Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the laws of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.

Matthew 5:17
Dear Friends:

I recently read an excellent article by Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego. It emphasized the importance of the Catholic contribution to the current debates about immigration and patriotism. In passing he began by noting that it isn't all that long ago that large segments of the United States wanted to keep European Catholics out of the country (and they unleashed sporadic violence on some of them who were already here) because it was believed that Catholics would introduce a dangerous and alien culture to the nation. But the heart of the bishop's message had to do with holding some important distinctions and values in tension, something that the politicians have been rather poor at so far, in part because the public Catholic voice has been relatively missing so far. Our church is not a newcomer to discussions on these topics. Popes and bishops have been teaching publicly about them for more than 125 years in what is described as our Catholic Social Tradition of doctrine.

One of the tensions mentioned is the distinction between patriotism and nationalism. Love of country and concern for its security are both praiseworthy and necessary attitudes. But there is an uglier side to that concern which can pervert these instincts into a kind of narrow tribalism, imagining that the means to national unity and "greatness" comes by categorically excluding "other" kinds of people. It is all the more sinful in that those singled out for exclusion are usually the poorest, most desperate, most marginalized ones. The bishop also asks who exactly are "We the People," for whom politicians and others presume to advocate, and he reminds us that we are all "The People," not only some of us. Our Catholic respect for universal human dignity and for our solidarity with every person comes before absolutely every other distinction (e.g. born vs. unborn, legal vs. illegal, Muslim vs. Christian, etc.).

A second distinction he noted is the understanding of the term "America's greatness." He wrote, "Does this greatness revolve principally around questions of power, wealth and success? Or is the greatness we seek founded in the order of justice, freedom, truth and solidarity? In short, is it a material greatness or a greatness of the soul?" Unlike so many (most?) nations on Earth, ours has never been united by ties of blood, because the overwhelming majority of us today are descended from immigrants. Rather, what has united us has been "the set of aspirations our founders set forth in 1776 and that they both succeeded in attaining and failed to attain." In every age we must seek to reiterate the most noble and generous instincts of our founders and at the same time acknowledge and correct for their errors and blind spots. But in no case may we impoverish the word "greatness" to mean something parochial, materialistic, divisive or superficial.

And a third necessary distinction is the balancing of our own national interests with the unavoidable Catholic concern for the Common Good. We must be both faithful Americans and citizens of the world, and that's not always an easy balance to negotiate. We live in a context in which choices we make here at home have a direct and immediate impact on people everywhere on Earth, whether in matters economic, environmental, or immigration/refugees. Sometimes those choices of ours are directly creative of suffering and oppression for others. No Catholic may dismiss that fact as unimportant or irrelevant. Again, I'll quote Bishop McElroy in conclusion here: "The starting point for identifying the demands of the international common good lies in the pivotal affirmations of our faith that God is the father of the entire human family, that creation is a gift to every man and woman, that the stewardship of our planet belongs by right to all and that war is a massive failure of the entire human family." Lots to think about.

Fr. Mike Byron
Registration Race Results
By Monday, February 6, 84.8% of our Junior Kindergarten to grade 7 re-enrolled into K-8th grade.
100% of the 6th grade class has re-enrolled for 7th grade and they are the winners of the registration race! These students enjoyed breakfast made and served by the school principal on Friday, February 10.
If you have questions or need assistance with the registration process, please contact Mary McGrath, our Enrollment/Admissions Specialist, at 776.0092 ext. 112. May God continue to bless this wonderful school family!

Share the Spirit
Participate in St. Pascal’s family referral program and earn a $25 gift card to Green Mill for every family you refer who registers to St. Pascal’s School.

Box Tops for Education
The March 1 deadline for Box Tops submissions is approaching fast. Please remember to send in any clipped Box Tops you have with your child to enter their classroom contest. Box Tops can also be dropped off in the collection bins near the entrance to Brioschi Hall or in front of the school office. Thanks for your support!

