



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS | 1946-2021

**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 5, 2021 | SECOND 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 Music

Sharon Balcom | ext 126  
sharon.balcom@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

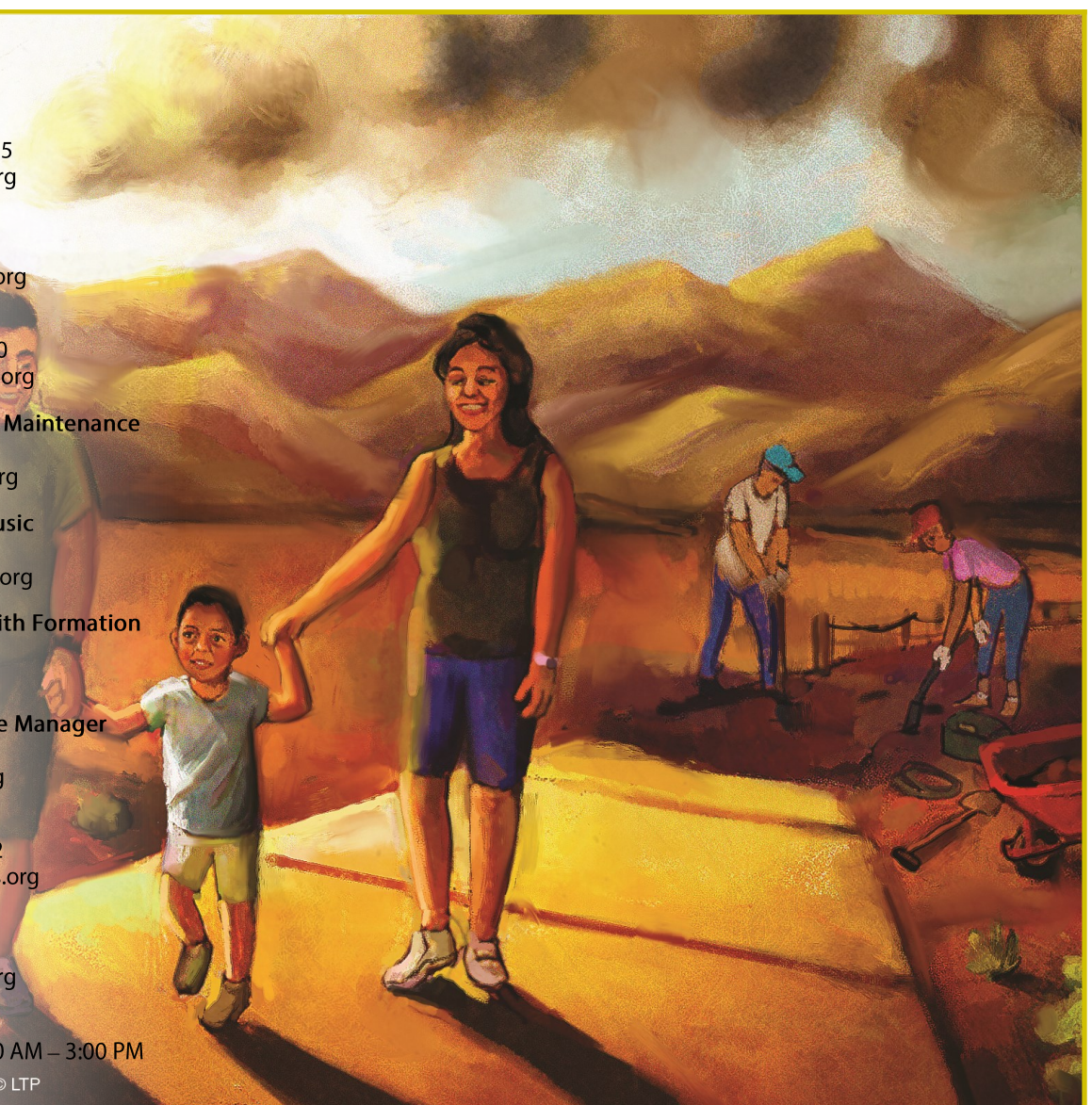
### Welcome Desk

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

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Art by / Ilustración de John McCoy © LTP



## 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

**Retirement Fund for the Religious Collection.** Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health care needs of aging members. Many elder religious worked for years for small stipends which resulted in a large gap in retirement savings. At the same time, fewer religious are able to serve in compensated ministry. Like many Americans, religious communities face the monumental challenge of funding eldercare. I invite you to offer a gift using the Retirement Fund for the Religious donation envelope in your Sunday envelope packet, or else you can give online at: [retiredreligious.org/ways-to-give/donate/](http://retiredreligious.org/ways-to-give/donate/). Thank you.

