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
Thank you for supporting the St. Pascal School Book Fair during December. Our School earned a total of $1,500.00 from this fundraiser, and we reached our goal of earning a 40% profit on the book sale.

Thank you to the St. Pascal’s Men’s Club for all their work with the Christmas Tree Sale this year. The volunteers give many hours of work to the Tree Sale every year, and we appreciate all their commitment and enthusiasm.

Thank you to the St. Pascal’s Women’s Club for all their work with the Christmas Bake Sale on December 15-16. We appreciate all the time and energy the Women’s Club gives to the Bake Sale every December. Thank you, as well, to everyone who donated items to the Bake Sale and to those of you who purchased baked goods.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family which occurs each year on the Sunday after Christmas. It is an opportunity to recall the challenges faced by the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and to pray for our own family members, living and deceased. We also pray for the needs and challenges we face together in the family of the Church.

Mass for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God will be celebrated on Monday, December 31 at 4:00 PM and Tuesday, January 1 at 9:00 AM. From the earliest centuries of the Church’s history, Mary has been honored as the Mother of God. At the Council of Ephesus in the year 431, the Church affirmed that “Mary truly became the Mother of God by the human conception of the Son of God in her womb” (Catechism, 466). Soon after the Council of Ephesus, liturgical celebrations of Mary, the Mother of God, began to appear in various countries. Honoring Mary on January 1 as the Mother of God connects us to Christmas and the wonder of the Incarnation, and this is one example of how Mary leads us to her Son and helps us to love Him even more.

Did you know that audio versions of my Sunday homilies and Deacon Richard Moore’s Sunday homilies are available on our parish website? If you would like to listen to our Sunday homily, go online to the St. Pascal Church website at www.stpascals.org, and you will see the following categories at the top of the webpage: CHURCH, ABOUT, PRAY, SERVE, GIVE, CONTACT. Go to the drop down menu underneath PRAY, and then click on the link for HOMILIES, choose the homily you’d like to hear and sit back and listen.

God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell

Immigration Sunday—Feast of Our Lord’s Epiphany on January 6, 2019
This commemoration coincides with the Share the Journey campaign (a co-effort by Caritas Internationalis, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, and Catholic Relief Services). Share the Journey is a two-year migration campaign that launched on September 27, 2017.

Share the Journey has at its heart the vision of a united global human family. The focus is on our joint journey as people on the move in departure, transit and host communities. It promotes opportunities and spaces for migrants and communities to come together to share stories and experiences, with the aim of strengthening the bonds between migrants and communities.

Our public awareness campaign, led by Caritas Internationalis, encourages people to take action, raise awareness, and strengthen relationships between migrants, refugees, and communities. This campaign is in response to Pope Francis’ call to promote a culture of encounter—to see people on the move with humanity, to open hearts and minds, to change perceptions. Learn more at www.mncatholic.org/advocacyarea/immigration-sunday-mn/ or find a link on the parish website.

RCIA: Rite of Acceptance
On Saturday, January 5, we will welcome and offer our prayer support to a new RCIA catechumen. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is designed for all those who have reached the age of reason and who, after hearing the mystery of Christ proclaimed consciously and freely, seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts. A catechumen is one who has not been baptized in any Christian faith. With God’s help, our catechumen will be strengthened spiritually during her preparation and, at the proper time, will celebrate the sacraments of initiation within our community. This is an opportunity for the catechumen and for us, because we are committing ourselves to walk with her as part of our own ongoing process of conversion. Our spiritual work, therefore, is to be both example and companion for her journey. This rite includes the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, as well as additional rites belonging to the catechumenate as endorsed by the Second Vatican Council. The rites will take place at various Masses during the coming weeks. It is the privilege and responsibility of all of us to pray for and support this young woman as she journeys forward in faith.

First Wednesday Mass & Dessert
Wednesday, January 2—and every first Wednesday of the month.
Marian Center St. Paul—200 Earl Street
Mass is celebrated at 1:00 PM followed by dessert and social hour at 1:30 across from the Snack Shop. Please join us every 1st Wednesday of the month and enjoy some time with some of your parish friends. Invite anyone who would enjoy visiting folk from St. Pascal’s. We hope to see you there!

Cana Dinner, Save the Date
St. Pascal’s is joining forces with Blessed Sacrament for a Cana Dinner on Saturday evening, February 9. Look for more information in the coming month. We are also looking for a couple of people to be part of the committee for this event. If you are interested contact Deacon Richard at richard.moore@stpascals.org.

Rosary—In Unity There is Strength
Join us every Wednesday at 9:00 AM to pray the rosary together. Then stay for the School Mass at 9:30. You will love the beautiful liturgy as only children can provide. Please join us when you are able. Any questions call Betty Hensel 651.714.8958 or bjhen@q.com.
Registration News
St. Pascal’s Early Learning Center is offering PRIORITY REGISTRATION to all current and/or new children registering for Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year. And, a spectacular incentive for all who register by JANUARY 10, 2019!

