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 22, 2019  |  FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mass Times
Saturday 4:30 PM  |  Sunday 8:45 & 10:30 AM (ASL)  |  Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM  |  Wednesday 9:25 AM

1757 Conway Street  |  Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106  |  651.774.1585
website: www.stpascals.org  |  email: church@stpascals.org
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

On behalf of all of us here at St. Pascal Baylon Parish, I wish you a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year 2020. I pray that the joy of Jesus’ birth will fill your heart with peace and hope. Jesus was born in our world long ago at Bethlehem, and we can imagine the vulnerability of the baby Jesus lying in the manger. Jesus was born into an imperfect world, and today we still live in an imperfect world that includes suffering, violence and pain. At the same time, Christmas reminds us that Jesus chose to enter our world because of His love for us. Each day Jesus shows His love for us through the Sacraments we celebrate, through His real presence in the Eucharist, through the compassion we experience in our parish community, in the Christian service we offer to the poor and needy, and in the beauty of our Church’s liturgy filled with Scripture, song, prayer and art. I am grateful to serve as your pastor. You are an amazing parish filled with a strong faith, and I pray that this Christmas you will experience once again God’s deep love for you.

Baby Bottle Fundraiser Coming in January. From January 5-26, we will have a fundraiser to support the work of Options for Women East LifeCare Center (891 White Bear Ave., St. Paul, 651.776.2328, optionsforwomeast.com). Options for Women East offers services and resources at no cost to women who are unexpectedly pregnant. After all the weekend Masses on January 4-5, a plastic baby bottle will be available to each person who would like to take the bottle home and fill it with cash or a check. Then you can bring the bottle back to church and deposit the bottle and its contents into the large baby bottle receptacle which will be in our Gathering Space. If you prefer electronic giving, the donor website for Options for Women East is ofwepartners.com.

Thank you letters from the Archdiocesan Center for Mission. This past October and November, I received two thank you letters from the Center for Mission. The first letter thanked our parish for the gift of $4,852.78 that we collected in June when Father John Extejt, OSFS, (Oblates of St. Francis de Sales) visited our parish to preach at all the Masses for the Missionary Cooperation Plan. The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales serve the poor, hungry and needy in Haiti, India, Namibia, South Africa, Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay, Columbia, Benin and the Ivory Coast. The second letter thanked our parish for the gift of $2,526.00 that we collected in November for World Mission Sunday which supports over 1,100 struggling mission dioceses worldwide. Thank you for your financial and prayerful support of the missionary work of the Church.

Pope Francis’ Petitions for December 2019 and January 2020

December 2019: The Future of the Very Young. That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

January 2020: Promotion of World Peace. We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell

Christmas Season

Holy Day Liturgy Schedule

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday, December 24: 4:00 PM (no incense) & 10:00 PM
Wednesday, December 25: 10:00 AM

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

Archdiocesan Synod 2021

Wondering how you can participate in the Synod?

1. Please pray for the Synod and our Archdiocese.
2. Pray the pre-synod prayer and the monthly prayer intention.
   • Attend one of the 20 prayer and listening events.
   • Complete the “Disciple Maker Index” Survey, rolling out in February 2020.
4. Year 2 (Fall 2020):
   • Join a parish small group.

Learn more at www.archspm.org/synod.

Winter Weather and Office Closure

On those days when the St. Paul Public School District closes city schools due to weather, St. Pascal Regional Catholic School closes its school as well. When this happens, all school and parish activities and meetings will be cancelled. The building may also be closed at the discretion of the pastor or business administrator. Daily Mass will be offered on weather-related days assuming that the pastor/presider can get to the church.

Spiritual Care Volunteers

Ceremony-Marian of Saint Paul is in need of Spiritual Care Volunteers and Eucharistic Ministers for those who cannot attend our daily Mass. Both tenants in the apartments and residents in our care center may receive communion and a visit. If you are interested in this opportunity or any of the others below, please contact Jackie Bruns at 651.793.2116 or jackie.bruns@bhshealth.org.

Other needs: Outing escorts, 1:1 visitors/befrienders for lonely residents, nail painters, activity assistants and more.

In Christ We Live Forever

Please remember in your prayers…

Mary Ann Schwab who was recently buried from our church. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends, and pray for her soul’s eternal peace.
--- SERVE IN OUR COMMUNITY ---

Ramsey Family Service Center
It's time to make our schedule for 2020 Ramsey Family Service Center Meal Services.
St. Pascal volunteers have served meals to those who often go without since March of 1983—beginning at the Neighborhood House on St. Paul's Westside, then at the Lowry Family Shelter in downtown St. Paul, and currently at Ramsey Family Service Center near Aldrich arena. Some volunteers serve an evening weekday meal from 5:00-7:00 PM (3rd, 4th or 5th Monday and 2nd Wednesday of the month), others serve lunch on Monday. All assignments are every other month (6 times a year).

