



**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.

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**JANUARY 10, 2021 | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

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***Embolden us to share your love and salvation.  
Empower us to seek your kingdom of justice and peace.***

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**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 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.** The Sacrament of Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God, we become members of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit, we are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission (Catechism, paragraph 1213). Since Baptism is such an important part of our Christian life, I had an idea that I shared with one of my priest friends. I said to him, "In my homily for the Baptism of the Lord, I was thinking of encouraging people to find out their baptism date and write it on their calendars as a date to celebrate each year." My friend said, "If you suggest that in your homily, parish secretaries all around the Archdiocese will be getting phone calls next week from St. Pascal's parishioners asking them to look up their baptism date!" To prevent such an avalanche of work in one week for parish secretaries, I suggest that a first step is for you to check your baby book, childhood records, or somewhere in your photo albums to see if you can find your baptism information. I think you would enjoy finding your baptism certificate, as I did, and reflecting on your baptism. If you were baptized at St. Pascal Baylon, let's not have dozens of you call Marla at our parish office this week to ask for your baptism date. You could send me an email with your request, and I'll look it up for you after I return from my vacation! ☺

**Next weekend please welcome Father Scott Steinkerchner, O.P to St. Pascal Baylon Church** to celebrate all the weekend Masses and speak on behalf of Food for the Poor which is an ecumenical Christian nonprofit organization that provides food, medicine and shelter to the poor in Latin America and the Caribbean. Father Steinkerchner was ordained for The Order of Preachers (O.P.), the Dominicans, in 1998 and is a member of the Chicago Province. He has been preaching on behalf of Food for the Poor since 2001. He earned a PhD in theology in 2005 and has taught at the high school, undergraduate and seminary levels.

## While I am on vacation from January 11-21:

1. For an emergency Anointing of the Sick, you may call the parish office (651.774.1585), and you will be connected to the on-call priest by the parish receptionist, or if you reach the recorded greeting after office hours, you can select option #1 to be connected to the priest.
2. There will be no weekday Mass here Tuesday-Friday (January 12-15) and Tuesday-Thursday (January 19-21). In my absence, I invite you to celebrate weekday Mass at one of our neighboring parishes.
3. Please keep me in your prayers, and I will pray for you.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

## ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD: Virtual Faith and Culture Series (Four Sessions)

January 21 – February 9 from 7:00-8:30 PM | Registration Required to Participate Live

- Inspired by the thousands of participants at the Prayer and Listening Events, this series connects their stories to the story of the Church. Each virtual event includes a talk, testimonials, and a live panel discussion. Thursday, January 21: *Sources of Catholic teaching (Scripture, tradition and magisterium)*
- Thursday, January 28: *The Church's teaching on sexual morality and the family*
- Thursday, February 4: *The Church's understanding on the dignity of women*
- Tuesday, February 9: *The priesthood (both baptized and ordained)*

Register online at <https://www.archspm.org/registration-for-the-archdiocesan-synod-faith-and-culture-series/> to participate and submit your questions! Zoom links will be sent to registrants prior to each event.

## Year-End Statements

This has been quite a year for our parish community. Through all the hard times, you have remained generous in your financial support, which has allowed us to keep the lights on and the doors open.

Giving statements will be generated within the next few weeks since we are allowing extra time for late mail to arrive at the parish office. Statements will be sent via email if we have your address on record. All others will be sent via US Mail.

We don't know what lies ahead in the coming months, but thanks to your support, St. Pascal's will remain a place of worship on the East Side. We are blessed.

—Theresa

## Women's Book Club

### Time to make a new Year's Resolution to read more!

Join the St. Pascal Women's Book Club this year. During COVID we meet via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. You can join us as often as your schedule allows. On January 11, we will discuss *Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner. It's historical fiction set in 1911 and 2011. On February 8 we will share thoughts on *This Tender Land* by Minnesota's own William Kent Kruger.

For more information or a list of the twelve 2021 selections, contact Toni Baker at [toni@bakers.us](mailto:toni@bakers.us) or 651.731.7763.

## Weekly Rosary

The gentle repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery—Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous—and to help us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells.

