

Fr. Kenneth Popp – Pastor, Michael Pekar – Pastoral Associate contact information: 468-2316 or 320-221-1134

Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thurs. - 8:30 am to 3:30 pm and Fri. - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Parish office number 468-6033.

Regular Mass Times for Area Community Parishes:

St. John Nepomuk of Lastrup - Saturdays at 8p.m. and Sundays at 10:45a.m. Holy Cross Church of Harding -Sundays at 8:45a.m.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22nd – DECEMBER 27th, 2020

Tuesday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Pierz +Dolores Popp

Wednesday, December 23

8:00 a.m. Buckman Reconciliation of Our Nation Back to God

7-8:00 p.m. Buckman Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 p.m. Pierz +Jim Becker

4:30 p.m. Buckman +Laura Kapsner

8:00 p.m. Pierz +Mary Ann Kimman

Friday, December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 a.m. Pierz +Marie Stangl

10:00 a.m. Buckman +Henry Preimesberger Jr.

Saturday, December 26

4:30 p.m. Pierz +Lorraine Athman

Sunday, December 27

8:00 a.m. Pierz +Melvin Schmidtbauer

10:00 a.m. Buckman +Donald R. Marshik, and For the People of the Parishes



ST. MICHAEL'S WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

Adult	\$ 2045.00
High School	\$ 5.00
Elementary	\$ 14.00
Plate	\$ 226.00
	\$ 2290.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 13th** Sunday: 184

ST. JOSEPH'S WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

Adult	\$ 6944.00
Elementary	\$ 3.75
Plate	\$ 104.00
	\$ 7051.75

Thank you for your generosity!

Mass attendance **December 12th** Saturday: 117

Mass attendance **December 13th** Sunday: 148

HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR WINNERS

December 14 – JoJo Wagner, **December 15** – Lawrence Guck, **December 16** – Nathan & Kari Gruber, **December 17** – Donald G. Popp, **December 18** – Tony Stangl, **December 19** – Wallace F. Skiba (\$35 Winners). **December 20** – Arlene Smude (\$75 Winner).

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES FOR AREA PARISHES:

Christmas Eve -

4:00 p.m. – Holy Cross, Harding

8:00 p.m. – St. John Nepomuk, Lastrup

Christmas Day -

9:00 a.m. – Holy Cross, Harding

9:00 a.m. – St. John Nepomuk, Lastrup

From the Pastoral Associate: It is certainly a different Christmas this year. A bit crazy, but not as crazy as the first Christmas. Think about it. Even back then when a mother was going to give birth, like today, they did things (according to their economic means) to get ready for this important time. Mary gets to take a long journey on foot or beast, just what a mother ready to give birth wants to do. For a moment Mary Kay and I thought Beth (our second child) might be born on U.S. Highway 1 in Fredericksburg, Virginia, but at least we knew where the babe was going to be resting. Mary and Joseph had to go begging to find a place. (Didn't God have like half of eternity to plan this?) While it was probably springtime (sheep in the fields), they still had only a dirty eating trough for a bed? It gets better. A year or so later Jesus, Joseph and Mary are told they need to leave their home and flee the country. When? Tonight. We have a God who is very comfortable working with and in chaotic times. So, during this Covid Christmas while not the same, we are actually closer to experiencing the uncertainty, the unpredictability, and the dependency upon God that Mary and Joseph experienced with the birth of Jesus. May we imitate the faith that they had. May we also come to more fully appreciate (and imitate) the humility of God coming as a baby born in a barn, born to a poor homeless family who laid Him in a manger, who was visited first by the poorest of the hired hands of the land and then later had to flee and be an alien in a foreign land. Have a Christ-filled Christmas. ~Michael Pekar

CONFESSIONS SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT:

Sun, Dec. 20 th	4:00 p.m.	St. Michael's-Buckman
Sun, Dec. 20 th	6:30 p.m.	St. Joseph's-Pierz
Wed, Dec. 23 rd	1:00 p.m.	St. Joseph's-Pierz
Wed, Dec. 23 rd	6:30 p.m.	St. Michael's-Buckman

****NOTE:** The 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Joseph's Church will be recorded and posted on the parish website Christmas Eve night. It can be found in the St. Joseph's tab under MASS RECORDINGS.

SINGING BEFORE CHRISTMAS MASSES: There will be limited singing before Christmas Mass due to the St. Cloud Diocese's guidelines.

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL: 468-6446

*Thank you for purchasing a 2020 Holy Trinity calendar! Blessings on having a winning calendar, but most of all thank you for supporting the school.

*Delicious Guatemalan gourmet coffee is for sale at the school office year-round.

*May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas!

On behalf of the staff at St. Joseph's and St. Michael's Church, we wish everyone a safe and blessed holiday!



ST. MICHAEL'S NEWS & ACTIVITIES:

THURS., December 24th @ 4:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve

Lector: Todd Caddy

Communion Ministers: Kay Pappenfus & Donna Solinger

FRI., December. 25th @ 10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day

Lector: Leo Pohlkamp

Communion Ministers: Janice Janson & Deb Hall

SUN, December. 27th @ 10:00 a.m.

