THE CHURCH OF SAINT PASCAL BAYLON

MAY 14, 2017  |  FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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frmike.byron@stpascals.org

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Welcome Desk
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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 coming week will bring the celebration of our parish patron saint, St. Pascal Baylon. (And by the way the spell checker on my computer lights up every time I enter his name: "Are you sure that’s right?!" Yes, I’m sure.) Anyway, Archbishop Bernard Hebda will honor us with his presence Wednesday morning as he presides at the usual 9:30am "school" mass, after which he will visit some of our classrooms to greet our children. It should be a very joy-filled day, and all are welcome.

Some of you are aware that there are three different books that are indispensable for priest-presiders at mass. One of them is the Roman Missal, in which are all the prayers proper to each day and season. It’s the one used by the altar servers and at the altar itself. Another is the Lectionary, in which are contained the scripture readings, and which is used at the ambo/pulpit. The third book may be quite a bit less familiar. It is the Ordo, and it’s about the size of the palm of my hand, paperback, maybe half an inch thick. We keep it in the sacristy, and it is basically the user’s manual for clergy who celebrate the liturgy. In teeny print are all the instructions for every day of the year, like what color vestment to wear, which mass prayers to use, and which readings to proclaim. Often there are options provided, including a choice of whether or not to honor a specific saint on a given day. There are many saints’ days that the Ordo dictates are mandatory to observe, such as several days in honor of Mary, the Apostles, John the Baptist, and the most important theologians, bishops and teachers of our church’s history. But there are many more whose feast days are listed as “optional,” and they include many people whom you and I would not otherwise have heard of or know anything about. (For that reason, the Ordo includes a one or two sentence summary explanation of who these people were, when they lived, and why they are important. One does have to wonder at the irony of it being necessary to explain the importance of somebody when it is otherwise not evident, but that’s another matter.)

The reason I’m mentioning all of this is that St. Pascal Baylon doesn’t even merit the status of "optional" in the Ordo. He is completely ignored, even on his feast day, May 17. He is just that obscure in the memory of our larger church. And I like to think that he would be just fine in knowing that. Unlike at least a few more popular saints, whose legacies are built largely upon legends and whose actual existence we can’t be completely sure about, St. Pascal actually was a known person. He lived in a Franciscan monastery in Spain around the time of the Protestant Reformation, and his jobs in that community were to cook and to serve as a humble servant. He is designated in our Catholic roll call of saints as the patron of bakers. Which is why I don’t think he’d be so upset if people don’t make a big deal out of him a few centuries later. (He’s also the patron saint of Eucharistic congresses, but I’m not sure how big a deal it is to be the patron of an occasional meeting.) Again, I think he’d be OK with that.

We all know saints who have served as enormous sources of inspiration to us and whom the wider world will never know or remember. Some of them are our ancestors, or our teachers, or our pastors or ministers or friends. And isn’t that what we all aspire to be? Humble servants who aren’t in it for anything but to follow Christ and to share Him with others? And aren’t we a great legacy to his name here in our parish? (Answer: Yes).

Finally, this is also the week that our eighth graders finally get to make their long-awaited trip to Washington D.C., for which they have worked so hard and for which you have helped them so much with your support. I hope it is an unforgettable and wonderful travel experience.

Fr. Mike Byron

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**Eucharistic Ministers Summer Schedule**

It is time for the next schedule to be done. Please check your calendars for June, July and August, and let Joann know of any dates when you will not be available. She needs those dates by May 15. Contact Joann at joann.bertini@gmail.com or 735.2762.

**Called To Be an Extraordinary Minister**

Are you interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? Your commitment would be one Mass per month. You choose the dates. Training is provided. Anyone who has been confirmed is invited. If you have questions or want more information, contact Joann at 735.2762 or joann.bertini@gmail.com.

**Do you know how to say “Hello”?**

Then you are qualified to minister as a greeter or an usher at Sunday liturgies or funeral Masses! Greeters arrive at church 20 minutes before Mass and welcome folks—it’s a great job for families to do together! Weekend ushers are greeters, who also hand out Worship Aids, take up the collection and attend to the needs of the congregation during the liturgy. Ushers and greeters can volunteer at their preferred Mass, and pick the dates that they’d like to help. In addition, we have opportunity to train funeral ushers. This is a wonderful ministry for retired folks or others who are available during the day.

To volunteer or if you’d like to learn more about these opportunities, please contact Carla Hibbison at carla.hibbison@gmail.com or 748.0924, or contact Sharon Balcom in the parish office.

