# February 2, 2025 The Presentation of the Lord

# Father Randal Kasel, Pastor frkasel@bevcomm.net Josefina Meyer & Sara McNamara, Staff

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL 749 South Main St., Zumbrota, MN 55992 Office: 732-5324 Fax: (507) 732-5347 Email: stpauls@hcinet.net 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 Office: 356-4280 Fax: (507)356-2080 Email: stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net 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,

This month of February is dedicated to increasing our devotion to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and to imitate their practice of everyday holiness. May the Holy Family help us each day to strive to be Saints in the service of our good Lord Jesus and His Kingdom! This Sunday, February 2, we celebrate the Presentation of the Our Lord in the Temple. This is a beautiful feast! For this occasion, I include the Gospel reading (Luke 2:22-40) from Holy Mass for February 2 and a homily from St. Sophronius, Bishop, about the meaning of this special feast:

#### Luke 2:22-40

"When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,' and to offer the sacrifice of 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,' in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.' There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

#### From a homily by St. Sophronius:

"In honor of the Divine Mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light.

Our lighted candles are a sign of the Divine Splendor of the One who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of His Eternal Light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ.

# 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 at10:30am

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

The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the True Light in her arms and brought Him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet Him.

The Light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to 'Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our Feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us (continued on page 4)

#### Candlemas or the Presentation of the Lord -Sunday, February 2



"Now, Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for Your people Israel." Luke 2: 29-32

You are welcome to bring candles from home to be blessed at all the Holy Masses this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, February 1 and 2, at both of our parishes.

The next Holy Hour for Men will be on Sunday, February 2, at 6:30pm at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Fr. Kasel will speak on: Current Events in the Church. All men are invited!

You are Invited! Bowling for Adults-Couples & Singles on Saturday, February 8, at Pine Island Pool & Pins/Trailhead Grill & Lanes. (More details on page 4).

The St Pio Knights of Columbus will host a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser after the 7:00am and 10:30am Holy Masses on Sunday, February 9, at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. This fundraiser will support the Charitable Works of the Council, including the local Food Shelf.

# CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL NEWS

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

The next Faith Formation session will be on Wednesday, February 5, at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Topic for February: The Sacraments chap. 7 (PreK- Grade 3), The Sacraments chap. 14-15 (Grades 4-6) & The Sacrament of Matrimony chap. 13 (Confirmation 1, 2, & Adults)

# 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. Our program is open for all of our parishioners to attend and it will benefit all ages! 

#### **Homeschool Bowling Party and Valentine Exchange**

Friday, February 14, 1:00-3:00pm at Bowlocity Entertainment Center in Rochester, MN

Cost is \$3.50 per child/hour plus \$1.50/shoe rental This is open to all homeschool children and teens!

For more information, contact Sarah Bauer: teddyandsarah@ gmail.com or (507) 288-2371.

To be included in the counts for the valentine exchange, you must RSVP to Sarah Bauer by Sunday, February 2. If you want to just come and bowl, please RSVP anytime before the day of the party.

### WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"Be a lamp then in heart, in hand, in lips. The lamp in your heart will shine for you, the lamp in your hand or on your lips will shine out for your neighbors. The lamp in the heart, is loving Faith, the lamp in the hand, is the example of good works, the lamp on the lips, is edifying speech." Bl. Guerric of Igny

"The glorious St Simeon also was very happy... to carry Him as did Our Lady... we do this when we endure with love, the labors and pains He sends us, that is to say, when the love which we bear to the Law of God, makes us find His yoke easy and pleasing, so that we love these pains and labors and gather sweetness in the midst of bitterness. This is nothing else but to carry Our Lord in our arms. Now if we carry Him in this way, He will, without doubt, Himself carry us." St. Francis de Sales

"Simeon gave back Jesus to His Mother, he was only suffered to keep Him for one moment.

But we are far happier than Simeon. We may keep Him always if we will. In Communion He comes, not only into our arms but into our hearts." St. John Vianney

"The Son of God became man, and was circumcised in the flesh, not for His own sake, but that we might be circumcised in spirit." St. Thomas Aquinas

"Is there anything that could be more humiliating for the Son of God than to appear as a sinner, although He was holiness itself." St. John Baptist de la Salle

For our sake He was presented to the Lord that we may learn to offer ourselves to God." St. Thomas Aquinas

"Christ willed to be thus offered as a sign of humility; so that by the merit of humility He might teach us to become worthy of Divine Favor." St. Thomas Aquinas

#### Institute of Catholic Culture Lecture Series:

To Will What You Command: St. Augustine on Divine Grace and Human Freedom

Details: Thursdays, February 20 & 27

Pre-Class Discussion:7:45pm EST, Lecture: 8:00pm EST Instructor: Chad Pecknold, Ph.D. Registration is required. https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/events/grant-what-you-command?

Pine Island Food Shelf: items requested for February: Soups of any kind

# WEEKLY TITHING January 25-26, 2025

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 2
Plate:	\$
EFT:	\$
Total:	\$ 3

2,030.00 704.00 960.00 3,694.00

# **Planning Ahead!**

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is March 5.

