



**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.

**DECEMBER 13, 2020 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



***Show us the light that has already come into our world,  
so that we may give you thanks in all that we do.***

**Mass Times**

Saturday 4:30 PM | Sunday 8:45 & 10:30 AM (ASL) | Tuesday - Friday 8:00 AM

1757 Conway Street | Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 | 651.774.1585

website: [www.stpascals.org](http://www.stpascals.org) | email: [church@stpascals.org](mailto:church@stpascals.org)

## 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 for "rejoice"). The Third Sunday occurs halfway through the Advent Season. Thus, it is appropriate to rejoice that we are halfway on our 4-week journey to the celebration of Christmas. On 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 Gaudete Sunday.

### **Free Virtual Bingo Night! Friday, December 18 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM.**

Add fun to your winter evening by joining us for six games of Bingo via Zoom, free of charge. Register with a convenient link to SignUp Genius at [stpascals.org/parish-news](http://stpascals.org/parish-news). Or you can register by calling our parish office (651.774.1585) by December 14. Each participant will receive two bingo cards that you can use for all six Bingo games. We will send a digital version of your Bingo cards to you via e-mail, and you can print the cards from your printer. If you do not have a printer, do not worry. Call the parish office by December 14, and we will send your Bingo cards to you through the regular mail. Deadline to register for mailed-out cards: December 14. Deadline to register for e-mailed cards: December 18 at 12 noon. If you do not have a computer, tablet or smart phone, you can play Virtual Bingo using a regular phone by dialing into the pre-assigned meeting phone number and passcode. Call the parish office for more details. All ages can play. Win a fun prize and see your parish friends on the Zoom screen. Prizes include gift cards, beverages and more.

**Our parish is participating in the Catholic Charities Annual Giving Tree.** Gift items include clothing, housewares, personal items and toys. Take a tag from the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space or go to the Advent/Christmas page on the parish website for a convenient link to the Wish List.

**Step 1:** Select an item(s) from the Giving Tree list.

**Step 2:** Shop for your selected gift(s) online or at your favorite store.

**Step 3:** Drop off your unwrapped gift at one of the locations listed below:

#### **Mall of America North Parking Lot**

60 E. Broadway, Bloomington, MN 55425

Friday, December 18 – Sunday, December 20 (10:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

#### **Catholic Charities Administrative Center**

1200 2nd Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55403

Monday - Friday (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

#### **Catholic Charities Distribution Center**

341 Chester St., Saint Paul, MN 55107

Monday - Friday (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

*You can also purchase your gift(s) online and ship your gifts to:*

*341 Chester St., Saint Paul, MN 55107*

#### **St. Pascal Baylon Church**

1757 Conway St., Saint Paul, MN 55106

Please drop off your gift(s) before December 25.

*The Giving Tree bin is located inside the Main Church doors (Door #3).*

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

## **Sign up for our Christmas Liturgies!**

**December 24 at 4:00 PM**

**December 25 at 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM**

Everyone is strongly encouraged to sign up in advance for our Christmas Masses. Because we need to know how many people to expect, we will give priority seating in the church to those who are signed up in advance. Walk-ins will be seated in Brioschi Hall unless it is determined that extra space is available in the church.

Sign up online through our website or phone the parish office at 651.774.1585 to reserve your spot. Each household must sign up separately, so if you are expecting guests for the holiday, please have each household sign up separately. Sign-ups will close at 3:00 PM on December 23.

The 4:00 PM and 10:30 AM Masses will be livestreamed beginning at 3:45 PM and 10:15 AM respectively. These can be accessed through our website or the St. Pascal's YouTube channel.

## **Winter Clothing Needed**

*"Lord, when did we see you naked and we gave you no clothing?"*

People who lack appropriate housing this winter (including those living in tents) are in desperate need of warm clothing including jackets, hats, gloves, mittens, boots, warm socks, etc. Progressive Baptist Church is collecting items on the following dates:

*Friday, December 18 — 9:30-10:30 AM*

*Saturday, December 19 — 9:00-10:00 AM*

Items can be dropped off only during those times at Progressive Baptist Church, 1505 Burns Avenue—just blocks from St. Pascal's. **ABSOLUTELY NO DONATIONS ARE TO BE LEFT AT ST. PASCALS.**

*Respecting the dignity of others, please donate only items you yourself would wear.*

## **St. Pascal's Women's Book Club**

***Have you ever thought about coming to the St. Pascal's Women's Book Club?***

Join us at 6:30 PM on the 2nd Monday of each month. Until we can meet again in person, We are ZOOMing to you in your home during the pandemic! Log in as often as your schedule allows.

