FEBRUARY 26, 2017  |  EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Church of Saint Pascal Baylon

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” —Mt 6:33a

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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:

I recently read an article analyzing an (unofficial) poll conducted by a national Catholic magazine that was taken on January 29, the Sunday right after the inauguration of President Trump, the executive orders concerning immigration, the Women's March on Washington, and the annual March for Life (all in the same week!). The poll asked Catholics who had been at Mass that weekend whether the preacher touched upon any of those things in his homily. The overwhelming response was that he had not, and comments were frequent that this had been felt by many parishioners as a missed opportunity to relate the scriptures and faith to matters of significant national moral importance. Poll respondents strongly wish for preaching that acknowledges real life struggles in people's lives, including socio-political ones. The survey found that the issue that ranked second highest in having been addressed that weekend in church (though still only about a third as many as the response of "none") was refugees, followed by pro-life issues, immigration/border security, and finally Muslim and religious discrimination. The poll also asked whether the respondent's parish does enough to address current events. Eighty percent responded that they do not, while another twenty percent said it was about right. Fewer than one percent indicated that the parish was doing too much.

The article went on to point out that there are some good reasons for preachers to negotiate some limits to their addressing political issues from the pulpit. Our own Catholic teaching, for example, recognizes a legitimate diversity of opinion among parishioners on many such issues, and the purpose of any Eucharist is ultimately to foster communion rather than to stir up divisiveness. In addition, although the gospel of Jesus has clear political implications embedded in it, it is not strictly partisan, i.e. endorsing of any single politician or agenda. Sometimes that can be a very hazy distinction to recognize, however, requiring a good deal of pastoral skill on the part of any preacher. The article then observed: "But when only a third of Catholics report hearing from the pulpit about contemporary issues on which the teaching of the church is utterly clear and the bishops of the United States have spoken forcefully and consistently we need to ask whether cautious prudence has crossed the line into unwarranted avoidance." Homilies can then be reduced to what it called "saccharine feel-good" affairs that offer little to inform or enrich our lives during the rest of the week.

I would like to think that St. Pascal's and its ministries and its preachers do a very good job in negotiating that balancing act of which this article speaks. I hear occasionally from both sides of the metaphorical aisle, those who think that there's too much politics in church and those who want to hear more spoken about one issue or another. I try to listen to both perspectives thoughtfully, but having heard both "sides" suggests to me that we are probably pretty close to the desired place. And there is a whole lot more to the gospel than politics.

The article closed by saying it better than I could: "While we must avoid partisanship, we must also avoid letting fear of partisanship loom so large that it overpowers our ability to speak prophetically on issues that are political in the best sense: questions about how to order our common life toward the common good. Jesus in the gospels is anything but silent on these questions, and those who follow him cannot be silent either."

Fr. Mike Byron

8th Taste of St. Pascal potluck event is this weekend—Sunday from 4:00-6:00 PM

Everyone attending should bring a generous serving of a favorite dish to share. If you can, prepare a food from your family's native country. But don't stay home if you'd prefer to make an “American” dish. Macaroni and cheese, or a pan of bars for dessert will be just fine! And don't stay home if you didn't make a reservation. Come—we want you to share a fun dinner with your fellow St. Pascal parishioners.

P.S. Entertainment by Locklin Road—an awesome Irish group performing musical storytelling, including traditional and contemporary Irish songs. Now that's GREAT Entertainment!

Marian Center Mardi Gras Dessert!

TUESDAY, February 28 at 1:30 PM

200 Earl Street (on the corner of Thorn)

Our monthly Wednesday dessert with our Marian Center Parishioners will be held one day earlier than usual—for Mardi Gras. More than 20 St. Pascal parishioners live at Marian Center in Long Term Care, Assisted and Independent Living. Come join some of them for 1:00 PM Mass and/or dessert at about 1:30? No reservations necessary—just come and enjoy some time with some of our parish elders. Mark your calendar for the first Wednesday of each month (our normal time) for gathering. See you there!

Parish SummerFest Planning Meeting

Sunday, March 5 at 6:30 PM

Please make plans to attend the all-parish planning session for the first St. Pascal's SummerFest (formerly the Fall Festival). All are welcome to share their ideas, suggestions and thoughts on activities for the Festival. We'll meet in Brioschi Hall.

