

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 Michael articles to stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net. The business office reserves the right to edit articles as time and space allows.

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

We wish all the Parishioners of the Churches of St. Paul and St. Michael a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. God bless you! Fr. Kasel and the office staff

From Father Kasel

Praised be Jesus Christ through Mary!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

During this month of December, the month dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and the Infancy of Jesus, let us pray for the grace our hearts need to be prepared for the gifts of Grace our Lord wills to give each of us! This Sunday we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. I share with you a reflection on the Virgin Mary's Virginitly and how she helps us grow in purity. I encourage you to reflect over this message a few times this week:

"Mary's Virginitly - Our Purity, Virginitly, apostolic celibacy and marriage: Mary's virginitly is a privilege intimately united with her Divine Maternity, which is in perfect harmony with her Immaculate Conception and her glorious Assumption. Mary is Queen of virgins: *the dignity of virginitly stems from the Mother of God.* (St. Augustine, *Sermon 51*)

The Blessed Virgin is the most perfect example for every life that is completely dedicated to God.

The renunciation of human love for God's sake is a Divine Grace which drives and encourages a person to surrender body and soul to Our Lord with all the possibilities that the heart possesses. God is thus the one and only focus of this unshared love. It is in God that the heart finds its fulfillment and its perfection, without the intervention of any earthly love. The result is that God grants a bigger heart which, in Him, is capable of loving all creatures.

The vocation to apostolic celibacy, *for the love of the Kingdom of Heaven* (Matt. 19:12), is a special Grace from God and one of His greatest gifts to His Church. In the words of St. John Paul II, *virginitly keeps alive in the Church the awareness of the mystery of marriage and defends it against all attempts to impoverish it or reduce its importance. It frees the heart of man in a special way... bearing witness to the fact that the Kingdom of God and its justice is a pearl of great price to be preferred to any other treasure however great its value may be. Moreover, virginitly should be sought as the only real object of value. The Church, therefore, throughout its history, has defended the superiority of this Divine Gift over matrimony, because of its particular link with the Kingdom of God. Even though a person has renounced physical parenthood, as a virgin he or she can assume a spiritual parenthood towards many by co-operating in the development of the family according to God's plan.* (St. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*)

From those who are called by a specific vocation to renounce human love, God asks that they give their whole heart, and they find in Him the fulfillment of loving. To live virginitly or apostolic celibacy means to live the perfection of love.

Celibacy and perfect chastity give the soul, the heart and the external life of those who profess them that freedom which the apostolate needs so much if it is to serve with maximum generosity the good of other souls. This virtue which makes men spiritual and strong, free and agile, helps them to see around them other souls and not merely bodies, souls who hope for the light of their word and of their prayer, and the charity of their time and of their affection. We should have a great love for celibacy and chastity, (continued on page 3)

We invite you to worship our Savior with us this Advent and Christmas Season!

Individual Confession times during Advent*:

Sunday, Dec. 22 St. Michael, Pine Island 7:00-7:45 am

Sunday, Dec. 22 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:30-8:40 am

*The Sacrament of Confession is also offered before each weekday Holy Mass

Holy Mass on Christmas Eve:

Tuesday, December 24 St. Paul, Zumbrota 4:00 pm

Tuesday, December 24 St. Michael, Pine Island 4:00 pm

Holy Mass on Christmas Day:

Wednesday, December 25 St. Michael, Pine Island 7:00 am (Latin)

Wednesday, December 25 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:45 am

Wednesday, December 25 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:30 am

Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God - January 1 (Holy Day of Obligation):

Tuesday, December 31 St. Michael, Pine Island 4:00 pm

Wednesday, January 1 St. Michael, Pine Island 7:00 am (Latin)

Wednesday, January 1 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:45 am

Wednesday, January 1 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:30 am



The next **Holy Hour for Women** will be on Sunday, December 29, at 6pm at the Church of St. Michael in Pine Island. Fr. Kasel will give a talk on *The Holy Family and Christmas Grace*. 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)*

Our Youth Group Event is postponed! Due to numerous conflicts and only a small group able to attend last week, the **Youth Group Event will be postponed to next Friday, December 27**, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Church of St. Michael. 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!
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. God bless you!

