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.

DECEMBER 01, 2019  |  FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OUR STAFF
Pastor
Fr. John Mitchell  I  ext 125
john.mitchell@stpascals.org

Deacon
Rev. Mr. Richard Moore
richard.moore@stpascals.org

Business Administrator
Theresa Ruttger  I  ext 130
theresa.ruttger@stpascals.org

Director of Facilities and Maintenance
Mike Kelleher  I  ext 134
mike.kelleher@stpascals.org

Pastoral Associate for Liturgy
Keri Mader  I  ext 127
keri.mader@stpascals.org

Pastoral Associate for Music
Sharon Balcom  I  ext 126
sharon.balcom@stpascals.org

Pastoral Associate for Social Justice
Bonnie Steele  I  ext 129
bonnie.steele@stpascals.org

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation
Kim Roering  I  ext 128
kim.roering@stpascals.org

Communications & Office Manager
Thea Munoz  I  ext 133
thea.munoz@stpascals.org

Administrative Assistant
Marla Eberhardt  I  ext 132
marla.eberhardt@stpascals.org

Welcome Desk
Karri Creamer  I  ext 120
karri.creamer@stpascals.org

Mass Times
Saturday 4:30 PM  I  Sunday 8:45 & 10:30 AM (ASL)  I  Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM  I  Wednesday 9:25 AM
1757 Conway Street  I  Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106  I  651.774.1585
website: www.stpascals.org  I  email: church@stpascals.org
Bringing Them Home. In 1963, when the Catholic Church permitted cremation as an option for Catholics, it was never specified what should be done with the cremated remains. Since 1963, the Church has tried to be clear in her teaching that cremated remains should be either buried in a cemetery or placed above ground in a cemetery mausoleum or columbarium. We bury our dead or place their remains in a mausoleum or columbarium out of reverence for God our Creator and as a sign that we look forward to the resurrection of the body on the Last Day. However, Minnesota civil law recognizes cremation as the final disposition of the body and does not require that anything specific be done with the cremated remains. Therefore, some people keep the cremated remains of their loved one in an urn or container in their home, and as time passes, sometimes an urn or container with cremated remains is found in someone’s closet, attic or garage. Initially, the cremated remains were in the possession of a family member who wanted to keep that person close. However, there might not be a long-term plan as to who will care for the remains in the future, and sometimes the cremated remains in the urn are left behind or abandoned. To help provide help in these situations, beginning in 2020, The Catholic Cemeteries of the Twin Cities will provide an option for those who are looking for a permanent resting place for their loved one’s cremated remains. The option is to have the remains interred in a community crypt at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights in the Chapel Mausoleum. Families can have their loved one’s name memorialized at the mausoleum, as well. With this ministry, The Catholic Cemeteries are trying to accompany people through the grieving process and allowing for burial in a place where the whole family can come and remember a loved one. The deceased person need not be Catholic in order to be interred at Resurrection Cemetery. The cemetery will hold a communal committal service and maintain a permanent record of the presence of the deceased. For more information, call The Catholic Cemeteries at 651-228-9991. Their website is: catholiccemeteries.org. (Source: Fall/Winter 2019 edition of “Heritage – A newsletter for friends of The Catholic Cemeteries”)

Watch out for scams via Text Message and Email. Recently, someone sent a text message to one of our St. Pascal’s parishioners asking for help, and the person was a scammer using my name. Here is the wording of the text message: “Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus….Are you available at the moment? I need a favor from you There is something i need you to do. I am going into a meeting now with limited phone calls, text me back as soon as you get this message . Fr. John Mitchell”. The text message has punctuation errors, and I think the words sound suspicious. I will not send you an Email message or text message asking for help or money or gift cards. If a text message, email or phone call sounds fishy and suspicious, I suggest that you do not respond to it. Unfortunately, this type of scamming happens regularly to parishes and clergy of all religious denominations throughout the Twin Cities and the country. None of us wants a scam artist to take advantage of us, and sometimes it is difficult to know who you can trust. At the same time, Catholic Social Teaching asks us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first, and we are called to work together for the common good and the well-being of all people, especially the poor and vulnerable. I’ll try to remember this the next time someone uses my name in a scam text message!

