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
This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word “Gaudete” is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass today which is: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.” This is a quotation from Philippians 4:4-5, and in Latin, the first word of the antiphon is gaudete (Latin, “rejoice”; it’s also pronounced with three syllables: gau-de-te). Why should we “rejoice” on this Third Sunday of Advent? Since Advent is a season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord (both his first coming and his second coming), the Third Sunday occurs halfway through the Advent Season. Thus, it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching: “The Lord is near”. Why do priests and deacons wear rose/pink vestments on this Sunday? On both Laetare Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent) and Gaudete Sunday (the Third Sunday of Advent), priests and deacons at Mass may wear rose/pink colored vestments rather than violet/purple vestments. The rose color is a sign of joy which characterizes Laetare and Gaudete Sunday.

What’s Working and What’s Not in the Archdiocese? Archbishop Bernard Hebda wants to hear from you. Please prayerfully consider attending an upcoming Prayer and Listening Event, as part of the Pre-Synod Process for the Archdiocesan Synod, and make your voice heard. Your input will help guide the Archdiocese over the next 5-10 years.

Next three Prayer and Listening Events:
- Saturday, January 4, 1:00-4:00 PM at Holy Cross Church (Minneapolis)
- Saturday, January 25, 9:00 AM-Noon at St. Peter Claver Church (St. Paul)
- Tuesday, January 28, 6:00-9:00 PM at Pax Christi Church (Eden Prairie)

Learn more about the Synod and see a full listing of Prayer and Listening Events at archspm.org/synod.

Conference for Restorative Justice and Reconciliation is Thursday, January 23, 2020 from 8:30 AM-3:00 at Holiday Inn & Suites, Lake Elmo. This one-day conference is open to all victim/survivors, interested and relevant stakeholders, and anyone who has been impacted by the clergy sexual abuse crisis. Watch for more details in the coming weeks on the Archdiocesan website at www.archspm.org. If you have questions about Restorative Justice Groups, please contact Paula Kaempfer, Outreach Coordinator for Restorative Justice and Abuse Prevention for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, at 651.291.4429.

Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention for December: The Future of the Very Young. That every country determines to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell

Energy Efficiency at St. Pascal’s
Over the past months, we have added motion sensors to hallways and retrofitted exterior fixtures and upgraded most of our worship space lighting to LED. While the worship space project is not yet finished, we are already seeing the results of these energy saving measures. The electric bill for November of 2018 was $4,321.98. Our 2019 November bill was $2,858.34; a savings of $1,463.64 or a decrease of 33.9%. This was only the first month that the new LED lights were in use in the worship space.

We are hopeful that this trend will continue. Our long-range building plan includes adding more LED lighting over the next few years. Our goal is illuminating all 89,000 square feet with this earth-friendly technology. We hope to see similar savings over the summer air conditioning months due to our HVAC controller upgrades. Many thanks to those who donated to our Fund A Need project that paid for this effort.

As a parish community, we are mindful of spending wisely and taking care of our earth. Many thanks to all who have helped in these efforts of energy conservation.

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The Great St. Pascal Get-Together
First Wednesday Mass & Dessert at the Marian Center—200 Earl Street
We are shifting our day to the 2nd Thursday of each month starting in January! Join St. Pascal friends for dessert at 1:30 PM and enjoy a visit with some of your parish friends. Invite anyone who might be interested in seeing folk from St. Pascal’s.

Mass is celebrated daily at 1:00 PM. See you on January 9!

“One of the deepest longings of the human soul is to be seen.”
—John O'Donohue
Going into our last week before Christmas break, I am thrilled to see our school come alive this week!

The Christmas spirit comes in many forms, but the source of our Christmas remains the same. We are able to celebrate Jesus as we gather in the church for our Advent Concert on Tuesday, December 17 at 12:30 PM and again at 6:00 PM. The kids sing with joy and pray in adoration for the coming of our Savior. You will be able to feel the spirit of the season amongst us.

