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.

MARCH 25, 2018 | PALM SUNDAY

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

Deacon
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Parish Administrator
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Music & Liturgy
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Parish School Principal
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Director of Development
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Welcome Desk
Sarah Mathis I ext 122
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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:
There are a great many mysteries in our Catholic faith, but none more baffling than this one: It is obligatory in law for Catholics to participate in the liturgy on New Year's Day/Feast of Mary the Mother of God, but it is not so on Holy Thursday or Good Friday, which together account for 2/3rds of the ritual observance of the most foundational core of our religious identity. There is nothing that happens in church all year that is more vital to our existence than the liturgies of the Triduum. And this is not nearly the only instance in which church law does not very well reflect what Catholics and our theological tradition actually hold to be of primary importance. Which is why behaving merely according to what the law allows or forbids is often not a very helpful means by which to negotiate our relationship with God and the church.

Sometimes religious observance can tend to be filtered through the lens of, "What do I have to do at a minimum?" Some of us will recall that this can put people at risk of silly hair-splitting questions like how late one can arrive at mass in order for it still to "count." (Answer: The proclamation of the Gospel–yes there actually was an answer provided by some of the catechisms.) Or how often one must "go to confession" in order to remain in compliance with the rules. (Answer: At least once per year, normally during Lent, provided one is not conscious of grave sin. This is your "Easter duty." ) Just consider a concept like that: Easter duty! This is what some of us had boiled down the quest for God to.

To be in intimate communion with God is not best thought about as a "duty," nor is it most helpful to put a time clock or a calendar on when it "counts" to be in meaningful solidarity with a faith community at worship. These are, in the first instance, relationships and not contractual obligations. There are, of course, legitimate expectations that accompany a person's decision to engage in the search for God together in the church, but these are not simply tasks to be ticked off a to-do list. Love isn't like that. The sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders are perfect illustrations of that. All of us have met couples who are conformed in every legal, sacramental way to the rules of the Catholic church but whose relationship is pretty short on real love. (This, by the way, is what makes the whole topic of annulments so contentious among church people.) And many of us have met perfectly validly ordained people whose personal life witness does not look very much like what we'd expect from a person dedicated to charity and generosity. All this is why we aren't well served by reducing the notion of religious commitment to a catalogue of external rules of behavior.

To get back to the mystery of obligatory church attendance, all this is simply to say that regardless of what the official rules dictate the liturgies of the coming week ought to be of the highest priority. Missing out on Triduum worship is a big deal if we are serious about growing in a faith that is specifically Catholic. And the rites themselves are powerfully moving if we are there to open ourselves to them. So please do make the effort to be among your fellow parishioners and guests as we enter in to this very Holy Week. May the rhythms of the liturgical worship lead us into ever deeper communion with the God whom we seek to know and serve.

Fr. Mike Byron

The Church of Saint Pascal Baylon   l   1757 Conway Street   l   Saint Paul, Minnesota   55106

Dear Friends:

The Future of Healthcare, Catholic Contributions to the National Debate
A lecture with Sr. Carol Keehan, DC, president of the Catholic Health Association
Thursday, April 5 at 7:00 PM at the University of St. Thomas, James B. Woulfe Hall in the Anderson Student Center
The lecture includes a question and answer period and is followed by a reception. Free and open to the public.

CRS Operation Rice Bowl
Palm Sunday: Encounter Our Neighbors
We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community he knew well. We prayerfully enter in to this very Holy Week. May the rhythms of the liturgical worship lead us together a new beginning on the “auld sod.”
Fellowship with the authors will be at 6:30 PM followed by the author-led book discussion from 7:00-8:00 PM. To RSVP please place bowls in the basket and they will be cared for.