Join us every Wednesday at 11:00 AM in the church to pray the rosary together.

## Baptized in Christ

We welcome into our community of faith

Leo James DeGonda  
child of Nick and Katie

who was recently Baptized in our church.  
May God bless this household of faith.

## In Christ We Live Forever

Please remember in your prayers...

Mary Jane O'Keefe  
Stephen Flottmeyer

who recently died and were buried. We extend our sincere sympathy to their families and friends, and pray for their souls' eternal peace.

## — REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

**Refreshed and Ready for a New Year!**

The new year can mean a lot of different things. They signify both an end and the beginning. They can be both daunting and exciting. We are happy to have the crazy year that was 2020 behind us and are looking forward to the new opportunities, memories, challenges, moments, and lessons that 2021 will bring. We were blessed with the ability to have a two week break over the holiday season to rest and hit the 'reset' button—something that was greatly needed. Now, we are re-energized and ready to be back in school, and we are thankful each day that so many of our students are able and willing to come to school in person. Students and staff are also setting goals for the upcoming year as well as revising goals from last year. Students are wanting to improve their reading, writing, math and art skills and teachers are wanting to improve their questioning or learn a new intervention strategy to help a student who struggles socially. All in all, we cannot wait to get working on thriving in 2021.

**Emergency Food Help**

*Progressive Baptist Church—1505 Burns Ave.*  
All are welcome to visit the curbside drive-up every Saturday from 10:30 AM - noon for a variety of nourishing items. No residency or parish membership requirements.

***For now we see through a glass, darkly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. —1 Corinthians 13:12***

*"When we celebrate the beginning of a new year, we celebrate the rebirth of time. We wait for God to do new things. We wait for who we are. We wait for the coming of grace, for the revelation of God. We wait for the truth. We wait for the vision of the whole. But we cannot just wait. We must pray. We say that prayer is not primarily words. Yet prayer can be words, and if the words come out of that empty contemplative place, then we can trust that we really mean them.*

—Richard Rohr, *Daily Meditations*

**FREE Virtual Picture Trivia Night! Celebrate the Winter Carnival**

*Friday, January 29 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM via Zoom*

Add fun to your winter evening by joining us for five games of Picture Trivia via Zoom, free of charge. Register with a convenient link on the Parish News page at [stpascals.org](http://stpascals.org). You can also register by calling our parish office at 651.774.1585 by January 28. Maximum number of players is 100.

Each team will need paper and pencil for six games. (There will be one practice round.) You will need to identify the picture or answer a question about the picture. You will self-correct your own answers. No need to be the first or to type in via chat. Just be able to unmute if you have a high score during the round. *More instructions the night of the game.*

You do need a computer, tablet or smart phone. 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! Deadline to register is THURSDAY January 28.

Sponsored by St. Pascal's Women's Club.

## — ADULT FAITH FORMATION —

**Hope in the Cross—A Retreat To Boost Your Mind and Spirit For Lent**

*Monday, February 8 and Tuesday, February 9  
6:30-8:00 PM via ZOOM*

Plan to join us for a pre-Lent retreat focusing on the virtue of hope, the way that hope makes us more resilient, compassionate, and faithful, and how the Cross is a symbol of hope for us.

Hope is something we can actively exercise to be happier, grounded and successful people. It is the one virtue that both faith and scientific research agree is key to overcoming life's challenges. There is a reason hope is called the anchor for the soul. We'll explore this together in the context of preparing for the Lenten season.

Erin O'Leary, MEd, EdS, will facilitate these evenings. Erin is a Hope-filled Catholic who has worked in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis for 30+ years as a Director of Faith Formation, Catholic school teacher and administrator and curriculum developer. She currently serves as Director of Faith Formation at the Church of the Holy Name in Minneapolis.

The link to sign up for this retreat can be found at [www.stpascals.org/parish-news](http://www.stpascals.org/parish-news).

For more information, contact Kim Roering in the parish office a 651.432.4958 or [kim.roering@stpascals.org](mailto:kim.roering@stpascals.org).

