Dear Friends:

Many years ago a sage elder priest of this archdiocese, Fr. Jack Gilbert (now long deceased) wrote a fascinating piece for the bulletin of his parish in Bloomington which he titled, “A Theology of Air Conditioning.” I have never forgotten it. In it he pointed out that there is a recurring rhythm that nature follows throughout the course of the year, and that human beings, as embedded parts of nature, would do well to attend to that rhythm and to conform our activities to it as best we can. More specifically, he pointed out that hot, humid and long Midwestern summer days invite us to a more slow and leisurely pace of life for a few months. Lakes and streams beckon us to spend more time outdoors, and persistent mugginess makes it seem more difficult to work all the time. So let’s not do that.

But then along came the invention of central air conditioning, which made it possible to live, work and play in exactly the same indoor climate every month of the year. There was no longer any felt rhythm to the cycle of life in which we exist—at least not as long as we kept our windows shut. Presently I work each day in an office here at St. Pascal’s with windows that cannot be opened, so I am utterly dependent upon artificial air circulating all year round. Yes, it’s often more comfortable that way, but it does have the effect of isolating me from the natural environment of which I am an organic part. Many of us will remember the days of sweltering August Sunday mornings spent at mass before the advent of the AC. It often was positively unpleasant and sweaty, but remember what we did? We kept worship as brief as possible and then we went home to cool off, have a cold beverage, and rest. Today we don’t have that experience, and in fact it can feel kind of like Siberia whenever we step inside the convenience store on the way home from church in the summer time.

But Fr. Gilbert’s point was not about comfort. It was about the natural human need for sustained times of work, and of rest; of activity, and of relaxation; of busyness, and of stillness. The seasons themselves invite us to participate in such a cycle of living, but honestly it is now possible to be inside a shopping mall and to have no necessary idea what time of year it is outside. What that tends to mean mostly is that we operate at a level of maximum busyness all year long, because we can. Fr. Gilbert saw something fundamentally un-human about that, and I think he was right.

This new Advent time of year is another specific season that can, if we allow it, call out some specific responses from us. It is very, very dark out there now, and soon it will be very cold. Perhaps we should allow that to matter as we organize our daily activities. Many of our fellow mammals instinctively hibernate for a few months, recognizing that it’s not always natural to be doing the same activities in December that are done in April. But with central heating and artificial lighting we can, if we want, operate in exactly that way. Maybe that’s not the healthiest strategy. Darkness and cold seem to call for a kind of stillness, quiet, and contemplation that is different from summer. Introspection and reflection can seem to come more naturally when so much of creation around us is either dead or gone elsewhere for a while. Our church’s liturgical calendar certainly bears out the wisdom of this.

We don’t need to lament the fact that we don’t live mostly outside any more, as human beings did throughout the majority of recorded history. But we should be attentive to what may be lost if we live too artificially indoors all the time. Specifically, we need to allow the seasons to shape us.

Fr. Mike Byron

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**Stewardship Renewal**

To date we have received a wonderful response to our 2017 Stewardship renewal process. Thank you to all who have returned their 2017 pledge card for Sunday Stewardship and our mortgage reduction fund. Your generous response is so typical of this wonderful parish community. If you have yet to return your Stewardship Pledge for 2017, I ask that you return it this next week which saves our parish office from the time and expense of follow up efforts. No matter the amount of your commitment, we ask that you return your card to the parish office by dropping it in the Sunday collection or mailing it back to the parish office.

Additional cards and envelopes are in the parish office as well as at the table in the foyer space. It is our hope to hear from every household. Thanks for your continued support of our parish.

—Mike Lentz, Parish Administrator

**2017 Friends and Family Event**

We have Co-Chairs: Mike and Ellen Aeling

We have a theme: “Off to the Races”

We have a date: Saturday, April 22, 2017

We have a location: Our own Brioschi Hall

Now all we need is YOU! Please save this date on your calendar. We would like everyone to make this a success. We need your help to run the games, dessert auction, registration, ticket sales and more. If you would like to help in the planning or help on the day of the event, please let us know.

Contact Mike Aeling at 307.8237 or mjaeling@gmail.com, or Ellen Aeling at 307.8241 or ellenoaeling@gmail.com.

**Sunday Fellowship Help**

Can your family help out with either 8:45 or 10:30 Fellowship? It’s a fun and easy way to be involved: The commitment is one half hour prior to Mass for set up, serve during fellowship and then clean up before you go home knowing you are appreciated! For questions, training and scheduling contact Kathy Meyer at 739.8110.

**Annual Golf Tournament**

The Women’s and Men’s Clubs are teaming up to sponsor this annual fundraiser for St. Pascal’s school—and we need a chair for this event. Plenty of help is available. Please contact Ellen Aeling at 307.8241 or ellenoaeling@gmail.com.

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**In Christ We Live Forever**

Please remember in your prayers...

*Margaret M. Rafferty*

who was recently buried from our church. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends, and pray for her soul’s eternal peace.
**ST. PASCAL’S SCHOOL NEWS**

*Who Have You Shared Your St. Pascal’s Story With?* Our school community continues to grow every day! New students have enrolled since the start of the school year and the school office is receiving calls from prospective families for next year. We are excited to see what next year will bring us! The school thanks St. Pascal’s community for its continued support and we appreciate all who share their St. Pascal’s story with others in the community. The increase in enrollment this year is largely due to the positive conversations our parents have with friends, family members, alumni, parishioners, and neighbors. Please continue to share your favorite St. Pascal Baylon stories wherever the opportunity arises!

*“Share the Spirit” Referral Program* In appreciation for your efforts to share the good news and provide word of mouth marketing, St. Pascal’s gives a $25 gift card (Green Mill, Target, Cub, etc.) to those who refer a new family to our school. How does “Share the Spirit” work? Invite a new family interested in learning more about our school to attend an open house or have them call the school to set up a tour. After the new family has made contact with the school, we will send you a gift card. It’s as easy as that!

**Upcoming Enrollment Open Houses**

**Open House for CURRENT families**

Thursday, January 5 from 5:30–6:30 PM
PreK, Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten

**Winter Open House for NEW families**

Thursday, January 12 from 5:30–6:30 PM
PreK, Jr. K, and Kindergarten Roundup

**Catholic Schools Week Open House**

ALL families—New & Current

Sunday, January 29 from 10:00–11:00 AM
PreK - 8th Grade students

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**FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

*Confirmation I—9th Grade Families* This past week a mailing was sent to families of 9th graders regarding registration for confirmation. If you have a 9th grader and did not receive the mailing, please contact Kim Roering in the parish office. Youth in 9th grade and older who wish to prepare for the sacrament are welcome to be a part of the process.

**Parish Advent Reconciliation**

Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30 PM

Plan to join us on this evening as we celebrate God’s love and forgiveness. About 20 children will be celebrating the sacrament for the first time. This is an opportunity for the community to embrace these children, leading them to the sacrament by your example. A number of priests will be present to hear individual confessions. A social will follow in Briosci Hall.

**Advent Evening of Reflection**

**The Annunciation: How do we know God’s will? How do we say “Yes” to God?**

Tuesday, December 13 from 7:00-8:30 PM

Presenter: Fr. Mike Byron

Mary serves as a role model for us in being open to God. She listens, receives, and responds to God’s Word. Join us in Briosci Hall as we explore Mary’s “yes” and how to respond to God’s call in our own lives. Please call the parish office by **Monday, December 12** if you plan to attend so we can prepare appropriately for hospitality.

*CAN YOU HELP?* We are in need of people to provide cookies and bars for the Advent Evening of Reflection. We also need help with set up, serving, and clean up. If you are able to assist with any of this, please contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

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**Davannis Night Mission Trip Fundraiser—Monday, December 12 from 4:00-8:00 PM**

A group of youth and adults from St. Pascal’s and Blessed Sacrament will be travelling to Grenada in the Caribbean in July 2017 for a mission trip through Catholic Heart Workcamp. Come enjoy dinner at the Eastside Davanni’s (310 White Bear Avenue) between 4 & 8 PM on December 12. With a ticket, 20% of your total order before tax will support our youth and adult participants. Dinner tickets will be in the December 11 bulletin, and available at the welcome desk and in parish kiosks. For more information about the fundraiser or the mission trip, contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

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**St. Pascal’s Men’s Club Annual Christmas Tree Lot in Ryan Field**

*Lot opens for the season at 3:00 PM Friday, November 25!*

Friday, November 25 through December 23 or until sold out

3:00 to 9:00 PM, Monday through Friday / 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday.

Why go anywhere else? Buy a beautiful tree to celebrate this joyous season and help to support St. Pascal’s school and parish at the same time. We have an excellent selection of Fraser fir, balsam fir, scotch pine, and white pine Christmas trees in several sizes. Wreaths and swags will also be available at the tree lot. See you there!

