaiah 43:16-21)

Every day, in every corner of the world, Jesus, through His ministers, the priests, continues to say *I absolve you from your sins ... 'Go', says our Lord, 'and do not sin again.'* It is Christ Himself who forgives. *The sacramental formula, I absolve you... and the imposition of the hand and the sign of the Cross made over the penitent show that at this moment the contrite and converted sinner comes into contact with the Power and Mercy of God. It is the moment at which, in response to the penitent, the Trinity becomes present in order to blot out sin and restore innocence. And the saving Power of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus is also imparted to the penitent... God is always the One who is principally offended by sin - 'tibi soli peccavi!' - and God alone can forgive.* (John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, *Reconciliatio et Poenitentia*, 2 December 1984, 31, III)

The words pronounced by the priest are not just a prayer of supplication to ask God to forgive our sins, or a prayer of supplication to ask God to forgive our sins, or a mere certification that God has deigned to grant us His pardon, but *at that moment every sin is forgiven and blotted out by the mysterious intervention of the Savior.* (ibid.)

Few words have ever produced more joy in the world than the words of absolution, *I absolve you from your sins...* St. Augustine affirms that the wonder they work is greater than the very creation of the world. (cf. St. Augustine, *Commentary on St. John's Gospel*, 72) How glad are we to receive these words when we go to the Sacrament of Forgiveness? How grateful are we? How often have we thanked God for having this Sacrament close at hand? In our prayer today we can show Our Lord our gratitude for this great gift.

Gratitude for absolution; the apostolate of Confession.

Through absolution, man is united to Christ the Redeemer, who willed to take our sins upon Himself. Through this union the sinner shares once again in that Fountain of Grace that springs without ceasing from the open side of Jesus.

At the moment of absolution we will intensify our sorrow for our sins, saying perhaps one of the prayers from the ritual, such as the words of St. Peter, *Lord, you know all things, You know that I love you.* We will renew our purpose of amendment. We will listen attentively to the priest's words which grant us God's forgiveness. It is the moment of savoring the joy of having Grace restored (if we have lost it) or of receiving an increase of Grace and greater union with God. St. Ambrose says: *See [the Father] comes out to meet you. He will fall on your neck and will give you a kiss, the pledge of love and tenderness. He will make them bring you a cloak, shoes for your feet... You still fear a reprimand... you are afraid of hearing words filled with anger, and He prepares a banquet for you.* (St. Ambrose, *Commentary on St. Luke's Gospel*, 7) Our Amen turns into a longing to start again, even though (continued on page 4)

Want to grow in our Catholic Faith? You can learn about our Catholic Faith online at any time through FORMED! You will have access to thousands of enriching Catholic movies, programs, audio, & books instantly on FORMED when you sign up through our parishes. There is no cost for you! Just follow these easy steps: **1.** Visit: signup.formed.org **2.** Enter your parish zip code or name (St. Michael 55963 or St. Paul 55992) **3.** Grow in our Catholic Faith!

WEEKLY TITHING March 30, 2025

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 970.00
Plate:	\$ 150.00
Total:	\$ 1,120.00



Stations of the Cross at the Church of St. Paul:
Each Tuesday of Lent at 5:30pm

All Ladies of the Parish are invited to attend!
Church of St. Paul CCW Madonna Dinner on
Tuesday, May 6, 2025



5:00pm Brief CCW meeting with installation of Officers
6:00pm Holy Mass with Fr. Kasel
6:30pm Lasagna Dinner
7:00pm **Speaker:** *Deb McManimon of St. Paul Street Evangelization*
"10 Great Ways to Share Your Faith"
7:15pm Dessert
Please **RSVP** to the Parish Office for the meal by April 29 by calling 732-5324 or emailing stpauls@hcinet.net.
Pray, dine, connect in friendship, and be inspired!

Church cleaning: All are welcome to join us for a **spring church cleaning** party on Wednesday, April 9, at 9:30am (after Holy Mass) at the Church of St. Paul. We will be washing the pews, some windows and walls, and vacuuming. We will have buckets, rags and cleaning solutions. Please bring gloves if you prefer. Thank you in advance for agreeing to help with this. Any questions contact Mary Kingsbury or the parish office.

