God’s love knows no barriers. St. Pascal’s...where all people matter.
Welcome! We hope you enjoy your time with us. Whether you are just visiting, looking for a parish home or already part of our faith community, it’s great to have you with us. Whatever your life circumstances, wherever you have been or whatever has happened in your life, you are welcome here. Please join us after Sunday Mass for hospitality and to find out more.
Dear Friends:

About twenty years ago when I was in graduate school, I lived in a rectory with a young man from Lake Charles, LA (near New Orleans). He’d tell stories about life in the South that would occasionally shock me. For example, he once recalled his having gone to his high school prom dance, and that his school had done what most of them did for the students when it came to prom season. Namely, they held two of them, the “black” prom and the “white” prom. He spoke of this as if were perfectly normal— which apparently it was. I told him that such a thing would be unthinkable in Minnesota, and I felt good about saying so. Not long after that our Archbishop, Harry Flynn, who had just recently arrived in St. Paul after having been the bishop of the same Lake Charles LA, issued a pastoral letter on the subject of racism. One of the most courageous things he said to us in that letter is that he believed that Minnesotans are just as prone to racism as are the people of Louisiana. We just like to tell ourselves that we aren’t, and we tend to cover it up with a thin veneer of tolerance that serves to mask deeper, less honorable attitudes of the heart. What is, in parts of the deep South, open and obvious racial bias is simply politely papered over around here. His was a hard challenge to take in, and I’m sure that not everyone agreed with it, but it still worthy of our reflection.

Racism is that great and enduring American illness that has been with us from the beginning of our nation. Theories abound as to why it is so, but the worst thing we can do is to deny it. And this isn’t primarily a matter of this person or that one who is a bigot. It’s about whole systems that privilege some races and put others at great disadvantage—in employment and economic opportunity, in housing and health care, and especially in education. Are you aware that the Twin Cities is home to the greatest educational achievement gap (i.e. between white people and persons of color—especially black and brown color) in the country? That’s been true for years. How does that persist in a community like ours that touts itself as being racially enlightened and accepting? Perhaps Archbishop Flynn was exactly right; perhaps it endures through denial of the reality that exists, which then allows us to excuse ourselves from taking a good look at it.

In the past year or so it has become abundantly clear that racism persists in our country as a terrible affliction, and racist groups and movements have become more emboldened to spread the disease of hate. As Catholic Christians we may not permit this to occur unchallenged and unnamed. Our national Catholic bishops have recognized this also and have responded by mobilizing a task force to create effective counter-measures and to keep the discussion in the forefront of people’s awareness.

I recently read an article by Bishop George Murray S.J., who is the bishop of Youngstown OH and the Chair of the U.S. bishops’ Committee Against Racism. I found his honesty sobering but encouraging. Here’s a little of what he had to say:

"Throughout its history the church has participated in fostering racism. During the 19th century some U.S. bishops defended slavery; and during the 20th century, many Catholics opposed the civil rights movement and encouraged—or at least acquiesced in—racial segregation. Why has the U.S. church been incapable of enunciating straightforward principles and taking decisive action regarding racism that has led to a change in attitude?" It’s the right question, though somewhat hard to hear. The bishop concludes, "If the U.S. church is to exemplify the love of Christ, it must move forward with the realization that no one can enter full communion with Jesus Christ if one’s relationship to the other is marked by indifference or oppression."

If there is any good to come from what has been an awful year of racist violence and verbiage it is that we have been made to confront the problem (again), and we must.

Fr. Mike Byron

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**Bowl Tenders for Holy Thursday**

Liturgy: March 29 at 7:00 PM  
Rehearsal: Sunday, March 25 at 3:45 PM  

One of the most prominent ritual actions for this night is the Washing of Feet. As in past years, everyone in the pews will be invited to take part. We need 10 individuals to assist those coming forward to take part in the ritual. When we commit ourselves to be involved in this action, we begin to understand more readily what it means to serve one another. Please contact Sharon Balcom in the parish office if you are willing and able to help!

**CRS Operation Rice Bowl**

**Encounter Lent: Encounter Cesia**

This week we encounter Cesia in Nicaragua, where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, young people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How can you work to improve the lives of others this Lent and support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Find out at crsricebowl.org. Remember to pick up a Rice Bowl in the gathering space and join us—and nearly 14,000 faith communities in 180 dioceses around the U.S.—in a life-changing journey of encounter this Lent.