The Church of St. Michael Men's Club Fish Fries start on March 7 and continue on Fridays throughout Lent.

#### St. James Coffee's Annual Fundraiser

Join us for St. James Coffee's Brew Ha Ha, our highly anticipated annual fundraiser, on Friday, February 14, 2025 at the Empire Event Center at Best Western Apache.

Doors open at 4:30 PM - What's Brewing at the Brew Ha Ha? • Wine and Spirits Tasting: Sip and savor a variety of exquisite beverages while enjoying music that'll lift your spirits.

• Silent and Live Auction: Bid on unique items and experiences, adding a touch of excitement to the evening.

• Dinner and Program: Indulge in a delectable dinner while enjoying a program designed to entertain and enlighten. This year's inspiring speaker, Susan Windley-Daoust. We would love to have you join us for an evening of a whole latte of fun and fellowship as we raise funds to support the mission of St. James Coffee. Get your tickets now! Available at St. James Coffee or online at www.stjamescoffee.com.

Vianney Visit - Thursday, February 13-Saturday, February 15, Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul. Men in high school or college (age 16-24) who do not have a college degree are invited to get a closer look at college seminary life with this Vianney Visit. There will be testimonies from current seminarians, spiritual conferences with SJV priests, prayer with the community, and a tour of the University of St. Thomas. There may also be the option to meet individually with priests on staff or the rector. Space is limited. Find more information and registration at systeminary.org/visit-theseminary.

Birthright Trivia Night Fundraiser: A trivia night fundraiser benefiting Birthright of Rochester will be held on February 7, at Resurrection Catholic Church in Rochester. Registration and food begin at 6:00pm and trivia is at 7:00pm. Single ticket: \$30/ Team of eight: \$200. For more information and to register, go to: https://birthright trivianight.weebly.com. Registration deadline is January 31.

# HOLY MASS TIMES

Wednesday, February 5, 2025	
8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass	
9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Friday, February 7, 2025	
8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass	
6:30pm Latin First Friday Holy Mass	
Saturday, February 8, 2025	
4:00pm-4:50pm Confessions	
5:00pm Holy Mass	
Sunday, February 9, 2025	
7:00am Latin Holy Mass	
10:30am Holy Mass	
Fahmanna F 2025 + Fault al Dastras	

February 5, 2025 *†*Fr. Joel Postma February 7, 2025 †Louise Griffith (Carolyn Ocariz) February 7, 2025 Needs & Intentions of the Banga & Kolla families February 8, 2025 †Sarah Murray February 9, 2025 Parishioners February 9, 2025 Viers Family (Sara Schroers)

# CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL NEWS

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

The next Faith Formation session will be on Wednesday, February 5, at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Topic for February: The Sacraments chap. 7 (PreK- Grade 3), The Sacraments chap. 14-15 (Grades 4-6) & The Sacrament of Matrimony chap. 13 (Confirmation 1, 2, & Adults) 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. Our program is open for all of our parishioners to attend and it 🕈 will benefit all ages! 

Where sin abounded, Grace has more abounded "Where can the weak find a place of firm security and peace, except in the wounds of the Savior? Indeed, the more secure is my place there the more He can do to help me. The world rages, the flesh is heavy, and the devil lays his snares, but I do not fall, for my feet are planted on firm rock. I may have sinned gravely. My conscience would be distressed, but it would not be in turmoil, for I would recall the wounds of the Lord: He was wounded for our iniquities. What sin is there so deadly that it cannot be pardoned by the death of Christ? And so if I bear in mind this strong, effective remedy, I can never again be terrified by the malignancy of sin. Surely the man who said: My sin is too great to merit pardon, was wrong. He was speaking as though he were not a member of Christ and had no share in His merits, so that he could claim them as his own, as a member of the body can claim what belongs to the head. As for me, what can I appropriate that I lack from the Heart of the Lord who abounds in Mercy? They pierced His hands and feet and opened His side with a spear. Through the openings of these wounds I may drink honey from the rock and oil from the hardest stone: that is, I may taste and see that the Lord is sweet. He was thinking thoughts of peace, and I did not know it, for who knows the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor? But the piercing nail has become a key to unlock the door, that I may see the Good Will of the Lord. And what can I see as I look through the hole? Both the nail and the wound cry out that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. The sword pierced His Soul and came close to His Heart, so that He might be able to feel compassion for me in my weaknesses.