**Men’s Retreat: Led by the Spirit**

**Saturday, May 20, 9:00 AM-Noon**

Join Deacon Richard and men of St. Pascal’s as we spend a morning discovering the joy of living a life moved by the Spirit. Through scripture, prayer, and sharing we will see how receiving the Holy Spirit allows the love between the Father and the Son to pour into our hearts. All men are invited, please contact the parish office by Thursday, May 18 to let us know you are coming. Refreshments provided.

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**In Christ We Live Forever**

Please remember in your prayers...

*Eileen McKenna*

Whose memorial service was recently at our church. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends, and pray for her soul’s eternal peace.
Thank you for your generosity.

Mary Worley
mary.worley@stpascals.org

Office. Questions call or drop off a donation at the school
school.stpascals.org/SUPPORTSPBCS, or
reach our $10,000 goal! Donate online at

Make a donation on 5.17.17 to help us
education possible for all students.

Tuition assistance, one dollar will be
$1,000 for a generous $5,000 matching gift.

The St. Pascal’s Men’s Club donated $4,000
and the St. Pascal’s Women’s Club donated
$1,000 for a generous $5,000 matching gift. This means that for every dollar donated for
tuition assistance, one dollar will be contributed by the Men’s and Women’s
Clubs for an amount up to $5,000. We are
asking alums, parish members, parents,
grandparents, friends and the community
to come together to make a St. Pascal’s
education possible for all students.

Make a donation on 5.17.17 to help us
reach our $10,000 goal! Donate online at
school.stpascals.org/SUPPORTSPBCS254, or
call or drop off a donation at the school
office. Questions—contact Mary Worley,
mary.worley@stpascals.org or774-1585.
Thank you for your generosity.

Parking Lot Replacement

In an ongoing effort to stay on top of critical capital repair and replacement, we must replace the pavement in the parking lot that runs along 3rd Street, from Brioschi Hall all the way down to the school building. If you use this lot now, you have experienced many pot holes and lots of crumbling pavement. This project will require the removal and replacement of 3-4” of pavement and cost $34,000. Every parish household is asked to consider giving an exceptional gift (above and beyond your Sunday stewardship) to help us raise the needed goal to replace this parking lot by the time we celebrate our All-School Reunion and Summer Festival in August. Thanks to the generous response of the 200 families that attended the Friends and Family Gala three weeks ago, we have already raised $18,365 towards our goal. Please help us reach our goal by donating this week. Indicate “Parking Lot Replacement” on the memo line of your check and return to the parish office, drop it in the collection basket or donate online on the parish website Donate Now page. Be sure to type “Parking Lot Replacement” in the comments box on the checkout page. Thanks so much for your help.

May 14, 2017 | Fifth Sunday of Easter

ST. PASCAL’S SCHOOL NEWS

Feast of St. Pascal Celebration

Wednesday May 17

Please join our parish and school community in welcoming Archbishop Hebdas for the School Mass on Wednesday May 17 at 9:30 AM. All are welcome!

School parents/guardians, grandparents, special loved ones and students are invited to enjoy a light breakfast from 8:00 - 9:00 AM before Mass. Students will return to their classrooms after Mass. To RSVP, please call the school office by Friday, May 12.

A second, adults-only reception for parishioners and friends of St. Pascal’s follows the Mass. Please RSVP by Monday, May 15 to mary.worley@stpascals.org or sarah.mathis@stpascals.org.

$10K in a Day

May 17 is our Annual Day of Giving when we come together to raise $10,000 to support tuition assistance for our school families who are unable to afford tuition.

The St. Pascal’s Men’s Club donated $4,000 and the St. Pascal’s Women’s Club donated $1,000 for a generous $5,000 matching gift. This means that for every dollar donated for tuition assistance, one dollar will be contributed by the Men’s and Women’s Clubs for an amount up to $5,000. We are asking alums, parish members, parents, grandparents, friends and the community to come together to make a St. Pascal’s education possible for all students.

Make a donation on 5.17.17 to help us reach our $10,000 goal! Donate online at school.stpascals.org/SUPPORTSPBCS254, or call or drop off a donation at the school office. Questions—contact Mary Worley, mary.worley@stpascals.org or 774-1585.