Women’s Book Club—Special Event
Monday, April 9 at 6:30 PM in Brioschi Hall
Have you ever thought about coming to the St. Pascal’s Women’s Book Club? You won’t want to miss it this month!
C.K. MacDonald is the pen name for the mother-daughter writing team of Cecelia MacDonald and Kathryn Scheeman of Mendota Heights. They will discuss Running the Cobblestones, their first novel. Set in Ireland, the story celebrates the importance of steadfast neighbors as Kate McMahon, a disgraced American widow, cobbles together a new beginning on the “auld sod.” Fellowship with the authors will be at 6:30 PM followed by the author-led book discussion from 7:00-8:00 PM. To RSVP please call the parish office at 774.1585 or email teresavoelker@gmail.com.
(Next month, May 14. we’ll share thoughts about The Secret Garden by Frances Hodson Burnett.)

Leadership Nomination Process
Nominations are open until April 17
Please take time to consider prayerfully those you feel possess the gifts to serve as leaders in our parish, including yourself. Nomination forms will be in the pews through April 15. Return your completed nomination form in the collection basket. You can also drop it by the parish office or e-mail your nomination to church@stpascals.org with LEADERSHIP NOMINATION in the subject line. For more information, please call Ann Karner, Parish Council Chairperson, at 651.330.0024.

Bloodmobile—Brioschi Hall
Monday, April 16, from 1:00 - 7:00 PM in
Please call Margaret at 735.4701 for an appointment time. Walk-ins welcome.
Virtus Training Session for all NEW Volunteers Working with Children
Saturday, April 7 from 9:00 AM—Noon in Brioschi Hall (Childcare will be provided)
Are you planning to volunteer with children/youth in the parish or school? The Archdiocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Youth (OPCY) requires that all adults working with children and youth fulfill the Essential 3 requirements (for new volunteers) or the Enhanced Essential 3 (for those who completed Essential 3 prior to July 1, 2015).

All NEW volunteers working with children are required to complete the following:
• VIRTUS Safe Environment Training—Live Session AND Mandated Reporting Training (online). If you need to attend a live VIRTUS training session, one will be held at St. Pascal’s on Saturday, April 7. You can register to attend this session by going to www.virtusonline.org. NOTE: You can also choose a location/date of your convenience for live session, but be sure to indicate that St. Pascal’s is your primary volunteer location.
• Background Check (complete online)
• View Code of Conduct Training and sign the Code of Conduct (complete online)

For more information or assistance contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

All CURRENT volunteers need to be credentialed every three years. If you need to check on your status, contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

Friends & Family Event: Join us for a Magical Evening!
Saturday, April 21 at 5:30 PM in Brioschi Hall
Tickets will be on sale after all Masses April 7–8 and April 14-15 and will be available in the parish office from April 9-16 at $30 per person. The evening includes a catered dinner, magic show by Matt Dunn, bar, lots of games, raffles, a dessert auction, and sale of parish mixer events. These parish mixer events include a Texas Hold’em tournament, Mystery dinner, ethnic dinners, game nights and much more! Questions: Contact Mike Aeling at 307.8237

Friends & Family Raffle—Even more ways to have fun!
1) Six amazing baskets: TV, Cash, Xbox, Meat gift box and more. Tickets are just $1.00 per chance.
2) A chance to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Twins game on August 6. Even if you are not a big baseball fan, how about buying a ticket for your favorite slugger? The tickets are just $10 a chance for the thrill of a lifetime.

You do not need to be present at the dinner to win any of the raffle prizes.

Magical Desserts Needed – We are looking for donations of delightful desserts!
Please consider providing a dessert for the Friends & Family Event (homemade or purchased from your favorite bakery, enough to serve 8-10 people) to be live-auctioned before dinner. If interested, please contact Susan Hommes at 738.1610 or shommes@umn.edu.

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East Metro Catholic Young Adults
Serve-Connect-Socialize on Friday, April 13
6:00-7:30 PM: Join other young adults from the East Metro in a packing shift at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan (990 Lone Oak Road).
7:30 PM: Gather to socialize at Applebee’s (1335 Town Centre Drive in Eagan).