Some of our groups need callers to remind the volunteers of their service night. Could you make 4-5 calls a few days before the team is scheduled to work? It's an easy volunteer job that can be done from home! Contact Toni Baker at 651.731.7763 or toni@bakers.us for more information, to volunteer, to change your service time, etc.

Financial Updates
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 many 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 to be considered for the 2019 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.

Each of us is called to be a good steward of what God has given. We are caretakers of what God has given to us—we don't own it and we won't have it forever. We don't earn any of these things—God bestows them abundantly upon us.

Fr. John Mitchell

Many Thanks! Thank you to the Men's and Women's Clubs and an anonymous donor for funding plumbing work in the breezeway bathrooms. There was a history of water pressure problems in both the girl's and boy's room sinks resulting in little water available for hand washing. Our plumbers from Gilbert Mechanical are scheduled for over the school Christmas break and school students should enjoy the soap bubbles for years to come.

--- FAITH FORMATION ---

Confirmation Preparation
9th Grade Families
In November 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 deadline has been extended to January 6.

Seeking Dismissal Leaders for RCIA
This year we have one young person, a 5th grader, preparing to celebrate the initiation sacraments at the Easter Vigil. As a part of the RCIA process, catechumens—those who have not yet been baptized—are dismissed from Mass following the homily to reflect on the readings with a member of the parish. Dismissals will begin on January 11 and will rotate among all three Masses. If you are willing and able to help with this ministry, or would like more information, please contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

--- 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 - 3:30 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
Pat Kackman

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

--- JustFaith Catholic ---

The Gospel invites us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, going where Jesus goes and loving who Jesus loves. To love like Jesus is to love our family and friends AND the poor and vulnerable. If you would like to explore what it could mean for you to love like Jesus in your daily life, you are invited to participate in the JustFaith Catholic program. This fall, two small groups met 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. Registration forms are now available in the kiosks and on the parish website. Watch the bulletin and website for more information about Phase Two or contact Ann Karner at 651.330.0024.
### Mass Times & Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 24</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Christmas Eve</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>The people of the parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>The people of the parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 25</strong></td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td><em>Christmas Day</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>The people of the parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 26</strong></td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>A deceased member of the parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, December 27</strong></td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td><em>The Nativity of the Lord</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>4:00 &amp; 10:00 PM:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shepherds' Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, December 28</strong></td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>The people of the parish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 29</strong></td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td><em>The Holy Family</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Mary Louise Coburn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Heart Question

**Welcoming Light**

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife.

Matthew 1:24

**Adults:** Whom do you find it difficult to welcome in your life? What can you do to overcome that?

**Kids:** What could you do this week to make someone feel welcome, as Joseph welcomed Mary?

### Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 22, 2019</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>The Holy Family</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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**Stewardship of Giving**

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

**October 2019**

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

**Mortgage**

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

**Thank you for your support!**

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**THE WEEK AHEAD**

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

**Sunday, December 22, 2019—4th Sunday of Advent**

9:00am  | Men’s Club Christmas Tree sales: Conway Lot  
After Masses | New Member Registration: Brioschi Hall

**Monday, December 23, 2019**

9:00am  | Men’s Club Christmas Tree sales: Conway Lot

**Tuesday, December 24, 2019—CHRISTMAS EVE**

12:00pm  | Parish office closed
4:00pm  | Mass (Lessons & Carols at 3:30 PM)
10:00pm  | Mass (Carols at 9:30 PM)

**Wednesday, December 25, 2019—CHRISTMAS DAY**

Parish office closed  
10:00am  | Mass (Carols at 9:40 AM)

**Thursday, December 26, 2019**

No scheduled events

**Friday, December 27, 2019**

No scheduled events

**Saturday, December 28, 2019**

No scheduled events

**Sunday, December 29, 2019**

*The Holy Family*

8:45 AM  | The people of the parish
10:30 AM + | Mary Louise Coburn

**Wednesday, December 25, 2019—CHRISTMAS DAY**

Parish office closed  
10:00am  | Mass (Carols at 9:40 AM)

**Thursday, December 26, 2019**

No scheduled events

**Friday, December 27, 2019**

No scheduled events

**Saturday, December 28, 2019**

No scheduled events

**Sunday, December 29, 2019**

*The Holy Family*

8:45 AM  | The people of the parish
10:30 AM + | Mary Louise Coburn

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**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).
Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6 (7c, 10b); Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24. When King Ahaz and the people of southern Israel were under attack, the king sought help from a foreign power. The prophet Isaiah told him to trust in God instead. Isaiah even offered proof of God's protection, but the king refused it. Ahaz probably suspected that if he trusted in God, his life would change in a way he would not like.