Thank you for your generosity.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Summer Stretch 2017

For: Youth entering grades 6-9 in fall 2017 (grades 10-12 can serve as peer leaders)

Dates: July 31, August 1, 2 and 3

Cost: $50 for participants

$30 for peer leaders

Includes T-shirt, entrance to recreational activities, and ValleyFair. Limited scholarships available.

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 16; limit of 24 participants and 6 peer leaders.

Registration packets with detailed information are available in kiosks and online at www.stpascals.org. For more information, contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

SummerFest 2017 Planning Meeting

Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 PM

Join us in the Staff Lounge for the first planning meeting for the St. Pascal’s SummerFest. All returning chairs are invited and any parishioners who would like to be involved in planning for SummerFest are invited as well. If you are unable to attend, but would like to be involved in future planning, please email Festival Chair Mike Kelleher at mike.kelleher@stpascals.org.

Communications Mastermind Group

Be part of a small, fast moving, solution-oriented group tasked to create and support a concise communication strategy that advances the parish mission. 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, please contact Thea Munoz in the parish office.

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 laurej.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 Monday—hard copy notices must be in by 2:00 PM. Email to thea.munoz@stpascals.org. Bulletin inserts are limited to 3 inserts per weekend and are included at the discretion of the pastor.

Mass Announcements
Direct to Sharon Balcom by 3:00 PM on Wednesday.
Mass Times & Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 16</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Juli Tomczyk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 17</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Abp. Hebda’s Intentions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 18</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<td>Friday, May 19</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Jack Henninger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 20</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Tad Weiger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 21</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td>Michael Eckstrom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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</tbody>
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Heart Questions

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6

Adult: In a challenge you face right now, what will it mean to live the way of Jesus Christ?

Child: Name some ways you can be more like Jesus when you are playing with your friends or family.

Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday:</td>
<td>Acts 6:1-7, Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Pt 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday:</td>
<td>Acts 14:5-18, Ps 115:1-5, 15-16</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jn 14:21-26</td>
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<td>Tuesday:</td>
<td>Acts 14:19-28, Ps 145:10-13ab, 21</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jn 14:27-31a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday:</td>
<td>Acts 15:1-6, Ps 122:1-5, Jn 15:1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday:</td>
<td>Acts 15:22-31, Ps 57:8-10, 12 Jn 15:12-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday:</td>
<td>Acts 16:1-10, Ps 100:1-3, 5 Jn 15:18-21</td>
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<td>Next Sunday:</td>
<td>Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20</td>
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<td>1 Pt 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21</td>
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The Week Ahead

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

Sunday, May 14—5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Happy Mother’s Day!
After Masses New Member Registration: BH
MCCl Flower Sale: CM

Monday, May 15
9:30am  Nia: OC
6:30pm  AFF Team meeting: SL
Boy Scouts 294: CF, Gym

Tuesday, May 16
6:30pm  Summerfest Chair meeting: SL
7:00pm  Spirituality Book Club: LB

Wednesday, May 17—Feast of St. Pascal Baylon
8:30am  Grandparent Day: BH
9:30am  School Mass w/Abp. Hebda—All are welcome!
10:30am Reception (RSVP required): BH
5:30pm  Men’s Club Softball: CF

Thursday, May 18
9:30am  Nia: OC
6:30pm  Cub Scouts (Pack): CF

Friday, May 19
No scheduled events

Saturday, May 20
9:00am  Men’s Retreat: SL
1:00pm  Men’s Club Senior Bingo: BH

Sunday, May 21—6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
1:30pm  Piano Recital: CH
5:30pm  Piano Recital: CH

MEETING LOCATION KEY:
BH: Brioschi Hall, CF: Cafeteria, CH: Church, CM: Commons, LB: Library, OC: Old Church, SL: Staff Lounge

Young at Heart Mass & Luncheon—Thursday, May 25
Attention Young at Heart! Father Mike will celebrate the Eucharist with us at 11:00 AM. After a short meeting, we will enjoy a stroganoff meal catered by Magnolia’s for which we ask a $10.00 donation payable on the day of the meeting. Back by popular demand: Alive and Kickin, a group of more than 20 seniors to entertain us. Please RSVP by Monday May 22 to Betty Hensel at 714.8958 or bjhen@q.com, or Barb Kendle at 738.3799. You just have to be Alive—you don’t have to be Kickin’ to join us!

