January 5, 2025 The Epiphany 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

Website: http://www.stpaulstmichael.com

BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE All articles for the bulletin are due by noon on

Wednesday. Please e-mail Saint Paul articles to stpauls@hainet.net and Saint

Michael articles to stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net. The business office reserves

From Father Kasel

Praised be Jesus Christ through Mary! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

the right to edit articles as time and space allows.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The month of January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus: let us reverently pray His Holy Name and make reparation to our good Lord for the many times that His name is spoken with irreverence! This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. I share with you a reflection on the Epiphany. I encourage you to reflect over this message a few times this week:

"The Epiphany of our Lord: Epiphany means manifestation. In today's Solemnity the Church commemorates the first manifestation of the Son of God made Man to the pagan world, which took place during the adoration of the Magi. This Feast proclaims the universal dimension of the mission of Christ. Christ came into the world to fulfill the promises made to Israel and to bring to fruition the salvation of all people.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany was born in the first centuries of Christianity in the Orient at which time it was known as the *Theophany* or *the Feast of the Illumination*. It was made into a universal feast of the Church in the fourth century. The Feast has traditionally been celebrated on January 6.

Corresponding to Grace: For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him. The star over Bethlehem shown down upon all mankind. Its brilliance could be perceived from every corner of the earth. From his first moments as a man, the new-born Jesus began to spread forth His light and His riches to the world, making use of a star in the heavens to draw men from distant lands to Himself (Communion Antiphon, cf. Matt. 2:2). Epiphany means 'manifestation'. On this Feast, one of the oldest Feasts in Christianity, we celebrate the universality of the Redemption. The people of Jerusalem who witnessed the arrival of the wise men from the East may well have recalled the prophecy of Isaiah which we find in today's First Reading of the Holy Mass: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar... (Is.

The three wise men, the Magi, represent all the races and nations on earth. They have arrived at the end of their long journey. They are men with a *thirst for God*, a longing which has led them to put aside comforts, earthly goods and satisfactions *so as to adore the Lord God*. They have allowed themselves to be guided by an external sign, a star which shone with a special light. The star was in some sense *clearer and more brilliant than the rest, so much so that it captured the attention of those who looked upon it. It seemed only logical that something so marvelous would have some special significance* (St. Leo the Great, Sermons on the Epiphany, I, 1). These men were astronomers dedicated to the study of the heavens. They were accustomed to look for signs in the sky. Where is He who has been born

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

king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east... Perhaps they had become aware of the coming of the Messiah through the Jewish people of the Diaspora, but we may also speculate that they had been inspired by an interior grace from God to follow the star. As St. Bernard has observed, He who was to show them the way to Bethlehem has already been their instructor for quite some time. He who led them by the help of a star, He it was who had been guiding them in the intimacy of their hearts (continued on page 3)

Epiphany marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of "**chalking the doors.**" The formula for the ritual-adapted for 2025 is simple: use the blessed chalk received after Holy Mass on Epiphany Sunday and write the following above the entrance of your home:



20 + C + M + B + 25 and say the prayer accompanying the chalk. The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat: "May Christ bless this house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "25" at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request that Christ to bless those homes so marked that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year. The **chalking of the doors of a home** encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of the welcoming the Magi gave to Jesus. We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

The next **Holy Hour for Men** will be on Sunday, January 12, at 6:30pm at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. All men 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.

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

Thank you to the Decorating Committee of St. Michael:

Thank you to all who helped beautify our Church during the Seasons of Advent and Christmas! Thank you to all who assisted with the Sacred Liturgies and the worship of our good Lord! Thank you to all who were generous with our parish in any way – God bless you! In Christ through Mary, Fr. Kasel

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.