Like King Ahaz, Joseph found himself in what looked like an impossible situation. Even if he discreetly divorced Mary, everyone would find out why. Unlike King Ahaz, however, when Joseph is given the chance to entrust himself to God's plan, he takes it. He bravely brings his betrothed into his home. By doing so, Joseph fulfills two prophecies. He receives the sign promised to an ancient king, and he incorporates the unborn child of the virgin into his family line, the line of King David.

Although Ahaz failed to trust in his Lord, God vowed to remain with his people. God's enduring presence takes a startling turn in the house of Joseph, for the child is more than a son of David; he is also, as St. Paul writes, “Son of God in power.” The child is Emmanuel, God living in the midst of his people as one of his people.

Yet this child belongs not only to Jews, but to everyone. And everyone belongs to him. In Jesus, God fulfills his plan of salvation. In Jesus, God calls us to entrust ourselves to him, to become holy, and to belong to him forever.

Be with us
Emmanuel,
soon we will celebrate your birth,
the day God came crying and laughing,
a child in our midst.
On this day we celebrate that you are with us,
you have always been with us,
and you want all people to be with you.
Help us entrust our lives to you, to belong to you alone.

Be with us as we answer your call to be humble and holy.
Keep us as your brothers and sisters,
as children of your Father,
no matter how often we step away from you.
Stay always by our side
so that we will be with you forever in your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 22, 2019
Fulfillment
Today's Readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6 (7c, 10b); Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24.
This Week at Home

Monday, December 23
Elijah Returns

Our Old Testament ends with the prophecy that Elijah will return to prepare people for God’s arrival. It would be several centuries, however, before someone would again speak for God. When John the Baptist began his prophetic ministry, people believed that God was at last speaking to them. The unusual elements of John’s birth point to the new era that is about to begin. Find or draw an image of John the Baptist and use it to reflect on the ways people of his era might have reacted to him. Today’s Readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57–66.

Tuesday, December 24
Peace

King David united Israel, brought the nation peace, and upheld God’s covenant. God’s promise that a descendant of David would reign forever is part of God’s promise to bring peace to the world. By calling Jesus the “son of David,” we acknowledge that Jesus is the “daybreak from on high” who will “guide our feet into the path of peace.” Pray for all the nations of the world, especially those that are in the deadly grip of violence. Today’s Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Luke 1:67–79.

Wednesday, December 25
God’s Goodness

When God created the world, he saw that it was good. Sin plunged the world back into darkness, but God did not give up on his creation. Instead, he prepared to bring light to the world once again. Today we celebrate God’s advent in our world. We celebrate his affirmation of the goodness of creation and his promise that “all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.” Look for the goodness in each moment of this day. Thank God for the goodness that surrounds and fills you. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 52:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4, 5–6; Hebrews 1:1–6; John 1:1–18.

Thursday, December 26
St. Stephen, the First of Many

The light has come into the world, but not everyone wants to hear about it. Jesus warned his followers that they would face persecution. Stephen was the first to face persecution: he was brutally killed for proclaiming the Gospel. Thousands have given their lives since then. Their courage shows the unwavering light and truth of the Incarnation. Place the names or images of Christian martyrs you admire by your nativity set. Today’s Readings: Acts of the Apostles 6:8–10; 7:54–59; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17–22.

Friday, December 27
St. John, Evangelist and Apostle

Although St. John does not include stories about Jesus’ birth in his Gospel, he emphasizes that Jesus is God’s Son in the flesh. Those who believe that Jesus is the fullest and most perfect revelation of God enter into communion with his Father. Through this fellowship with God, all who believe will enter eternal life. St. John longed for people to believe that Jesus was truly God-in-the-flesh, and he rejoiced when they did. Celebrate the Incarnation by praying the Angelus today. Today’s Readings: 1 John 1:1–4; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12; John 20:1a and 2–8.

Saturday, December 28
The Holy Innocents

The joyful, uplifting stories surrounding the birth of Jesus come to us mostly from the Gospel according to Luke. St. Matthew’s stories foreshadow Jesus’ passion and death. We’re reminded of the threat that looms over Jesus as we hear how King Herod goes to horrific lengths to eliminate a potential rival. Not only did King Herod walk in darkness, he even tried to destroy the light itself. Confess the ways you still walk in darkness, and ask God to forgive you and bring you back into the light of Christ. Today’s Readings: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Psalm 124:2–3, 4–5, 7b–8; Matthew 2:13–18.