Sign up to join us at www.fmstarvingchildren.org. Under volunteer reservations, click “join a group” and put in East Metro Young Adults as the group you wish to join. For more information, contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

Save The Date! Vacation Bible School
Shipwrecked—Rescued by Jesus
June 25-29 from 9:00 AM-12 Noon
Registration materials will be available beginning April 1. Help is needed in all areas! Contact Kim in the parish office.

Marian Center Dessert & Social Hour
Wednesday, April 4 at 1:30 PM
Mass is celebrated daily at 1:00 PM
Join St. Pascal friends for dessert every first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM on the first floor across from the Snack Shop. Come and enjoy some time with some of your parish friends and bring your light and love to share with them. Please invite anyone who might be interested in seeing folk from St. Pascal’s. The Marian Center is located at 200 Earl Street (between Burns Ave. and Thorn St.). See you there!

Parish Contact Information
Parish Office 651.774.1585
Fax 651.774.9152
Email church@stpascals.org
After hours emergency number (for death, dying or anointing of the sick 651.280.9239

Parish Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:00 - 4:00 PM
Holidays as announced

School Contact Information
School Office 651.776.0092
Fax 651.774.9152
Email: laurie.jennrich@stpascals.org

School Office Hours
September-June
Mon - Fri 8:00 - 4:00 PM

Parish Councils
Parish Pastoral Council
Ann Karner, Chair
Meetings - 1ST Tuesday at 6:30 PM

Parish Finance Council
Cindy Reisdorf, 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

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday
Mk 11:1-10
Ps 22:8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24
Phil 2:6-11
Mk 14:1-15:47

Monday
Is 42:1-7
Ps 69:8-10, 21bcd-22, 31, 33-34
Mt 26:14-25

Tuesday
Is 49:1-6
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16c, 17-18
1 Cor 11:23-26
Jn 13:1-15

Wednesday: Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14
Ps 30:2-6, 12-13, 15-17, 25
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Jn 18:1-19:42

Spirituality of Gardening: Finding the Sacred in the Ordinary

Monday, April 9, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Benedictine Center in Maplewood
The $50 cost includes lunch.

Dr. Cathy Scherer Stubbs, who served as a pastoral minister at St. Pascal's, is offering a unique retreat to gardeners and anyone else who loves to make things grow.

Through discussion, reflection, prayer, music and a chance to explore the many ways God speaks to us in a garden, participants will come to understand that every ordinary act is sacred—even planting seeds and pulling weeds.

For more information or to register: www.benedictinecenter.org or call 777.7251.

“God Almighty first planted a garden.”
Frances Bacon, 1561 - 1626

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.
Today’s Readings: Mark 11:1–10 or John 12:12–16; Isaiah 50:4–7; Psalm 22:8–9, 17–20, 23–24; Philippians 2:6–11; Mark 14:1—15:47. As we begin the holiest week of the liturgical year, the liturgy is filled with emotion. During the past five weeks, the Church has taken time to ponder God’s mercy. At the same time, each of us has confronted our sin to prepare our hearts for the fullness of life promised by the Paschal Mystery of Christ. At the procession the Gospel is filled with excitement as Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem. Is this a foreshadowing of the triumph of the Resurrection? Imagine the crowds that might have gathered and spread their cloaks as Jesus entered the city. At Mass, after the Preface, we still sing “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” At every liturgy, Christ, who reigns in glory, is present and nourishes us so we should sing Hosanna.

As the liturgy progresses, the mood changes and we hear the passage of the Suffering Servant and the anguish in Psalm 22, which both prepare us to hear the story of the Passion. When have you prayed the words of Psalm 22? When all of these readings are proclaimed together, we learn that Christ is the servant who suffered and died for our sins. Even though the Passion narrative is filled with sorrow, Mark’s Gospel account presents us with a strong confirmation that Jesus is the Messiah. As we draw closer to Easter, take time to pray with the Passion, praying for all who suffer that they may rise with Christ.

