### December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Father Randal Kasel, Pastor frkasel@bevcomm.net Father Thomas McCabe, Parochial Vicar frmccabe@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.

#### 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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. I share with you a reflection on A Time of Hope in Christ our Lord. I encourage you to reflect over this message a few times this week:

"4th Sunday of Advent - A Time of Hope.

Mary, teacher of hope. The origin of discouragement and dejection. Jesus Christ the Supreme Good: The spirit of Advent largely consists in living close to Our Lady during this time when she is carrying Jesus in her womb. We can think of the whole of our life as a somewhat longer *advent*, a time of waiting for that definitive moment when we will at last find ourselves with God forever. The Christian knows that he has to live this *advent* beside Our Lady every day of his life if he wants to be certain of attaining the only things in the whole of his existence that is really important - finding Christ in this life, and afterwards being with Him in eternity.

There is no better way of preparing for Christmas, which is now so close, than by keeping Mary company, getting to know her and deepening our love and trust in her.

Mary imparts a great joy to our souls, because when we turn to her she leads us to Christ. Mary teaches us to hope. 'All generations will call me blessed', she proclaimed. Humanly speaking, how could she hope for such a thing? Who was she, in the eyes of her contemporaries? The great heroines of the Old Testament - Judith, Esther, Deborah won a measure of human renown even here on earth... What a contrast between Our Lady's hope and our own impatience! We call so often upon God to reward us at once for any little good we may have done. For us, no sooner does the very first difficulty appear than we begin to complain. Often we find ourselves incapable of sustaining our efforts, of keeping our hope alive. (J. Escriva, Friends of God, 286) The ones who become discouraged are not those who undergo diffi culties and feel pain. It is those, rather, who do not aspire to sanctity and Eternal Life, those who despair of ever reaching them, who buckle and give up. The attitude of the former is shaped by a lack of Faith, by comfort-seeking, lukewarmness and an excessive attachment to earthly goods, which they consider to be the only good things worth having. Discouragement, if it is not remedied, paralyses any effort to do good and overcome difficulties. Sometimes discouragement over one's own failure to advance in sanctity comes about through lack of will-power, through fear of the effort the ascetical struggle entails, and of having to give up disordered attachments of the senses. Not even apparent failures in our interior struggle, or in our concern to do apostolate should be cause for dismay. Whoever does things for love of God and for His Glory never fails. Convince yourself of this truth: your success -

In a few days' time we shall see Jesus in the Crib. The sight will be a proof of God's Mercy and Love. We will be able to say: On this Christmas night everything inside me stops. I am face to face with *Him; there is nothing but this Child in the whole of* (cont. on pg. 3)

this time, in this matter - was to fail. Give thanks to our Lord... and try

again! (idem., The Way, 404) You haven't failed; you have gained

experience. On you go! (ibid., 405)

# Welcome to the Churches of 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 8:25am, 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, Fr. McCabe and the office staff

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



<u>Individual Confession times during Advent</u>\*\*: Monday, December 21 St. Columbkill, Belle Creek 7:00-8:30 pm Tuesday, December 22 St. Paul, Zumbrota 4:00-4:55 pm Tuesday, December 22 St. Paul, Zumbrota 6:30-8:00 pm Thursday, December 24 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:30am-noon \*\*The Sacrament of Confession is also offered before each weekday Holy Mass at St. Paul & St. St. Michael.

#### **Holy Mass on Christmas Eve:**

Due to the COVID-19, Archbishop Hebda has granted pastors permission to begin Christmas Eve Holy Mass as early as 2pm for this year only.