Donations Needed
Faith Formation Family Night
On Wednesday, February 22, faith formation families from St. Pascal’s and Blessed Sacrament will participate in a joint family night focusing on Lent and the call to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. One of the planned activities is making Angel Packs for distribution to the homeless. We are looking for donations of the following:
- Q-Tips
- Band Aids
- Alcohol Swabs
- Floss Sticks
- Fruit Snacks
- Granola Bars
- Candy Bars
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

Items can be dropped off in the parish office or the box marked “Family Faith Formation Night” in the donation closet. Questions? Contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

Mission Trip Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, February 19, 9:00 AM - Noon
Blessed Sacrament Church
2119 Stillwater Avenue East, St. Paul
Come enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, and sausages. Proceeds benefit our St. Pascal/Blessed Sacrament Youth Mission Trip. Cost is $8.00 for adults (ages 13 and up), $5.00 for children (ages 6 to 12), free for ages 5 and under. Sponsored by the Father Finley Knights of Columbus #4374.

St. Pascal’s Men’s Club Lenten Fish Fry—Fridays of Lent from March 03—April 07
4:30 to 7:00 PM in Brioschi Hall (Flandreau St. entrance)
The “All-You-Can-Eat” menu offers fried and baked cod, au gratin and seasoned fried potatoes, coleslaw, mixed steamed vegetables, mac and cheese, dinner roll, coffee/water, and dessert. Milk, pop, bottled water and take-out will be available. Adults (12 and up): $12.00, Children (6-11) - $5.00, and 5 and under – FREE. Proceeds purchase equipment, uniforms, and supplies for the St. Pascal’s K-8 Grade School Physical Education program and extra-curricular sports activities plus other parish/school events.

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8th Annual “Taste of St. Pascal’s” is Sunday, February 26 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Make your reservation by Thursday, February 23!
This multicultural celebration and potluck supper sponsored by the St. Pascal Women’s Club is right around the corner. Entertainment by Locklin Road. Children are invited to come early and get ready for the “We are the World” parade! Please help us to plan for the event by letting us know you are coming. To RSVP, return the flyer from last week’s bulletin (also on the website and in the kiosks) or call the parish office at 774.1585 with your name and the number who will be attending. If you can help with set-up or clean-up, or if you have any questions about the event—please contact Toni Baker at 731.7763 or toni@bakers.us.

Taste of St. Pascal’s
Sunday, February 19 following both the 8:45 & 10:00 AM Masses in the Founders Room
Have you met St. Josephine Bakhita? Please join members of St. Pascal’s Social Justice & Caring Committee for this short film (only 58 minutes long) about the life of one of the Church’s newest saints: St. Josephine Bakhita (Beatification: May 17, 1992 / Canonized October 1, 2000). She was sold into slavery many times as a child, was led to God by a group of sisters and eventually became the Patron Saint of Sudan and Human Trafficking. Grab coffee & donuts before heading to the Founders Room then leave inspired or stay for a brief, 10 minute discussion following the movie.

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Two Suitcases: The Story of St. Josephine Bakhita
Sunday, February 19 following both the 8:45 & 10:00 AM Masses in the Founders Room
Have you met St. Josephine Bakhita? Please join members of St. Pascal’s Social Justice & Caring Committee for this short film (only 58 minutes long) about the life of one of the Church’s newest saints: St. Josephine Bakhita (Beatification: May 17, 1992 / Canonized October 1, 2000). She was sold into slavery many times as a child, was led to God by a group of sisters and eventually became the Patron Saint of Sudan and Human Trafficking. Grab coffee & donuts before heading to the Founders Room then leave inspired or stay for a brief, 10 minute discussion following the movie.
Mass Times & Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 14</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Don Hensel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 15</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 16</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 17</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 18</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Al Olson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 19</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>Jack Henninger</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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Readings for the Week
February 12, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Sir 15:15-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ps 119:1-2, 4-5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17-18, 33-34</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Cor 2:6-10</td>
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<td>Mt 5:17-37</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Gn 4:1-15, 25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mk 8:11-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mk 8:14-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Gn 8:6-13, 20-22</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ps 166:12-15, 18-19</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mk 8:22-26</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Gn 9:1-13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ps 102:16-18, 19-23, 29</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mk 8:27-33</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Gn 11:1-9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ps 33:10-15</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mk 8:34–9:1</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Heb 11:1-7</td>
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<td>Ps 145:2-5, 10-11</td>
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<td>Mk 9:2-13</td>
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<td>Next Sunday</td>
<td>Lv 19:1-2, 17-18</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Cor 3:16-23</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mt 5:38-48</td>
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Heart Questions

