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 or looking for a parish home, 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 in Brioschi Hall after Mass for hospitality and to find out more.

MAY 13, 2018 | THE ASCENSION

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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:

For many years I have been engaged in an email exchange with a young man who was a kid in the Catholic high school where I taught 25 years ago. I presided over his wedding and have been friends of his family for a long time. He's very bright, thoughtful, and enjoys mixing up conversations about religion and theology with me. Although he was raised very Catholic—including twelve years of Catholic schools—I'd say that he locates himself today somewhere near the fringe of the church now. He's the father of two very little girls who are both baptized Catholics, but he is part of that generation that really struggles to stay close to the institution any more. He wrote me recently from his home in Florida to probe the commandment of Jesus about loving one's enemies. He's being bullied by superiors in the place where he works and is uncertain about how best to react. When I wrote back to him I remarked that, as far as I am aware, he hasn't been really much of a self-identified Catholic for quite a while, and so why he is so interested in a biblical teaching of Jesus about how to organize one's life? His response was wonderful...

He began by quoting the actor John Mahoney (who, among other roles, played the part of the father on the TV series "Frasier."). It was from a movie in which Mahoney was criticizing his son's taking of the Lord's name in vain. The son replied, "But Dad, you don't even believe in God!" and he responded, "Yeah, well that doesn't mean that you still can't be a good Catholic!" Which was, of course, both ridiculous and wonderful. The point was, as my young friend went on to say, that once you get that "Catholic thing" into your guts it's really hard to get rid of it. He described himself as being "from Catholic." No matter how near or far he ends up being from the institutional apparatus that is our church, he will always be looking at the world through a Catholic set of lenses, and he is very content with that. So am I.

When I was teaching theology to seminarians studying for Catholic priesthood it was not uncommon for students to come from Protestant backgrounds, or from no particular religious affiliation at all. Some of them arrived at the seminary after having experienced extraordinary religious conversion experiences. Good for them. What always used to strike me was how they truly believed that they had left their Protestant/Evangelical/Atheistic backgrounds behind them when they decided to become priests. That wasn't true, because that's impossible. If they couldn't see it, it was owing to their blindness. Even today some of them fashion themselves as uber-Catholic, as compared with those of us schlubs who have been doing the Catholic thing all our lives. The point here is that "Catholic" is not just a set of doctrines; it's a way of looking out over the world and the human condition with a particular kind of vision. My young email correspondent gets it that loving one's enemies is part and parcel of what it means to be human, and that's not because he goes to church every week. It's because he's "from Catholic" and can't ever consider anything else. He's a Catholic in spite of himself, and at least he's honest enough to admit it.

Those of us who immerse ourselves in the life cycle of the Catholic tradition day-by-day, year-by-year acquire a certain manner of seeing the world, and of holding certain values to be absolute. Whether we are excited about engaging the institution or not, we can't be other than "from Catholic." I'm glad for that.

Fr. Mike Byron

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Easter Vigil Candle Cups
Can you help clean the candle cups used during our beautiful Easter Vigil? This is a simple but very helpful ministry you can do in your home. Instructions are provided. Call Sharon Balcom in the parish office if you can help or stop by the parish office and pick up a bag of cups.

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. If you have questions or want more information you may call Joann at 735.2762, or e-mail at joann bertini@gmail.com.

Women's Book Club
Monday, May 14 at 7:00 PM in Brioschi Hall
Please note this month's room change.
Have you ever thought about coming to the St. Pascal's Women's Book Club? We meet at St. Pascal in the Founders Room (usually) at 7:00 PM on the second Monday of each month. You can come as often as your schedule allows. On May 14 we will discuss The Secret Garden by Frances Hodson Burnett and on June 11 we'll share our thoughts about Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George.

MCCL “Thanks Mom for Life”
Mother's Day Flower Sale
A great way to honor your mother and Life on Mother's Day is to buy an orchid corsage, African violet, or Birthright long stemmed rose.

- Orchid Corsage $8.00 each
- African Violet $7.00 each
- Birthright Rose $5.00 each

Proceeds of the sale will go to Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, and crisis pregnancy centers Birthright and Options for Women East.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

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In Christ We Live Forever

Please remember in your prayers...

James Holupchinski
and
Joan E. Fischer

who were recently buried from our church.
We extend our sincere sympathy to their family and friends, and pray for their souls’ eternal peace.
NEW! Parent Aware Rating
St. Pascal's Early Childhood Learning Center is excited to announce that we've earned our Four-Star Parent Aware Rating! This Parent Aware Rating means we're using school readiness best practices to make sure the kids we care for are prepared for kindergarten.