God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell
How does St. Pascal Regional Catholic School strive for Excellence?
Over the months to come, we will give you a glimpse of our excellence in the 2019-2020 school year.  

Spanish Program
Preschool and Kindergarten—Spanish is introduced through a natural exposure to the language involving the use of songs, puppets, games, dance and videos. The focus is on oral language development which is of vital importance in acquiring proficiency.

First and Second grade—The focus is on language acquisition, cultural appreciation and the gradual learning of new vocabulary, presented mainly in an active way. Written work reinforces the use of Spanish in class and provides parents with a way to know what their child is learning and a tool for them to help their children review at home.

Third through Sixth grades—Study becomes increasingly more academic and includes the intentional introduction of grammar. Homework and formal assessments are introduced. Cultural appreciation and a variety of active learning opportunities continue to be introduced.

Seventh and Eighth grade—Students continue to build their vocabulary and learn grammar more intentionally, both implicitly through their use of Spanish and explicitly through the direct instruction of grammatical rules. Active learning continues at this level and includes the use of skits, puppetry, peer tutoring, etc.

If you would like to visit and tour St. Pascal Regional Catholic School, please call us at 651.776.0092.

Inna Collier Paske
Principal

Women's Club Christmas Bake Sale
Saturday & Sunday, December 14 & 15 in Brioscchi Hall
Bakers, start your ovens! Buyers, sharpen your sweet tooth! We'll be selling baked goods after all Masses December 14-15...look for us!

---

Regional School News
---

JustFaith Catholic
This fall two small groups have been meeting as a part of JustFaith Catholic Phase One, with a focus on "Journey to Compassion." Phase Two—"Journey to Justice"—will begin at the end of January. Through its focus on the U.S. criminal justice system and income inequality, Phase Two challenges participants to revisit how our faith informs our responsibility to each other. One can join Phase Two even if they did not participate in Phase One. JustFaith Catholic at St. Pascal's is sponsored by the Social Justice and Caring Committee and the Adult Faith Formation Committee. Watch the bulletin and website for more information about Phase Two or contact Ann Karner at 651.330.0024.

Women's Club Christmas Party
Saturday December 7, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM in Brioscchi Hall
Attention All Women of St. Pascal's—and Your Friends!
Stop by and buy a ticket for the annual Women's Club Christmas party after Masses today—it's only $12 this year! The last day to buy a ticket is Monday, December 2.
We will have a great brunch, fellowship, a fun game and Christmas carols. Get into the Christmas spirit and have a merry time! Questions call Ellen Aeling at 651.307.8241.

Young at Heart Mass & Luncheon
Early Meeting: Thursday, December 12 at 11:00 AM in the Church and Brioscchi Hall
We will begin with Fr. John celebrating the Eucharist with us. Our meal will be Marsala Chicken for which we will ask a $10.00 donation payable on the day of the meeting. The entertainment will be The Banjo Variety Band, four men with eight instruments. Please RSVP by Monday, December 9 to Betty Hensel at 651.714.8958 or bjhen@q.com or Barb Kendle 651.738.3799. We look forward to seeing you. Bring your friends for a good time! Don't forget: The Hill-Murray Theatre's FREE senior preview of Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn is Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 PM.

---

Adult Faith Formation
---

St. Pascal Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot—Celebrating 50 Years!
Now through December 23 or until sold out
Check out our excellent selection of Fraser fir, balsam fir, Scotch pine, and white pine trees. Wreaths and swags are available as well. Sale hours are:
Monday through Friday from 3:00-9:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Contact Us

Parish Office
Phone 651.774.1585
Email church@stpascals.org
For after-hours pastoral emergency (death, dying or anointing): Call the parish office.