Catholics at the Capitol

Protect Life & Human Dignity

Thursday, March 9

Christ asks us to boldly step into the public square to protect life and human dignity. Will you answer the call? Join Minnesota’s bishops, dynamic Church leaders, and 1,000+ Catholics from across the state for Catholics at the Capitol, a day of inspiration and advocacy at our State Capitol.

Be INSPIRED by dynamic Church leaders and the power of prayer. Be INFORMED about the critical issues impacting life and human dignity in Minnesota. Be EQUIPPED to effectively engage your elected officials. Legislators pay attention to their constituents. We WILL influence what they do. This is our moment. Let’s go! Learn more and register at CatholicsAtTheCapitol.org (a link is provided on the parish website) or call 227.8777.

Baptized in Christ

We welcome into our community of faith

Lincoln Daniel Oberg-Faust

child of Shawn and Ashley

who was recently Baptized in our church.

May God bless this household of faith.

In Christ We Live Forever

Please remember in your prayers...

Wayne Link

who was recently buried from our church.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and friends, and pray for his soul's eternal peace.

Marian Center Mardi Gras Dessert!
**ST. PASCAL’S SCHOOL NEWS**

2017-2018 Registration is Open
If you have questions or need assistance with the registration process, please contact Mary McGrath, our Enrollment/Admissions Specialist, at 776.0092 ext. 112.

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**FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast**
*Sunday, March 19 after both Masses*
$8/Adults and $5/kids (14 and under)
Includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee & juice. Proceeds help fund scout camps, pack activities, achievement awards and community service. Bring your appetite and support Cub Scout Pack 294!

**Baker’s Wanted!**
Please consider providing a dessert (homemade or purchased from your favorite bakery, enough to serve 8-10 people) to be live-auctioned during the “Off to the Races” Friends & Family event on Saturday, April 22 at St. Pascal’s. If interested, please contact Susan Hommes at 738.1610 or shommes@umn.edu.

**Social Justice & Caring Committee’s We Care Campaign—Next Weekend March 4 and 5**
St. Pascal’s parish will gather the loose change and bills from the collection and donate them to the three options chosen by the Social Justice and Caring Committee for its winter project:

**Option 1:** Progressive Baptist Church Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf
This food shelf is located within Progressive Baptist Church at 1501 Burns Avenue in St. Paul. It provides emergency food items to anybody in need. No residency or parish memberships are required.

**Option 2:** Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota is a non-profit agency located in St. Paul that provides legal assistance to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota. It works to educate Minnesota communities and professionals about immigration matters and advocates for state and federal policies which respect to the universal rights of immigrants.

**Option 3:** KNOM Radio Mission
The KNOM Radio Mission is the oldest Catholic radio station in the United States. It broadcasts from Nome, Alaska, located 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle. It transmits news, weather and Catholic programming (such as mass and family prayer) to dozens of isolated communities in the Alaskan bush that rarely have access to a priest that experience high rates of poverty, alcoholism, child abuse, depression and domestic violence. This mission is entirely supported from private giving.

We encourage you to consider making a personal contribution. Please indicate your choice(s) on the envelope provided in your contribution packet or found on the tables near the entrances of the church. Any unmarked contributions will be divided equally among the three options. Thank you for your generosity.

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**St. Pascal’s Men’s Club Lenten Fish Fry—Fridays of Lent from March 3 – April 7**
*4:30 to 7:00 PM in Brioschi Hall (Please use the 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  
- Children 5 and under: FREE

Proceeds go to purchase equipment, uniforms, and supplies for the St. Pascal’s K-8 Grade School Physical Education program and extracurricular sports activities plus other parish/school events.

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**Vacation Bible School 2017**
*Save the Date! June 19-23*
9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Watch upcoming bulletins and website for more details!

**Lenten Program with Fr. Mike Byron**
*Saturday, March 18 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM*
St. Olaf Catholic Church
215 S. 8th St., Minneapolis
Join us as we ponder the death and resurrection of Jesus through a program in two sessions: “Why Did Jesus Have to Die?” and “Why Did Jesus have to Rise?”

