DECEMBER 16, 2018 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.
FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK:

Announcement about St. Pascal Baylon Catholic School. On December 3, I shared the following information with St. Pascal School parents, the Parish Council, Finance Council, Parish Trustees, School Staff and Parish Staff:

1. St. Pascal Baylon Catholic School will be open next year (2019-20), and we will remain a Catholic school. We are making plans to launch student registration in December for the 2019-20 school year.

2. We have considered the option of having a value-based public charter school in our school building, but our main goal now is to be an independent Catholic school, and we are no longer actively pursuing the option of having a charter School here. Our conversations with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis give us confidence that having a Catholic school here is the direction on which we want to put our full attention. The Archdiocese has asked us to put our energy into our Catholic school and not consider other options.

3. Last month, the St. Pascal School Board received permission from the Archdiocese to transition St. Pascal's School into an independent Catholic school. We will be modifying the Rules of Governance of St. Pascal's School to make it legally independent with its own 501c(3) tax exempt status.

4. Throughout our school's history, we have been a “parish school” with St. Pascal's parish subsidizing all the school expenses for operations that have not been covered by tuition and school fundraising events. This model of parish financing for our school is unsustainable. Many Catholic parish schools find themselves in a position similar to St. Pascal’s, that is, the parish no longer has the financial resources to subsidize the parish school. Over the last three years, we have replaced the parish’s subsidy of the school with investments from organizations and individuals. We believe, with the support of the Archdiocese, we will continue to gain access to additional funds outside of St. Pascal's parish. That is why the St. Pascal School Board has been working towards transitioning St. Pascal’s School to an independent Catholic school model. Becoming an independent Catholic school will remove financial pressure from St. Pascal's parish to provide a subsidy towards school operating expenses. It will also hopefully draw in more financial support from neighboring parishes, and we can market our school more regionally on the East Side of St. Paul.

5. The St. Pascal School Board will be developing a three to five-year financial plan focused on the development model for the long-term. We will also look at best practices for operating under the development model as an independent Catholic school that are already being used by other independent Catholic schools in the Archdiocese.

6. Please continue to pray for our school and our parish and the people we serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell

St. Pascal’s Legacy Society—Estate planning is the way to continue your life’s work.

Invest the time to ensure that your life’s efforts will continue toward the causes and people who will most treasure your gifts and were most treasured by you. Your attorney, with your accountant, can prepare a proper will and make other arrangements for the easy transfer of your estate. Please remember St. Pascal’s in your estate planning. If you want more information on St. Pascal’s Legacy Society, please call Theresa Ruttger at the parish office at 651.432.4960 or talk to a member of the Legacy Committee—Ellen and Mike Aeling, Susan Hommes, Joe Sullivan, and Brigid O’Malley.

Christmas Season

Holy Day Liturgy Schedule

**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**
Monday, December 24: 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM
Tuesday, December 25: 10:00 AM

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
Monday, December 31: 4:00 PM
Tuesday, January 1: 9:00 AM

2019 Friends & Family

Mark your calendar: The 16th annual St. Pascal’s Friends & Family event is Saturday, May 4, 2019. The Friends and Family event needs lots of stocking stuffers! Though May seems like a long time from now—now is the perfect time to get deals on gift cards and the Friends & Family event needs to collect many. Please keep it in mind if you see a deal for gift cards! Gift cards can be dropped in the collection basket in an envelope marked “Friends & Family”. Questions call or email Mike Aeling at 651.307.8237 or mjaeling@gmail.com.

Catch The Dream Gala for St. Mary’s Mission Update

Dear Friends,

St. Mary’s Mission would like to take this opportunity to say, “thank you”.

The “Catch the Dream” Gala has had six successful years with you, our friends, at St. Pascal’s. We will never forget how you all pulled together to come out in the snow and freezing rain to welcome us and make the first Gala a success.

