



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 20, 2020 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



***Come quickly, Lord! Do not delay. We await you.
Deliver us from hatred, ignorance, and apathy. Bring us your justice and your healing.***

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 | email: church@stpascals.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Parish Buddy System. Would you be interested in participating in a new idea that I am developing for a Parish Buddy System? Basically, you would be paired up with a parish volunteer who would call you once a week to check in and see how you are doing and share news of the parish with you. I think this would be helpful in the COVID-19 pandemic when many of our parishioners are stuck at home or unable to come to church. If you would like to receive a phone call once a week from a Parish Buddy or would like to volunteer to be a Buddy, please fill out the form below and return it to me at the parish office, or call me (651.432.4955) or send me a message via email (john.mitchell@stpascals.org).

..... ✂

Please return this form to Father John Mitchell at the parish office, or contact Father John at 651-432-4955 or john.mitchell@stpascals.org.

_____ I would like to participate in the Parish Buddy System and receive a phone call once a

week to check in with a volunteer from the parish.

_____ I would like to volunteer to call people in the Parish Buddy System.

Name _____

Telephone _____

Comments:

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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

Please sign up in advance for our Christmas Masses. We need to know how many people to expect and will give priority seating in the church to those who are signed up in advance. When church capacity is full, Brioschi Hall sign-ups will open (20 households maximum).

You may 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—if you are expecting guests for the holiday, please have each household sign up separately. Sign-ups 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. Access the livestreams through our website or on the St. Pascal's YouTube page.

Share the Love

Marian Center residents continue to be very isolated right now, so any kindness is great! Will you send a card or note to those at Marian? They are always welcomed!

Send to:

Marian of Saint Paul
"Share Some Love"
200 Earl Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

— REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

We are grateful to all the donors who bless our school community throughout the year. We want to especially thank a former student of St. Pascal Regional who has blessed us for the second year with his kindness. He remembers the years he spent at the former St. Pascal parish school fondly, in particular a Christmas when his parents were struggling financially and the Sisters of St. Joseph (who taught at our school for many years) helped his family during Christmas. He writes, "I want to pass on the kindness that was shown to me." Our alumnus angel donated gift cards to help four families in our school community celebrate Christmas this year. We feel blessed to have so many people who are willing to help out our families. This is truly what Christmas is about!

In the spirit of giving, a current need is for new or gently used books to go in our before and after school care rooms. We are looking for books for students from preschool through 5th grade. If you are able to donate, please drop the books off at the school office.

Mass Times & Intentions

Tuesday, December 22

8:00 AM The people of the parish

Wednesday, December 23

8:00 AM + Clem Kachelmyer

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM The people of the parish

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

8:30 AM The people of the parish

10:30 AM The people of the parish

Saturday, December 26

4:30 PM The people of the parish

Sunday, December 27

8:45 AM The people of the parish

10:30 AM + Georgine Misukanis

Heart Questions

Bringing Joy through Justice

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

(Luke 1:38)

Adults: How do you open your heart to what God wants for you?

Kids: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

Emergency Food Help

Progressive Baptist Church Parking Lot—1505 Burns Avenue

If you, your family, or neighbors you know are in need of emergency food items, all are welcome to visit the food shelf curbside drive-up every Saturday from 10:30 AM - noon for a variety of nourishing items. No residency or parish membership

Ramsey County 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

Readings

December 20, 2020

Sunday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38

Monday:

Sg 2:8-14

Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21

Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:24-28

(Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5,

6-8abcd

Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24

Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14

Lk 1:57-66

Thursday:

Day

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29

Lk 1:67-79

Christmas Eve

Is 9:1-6

Ps 96:1-3, 11-13

Ti 2:11-14

Lk 2:1-14.

Friday:

Christmas Day

Is 52:7-10

Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

Heb 1:1-6

Jn 1:1-18

Saturday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab,

16bc, 17

Mt 10:17-22

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

THE WEEK AHEAD

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 for more information and for the status of upcoming parish meetings and events.

Sunday, December 20—4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot Open: Conway Lot

Monday, December 21, 2020

No scheduled events

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

9:00am Christmas decorating & crew lunch

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

11:00am Rosary: Church

Thursday, December 24, 2020—Christmas Eve

Parish office closed—Have a blessed and joyous Christmas!

4:00pm Mass (with music 15 minutes before): Church

Friday, December 25, 2020—Christmas Day

Parish office closed

8:30am Mass (with music 15 minutes before): Church

10:30am Mass (with music 15 minutes before): Church

Saturday, December 26, 2020

No scheduled events

Sunday, December 27, 2020

No scheduled events

Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent

Reassuring God, help me to have faith bigger than fear. Nudge me to trust in you as I say yes to courageous action.

—Janet Schaeffler, OP, *Miracles Abound (Advent 2020)*

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. Perhaps this one call will be a crucial recovery path action—and save a life.

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.

Christmas isn't automatic, it can't be taken for granted. It began with Mary, but each of us is asked to make our own contribution to giving flesh to faith in the world.

—Richard Rohr, *Daily Meditations*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Waiting

God of wisdom and strength,
we await you.

Like David, we await your prophetic guidance
and the peace you promise.

Like Mary, we await the liberation
of all people

and the fullness of your kingdom.

Do not keep us waiting.

Deliver us from hatred, ignorance,
and apathy.

Bring us your justice and your healing.

Give us your wisdom, compassion,
and courage.

Show us your light.

We await you, for you alone can save us.

Come quickly, Lord! Do not delay.