Cost: $20 including optional noon Mass and lunch at St. Olaf. Please check payable to the League of Catholic Women and send to 410 Grove St, Minneapolis, MN 55404, or pay online at leagueofcatholicwomen.org.

**Reservations due by March 14.**
Walk-ins welcome (Mass and program only). Sponsored by the League of Catholic Women and Loyola Spirituality Center.
**Mass Times & Intentions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intentions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 28</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 01</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>+ Ken Nerison</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 02</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 03</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The Men’s Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 04</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 05</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>+ Darlene Kelleher</td>
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**Save the Date**

**14th Annual Friends & Family Event**

“Off the Races”

April 22 from 5:00-9:00 PM

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 will go on sale in March. Don’t miss it!

**Readings for the Week**

February 26, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Is 49:14-15, Ps 62:2-3, 6-9, 1 Cor 4:1-5, Mt 6:24-34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Sir 17:20-24, Ps 32:1-2, 5-7, Mk 10:17-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Sir 35:1-12, Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23, Mk 10:28-31</td>
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</tbody>
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**The Week Ahead**

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

**Sunday, February 26**

After Masses New Member Registration: BH
12:00 pm Confirmation I: OC
4:00 pm Taste of St. Pascal’s: BH

**Monday, February 27**

9:30am Nia: OC
6:30pm AFF Committee Meeting: SL
6:30pm Boy Scouts 294: CF, Gym

**Tuesday, February 28**

8:15am Bible Study: PC
1:00pm Marian Center Mass & Dessert: Marian Ctr St Paul
6:30pm Grace Within women’s group: Room 107
7:00pm Bible Study: PC

**Wednesday, March 1—Ash Wednesday**

9:30am School Mass with ashes—All are welcome!
6:30pm Mass with Ashes
7:00pm Choir: CR

**Thursday, March 2**

9:30am Bible Study: PC
6:00pm Parkway Little League Registration: BH
7:00pm SJCC Meeting: FR
7:00pm Men’s Club Board Meeting: SL

**Friday, March 3**

NO SCHOOL-Grading Day
4:30pm Fish Fry & Bake Sale: BH, Kit
7:00pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 4**

2:00pm Larson/Haldeman Wedding

**Sunday, March 5—1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**

10:30am RCIA Rite of Sending/Election - Church
12:00pm Confirmation I: OC
12:00pm Piano Festival: CH
6:30pm Festival Kick-off Meeting: BH

**Parish Communications Mastermind Group**

We are looking to establish a small, fast moving, solution-oriented group to create and support a concise communication strategy that advances the parish mission by sharing information that informs, inspires and enriches our sense of community. Our vision is to establish effective communication between staff, ministries and parishioners through the bulletin, website, social media, and other channels. We are looking for individuals with communication, graphic or web design, audio/video or social media experience who can assist with writing, editing, or proofreading.

Time commitment: 3-5 hours per month for initial meetings and 4-10 hours per month for selected projects. Once a communication strategy and tools are established, fewer hours will be required. For more information or to volunteer, contact Thea Munoz at 774.1585 or thea.munoz@stpascals.org.

**Free Legal Clinic—Every Other Thursday from 1:00 - 4:00 PM**

March 2, 16; April 6, 20. Doors open at 12:30.

Morning Star Baptist Church, 739 Selby Ave., St. Paul

Walk-in clinic is for civil matters including: landlord/tenant or property, divorce, parenting time, custody, debt collection, impounded car, purchase or service contracts, probate, employment, simple wills and health care directives and other civil legal or family law issues. Visit us online: interfaithaction.org/legalclinic or call Carol Bros, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 894.6912.
Ash Wednesday

Today’s Readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18

Lent is a penitential season, but Jesus reminds us that none of our penitential practices call us to be gloomy. Rather, in our penitence, we are called to turn our lives around. If we practice giving alms, but seem to do so only to bring attention to ourselves, then our giving has little meaning. If we practice changing our lives, and do so with joy, then that practice will lead to more joy.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples not to be like hypocrites, as he challenges their motivation. If we are true disciples of Jesus, then our baptismal call is our motivation. How are we Christ to others? In this solemn season of Lent, our motivation is not only to turn our lives around. We are motivated also to return our lives to their baptismal character and approach the font renewed at Easter. Paul reminds us in the Second Reading not to receive the grace of God in vain. If we are disciples and ambassadors of Christ, then our Baptism has strengthened us to work on repairing our sinful ways. And what better time than now. Behold, now is a very acceptable time. Behold, now is the day of salvation.

