January 12, 2025 The Baptism of the Lord

Father Randal Kasel, Pastor frkasel@bevcomm.net Josefina Meyer J. 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@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,

First, thank you, thank you to all who made special end-of-year contributions last month! Your thoughtful generosity will be returned by our good Lord!

Second, I wish to thank all those who expressed your Christmas greetings to me and our staff through cards, food and gifts! We feel very blessed! We pray that you and all of your loved ones have a blessed 2025!

Third, remember that this Sunday marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season. The Christmas Season always seems to go by so quickly. Let us remember to give thanks to our good Lord for all the Graces we received during this past Christmas Season! This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. We hear in the Gospel that God the Father publicly manifested His Love for Jesus. When each of us received the Sacrament of Baptism, we were baptized into the Grace of Jesus Christ – the Grace He won for us through His Passion and death on the Cross. Just as our Lord's Baptism was a sacred moment for Him and for all those who witnessed it, so His Baptism prefigures our personal Baptism in our Lord. Do you know when and where you were baptized? If not, try to find out. It is a good practice to have special remembrance and gratitude for the Grace of Baptism!

Today I share with you a portion of a Scripture commentary on the Gospel of John 1:33, on the Baptism of our Lord, by St. Cyril of Alexandria (b. 370 - d. 444):

"In a plan of surpassing beauty the Creator of the universe decreed the renewal of all things in Christ. In His design for restoring human nature to its original condition, He gave a promise that He would pour out on it the Holy Spirit along with His other gifts, for otherwise our nature could not enter once more into the peaceful and secure possession of those gifts.

He therefore appointed a time for the Holy Spirit to come upon us: this was the time of Christ's coming. He gave this promise when He said: *In those days*, that is, the days of the Savior, *I will pour out a share of my Spirit on all mankind*.

When the time came for this great act of unforced generosity, which revealed in our midst the only-begotten Son, clothed with flesh on this earth, a man born of woman, in accordance with Holy Scripture, God the Father gave the Spirit once again. Christ, as the first fruits of our restored nature, was the first to receive the Spirit. John the Baptist bore witness to this when he said: *I saw the Spirit coming down from Heaven, and it rested on Him*.

Christ "received the Spirit" in so far as He was man, and in so far as man could receive the Spirit. He did so in such a way that, though He is the Son of God the Father, begotten of His substance, even before the Incarnation, indeed before all ages, yet He was not offended at hearing the Father say to Him after He had become man: You are my Son; today I have begotten You. (Psalm 110)

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

Confession bain and Mass 8:30am

The Father says of Christ, who was God, begotten of Him before the ages, that He has been "begotten today," for the Father is to accept us in Christ as His adopted children. The whole of our nature is present in Christ, in so far as He is man. So the Father can be said to give the Spirit again to the Son, though the Son possesses the Spirit as His own, in order that we may receive the Spirit in Christ. The Son therefore took to Himself the seed of Abraham, as Scripture says, and became like His brothers in all things.

The only-begotten Son received the Spirit, but not for His own advantage, for the Spirit is His, and is given in Him and through Him, as we have already said. He receives it to renew our nature in its entirety and to make it whole again, for in becoming man He took our entire nature to Himself. If we reason correctly, and use also the testimony of Scripture, we can see that Christ did not receive the Spirit for Himself, but rather for us in Him; for it is also through Christ that all gifts come down to us."

What a great gift is the Sacrament of Baptism! Let us thank our good Lord today for this Grace!

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, St. Joseph, St. Michael, and St. Paul, may our Lord grant us His Peace and Joy in this New Year!

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Kasel

The next **Holy Hour for Men** will be on Sunday, January 12, at 6:30pm at the Church of St. Michael, Pine Island. Fr. Kasel will give a talk on: *The story of Our Lady of Prompt Succor*. 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.

Topic for January: 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!

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.

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.

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

Come and See: An Evening Intro to the ICC (January 23)

New to the ICC? Looking to grow in faith? Hungry for a deeper experience of Christianity? Join Fr. Hezekias and your ICC Team for a special event geared towards new members and those seeking to get more out of what the ICC has to offer. The evening will begin with a short "meet and greet" fifteen minutes before the scheduled start time. We will then discuss the ICC mission, share how best to engage in ICC programs, and offer some encouraging tips for you to get the most out of your time with us. Whether you are brand new to the ICC, or just want to dive in deeper, you are welcome to join us for this informal ICC evening.

Details: Thursday, January 23

Pre-Class Discussion:7:45pm EST, Lecture: 8:00pm EST Instructor: Rev. Hezekias Carnazzo Registration is required. https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/events/come-and-see-20250123/?vgo ee

WEEKLY TITHING January 4-5, 2025

Sunday Envelopes:	\$ 2,930.00
Plate:	\$ 1,485.00
EFT:	\$ 2,945.00
Total:	\$ 7,360.00

Christmas Collection: \$ 9,027.51

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.

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.

PRO-LIFE QUOTES:

"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

"Respect for life and for the dignity of the human personal also extends to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God." St. John Paul II

"All who are genuinely committed to the advancement of women can and must offer a woman or a girl who is pregnant, frightened, and alone a better alternative than the destruction of her own unborn child." Mary Ann Glendon, 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing, Sept. 5, 1995

"The Gospel of Life is for the whole of human society. To be actively pro-life is to contribute to the renewal of society through the promotion of the common good." (#101) quotes from 'Gospel of Life, St. John Paul II'

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

	HOLY MASS TIMES	
	15, 2025 s/8:30am Holy Mass oration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Friday, January 17, 2 8:00am Confessions	025 /8:30am Holy Mass	
Saturday, January 18 4:00pm-4:50pm Cor 5:00pm Holy Mass		
Sunday, January 19, 7:00am Latin Holy N 10:30am Holy Mass		
HOLY MASS INTENTIONS		
•	Abram Efta (Carolyn Ocariz) Tim Molko (Paul & Mary Sutton)	@>

January 18, 2025 [†]Janice Marie Thieret (Misty Eicher) January 19, 2025 David Koezly (Jen Eirikson) January 19, 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)

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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!