**Jesus said, “So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.”**

Matthew 5:23–24

**Adult:** How do you reconcile with those who have offended or hurt you?

**Child:** When have you taken the first step to make up with someone who has hurt you or whom you have offended?

Stewardship of Treasure

Financial Gifts – Week of February 5, 2017

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For the Week:</th>
<th>Actual Received</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Stewardship</td>
<td>$11,156</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage Campaign</td>
<td>$4,664</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$214</td>
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Year to Date: (July 1 – June 30)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Stewardship</td>
<td>$528,936</td>
<td>$544,000</td>
<td>$(15,064)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage Campaign</td>
<td>$193,444</td>
<td>$176,000</td>
<td>$17,444</td>
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</table>

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!**

The Week Ahead

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

**Sunday, February 12**

- After Masses: New Member Registration: BH
- 10:30am: Confirmation II Rite of Sending: CH
- 11:30am: Confirmation II meeting: OC
- 12:00pm: Confirmation II lunch: BH
- 1:00pm: Confirmation II Reconciliation: CH
- 2:00pm: Girl Scouts: CF

**Monday, February 13**

- 8:15am: School Board Mktg & Enrollment meeting: FR
- 9:30am: Nia: OC
- 5:30pm: 2017 Reunion Planning meeting: FR
- 6:30pm: Boy Scouts 294: CF, Gym
- 7:00pm: Women’s Club Board: FR

**Tuesday, February 14**

- 12:00pm: 500 Card Club: PC
- 6:00pm: Women’s Club Board Meeting-OFFSITE

**Wednesday, February 15**

- 9:30am: School Mass—All are welcome!
- 6:30pm: Faith Formation: LB, OC, 101, 105
- 7:00pm: Choir: CR

**Thursday, February 16**

- 9:30am: Nia: OC
- 6:30pm: Cub Scouts (Pack): CF
- 7:00pm: Breaking Bread with Jesus Bible Study: BH

**Friday, February 17**

- 8:00am: Reflect & Renew Day: FR
- 10:30am: Almost Spring Concert: CH

**Saturday, February 18**

- 9:30am: Pinewood Derby: CF

**Sunday, February 19**

- After Masses: 2 Suitcases (Film): FR
- 2:00pm: Confirmation: Cathedral of St. Paul

MEETING LOCATION KEY:

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

Save the Date—April 22 from 5:00-9:00 PM

14th Annual Friends & Family Event “Off to the Races”

Join us for one of our favorite parish and school fundraising events including fine dining, entertainment (horse racing), games, raffle baskets, laughter and more. Tickets go on sale in March! We rely on generous donations from parishioners and area businesses to help us create a successful event. Questions? Please contact: Mike Aeling (mjaeling@gmail.com 651-307-8237)

Ellen Aeling (ellenoaeling@gmail.com 651-307-8241)

Parish-School Involvement: Rewarding Volunteer Opportunity

We have some excellent opportunities for parishioners to volunteer with the school. One current opportunity is to meet with our 5th-8th graders to assist with homework during their before school Study Hall from 8:00 - 9:00 AM. It would be invaluable to have adults who could assist them with their basic homework questions. If you would like to volunteer for this or other opportunities or have any further question, please contact Shane Lefler at shane.lefler@stpascals.org, or call the school office at 776.0092.

“The Seasons of Faith” with Deacon Mickey Friesen

Half-day Retreat for the women of Blessed Sacrament and St. Pascal’s

Saturday, February 18, 9:00 AM - 12 Noon at Blessed Sacrament

Please RSVP by calling the Blessed Sacrament parish office at 738.0677 by February 15 if you plan to attend.