On December 14, we will discuss Wally Lamb's *Wishin and Hopin*. All parish women are invited to join the group for its monthly discussions.

For more information, a list of the 2021 selections and log in, contact Toni Baker at 651.731.7763 or [toni@bakers.us](mailto:toni@bakers.us). Make a New Year's resolution to join the group on January 11 and get yourself reading. Start your 2021 resolution early and log in to ZOOM this month!

## — REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

**Advent Highlights at St. Pascal Regional Catholic School**

One of the many blessings of Catholic education is being able to learn about and celebrate the season of Advent within the school community. We are able to teach students how they can prepare for the coming of Jesus into our world and help them to understand that the real reason for our expectant joy leading up to Christmas is not the hope of the presents under the tree, but rather the hope and gift of Jesus Christ.

In kindergarten, students create a 'helping hand' advent wreath and talk about how they can be helpful around the classroom and at home. The 3rd and 4th graders make Christmas cards for members of the Navy who cannot be home for Christmas. In 7th and 8th grade, students complete an Advent journal that guides them to read the infancy narratives in the Gospels and the book of Isaiah more deeply as well as meditate and pray with a hopeful heart for Christmas.

**Young at Heart—Pray the Rosary!**

Little did we know that our February 2020 meeting would usher in an entirely new way of living. Many of you are yearning to gather again to share the blessings of the Eucharist, have our meal together and enjoy some entertainment—but the date for that is on God's calendar! In the meantime, we will gather in spirit.

On Thursday, December 17 and on the 4th Thursday of the coming months, we encourage you pray the rosary at noon wherever you are. This will unite us in spirit. With Our Blessed Mother on our side, we will eventually meet in person for our Young at Heart meetings. Until then, let us be united in prayer on the 4th Thursday in the coming months.

For more information, please contact Betty Hensel at [bjhensel@comcast.net](mailto:bjhensel@comcast.net) or 651.714.8958.

*Mary could trustingly carry Jesus, because she knew how to receive spiritual gifts—in fact, the spiritual gift. She offers a profound image of how generativity and fruitfulness break into this world. We have much to learn from her.*  
—Richard Rohr, *Daily Meditations*

**St. Pascal's Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot—Celebrating 51 Years!**

*Now through December 23 or until sold out*

We're a one-stop shop with tree stands, tree bags plus swags & wreaths. Check out our excellent selection of Fraser fir, balsam fir, Scotch pine, and white pine trees. No truck? No worries—we will tie the tree on your car for you! 100% of all proceeds go right back to St. Pascal's parish and St. Pascal Regional Catholic School. Sale hours are:

Monday - Friday from 3:00-9:00 PM | Saturday & Sunday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

*COVID-19 policies are in effect.*

## — FAITH FORMATION —

As a parish staff, we continue to monitor the guidance from the Center for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health. Out of an abundance of caution as COVID-19 numbers continue to rise and Minnesotans are being encouraged to stay close to home and limit gatherings, Fr. John and I have made the following decisions regarding faith formation and sacrament preparation:

1. Wednesday Faith Formation sessions will continue to take place at home for the remainder of the academic year. Lesson overviews and additional materials will be sent out to families before January 1. Zoom opportunities will also be offered.
2. The celebration of First Reconciliation, originally scheduled for December 1, was cancelled. Opportunities for those who have been preparing to celebrate will be offered after January 1.
3. First Eucharist preparation sessions are set to take place via Zoom. We will decide closer to the time if sessions can be done safely in person. These begin in February.
4. Confirmation II sessions are now taking place via Zoom, and the celebration of the sacrament will take place at the parish on February 6. (Confirmation celebrations at the Cathedral have been cancelled through Easter.) Confirmation I sessions for 9th graders beginning in January will be via Zoom to start.
5. RCIA sessions are taking place via Zoom through at least December.

Kim Roering

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

**Living Faith Booklets**

A limited number of Living Faith booklets for January - March 2021 are available in the parish office. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the parish office at [church@stpascals.org](mailto:church@stpascals.org) or 651.774.1585.

