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.

FEBRUARY 11, 2018 | 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Come Holy Spirit

Congratulations to our youth who will be confirmed at the Cathedral of St. Paul on Saturday, February 17, 2018.

Colette Ngozi Anigbogu
Emmanuela Obioma Anigbogu
Alexandra Mae Conners
Brianna Anica Flanagan
Cristian Tomas Hernandez
Peter John Hommes
Vivian ChizubereIkeri
Salena Marie Jeanson
Makayla Coulter Kenney
Nicole Maigread Muetzel
Molly Rose Pults
Matthew James Ray
Dillon Josef Schweitzer
Nina Elizabeth Steigauf
Jane Elyse Sullivan
Dominick Eric Widi
Dear Friends:

I'll be away next week (Feb. 18-24) for what feels like a needed vacation. I am grateful to Fr. Cyprian Weaver OSB for presiding at the masses next weekend. His friendship with St. Pascal's long pre-dates mine and I know he'll be warmly welcomed back. We will not have daily masses here during the time that I am away. I apologize for that inconvenience, especially since it will be the first full week of Lent. I will try to find some way to do seasonal penance while in Hawaii, though it may be difficult.

Because Lent begins somewhat early this year we will not really have had a chance to get in to the rhythm of the Gospel of Mark at our weekend liturgies before Ash Wednesday arrives. I assume that most of us are aware that the Sunday gospels are arranged for proclaiming on a three-year cycle, with Matthew, Mark, and Luke constituting "Years A, B, and C" respectively. The Gospel of John is sprinkled in throughout the course of every year. We just began Year B (Mark) in Advent and we will remain in it until next winter. The idea of this cycle is to allow people to hear a sense of how each specific gospel unfolds in its unique way of telling the story of Jesus, week by week and more-or-less in sequence. But Lent/Easter/Pentecost and related feasts always "interrupt" the narrative for quite a long time. After this weekend's reading of the gospel (we are still in Chapter 1!) we won't resume the normal sequence of events from St. Mark until June 10, by which time I imagine that many of us will have lost track of the story as told in Mark's particular way.

One of the signature features of that gospel, more so than the others, is what scripture scholars refer to as the "Messianic Secret," whereby Jesus repeatedly tries to keep people from knowing who he really is as the Messiah of God. Already this month we've seen a couple of episodes in which Jesus silences demonic spirits so that they will not reveal his identity. Why would he do that? The reason points to another theme in Mark's gospel, namely, that human beings—including his closest friends and disciples—are pretty sluggish and slow to understand what a true "Messiah" of the real God is like. Back in bible times, just as now, it is easy for people automatically to assume that the ultimate "Winner" in life is the one with the most earthly power, weapons, sex appeal, respect, money, celebrity and possessions. All of that is false. The demons in Mark's gospel know this, but nobody else yet does. And it won't be until his death on the cross that the true nature of God's Messiah becomes evident: He "saves" by serving, suffering, self-offering, and finally by dying. The Jesus of the Gospel of Mark is one who suffers a lot (unlike, for example, the Jesus in the Gospel of John). Until his disciples figure this out, Jesus wants nothing to do with grand titles that will only mislead, and so in Mark's gospel Jesus refuses to allow those titles to be spoken too soon.

We still have not entirely learned this lesson, which is exactly why we have to keep chewing over the scriptures year-by-year. To reign as Lord is to become lowly. That idea seemed strange then and it still does, but it is still true and shall ever be. St. Mark is a master teacher.

Fr. Mike Byron

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**How to Read the Bible as a Catholic—with Deacon Richard Moore**

*Monday, March 5 in Brioschi Hall. Once from 10:00 AM - 12 Noon AND from 7:00-9:00 PM*

*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.