Lector: Mary Kay Zilka

Communion Ministers: Nathan Gruber & Randi Kranz

USHERS FOR JANUARY: Brian Stangl, Gregg Stangl, Todd Caddy

AT PEACE WITH GOD: *Gary Funk* passed away on Saturday, December 12th. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, December 17th at St. Michael's Catholic Church, with burial in the parish cemetery. We extend our sympathy to the families and assure them of our prayerful support.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/WOMEN NEWS:

*We are in need of a new treasurer. The duties of treasurer are posted at the parish office or at St Michael's Church in Buckman. For more information, call Patty at 468-2487.

*Meeting on Thurs. Jan. 21, 2021 at 1 p.m. at St. Michael's parish center.

COFFEE CAKES FOR SALE: Christian Mothers/Women will be selling coffee cakes after Mass on Sun. Dec. 20th (only 100 will be made). CDC guidelines will be followed.

CHRIST CHILD BABY SHOWER: Baby items, including new & gently used clothing, coats, hats, mittens & diapers are being collected, along with monetary donations for area families in need. Sponsored by the Buckman CW/M. Basket in the church. Any questions, call Cindy Scholl at 320-630-8410.

SECRET SANTA: Buckman Area Lions do a Secret Santa and surprises a family in need. This year they are asking for your help to finding that family. Located in the Parish Center entryway is a Christmas tree. Please take a paper ornament from the basket and inside write the family's information, then seal the ornament shut and then hang it on the tree. The ornaments will be collected daily. Thank You for Your Help!

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWS AND ACTIVITIES:

THURS., December 24th @ 4:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve

Lector: Leo Wehseler

Communion Ministers: Mary Schraut & Michelle Litke

THURS., December 24th @ 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve

Lector: Tracy Voigt

Communion Ministers: Keith Marshik & Sarah Fyten

FRI., December. 25th @ 8:00 a.m. – Christmas Day

Lector: Harvey Kimman

Communion Ministers: Marvin Kimman & Leroy Swanson

SAT. Dec. 26th @ 4:30 p.m., & SUN. Dec. 27th @ 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Lector: Hilde Flicker

Communion Ministers: Sat. Dec. 26- Barb & Mason Zajac,

Sun. Dec. 27- Marvin Kimman & Pat Hartmann

LECTORS FOR JANUARY:

Sat. – Tony Sauer, Sun. – Mark Fyten

USHERS FOR JANUARY:

Sat. – Dennis Zajac, Robbie Becker, JD Folger, & Jon Stumpf.

Sun. – Clint Kimman, James Gruber, Dan Loscheider, & Jeff Virnig

TREAT BAGS: In honor of the Holy Innocents Feast, Christian Mothers will be handing out treat bags after Mass on Saturday, December 26th and Sunday, December 27th. Children are invited to come up after mass.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/WOMEN NEWS:

*We are still looking for someone to take the Vice President position for 2021. It is only a one-year position followed by one year as president. It would be greatly appreciated if someone would step up and help us out. Please contact Barb Zajac at 320-310-3267 with any questions you may have.

*There will be a CM/W meeting on Wednesday, January 6th, 2021, starting with mass at 6:00pm and meeting to follow at the parish house.

Christ Child Baby Shower: A basket will be placed by the side front altar for baby items. Needed are diapers, blankets, clothes, donations, etc. Items will be given to families in need and Pierz food shelf. Sponsored by Pierz Christian Women. Questions call (320) 468-6070 – Thank you.

St Joseph's Quilting Circle: Tying and stitching will be put on hold until after the latest shut downs are lifted. Any questions, call Eileen at 320-360-2434.

ADVENT MESSAGE WEEK FOUR: Fourth candle, Candle of Love? Love plays a vital role in the Christmas story. Because of Joseph's love for Mary and Mary has a natural motherly love for Jesus, and ultimately, we see God's love for everyone by sending his son for us (John 3:16). Jesus focused on preaching love throughout his ministry. Two of his greatest commands involve love: Love God, love your neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40). Love is the greatest of all the virtues on the Advent wreath and encompasses Jesus' entire purpose for being on earth (1 Corinthians 13:13). **Advent Wreath Prayer Week 4** — Love Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word...LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus. You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Messiah, and Ruler of All, yet you came not as a lion but as a lamb. You came as an innocent baby whose purpose was to walk this earth in complete love and then to sacrificially give your life as an atonement for the sins of your children. Emmanuel. God with us. Love in the form of a man. There is no greater gift than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends. You willingly gave the gift of your life because of your love. Your righteous blood covered our sin. You redeem and restore us when we confess you as Lord and Savior of our life. In that moment, you give us the gift of your love for all eternity. We receive grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy in that moment. The greatest gift of all came that first Christmas. It wasn't wrapped in a beautiful package and set under a decorated tree. The greatest gift came wrapped in the flesh of baby Jesus and laid in the rough wood of a manger. Our perfect gift would later be rewrapped in the scars of our sin and nailed to the rugged wood of a cross on Calvary, all because of love. Father, this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen