DECEMBER 11, 2016  |  THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pastor
Fr. Michael Byron
frmike.byron@stpascals.org

Deacon
Rev. Mr. Richard Moore
richard.moore@stpascals.org

Parish Administrator
Mike Lentz  I  ext 130
mike.lentz@stpascals.org

Parish School Principal
Laurie Jennrich  I  ext 113
laurie.jennrich@stpascals.org

Director of Development
Mary Worley  I  ext 134
mary.worley@stpascals.org

Music & Liturgy
Sharon Balcom  I  ext 126
sharon.balcom@stpascals.org

Faith Formation
Kim Roering  I  ext 128
kim.roering@stpascals.org

Enrollment & Systems Administrator
Mary McGrath  I  ext 112
mary.mcgrath@stpascals.org

Communications Specialist
Thea Munoz  I  ext 133
thea.munoz@stpascals.org

Administrative Assistant
Marla Eberhardt  I  ext 132
marla.eberhardt@stpascals.org

Volunteer Coordinator
Shane Lefler
shane.lefler@stpascals.org

Welcome Desk
Sarah Mathis  I  ext 122
sarah.mathis@stpascals.org

MASS TIMES
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 8:45 & 10:30 am (ASL)
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday - 7:30 am
Wednesday - 9:30 am
Dear Friends:

The apartment where I live is part of the Galtier Towers complex in Lowertown, downtown. (Thank you for your ongoing stewardship, which provides me with a place to call home. I am very well aware of and grateful for that). Many of us remember the heady days of the opening of "Galtier Plaza" around 1980. It was supposed to be the suburban-style shopping-entertainment-residential-work destination in the heart of the city to which people would flock with their dollars and their enthusiasm. That didn’t last long. To walk through the public indoor spaces of the place today is to visit a ghost town. Once in a while the lights of the old Galtier Theater marquis will be lit up, and I’m not sure why. It hasn’t been a public place to which anybody comes for a few decades now, so it’s actually kind of sad. And all of the retailers that originally inhabited the urban mall are long gone. It is a very quiet place most of the time. Recently I read an article that quoted former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer admitting the very big failure that the Galtier Plaza was, under his watch. The residences remain vital, and really very nice, but the retail and commercial spaces continue to be a bust. Within the next several weeks the major tenant of the office space there, Cray Research, which is very major indeed, will be pulling out and relocating to Bloomington. St. Paul built a place without asking anybody whether they wanted to come there.

To be fair, St. Paul was not nearly the only city back then that bought in to the "If You Build It They Will Come" fantasy. I lived on the other side of That River back in those days, and Minneapolis was also very busy erecting a thing they called “City Center” and then later "Gavidae Commons,” both of which are on the Nicollet Mall and both of which are virtual commercial wastelands today, some twenty years on. What is it in us that thinks that if we just contrive something that is superficially flashy enough and sparkly enough we can entice an enduring allegiance from people? That’s really not taking people seriously.

I want to mention this here, in the heart of Advent, because this is a season in which we are constantly invited to attend to superficial flashiness and sparkle. That is not at all what Advent or Christmas is about. The story of this season is a story of people who are feeling a certain desperation for salvation from what this world cannot offer, and we ignore that only to our detriment. And it seems that we constantly are invited to ignore that. Last weekend I happened through Loring Park in downtown Minneapolis on the way to a concert at the Basilica of St. Mary. Every tree was aglow, fireworks were in the air, and there were animated larger-than-life fake creatures illuminating the place. It was "Holidazzle," and I could only wonder why we work so hard to ignore the threat of the darkness that we are invited to embrace, or at least acknowledge, during this hard time of year. We recognize the darkness not for its own sake, but in order to remember a certain kind of hope that we cannot engineer for ourselves, but for which we must turn to God. Why is it that this is so hard for so many? It ought to be a supreme source of gratitude and happiness.

Fr. Mike Byron

**East Side Interfaith Intercultural Community Meal**

*Tuesday, December 13 from 5:00-8:00 PM*

Battle Creek Middle School, 2121 N. Park Dr.

Our city council member, Jane Prince, and local community Somali leader Amin Omar are inviting the community to an all-ages event to address the unrest and issues our East Side communities are facing after the elections. This gathering seeks to respond to the needs of our communities, elected officials and community leaders will meet and to respond to the questions surrounding the uncertain days ahead. Everyone is invited to this important community gathering. Various faith communities and local community non-profits are sponsoring this event. If you would like to go and do not have a ride, please call the Mounds Park United Methodist Church office at 774.8736.

**Women's Book Salon Holiday Gathering**

*Monday, December 12 in the Staff Lounge*

Note the room change and join the ladies at 7:00 PM to share some Christmas goodies and a discussion of Julie Salamon’s *The Christmas Tree*. All parish women are invited to join the Book Club on the 2nd Mondays of each month at 7:00 PM. Contact Toni Baker at 731.7763 or toni@bakers.us for a list of the 2017 selections or for more information. Make a New Year’s resolution to join the group on January 9 and get yourself reading. Feel free to start early by coming this month!

**Gift Cards for Friends and Family Dinner**

With Christmas coming you may find a great deal on gift cards. How about picking one up for the Friends and Family dinner on Saturday, April 22, 2017? Just put it in an envelope, write Friends and Family Dinner on the outside, and drop in the collection basket. Ideas for gift cards we can use—Target, Best Buy, local restaurants/fast food, local grocery stores, movie theaters, local retailers, Visa/MasterCard and so many more. Questions? Contact Ellen at 307.8241/ellenoaeling@gmail.com or Mike at 307.8237/mjaeling@gmail.com.

**Young at Heart Mass & Luncheon**

*Thursday, December 15 at 11:00 AM*

Our next Young at Heart meeting will begin with Father Mike celebrating the Eucharist with us, followed by a catered Magnolia’s lasagna meal for which we ask a $10.00 donation payable on the day of the meeting. The Madrigal singers from St. Agnes High School will entertain us—you won’t want to miss this! All seniors welcome. Please RSVP by Monday, December 12 to Betty Hensel at 714.8958 or bjhen@q.com, or to Barb Kendle at 738.3799. Whether a newcomer or a regular—we look forward to seeing you!

**Retirement Fund for the Religious**

*Your donation works for aging religious.*

Your gift works for elderly religious by helping to furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please support this week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, and give to those who have given a lifetime.

**In Christ We Live Forever**

Please remember in your prayers...

Thomas L. Gemza

Emilie Calubayan

who were recently buried from our church. We extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends, and pray for their souls’ eternal peace.
**The Week Ahead**

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

**Sunday, December 11—3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Retirement Fund for Religious**
- 9:00am: Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot: Conway
- After Masses: New Member Registration: BH
- After Masses: Cookies in a Jar sales: BH
- 2:00pm: Girl Scouts: CF
- 2:00pm: Piano Recital & Reception: BH, CH

**Monday, December 12 through Friday, December 16**
- 3:00pm: Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot: Conway

**Monday, December 12**
- 9:00am: Welcome & Visitation (Mike Jaworski)
- 10:30am: Funeral (Mike Jaworski): BH, CH
- 4:00pm: Davanni's Night: Davanni's WBA
- 6:30pm: Boy Scouts 294: CF, Gym
- 7:00pm: Women's Club Book: SL

**Tuesday, December 13**
- 12:00pm: 500 Card Club: PC
- 6:00pm: WC Board Meeting: FR
- 7:00pm: Advent Evening of Reflection: BH

**Wednesday, December 14**
- 7:30am: Honor Roll Breakfast: BH
- 9:30am: Mass (Not a School Mass)
- 6:00pm: PTP Meeting: FR, Nursery
- 6:30pm: Faith Formation: LB, OC, 101, 105
- 7:00pm: Choir: CR

**Thursday, December 15**
- 9:30am: Nia: OC
- 11:00am: Young at Heart Mass & Luncheon: BH, CH
- 2:00pm: Advent Band & Music Concert: CH
- 3:00pm: Scholastic Book Fair: FR
- 6:00pm: Advent Band & Music Concert: CH
- 7:00pm: Scholastic Book Fair: FR

**Friday, December 16**
- 10:00am: Scholastic Book Fair: FR
- 1:00pm: Scholastic Book Fair: FR
- 6:30pm: Piano Recital: CH

**Saturday, December 17 & Sunday, December 18**
- Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot: Conway

**Saturday, December 17**
- 11:00am: 8th grade Grocery Bagging: Sun Ray Cub
- 1:00pm: Piano Recital: CH
- 2:00pm: Play Rehearsal (FF): CF
- 3:00pm: Studio 925 Yoga: OC
- After Mass: Women's Club Bake Sale: BH
- After Mass: Scholastic Book Fair: FR

**Sunday, December 18—4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
- After Masses: Women's Club Bake Sale: BH
- 10:00am: Scholastic Book Fair: FR
- 9:45am: Ensemble Rehearsal: CH
- 2:30pm: Piano Recital: BH, CH

Meeting Location Key:

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**ST. PASCAL’S SCHOOL NEWS**

**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: ALWAYS New & Current
- Sunday, January 29 from 10:00–11:00 AM
- PreK–8th Grade students

**Cookies in a Jar**
- 8th grade Washington DC fundraiser
- Students are selling "Cookies in a Jar" in the gathering space after Masses this weekend.
- Three types of cookies and a chewy brownie are available.
- Each jar contains the basic ingredients and a recipe card for making the cookies for only $7.50 per jar.
- These make great Christmas gifts! If we run out of a particular type of cookie, we will take orders and deliver before Christmas.

**Metro Dining Cards**
- On sale until Friday, December 16.
- Get them while you can!
- They make great gifts or stocking stuffers for the holiday season.
- Pick yours up at the Welcome Desk weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

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**FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**Living Faith Books**
- Living Faith devotional booklets for January-March are now available for $1.25 each. They can be picked up in the parish office or on the usher’s stand outside of the worship space.

**Seeking Dismissal Leaders for RCIA**
- This year we have two young people preparing to celebrate baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation at the Easter Vigil.
- Beginning sometime in January and up through Holy Thursday, we need dismissal leaders at various Masses. Following the homily, the dismissal leader and our catechumens (those to be baptized) will be dismissed and go to reflect on the Scripture readings of the day.
- If you are able to help with this important ministry or would like more information, please contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

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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

**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 pm 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 Monday—hard copy notices must be in by 2:00 PM. Email to thea.munoz@stpascals.org.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Dec 13</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Carol Schreier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Dec 14</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>The Women’s Club</td>
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<td>Thursday, Dec 15</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Al Olson</td>
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<td>Friday, Dec 16</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Virgilio Francisco</td>
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<td>Saturday, Dec 17</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Edmund Barnes</td>
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<td>Sunday, Dec 18</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Fran Ciernia</td>
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Heart Questions

Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”
Matthew 11:11

Adult: How do you prepare yourself to meet Christ in those around you?

Youth: What good thing have you done during Advent to be like Jesus?

Readings for the Week

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Is 35:1-6a, 10</td>
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<td>Ps 146:6-10</td>
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<td>Jas 5:7-10</td>
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<td>Mt 11:2-11</td>
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<td>Zec 2:14-17</td>
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<td>(Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19</td>
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<td>Zep 3:1-2, 9-13</td>
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<td>Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23</td>
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<td>Mt 21:28-32</td>
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<td>Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25</td>
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<td>Ps 85:9-14</td>
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<td>Is 54:1-10</td>
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<td>Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13</td>
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<td>Lk 7:24-30</td>
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<td>Is 56:1-3a, 6-8</td>
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<td>Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8</td>
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<td>Jn 5:33-36</td>
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<td>Gn 49:2, 8-10</td>
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<td>Ps 72:3-4, 7-8, 17</td>
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<td>Mt 1:1-17</td>
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<td>Is 7:10-14</td>
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<td>Ps 24:1-6</td>
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<td>Rom 1:1-7</td>
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<td>Mt 1:18-24</td>
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Ramsey Family Service Center Meal Services Volunteers

It’s time to make the schedule for 2017. Starting in March of 1983, St. Pascal volunteers have served meals to those who often go without. Some volunteers go on Monday or Wednesday nights (5:00-7:00); others go in on Mondays for lunch. Volunteers are scheduled for 6 times a year—every other month.

A caller is needed for a few of our teams. Could you make about 5 calls the weekend before the service day to remind the volunteers of their service time? It’s an easy volunteer job that can be done from home! Contact Toni Baker at 731.7763 or toni@bakers.us for more information, to volunteer, to change your service time, etc.

Grab your mat (or use one of ours) and join us for yoga!
Saturday, December 17 at 3:00 PM in the Old Church
Join Studio 925 Yoga for a faith-based yoga class focused on slowing down this Advent season by praying, praising and practicing in the presence of the Lord. Yoga is an ancient Hindu tradition that combines the practice of breathing with meditation and a series of physical postures that can be practiced by everybody no matter what their age or physical condition. The most important part of any yoga practice is breathing. $8 fee recommended but everyone is welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Shane Lefler at shane.lefler@stpascals.org.