What are early registration incentives?
Preschool and Pre-K families registered by Thursday, January 10 will receive TWENTY (20) HOURS FREE Extended Day Care (a $100 value); or $100 off their first month’s tuition. If you want to be a part of this ministry in the future—every other month or as a substitute—contact Toni Baker at 651.731.7763 or toni@bakers.us.

How to register:
• Go tostpascalschool.org/admissions/ and choose Preschool/PreK from the drop down menu.
• Click on the 2019-2020 school year and create an account (be sure to remember your password!) Complete the Admissions steps. Preschool and PreK families choose option and number of days attending (5 days a week, Tuesday/Thursday or Monday-Wednesday-Friday). Preschool offers a half-day (9:00 – 12:30) and a full day (9:00 – 3:30) program. The PreK program is a full day kindergarten readiness program (9:00 – 3:30).
• $50.00 registration fee per child.

We look forward to seeing you at the Preschool-Kindergarten Open House on Thursday, January 10 from 4:00-6:00 PM. It’s a great opportunity to meet our Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten teachers and for your child to see their new classroom!

St. Pascal’s Women’s Book Club
Monday, January 14 at 7:00 PM
Time to make a new Year’s Resolution to read more! Join the St. Pascal Women’s Book Club. We meet in the Founder’s Room on the 2nd Monday of each month. You can come as often as your schedule allows. This month we will discuss The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time by Mark Haddon.

Contact Toni Baker toni@bakers.us or 651.731.7763 for a list of the twelve 2019 selections or for more information.

Friends & Family: Mark Your Calendar
The 16th annual St Pascal’s Friends & Family event is Saturday, May 4, 2019. This is one of St. Pascal’s major fundraisers and a barrel of fun—please make plans to attend! Lots of gift cards are needed for this event. Perhaps you received a gift card for Christmas that you can’t use—how about donating it to and the Friends & Family event? 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.

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 collection is an ongoing ministry of the Women’s Club.
Ministry & Service in the New Year

It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters.

—MOTHER TERESA

It’s a new year—add some volunteer or service time in 2019 to enrich your life and the lives of others.

Each week at St. Pascal’s lots of people just like you give their time to serve the parish community. We know you are busy and there are a million things competing for your time and attention.

But we also know you will make great friends and grow in your relationship to the community and to God through your service.

You’ll find there are lots of ways that you can contribute to the vibrant community at St. Pascal’s through one-time and ongoing volunteer opportunities. Every volunteer makes a difference at St. Pascal’s! For a complete list of opportunities, visit the parish website at http://www.stpascals.org/volunteering.

Readings

December 30, 2018

Sunday:
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28
Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24
Lk 2:41-52

Monday:
1 Jn 2:18-21
Ps 96: 1-2, 11-13
Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday:
Mary Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27
Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Thursday:
Mary Mother of God
Ps 98:1-4
Jn 1:19-28

Friday:
1 Jn 2:22-28
Ps 98:1-4
Jn 1:29-34

Saturday:
1 Jn 2:29—3:6
Ps 98:1, 3cd-6
Jn 1:29-34

Sunday:
Is 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

Mass Times & Intentions

Monday, December 31, 2018
Mass for Mary Mother of God
4:00 PM People of the parish

Tuesday, January 1, 2019
Mary Mother of God
9:00 AM People of the parish

Wednesday, January 2, 2019
9:30 AM A deceased member of the parish

Thursday, January 3, 2019
7:30 AM People of the parish

Friday, January 4, 2019
7:30 AM Men’s Club

Saturday, January 5, 2019
4:30 PM Emma Carbone

Sunday, January 6, 2019
8:45 AM People of the parish
10:30 AM A deceased member of the parish

Heartfelt Thanks

Many thanks to the Men’s Club for funding the installation of tinted window film in the Conway atrium. Bright sunlight made it very hard for Karri to greet people at the Welcome Desk.

Visitors, parishioners and staff who use the space will be now able to see without sunglasses!

It’s not too late for Christmas flowers! The Christmas season continues through the Baptism of the Lord on January 13, 2019.