We await you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Favored Ones



Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Romans 16:25–27; Luke 1:26–38. God chose David, the youngest son in his family and a mere shepherd, to be king. David was a skilled and competent leader, but he was also devout. As he acknowledges all that God has done for him, he expresses his wish to do something for God, namely, to build God a temple. God replies that he needs no such favors from David. God then elevates the king still further by promising that David's descendants would rule over Israel forever.

Mary, an insignificant woman from a Galilean village, would never have imagined how much God would favor her. She does not think there is anything important she could do

for God, but the angel assures her that there is. Though startled and hesitant, Mary accepts God's will. She is ultimately elevated even above King David. She both bears God's Son and becomes part of the new era that this long-awaited descendant of David brings about.

We are God's favored ones, too. God strengthens us to live devoutly. He speaks to us in the law and the prophets and now also in the letters of the Apostles and in the Gospels. He sent his Son to reveal his extraordinary love. The love of God is a mystery that broadens and deepens the more we enter into it. We are surrounded and uplifted by this endless love. God invites us to bear that love in the world so that all will know his grace and favor.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 21

Leaping for Joy

Today's readings urge us to rejoice, even to leap for joy. Such joy is not a mere emotion but a state of being. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we simultaneously look further ahead to his return in glory. God came into our world, and we know that God will come again. Even now, God is with us. God will never leave us. Play music such as Handel's "Messiah" and sing or dance for joy. *Today's Readings: Song of Songs 2:8–14 or Zephaniah 3:14–18a; Psalm 33:2–3, 11–12, 20–21; Luke 1:39–45.*

Tuesday, December 22

Reversals

Hannah at last bears a child through the power of God. In thanksgiving, she dedicates her son for service to the Lord. Having just had her own experience of reversal, Hannah then prophesies about the changes of fortune that await Israel. Centuries later, Mary echoes Hannah's words as she voices her prophetic hymn. Use Hannah's song or Mary's Magnificat to pray for all those who need God to lift them up. *Today's Readings: 1 Samuel 1:24–28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4–5, 6–7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46–56.*

Wednesday, December 23

Purification

Like other prophets, Elijah helped cleanse God's people by stopping their worship of foreign gods. In the First Reading, we hear that Elijah will return to purify another generation of God's people. John the Baptist was Elijah for the people of his day. In every age, we need prophets to help us purify our hearts and prepare for the fullness of God's presence. Pray with an image of John the Baptist. In what ways should you purify yourself to prepare for the day of the Lord? *Today's Readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57–66.*

Thursday, December 24

Rest from Our Enemies

God has granted King David and all Israel safety from their enemies. This time of peace was a glimpse of the peace that God would one day bring to the whole world. Zechariah prophesies that this new era is about to begin. God will vanquish violence, pain, greed, hatred, injustice—all of the evil that endangers us. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, pray for those people and places that especially need God's peace. *Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67–79.*

Friday, December 25

Among Shepherds

We don't know what Mary expected when she became the mother of God's Son. Probably, she didn't expect to lay this divine child in a feeding trough nor to be visited by shepherds. She must have been baffled, but she calmly accepted and reflected on all of it. The surprising way in which God chose to free us from evil and death is something for us to ponder, too. In the midst of what might be a full and busy day, take some time to sit before a nativity scene and reflect on its meaning. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 62:11–12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11–12; Titus 3:4–7; Luke 2:15–20.*

Saturday, December 26

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

The harrowing story of the stoning of Stephen is an abrupt change from the joy and peace of Christmas day. St. Stephen's witness, however, is not one of fear and pain but of devotion to Christ. St. Stephen not only fulfills Jesus' words about persecution, he also dies like Jesus: he entrusts himself to God and forgives his persecutors. Is there someone you should forgive this Christmas season? *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.*





12/17/2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church,

We have exciting news to share, adding to the hope and joy of the season. In the true spirit of Christmas, an anonymous benefactor has made a generous \$1 million donation to the Catholic Schools Center of Excellence (CSCOE) and has designated St. Pascal Regional Catholic School as one of two schools that will receive half of that gift. CSCOE is a nonprofit that supports the 79 preschool–eighth-grade Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. We are beyond grateful and blessed to receive this tremendous investment in our school.

By focusing on innovation, sustainability, and building an endowment fund, we'll create opportunities for collaboration and new ideas that will improve our students' experiences and open doors for even more students to benefit from an excellent Catholic education. We'll communicate details of our plan once they're finalized.

We thought you might like to see part of the letter I received from our donor because it reflects so well on our school and our community:

"Over the years, you have partnered with CSCOE to enhance excellence and increase enrollment at St. Pascal Regional Catholic School, and I am excited to support that partnership and St. Pascal Regional Catholic School's future with my \$500,000 grant. Please know I pray for your students every day, and I feel blessed to be able to make this type of investment in your school."

We are grateful and humbled by this extraordinary display of faith in our school and are committed to ensuring that St. Pascal Regional Catholic School will continue to provide excellence in Catholic education for all who seek it in the future.

Providing excellence in Catholic education and making it affordable for all requires the continuing support of you, the supportive members of St. Pascal's Parish as well as our dedicated staff and teachers, our school families and the many other generous donors who understand the value of what we do. This magnificent gift provides an excellent foundation for building our future. Please watch for more information on this wonderful gift after the first of the new year.

We are fortunate to have so many supporters who see the difference our school makes in students' lives. Thank you for being an important part of St. Pascal Regional Catholic School!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Inna Collier Paske".

Inna Collier Paske
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father John Mitchell".

Father John Mitchell
Canonical Administrator