Worthy Vessels

Eternal and glorious God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to redeem us. Bring your Holy Spirit upon each of us and like the anointing at Bethany, may your Spirit anoint us with your love and make us worthy vessels ready to pour out your gift of mercy. Give us generous hearts so that, transformed by Jesus’ Passion and renewed in his Resurrection, our lives may become signs of your generosity, love, and peace. Grant us, O Lord, the courage to embrace the cross, which calls us to put aside our desires and witness to the victory over sin and death.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Monday, March 26

Chosen One

In the First Reading, we hear part of the Servant Song. God’s chosen one will bring justice to the nations. He is not a warrior, but will restore sight to the blind and free captives. The Gospel tells the story of Jesus’ anointing that foreshadows his burial. The message at the start of this week is that Jesus is the chosen one who frees us from sin and unites us as one family. What gift might you present or give to the poor and dying? Today’s Readings: Isaiah 42:1–7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13–14; John 12:1–11.

Tuesday, March 27

Betrayal

As today’s Gospel unfolds, it is revealed that Judas will betray Jesus. Throughout the passage, Jesus seems to be clear about what he will endure in the coming days, but the disciples seem clueless. How do you think you would have accompanied Jesus during his passion and death? Have you ever betrayed Jesus? Disconnect from social media for the remainder of the week and focus on prayer and listening. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 71:1–2, 3–4a, 5ab–6ab, 15 and 17; John 13:21–33, 36–38.

Wednesday, March 28

Spy Wednesday

Today is known traditionally as Spy Wednesday because the Gospel narrates Judas’ act of betrayal. Like Judas, we have seen and heard the Good News, but yet we also at times give in to the temptations of money, power, or authority. This Lenten season invited us to recall those times we have betrayed Jesus, to repent, and to open our hearts to be transformed in love. Make time to journal about your Lenten experience. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 69:8–10, 21–22, 31 and 33–34; Matthew 26:14–25.

Thursday, March 29

Holy Thursday

This evening, parishes throughout the world gather to celebrate the beginning of the Sacred Triduum with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. These three days, the holiest of the liturgical year, invite us to lay aside distractions and experience the Paschal Mystery. Be nourished by the Eucharist and stay to keep vigil with the Lord. Today’s Readings: Chrism Mass Isaiah 61:1–3a, 6a, 8b–9; Psalm 89:21–22, 25 and 27; Revelation 1:5–8; Luke 4:16–21. Mass of the Lord’s Supper Exodus 12:1–8, 11–14; Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16bc, 17–18; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; John 13:1–15.

Friday, March 30

Good Friday

We enter the church today in silence to meditate on Jesus’ death and what it means for our life. Pay close attention to the Gospel, the Adoration of the Cross, and the Solemn Intercessions. Give yourself over to the prayer of the liturgy and listen to God’s invitation. What do you hear? Today’s Readings: Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12–13, 15–16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9; John 18:1—19:42.

Saturday, March 31

Easter Vigil

In the stillness of the night, the Church gathers to share her story of salvation and to proclaim the Good News of Christ’s Resurrection. Listen for the many images in the Exsultet so that you may ponder them later. Today’s Readings: Genesis 1:1—2:2; Psalm 104:1–2, 5–6, 10, 12, 13–14, 24, 35 or Psalm 33:4–5, 6–7, 12–13, 20–22; Genesis 22:1–18; Psalm 16:5, 8, 9–10, 11; Exodus 14:15—15:1; Exodus 15:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 17–18; Isaiah 54:5–14; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13; Isaiah 55:1–11; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Baruch 3:9–15, 32—4:4; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ezekiel 36:16–17a, 18–28; Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6 or Psalm 51:12–13, 14–15, 18–19; Romans 6:3–11; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Mark 16:1–7.