Thursday, December 24 St. Michael, Pine Island 2:00 pm Thursday, December 24 Holy Trinity, Goodhue 3:00 pm Thursday, December 24 St. Paul, Zumbrota 4:00 pm Thursday, December 24 St. Columbkill, Belle Creek 5:00 pm Thursday, December 24 St. Michael, Pine Island 5:30 pm

#### **Holy Mass on Christmas Day:**

Friday, December 25 St. Michael, Pine Island 7:00 am (EF) Friday, December 25 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:45 am Friday, December 25 St. Mary, Bellechester 8:45 am Friday, December 25 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:30 am Friday, December 25 St. Columbkill, Belle Creek 10:30 am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God-Holy Day:

Thursday, December 31 St. Michael, Pine Island 4:00 pm Thursday, December 31 Holy Trinity, Goodhue 4:00 pm Friday, January 1 St. Michael, Pine Island 7:00 am (EF)

Friday, January 1 St. Paul, Zumbrota 8:45 am Friday, January 1 St. Mary, Bellechester 8:45 am

Friday, January 1 St. Michael, Pine Island 10:30 am Friday, January 1 St. Columbkill, Belle Creek 10:30 am

#### CHURCH OF SAINT MICHAEL NEWS

#### CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL FAITH FORMATION

The Next Session: Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30-7:45pm TOPIC for January: The Call: Are You Listening? (Vocations and Holy Orders)

#### Exodus 90 at St. Michael

We are asking men of the parish to prayerfully consider an opportunity for a slightly different New Year's resolution heading into the new year. Exodus 90 is a program focused on building a closer relationship with God, finding peace, and providing freedom from life's distractions. It focuses on increasing daily prayer and scriptural study via works of asceticism and group accountability. It is a challenging program, but many who undertake it, find it to be life-changing. There will be an information meeting for those interested in undertaking the Exodus 90 group journey at St. Michael on **Wednesday**, **December 30<sup>th</sup>** at 8:30pm. Details about the program can be found on the website <a href="https://exodus90.com">https://exodus90.com</a>. The 90 day Exodus will begin **January 4**th and end on Easter Sunday. There will be weekly meetings every Wednesday at 8:30 pm at St. Michael.

If you are interested in joining the group and/or would like to learn more, go to the website above, download the app, set a start date for January 4<sup>th</sup>, and begin looking through the "Field Guide". If you would like a reminder email/text for the information meeting on December 30<sup>th</sup>, please write your name and contact info legibly on the sign-up sheet or email Santi Ocariz at sa.ocariz@gmail.com. Man was created for greatness—for God Himself; he was created to be filled by God. But his heart is too small for the greatness to which it is destined. It must be stretched" Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

#### The Mystery of the Reign of Christ Jesus

"The new world order is this - God lets Himself be so influenced by His love for His image and likeness that He becomes a little baby. He lets Himself be laid in a crib to show that He will be both shepherd and pasture for His people.

He, who is eternity without ageing, subjects Himself to the human law of becoming older. Although He is God, He takes all suffering onto Himself like a weak human being. He does this to put an end to the law of death and to enable us to share in immortality. God's power is this: that He can be what He is not and yet still remain what He is. He is our God - the eternal Son of the eternal Father. He is God and He is human, because He stands in the middle, between the Father and us. The reality of His flesh is revealed in His weakness and the reality of His majesty is revealed in His miracles. St. Zeno of Verona (St. Zeno was a fourth century bishop and martyr.)

#### **PRO-LIFE QUOTES:**

The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of a civil society and its legislation: "The inalienable rights of the person must be recognized and respected by civil society and the political authority. These human rights depend neither on single individuals nor on parents; nor do they represent a concession made by society and the state; they belong to human nature and are inherent in the person by virtue of the creative act from which the person took his origin. Among such fundamental rights one should mention in this regard every human being's right to life and physical integrity from the moment of conception until death." (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Donum vitae (The Gift of Life) III)

"A Christian can never conform to a law which is in itself immoral, and such is the case of a law which would admit in principle the liceity of abortion. Nor can a Christian take part in the propaganda campaign in favor of such a law or vote for it... On the contrary, it is the task of law to pursue reform of society and conditions of life in all its milieu, starting with the most deprived, so that always and everywhere it may be possible to give every child coming into this world a welcome worthy of a person." Declaration on Procured Abortion, Vatican, 1974

#### **WEEKLY TITHING for December 12-13, 2020**

Envelopes: 5,864.00 Plate: 644.30 EFT: 507.50 Total: 7,015.80

Kitui Mission Collection: \$ 480.00

The next Holy Hour for Women will be on Sunday, December 27, at 6:00pm at Church of St. Michael. All women are invited!