Dear Parishioners: Thank you for your prayers, greetings and acts of Charity and kindness at the time of my birthday! I thank God for all your goodness - May our good Lord reward you!
In Christ through Mary, *Fr. Kasel*

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

“We must understand that our whole life should be an "advent" in vigilant expectation of Christ's final coming. To prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, will come one day to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize His presence in the events of daily life. Advent is then a period of intense training that directs us decisively to the One who has already come, who will come and who continuously comes.” *St John Paul II*
“Jesus has chosen to show me the only way which leads to the Divine Furnace of Love; it is the way of childlike self-surrender, the way of a child who sleeps, afraid of nothing, in its father's arms. A God who became so small could only be Mercy and Love.” *St Thérèse of Lisieux*

“That the Creator is in His creature and God is in the flesh brings dignity to man without dishonor to Him who made him. Why then, man, are you so worthless in your own eyes and yet so precious to God?” *St Peter Chrysologus*

“For I wish to recall to memory the little Child who was born in Bethlehem. I want to set before our bodily eyes the hardships of His infant needs, how He lay in the manger, how with an ox and ass standing by He lay upon the hay. *St Francis of Assisi (discussing his vision of creating the first nativity creche)*

“Mary, your beauty has delighted the eye of the Thrice-Holy One. He descended from Heaven, leaving His Eternal Throne, and took Body and Blood of your heart, and for nine months lay hidden in a Virgin's Heart. O Mother, Virgin, purest of all lilies, your heart was Jesus' first tabernacle on earth.” *St Faustina Kowalska*

“What greater cause is there of the Lord's coming than to show God's Love for us? If we have been slow to love, at least let us hasten to love in return.” *St Augustine*

“Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of Eternal Happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all.” *St Leo the Great*

Natural Family Planning (NFP) classes beginning 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

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: Items requested for December: Your choice!

WEEKLY TITHING December 14-15, 2024

Sunday Envelopes: \$ 947.00

Plate: \$ 371.00

EFT: \$ 3,780.00

Total: \$ 5,098.00

Immaculate Conception Collection: \$ 535.00

Kitui Mission Collection (for Dec.): \$ 208.00

From a homily *In Praise of the Virgin Mother*

by Saint Bernard, abbot

“You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a Son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The Angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to Life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the Angel, or rather through the Angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the Divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the Eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to Faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If He should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek Him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in Faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. *Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.*”



HOLY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

4:00pm Holy Mass on Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

7:00am Latin Holy Mass on Christmas Day

10:30am Holy Mass on Christmas Day

Friday, December 27, 2024

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

Saturday, December 28, 2024

4:00pm-4:50pm Confessions

5:00pm Holy Mass

Sunday, December 29, 2024

7:00am Latin Holy Mass

10:30am Holy Mass

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

December 24, 2024 †LaVerne Schettl (Jon & Kate Lenn)

December 25, 2024 †Holy Souls in Purgatory

December 25, 2024 Parishioners

December 27, 2024 †Fred Zamzow (Paul & Mary Sutton)

December 28, 2024 †LaVerne Zabel (Sue Moffit & Molly Garvey)

December 29, 2024 Michael & Judith McShane

December 29, 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.

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

(From Father Kasel... from page 1) because they are concrete and tangible proofs of our love of God, and are at the same time sources which make us grow continuously in that same love. (S. Canals, Jesus as Friend)

*Virginity and apostolic celibacy not only do not contradict the dignity of marriage but presuppose and confirm it. (cf. John Paul II, *ibid.*)* The Church always needs people who offer to God an undivided heart as a *living sacrifice, holy and acceptable.* (Rom. 12:1) The Church also needs saintly families, Christian homes, which will be the true leaven of Christ and be themselves the source of many vocations of complete self-surrender to God.