Thank You
The St. Pascal’s Men’s Club Executive Board would like to thank its members, volunteers, and parishioners who supported and patronized their fundraising events—the Golf Classic, Booya, Christmas Tree Sales, Lenten Fish Fry, and Cars with Heart campaign. Because of that support and patronage, the Men’s Club was able to disburse $30,197 to the school/parish community which included $9,000 for school financial aid, $2,000 for the K-8 Physical Education Program and purchase of equipment and uniforms for extra-curricular sports program, $5,000 for a school related project, $3,550 for parish related items, $2,027 for the 8th grade DC trip, $3,500 to the St. Pascal Baylon Endowment Fund, and $5,120 for facility repair and maintenance.

Merrick Community Services Food Shelf Thanks
On behalf of those we serve, we wish to thank you for your ongoing and generous support of our food shelf. St. Pascal’s recent donation of 570 pounds of food will help provide a 3-day supply of food for those in need who are living in the East Side St. Paul and Maplewood communities.

Stewardship of Treasure
Financial Gifts – Week of May 7, 2017
For fiscal year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Actual Received</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Stewardship</td>
<td>$ 12,533</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage Campaign</td>
<td>$ 4,473</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Incl. Holy Day)</td>
<td>$ 1,490</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parking Lot Replacement</td>
<td>$34,000 (Goal)</td>
<td>$18,365</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year to Date:</td>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Variance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(July 1 – June 30)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Stewardship</td>
<td>$ 768,349</td>
<td>$ 765,000</td>
<td>$ 3,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Campaign</td>
<td>$ 282,775</td>
<td>$ 247,500</td>
<td>$ 35,275</td>
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</tbody>
</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
Always Looking Out for Us

God our Father,
you have called us from creation to be with you,
you have promised us life everlasting and eternal joy in the Kingdom of Heaven.
You have given us your Son to lead us to you,
and have prepared a dwelling place for us if we but follow him.

May 14, 2017
The Father Dwells in Me

Today's Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19; 1 Peter 2:4–9; John 14:1–12. The Apostles are confused today as Jesus tells them that he will go to prepare a place for them. Thomas questions, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” When Jesus says that he is the way, the truth, and the life, Philip tells Jesus to show them the Father. We can understand why the Apostles felt uneasy, for we often want exact directions. Just as the Apostles were unsure of going by their instincts to follow God, we sometimes are unsure of the path that Jesus has shown us. Jesus is preparing the Apostles for when he will leave them. He lets them know the path to the Father is simple: I am the way, the truth, and the life. Only by what we already know of you, Jesus, can we find the Father.

If we know Jesus, then we know the Father. The first lesson of the Trinity is that God is one God. Knowing God is knowing the Father, the Son, and the Spirit as one. No one understands the Father except through understanding Jesus, the Son, the Christ. The way to the Father is through the Son. The truth of God is knowing those truths we have heard and lived and enacted with Jesus in the Gospel. Life in God is the fullness of life through creation, Baptism, and resurrection. If we are to know God, we must be willing to follow him, trust in him, and do the same good works that reveal him.

May we know your truth, which will draw us closer to you;
May we live your life of love and joy by serving others and responding to their needs;
May we go where you lead us, trusting in your ways and in the sure and certain hope of life everlasting at the heavenly dwelling place you have prepared for us.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Monday, May 15
St. Isidore
St. Isidore is the patron saint of farmers, and in the United States, the patron of the Rural Life Conference. The gardeners among us can see in this saint someone who also felt blessed to be able to put their hands in the dirt and watch something small grow. Whether or not we have the time and space to garden, we might want to take a few minutes to consider the work that goes into bringing food to the table.


Tuesday, May 16
Open the Door of Faith
The account from the Acts of the Apostles today tells of persistence through suffering. Paul spread the Christian faith through several countries, not even pausing to complain about being persecuted. Instead, he insisted on welcoming Gentiles into the Church: opening the door of faith to them. His writings show that he carried Christ’s peace with him. His accounts, too, show that he was undaunted and proceeded as Christ said in today’s Gospel: Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.


Wednesday, May 17
I Am the Vine, You Are the Branches
The image of the vine and the branches portrays our intimate relationship to Jesus and to one another. The vine will only continue to grow if we accept the nourishment of the Father: love, mercy, and support. The image of the vine is also one of the Church, which can only continue to grow through the same love, mercy, and support of the entire community.


Thursday, May 18
Remain in God’s Love
“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.” Those words from today’s Gospel sound simple, but we still stumble and fall, especially when we consider ourselves inadequate. Today, consider how God’s love is a gift and how Christ was willing to sacrifice self for the good of others. How do you translate that into your world today? What can you do to give God’s love, thereby remaining within his loving embrace?