Year-End Financial Gifts

As this calendar year quickly comes to a close, you may consider a special year-end financial gift to the parish in support of our many ministries and/or to support our mortgage reduction efforts. Last year, we received over 35 special year-end gifts of cash or stock. These gifts are greatly appreciated and certainly encouraged! Remember, all gifts must be received by December 31 to be considered for the 2016 tax year. Stock transfers and sales do take some time so please take that into consideration as you consider a gift to St. Pascal’s. Thank you for your generous consideration.

St. Pascal’s Legacy Society

Estate planning is the way to continue your life’s work. Invest time to insure that your life’s efforts will continue the causes and people who will most treasure your gifts and were most treasured by you. Your attorney with your accountant can prepare a proper will and make other arrangements for the easy transfer of your estate. Please remember St. Pascal’s in your estate planning. If you want more information on St. Pascal’s Legacy Society, please call Mike Lentz at the parish office at 774.1585 or talk to a member of the Legacy Committee: Ellen and Mike Aeling, Susan Hommes, Joe Sullivan, and Brigid O’Malley.

Stewardship of Treasure

For fiscal year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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<tr>
<td>For the Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Stewardship</td>
<td>$ 12,041</td>
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<td>Mortgage Campaign</td>
<td>$ 4,332</td>
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<td>Other (includes Thanksgiving)</td>
<td>$ 362</td>
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Year to Date: (July 1 – June 30)

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<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Stewardship</td>
<td>$ 366,925</td>
<td>$ 391,000</td>
<td>(24,075)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage Campaign</td>
<td>$ 126,639</td>
<td>$ 126,500</td>
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Please note: Automatic (electronic) contributions are made on the 1st and 15th of each month and will be recorded with the following Sunday’s collection. Each week our budget requires $17,000 in Sunday stewardship collections and $5,500 in Mortgage (capital campaign) contributions.

Thank you for your generous support!
Patience, Hope, Joy

Gracious, merciful, and patient God, your generosity rewards our complaint. You reap a fruitful harvest when we plant only hardness of heart. Strengthen us in this season of hope, grant patience in troubled times, and lift our fearful hearts.

As the farmer waits for the fruitful harvest and the desert anticipates abundant blossoms may we, too, be blessed with patient hearts as we approach the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Rejoice!

Today’s Readings: Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10; Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11. The coming of Christ and his Kingdom will be understood when the blind see, the deaf hear, and the lame leap. In today’s readings, we are reminded by both Isaiah and Jesus that we do not need to look any further. The signs of healing and wholeness should be enough. Traditionally, the Third Sunday of Advent is a joyous reminder that God is already in our midst, even as we prepare to commemorate his coming into the world. In the world’s terms, we know that the blind see, the deaf hear, weak knees and hearts are made firm, and even the arid desert is in full bloom. This is cause for rejoicing.

The words of Jesus in the Gospel are a challenge to look beyond the messenger, John the Baptist, and to realize the truth of the message. Rejoice in the topsy-turvy world where those apparently blind can now see through the rough nomad in the dry desert and recognize a prophet. Rejoice in the prophetic message heard by the deaf, pulsating through the lame, and blooming with abundant flowers.

Today you can sing the refrain “Rejoice! Rejoice, O Israel! To thee shall come Emmanuel,” knowing that Emmanuel has come. Take some time today with your family or friends to recognize the goodness that you witness in your lives: where adversity can produce joy, where the deaf have heard some Good News and a change of heart is the result. Today is the day of which Isaiah prophesies when he says, “Sorrow and sighing shall flee,” because the ransomed of the Lord will obtain “joy and gladness.”
**Monday, December 12**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

In 1531, a poor, uneducated Aztec Indian received the image of Mary on his tilma. Today is the feast of the season when Mary brings a renewed faith through an unexpected and unassuming Juan Diego to others. Advent invites us to share our faith to all the world simply and plainly. *Today’s Readings:* Revelation 11:19a, 12:1–6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26–38.

