



**FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER PIERZ**  
**AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**



# 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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## REGULAR MASS SCHEDULE

### TUESDAY

7:00 p.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

### WEDNESDAY

8:00 a.m. – Holy Cross Harding

### THURSDAY

7:00 a.m. – St. Michael's Buckman

### FRIDAY

8:30 a.m. – St. Joseph's Pierz

### SATURDAY

4:00 p.m. – St. John Nepomuk Lastrup

6:00 p.m. – Holy Cross Harding

### SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. – St. Michael's Buckman

10:00 a.m. – St. Joseph's Pierz

\*\*See inside cover for any changes for the upcoming week

**APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY:** 3:30 p.m. St John Nepomuk Lastrup

**SUNDAY:** 7:30 a.m. St. Michael's Buckman

**Confession Times:** \*30 minutes before Pierz, Harding and Lastrup weekday Masses, 30 minutes after Buckman Mass, and by appt.

\*First Weekend of the Month: After 6 p.m. Mass at Holy Cross Harding and after 10 a.m. Mass at St Joseph's Pierz

**Fr. Aaron Nett, Pastor:** 320-468-6033, [frnett@midco.net](mailto:frnett@midco.net)

**Deacon Craig Korver:** [ckorver@molschool.org](mailto:ckorver@molschool.org)

**Deacon Leo Wehseler:** [leowehseler@gmail.com](mailto:leowehseler@gmail.com)

**St. John/Holy Cross Office:** 320-360-9720, [ltthesing@hotmail.com](mailto:ltthesing@hotmail.com)

**St. Joseph/St. Michael Office:** 320-468-6033, [stjoes@midco.net](mailto:stjoes@midco.net)

April 28, 2024  
5th Sunday of Easter

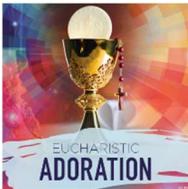
My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, “Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you.”

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week’s Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, “**He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit**” (John 15:2) I don’t mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I’d wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God’s love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn’t it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it’s not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ’s body. Jesus’ rising is the brand-new growth. It is God’s promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth.

— Father John Muir

*\*This is a message taken from our online bulletin library ©LPi*

MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 30 <sup>th</sup> – MAY 5 <sup>th</sup>	
<p><b>Tuesday, April 30</b> 7:00 p.m. Lastrup The Recipients of Prayer Blankets</p> <p><b>Wednesday, May 1</b> 8:00 a.m. Harding +Will &amp; Betty Bublitz 7-8 p.m. Buckman Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><b>Thursday, May 2</b> 7:00 a.m. Buckman Health &amp; happiness of Karen &amp; Jeannie 10:00 a.m. Villa +LeRoy G. Hoheisel</p> <p><b>Friday, May 3 – HT School Mass in Lastrup (Mrs. Miller’s 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class)</b> 7:30 a.m. Pierz Prayers for Our Nation (Prayer Service) 9:00 a.m. Lastrup +Ann Lochner 3-6:00 p.m. Pierz Eucharistic Adoration</p> <p><b>Saturday, May 4</b> 4:00 p.m. Lastrup +Parker Laney 6:00 p.m. Harding +Marlene Knopik</p> <p><b>Sunday, May 5</b> 8:00 a.m. Buckman For the People of the Parishes 10:00 a.m. Pierz +Marvin Dorn</p>	<p><b>NOTE: The school Mass on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be at 9 a.m. in Lastrup.</b></p> <p><b>Pierz &amp; Buckman Office Hours:</b> Located in Pierz. Mon, Tue, Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fridays closed.</p> <p><b>Lastrup &amp; Harding Office Hours:</b> Call 320-360-9720</p> <p><b>*Emergency Contact:</b> If you have an emergency and need a priest, please call Teresa at 320-360-9720.</p> <p><b>*Bulletin Announcement Deadline:</b> The deadline for submissions of bulletin announcements is <b>Mondays at 3 p.m.</b> You can email <a href="mailto:stjoes@midco.net">stjoes@midco.net</a>, mail PO Box 428, Pierz MN 56364, or call 320-468-6033.</p> <p><b>*If you are seeking information on baptism, marriage, or RCIA preparation or would like to sign up as a new member of the parish, please call 320-468-6033 (Pierz and Buckman) or 320-360-9720 (Lastrup &amp; Harding).</b></p> <p><b>*Weekday Masses When There is a Funeral:</b> Going forward, when there is a funeral, the regular scheduled weekday Mass will still take place.</p>
 <p><b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</b> St Joseph Pierz – Fridays 3-6 p.m. St. Michael Buckman – Wednesdays 7-8 p.m. and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Holy Cross Harding – Adoration chapel always open</p>	