## 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 4:00-4:25 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 January 10, 2021

### Tuesday, January 12

NO MASS

### Wednesday, January 13

NO MASS

### Thursday, January 14

NO MASS

### Friday, January 15

NO MASS

### Saturday, January 16

4:30 PM The people of the parish

### Sunday, January 17

8:45 AM + Fr. Patrick Griffin

10:30 AM The people of the parish

### Heart Questions

#### *The Baptism of Jesus*

*Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

Mk 1:11

**Adults:** Do you ever feel that you are a beloved child of God and God is well-pleased with you?

**Kids:** When do you feel most loved?

### Sunday:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7

Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

Acts 10:34-38

Mk 1:7-11

### Monday:

Heb 1:1-6

Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9

Mk 1:14-20

### Tuesday:

Heb 2:5-12

Ps 8:2ab, 5-9

Mk 1:21-28

### Wednesday:

Heb 2:14-18

Ps 105:1-4, 6-9

Mk 1:29-39

### Thursday:

Heb 3:7-14

Ps 95:6-7c, 8-11

Mk 1:40-45

### Friday:

Heb 4:1-5, 11

Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8

Mk 2:1-12

### Saturday:

Heb 4:12-16

Ps 19:8-10, 15

Mk 2:13-17

### Next Sunday:

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19

Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10

1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Jn 1:35-42

## 5 Things You Can Do to Leave a Legacy

1. Prepare a will.
2. Leave a gift (called a bequest) in your will or revocable trust for the not-for-profit organizations that make a difference in your life.
3. Name your favorite not-for-profit as a beneficiary of your IRA or pension plan.
4. Name your favorite not-for-profit as the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy.
5. Remember loved ones with memorial gifts.

Please make St. Pascal's an important part of your legacy by remembering St. Pascal's in your estate plan. Leave a legacy of faith. Consult with your tax advisor.

If you want more information on St. Pascal's Legacy Society, please call Theresa Ruttger at the parish office at 651.774.1585 or talk to a member of the Legacy Committee—Ellen and Mike Aeling, Susan Hommes, Joe Sullivan, and Brigid O'Malley.

## Giving Envelope Update

Our Giving Envelope vendor has assured us that your sets were mailed. Hopefully, you will start to receive them any day now!

## THE WEEK AHEAD

St. Pascal's is committed to help you to navigate through the current 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, January 10

12:00pm Confirmation II: Zoom

### Monday, January 11

6:30pm AFF Committee: Zoom

6:30pm Women's Book Club: Zoom

### Tuesday, January 12

9:00am E&A Winter decorating

### Wednesday, January 13

11:00am Rosary

6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room/Zoom

6:30pm Faith Formation: At-home session

### Thursday, January 14

No scheduled events

### Friday, January 15

No scheduled events

### Saturday, January 16

No scheduled events

### Sunday, January 17

No scheduled events

## Parish Office Holiday Hours

The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."**

—Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love*, 1963

## Stewardship of Giving

*Financials for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021*

### November

Sunday Giving \$ 56,543.07

Budget \$ 63,031.25

Shortfall \$ (6,488.18)

### Year to Date

Sunday Giving \$ 282,075.84

Budget \$ 315,156.25

Shortfall \$ (33,080.41)

## Mortgage Reduction

### Mortgage Balance

(as of December 7) \$ 3,311,310.47

### Year to Date

Collected Donations \$ 105,850.20

Payments \$ 121,949.20

Shortfall \$ (16,099.00)

(taken from Mortgage Reserve)

**Thank you for your generosity!**

# FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



## Priests, Prophets, Kings

Loving Father,  
at our Baptism we were anointed  
in Christ's name  
to be priests, prophets, and kings.  
Our mission is his.  
Help us to worship you, Lord God,  
and to offer our whole lives to you.  
Embolden us to share your love  
and salvation.