Parish Office Hours
September 3, 2019-June 5, 2020
Mon-Fri 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Holidays as announced

Parish Councils
Parish Pastoral Council
Meetings 1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM
Mary Weyandt, Chair
Parish Finance Council
Meetings 4th Thursday at 6:30 PM
Cindy Reisdorf, Chair

St. Pascal Regional Catholic School
Phone 651.776.0092
Email icollierpaske@stpascalschool.org

School Office Hours
September 3, 2019-June 5, 2020
Mon-Fri 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sacramental Information
Reconciliation
Saturday at 3:45 PM (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
Patackman

Parish Communication
Bulletin Notices
Due 3:00 PM Monday thea.munoz@stpascals.org

Mass Announcements
Due 3:00 PM Tuesday keri.mader@stpascals.org

Like, follow & share us on Facebook:
St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
The Week Ahead

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

Sunday, December 1—First Sunday of Advent
After Masses: Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast
After Masses: Boy Scout Wreath Sales: Main doors
After Masses: Women’s Club Christmas Party ticket sales: GS
9:00am: Men’s Club Christmas Tree sales: Conway Lot
11:45am: Women’s Club Board meeting: FR

Monday-Friday, December 2-6
3:00pm: Men’s Club Christmas Tree sales: Conway Lot

Monday, December 2
6:30pm: Boy Scouts 294: SL

Tuesday, December 3
6:30pm: JustFaith: FR
6:30pm: Parish Advent & 1st Reconciliation: CH

Wednesday, December 4
9:00am: Rosary: CH
9:25am: Regional School Mass—All are welcome!
1:00pm: JustFaith: FR
1:00pm: Marian Center Mass & Dessert: Marian Ctr of St Paul
6:30pm: Choir: CR
6:30pm: Faith Formation: Campus

Thursday, December 5
7:00pm: Men’s Club Board meeting: CF
7:00pm: SJCC: FR

Friday, December 6—Feast of St. Nicholas
3:00pm: Women’s Club Christmas Party setup: BH, Kit

Saturday, December 7
8:00am: Women’s Club Christmas Party prep: BH, Kit
9:00am: Men’s Club Christmas Tree sales: Conway Lot
11:00am: Women’s Club Christmas Party: BH

Sunday, December 8—Second Sunday of Advent
9:00am: Men’s Club Christmas Tree sales: Conway Lot
After Masses: Boy Scout Wreath Sales: Main doors
After Masses: New Member Registration: BH
12:00pm: Confirmation 2: OC

Meeting Location Key:
BH: Brioschi Hall, CF: Cafeteria, CH: Church, CR: Choir Room, FR: Founders Room, GS: Gathering Space, OC: Old Church, SL: Staff Lounge

Stewardship of Giving
Financials for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

October 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday Collection</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Giving</td>
<td>$ 62,456.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted</td>
<td>$ 68,337.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>-5,880.90 (-8.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD Sunday Giving</td>
<td>$ 231,297.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted</td>
<td>$ 273,349.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variance</td>
<td>-42,052.16 (-15%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mortgage</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loan Balance (11/15/19)</td>
<td>$ 3,508,283.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment</td>
<td>$ 24,389.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(p-$11,508.37; i$12,881.47)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your support!

“Inspiration is always a surprising visitor.”
— John O'Donohue, Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom

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 on or before December 22. 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!

Please note: Memorial/Honorarium names received after December 22 will not appear in the Christmas Flowers bulletin insert on December 29 (Holy Family).
Path of Light
Lord of our eternal day, you alone brighten our world. Sometimes we lose our way in the darkness, and sometimes we make the world a darker place. Alert us to the ways we drift into shadow. Illuminate our hearts and send forth your instruction, that we may follow your path of light and ascend your holy mountain. When darkness surrounds us, keep us radiant with hope, so that all will see and know that you are in our midst, you who alone are God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 1, 2019
The Day Is Coming

Today's Readings: Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:37–44. Our liturgical year both concludes and begins with readings on the end-times. As we enter the season of Advent, we are reminded that we are not only preparing to celebrate Christ's birth, we are also preparing for his return. The First Reading fills us with hope for the Second Coming, for on that day everyone in the world will turn to God and there will be an end to conflicts and war.