“When you are before the altar where Christ reposes, you ought no longer to think that you are amongst men; but believe that there are troops of angels and archangels standing by you, and trembling with respect before the sovereign Master of Heaven and earth. Therefore, when you are in church, be there in silence, fear, and veneration.” ~St. John Chrysostom

### ST. JOHN NEPOMUK

28520 Church St., PO BOX 38  
Lastrup, MN 56344  
Phone: 320-360-9720  
E-mail: ltthesing@hotmail.com  
Website: www.stjohnlastrup.org



### SATURDAY, MAY 4 at 4:00 p.m.

**Lector:** Mark Loidolt

**Servers:** Duncan & Freyja Wipper

**Ushers:** Cory Loidolt & Roy Boser

**E. Minister (Choir):** Allen Riedeman

**BAR BINGO NEWS:** Come to the Fisch House in Lastrup to play bingo every Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. Please come and join us for a fun evening. The jackpot numbers will be posted online and at the Fisch House and also on their Facebook page. St. John's gaming #02115.

**MEAT RAFFLE:** We now have a meat raffle at the Fisch House every Sunday at 5:00 PM. Please join us for some fun and try and win some meat. St. John's Gaming #02115.

### ST. JOHN PARISH RAFFLE & FELLOWSHIP DINNER:

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> after the 4 p.m. Mass. All are invited to attend. You can still get tickets from any parishioner. Top prize is \$5000.00. All cash prizes! Menu will be Sausage/Sauerkraut, Mac & Cheese, Scalloped Potatoes (Free will offering). Raffle will be after dinner. \$5,000 top prize! Bake sale will be held during this as well. Lastrup parishioners please bring your bake sale items already marked to the parish center before Mass.

### ST. JOHN NEPOMUK WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

\*Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: Adult env \$1,323.00, Adult loose \$278.66, Easter \$125, Children env 4.00, Children loose \$97.00.  
**Mass attendance:** 109

### HOLY CROSS CHURCH

29482 243rd Street  
Pierz, MN 56364  
Phone: 320-360-9720  
E-mail: ltthesing@hotmail.com  
Website: www.Hardingchurch.org



### SATURDAY, MAY 4 at 6:00 p.m.

**Lector:** Lynn Dukowitz

**Servers:** Adam Woitalla & Elliott Carmona

**Ushers:** Gary Matlock & Kevin Dembouski

**E. Minister (Choir):** Gary Matlock

**Rosary:** Ted Boser

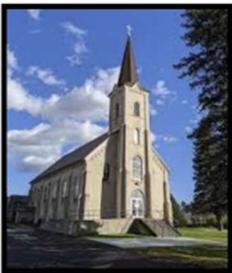
**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** Nominations for two positions on the parish council will be Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and elections will take place on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. No elections this year for Holy Trinity or Father Pierz School of Religion.

### HOLY CROSS WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP:

\*Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: Adult env. \$985.00, Adult loose \$36.00, Children env. \$3.00, Children loose \$8.00.

**Mass attendance:** 108

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR LASTRUP & HARDING:** A man with cancer, Ayden Boser, Joe Woitalla, Jeremy Girtz, Diane Schirmers, Mark, Becker, Olivia Waldorf, Pat (Rod) Boser, Jane Weiss, Alice Matlock, Kurt Lucking, Sally Lentner, Lois Woitalla, Rhys Boser, Carmen Britz, Doris Weiss, Mary Ann Schomer, Justin Lindgren, Aaron Boser, Ione Hoskins, Gerard Virnig, Serena Truskowski, Gina Virnig, Donny Schommer, Scott Bednar, Jerod Bursch.