Archdiocesan Synod Prayer to St Joseph

Year of St Joseph- December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021 Heavenly Father,

who gave St. Joseph to Jesus and Marv as protector and guide,

grant that our Archdiocesan Synod. under his protection and guidance, may help us discern your direction for our Church.

May we listen as he listened, trust as he trusted, obey as he obeyed, receive as he received, love as he loved,

and share in his life of devotion to Jesus and Mary.

Amen. St. Joseph, pray for us.

archspm.org/synod/stjoseph

**Rochester Rosary Rallies:** Right now our country needs fervent and confident prayer offered for the truthful, just, and peaceful resolution to our recent elections, continued conversion, and peace. Please join us on Sundays, December 20 & 27 for the continuation of the Rochester Rosary Rallies at 3pm near the Rochester Government Center at the corner of 4th St. SE and 3rd Ave. SE.

<u>Pine Island Food Shelf:</u> The items requested for **December:** Canned Tuna & Chicken

#### **HOLY MASS TIMES**

#### Wednesday, December 23, 2020

8:00am Confessions/8:30am Holy Mass (also live-streamed)

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

#### Thursday, December 24, 2020

2:00pm Holy Mass on Christmas Eve

5:30pm Holy Mass on Christmas Eve

#### Friday, December 25, 2020

7:00am (EF) Holy Mass on Christmas Day

10:30am Holy Mass on Christmas Day (also live-streamed)

#### Saturday, December 26, 2020

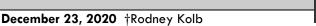
4:00-4:50pm Individual Confession

5:00pm Holy Mass

#### Sunday, December 27, 2020

7:00am Extraordinary Form Holy Mass 10:30am Holy Mass (also live-streamed)

#### **HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**



December 24, 2020 †John Elsen (Carolyn Ocariz)

December 24, 2020 †Nathaniel Anderson (Carl & Nancy Anderson)

December 25, 2020 (EF) Clare Ann Taylor (J. Meyer)

December 25, 2020 Parishioners

**December 26, 2020** †Cliff Edstrom (Chris Kneeland)

December 27, 2020 (EF) Carol Berns & Family

December 27, 2020 Parishioners



#### **CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL NEWS**

#### CHURCH OF ST. PAUL FAITH FORMATION

The Next Session: Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30-7:45pm TOPIC for Jan.: The Call: Are You Listening? (Vocations and Holy Orders)

(From Father Kasel...from pg. 1) that huge white expanse. He does not say anything, but He is there... He is God loving me. (J. Leclerq, A Year with the Liturgy) And if God becomes man and loves me, how am I going to refuse to seek Him? How am I going to give up hope of finding Him, if He is searching for me? Let us rid ourselves of any suggestion of discouragement. Neither external difficulties nor our personal wretchedness can do anything to quell the Joy of the Christmas which is approaching.

The object of our hope: Hope is recognized clearly throughout the Old Testament as one of the most essential characteristics of the true people of God. All eyes are fixed on the distant future when the Messiah will arrive one day. The books of the Old Testament describe the history of salvation in the course of which the coming of Christ into the world was slowly prepared. (Second Vatican Council, Lumen Gentium, 55)

In *Genesis* we already hear about the victory of the Woman over the powers of evil, about a new world. (cf. Gen. 3:15) The prophet *Hosea* announces that Israel will return to its ancient love and will blossom in it. (Hos. 2:16-25) *Isaiah*, in the midst of the tribulations of the chosen people during the ministry of Ezechiel, announces the coming of the Messiah. (Is. 7:9-14) *Micah* will point to Bethlehem of Judah as the place of His birth. (cf. Mic. 5:2-5)

There are only a few days left before we see Our Lord lying in the manger: The Prophets proclaimed that He would come, the Virgin Mother carried Him in her womb with boundless love. The Baptist prepared the way for His arrival and announced His presence. He has given to us now the joy of looking forward to the mystery of His birth, so that watching always in prayer we may fittingly celebrate the Christmas feast. (Second Preface of Advent)

From the stable at Bethlehem to the moment of His Ascension into Heaven, Jesus Christ proclaims a message of hope. Jesus Himself is *our only hope*. (cf. 1 Tim. 1:1) He is the firm pledge that we will attain to the marvelous future we have been promised. We look towards the cave at Bethlehem *in watchful hope*, understanding that it is only in His company that we can *boldly approach God the Father*. (1 Tim. 3:12) Our Lord Himself points out to us that the principal objects of Christian Hope are not the good things of this life which *moth and rust consume*, *and which thieves can break in and steal* (Matt. 6:19), but the treasures of the 'incorruptible heritage' and, above all, the supreme happiness of the eternal possession of God.