It is with a sad heart that we must move our Gala this year. You helped make it so successful that we have outgrown the space at St. Pascal’s. We hope you will join us as we move over to St. Patrick’s in Edina. They have graciously opened their doors to us, as you had.

Please mark your calendars, for Thursday, April 25, 2019. We will be sending out more information after the first of the year. We will keep in touch, as we finalize the plans, and hopefully many of you will be able to join us for the 7th Annual “Catch the Dream Gala”.

Blessings,
Father Jerry, Sister Patrice and Patti Spry

St. Pascal’s Mission—Baptized in Christ

We welcome into our community of faith

**Vivian** Olive Rose
child of Nathan and Tarin

**Sophia Paramo Xiong**
child of Armando and Callie

who were recently baptized in our church.

May God bless these households of faith.
St. Pascal Baylon School has been blessed in December with celebrating in many ways. Students have been celebrating Advent in grade level projects, religious lessons and prayer.

- Student Council raised funds during Advent through “Smash for Cash” and giving back to families in need locally.
- The Santa shop afforded presents to go home to student families from donation items and time from many volunteers—THANK YOU.
- The preschool - 5th grade showcased their talents in singing and band for their annual Advent concert.
- The school hosted the Scholastic Book Fair that blessed the school with many new book donations for students to read.

Santa Shop Thanks
Thank you to the many parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, parishioners and friends who volunteered at the Santa Shop! The students were so excited to come shopping and bring home wrapped gifts for their families. We could not run this event without the help of so many people. We would love to have you back again next year; watch for the sign up next November!

What do the students get from the Santa Shop experience? Besides the fun of shopping the students are also practicing their money skills, choice-making, giving, and thinking of others before themselves. Some students do chores at home to earn their shopping money.

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Confirmation I—9th Grade Families
A reminder that registration forms for Confirmation I are due this week. Families of 9th graders should have received a mailing in November. If you have a 9th grader and did not receive the mailing, please contact Kim Roering in the parish office. Youth in 9th grade and older who wish to prepare for the sacrament are welcome to be a part of the process.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Early Learning Scholarships
The Schulze Family Foundation has created the Schulze Early Learning Scholarship Program to assist middle-income families in gaining access to excellent preschool programs for their children. The application process is now open for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Foundation firmly believes in and supports the strength of the academic experience, the caring community and the spiritual development that is provided by the Catholic elementary schools. Scholarships will be awarded ranging from $500 to $3000 and will be sent directly to the preschool to pay for tuition.

You are eligible to apply if your child:
- Will be 4 years old by September 1, 2019
- Will be attending St. Pascal’s Early Learning Center Pre-Kindergarten program in the fall of 2019-2020 AND
- Will be in their last year of preschool and attending kindergarten the following year (2020-2021)

Your family:
- Is a middle-income family
- Needs this scholarship to be able to enroll your child in St. Pascal’s Early Learning Center Pre-K program

Visit schulzefamilyfoundation.org and click on “Early Learning Scholarships” for the Schulze Early Learning Scholarship application. If you have questions, please contact Marla Friederichs at mjfriederichs@schulzefamilyfoundation.org or 952.324.8933.

It’s Not Too Late!

Men’s Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale
Now through December 23 or until sold out.
An excellent selection of Fraser fir, balsam fir, Scotch pine, and white pine will be available as well as wreaths and swags. This year get your tree at the best Christmas tree lot on the East Side!

Sale Hours
Monday through Friday from 3:00-9:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Year-End Financial Gifts
As this calendar year quickly comes to a close you may consider a special year-end financial gift to the parish in support of our many ministries and/or to support our mortgage reduction efforts. Last year, we received over 35 special year-end gifts of cash or stock. These gifts are greatly appreciated and certainly encouraged! Remember, all gifts must be received by December 31, 2018 to be considered for the 2018 tax year. Stock transfers and sales do take some time so please take that into consideration as you consider a gift to St. Pascal’s. Thank you for your generous consideration.