Miriam Dinner – Tuesday, January 21, 6-8pm, Archdiocesan Catholic Center, St. Paul. Hosted by Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Fr. Mark Pavlak, vocation director, this dinner is for women, ages 16-34, who are discerning consecrated life. It is typical for discerning women to be accompanied by their pastor, consecrated religious, or youth minister. The evening begins with prayer, followed by dinner with consecrated women sharing their vocations testimonies and tips for growing in holiness and learning more about how to discern. Registration is required by Friday, January 17. Find more information at 10000vocations.org/miriam-dinner.html.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) classes are available soon! Classes teach couples the Church approved methods on how to achieve or postpone pregnancy while embracing the beauty of God's gift of sexuality. For a complete list of classes offered throughout the Archdiocese, visit https://www.archspm.org/marriage/natural-family-planning-nfp/ or call 651-291-4489.

Institute of Catholic Culture Lecture Series:

The Fifth Gospel: A Visual Study of the Life of Christ

Do you wish you could have lived when Jesus walked on earth, to have heard His voice and seen Him walking on the water? Join Father Hezekias in this special Bible study and take a virtual tour of the Holy Land, often called "the Fifth Gospel." Journey with the Wise Men to Bethlehem, walk with the Apostles along the shores of Galilee, and enter Jerusalem with Jesus as He makes His way to Golgotha, the Garden of the Resurrection, and the mountain from which He ascended.

Details: Thursday, January 16

Pre-Class Discussion:7:30pm EST, Lecture: 8:00pm EST Instructor: Rev. Hezekias Carnazzo Registration is required. https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/events/the-fifth-gospel

Pine Island Food Shelf: January: **Crackers** (any kind, including gluten free products).

WEEKLY TITHING December 28-29, 2024

 Sunday Envelopes:
 \$ 3,030.00

 Plate:
 \$ 1,408.26

 EFT:
 \$ 960.00

 Total:
 \$ 5,398.26

KC Meeting: The next St. Padre Pio Knights of Columbus Council 16016 membership meeting will be on Wednesday, January 8, at 7:00PM, at the Church of St. Paul, Zumbrota.



Plan now to attend the Prayer Service for Life:

All are invited to join the Annual Prayer Service for Life with Bishop Michael Izen on Wednesday, January 22, at 10:30am at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, followed by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life's March for Life at the State Capitol. This prayer service commemorates the millions of lives lost to abortion and the many women and men wounded by abortion's aftermath. All are invited and welcome. The St. John Paul II Champions for Life Awards will be presented during this prayer service honoring those who work tirelessly for life. For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage, Family and Youth at 651-291-4488.

Students for Life March and Rally - Wednesday, January 22, 9am -2:30pm., from St. Agnes, St. Paul, to Minnesota State Capitol. This day for youth will include excellent speakers, breakouts, Mass, as well as a Eucharistic procession to the Minnesota State Capitol to attend the Minnesota March for Life.

Calling all bookworms! Join the Catholic Authors Book Study. We rotate between spiritual books, literature and writings of Doctors of the Church. On Tuesday, January 21, we will begin discussing *Come Rack! Come Rope!* by Msgr. Robert Hugh Benson. We meet every 2 - 3 weeks, usually on Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30 pm in Rochester. Join us! See https://archspm.groupvitals.com/groupfinder/profile/72459 or contact the parish office.

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.

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!

HOLY MASS TIMES

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

9:00am Holy Mass (note: change of time this week only) 9:30am -5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:30pm Latin Holy Mass (note: change of time this week only)

Saturday, January 11, 2025

4:00pm-4:50pm Confessions

5:00pm Holy Mass

Sunday, January 12, 2025

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

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS



January 8, 2025 Vietnamese families intentions

January 10, 2025 Intentions of Centro Dom Bosco-in particular

to Bruno Mendes & Ellen Dias

January 11, 2025 †Sarah Murray (Betty Clemens & family)

January 12, 2025 †Gertrude Rocca January 12, 2025 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)

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!