There are other signs of Christmas as I walk through the school—the abundance of Christmas goodies around the school and the overflowing joy that our volunteers bring weekly is amazing! Soon packages wrapped for our students’ families from the Santa Shop, a tradition of the school, will add to the happy atmosphere.

Friday will bring kids dressed in red and green to celebrate the season. Teachers join in, adorn in festive wear, as Christmas gifts are exchanged for hugs of gratitude.

As the week closes and people exchanged Christmas greetings, I am overcome with the feeling of comfort and joy. It is time for a break and time to celebrate the wonders of His love.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and let’s pray for peace in our New Year.

Inna Collier Paske, Principal

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**FAITH FORMATION**

**Confirmation Preparation 9th Grade Families**
Recently a mailing was sent to families of 9th graders regarding registration for confirmation. 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. Registration forms are due December 16.

**Mark your calendar! We have some great events coming to St. Pascal’s in 2020—**

**10th Taste of St. Pascal Potluck Dinner**
Sunday, February 23 from 4:00-6:00 PM in Brloschi Hall
Contact Toni Baker at 651.731.7763 or toni@bakers.us if you can help with entertainment, set up (3:00-4:00 PM), serving or clean up (6:00-7:00 PM).

**Men’s Club Fish Fry—All Fridays in Lent**
March 6-April 3 from 4:30-7:00 PM

**2020 Friends and Family Event: The 2nd Running of “Off to the Races”**
Saturday, April 18, 2020 in Brloschi Hall
Now all we need is YOU! We need your help to run all the games, dessert auction, registration, selling tickets and more. If you would like to help in the planning or help on the day of the event, please let us know.

As you are picking up items for your Christmas shopping, please consider picking up a gift card or two for this event. We use lots of gift cards for prizes and for the games.

Questions? Contact the event chairs:
Mike Aeling
mjaeling@gmail.com or 651.307.8237

Ellen Aeling
ellenoaeling@gmail.com or 651.307.8241

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**St. Pascal’s Men’s Club Christmas Tree Lot**

**St. Pascal’s Men’s Club tree lot is celebrating 50 years of bringing beautiful, real trees to the community.**

Now through December 23 or until sold out
We’re a one-stop shop with tree stands, tree bags and carry swags & wreaths as well.

- Balsam Fir, Scotch Pine, and White Pine range from $35 to $50 each
- Premium Frasier Fir range from $70 to $120

No truck? No worries—we will tie the tree on your car for you! 100% of all proceeds go to support the parish and St. Pascal Regional School.

Sale hours are:
- Monday through Friday from 3:00-9:00 PM
- Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

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**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

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**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.

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**Parish Prayer Line**
8:00 - 10:00 AM 651.735.0004
Mary Butler-Levine
4:00 - 6:00 PM 651.774.3248
Pat Kackman

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**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
Mass Times & Intentions

Readings

December 15, 2019

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Sunday, December 15—3rd Sunday of Advent
8:00 am Book Fair: FR
9:00 am Men’s Club Christmas Tree sales: Conway Lot
After Masses Women’s Club Christmas Bake Sale

Monday-Friday, December 16-20
3:00 pm Men’s Club Christmas Tree sales: Conway Lot

Monday, December 16
8:00 am Book Fair: FR
5:00 pm Culver’s Night: Sun Ray Culvers
6:30 pm Boy Scouts 294: SL

Tuesday, December 17
12:00 pm Book Fair: FR
12:30 pm School Advent Concert: CH
6:00 pm School Advent Concert: CH
7:00 pm Spirituality Book Club: SL

Wednesday, December 18
9:00 am Rosary: CH
9:25 am Regional School Mass—All are welcome
6:30 pm Choir: CH
6:30 pm Faith Formation: Campus

Thursday, December 19
6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack meeting: OC