CONTACT US
Parish Office
Phone 651.774.1585
Fax 651.774.9152
Email church@stpascals.org

Parish Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Early Learning Center
Phone 651.505.2900
Fax 651.774.9152
Email ms Laurie.jennrich@stpascals.org

ELC Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

School Office
Phone 651.776.0092
Fax 651.774.9152
Email inna.collier@stpascals.org

School Office Hours
Mon-Fri 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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

Parish Finance Council
Meetings 4th Thursday at 6:30 PM
Cindy Reisdorff, Chair

Sacramental Information
Reconciliation
Saturday at 4:00 and by appointment
Communal celebrations as announced

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
Email notices by 3:00 PM Monday to thea.munoz@stpascals.org.

Mass Announcements
Please direct to Keri Mader at keri.mader@stpascals.org by 3:00 PM on Wednesday.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Times &amp; Intentions</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 18</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 16, 2018</strong></td>
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<td>7:30 AM + Harold &amp; Betty Kirchoff</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, December 19</strong></td>
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<td>9:30 AM + Lawrence Senger</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, December 20</strong></td>
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<td>7:30 AM + Jim Brown</td>
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<td>7:30 AM + Jim Brown</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, December 22</strong></td>
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<td>4:30 PM + Don Hensel</td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, December 23</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 AM + Clem Kachelmyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>The people of the parish</td>
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**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.

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

**REMEMBER SOMEONE IN A SPECIAL WAY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON**
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.

I would like to purchase a Christmas plant (circle one)

In Honor of / In Memory of

From:

Thank you for your generosity and care!

**THE WEEK AHEAD**
Visit us at www.stpascals.org for more information on upcoming events.

**Sunday, December 16—Advent 3**
After Masses: Women’s Club Christmas Bake Sale: BH
9:00 am Men’s Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot
6:30 pm Piano Recital: CH

**Monday, December 17-Friday, December 21**
3:00pm Men’s Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot

**Monday, December 17**
9:30 am Nia: OC
6:30 pm Advent Evening of Reflection with Abp. Hebda: BH
6:30 pm Boy Scouts 294: CF, Gym, 108

**Tuesday, December 18**
7:00 pm Spirituality Book Club: LB

**Wednesday, December 19**
8:00 am E & A Christmas Staging: FR
9:00 am Rosary: CH
9:30 am School Mass—All are welcome!
6:30 pm Choir: CR
6:30 pm RCIA: FR
6:30 pm Faith Formation: LB, OC, 101, 105

**Thursday, December 20**
No scheduled events

**Friday, December 21**
3:00pm Men’s Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot

**Monday, December 24, 2018**
Christmas Eve
Parish office closed
3:30pm Lessons & Carols Begin
4:00pm Liturgy
9:30pm Carols Begin
10:00pm Liturgy

**Tuesday, December 25—Christmas Day**
Parish office closed
9:40am Carols Begin
10:00am Liturgy

**Wednesday, December 26, 2018**
9:00am Rosary: CH
9:30am Mass (Not a School Mass)

MEETING LOCATION KEY:
BH: Brioscchi Hall, CH: Church, CR: Choir Room, FR: Founders Room, LB: Library, OC: Old Church

**Saint Agnes High School Open House**
Tuesday, January 8 at 6:30PM, 530 Lafond Avenue in Saint Paul
For 130 years, Saint Agnes School has been forming Catholic hearts and minds in the heart of Saint Paul. We invite you to join us for our Open House to learn about our challenging classical curriculum, tour our campus with $33M in student-focused facility renovations and meet our students and faculty. Please visit www.SaintAgnesSchool.org for more information.
Today’s Readings: Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:10–18. The people who gather around John the Baptist are both stung by his words and attracted by what he is saying. Their self-interest and avarice have led them to dishonest practices, but now they seem willing to leave those ways behind to welcome the Christ.

John assures them that, although he is not the Christ, another is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The anticipation is building, and we can imagine their excitement as they await his coming.