Holy purity in and outside marriage. The fruits of this virtue.

Purity is necessary for love: For both single and married people, Mary's virginity is also a call to live with finesse the virtue of holy purity, which is essential if we are to see God and serve our fellow men. Perhaps this virtue will clash with our environment and be misunderstood by many, blinded as they will be by a materialistic outlook. In fact, it will be scorned and its utility called into question. Nevertheless, holy purity is absolutely necessary for us, even from the point of view of being a little more human, and of being able to look at God. Without the virtue of purity it is simply impossible to be a contemplative soul.

The Holy Spirit acts in a special way on the soul that is refined in its chastity. Holy purity produces rich fruit in the soul. It enlarges the heart and helps in the normal growth of the affections. It gives rise to deep internal happiness even in the midst of many obstacles. It makes apostolate possible. It makes us more human, with a greater capacity for understanding and sympathizing with other people's problems.

On the other hand, impurity gives rise to insensitivity of heart, to mediocrity and selfishness. It makes a person incapable of real love and produces in the soul all the necessary conditions for it to germinate like weedy growths and nurture every kind of vice and unfaithfulness.

*Don't forget that when someone is corrupted by concupiscence of the flesh, he cannot make any spiritual progress. He is unable to do good works. He is a spiritual cripple, fit to be cast aside like an old rag. Have you ever seen patients suffering from a progressive paralysis and unable to help themselves or even to get up? Sometimes they cannot as much as move their heads. Well, in the spiritual order, the same thing happens to people who are lacking in humility and have made a cowardly surrender to lust. They don't see, or hear, or understand anything of primary importance. They are, as it were, paralyzed. They are like men gone mad. Each of us here ought to invoke Our Lord, and His Blessed Mother, and pray that He will grant us humility and the determination to avail ourselves frequently and devoutly of the Divine Remedy of Confession. (J. Escriva, *Friends of God*, 181)*

Today let us ask Our Lord in our prayer to have mercy on us and to help us have a more purely refined attitude towards Him. *Jesus, guard our hearts! Make them big and strong and tender hearts, affectionate and sensitive, overflowing with love for You and ready to serve all mankind. (ibid., 177)*

How to live this virtue: Today we can offer our hearts to Our Lady and resolve to strive for greater care in living this virtue. Holy purity is so pleasing to her, and produces so many fruits in our interior life and in the apostolate.

The Church has always taught that, with the help of Grace, and especially in this case with the help of the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Penance, it is possible to live this virtue at every moment and in all the circumstances of life. All we have to do is make use of the appropriate means at our disposal...

Holy purity entails a daily self-conquest, (continued on page 4)

WEEKLY TITHING December 15, 2024

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 285.00
Plate:	\$ 97.39
EFT:	\$ 1,300.00
Total:	\$ 1,682.39
Immaculate Conception Collection: \$ 910.00	

Dear Parishioners: Thank you for your prayers, greetings and acts of Charity and kindness at the time of my birthday! I thank God for all your goodness - May our good Lord reward you! In Christ through Mary, Fr. Kasel

Catholic Daughters Meal-In-A-Bucket Sale:

Pre-order slips are in the back of Church for **Catholic Daughters Meal-In-A-Bucket** fundraiser. 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. Your support is truly appreciated!

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 \$1,000 worth of diapers donated. 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, in New York, 1995

"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." *Second Vatican Council, Church in the Modern World, #51*
"Any country that accepts abortion, is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what it wants." *St. Mother Teresa*

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.