Easter Flower Donations: Help to beautify our sanctuary and remember a loved one through a contribution for Easter Flowers! There is an envelope contribution packet for Easter flowers. The suggested donation is \$13. Please consider making a donation and put it in the Sunday collection or return to the office by Sunday, April 13. Thank you!

40 Days for Life Prayers to End Abortion: March 5 - April 13. This prayer campaign is on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood at 1212 7th Street NW, Rochester. 40 Days for Life is a Christian organization that takes a peaceful, prayerful approach to this controversial issue to move hearts and minds. If you would be interested in making an appointment with God to pray for all involved in this issue, go to 40daysforlife.com/rochester to register and sign up. For more information contact Margaret Mulligan at 40daysforliferoch@gmail.com. Please pray daily during this campaign for the end to abortion. Suggested prayers: <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/pro-life-rosary-prayer-intentions>

AN INVITATION FROM JESUS

Do you have no regular commitments during weekday mornings? Are you interested in growing in love with the One who loves you most - Jesus? Consider coming to Holy Mass on weekdays! Holy Mass, Confession and the Holy Rosary are offered Tuesday through Friday at our parishes. *Come to sanctify your weekdays with Jesus - He is waiting for you!*



HOLY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

8:00am Confessions/8:30am
9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, April 10, 2025

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

Sunday, April 13, 2025

8:20am Rosary/8:25am Confessions
8:45am Holy Mass

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

April 8, 2025 †Kathy Bucher (Bing Bucher)
April 10, 2025 †Deceased ancestors of the Kirzinger & Hustak families
April 13, 2025 Parishioners



NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from page 3) we may have confessed only venial sins. After each Confession we must *thank God* for His mercy towards us and stop, even though only momentarily, to decide exactly how we are going to put into practice the advice or indications we have received, or how to make our purpose of amendment more effective. Another manifestation of our gratitude is to make sure our friends, too, come to this well-spring of Grace, and that we bring them closer to Christ, as the Samaritan woman did. She ran to tell her people so that they too should benefit from the unique opportunity that Jesus' journey through their town afforded them. (cf. John 4:28)

It would be hard to find a greater act of charity than that of announcing to those who are covered in mud and lacking strength, the Source of Salvation that we have discovered, when we are purified and reconciled to God.

Do we use the means to carry out an effective apostolate of Confession? Do we take our friends to the Tribunal of Divine Mercy? Do we increase our own desire to purify ourselves by going frequently to the Sacrament of Penance? Do we sometimes leave this meeting with God's Mercy for 'later'?" (From: *In Conversation with God* by Francis Fernandez)

Through the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Joseph, St. Michael and St. Paul, may God bless us with the graces we each need to be grateful for the Sacrament of Confession and grow in holiness!

In Christ through Mary,
Fr. Kasel

The St Pio Knights of Columbus membership meeting will be held Wednesday, April 9, at 7pm at the Church of St. Paul, Zumbrota. All members are encouraged to attend!

The Annual Archdiocesan Chrism Holy Mass

The Chrism Holy Mass will be Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 10:00am at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The faithful of the Archdiocese are invited to attend for the annual Archdiocesan Chrism Mass. During this Holy Mass, Archbishop Hebda will bless the Holy Oils that will be used throughout the Archdiocese. Also, during this Holy Mass all priests renew their priestly promises.

Holy Land Appeal: Friday, April 18, 2025

Good Friday is the annual Holy Land collection. Please help support Catholics in the Holy Land, which also includes Damascus. Funds directly support efforts to maintain sacred shrines, parishes, faith formation programs, Catholic schools, and basic humanitarian aid. Thank you for your generous assistance to your brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. God bless you!

Kitui Living Water Program- Lent 2025

Give change... change lives: Here we are at another season of Lent! Water bottles are again available to support our brothers and sisters in Kitui, Kenya through the Partnership of Kitui program. The people in the vicinity of Kitui regularly experience rain and water shortages. This collection is a way for us to help them! Questions regarding the Kitui Partnership may be directed to the parish office. Thank you, ahead of time, for any contributions you are able to make!



†ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT†

Can you spend an hour with Jesus? Adoration is held at St. Paul, Zumbrota on Tuesdays from 9am-5pm and St. Michael, Pine Island on Wednesdays from 9am-5pm.



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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 training) before beginning their service, and to renew every three years while serving. Please contact the Safe Environment Coordinator for details on how to register for a VIRTUS class, complete the Essential 3, or do updates.

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
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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