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**Tuesday, December 13**

**St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

St. Lucy, a martyr of the early Church, is celebrated as a bringer of light. Though she was from Sicily, Italy, the most profound celebrations on this day are found in Sweden, where girls wear a crown of lit candles to serve breakfast. Today, light your Advent wreath candles for breakfast! *Today’s Readings:* Zephaniah 3:1–2, 9–13; Psalm 34:2–3, 6–7, 17–18, 19, 23; Matthew 21:28–32.

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**Wednesday, December 14**

**St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

John of the Cross (1542–1591), mystic and doctor of the Church, authored the *Dark Night of the Soul.* This writing is an invitation to retreat into a dark place where, after much prayer and reflection, God is rediscovered. How appropriate that his feast day is on a dark Advent day. Find time to sit in the darkness and search where God has led you this season. *Today’s Readings:* Isaiah 45:6b–8, 18, 21b–25; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 7:18b–23.

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**Thursday, December 15**

**Prepare the Way**

Jesus challenges us today to take a second look, a second understanding of the message of John the Baptist. Of John and his message, he says “What did you go out to see?” He refers to soft robes, fine clothing, and to those who live a life of luxury. That is not the case with John, nor should it be with us. We prepare by living with integrity, whether that is in the wilderness or in a palace. *Today’s Readings:* Isaiah 54:1–10; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12a, 13b; Luke 7:24–30.

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**Friday, December 16**

**Let All the Nations Praise You!**

Today’s psalm response, “O God, let all the nations praise you!” underscores a message of universality that has been present this entire week. Emmanuel comes for all peoples, from Mexico to Sweden, from dark places to light, and from luxurious palaces to impoverished mountains and deserts. Take a second look at today’s reading from Isaiah, sharing your responses over the dinner table. *Today’s Readings:* Isaiah 56:1–3a, 6–8; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 7–8; John 5:33–36.

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**Saturday, December 17**

**Come, O Wisdom**

The “O Antiphons,” which begin today, have been used since at least the eighth century to accompany the *Magnificat* at Evening Prayer, from December 17 through December 23. They are also the verses for the “Alleluia” chanted at Mass. Today we call on Wisdom to come and teach us the path of knowledge. *Today’s Readings:* Genesis 49:2, 8–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 17; Matthew 1:1–17.
UPCOMING MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS

This coming July, sixteen youth and adults from St. Pascal’s and Blessed Sacrament will be traveling to Grenada, one of the southernmost islands in the Caribbean, for a mission trip through Catholic Heart Workcamp. In Grenada we will be painting and making repairs for local residents, orphanages, schools and churches. We will also be working with children on the island. To help defray the cost of our trip, we will be holding the following fundraisers:

Davanni’s Night on Monday, December 12, 2016 from 4-8 pm
Come enjoy dinner at the Eastside Davanni’s (310 White Bear Avenue). With a ticket (below), 20% of your total order before tax will support our youth and adult participants. Good on dine-in and carry-out.

Barnes and Noble Gift Wrapping on December 23 and 24, 2016
Members of our group will be at the Barnes and Noble in Maplewood Mall from 9 am—4pm on December 23 and from 9 am—12 Noon on December 24 (Christmas Eve) wrapping gifts for tips.

Mexican Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, February 4, 2017
5-7 pm in Brioschi Hall
Watch the bulletin for details! If you would like to contribute gift cards, merchandise, or services to the silent auction, contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

Envelope Fundraiser
In January we will have an envelope fundraiser. In the commons/Brioschi Hall there will be 144 envelopes posted with amounts from $1 to $144 on them. Those who wish to participate will pick an envelope with the corresponding dollar amount that they are comfortable donating. Envelopes with donations can then be turned into Kim Roering or placed in the Mass collection baskets.

Thank you for your support!

DAVANNI’S®
PIZZA & HOT HOAGIES
• LOCAL SINCE 1975 •

Shop location: Eastside 310 White Bear Ave

"Fundraiser Night" for St. Pascal/Blessed Sacrament Group or Organization Name Mission Trip
Bring this ticket in with you and present it when ordering on Monday, Dec 12 between 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

and 20% of your total order before sales tax will be donated to our group

$ Amount of order: _________ Order number ________

* Not good on delivered orders. Customers may call ahead order in advance and present ticket on arrival.
DECEMBER 17-18
AFTER ALL MASSES
Women’s Club
Christmas Bake Sale
Come and Satisfy
The Cookie Monster
in your house!

WE NEED
BAKERS

WE NEED
BUYERS