## CONTACT US

**Parish Office**

Phone 651.774.1585  
Email [church@stpascals.org](mailto:church@stpascals.org)

*For after-hours pastoral emergency (death, dying or anointing): Call the parish office.*

**Parish Office Hours**

Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 3:00 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  
*Mike Aeling, Chair*

**St. Pascal Regional Catholic School**

Phone 651.776.0092  
Email [icollierpaske@stpascalschool.org](mailto:icollierpaske@stpascalschool.org)

**School Office Hours**

Mon-Fri 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Sacramental Information****Reconciliation**

Saturday from 4:00-4:15 PM  
or contact Fr. John in the parish office  
*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](mailto:thea.munoz@stpascals.org)

**Mass Announcements**

Due 3:00 PM Tuesday  
[keri.mader@stpascals.org](mailto:keri.mader@stpascals.org)

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*St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church*

**Mass Times & Intentions**

**Readings**  
December 13, 2020

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Tuesday, December 15**  
8:00 AM The people of the parish

**Wednesday, December 16**  
8:00 AM The people of the parish

**Thursday, December 17**  
8:00 AM + Caleb Herrera Shanley

**Friday, December 18**  
8:00 AM The people of the parish

**Saturday, December 19**  
4:30 PM The people of the parish

**Sunday, December 20**  
8:45 AM The people of the parish  
10:30 AM + Don Hensel

**Sunday:**  
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11  
(Ps) Lk 1:46-51, 54  
1 Thes 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**Monday:**  
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a  
Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9  
Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:**  
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13  
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23  
Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:**  
Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25  
Ps 85:9ab, 10-14  
Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:**  
Gn 49:2, 8-10  
Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17  
Mt 1:1-17

**Friday:**  
Jer 23:5-8  
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19  
Mt 1:18-25

**Saturday:**  
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a  
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17  
Lk 1:5-25

**Next Sunday:**  
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29  
Rom 16:25-27  
Lk 1:26-38

St. Pascal's is committed to help you to navigate through the upcoming weeks of COVID-19 safety measures. We have cutback programs and community gatherings in an effort to keep all in our community healthy and safe. Visit [www.stpascals.org](http://www.stpascals.org) for more information and for the status of upcoming parish meetings and events.

**Sunday, December 13—3rd Sunday of Advent**  
9:00 AM Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot Open: Conway Lot

**Monday, December 14-Friday December 18**  
3:00 PM Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot Open: Conway Lot

**Monday, December 14**  
6:30pm Women's Book Club-Zoom

**Tuesday, December 15**  
6:30pm JustFaith-Zoom

**Wednesday, December 16**  
11:00am Rosary: Church  
6:30pm RCIA-Zoom  
6:30pm Faith Formation: At-home session

**Thursday, December 17**  
No scheduled events

**Friday, December 18**  
7:00pm Virtual Bingo: Zoom

**Saturday, December 19**  
9:00 AM Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot Open: Conway Lot

**Sunday, December 20—4th Sunday of Advent**  
9:00 AM Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot Open: Conway Lot

**Heart Questions**

**Bringing Joy through Justice**

*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation.*

Isaiah 61:10

**Adults:** What work of justice can you to bring someone joy?

**Kids:** What could you do for someone this week to make them happy?

**Calix Society—Help is one call away.**

Do you or a family member or friend need to learn about resources to help with an addiction concern? Or you just need someone to talk with? You can reach out to a member of Calix.

Calix is an association of Catholic alcoholics, drug addicts, and family members and friends affected by addiction, who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12-Step program.

On a confidential basis, you can call 651.779.6828 or 612.383.8232. The contact there is a Calix member and you need not provide your name. You can receive information on Calix, meeting times, resources and events. Perhaps this one call will be a crucial recovery path action—and save a life.

**Mental Health Resources**

Times like these long months of the pandemic can be difficult for adults, children and families. Ramsey County Mental Health Resources are available for those struggling with the stressors of COVID-19. Ramsey County's mental health crisis lines continue to be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

When you find yourself or a loved one in the midst of a crisis, call:

Adult Mental Health Crisis Line: 651.266.7900

Children's Mental Health Crisis Line: 651.266.7878

**Financial Updates**

**Year-End Financial Gifts:** As this calendar year quickly comes to a close, 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 over 35 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 2020 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.

**REMEMBER SOMEONE IN A SPECIAL WAY  
THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Make a donation (any amount) to honor or remember 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. Funds will be used for flowers and other liturgical needs for the church.