**Social Justice and Caring Committee**

**Lenten Project 2018**

Brittany’s Place is a shelter located on the east side of St. Paul that helps teenage victims of sex trafficking. During the fish fry each Friday of Lent, we will be collecting the following supplies for this organization:

- jogging/yoga pants (all sizes)  
- pajamas (all sizes)  
- socks  
- sports bras (all sizes)  
- underwear (all sizes)  
- ethnic hair products  
- hair scarves/wraps  
- lotion sets  
- shower gel  
- stuffed animals

Place your donations in the plastic collection bin located in the gathering space outside Brioschi Hall. The items collected will be delivered to Brittany’s Place. Thank you!

**Can You Help?**

**Celebration of a Jewish Seder with Rabbi Barry Cytрон**

Monday, March 26 from 7:00-9:00 PM  
Assistance will be needed with set up and preparations during the day on March 26. Please contact Kim at 774.1585 in the parish office if you are able to help!

**Friends & Family Kick Off Meeting**

Monday, March 5 at 6:00 PM —Staff Lounge  
Ellen and Mike Aeling are chairing the event and need lots of volunteers to carry out this magical evening. Please contact Mike Aeling at 307.8237 or mjaeling@gmail.com if you have any questions.
The 2018-2019 Enrollment Season has been amazing and just keeps getting MORE amazing! We are at 89% re-enrolled and that equals 84 current families! Thank you to all these families for making the investment into your child’s educational and spiritual foundation!

We welcome 13 new students for the 2018 – 2019 school year, ranging from Pre-3s up to 6th grade! These families are so excited to be part of this wonderful community!

Would you or someone you know like more information in this amazing parish school? We are currently offering tours, setting up Shadow Opportunities for all grade levels, and meeting with families interested in learning more about this amazing educational foundation!

The 3D Printer is up and going! Staff and students LOVE this amazing opportunity to advance our technology curriculum and help our students stay on track to those future job opportunities! Would you like to see all the AMAZING things happening at your parish school? We hope you are following us @StPascals Facebook page!

Do you want to know more about Admissions, Enrollment and/or Financial Aid? Go to the school’s website at www.stpascalschool.org for all the information you will need.

St. Pascal’s Social Justice and Caring Committee: We Care Campaign
On the weekend of March 3 - 4, St. Pascal’s parish will gather the loose change and bills from the collection and donate them to the Social Justice and Caring Committee’s We Care Campaign. The three options chosen by the committee for its winter project are:

**Option 1: Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. Wildfire Relief Efforts:** These funds go to provide support to those who have been affected by the wildfires in Southern California.

**Option 2: St. Pascal Baylon Family Emergency Fund:** These funds are used to assist people from our own parish who find themselves faced with a short-term financial crisis.

**Option 3: St. Thomas More Sanctuary Church Ministry:** St. Thomas More is a church located in St. Paul that ministers to unauthorized immigrants facing deportation by providing them housing in its parish center.

We encourage you to make a personal contribution as well. Any unmarked contributions will be divided equally among the three options. Thank you for your generosity.

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**How to Read the Bible as a Catholic with Deacon Richard Moore**
*Monday, March 5 in Brioschi Hall*
10:00 AM – 12 Noon AND from 7:00-9:00 PM
Two convenient times—Choose the time that works for you!

Catholics of the world were encouraged by the bishops at Vatican II to read the Bible. So how do we go about reading the Bible? What Bible should I get? Is the Bible myth or history? What books are in the Bible? Old Testament, New Testament? Why are there more books in a Catholic Bible? We will explore these questions and more along with methods the Catholic Church uses to understand and interpret the Holy Word of God.

**Celebration of a Jewish Seder with Rabbi Barry Cytron**
*Monday, March 26 from 7:00-9:00 PM Brioschi Hall*
Please join us for a celebration of the Seder service, as we explore the traditional Jewish ritual meal for Passover. Fr. Byron’s colleague from their days at St. Paul Seminary, Rabbi Cytron, returns to St. Pascal’s to lead us through this beautiful time of the calendar.

**Reservations are required by March 21!**
Call the parish office at 774.1585 or go to www.stpascals.org/parish-news. Child care (10 and younger) available with reservation.