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**Encounter Lent: CRS Operation Rice Bowl**

Join our faith community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl, a Lenten Faith-in-Action program sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. Pick up a rice bowl for yourself or your family at the table in the Gathering Space beginning this weekend, and celebrate Lent with these simple but faith-filled resources:

- Use the CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The calendar includes inspiring stories and recipes for simple, meatless meals you can prepare at home.
- Visit crsricebowl.org/stories for videos of the people and communities you support through your gifts to CRS Rice Bowl
- Visit crsricebowl.org/families for activities that will help your family grow in our Catholic faith this Lenten season.

**Thank You from St. Mary's**

Dear Father Mike, staff, and parishioners,

How can we ever thank you enough for all you've done? You have been extremely supportive through this difficult time. Your prayers, gift of the Creche, and monetary support have meant so much to all the people of St. Mary's Mission and school.

Without our church, and using the school gym for our Christmas Masses, you helped to make it special. Our people were in awe of your gift and generosity. When we were setting up for Christmas Eve the reverence and care our people showed was amazing. We had a Traditional blessing over the Creche, and many of our people were present to be part of it.

As we continue the process of re-building, we know our friends at St. Pascal's will continue to pray for us and we could not ask for anything more.

Thank you for all you have done. We at St. Mary's will continue to pray in thanksgiving for our wonderful friends at St. Pascal's.

Blessings,

Fr. Jerry, Sr. Patrice, Patti Spry and staff.
PARISH COMMUNICATION

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, using the envelope provided in your packet of contribution envelopes or found on the tables located near the entrances to the church. If you prefer to give to one or more of these charities, please indicate this by marking the appropriate option(s) on the envelope and your contributions will be distributed as requested. Any unmarked contributions will be divided equally among the three options. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

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ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Middle School Service & Fun Night
Friday, February 23 from 5:00-10:00 PM
Youth in grades 6 - 8 are invited to join youth from area parishes for a night of service and fun. We'll begin at Grand Slam in Burnsville with laser tag, bumper cars, mini golf, and more! Then we will head to Feed My Starving Children to pack meals for those in need around the world. Cost is $30/person, and includes cost of bus, activities, and refreshment at Grand Slam. Permission forms and info sheets available in kiosks and parish office. Forms are due by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, February 20. Contact Kim Roering in the parish office for more information.

NOTE: This event begins and ends at the St. Mary’s Parish Life Center in White Bear Lake—NOT St. Pascal’s.

Save The Date
Celebration of a Jewish Seder
With Rabbi Barry Cytron
Monday, March 26 from 7:00-9:00 PM
Brioschi Hall
Plan to join us for this special evening! More details will be coming, and reservations will be required.

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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 Rackman

Parish Communication

Bulletin Notices
Please email notices to the parish office by 3:00 PM Monday—hard copy notices must 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

Tuesday, February 13
7:30 AM  +  Afton Shepard

Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday
9:30 AM  Women’s Club
6:30 PM  People of the Parish

Thursday, February 15
7:30 AM  People of the Parish

Friday, February 16
7:30 AM  +  Judy Dellenbach

Saturday, February 17
4:30 PM  +  Larry Hall

Sunday, February 18
8:45 AM  People of the Parish
10:30 AM  +  Ernest Mondry

Readings
February 04, 2018

Sunday:
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46
Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11
1 Cor 10:31–11:1
Mt 1:40-45

Monday:
Jas 1:1-11
Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76
Mt 8:11-13

Tuesday:
Jas 1:12-18
Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19
Mt 8:14-21

Wednesday:
Ash Wednesday
JL 2:12-18
2 Cor 5:20–6-2
Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 12-14, 17
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday:
Dt 30:15-20
Ps 1:1-4, 6
Lk 9:22-25

Friday:
Is 58:1-9a
Ps 51:3-6a, 18-19
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday:
Is 58:9b-14
Ps 86:1-6
Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday:
1st Sunday of Lent
Gn 9:8-15
Ps 25:4-9
1 Pt 3:18-22
Mt 1:12-15