Friday, December 20
6:00 pm Piano Recital: CH

Saturday & Sunday, December 21 & 22
9:00 am Men’s Club Christmas Tree sales: Conway Lot

Saturday, December 21
9:30 am Welcome Rite & Visitation for Mary Ann Schwab
11:00 am Funeral & Luncheon for Mary Ann Schwab
10:00 am Middle School Grocery Bagging: Sun Ray Cub

Sunday, December 22—4th Sunday of Advent
After Masses New Member Registration: BH

MEETING LOCATION KEY:
BH: Brioschi Hall, CH: Church, FR: Founders Room, OC: Old Church,
SL: Staff Lounge

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).

Heart Questions

Be Like Jesus

Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Matthew 11:11

Adults: How do you prepare yourself to meet Christ in those around you?

Kids: What have you done so far during Advent to be like Jesus?

Stewardship of Giving

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

October 2019

Sunday Collection

Sunday Giving $ 62,456.61
Budgeted $ 68,337.51
Variance $ -5,880.90 (-8.6%)

YTD Sunday Giving $ 231,297.76
Budgeted $ 273,349.92
Variance $ -42,052.16 (-15%)

Mortgage

Loan Balance (11/15/19) $ 3,508,283.99
Payment $ 24,389.84
(p-$11,508.37; i-$12,881.47)

Thank you for your support!
Today's Readings: Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10; Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10; James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11. On this Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice that we will soon celebrate the Incarnation. Our excitement increases as schools let out, Christmas parties begin, and stores ramp up their bargains. With so much going on, the joy of Christmas might feel effortless, but our readings remind us that true joy comes from commitment and perseverance.

St. James urges us to be patient and steadfast in our faith despite whatever unkindness or injustice assails us. It is easy to be joyful when things are going well; it shows true faith to remain uplifted when life gets hard. The prophet Isaiah knows this, too. He prophesied that God would bring back those who were forced to leave their homes because of war. Any who wish to share in this glorious future, however, must remain strong and steadfast for the long journey home.

For John the Baptist and others, remaining steadfast in joyful hope meant accepting that God’s plan of salvation was unfolding differently than they thought it would. Although Jesus revealed God’s compassion, in other ways he was not the messiah they wanted. Some people were even offended by Jesus. It took effort for people to set aside their expectations and receive Jesus with joy.

This Sunday we ask ourselves what could steal our joy away, and we recommit ourselves to being strong, patient, and steadfast in faith, come what may.

Lasting Joy

Loving God,
all that was broken, you bind up,
all that was lost, you restore.
We rejoice that you have come to save us,
but sometimes we weaken and lose heart.
When we grow tired, give us your strength.
When we grow fearful and uncertain,
give us your resolve.

When we forget you in times of pain and sorrow,
inspire us anew with your love and consolation.
Heal all that ails our hearts
so that we may walk with unwavering faith
into the everlasting joy of your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 15, 2019
Come What May
**Monday, December 16**

**Speaking Truly**
Balaam, who was not an Israelite, was called upon by a foreign leader to curse God’s people. Instead, Balaam blesses Israel. Despite what others want, Balaam obeys God. Despite challenges to his authority, Jesus also persists in proclaiming God’s word. Make a list of people who have bravely spoken God’s word in the face of opposition. Reflect on what they teach you about staying true to God’s word.

**Today’s Readings:** Numbers 24:2–7, 15–17a; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8–9; Matthew 21:23–27.

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**Tuesday, December 17**

**Jewish Savior**
Judah was one of the twelve tribes of ancient Israel. Because it was the only tribe to survive a series of foreign attacks, other nations came to refer to the region this tribe inhabited as Judea and to its people as Jews. In his genealogy of Jesus, Matthew is careful to show that Jesus is both Jewish and of the tribe of Judah. Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promises to his people. The Catholic Church’s use of the O Antiphons highlights Jesus’ Jewish roots. List the O Antiphons and pray with them until Christmas.