Through these Sacred Wounds we can see the secret of His Heart, the great mystery of Love, the sincerity of His Mercy with which He visited us from on high. Where have your Love, your Mercy, your compassion shone out more luminously than in your wounds, sweet, gentle Lord of Mercy? More Mercy than this no one has than that He lay down His life for those who are doomed to death. My merit comes from His Mercy; for I do not lack merit so long as He does not lack pity. And if the Lord's Mercies are many, then I am rich in merits. For even if I am aware of many sins, what does it matter? Where sin abounded Grace has overflowed. And if the Lord's Mercies are from all ages forever, I too will sing of the Mercies of the Lord forever. Will I not sing of my own righteousness? No, Lord, I shall be mindful only of Your justice. Yet that too is my own; for God has made You my righteousness." (From a sermon on the Song of Songs by St. Bernard, abbot)

2025 World Day of the Sick Mass and Reception: Saturday, February 8, at 10am at Our Lady of Grace, 5071 Eden Ave, Edina, MN 55436. All are invited to the annual World Day of the Sick Holy Mass and reception. This was established by Pope St. John Paul II to honor and uplift the sick - their caregivers and all healthcare workers are invited to participate. Sponsored by the Archdiocese, the Order of Malta and Curatio Apostolate for Catholic healthcare workers. Stay after Holy Mass for individual blessings with Holy Water from Lourdes and a light reception with inspiring speaker Dr. Todd Flanders.

# WEEKLY TITHING January 26, 2025

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 1,470.00
Plate:	\$ 117.00
Total:	\$ 1,587.00

# 54th Annual St. Patrick's Ham Dinner at Zumbrota VFW

Sunday, March 16, 2025 10:30am -1:00pm

Please sign up to give donations and also to volunteer your time for the event. The sign-up board is at the entrance of the Church. You may also email at stpauls@hcinet.net or call the parish office at 732-5324 to sign up.

St. Paul CCW will have their next meeting on Tuesday, February 11, with Holy Mass at 6 pm, followed by the meeting. All ladies are invited and needed. Please plan to attend.

#### **Baskets or Items for the Ham Dinner Silent Auction**

Calling all parishioners! We are looking for silent auction baskets and items for this fundraiser held during St. Patrick's Ham Dinner. Any type of themed basket or items - including religious items, gift cards/ certificates, homemade or purchased items will be appreciated! If you have any questions, contact Josefina or Sara in the parish office. Please drop off any items at the office. Thank you!



# **PRO-LIFE QUOTES:**

"You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion." St. John Paul II, during his visit to New York, 1995

As far as abortion is concerned, it's part of the fifth, not the sixth, commandment: "Thou shalt not kill!" We have to presume this is obvious and always stress that the human per-son begins in the mother's womb and remains a human person until his or her last breath. The human person must always be respected as a human person. Pope Benedict XV

"Conception is the beginning of human life. From the time that an ovum is fertilized a new life begins that is neither that of the father nor of the mother. It is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth. It would never become human if it were not human already." Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Declaration on Procured Abortion. 1974

Women are invited to a Miles Christi Silent Retreat. at the Franciscan Retreat Center on March 21-23, 2025 at Prior Lake, MN. Spend a peaceful weekend with our Lord in silence, contemplation, and prayer with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. For more retreat dates, locations and registration visit mileschristi.org/ spiritual-exercises or call 248-596-9677.

### HOLY MASS TIMES

# Tuesday, February 4, 2025

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

Thursday, February 6, 2025

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

#### Sunday, February 9, 2025

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

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

February 4, 2025 †June Smith February 6, 2025 Carly & Austin Robertson (Gary & Louise Gerken) February 9, 2025 Parishioners

# NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from page 1) through Him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God. The True Light has come, the Light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this Light. Let all of us share in Its splendor and be so filled with It that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the Light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the Light, who sent the true Light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in His splendor.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which He prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness.

By Faith we too embraced Christ, the Salvation of God the Father, as He came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the People of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen Him present among us and have mentally received Him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. Never shall we forget this presence; every year we keep a Feast in His honor."

Through the intercession of the Holy Family and our patrons, St. Michael and St. Paul, may we be granted the Grace to joyfully live in a Holy Union of Charity within the Holy Trinity, in our Parish life, and in all our families and homes!

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Kasel

The **St Pio Knights of Columbus membership meeting** will be held Wednesday, February 12, at 7pm at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. All members are encouraged to attend!

**You are Invited! Bowling for Adults-Couples & Singles** on Saturday, February 8, at Pine Island Pool & Pins/Trailhead Grill & Lanes (416 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE, Pine Island). Gather at 6:00pm for bowling, fellowship, and food. Please RSVP by signing up on the signup sheets in the church entry. The cost will be approximately \$15-20 per person.

### 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 minis-



tries 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.

#### Catholic Services Appeal is focused on four major ministry areas that touch on important areas of our Catholic life:

Educate in Faith: An essential component of the Church's ministry is the education of the next generation of disciples, as well as the continuing formation of all its members.

**Help Those in Need:** The Church is called to make the love of Jesus real and tangible in the world today, especially to the poor, the vulnerable and those on the peripheries.

**Faith Formation:** At the heart of the Church's ministry is facilitating for its members an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. Central to what it means to be Catholic is the development of a friendship with Jesus through prayer and reflection.

**Respect for Life:** Knowing that every human person has God-given dignity.

Giving is Faith in Action. Give to the Catholic Services Appeal today. GIVE ON-LINE: https://www.archspm.org/catholic-services-appeal