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

Sunday, February 11
After Masses  New Member Registration: BH
10:30am  Rite of Sending (Confirmation)
11:45am  Confirmation II meeting & lunch: OC, BH
1:00pm  Confirmation Reconciliation: CH
2:00pm  Girl Scouts: CF

Monday, February 12
7:00pm  Women’s Book Club: FR
7:00pm  Boy Scouts 294: 108, CF

Tuesday, February 13
8:15am  Bible Study: PC
3:30pm  Education Committee: FR
6:00pm  Women’s Club Board Meeting: FR
7:00pm  Bible Study: PC

Wednesday, February 14—ASH WEDNESDAY
Valentine’s Day
9:00am  Rosary: Church
9:30am  School Mass (with ashes)—All are welcome!
10:30am  Peaceful Presence Prayer Group: Chapel
6:30pm  Mass (with ashes)

Thursday, February 15
9:30am  Bible Study: PC

Friday, February 16
4:30pm  Fish Fry & Bake Sale: BH & Kit
7:00pm  Stations of the Cross: CH

Saturday, February 17
9:00am  Cub Scout Pinewood Derby: CF
10:00am  Confirmation: Cathedral of Saint Paul

Sunday, February 18—FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
No scheduled events

Meeting Location Key:
BH: Brioschi Hall, CF: Cafeteria, CH: Church, CR: Choir Room, FR: Founders Room, OC: Old Church, PC: Parish Conference Room

Financial Update on Parish School Support—Perhaps you are wondering why the parish support to the school fluctuates each month. We publish monthly financials for both the parish and school in the bulletin when the bank statements are reconciled.

School income is generated from a number of sources: tuition revenue, fundraising, grant awards and scholarships. Some months the tuition revenue is less than others, depending upon payment schedules. Other months, like December, saw an increase in income due to a year-end appeal. The expense side is different. Most of the school expenses are steady; payroll and building upkeep are the two major components.

We were blessed at year-end with some generous donations that helped to lower the parish support numbers. Many thanks to the diligent work by members of the School Board and school staff.

Attention Young at Heart! Communion Service & Lunch
Thursday, February 22 at 11:00 AM with Deacon Rich

We will begin our fifth year together this month! A communion service will be followed by a Chicken Kiev meal catered by Magnolia’s. A $10.00 donation is payable on the day of the meeting. Bring your lucky charms as we will be playing our Valentine Bingo. We also will be collecting our $10.00 annual membership which helps defray the cost of our entertainment for the year. We look forward to seeing you whether you are a regular or a newcomer! Please RSVP by Monday, February 19 to Betty Hensel at 714.8958 or bjhen@q.com or to Barb Kendle at 738.3799. Hope to see you there!

Online Lenten Retreat
An Ignatian Prayer Adventure
This online Lenten retreat begins the week of Ash Wednesday and continues through the first week of Easter. We hope that this retreat will provide you an opportunity for spiritual renewal as you take part in the reflections and exercises. Use as much or as little of the material as helps you in your personal Lenten adventure. More information and a link to the retreat can be found on the parish website.

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

Parish (July - December)
Parish Income $797,039.62
Parish Expenses $555,304.75
(Parish expenses do not include school support)

School (July-December)
School Income (YTD) $555,178.66
School Expenses (YTD) $632,760.79
Parish Support (YTD) $77,582.13

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

—Theresa Ruttger, Parish Administrator

Recovery Healing Mass Hosted by the Calix Society
February 24 at 10:00 AM with Fr. Jim Livingston
Mass will be offered for those with addictions and those affected.
A chili/soup luncheon follows in Brioschi Hall. All are welcome—no RSVP required.
Today's Readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18. The Lenten season calls us to slow down and consider the areas in our life that need healing and transformation. This retreat-like time is an intense period for prayer and cleaning the “garbage” from our hearts. With the elect, those who are preparing for the sacraments of initiation, we take this time to discern what is sinful in our lives and name the good God is working within us. Sin is tricky and tends to grab hold of us and become habit. Sin begins to blind us from God’s love.