Friday, May 19
Pass It On
Both readings today describe handing on the faith. From Acts, we have a description of how Paul’s letters were read in the assembly of the faithful. We continue to hand on the faith of the earliest Christians through their written testimony. The Gospel, though, has an even stronger dictate: love one another as I have loved you. There is no better definition of how to live as Christians than to do just that.


Saturday, May 20
St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
A powerful Franciscan preacher, Bernardine (d. 1444) attracted thousands to his open-air preaching. His greatest achievement was spreading the Holy Name of Jesus through a large emblem he carried with him, emblazoned with IHS. These letters, the first three Greek letters of the name Jesus, became as familiar and popular as any present day logo.

St. Pascal Baylon All School Reunion

Saturday, August 12, 2017
Saturday Evening Mass 4:30
Reunion 5:30-8:00

Live Music!
Everyone Welcome!

Food

RSVP
Mary.Worley@StPascals.Org
or (651)774-1585

Microbrews, Food Trucks
Where are they now?

As alumni have moved around, not all of our contact information is up to date. If you know any alumni’s email or address we’d love to reconnect with them! Help us locate your classmates so they can be informed and inspired about all things St. Pascal’s.

Contact Mary Worley at (651) 774-1585 or mary.worley@stpascals.org
Sex trafficking is that part of human trafficking focused on the trading of people by, force, fraud, or coercion for sexual activity. It is modern day sex slavery, often unspoken about, but a persistent social justice issue in the United States. Our State Attorney General’s Office and the MN Depart. of Health estimate there were in Minnesota alone over 8,000 cases of sex trafficking committed in 2015. The Twin Cities has been branded by the U.S. Dept. of Health as one of the 23 major hubs of sex trafficking in the United States. Minnesota itself ranks 13th nationally. It is a stain on our society that people of faith should know and understand because there are things we can do to help reduce what has become a growing criminal problem.

The abuse can begin in families where young teenage girls and sometimes boys become alienated from their parents. They may innocently seek out support, approval, and respect from young adult men who are looking to develop a relationship that will lead to sex trafficking. These young men often prey on children 13 to 17 years of age who may live in poverty, who may have been abused as a child, and who may be missing a positive relationship with their parents. But girls and boys from any family income level can be at risk particularly when they may have emotional problems or because of their need for a relationship, self-acceptance, or other survival needs. They might be left alone with a lack of supervision, may choose to hang out in public places, and seek out older teenagers who they may look up to as a friend. Evidence from authorities indicate that girls and boys with these problems may also be contacted through the internet and once identified are seduced with drugs or alcohol by those looking for victims to be used for sex trafficking.

The good news is that recently more places in this country have adopted the European model that no longer considers young women and men involved in sex trafficking as the criminal prostitute but rather as the victim or abused person. Past studies have shown that over 80 percent of prostitution is determined by sex trafficking where victims are trapped emotionally and physically into performing for a pimp in order to survive.

In 2013 Minnesota established the Safe Harbor Law that is enforced by our local police and our county attorneys who are aggressively prosecuting “Johns” who are primarily charged in soliciting for prostitution. Authorities are now trying to get help for women and men who are seen as the victim and not the cause of the problem. They are now referred for counseling and support to organizations who assist victims in getting out of the oppression of sex trafficking. Prostitution is finally recognized as a violent act against its victims. The hope is that particularly the number of young women available for sex trafficking can be reduced as well as the demand for their services. Positive results have been shown from this new approach.

We need to help prevent girls and boys from getting trapped in sex trafficking, as well as help identify those who are used, reduce the demand, and provide counsel and support to assist victims in getting out of the oppression of sex trafficking. These victims then need long term support in order to survive the abuse.

In February 2018 the Super Bowl will be held at U.S. Bank Stadium. The bitter truth is that this billion dollar event will attract as it has at other locations a corrupting and unsavory element of those who will prey on young women and men. The sex trade of adult gangs is already preparing for this event. It is predicted that many more acts of sexual exploitation will take place in the Twin Cities around that period of time.

However, there are a number of local organizations actively trying to reduce this major abuse of our culture. They are prepared to provide help for those who may be subject to sex trafficking as a result of the Super Bowl. The Saint Pascal’s Social Justice and Caring Committee will be holding a church event this October to explain to interested members how we can help reduce sex trafficking and how we can assist the organizations who are working to deal with the problem.

Stay tuned. There will be more information coming this fall.