We confidently hope that one day He will give us Eternal Blessedness, and here and now, pardon for our sins, and His grace. As a consequence, Hope offers to everyone the means necessary to achieve what has been promised. Seen in this light, the good things of earth can also find a place within the scope of things to be legitimately hoped for, but only insofar as God orders them to our salvation.

We are going to struggle with all our strength, today and always, against those lesser forms of despair which we can experience as loss of heart and dejection, and an excessive concentration on and a nearly exclusive concern with material things and their possession. Hope leads us to abandon ourselves in God and to do all that we can to undertake a deliberate ascetical struggle. This struggle will move us to begin again many times, to be constant in the apostolate and patient in adversity; to have a more supernatural outlook on life and its vicissitudes. In proportion as the world grows weary of its Christian Hope, the alternative is materialism, of a type with which we are already familiar - that and nothing else. The world's experience of Christianity has been like a great love, the love of a lifetime... No new voice... will have any appeal for us, if it does not bring us back to the stable at Bethlehem - there to humble our pride, and enlarge our charity, and deepen our sense of reverence with the sight of a dazzling purity. (R. A. Knox,

**Trust in our Lord. Jesus never too late to give us the help and graces we need**: Hearken to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from deliverance. I bring near my deliverance; it is not far off, and my salvation will not tarry. (cf. Is. 46:12-13)

Sermon of Christmas)

Our hope in God has to be all the greater, the less plentiful the means at our disposal or the more apparently insurmountable the difficulties. On a certain occasion when Jesus returned to Capharnaum, (cont. on pg. 4)

#### **WEEKLY TITHING for December 13, 2020**

Envelopes: \$ 1,955.00 Plate: \$ 35.00 **Total:** \$ **1,990.00** 

Immaculate Conception Collection: \$ 125.00

The next **Holy Hour for Women** will be on Sunday, December 27, at 6:00pm at Church of St. Michael. All women are invited!

The **Catholic Daughters** will be meeting on Monday, December 20th. Our meeting will be held via Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please contact Beth Arendt for the log in information. If you have any questions about CDA or if you would like information on joining our Court, please contact Beth Arendt at 507-272-5829.

**Dear St. Paul Church Members:** Thank you so much for your generous donation of gift cards for the families in need. This is so helpful now, as folks are being laid off from jobs and there are many needs. God bless all of you and thank you again. Rene Arendt

#### WORDS TO LIVE BY:

© "O Father, in your Truth (that is to say, in your Son, humbled, needy and homeless) you have humbled me. He was humbled in the womb of the Virgin, needy in the manger of the sheep, and homeless on the wood of the Cross. Nothing so humbles the proud sinner as the humility of Jesus Christ's humanity." St. Anthony of Padua "Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him! Christ on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him who is of heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy because of your hope." St. Gregory Nazianzen "Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. 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

"Christ's birth was not necessity, but an expression of omnipotence, a sacrament of piety for the redemption of men. He who made man without generation from pure clay made man again and was born from a pure body. The hand that assumed clay to make our flesh deigned to assume a body for your salvation. That the Creator is in his creature and God is in the flesh brings dignity to man without dishonour 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

#### **HOLY MASS TIMES**

#### Tuesday, December 22, 2020

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

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

#### Thursday, December 24, 2020

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

4:00pm Holy Mass on Christmas Eve

#### Friday, December 25, 2020

8:45am Holy Mass on Christmas Day

#### Sunday, December 27, 2020

8:25am Confessions/Rosary

8:45am Holy Mass - On 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month Holy Mass will be versus populum; 2nd & 4th ad Orientem