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**Parish Contact Information**

Parish Office 651.774.1585
Fax 651.774.9152
Email church@stpascals.org

**Parish Office Hours**

Mon-Fri 8:00 - 4:30 PM
Holidays as announced

**After Hours Emergency Number**

For death, dying or anointing of the sick 651.280.9239

**School Contact Information**

School Office 651.776.0092
Fax 651.774.9152
Email: laurie.jennrich@stpascals.org

**School Office Hours**

September - May
Mon - Fri 8:00 - 4:00 PM
June - August
Tue & Wed 9:00 - 2:00 PM
Summer hours also by appointment

**Parish Councils**

Parish Pastoral Council
Ann Karner, Chair
Meetings - 1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM

Parish Finance Council
John Knoll, Chair
Meetings - 4th Thursday at 6:30 PM

**Sacramental Information**

**Reconciliation**

Saturday at 4:00 and by appointment

**Baptism**

Pre-baptismal classes are required.
To register for classes or to schedule a celebration, call the parish office.

**Marriage**

Arrangements must be made with the Pastor at least six months in advance of the desired date.

**Parish Prayer Line**

8:00 - 10:00 AM 651.735.0004
Mary Butler-Levine
4:00 - 6:00 PM 651.774.3248
Pat Kackman

**Parish Communication**

**Bulletin Notices**

Please email notices to the parish office by 3:00 PM—hard copy notices must be in by 2:00 PM. Email to thea.munoz@stpascals.org.

**Bulletin Inserts:** View recent inserts at www.stpascals.org/WeeklyBulletin.

**Mass Announcements**

Direct to the parish office by 3:00 PM on Wednesday.
Mass Times & Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 29</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>+ Patrick A. Haggerty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 30</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>+ Don Hensel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 01</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Sebastian Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 02</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Men’s Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 03</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>+ Paul Donlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 04</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>+ Jim Nelson</td>
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</tbody>
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Readings for the Week

**Sunday, November 27, 2016**

- **Isaiah 2:1-5**
- **Psalm 122:1-9**
- **Romans 13:11-14**
- **Mt 24:37-44**

- **Monday, November 28**
  - **Psalm 4:2-6**
  - **Psalm 122:1-9**
  - **Mt 8:5-11**

- **Tuesday, November 29**
  - **Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17**
  - **Lk 10:21-24**

- **Wednesday, November 30**
  - **Psalm 19:8-11**
  - **Mt 4:18-22**

- **Thursday, December 01**
  - **Psalm 26:1-6**
  - **Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a**
  - **Mt 7:21, 24-27**

- **Friday, December 02**
  - **Psalm 29:17-24**
  - **Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14**
  - **Mt 9:27-31**

- **Saturday, December 03**
  - **Psalm 30:19-21, 23-26**
  - **Psalm 147:1-6**
  - **Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8**

- **Next Sunday, December 04**
  - **Psalm 11:1-10**
  - **Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17**
  - **Romans 15:4-9**
  - **Mt 3:1-12**

The Week Ahead

Visit us at www.stpascals.org for more information on upcoming events.

**Sunday, November 27 — 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Catholic Campaign for Human Development**

- **After Masses**
  - Wreath sales - Outside church doors
  - New Member Registration: BH
  - Women’s Club Christmas Party Signup: CM

**Monday, November 28**

- **9:30am**
  - Nia: OC

- **5:00pm**
  - Culvers Night: Sun Ray

- **6:30pm**
  - Prebaptism Class: PC

- **6:30pm**
  - Boy Scouts 294: CF, Gym

**Tuesday, November 29**

- **6:30pm**
  - Parish Advent & First Reconciliation: CH, BH

**Wednesday, November 30**

- **9:30am**
  - School Mass—All are welcome

- **6:30pm**
  - Faith Formation: LB, OC, 101, 105

- **7:00pm**
  - Choir: CR

**Thursday, December 01**

- **9:30am**
  - Nia: OC

- **7:00pm**
  - Men’s Club Board Meeting: CF

- **7:00pm**
  - SJCC Meeting: FR

**Friday, December 02**

No scheduled events

**Saturday, December 03**

- **After Mass**
  - WC Xmas Party Signup: CM

**Sunday, December 4 — 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- **After Masses**
  - Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast: BH, KIT

- **Women’s Club Christmas Party Signup: CM**

- **12:00pm**
  - Confirmation II - CH, OC

- **2:00pm**
  - Piano Recital & Reception: CH, BH

**Meeting Location Key**

- BH: Brioscichi Hall, CF: Cafeteria, CH: Church, CM: Commons, CR: Choir Room, FR: Founders Room, LB: Library, OC: Old Church, PC: Parish Conference Room

**Culver’s Night—Monday, November 28**

10% of all sales between 5:00 and 7:00 PM at the Culver’s in Sun Ray will be donated to the St. Pascal’s 8th grade class for their Washington DC trip. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our students.

**REMEMBER SOMEONE IN A SPECIAL WAY**

**THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON**

You may purchase a plant or make a donation (any amount) in honor of a family member, loved one or someone who is ill or homebound. Please complete the form below and return it to the parish office or place it in the collection basket at Mass. Suggested donation is $10.