**St. John Nepomuk Parish Raffle**  
**Lastrup, MN**  
**Saturday, May 4, 2024**  
**Mass at 4:00 PM**  
**Free Will Offering Fellowship Supper & Bake Sale**  
*Sausage/Sauerkraut - Mac & Cheese - Scalloped Potatoes*

**Raffle Drawing after Mass**  
**Grand Prize \$5,000**

***Proceeds to Support Buildings Upkeep***

## Holy Trinity Catholic School

CAMP FOLEY

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST

*Fundraiser*

**Sunday, April 28**  
**8:30 am - 12:00 pm**

St. Michael Parish Hall  
Buckman, MN

Adults...\$10  
Kids 5-12...\$5  
Kids 4 & under...FREE  
Family max of \$30

Breakfast also includes coffee, milk, juice, eggs, fruit, sausage, and rolls

\*ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD HTCS 6TH GRADE CAMP FOLEY TRIP



## ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

9251 Hwy 25, P.O. Box 428

Pierz, MN 56364

Phone: 320-468-6033

E-mail: stjoes@midco.net

Website: www.stjosephs-stmichaels.org



### SUNDAY, MAY 5 at 8:00 a.m.

**Lector:** Randi Kranz

**E. Ministers:** Jill Hoheisel & Mary Kay Zilka

**Servers:** Amber Boser & Ashlee Dingmann

**Ushers for May:** Mick Gruber, Frank Hoheisel & Steve Kahl

**PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES:** There are copies of the parish council meeting minutes located at the entrances of the church.

**ST. MICHAEL'S CEMETERY:** To purchase St. Michael's Cemetery plots or columbarium niches please contact the parish office in Pierz (320)468-6033.

**PRAYER LINE:** If you are in need of prayers, please call Mary Brenny at 320-393-2781 or Mary Malinowski at 320-223-9783.

### ST. MICHAEL WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (April 21)

Adult	\$ 2,612.00
Easter	\$ 1,000.00
High School	\$ 4.00
Elementary	\$ 21.00
Plate	\$ 532.00
	\$ 4,169.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*

Mass attendance April 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday: 524

## ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

68 Main St N, P.O. Box 428

Pierz, MN 56364

Phone: 320-468-6033

E-mail: stjoes@midco.net

Website: www.stjosephs-stmichaels.org



### SUNDAY, MAY 5 at 10:00 a.m.

**Lector:** Colleen Lucking

**E. Ministers:** Barb Zajac, Mason Zajac & Jo Loidolt

**Servers:** Roman & Marcy Wacker

**Sacristans:** Doris Thyen

**Ushers for May:** Jim Gerwing (Lead), Caleb Koch, Mike Stangl & Steve Maus



### New Life in Christ

Mason Glenn, son of Mark & Janaye Eno, was baptized on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations and welcome to our community of faith!



### II. BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Wedding May 10<sup>th</sup>

Susan Kimman & Jeffrey Puskaric

**TABLE/CHAIR RENTAL:** If you would like to rent tables or chairs from St. Joseph's Church for events, you must call the parish office first. The new white tables and chairs are not available for rent. Thank you.

**PARISH FESTIVAL:** We are now accepting donations of new items for the Country Store as well as cash donations for Country Store and Kids Games. You can bring donations to the parish office, place cash donations in dropbox or mail to PO Box 428, Pierz MN 56364. Any questions call Michele Herold at 468-2461 or the parish office at 468-6033. Thank you!

**PRAYER LINE:** If you have a prayer line request, please either call Karen Gross at 320-468-6818 or email Rachel Young at rjyoung0521@gmail.com.

### ST. JOSEPH WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP (April 21)

Adult	\$ 6,302.10
Easter	\$ 100.00
High School	\$ 7.00
Elementary	\$ 10.15
Plate	\$ 235.00
	\$ 6,654.25

*Thank you for your generosity!*

Mass attendance April 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday: 302

**MUSIC IN THE PARK**  
PIERZ MUSIC DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER  
PIERZ GOLF COURSE SHELTERS

**May 5th, 2024**  
**2:00 PM**

**BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR!**

Food by the Pierz Lions  
50/50 Raffles  
Bean-Bag Toss  
Chuck-A-Duck  
Bake Sale  
Silent Auction  
Craft Fair Vendors  
Deck of Cards Raffles  
and More!

**SUPPORT THE PIERZ MUSIC DEPARTMENT!**

### ACC Faith Study Groups

\*Bible study is being offered every other Sunday evening for the young female youth (9th grade and older) of our ACC. This is held in the St Joseph Church basement at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please call Jenny (320-360-6650), Kari (320-412-6164), or Rebecca (320-360-7004).

\*Man Accountability: Men of all parishes, give us the honors of joining us on Saturdays from 6:45-8AM at the Pierz parish office for Gospel prayer, Acts 2:42, and accountability. Iron sharpens iron! Questions/reminders please text/call Mark Loidolt, 701-388-2323.