As Lent begins, let us work on renewing our Baptism. This Ash Wednesday, let us proclaim with inner joy our lives grounded in Christ, united by the Spirit, and welcomed home by the Father. If we practice with eagerness, prayerfulness, and inner consistency, then our baptismal call and our baptismal nature will emerge, and Christ will be our face to the world.

Unbounded Mercy

Gracious and merciful Father, we are assembled before you, returning to you with humble hearts as we enter this sacred season of Lent. Accept our repentant spirits, and spare us with your unbounded mercy; Bless our offerings, those of joy and those of sorrow; for we know your blessings in our lives and approach you with open hearts. May the spirit of the People of God proclaim a community of joyful praise, assembled wisdom, and prayerful proclamation as we gather in your name, and commend ourselves to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Do Not Look Gloomy

Today’s Readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18

Lent is a penitential season, but Jesus reminds us that none of our penitential practices call us to be gloomy. Rather, in our penitence, we are called to turn our lives around. If we practice giving alms, but seem to do so only to bring attention to ourselves, then our giving has little meaning. If we practice changing our lives, and do so with joy, then that practice will lead to more joy.

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**THIS WEEK AT HOME**

**Monday, February 27**

**Prayer**
The first of the three disciplines of Lent is prayer, and at the heart of prayer is one’s relationship with God. Throughout Lent, focus on how you can improve your prayer life by taking time for daily prayer and shutting out distractions. Take note of how the Eucharist and communal prayer draw everyone into the sacramental life of the Church. Finally, settle into a rhythm of prayer, which can bring God deeper into the rhythm of your life. *Today’s Readings: Sirach 17:20–24; Psalm 32:1–2, 5, 6, 7; Mark 10:17–27.*

**Tuesday, February 28**

**Fasting**
The practice of fasting allows our bodies to be healthier, and our minds less cluttered with distractions. Lent is the time to improve our relationship with ourselves—in our body, mind, and spirit. Lent invites us to declutter our lives and strengthen our resolve to be healthier, more mentally aware, and more focused on spiritual matters. *Today’s Readings: Sirach 35:1–12; Psalm 50:5–6, 7–8, 14, 23; Mark 10:28–31.*

**Ash Wednesday, March 1**

**Almsgiving**
Often the discipline of almsgiving is perfunctory. Perhaps this is the Lent to be more intentional in how almsgiving, or finding ways to assist others in need, can improve our relationship with the world. The three disciplines of Lent, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, challenge us to be stronger in our relationships with God, self, and others. During this season of Lent, we can resolve to fortify these relationships. *Today’s Readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18.*

**Thursday, March 2**

**Take Up Your Cross**
The appeal from Jesus to take up our cross daily is especially poignant the day after Ash Wednesday, because we are aware that Jesus would soon take up his Cross, along with the sins of the world. What is my cross? How can I take up that cross to save my life? This Lent, denial and the cross can be keys to a reexamination of our baptismal call. *Today’s Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, 6; Luke 9:22–25.*

**Friday, March 3**

**A Humble and Contrite Heart**
Psalm 51 reminds us continually that a humble and contrite heart pleases God. From such a heart can come a worthy sacrifice. A heart that is both humble and contrite elicits God’s compassion. It is also a heart which is cleansed because of the good works we have accomplished. Our good works, both corporal and spiritual, cleanse our hearts and light our path for healing. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 58:1–9a; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 18–19; Matthew 9:14–15.*

**Saturday, March 4**

**Tax Collectors and Sinners**
In today’s Gospel we hear that Jesus came to call sinners, not the righteous. At the table of the Kingdom, we must belong with Levi, tax collectors, and all other sinners. The readings today challenge us to repair the breaches in our lives, and restore ruined households. In whatever ways we can, we work to repent, and then to repair and restore what our sin has destroyed. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 58:9b–14; Psalm 86:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Luke 5:27–32.*
The Church of Saint Pascal Baylon