#### **HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**

December 22, 2020 †Helen King

December 24, 2020 †Roy & Gloria Bradley

**December 24, 2020** †Philip Elbert (Gary & Char Murray)

**December 25, 2020** Parishioners **December 27, 2020** Parishioners



#### **NEWS FROM SAINT MICHAEL AND SAINT PAUL**

(from pg. 3) St. Luke tells us, They were all waiting for Him. (Luke 8:40-56) In the thick of that crowd one person is singled out by the Evangelist, who identifies him as a ruler of the synagogue; this man begs Jesus to cure his daughter. He fell at His feet. He has no hesitation in giving that public proof of his humility and of his Faith in Him.

Immediately, at an indication from Our Lord, they all move off in the direction of Jairus' house. The girl, twelve years of age, is dying. She must be in her death throes by this time. Just at this very moment, when they have gone part of the way, inconspicuous in the middle of the jostling crowd, a woman who suffers from a hemorrhage that makes her unclean according to the Law, comes up behind Our Lord and touches the edge of His cloak. She too is a woman full of deep humility. Jairus has demonstrated his Hope and his humility by prostrating himself before Jesus in front of everyone. This woman wants to pass undetected. She is anxious not to take up any of the Master's time. She considers herself too unimportant to be noticed by Our Lord. It is enough if she can touch His cloak.

Both miracles are to be fully accomplished. The woman, for whom the skill of so many doctors has been unavailing, will be cured forever. Jairus' daughter will go on to live a completely healthy life even though when the retinue arrives, after the delay to their journey, she has breathed her last.

Whilst the encounter with the woman with the issue of blood is taking place, what has become of Jairus? It seems he has fallen into the background, and it is not too difficult to imagine him somewhat distraught, because his daughter had been already on the point of death when he left her to seek out the Master. Jesus, on the other hand, does not appear to be in any hurry. He does not even seem to attach much importance to whatever is happening in Jairus' house.

When Jesus arrives the girl has already died. There is no longer any possibility of preventing her death. It seems that Jesus has arrived too

late. And precisely now, when as far as human intervention is concerned nothing can be done, when all natural hope is gone and everything calls for collapse into grief, the moment has come to awaken supernatural Hope. Jesus never arrives too late. He only demands greater Faith. He waited until it was 'too late' in this instance in order to teach us that supernatural Hope remains, like a solid foundation, amid the ruins of human hope, and all we need is unlimited trust in Him Who can do anything He wills at any moment.

This passage reminds us of our own lives. When it seems sometimes that Jesus has not intervened to meet our need, He then gives us a much greater grace than we have been beseeching Him for. It reminds us of so many occasions in front of the Tabernacle when we have been aware in our heart of words very similar to these: Do not be afraid; only believe. To Hope in Jesus is to trust in Him and to let Him act, to let Him do what He will. The greater the trust, the fewer the elements we should need to rely on in human terms.

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin is the greatest guarantee of our achieving the means necessary for our salvation and the Eternal Happiness for which we have been destined. Mary is truly 'the port in a storm for those who are shipwrecked.' She is the consolation of the world, ransom of captives, joy of the sick. (St. Alphonsus Liguori, Visit to the Blessed Sacrament, 2) During these days that precede Christmas, and always, let us ask her to teach us how to Hope in her Son Jesus Christ, the Messiah whose advent was foretold by the prophets. She shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come, a sign of sure hope and comfort to the pilgrim People of God. (Second Vatican Council, Lumen Gentium, 68) (From: In Conversation with God by Francis Fernandez)

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Paul, and all the Holy Angels, may God grant us the grace to be joyful in union with the Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph! In Christ through Mary, Fr. Kasel



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(651) 291-4475

#### 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.

Parish Safe Environment Coordinator: Sara McNamara

St. Michael: 507-356-4280 stmichaeloffice@bevcomm.net

St. Paul: 507-732-5324 stpauls@hcinet.net

#### Church of St. Michael Church of St. Paul Cemeterv

For Plot Information Call the Parish Office 507-356-4280

# Cemeterv

For Plot Information Call the Parish Office 507-732-5324

"Remember To Pray For Our Beloved Departed."