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**Men’s Club Lenten Fish Fry—Fridays of Lent from February 16 – March 23**
*4:30 to 7:00 PM in Brioschi Hall! (Please use the Flandreau St. entrance)*
The “All-You-Can-Eat” menu offers fried or baked cod, coleslaw, steamed mixed vegetables, macaroni and cheese, au gratin potatoes or seasoned fries, rolls and butter, coffee, water, and chocolate or vanilla pudding. Milk, bottled water and assorted pop extra. Raffle and baked goods sale. 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 our school Physical Education program and extracurricular sports activities, plus other parish/school needs.
Mass Times & Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 27</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Noe &amp; Annette Bibeau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 28</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Rosita O'Connell</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 01</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>The People of the Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 02</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Men's Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, March 03</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Larry Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 04</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>Harold Kirchoff</td>
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Heart Questions

The Assurance of Faith

Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

Mark 9:5

Adults: How deeply do you believe that since God is for you, no one can destroy you?

Kids: What would you like to ask God to do for you and your family?

Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 25</td>
<td>Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18, Ps 116:10, 15-19, Rom 8:31b-34, Mk 9:2-10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dn 9:4b-10, Ps 79:8-9, 11-13, Lk 6:36-38</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Is 1:10, 16-20, Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23, Mt 23:1-12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jer 18:18-20, Ps 31:5-6, 14-16, Mt 20:17-28</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jer 17:5-10, Ps 1:1-4, 6, Lk 16:19-31</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a, Ps 105:16-21, Mt 21:33-43, 45-46</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mi 7:14-15, 18-20, Ps 103:1-4, 9-12, Lk 15:1-3, 11-32</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ex 20:1-17, Ps 19:8-11, 1 Cor 1:22-25, Jn 2:13-25</td>
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The Week Ahead

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

Sunday, February 25—2nd Sunday of Lent

After Masses: New Member Registration: BH
12:00pm Confirmation I: OC

Monday, February 26

9:30am Conscious Dance: OC
5:30pm CSCOE Latino Initiative meeting: FR
7:00pm Boy Scouts 294: 108, CF
7:00pm Conway Rec Center: Gym

Tuesday, February 27

8:15am Bible Study: PC
7:00pm Bible Study: PC
7:00pm Parish Reconciliation: CH
7:00pm Conway Rec Center: Gym

Wednesday, February 28

9:00am CSCOE Meeting: FR
9:00am Rosary
9:30am School Mass—All are welcome!
6:00pm Family Movie Night: The Plaza Theater
6:30pm Faith Formation: LB, OC, 101, 105
7:00pm Choir: CR
7:00pm Conway Rec Center: Gym

Thursday, March 1

9:30am Bible Study: PC
9:30am Conscious Dance: OC
7:00pm Men’s Club Board Meeting: CF
7:00pm SJCC: FR
7:00pm H-M Volleyball: Gym

Friday, March 2

4:30pm Fish Fry & Bake Sale: BH & Kit
4:30pm SJCC Brittany’s Place Collection: CM
7:00pm Stations of the Cross: CH

Saturday, March 4—SJCC We Care Campaign

No scheduled events

Sunday, March 4—3rd Sunday of Lent

SJCC We Care Campaign
12:00pm Federation of Music Clubs/SPPTA: CH
12:00pm Confirmation I: OC

Meeting Location Key:

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

Stewardship of Treasure

Financial Gifts – July-December, 2017
For fiscal year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish (July - December)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Income</td>
<td>$ 797,039.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Expenses</td>
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<td>(Parish expenses do not include school support)</td>
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<tr>
<td>School (July-December)</td>
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<td>School Income (YTD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Support (YTD)</td>
<td>$ 77,582.13</td>
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</table>

Thank you so much for your continued support. Questions? Please let me know.

—Theresa Ruttger, Parish Administrator

EASTER FLOWERS

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

I would like to purchase an Easter plant in (circle one)

Honor of / Memory of:

___________________________________________

Donated by:

__________________________________________

Please make checks payable to St. Pascal's.