Until Christ comes again, we must “walk in the light” and turn away from dark, destructive thoughts and deeds. When we live as holy, kind, and loving people, we show that we are ready for God's kingdom, even though we continue doing everyday things such as working, eating, and sleeping. Our lives may not seem radically different from the lives of others, but God can tell the difference.

Jesus warns us of the danger of not getting ready. Disaster struck those who did not prepare for the flood. Disaster struck the master of the house who slept through the swift and sudden arrival—and departure—of the thief. Disaster struck those who were left behind; they were excluded from God's kingdom.

Today we light the first candle of our Advent wreaths. Before you do, sit in darkness. Name whatever evils confront you as you prepare for Christ's return. Then light the candle, and pray for God to expel darkness from you and our world. Rejoice that Christ has already come to lead you into the light of his eternal day.
**Monday, December 2**
*
**Far and Wide**
The soldier is certain that Jesus can heal his servant, even from a distance. He sees that Jesus is the presence of God, sheltering and protecting people. In Jesus, God’s holy presence spreads out beyond Jerusalem to wherever Jesus goes, to whoever asks for his help. Use a map to find places in the world that are the farthest from you and pray for the people there. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 4:2–6; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4b, 4cd–5, 6–7, 8–9; Matthew 8:5–11.*

**Tuesday, December 3**
*
**St. Francis Xavier**
Jesus is the one on whom the Spirit rests, bringing the peace for which people yearn. St. Francis Xavier, recognizing that he was blessed to know the one filled with this Spirit, devoted his life to sharing the Gospel. Although thousands of people came to know God through the revelation of his Son, not everyone welcomed this missionary. But he persisted. Persevere in the Spirit of peace today by letting go of a mean or angry thought. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Luke 10:21–24.*

**Wednesday, December 4**
*
**Food for Life**
Every day in our world some people have more than they can eat while others go hungry. God promises a world in which everyone has enough to eat and there are no more tears of hunger, no more pleas for help. By healing and feeding all who come to him desperate for physical and spiritual aid, Jesus fulfills God’s promise. This ministry did not end with Jesus. It continues with the next generation of followers: us. Volunteer for a meal program that helps the local poor to share the good news that God is fulfilling his promises. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 25:6–10a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29–37.*

**Thursday, December 5**
*
**Built to Last**
Sometimes we think we’re doing what our Lord wants, when we’re doing what we want. By becoming human, God surprised everyone and revealed how much about the divine we have to learn. We must listen closely to the words of God’s Son and not imagine that we know best. Only when we truly know what our Lord is calling us to do will we be like “a strong city” and a house built on rock. Read chapters 5 through 7 of Matthew’s account of the Gospel and reflect on the passage that most surprises and challenges you. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 26:1–6; Psalm 118:1 and 8–9, 19–21, 25–27a; Matthew 7:21, 24–27.*

**Friday, December 6**
*
**Gifts**
God’s name is revered by all who long for justice and who turn to him for instruction. Jesus heals the two blind men because they “see” that he leads people to such reverence for God. They’re so happy to be healed that they refuse to keep the healing a secret. St. Nicholas, who is honored today, brought joy to people by secretly leaving gifts. Surprise someone with an anonymous gift. In this way, you will revere God, the source of all gifts. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 29:17–24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13–14; Matthew 9:27–31.*

**Saturday, December 7**
*
**St. Ambrose**
During St. Ambrose’s lifetime, many people denied that Jesus was fully divine. Yet if Jesus did not fully share in the divinity of his Father, then God hadn’t become truly present to us at the Incarnation. St. Ambrose knew that the Jesus who came to “bind up the wounds of his people” perfectly and completely revealed the love of God. Share God’s love today by visiting someone who might feel forgotten or alone. *Today’s Readings: Isaiah 30:19–21, 23–26; Psalm 147:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8.*
During the Advent season, all are invited to join us for Evening Prayer and Reflection. Take time to be still. Our prayer together will include songs, Scripture, a reflection by Fr. John Mitchell, and sacred silence as we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus once again.

Monday, December 9, 2019
6:30 pm
Worship Space

Presider: Fr. John Mitchell

Light refreshments will be served in Brioschi Hall following Evening Prayer and Reflection.