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 30, 2018
No scheduled events

Monday, December 31, 2018- Tuesday, January 1, 2019
NO SCHOOL: Christmas Break
Parish office closed
4:00pm Mass (for the holy day)

Tuesday, January 1, 2019—Mary Mother of God
Holy day of obligation
9:00am Mass

Wednesday, January 2, 2019
9:00am Rosary: CH
9:15am School Resumes
9:30am School Mass
1:00pm Marian Center Mass & Dessert: Marian Ctr of St Paul
6:30pm Catechist Meeting: SL
6:30pm RCIA: FR

Thursday, January 3, 2019
7:00pm Men’s Club Board Meeting: CF
7:00pm SJCC: FR

Friday, January 4, 2019
No scheduled events

Saturday, January 5, 2019
10:00am Middle School Grocery Bagging: Sun Ray Cub Foods
4:30pm RCIA: Rite of Acceptance

Sunday, January 6, 2019—The Epiphany
12:00pm Confirmation II: CH, FR, OC

MEETING LOCATION KEY:
BH: Brioschi Hall, CF: Cafeteria, CH: Church, FR: Founders Room, OC: Old Church, SL: Staff Lounge
A Call to Prayer

God our Father, you sent your beloved Son into the world to share in our humanity. From all time, you chose the Virgin Mary to give birth to him, and placed him in a human family. With Mary, his mother, and Joseph, her husband, to nurture and care for him. Still, you called him away from them to be with you in your house to study the Scriptures and commune with his true Father. We ask you to call us too, so that, as much as we love our parents, our siblings, and our children, and desire to spend time with them, we never forget that we need to spend time with you each day, to praise you, to thank you, to pour out our hearts to you, and to ask for your guidance. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 30, 2018
Honor Your Father and Mother

Today’s Readings: Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5; Colossians 3:12–21; Luke 2:41–52. When we are young and first learning the Ten Commandments, one that hits home is the Fourth Commandment: “honor your father and mother.” As we grow older, we realize that this commandment is not just about children obeying parents, but that it applies to our lives as much or more when we are adults.

The Book of Sirach, a Wisdom book from the Hebrew Scriptures, describes the goodness that comes from following this command at all stages of one’s life. Sirach also defines what it means to honor: to care for, to be considerate, to be kind; and what it means not to honor: to revile or to be a cause of grief.

When Jesus’ parents find him in the temple, they have great anxiety, but Jesus explains that he needs to be in his Father’s house. He has not stayed at the temple to dishonor Mary and Joseph, but rather to give honor to his Father.

Why is this commandment important? What would family life be like if children, including grown children, truly honored their parents at all times? Would we become less self-centered? Would elderly people experience less loneliness? What example would our children see?
Monday, December 31
A New Beginning
On this last day of the year, our thoughts turn to resolutions for the new year. We can always think of areas of our life where we need to start over, and can look for ways to walk more closely with the Lord. Perhaps you could occasionally serve a meal at a homeless shelter, since this is a need every day of the year. How is the Lord asking you to serve his people this year? Today’s Readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019
Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Today we honor the Mother of God—and our mother—and recall her essential role in salvation history. The Gospel finds her after the visit of the shepherds, keeping “all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Her prayer and reflection give her strength for the joyful and sorrowful days ahead. We can follow her example so that when sad times come, we have trust that God will bring good from them. Today’s Readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21.

Wednesday, January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
John’s letter warns early Christians not to be deceived by false teachings. Fourth-century friends Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen had a deep life of prayer lived out in a monastery and also served as bishops. Eloquent speakers, they discredited a heresy common in their day. Years of prayer deepened their relationship with the Lord and kept them from being deceived. Prayer and study of the Scriptures help us come to know God and his truth. Today’s Readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.

Thursday, January 3
The Most Holy Name of Jesus
John the Baptist calls Jesus “Lamb of God” and “Son of God.” Gabriel tells Mary his name will be Jesus (meaning “Yahweh saves,” Luke 1:31), Son of the Most High, Ruler forever. An angel tells Joseph in a dream that Jesus will be Emmanuel (which means “God is with us,” Matthew 1:18–23). We are grateful to know these names, which help us to know the One they signify. The name of Jesus is itself a powerful prayer, always to be uttered with reverence and awe. Today’s Readings: 1 John 2:29—3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd–4, 5–6; John 1:29–34.

Friday, January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Soon after Jesus invites Andrew to stay with him, Andrew calls his brother Simon, saying he has found the Messiah. New Yorker Elizabeth Ann Seton embraced the Catholic Church, much to the chagrin of her family, after attending Mass while visiting Italy. A young widow with five children, she shared Jesus by opening the first American Catholic parish school and establishing a religious community. How are you being invited to “stay” with Jesus? Have you found the Messiah? How do you share him with others? Today’s Readings: 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.

Saturday, January 5
St. John Neumann, Bishop
Jesus continues to call Apostles in the Gospel, and still calls today. John Neumann heard that call and came to America as a missionary. Ordained a priest in New York, he ministered to immigrants in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maryland. As the first American member of the Redemptorist order, he longed for a life of prayer in community. Instead, he was named bishop of Philadelphia, where he opened one hundred Catholic schools. He once took a vow never to waste a moment of time—quite an examination of conscience for us! Today’s Readings: 1 John 3:11–21; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 4, 5; John 1:43–51.