St. Pascal preschool children can use Parent Aware Learning Scholarships. All programs with a Parent Aware Rating or in a current Cohort to earn a One, Two, Three or Four-Star Rating through the Full-Rating Pathway are eligible to receive Early Learning Scholarships. Different amounts are awarded based on the following:

- Programs with a Four-Star Rating receive up to $7,500 per child.
- Scholarships are administered by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Visit the MDE website or email MDE.ELS@state.mn.us for more information.
- Higher Child Care Assistance Program Rates (CCAP).
- A Four-Star Rated program receives the highest rates for demonstrating quality, up to 20% above the standard maximum.
- Programs are eligible for the higher rates within 30 days after their Parent Aware Rating Certificate is issued. The Minnesota Department of Human Services will update your MEC² profile if you are eligible for the higher rates.

Fund-A-Need Update
Last week's bulletin said that our Fund-A-Need raised $99,999. What good fortune! What a great windfall! Unfortunately, this number was a “place setter” and the real number did not replace it.

So, I think an explanation is in order.

You may have noticed a lag time in financial reports. Our bank statements are ready the first week of the month. Lavena, our bookkeeper is in the office on Tuesdays. Depending on timing, she is able to start the process on our five bank accounts either the first or second week of the month. Our policy is to publish only reconciled numbers.

So, we will have the “real” Friends and Family numbers next week. We know that the event has cleared at least $27,000 with more $1 coming in. Added to the funds already raised with anonymous donations and the generosity from the Men’s and Women’s Clubs, we are blessed with being able to provide a new PreK playground for students next fall.

Watch for April financials for the parish next week.

—Theresa Ruttger

Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion.

—Pope Francis, Laudato Si

Fall Festival is Back! Sunday, September 23 from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM
The 2018 St. Pascal’s Fall Festival will include a spaghetti dinner, craft fair, pie room, children’s games, other food and drink items and more.

Also, we are looking for someone who would be willing to serve as a co-chair for the Festival. If you or someone you know would be willing to help out with this, please contact the Festival chair, Mike Kelleher, at mike.kelleher@stpascals.org.

Young at Heart Mass and Luncheon—Thursday, May 24 at 11:00 AM
Our next meeting will begin with Father Mike celebrating the Eucharist with us. Our meal will be chicken marsala catered by Magnolia’s for which we will ask $10.00 donation payable on the day of the meeting. We will welcome spring with Monroe Wright III performing the greatest hits of the Mills Brothers, Sinatra, Bennett, and many more. We look forward to seeing you! Please RSVP by Monday, May 21 to Betty Hensel at 714.8958 or bjhen@ q.com or to Barb Kendle at 738.3799 . You and your friends are most welcome!

Senior Plant Bingo—Saturday, May 19 at 1:00 PM in Brioschi Hall
Bingo winners will have the opportunity to select a beautiful potted plant and all will have a chance to win a large flowered basket in the final Cover-All game. Admission is FREE and refreshments will be served during intermission.
Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 16 by calling Betty Hensel at 714.8958.
Mass Times & Intentions

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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 15</td>
<td>07:30 AM</td>
<td>+ Ellen Cunat</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 16</td>
<td>09:30 AM</td>
<td>+ Kurt Schmeck</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 17</td>
<td>07:30 AM</td>
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<td>Friday, May 18</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 19</td>
<td>04:30 PM</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 20</td>
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<td>10:30 AM</td>
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Readings

Sunday:
The Ascension
Acts 1:1-11
Ps 47:2-3, 6-9
Eph 1:17-23
Mk 16:15-20

Monday:
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
Ps 113:1-8
Jn 15:9-17

Tuesday:
Acts 20:17-27
Ps 68:10-11, 20-21
Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday:
Acts 20:28-38
Ps 68:29-30, 33-36b
Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday:
The Feast of St. Pascal
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
Jn 17:20-26

Friday:
Acts 25:13b-21
Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b
Jn 21:15-19

Saturday:
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
Ps 11:4, 5, 7
Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday:
Pentecost
Acts 2:1-11
Ps 104:1ab, 24ac, 29bc-30, 31, 34
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
Jn 20:19-23

Heart Questions
Ascension of the Lord
The Gift of Wisdom
[That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him.] Ephesians 1:17

Adults: Who in your family has the gift of wisdom? How does he or she use this gift?
Kids: Who is the wisest person you know? What has he or she taught you?

Help in Our Community
Listening House
St. Pascal’s supports the Eastside-Listening House dubbed “the living room of the homeless” by donating socks, underwear & coffee cups. Please place these items in the marked boxes in the donation closet. This is an ongoing ministry of the Women’s Club—thank you for your generous support.

Merrick Community Food Shelf
607 pounds of non-perishable goods was recently delivered to the food shelf. Your generous donations of high-quality foods enables Merrick’s Food Shelf to connect families and individuals with goods and community resources to help eliminate the long-term causes of hunger. God bless you!