Excitement is building in the Church as we move through Advent. This Third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete,” a word that means “rejoice.” St. Paul tells us why: “the Lord is near.” We know, as John’s disciples only hoped, that the Lord has come and lived among us as one of us. That alone is cause for rejoicing. We also know that he died and was raised from the dead, and he shares his risen life with us through the Baptism promised by John. More reason to rejoice! But since God has extravagant love, there is more. Jesus has promised he will return, that there will be new heavens and a new earth, and God will be “all in all.” We wait for that day, the Parousia, rejoicing that the Lord is near.

As you light the rose-colored candle on your Advent wreath this week, recall the day when you were baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire. What words and signs help you to know that the Lord was near on that day and continues to be with you? How is your life different because of your Baptism? Are you on fire with love for God?

God of Truth

God of truth, you help us to see ourselves for who we are in our selfishness and sinfulness. We are stung and left to ask, “What should we do?” Strengthen us to follow your Great Commandment: to love you, Lord, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and all our strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. Save us from your judgment and instead rejoice over us as we rejoice in your great kindness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 16, 2018
Rejoice! The Lord is near
This Week at Home

Monday, December 17
Meet Jesus’ Family
In the Middle East, even today, people care about family history. They don’t want to know so much “who are you?” as “whose are you?” Matthew obliges by giving us Jesus’ family tree. To fulfill the prophecies of the Messiah, he must come from the line of King David. Since Abraham is the father of all Jews, the genealogy must go back to him. What does Jesus’ genealogy tell us about our heritage? Whose are we?

Today’s Readings: Genesis 49:2, 8–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 3–4ab, 7–8, 17; Matthew 1:1–17.

Tuesday, December 18
A Righteous Man
Today we hear an account of Jesus’ birth from Joseph’s perspective, including his dream in which an angel spoke to him. Matthew calls Joseph “a righteous man,” and his deeds show him to be so: He does not want to expose Mary to shame. He listens to the angel, and he follows the angel’s commands. How does God make his will known to us? Are we listening? Are we willing to do something that might be difficult?

Today’s Readings: Jeremiah 23:5–8; Psalm 72:1–2, 12–13, 18–19; Matthew 1:18–25.

Wednesday, December 19
Flower of Jesse’s Stem
The “O” Antiphons have for centuries been part of Evening Prayer from December 17 to 23. Each gives a title to Christ, links him to Isaiah’s prophecy, and implores him to “come!” Today we pray, “O Flower of Jesse’s stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.” Christ, who like King David descended from Jesse, is a king of a different order, adored by all nations. It is hard to wait for such a king!


Thursday, December 20
Do Not Be Afraid
In Luke’s account of the Annunciation, Mary is initially troubled at the angel’s greeting; but after Gabriel assures her she has nothing to fear, she consents to be the mother of the Messiah. St. John writes: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear” (1 John 4:18a). Mary’s perfect love for God allows her to accept God’s plan for her life. Do your fears hold you back from giving your life totally to Jesus?


Friday, December 21
Leaping for Joy
Song of Songs uses poetic images for the love between God, the lover, and his people, the beloved. In The History of the Kingdom of God: From Creation to Parousia, theologian Sofia Cavalletti writes, “A plan has always existed in the mind of God, the aim of which is to bring humankind to the full enjoyment of God.” While we await that day, we can enjoy God’s presence now. John leaps for joy in his mother’s womb in recognition of Jesus, just as the lover in the Song of Songs leaps across the hills on his way to the beloved.


Saturday, December 22
The Greatness of the Lord
Have you ever felt a strong desire to praise God—perhaps while on a mountaintop or at the birth of a child? When Mary hears Elizabeth’s greeting, she is overcome with that desire. As she proclaims the Magnificat, she praises God for his holiness, justice, and great deeds. Her prayer reveals so much about our God and offers such perfect praise that the Church prays it each day at Evening Prayer.