I would like to purchase a Christmas plant (circle one)

In Honor of / In Memory of:

From:

Thank you for your generosity and care!
Light of All Being

Creator God,
author of all life and light,
in this season of anticipation
you call us to recognize your light
in our midst,
your love in our darkness.
Lead us from the darkness of despair
into a light of hope and peace.
Wake us from the shadows of our
troubled lives
into a light that dispels our fears
and concerns.
May your presence maintain
our wakefulness,
as we prepare for your coming more deeply
into our hearts.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, November 27, 2016
Come, Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord!

Today’s Readings: Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:37–44. The day of salvation is near, and the darkness in which we often find ourselves does not need to govern our lives. The readings on the First Sunday of Advent are a call to be alert. They urge us to shake off our drowsiness, find a way through the darkness, and follow the light. From Isaiah, in the First Reading, we are called to “stream” together to the house of the Lord, where all nations will lay down their weapons of destruction. That vision is our call to live in the light of God’s Kingdom. On this opening day of Advent, we can take that first step in our homes by setting up an Advent prayer area, with a purple cloth and an Advent wreath. The purple is the dark background in which the light, growing through the season, is both a reminder and a call to move forward together to work to establish God’s Kingdom of peace.

All three readings today summon us to wake up and to discard some kind of darkness, turning it into a life-giving light. In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul speaks of a darkness brought about by our conduct, a reminder that when we put on Christ, when we clothe ourselves in conduct guided by the Lord, we wear the light of Christ as armor. In this dark season of the year, when our daylight hours are never enough, it can be too easy to let the darkness and the night be our guide.
This Week At Home

Monday, November 28
Promise of the Kingdom
This first Monday in the season of Advent is full of promise for all peoples, who will “eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.” Each meal as a family, and each community’s gathering at the Eucharist, is a reminder of the Kingdom of God. As you light your Advent candle before your evening meal, name your hopes and promises for each member of the family. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 4:2–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4b, 4cd–5, 6–7, 8–9; Matthew 8:5–11.

Tuesday, November 29
Lions, Lambs, Wolves, and Children
Advent is all about looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. Isaiah provides a vision of the messianic kingdom, a place and time when the most unlikely of animals and individuals will live together in peace. It is a fulfillment of the gifts of the Spirit. This season is an opportunity to work on a relationship of peace with an unlikely person. As you gather around the Advent wreath, share one relationship you find unlikely, and include that in your prayer. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Luke 10:21–24.

Wednesday, November 30
St. Andrew, Apostle
St. Andrew, one of the first Apostles called by Jesus, lived his call to discipleship by proclaiming Christ’s Good News to others. In the First Reading we hear: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” We have a wonderful challenge during this season of hopefulness to not just proclaim Good News but to bring Good News to others. Today’s Readings: Romans 10:9–18; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Matthew 4:18–22.

Thursday, December 1
Listen and Act
Jesus calls us to both hear his words and act upon his message. The first step is to listen. Take time this Advent to pay attention when others speak and to work to discern the proper time to act. As a family, take time to listen to one another and to work together to prepare for the coming of the Lord by reaching out to others beyond the comfort of your home. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 26:1–6; Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 19–21, 25–27a; Matthew 7:21, 24–27.

Friday, December 2
“Yes, Lord”
When Jesus asks the two blind men if they believe he can heal them, they quickly reply, “Yes, Lord.” The season of Advent invites us to seek Jesus with hearts wide open and full of faith. Find time to visit and pray a healing prayer with a sick friend. The season of Advent is often a time for groups to visit hospitals and nursing homes, singing carols and moving on. This Advent, take time to pause and focus on those who not only need a momentary cheering up but a comforting word of faith and friendship. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 29:17–24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; Matthew 9:27–31.

Saturday, December 3
St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Missionary and evangelizer Francis Xavier was responsible for the spread of Christianity in Asia and India, baptizing hundreds of thousands. His zeal for his faith prompted him to do as Jesus in the Gospel: go to all the towns and villages, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom. The coming of the Kingdom is for all peoples. As you pray at the end of this first week of Advent, remember the Lord’s Prayer invites us to the Kingdom here on earth “as it is in heaven.” Today’s Readings: Isaiah 30:19–21, 23–26; Psalm 147: 1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8a.
St. Pascal’s Cub Scout Pack 294

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST

$8/Adults and $5/Kids (14 and under)

Sunday, Dec 4th

After 8:45am and 10:30am mass

Includes: all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee & juice

All proceeds help fund scout camps, pack activities, achievement awards and community service opportunities. Feel free to find any scout in uniform if you have questions about scouting!

Bring your appetite and support our local Cub Scouts!

Thank you!