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

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**Wednesday, December 18**

**The Ultimate Salvation**
While prophesying that God would save his people, Jeremiah refers to the people’s enslavement in Egypt and then to the invasion of Assyria centuries later. During both of these times God’s people experienced enslavement and suffering. When the angel appears to Joseph, he announces that Jesus will save all people from the greatest of all enslavements: sin and death. Make a paper chain and hang it on your tree as a reminder of the bondage from which Christ has freed us.

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

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**Thursday, December 19**

**Conceptions**
We might not know the story of the wife of Manoah, but Zechariah definitely would have heard of her. He also would know the stories of Sarah and Hannah, two other women in the Old Testament who unexpectedly conceived a child. Despite knowing such stories from his own religious heritage, Zechariah questions Gabriel’s prophecy. Help people to celebrate God’s gift of life by bringing donations to a local pregnancy center or by volunteering at a shelter for women and children.


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**Friday, December 20**

**Trust**
King Ahaz did not want to ask for a sign because a sign would require his doing something that would probably cost him. God asks Mary to do something that will also significantly change her life, but she obeys. Nothing like this had ever happened in the history of her people, yet Mary entrusts herself to God’s extraordinary plan. Surprise someone with an unexpected act of kindness today as a way of sharing God’s wondrous goodness.

**Today’s Readings:** Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.

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**Saturday, December 21**

**Leaping for Joy**
Our hearts leap for joy at the Incarnation, as we hope they’ll leap again for joy at our Lord’s return in glory. All of the readings for today remind us that our God in whom we place our hope and trust will work wonders in our lives. Read both options for the First Readings, then compose your own joyful song of praise to God.

Look for Signs Aging Parents May Need Help
By Sharyl Kaase, marketing director, Cerenity – Marian of Saint Paul
sharyl.kaase@bhshealth.org or 651-495-1819

The holidays are a wonderful time to gather and celebrate with friends, neighbors and family. For adult children who live in a different city than Mom or Dad, coming home for the holidays is a great opportunity to observe changes in mood, behavior or wellness that may be of concern.

Following are signs, that may indicate Mom or Dad may be ready for assistance:

- Inadequate meals, poor nutrition, or spoiled food or groceries past their expiration date
- Weight loss, or decreased energy or physical fitness
- Abnormally untidy house and clutter
- Poor hygiene, soiled clothing and unkempt personal appearance
- Unopened mail and past-due bills
- Forgetting to take medication, taking the wrong doses, stockpiling medications with the possibility of mixing medicines by mistake with adverse results, or expired medications
- Frequent memory lapses, confusion or forgetfulness, such as missing medical appointments
- Increasingly unorganized or unable to problem solve
- Lack of interest in activities, hobbies or things that were formerly enjoyed
- Changes in mood
- Frequent falls
- Unsafe driving

If the points above are raising questions or concerns, they may signal that changes are needed, such as implementing additional help in the home or considering a move to a senior living community.

Assistance at home, through an in-home care service provider, helps seniors stay as independent as possible in the familiarity of their own surroundings. Assisted living provides the support of a residential setting for people who want to live independently among the company of others yet need some supportive services. As the number of elderly adults has increased, so has the variety of living choices available to seniors.

( turn page for additional information )
St. Pascal Regional Catholic School

Support our 7/8 Grade Trip to Washington DC Two Ways

First:

Culver's Night!

MONDAY
DECEMBER 16
5:00 - 7:00 PM

St. Pascal Regional Catholic School will receive 10% of all sales between 5:00 - 7:00.

Support the 7/8 trip to Washington D.C. and take a night off cooking... we hope to see you there!
St. Pascal Regional Catholic School

Support our 7/8 Grade Trip to Washington DC Two Ways

Second:

DO YOU NEED GROCERIES?

7/8 Grade Washington D.C. Fundraiser -
Let us bag your groceries for you!

12.21.19 | SAT | 10 AM-4 PM
Sun Ray Cub Foods