*I would like to make a donation (circle one)*

In Honor of / In Memory of

From:

**Thank you for your generosity and care!**

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Longing

God, our faithful Lord,  
you accomplish your will in all things.  
We await the fulfillment of your promises.  
We long for the fullness of your kingdom,  
and that longing is our ceaseless prayer.  
Until the advent of that glorious day,  
lift up our hearts in unwavering joy.  
Show us the light that has already come into  
our world,

so that we may give you thanks in all that  
we do.  
Keep us holy and blameless  
as we undertake works of justice and  
promote peace,  
so that others may see and hear and know  
your goodness,  
and be drawn to your light.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

## Expectations



*Today's Readings: Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11; Luke 1:46–48, 49–50, 53–54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28.* St. Paul tells the Christians in Thessalonica to discern carefully whether a word or action is truly from God, but he also warns them not to oppose the action of God's Spirit simply because it is new or unfamiliar to them. A few decades earlier some people wondered if John the Baptist was acting according to God's Spirit. They questioned him thoroughly, but despite John's testimony, they refused to believe that God had sent him. They did not rejoice in his words because John did not fit their expectations.

Although the words of our First Reading are beautiful and compelling, some people did not believe this prophecy

because their experience was very different. The prophet describes the glorious restoration of Israel, but decades of ruin made the fulfillment of that promise seem remote. People struggled to rejoice in the prophet's words.

When God doesn't meet our expectations, we struggle to rejoice, too. We may question what, if anything, God is doing. As we light the pink candle of our Advent wreath, we ask God to permeate our darkness, especially our perplexed hearts. We ask God to help us see all that God is doing and wants to do through us. We also ask God to help us meet his expectations for us: expectations that we will always seek his light and rejoice and give thanks in the light we will find.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 14

#### Authority

Balaam has been hired to curse Israel, but instead he blesses God's people. He insists that he speaks for God. When the elders in the Gospel passage ask Jesus by what authority he speaks, he turns their question back on them. He asks these leaders to make that judgment themselves. They abdicate their authority by refusing to answer. In time, Jesus' words, like Balaam's, are proved true. Pray that all who possess authority submit to the authority of God. *Today's Readings: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Matthew 21:23-27.*

### Tuesday, December 15

#### Despite the Delay

Zephaniah condemns the people for failing to obey God. They are like the second son in the parable who says he will do his father's will but then doesn't. The first son rebels against his father, but something makes him change his mind. Jesus commends those who obey God, no matter how long it takes them to do so. Jesus then rebukes those who profess their faithfulness but persist in their disobedience. What are some promises that you have made that you have not yet fulfilled? *Today's Readings: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Matthew 21:28-32.*

### Wednesday, December 16

#### He Has Come

John the Baptist wanted people to repent in order to receive God's mercy. Jesus, by contrast, offered God's mercy in order to inspire people to repent. Upon questioning Jesus, John is invited to examine Jesus' ministry and decide for himself. Jesus' ministry evokes the life-giving work of God that we hear about in Isaiah. Read slowly through the First Reading, and pray for God to transform our world. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Luke 7:18b-23.*

### Thursday, December 17

#### Titles

The First Reading conveys strength, while Matthew presents an orderly progression of the generations that culminates in the birth of Jesus. Despite the image of strength, Jesus is not the strong and mighty Messiah that people expect, nor does his ministry go as they would have planned it. Look up the "O" Antiphons and reflect upon how Jesus fulfills these titles. *Today's Readings: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew 1:1-17.*

### Friday, December 18

#### Totally New

Jeremiah draws on Israel's past as he assures them that God will lead them again through the difficult times they are facing. Joseph had no such experiences to draw from when he learned of Mary's pregnancy. He had to hope without knowing what was happening and without knowing what he was hoping for. Despite whatever doubt he might have felt, he obeys God immediately. Volunteer at or make a donation to a crisis pregnancy center. *Today's Readings: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25.*

### Saturday, December 19

#### A Muted Response

By bearing and rearing children, the women of ancient times ensured the continuation of their families and tribes. Manoah's wife and Elizabeth would have felt neglected or even punished by God because they did not have children. When these women discover that they are pregnant, they rejoice. Zechariah's response is muted: he either does not believe the angel or does not trust the experience he is having. Consider how you have failed to accept what God is doing in your life. Discuss this during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Today's Readings: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25.*