\*Women's Group meets on Saturday mornings from 8:15-9:30 a.m. We'll meet in St. Joseph's church at 8:15 to pray a rosary followed by discussion in the parish office until 9:30. All women are welcome! Call or text Cari Stumpf with any questions, 320-761-6336.

\*The Sunday Night Adult Education Group meets on Sunday night at 7PM in the Pierz parish office meeting room. We watch a short video on a variety of Catholic topics followed by a discussion. For more information, call Al Pekarek at 468-0220.

## GENERAL NEWS

**FAMILY ROSARY NIGHT:** The next Family Rosary Night will be Sat., April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. at Roger & Janice Janson's residence (9093 260<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pierz MN 56364) All are welcome, bring your family. Questions, call Janice at 320-630-6190.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR NATION:** Please join us on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church to pray for our nation. Everyone is welcome to join!

**MCCL FLOWER & PLANT SALE:** Our ACC will have a "Mother's Day" plant/flower sale next weekend. An assortment of flowers & plants will be available after each Mass.

**ST. ISIDORE'S HELPERS:** In the hope to raise money for upcoming Steubenville and SEEK retreats for the youth of Pierz we are looking for farmers who need rocks picked & students to volunteer to pick the rocks with Fr. Aaron. The students that pick rocks will earn money that will go towards their individual retreat accounts. The first date scheduled is for Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 7am-3 pm. Students and farmers interested in this fundraising effort should reach out to Rebecca Kapsner at 320-360-7004. Students can also sign up at religion class. We are also accepting monetary donations. These retreats for the youth can be a life changing experience that deepens their faith and strengthens their relationship with God.

**BLESSING OF SEEDS FOR PLANTING SEASON:** It is not far-fetched to say that our health and our very lives, depend on the sprouting of seeds. The planting of seeds and nurturing through harvest, we receive God's choicest blessings when we break from our labors and enjoy a simple meal. Saving some of the new seeds allows us to continue this miraculous cycle of nature. Besides planting in the good earth, seeds cannot grow without fresh water. Through giving of rain God blesses us, and water stored in the ground is our true treasure.

\*\*If you would like to have seeds blessed bring a small bag of seeds and place them in the marked basket in the back or entryway of one of the four churches by May 4<sup>th</sup>. They will be blessed at the end of the Mass on the weekend of May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

**ACC WEBSITE:** The ACC website is now up and running! The website address is: <https://fatherpierzacc.org/>

**SCAM WARNING:** It has again been brought to our attention that there have been texts and emails claiming to be Fr. Aaron asking for a favor, to get gift cards, or to call him back. Please know that this is a scam, do not reply to these messages. It has been reported to the local authorities.

**ALERT:** Please make sure you lock your vehicle doors when you come to church and keep valuables out of plain sight.

**CENTRAL MN KOINONIA:** Central Minnesota Koinonia is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and is designed for adults to help you on your faith journey. Retreats are held at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. The next English retreat will be held May 17-19, 2024, cost of the weekend is \$70.00.

**CDL TRAINING:** Little Falls Community Services is offering a course to earn your CDL. To register or learn more, call (320) 632-7900. Offered on Mondays and Wednesdays starting April 29 - May 15 from 3:30-6:30pm. You must be 18, hold a class D or higher and pass a drug test.

## **JOB POSTING: PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR**

The Father Francis Xavier Pierz Area Catholic Community has a full-time salaried position open to assist the pastor in serving the pastoral needs of the four communities. Qualifications for this position are as follows: A love for Christ and his Church, a solid prayer life, skills in personal communication and evangelization, a hunger to bring others to Christ, organized, an ability to collaborate and be flexible to serve the mission of the Church.

### **Job Duties Include:**

- Meeting with families and planning funeral liturgies.
- Coordinating and teaching OCIA or those searching in their faith life.
- Overseeing Homebound ministry.
- Coordinating the Marriage preparation program.
- Collaboration with the pastor and staff on daily operation, evangelism and general planning for the parishes.

Interested individuals may submit a letter of interest and resume to the parish office. For any questions regarding the position please contact the office or Father Aaron by phone (320) 468-6033 or email ([frnett@midco.net](mailto:frnett@midco.net)).

## **WELCOME!**

A warm welcome to Keith Marshik,  
St. Joseph's new custodian.  
We are excited to have you onboard!

## **THANK YOU!**

A huge "Thank You" to Steve Boser, our custodian at St. Joseph's for the last 5+ years. We'd like to thank you for all your hours, dedication and contributions to our parish and office. It has been an honor working with you and we wish you all the best. Our prayers go with you as you cherish family time and taking care of your grandkids. Keep smiling!  
THANK YOU, STEVE!