HOLY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass
4:00pm Holy Mass on Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

8:45am Holy Mass on Christmas Day

Thursday, December 26, 2024

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

Sunday, December 29, 2024

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

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

December 24, 2024 †Ted Kasel

December 24, 2024 †Todd Shelton

December 25, 2024 Parishioners

December 26, 2024 †Mary Judd (Jackie Heintz)

December 29, 2024 Parishioners



NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

(from page 3) for it is not acquired once and for all. There may be times when the struggle becomes more intense, so that it is necessary to have more frequent recourse to the Blessed Virgin and to use, perhaps, some more unusual remedy.

To acquire this virtue it is first necessary to be very humble, a condition clearly shown by sincerity in spiritual direction, for sincerity itself leads to humility. *Remember the poor boy who was possessed by a devil, and was unable to be helped by the disciples. Only Our Lord could free him, by prayer and fasting. On that occasion the Master worked three miracles. The first enabled the boy to hear, because, when the dumb devil gets control, the soul refuses to listen. The second made him speak and the third expelled the devil.* (J. Escriva, *op. cit.*, 188)

Other ways of caring for and cultivating this virtue are those small, customary mortifications which help to keep the body under control. *If we want to keep intact the most beautiful of all the virtues, which is chastity, we must realize that it is a rose that only blooms in the midst of thorns, for which reason it is only to be found, as are the other virtues, in a mortified person.* (St. Jean Vianney, [The Cure d'Arns], *Sermon on Penance*)

We carry this great treasure of purity in vessels of clay, fragile and vulnerable. But we have all the weapons needed to conquer temptation, so that with the passage of time this virtue may go on increasing in its refinement, that is, in a greater tenderness towards God.

Let us end this period of conversation in which you and I have been praying to Our Father, asking Him to grant us the Grace to live the Christian virtue of chastity as a joyful affirmation. We ask this of Him through the intercession of Our Lady, she who is Immaculate Purity itself. Let us turn to her, 'tota pulchra', all beautiful, taking to heart that advice that I gave many years ago to those who felt



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.

uneasy in their daily struggle to be humble, pure, sincere, cheerful and generous. 'All the sins of your life seem to be rising up against you. Don't give up hope! On the contrary, call to your holy Mother Mary, with the faith and abandonment of a child. She will bring peace to your soul.' (*ibid.* 189)" (From *In Conversation with God*, by Francis Fernandez)

Through the intercession of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Paul, and all the Holy Angels, may God grant us the grace to be pure in heart through the intercession and help of the Blessed Virgin Mary!

In Christ through Mary,
Fr. Kasel

 <p>Buy one Blizzard at regular price, get 2nd Blizzard at 99¢! 215 E. 18th St. Zumbrota 732-5910</p>	<p>ZUMBROTA MINI STORAGE</p> <p>LIGHTING—PAVED 24 HOUR ACCESS</p> <p>507-696-4406</p>	 <p>Hub Food Center 228 West Ave. Zumbrota 507-732-7329 http://www.nilssensfoods.com</p>	<p>Steve Johnson's</p>  <p>Hwy 52 & 58 in Zumbrota 507-732-5127 www.zumbrotaford.com</p>	 <p>Foot Care Service 507-269-7827 3708 Broadway Ave N. Suite 130, Rochester, MN 55906</p> <p>footcareprofessionalsllc@gmail.com Care provided by Sheila Buehler, APRN, CNP, CFCS Certified Foot Care Specialist Helping YOU live well with YOUR feet!</p>
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<p>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.</p>		<p>Parish Safe Environment Coordinator: Sara McNamara St. Michael: 507-356-4280 stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net St. Paul: 507-732-5324 stpauls@hcinet.net</p> <p>St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese Victim Assistance Program Hotline: (651) 291-4475</p>	<p>For Plot Information Call the Parish Office Church of St. Michael Cemetery 507-356-4280 Church of St. Paul Cemetery 507-732-5324* <i>"Remember To Pray For Our Beloved Departed."</i></p>	<p>ST. PIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 16016</p> <p>JOIN US Brother Knights of our Council invite you to join us. Contact the Parish Office visit: www.kofc.org/join</p> 