& Union with Jesus

"It seems to me that all is loss since I have known the excelling knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ. For love of Him I have forfeited everything. I have accounted all else rubbish that I may gain Christ. What I want is to know Him, to share in His sufferings, to become like Him in His death. I pursue my course striving to attain what He has destined for me by taking hold of me. My whole concern is to forget what is behind and

to strain forward constantly to what is ahead. I run straight to the goal, to the vocation to which God has called me in Christ Jesus (cf. Phil 3:8-14). That is: I want only to be identified with Him: To me life is Christ (Phil 1:21).

All the intensity of Saint Paul is poured out in these lines. [May we become] more like our adored Master, and even more, to become so one with Him that we may say: I live, no longer I, but He lives in me. And the life that I now live in this body of death, I live by Faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me (Gal 2:20). Let us study this Divine Model. His knowledge, the Apostle tells us, is so excelling. And when He first came into the world, what did He say? You no longer delight in holocausts; so I have assumed a body and I come, O God, to do Your Will (Heb 10:5-7). During the thirty-three years of His life this will became so completely His daily bread that at the moment of handing over His Soul into His Father's Hands, He could say to Him: "All is accomplished, yes, all Your desires, all have been realized, that is why I have glorified You on earth." When Jesus Christ spoke to His Apostles of the food that they did not know, He explained to them that it was to do the Will of Him who sent Me. All He could say: I am never alone. He who sent Me is always with Me because I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.

Let us lovingly eat this bread of the Will of God. If sometimes His Will is more crucifying, we can doubtless say with our adored Master: *Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by*, but we will add immediately: *Yet not as I will, but as You Will.* And in strength and serenity, with the Divine Crucified, we will also climb our Calvary singing in the depths of our hearts and raising a hymn of thanksgiving to the Father. For those who march on this way of sorrow are those whom He foreknew and predestined to be conformed to the Image of His Divine Son (Rom 8:29), the One crucified by love!" St. Elizabeth of the Trinity († 1906) was a French Carmelite nun whose writings focused on the indwelling of the Trinity.



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!

WEEKLY TITHING January 5, 2025

 Sunday Envelopes:
 \$ 1,065.00

 Plate:
 \$ 582.94

 EFT:
 \$ 1,515.00

 Total:
 \$ 3,162.94

Christmas Collection: \$ 5,207.00

SAVE THE DATE! 54th Annual St. Patrick's Ham Dinner Sunday, March 16, 2025

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

Orders will be available for pick up on January 19 after Holy Mass. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Daughters' fundraiser!

Prayer for Priests by St. Therese of Lisieux, Carmelite

O Jesus, eternal Priest, keep Your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart, where none may touch them. Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch Your Sacred Body. Keep unsullied their lips, daily purpled with Your Precious . Keep pure and unearthly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of the Priesthood. Let Your holy Love surround them and shield them from the world's contagion. Bless their labors with abundant fruit and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here and in Heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.

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 Frassati-holding 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 U.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/

Give the gift of an Hour of Adoration for someone. Cards are in the vestibule to send to the recipient.

HOLY MASS TIMES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass 9:00am-5:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday, January 16, 2025 8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass

Sunday, January 19, 2025

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

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

January 14, 2025	†Herb Merten
January 16, 2025	Jackson Joubert
January 19, 2025	Parishioners



NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL

"The rediscovery of the value of one's baptism is the basis of the missionary commitment of every Christian, because we see in the Gospel that he who lets himself be fascinated by Christ cannot do without witnessing the joy of following in His footsteps... we understand even more that, in virtue of Baptism, we have an inherent missionary vocation." *Pope Benedict XVI*



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 sjvseminary.org/visit-the-seminary.

Andrew Dinner – Tuesday, February 25, 6-8 p.m., Archdiocesan Catholic Center, St. Paul

The Andrew Dinner is an opportunity for men, ages 16 - 50, who are interested in learning more about the priesthood. The dinner is hosted by Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Father Mark Pavlak, vocation director. The evening includes prayer, dinner and conversation with vocations testimonies on priesthood and religious life. It is typical for a pastor, deacon, religious or youth minister to accompany each discerning guest. Registration deadline is Friday, January 21. Find more information and registration at 10000vocations.org.

WORDS TO LIVE BY:

"The Lord was Baptized, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism." *St. Ambrose of Milan* "By Baptism we are made flesh of the Crucified." St. Leo the Great "If, therefore, there is any Grace in the water, it is not from the nature of water but from the Spirit's presence there." *St. Basil the Great* "Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God." *St. Vincent Ferrer*

"The soul is regenerated in the sacred waters of Baptism and thus becomes God's child." *St. Maximilian Kolbe*

"Just as a man cannot live in the flesh unless he is born in the flesh, even so a man cannot have the spiritual life of Grace unless he is born again spiritually. This regeneration is effected by Baptism: 'Unless a man is born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God'" (*Jn 3:5*) *St. Thomas Aquinas* "Baptism is not the work of man but of Christ, and this Sacrament is so holy that it would not be defiled, even if the minister were a murderer." *St. Isidore, Doctor of the Church*

"Baptize first the children; and if they can speak for themselves, let them do so. Otherwise, let their parents or other relatives speak for them." St. Hippolytus of Rome (*The Apostolic Tradition*, 215 A.D.)

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.