In this season, we must examine each area of our life to uncover the darkness of sin. Take heed of the prophet Joel’s words. He calls us to repent and return to the Lord. Repentance leads to conversion, which requires discipline, perseverance, and practice. The three disciplines of the Lenten season—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—help us open ourselves to God’s goodness and strengthen us for a mission united to Christ. During these forty days, allow these disciplines to become habits that replace sin, move you to reflect on your life in Christ, and immerse you in the Paschal Mystery.

In the Gospel, Jesus instructs us not to publicly flaunt how we pray, fast, or give alms. As you meditate on the words of the psalm, think about what you might give up (fast), how you might pray, and where or to what you might give alms as a way of deeply entering the season of Lent and purifying your heart.

In this Time
O God of mercy, who is slow to anger and rich in kindness, grant us, as we begin our Lenten journey, contrite hearts that long for reconciliation and steadfast spirits that proclaim your love.

In this acceptable time, soften our calloused hearts, watch over us, and keep us from all sin. In this season of repentance, help us turn toward the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, and away from selfish ambition. In this period of renewal, open our ears to hear your voice, which calls us out of darkness, so that with clean hearts we can forever proclaim your praise.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, February 14, 2018
Sin Is Tricky

Today’s Readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18. The Lenten season calls us to slow down and consider the areas in our life that need healing and transformation. This retreat-like time is an intense period for prayer and cleaning the “garbage” from our hearts. With the elect, those who are preparing for the sacraments of initiation, we take this time to discern what is sinful in our lives and name the good God is working within us. Sin is tricky and tends to grab hold of us and become habit. Sin begins to blind us from God’s love.

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Monday, February 12

Perseverance

In the opening of his letter, St. James’ describes himself as “servant of God” and his audience as the “twelve tribes in the Dispersion.” From this greeting, we know that he is writing to a dispersed community. James tells us that the testing of faith produces perseverance. When has your faith been tested? It can be all too easy to grow weary with testing, but prayer can help strengthen us to live more faithfully. Approaching Lent, create a prayer plan to guide you this season. Today’s Readings: James 1:1–11; Psalm 119:67, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mark 8:11–13.

Tuesday, February 13

Temptation

Have you ever blamed God for tempting you? James teaches us that it is not God who tempts us but that our desires lure us from the light. Once you identify the temptations in your life, offer them in prayer and allow them to be transformed for building up the Kingdom of God. The Eucharist and prayer will help us persevere in the faith and reject temptations. Today, make note of any temptations, even those you might present to another. Today’s Readings: James 1:12–18; Psalm 94:12–13a, 14–15, 18–19; Mark 8:14–21.

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

One way to pay attention to the spiritual life during Lent is to spend time with images found in the day’s readings. Set aside time to read and be silent with today’s psalm, paying particular attention to the first stanza. What images, questions, or thoughts arise? As you are signed with ashes today, commit yourself to spending more time with the day’s readings and heeding Christ’s call to conversion. Today’s Readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18.

Thursday, February 15

Life and Death

Moses’ words are a powerful reminder that God is life. Our readings invite us to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow. By doing this, we say yes to the law of God’s love and therefore choose the path of life. When we give ourselves to Christ and strive to follow him in every way, life is radically different from what the world presents. As a family, make paper crosses and place them as a centerpiece for prayer during this season. Take time to talk about each day’s Gospel. Today’s Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 9:22–25.

Friday, February 16

Fasting

Do you fast only because the Church has told you to do so? Isaiah’s words strongly urge us against empty fasting or ritual. For Isaiah, fasting is intimately connected to the good of the community, especially the poor and suffering. Does our fasting lead us to contemplate the mystery of Christ and our call to accompany the most vulnerable and ignored in our society? This practice is intended to purify and change us; it is intended to help strengthen us for the mission. Could your family unite in a practice of fasting as a prayer for the poor and suffering? Today’s Readings: Isaiah 58:1–9a; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 18–19; Matthew 9:14–15.