Empower us to seek your kingdom  
of justice and peace.  
When the light of our faith wavers,  
and our white garments become stained  
and torn,  
cleanse us and renew your Spirit within us.  
Guide us each day along the way of your Son  
so that we, your beloved children,  
may be pleasing to you in all that we do.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, January 10, 2021**

## Our Mission



*Today's Readings: Isaiah 55:1–11; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6; 1 John 5:1–9; Mark 1:7–11 or Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7; Psalm 29:1–2, 3ac–4, 3b, 9–10; Acts 10:34–38; Mark 1:7–11.* Jesus, in his humanity, had to discern how to best offer his life to God. He drew inspiration from the promises God had made to Israel and, through Israel, to all people—promises of prosperity, justice, and peace. Jesus may have especially identified with the mysterious servant spoken of by the prophet Isaiah. This servant bravely brings God's salvation to everyone. As John the Baptist urged people to prepare for the next stage of salvation, his words would have resonated with Jesus, who was baptized as a sign of his commitment to the mission that was taking shape within him.

Our Baptism immerses us into the life of Christ, into his earthly ministry, his sacrificial death, and his union with God the Father. As members of Christ's body, we ask ourselves, "What is my mission? For what good work has God's Spirit descended upon me?" Perhaps God is calling us to spend time with someone who is struggling. Perhaps our mission is to change an unhealthy work environment. Our mission might be to address injustice in our community. In all these ways and more, we, God's beloved children, participate in the mission of Christ. In fulfilling our mission we, too, will hear God declare that he is well pleased with us.





## THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

### The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

During Ordinary Time this year we will hear most often from the Gospel of Mark. However, the Gospel passage for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time is always from John. Matthew, Mark, and Luke present Jesus' identity through the lens of his ministry, but John's focus is mostly on Jesus' identity as God's divine Son.

The Christmas season is filled with feast days that highlight Jesus' divinity. The passages from John's Gospel that we hear on the Second Sundays in Ordinary Time transition us from an emphasis on Jesus' identity to his public ministry. As we accompany Jesus in his ministry, today's passage reminds us to stop and spend time with the Lord so as to discover and rediscover all that he is.

### Gospel/Ignatian Contemplation

Popularized by St. Ignatius of Loyola, Gospel contemplation is a way to pray with the Scriptures. It works best with passages in which there is some action, such as a healing. Because Mark's Gospel is filled with short passages in which people are doing something, it is well suited for Gospel contemplation.

To begin, read the passage you have chosen several times. Note the people, setting, and any dialogue. Let the scene take ever clearer shape in your mind. Then imagine that you are there, in the story. You might be one of Jesus' disciples, a person in the crowd, or someone who seeks healing. Notice who is with you, what you say and do, and, most especially, how you interact with Jesus and how he interacts with you. Gospel contemplation is one way to meet our Lord in our sacred texts. It might be helpful for those who are hesitant to try it to remember that the Gospels were written so that we, like generations before us, may encounter Christ and find salvation in him.

### The Gospel of Mark

Since it contains very little teaching and few parables, the Gospel of Mark is the shortest and most fast-paced of our four Gospel accounts. It is also the darkest. The shadow of the cross looms from the first chapter as we hear Jesus begin his ministry right after John the Baptist has been arrested (1:14). Jesus' first miracle is casting out a demon, a symbol of the evil he must confront (1:21–26). Chapter 2 consists entirely of stories in which people challenge Jesus and object to his or his disciples' actions. By chapter 3 people are already plotting his death (3:6). As the Gospel continues, Jesus will face opposition from his family, the villagers of his hometown, and his disciples.

The portrait of Jesus that emerges from this threatening narrative is a Jesus who struggles and suffers. He is the messiah, but he is a suffering messiah. "Suffering messiah" is a contradiction, an oxymoron. No one expected the messiah, God's chosen one, to suffer and be killed. Christians today are so familiar with the story of Jesus' passion and death that we forget how shocking it was, how horrible and horrifying. St. Mark reminds us.

As we move through the Gospel of Mark and hear how Jesus is challenged, misunderstood, ridiculed, and physically attacked, we're reminded that true discipleship has costs. Seeking the reign of God brings us into opposition with others who either don't understand how we're trying to live or who downright reject the kingdom of God that we seek. Jesus knows this. He has been through it. He now stands with us as we continue striving for his kingdom, confronting evil in all its forms until at last he raises us up to life with him in his kingdom forever.