Meeting Location Key:

BH: Brioschi Hall, CF: Cafeteria, CH: Church, CM: Commons, CR: Choir Room, FR: Founders Room, LB: Library, OC: Old Church, PC: Parish Conference Room
Today’s Readings: Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13; 15–18; Psalm 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19; Romans 8:31b–34; Mark 9:2–10. Each time you hear the First Reading you may wonder how God could ask Abraham to sacrifice his son. The passage, though, highlights Abraham’s unwavering devotion to God. As our father in faith, Abraham teaches us to listen carefully to God. He also teaches us to remain faithful to the covenant. We know from the reading that God promised to bless Abraham and his descendants for generations because of this witness of faith. Can you think of a time God asked you to sacrifice something dear to you? How did you respond?

In examining the Gospel, God’s promise becomes more evident. We are the heirs to this great promise. At the Transfiguration, God reveals his beloved Son to Peter, James, and John. They have known Jesus, but now they have seen him in his full glory. This moment prefigured all that will come about in the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus. Once and for all, God revealed in Jesus the depth of his love. God’s sacrifice of his Son shows how much God loves us. God has kept his promise and now we, the heirs of this great mystery, are invited to share it with all people.

In these early days of Lent, take time to sit quietly and listen to God. In a journal, write or draw what you hear and rest in the dazzling presence of God whose love knows no end.

Transformed Hearts

God of unimaginable blessings, who tested Abraham’s faith, help us to surrender all that is self-seeking. Filled with compassion, you revealed your love for us in the Paschal Mystery of your beloved Son, Jesus. Grant us, during this Lenten journey, transformed hearts that shine with the light of your glory; enlighten your people so we may be attentive to the sound of your voice. Keep us ever mindful of your presence and of the countless gifts you have bestowed upon us so that on that final day, we may be called your beloved children. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Listen
THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 26
Forgiveness
“Lord, do not deal with us according to our sins,” is the refrain for today’s Psalm. This refrain is a fitting response to the First Reading in which Daniel calls out his people’s sin. He also reminds us that God is compassionate and forgiving. Sin separates us from God, but when we seek pardon with contrite hearts, God hears us and embraces us. We are then called to imitate God and forgive one another. How might you practice forgiveness? Today, meditate on the Act of Contrition. Today’s Readings: Daniel 9:4b–10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11 and 13; Luke 6:36–38.

Tuesday, February 27
Hear and Listen
The prophet Isaiah passionately calls upon the people to “hear” and to “listen” to God. Isaiah also calls to us in this Lenten season to open our hearts to God’s love. Listen! Hear! God is calling you away from our misdeeds and urging you to work for justice. God’s promise is that the stain upon our hearts will be washed clean and become as white as snow. Place yourself in the First Reading and the Gospel as you pray today. What do you hear? Today’s Readings: Isaiah 1:10, 16–20; Psalm 50:8–9, 16bc–17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1–12.

Wednesday, February 28
Save Me
Strong emotion is evident in today’s Psalm. When distraught, we can look to the psalms for the words to give voice to our feelings. Other psalms help us sing of our love for God. No matter how we feel at the moment, the psalms can help us realize God’s love for us and surrender ourselves to him. This evening, pray today’s Psalm. Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 18:18–20; Psalm 31:5–6, 14, 15–16; Matthew 20:17–28.

Thursday, March 1
What Path
The prophet Jeremiah presents us with two paths. The first is for the one who trusts in earthly things or ideas. This person will not have life. The second is the path of the one who trusts in the Lord. The one who follows the Lord will bear abundant fruit. Consider your life. What path have you chosen? Take a slow walk today and meditate upon this reading and your journey. Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19–31.

Friday, March 2
The Vineyard
Imagine yourself (and your parish) as the vineyard in today’s story. How often have you rejected or ignored God’s servants? It is difficult at times to hear the call to conversion. If you put yourself into the story, who would you be and how would you react? Ultimately, Jesus is trying to teach us that he is the one who saves and those who choose to ignore and not follow will not inherit the Kingdom. Go forth today and cultivate good conversations and share the Good News. Today’s Readings: Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a; Psalm 105:16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46.

Saturday, March 3
Loving and Forgiving
The Prodigal Son is a familiar story that invites us to contemplate our relationship with God and God’s abounding love for us. As you read this Gospel once again, identify the main movements. What does this parable teach about forgiveness? As the Psalm states, “The Lord is kind and merciful,” and each of us, united in love, is called to show compassion. Consider ways you might festively celebrate one’s return or the gift of reconciliation. Today’s Readings: Micah 7:14–15, 18–20; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32.