(From Father Kasel... from page 1) (St. Bernard, On the Epiphany of the Lord, I, 5). The Feast of these holy men is a good opportunity to examine whether our lives are headed directly towards Jesus. Are we living up to the graces we receive from the Holy Spirit, especially that most important gift - that of our Christian vocation? We look upon the Child in the arms of Mary. We tell Him: My Lord Jesus, grant that I may feel Your grace and (grant) it in such a way that I empty my heart, so that You, my Friend, my Brother, my King, my God, my Love... may fill it (St. Jose Maria Escriva, The Forge, 913). Renewing our Apostolic Spirit: The Solemnity of the Epiphany should move us to renew the apostolic spirit which we received from the Lord. From the earliest days of Christianity this Feast has been considered the first manifestation of Christ to all mankind. With the birth of Jesus a star has been lit up in the sky. It is a most luminous vocation. It inspires caravans of people to take to the road (cf Is 60:1 ff). New paths have been opened up for mankind, paths which lead to Christ. Christ has become the heart for a new system of circulation which will last forever. By merit of being our Redeemer, Christ has become indispensable to us... Christ wants to be announced to the world... (St. Pope Paul VI, Homily, 6 January 1973) Today's Feast is yet another reminder that we have to bring Christ into the mainstream of our society. We can do this by means of our example and our conversation in family life, in hospitals, in shops, in the university, in our workplace...

Lift up our eyes round about, and see... your sons shall come from afar... From afar, from every conceivable place and nation where men and women can be found. Our hearts resound with the invitation made by Our Lord: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19) Our families, friends and colleagues may or may not be from afar in relation to the Lord. Yet the grace of God is all-powerful. With His help, they may come to join us one day in adoration of the child Jesus.

On this Feast day we cannot go to Jesus empty-handed. He does not need our gifts since He is the Creator of all things. But He wants us to be generous so that we may receive more graces and gifts from Him. Today we put at His disposal the gold of our charity. This is our desire to love Him more, to treat others with more love. We will present Him with *the frankincense* of our (continued on page 4)

PRO-LIFE QUOTE:

"Not even one abortion per week is acceptable. Not one per month. Not one per year. Not one in our lifetime...The dignity of the human person begins at the moment of conception, not at birth. The dignity, as recognized by the signers of the Declaration of Independence, is bestowed by the Creator, and no one has the right to destroy innocent unborn life." *Archbishop Samuel Aquila*

"Give us the grace - When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, to stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn life." *St. John Paul II*

"Nothing we do to defend the human person, no matter how small, is ever unfruitful or forgotten. Our actions touch other lives and move other hearts in ways we can never fully understand in this world. Don't ever underestimate the beauty and power of the witness you give in your pro-life work." *Archbishop Charles Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia, April 8, 2011*

WEEKLY TITHING December 29, 2024

 Sunday Envelopes:
 \$ 2,255.00

 Plate:
 \$ 207.00

 Total:
 \$ 2,462.00

Thank you to the St. Paul Decorating Committee for a job well done in decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas! May our good Lord reward you!

Catholic Daughters 'Meal-In-A-Bucket' Sale

Don't be left out in the cold - order your **Meal-In-A-Bucket** today! Pre-order slips are in the church entry. Available meals are BBQ with Buns, Chili, Potato Soup, Portage Soup, and Cinnamon Rolls. Orders will be available for pick up on January 19 after Holy Mass. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Daughters' fundraiser!

KC Meeting: The next St. Padre Pio Knights of Columbus Council 16016 membership meeting will be on Wednesday, January 8, at 7:00PM, at the Church of St. Paul, Zumbrota.



Thank you from Community Connections for Christmas gift donations:

"Dear Parishioners of the Church of St. Paul,

Thank-you so much for your generous donations for our local Community Connections event. We served 44 families, twice as many as last year. We appreciate your partnership in serving our local families. The need is great and we are grateful for your sup-

Open Window Theatre in Inver Grove Heights presents *FRASSATI* from January 9-19. Don't miss the limited run of the hit 4-person drama that enjoyed a sold-out world premiere three years ago!