## **Thursday, May 23rd National Eucharist Procession:**

National Eucharistic Procession coming to Little Falls! A bus will leave St. Joseph's Church parking lot 6:45am & return 10:30am, Senior Center donuts for the bus ride :) drive to OLOL Church in LF, rosary on bus ride: adoration 7:00am-8:00am at OLOL, 8:00-8:45am Eucharistic Procession (walking from OLOL Church to St. Mary's Church through town (1 mile walk) 9:00am-10:00am Mass @ St. Mary's. Back to Pierz by 10:30am! Let's fill a bus! Adults if you want to ride the bus contact Hilde Flicker at 468-2649 & sign up by Tuesday, May 21st. High School Students will sign up in Religion class.

## **Plenary Indulgence for National Eucharistic Pilgrimage:**

*A plenary indulgence will be granted to the Christian faithful who participate in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at any point between May 17 and July 16, 2024. It will also be granted to the elderly, infirm, and all those who cannot leave their homes for a serious reason and who participate in spirit with the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, uniting their prayers, pains, or inconveniences with Christ and the pilgrimage. This indulgence is granted under the usual conditions of sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.*

80 Edward St. N., Pierz MN 56364, 320-468-6446

**\*COFFEE-** Regular (ground or bean) \$13.00, in French, Dark, or Medium Roast. Decaf (ground or bean) \$14.00.

**\*CAMP FOLEY PANCAKE BREAKFAST-** Sunday, April 28, 2024, - 8:30am-12:00pm - St. Michael Parish Hall. Proceeds help cover the cost of Camp Foley for our 6th Grade students.

**\*HTCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS-** Holy Trinity is looking for 2 new members for our Board of Directors; one from the Lastrup parish and one member at large (from any of the four parishes). The three-year term will start in August 2024. Expertise in the areas of finance and/or facility/maintenance preferred. Belief in the mission of Holy Trinity and Catholic education is a must. The position requires monthly meetings as well as committee assignments/meetings. This is a volunteer position. Please call/email the school office by May 1st if you are interested. (320) 468-6446 / [office@holyltrinitypierz.org](mailto:office@holyltrinitypierz.org)

**\*HTCS HIRING-** If you, or someone you know, is interested in a year round, part-time (25 hours per week) custodial position, please contact the office: [office@holyltrinitypierz.org](mailto:office@holyltrinitypierz.org).

**Raffle Calendar Winners:**

4/21 \$75 Danny Gross, 4/22 \$35 Ann Brunswig, 4/23 \$35 Fr Ralph Zimmerman, 4/24 \$35 Aaron Schulte, 4/25 \$35 Karen Schreiber, 4/26 \$35 Wally Brown, 4/27 \$35 Lisa Schultz

**LOOK WHAT'S NEW  
IN THE ACC!**

***St. Joseph's Christian Mothers/Women***

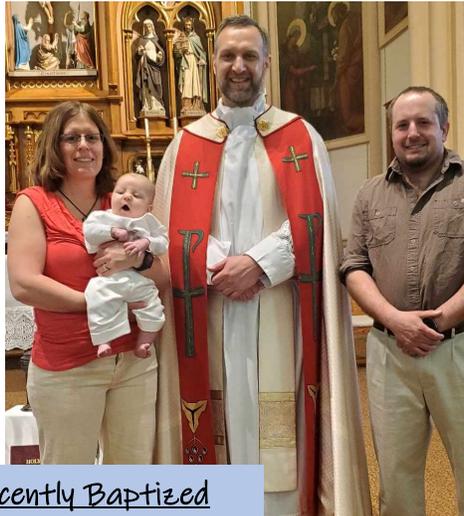
*Congratulations to our 40 year members Linda Thielen, Ginger Grittner and Mary Jo Young.*

*Pictured below is President Rachel Young handing a 40 year pin to Mary Jo Young*



**Recently Baptized**

Right & Bottom:  
**Berkley Marie,**  
 daughter of Bryant &  
 Jamie Johnson  
 Top Left:  
**Archer Adam,**  
 son of  
 Adam & Kelsy Poster



**Father Pierz  
School of Religion**



320-468-2640

**\*Sunday, April 28** – Confirmation at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church in Pierz

**\*Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** –

\*Steubenville Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

\*10<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**\*Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** – SH

Crossfire Paintball in Clearwater, MN 5-9p.m.