Emergency Food Help
Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM
Progressive Baptist Church, 1505 Burns Ave
If you or neighbors you know are in need of emergency food items, all are welcome to visit the food shelf for a variety of nutritious items. No residency or parish membership requirements.

Volunteer for Meals on Wheels
Help keep seniors independent in their own homes! Deliver meals once a week or once a month, on your own timeline, on your own or with a friend! Delivery usually takes less than an hour (you must provide your own car). This is a GREAT activity for families during the summer! Please contact Erin Carroll, Senior Services Program Manager, Merrick Community Services, at ecarroll@merrickcs.org or 287.2092 if interested or for more information.

Free Subscriptions to The Catholic Spirit
If you would like to receive a complimentary subscription to the archdiocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, delivered to your home twice a month, please fill out the form below and return it to the parish office or drop in the collection basket at Mass. Or contact Marla in the parish office at 774.1585.

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You must be a registered parishioner of St. Pascal’s to receive this offer.
In the First Reading, before ascending into heaven, Jesus promises the Advocate to his disciples. Even now, it is the Holy Spirit working within us so that we may live a holy life and proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth. The Spirit rouses us from our slumber and stirs joy in our hearts; the Spirit urges us to share the Good News. When have you felt roused by the Holy Spirit? How did you respond?

In Baptism, we truly were given a great mission. As the Gospel says, it is a mission to proclaim salvation to every creature. For this mission, we need to rely on the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit, which strengthen us for our witness to God’s love. Each member of the Church has a set of gifts that, when united to the whole Body of Christ, assists the Church in building up the Kingdom. If we truly believe that Jesus is the Christ, then it makes good sense that we, God’s chosen people, would shout with joy and clap our hands as our hearts burst with the greatest mystery to come to earth. In reflecting on Christ’s reign in heaven, think about ways you might help others see God’s glory and might. This week reflect on your gifts and talents and on how they can help in spreading the Good News.
**THIS WEEK AT HOME**

**Monday, May 14**

**St. Matthias**
The First Reading tells the story of how Matthias joined the ranks of the Twelve. In the days following the Ascension, the Apostles decided to fill the place Judas had taken. Like Matthias, each of us has been chosen by the Holy Spirit to be followers of Christ. We are counted among the saints who make known God’s salvation. Have you ever taken time to consider your role as a disciple? *Today’s Readings: Acts 1:15–17, 20–26; Psalm 113:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; John 15:9–17.*

**Tuesday, May 15**

**Glorify the Lord**
Today’s Gospel is part of a long prayer Jesus makes to the Father. Jesus is aware that the time has come for him to be glorified. Throughout his ministry, he has been preparing the disciples to know and understand that he is the one who saves. To have eternal life, we must come to know the living God. In Baptism, we were united to the living God and through our work we give him glory. In your prayer today, ponder what it means to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. *Today’s Readings: Acts 20:17–27; Psalm 68:10–11, 20–21; John 17:1–11a.*

**Wednesday, May 16**

**Teaching**
Paul preaches to the presbyters of Ephesus in the First Reading. He tells them to be vigilant when he leaves because false teachers will surely pervert the Gospel message. Even today, we have false prophets among us and we must be vigilant that the Gospel is heard. Sometimes we might be the false teacher and so we too must be careful not to lead others astray. How have you shepherded another’s faith? *Today’s Readings: Acts 20:28–38; Psalm 68:29–30, 33–35a, 35bc–36ab; John 17:11b–19.*

**Thursday, May 17**

**United in Christ**
Today’s Gospel continues Jesus’ long prayer in chapter 17 of John’s account. When read completely through, the reader gets a sense of how much Jesus cares for his people. He truly longs for the day when all will know him and be united to the Father. As you think about this Easter season, how have you grown in relationship with Christ? Like Paul, we must take courage as we bear witness within our families and communities. *Today’s Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; John 17:20–26.*

**Friday, May 18**

**Feed My Lambs**
In the Gospel, Jesus questions Peter three times about how much he loves him. Peter responds affirmatively and assures Jesus of his love. Like Peter, we are called to nourish God’s flock. Each of us has been given gifts and talents that will help with this mission. What gifts do you bring to assist in “feeding the lambs”? Imagine yourself in Peter’s place. How would you engage Jesus? *Today’s Readings: Acts 25:13b–21; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20ab; John 21:15–19.*

**Saturday, May 19**

**So Much**
“There are also many other things that Jesus did.” This line from the end of today’s Gospel is telling. It relates that there is much about Jesus’ life and ministry that we do not know. It also notes that the story of salvation is still unfolding. Let us rejoice in God’s awesome gifts. Write about or draw a story of your encounter with Christ. *Today’s Readings: Acts 28:16–20, 30–31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20–25.*