About FRASSATI: Pier Giorgio Frassati lived his life to the fullest at the turn of the 20th century in Turin, Italy. A young man who died at just 25 years of age, he was an avid outdoorsman, mountain climber, downhill skier, hiker, university student, devoted son and friend, and an unexpected saint. Born into a family of means and influence, Pier Giorgio gave his life in hidden service to the poor, the sick, and the suffering of Turin. Since his death, his remarkable story has spread like wildfire throughout the world, inspiring countless people from all walks of life. The canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassatiholding up his life as an example of the Gospel fully lived—has been scheduled for the summer of 2025. Open Window Theatre is bringing back the popular original drama in January in the hopes of developing a touring production that will travel throughout the Û.S. later in the year. Your ticket purchase will help to raise vital funds to make that happen! For more information and to buy tickets, go to: https:// owtheatre.org/plays/season-11/frassati/

†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.

HOLY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

9:00am Holy Mass (note: change of time this week only)

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

Thursday, January 9, 2025

5:00pm Holy Mass (note: change of time this week only)

Sunday, January 12, 2025

8:20am Rosary/8:25am Confessions

8:45am Holy Mass

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS



January 7, 2025
January 9, 2025
January 12, 2025
January 12, 2025
January 12, 2025
January 12, 2025
Judy Yates (Dawn & John Udenberg)
†Neva Christenson (Karen Hodgman)
Parishioners

NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from page 3) prayers and good works. We will give Him the myrrh of our sacrifices united to the Sacrifice of the Cross as renewed in the Holy Mass. In this way we become co-redeemers with Him. The *Three Kings* are in Heaven. They can certainly intercede for us. What, then, shall we ask of them? Surely we will not ask for gold, frankincense and myrrh? We can ask them to guide us along the path to finding Jesus, to help us not to lose heart along the way.

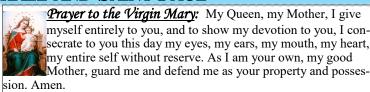
When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy (Matt 2:9-10). Theirs was the incomparable joy of discovering God after a long and demanding search and effort.

And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh (Matt. 2:11). These gifts were highly valued at that time in the Orient. The same Christ who in Bethlehem, as a Child, accepted the gifts of the Magi Kings, is still the One to whom men and whole peoples 'open their treasures.'

The gifts of the human spirit, in the act of this opening before God Incarnate, take on a special value (St. Pope John Paul II, General Audience, 24 January 1979). Everything takes on a new value when it is offered to God." (From: In Conversation with God, by Francis Fernandez) Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Paul, and the Three Magi, may God grant us the grace to be devoted to the Light of Christ given us through Scripture, our Blessed Mother and the Sacraments!

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Kasel



WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"What are you doing, O Magi? Do you adore a little Babe, in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags? Can this Child be truly God?... Are you become foolish, O Wise Men... Yes, these Wise Men have become fools that they may be wise." St. Bernard of Clairvaux

"For by gold the power of a King is signified, by frankincense the honor of God, by myrrh the burial of the Body; and accordingly they offer Him gold as King, frankincense as God, myrrh as Man." St. John Chrysostom

"Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: Heaven on earth, earth in Heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny Body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a King, myrrh for One who is to die." St. Peter Chrysologus

"Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the earth, in order to be carried in a woman's arms." St. Augustine "Give me, therefore, I pray Thee, this gold, this incense, and this myrrh. Give me the gold of Thy holy Love; give me the Spirit of holy prayer, give me the desire and strength to mortify myself in everything that displeases Thee. I am resolved to obey Thee and to love Thee; but Thou knowest my weakness, oh, give me the Grace to be faithful to Thee!" St. Alphonsus Liguori



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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.

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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

St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese Victim Assistance Program Hotline: (651) 291-4475

For Plot Information Call the Parish Office

Entire Family!

Church of St. Michael Cemetery 507-356-4280 Church of St. Paul Cemetery

507-732-5324" "Remember To Pray For Our Beloved Departed."

ST. PIO KNIGHTS **OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 16016**

SU NIOL

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