2017 Lent & Easter Schedule

Ash Wednesday
March 1
Masses with ashes:
9:30 AM & 6:30 PM

Fridays of Lent
March 3 - April 7
All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry ~ 4:30-7:00 PM
Women’s Club Bake Sale ~ 4:30-7:00 PM
Stations of the Cross ~ 7:00 PM
Our classic Fish Fry menu includes fried and baked cod, coleslaw, mixed steamed vegetables, au gratin and seasoned fried potatoes, mac & cheese, dinner roll, dessert, and coffee/water. Milk, bottled water, pop, and take-out available.
Sponsored by the St. Pascal’s Men’s Club.

Lenten Regulations on Fasting
Fasting: On Ash Wednesday & Good Friday, Catholics between the ages of 18 - 60 are allowed only one full meal. Two smaller meals are allowed as needed, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.
Abstinence: Catholics 14 years or older are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Communal Reconciliation
Tuesday, March 14
Parish Celebration ~ 7:00 PM
Thursday, March 23
School & Parish Celebration ~ 9:30 AM
All are welcome at either celebration!

Individual Reconciliation
Saturdays ~ 4:00 PM or by appointment

Adult Faith Formation
Monday, March 6
7:00 - 9:00 PM in Brioschi Hall
A Walk Through the Jewish Feasts
Rabbi Barry Cytron

Sunday Masses throughout Lent
March 5 - April 2
Saturday ~ 4:30 PM
Sunday ~ 8:45 & 10:30 AM
(10:30 AM with ASL)

Palm Sunday
April 9
Saturday ~ 4:30 PM
Sunday ~ 8:45 & 10:30 AM
(10:30 AM with ASL)
Women’s Club Bake Sale after all Masses

THE TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday
April 13
8:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Mass of Lord’s Supper (ASL)

Good Friday
April 14
8:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM The Lord’s Passion (ASL)

Holy Saturday
April 15 (No 4:30 PM Mass)
8:00 AM Morning Prayer
8:00 PM The Great Easter Vigil
Please join us for a reception in Brioschi Hall.

Easter Sunday Masses
April 16
8:45 & 10:30 AM (10:30 AM with ASL)

Easter Season
Tuesday, April 18
6:30 PM in Brioschi Hall
Reflection on the Triduum
A Walk Through the Jewish Feasts

Through video and discussion Rabbi Barry Cytron, one of Fr. Mike Byron’s colleagues from his years at St. Paul Seminary, will take our community on a whirlwind trip through the Jewish Calendar. We will explore the 3 major pilgrimage festivals (Pesach, Shavuot & Sukkot), Jewish High Holy Days, and the Sabbath.

Monday, March 6, 2017
7:00-9:00 pm
Brioschi Hall
with Rabbi Barry Cytron

Rabbi Cytron teaches in the Religious Studies department at Macalester and also serves as the campus’ Jewish Chaplain. Previously he served for twenty five years as a congregational rabbi, first in Des Moines, Iowa and then in Minneapolis. From 1996-2009, he was the director of the Jay Phillips Center, a venture devoted to fostering sustained interfaith education, based at St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota. He graduated from Columbia University in New York, from which he also received an M.A., was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America [Conservative Judaism] and received a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. He was a regular contributor to the Minneapolis Star Tribune for many years, and remains active in national interfaith activities and publications.
We are collecting men’s and women’s items for the Catholic Charities In-Kind Warehouse including:

- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Body wash
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste

Please drop your items off in the red donation boxes located in the foyer.

*Thank you for your prayers and generosity.*

*CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN KIND WAREHOUSE*

Catholic Charities serves nearly 35,000 people every year with a diverse range of programs, offering necessities and help in moving toward greater stability. Our programs and the people we serve rely on the community for gifts of time and treasure. Several items are always needed to continue our services to men, women and children. In whatever way you choose to give, thank you for your positive impact on the lives of those most in need.

.Collection will take place beginning Ash Wednesday March 1st through Wednesday, April 12th

St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church & School—We build faith, inspire action and share the love of Christ in our community!