Saturday, February 17

Justice

The First Reading continues where the reading from Isaiah left off yesterday. Isaiah’s message is one of justice. The community has a responsibility to care for the poor and suffering. When we walk in the ways of the Lord, our hearts yearn to serve our neighbors. When Jesus calls us to take up the cross, it’s not just a burden, but the sign of hope and resurrection. Who in your community needs to be fed, clothed, and sheltered? At the end of this week, take a moment for an Ignatian examen. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 58:9b–14; Psalm 86:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Luke 5:27–32.
Catholic schools must matter

Why should we care? Why should anybody care about anyone else? And why does this matter?

There was a time when answering these questions didn't require justification. Caring for others is just something that human beings innately do.

Regrettably, we live in a world and a time in which these “why” questions demand a compelling and intelligent response. It really was no easier a century ago than it is now to educate the poor, to house the homeless, to feed the hungry, to tend to the sick and aged, and to accept the alien stranger. Yet people came together to accomplish all of those things because the alternative was quite literally unthinkable.

Who then — or now — could imagine indifference as a response?

Fewer and fewer people now identify with Christianity or any religion at all. We are more fractured as communities, without a common "story" to connect us. And we live in a social-political climate in which an ethic of indifference towards the needs of others is tolerated and fostered by leadership.

So why exactly should we care?

The other is our neighbor. Not only in the spiritual sense of the Judeo-Christian-Muslim belief of having emerged from and belonging to the one God, but just as importantly, in the practical, visceral sense of people living here among us, walking our streets, sharing in our commerce and politics, riding the bus in the seat next to us. A resolve to care is a decision to keep our communities cohesive, safe and as free from fear as is possible.

Christians among us have an imperative to follow Jesus' life witness. Christ never forced anyone to accept his way of life or to join his religious movement. But once a person freely chose to follow him, he was rigorous in his expectations. Caring for the stranger, the immigrant, the orphan and the poor one was not optional activity for disciples then — nor is it now.

We are essentially interdependent. One need not be a religious person to appreciate that human beings cannot survive in radical isolation from one another. We need one another, and others need us. That is not pious sentiment. It is the elemental law of nature.

It has become too dangerous to live in a world, a nation or a city in which people are threatened by others whom they do not understand.

We are called to reject indifference in favor of human connection, shared experience and the common good. Rejecting indifference is why Catholic schools must explicitly pursue educational justice — honoring the dignity of each child and promoting creativity, achievement and inclusion in our classrooms.

We believe that it is crucial for contemporary Catholic schools to challenge educational injustice by expressing their deep and historic commitment to the Church’s work of social justice. In our parents’ generation, Catholic schools were an integral part of the fabric of our parishes and neighborhoods. As such, they connected children and families from different cultures and backgrounds through a fundamental commitment to educational access reflective of a communitarian ethos and a radical spirit of hospitality.

There is an urgent need for us to respond to the needs of our time with courage and creativity, answering the question of why we care about our children and our communities.

This work is a direct challenge to our broader culture of indifference. It represents an intentional elimination of barriers to enrollment and achievement for children and communities affected by poverty, as well as exclusionary racial practices and divisions. It is a concrete expression of why and how we demonstrate care in our Catholic tradition: by eliminating economic injustice and expanding access to educational opportunities that reflect a clear commitment to individual dignity and solidarity in every classroom, with each teacher, and in every measurement of student achievement and success.

It is why Catholic schools matter.

Father Byron is pastor of St. Pascal Baylon in St. Paul. Weyandt is the vice chair of the St. Pascal Baylon Catholic School board and associate provost of the College for Adults at St. Catherine University in St. Paul.