**Mark your calendars: Advent Evening of Reflection, Thursday, December 16 at 6:30 PM.** How and where do we find Jesus in our daily life? Come to the Advent Evening of Reflection, led by Deacon Rich Moore and me. You will hear Scripture passages, reflect on Advent symbols, and ponder real life situations where we can find Jesus in our daily routines, work, school, neighborhoods and homes. All are welcome!

**Angel Tree.** St. Pascal Baylon Church's Social Justice and Caring Committee is partnering again this year with Angel Tree ministries to provide gifts to five children on behalf of an incarcerated parent. Angel Tree tags have been placed on the Christmas tree in the Gathering Space. You will recognize the Angel Tree tags since they are angel-shaped. Angel Tree gifts can be returned to church and placed in the Angel Tree box in the Gathering Space. **Please note:** *the deadline for Angel Tree gifts is Sunday, December 19* to ensure that the gifts get to the children by Christmas. Please email Mary Weyandt at [mlweyandt@mac.com](mailto:mlweyandt@mac.com) if you would like additional information or to assist with the Angel Tree project.

**Giving Tree.** We are also participating in Catholic Charities Giving Tree to ensure children and adults have access to essential items such as clothing, housewares, self-care items and toys. Take a folded paper tag from the Christmas tree in the Gathering Space which lists the gifts that are needed. Drop off your unwrapped gift at one of the locations listed below:

MALL OF AMERICA, CATHOLIC CHARITIES WARMING HOUSE  
North parking lot, 60 E. Broadway, Bloomington, MN 55425;  
Friday, December 10 - Saturday, December 11 (4:00 - 8:00 PM)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DISTRIBUTION CENTER  
341 Chester St., Saint Paul, MN 55107  
Monday - Friday (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

ST. PASCAL BAYLON CHURCH, (before December 25)  
1757 Conway St., Saint Paul, MN 55106 The Giving Tree bin is located inside the Main Church doors (Door #3).

SHIP YOUR GIFT DIRECTLY TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
Purchase your gift online and ship it directly to the Catholic Charities Distribution Center, 341 Chester Street, St. Paul, MN 55107.

**Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for December 2021: *Catechists.*** Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

## Second Sunday of Advent:

### ***The Opening We Let In***

*"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."*

—Luke 3:4

Have you ever tried talking to someone at a giant tech company? Or an insurance company? Or even the Vatican? I mean actually have a human-level exchange that includes listening and conversation? You will feel like Don Quixote flailing at a giant windmill. The massive mechanism simply churns its wind, oblivious to your presence.

In the name of efficiency, we create bureaucracies that make life more complicated for people with real issues, concerns, and problems. Arguably, it can feel dehumanizing.

Such is not the way of the Lord. If we sincerely want more Christ in our world, we simply need to clear the clutter that gets in the way of direct relationships. It's a straightforward proposition: Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. What holds us back?

*Identify a single way to simplify Christmas this year. Perhaps you bake one less type of cookie or serve dinner buffet style. Find just one thing to make Christmas more about time shared with people and less about the trimmings.*

—S. James Meyer

## Immaculate Conception Mass Times

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 8, at 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM. The morning Mass will be livestreamed and available for viewing through the parish YouTube channel.

## Join Us for Christmas Masses

### **Friday, December 24**

4:00 PM Liturgy (no incense)

*Carols 20 minutes before Mass*

10:00 PM Liturgy

*Carols 20 minutes before Mass*

### **Saturday, December 25**

10:00 AM Liturgy

*Carols 15 minutes before Mass*

**Please note:** There is no 4:30 PM Anticipatory Mass for December 26 (Feast of the Holy Family).

## Thank You!

Thank you to all who brought in donations for Freedom House during the month of November. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by those who benefit from your giving.

## — REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

**Volunteer at the Santa Shop**

The St. Pascal Regional Santa Shop is coming up soon. At the Santa Shop students will have an opportunity to do their Christmas shopping for their families. This gives them the chance to surprise family members with gifts they have selected on their own. Gifts are wrapped and sent home with the students ready to go under the tree. We are currently looking for volunteers to help students shop, run the registers, and wrap all the gifts the students buy. We especially need wrappers. Any amount of time you would like to spend helping is greatly appreciated. The Santa Shop will be open for shoppers on Tuesday, December 14 and Wednesday, December 15. Sign up link to volunteer: [bit.ly/SantaShop-1](https://bit.ly/SantaShop-1). If you have any questions about the Santa Shop please contact Barb Odhiambo at [bodhiambo@stpascalschool.org](mailto:bodhiambo@stpascalschool.org).

**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!**

The parishioners of St. Pascals are amazing! Our parishioners donated 30 plants to the residents of Cerenity Marian Center to brighten their Christmas season. The Marian Center staff will give them to residents that need a pick me up! The Women's Club thanks you for your generosity.

**Financial Update**

**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 many special year-end gifts of cash or stock. These gifts are greatly appreciated and certainly encouraged! Remember, all gifts must be received or postmarked by December 31 to be considered for the 2021 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.

**St. Pascal's Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot: An East Side Tradition for 52 Years**

*Now through December 23 or until sold out*

Stop on in at the Conway Street lot and get yourself a beautiful real tree this year. We have an excellent selection of Fraser fir, balsam fir, Scotch pine, and white pine trees. We're a one stop shop with trees, stands, tree bags, and wreaths and swags as well. Don't have a truck? Don't worry, we'll tie it on your car for you too! 100% of all proceeds go right back to the St. Pascal Regional Catholic School and St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church. Tree Lot sale hours are:

Monday through Friday from 3:00-9:00 PM

Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

## — PARISH FUN —

**St. Pascal's Women's Club Christmas Party Lunch**

*Saturday, December 11 in Brioschi Hall  
11:30 AM Social | 12:00 Noon Lunch*

Inviting all women of St. Pascal's and your friends to join us for a fun-filled Christmas Party—complete with PRIZES and SINGING! Kane's Catering will be serving up a feel-good menu of soup, sandwiches, salads & dessert. The Women's Club to host Mimosas or just champagne—if you prefer.

Tickets are \$21 per person—buy yours after all weekend Masses. RSVPs must be made by Monday, December 6.

For more information and a ticket order form, pick up a flyer from the kiosk or download one at [stpascals.org/parish-news](https://stpascals.org/parish-news). Then drop off your registration form with payment after all Masses or to the parish office by December 3.

If this is not convenient, please send your check to: Sharon Scanlon at 75 Upper Afton Terrace, St. Paul, MN 55106. Questions? Contact Sharon Scanlon at 651.492.0477 or [safscanlon@gmail.com](mailto:safscanlon@gmail.com).

*In the spirit of Christmas giving, we will be collecting donations for Mater Dei Africa.*

**Young at Heart****Attention Seniors 55 Plus!**

Although we were unable to meet in November and plan to wait until February 2022 to have our next meeting, the St. Pascal's Women's Club has invited us to join them in Brioschi Hall on *Saturday, December 11 at 11:30 AM*, for their annual Christmas Party Lunch. This promises to be a very enjoyable holiday celebration. Please see the details for this event above. We hope to have many of you join us there. If you have any questions, call Betty Hensel at 651.714.8958.

**Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast**

*Sunday, December 5 after both Masses*

Includes all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee & juice. Bring your appetite and support our local Cub Scouts!

## 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*

**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

**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*

**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  
[john.mitchell@stpascals.org](mailto:john.mitchell@stpascals.org)

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*St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church*



## Mass Times & Intentions

## Readings December 5, 2021

**Tuesday, December 07**  
8:00 AM + Fr. Dennis Dempsey

**Wednesday, December 08**  
*The Immaculate Conception*  
8:00 AM Women's Club

**Thursday, December 09**  
8:00 AM + Violet Wasmundt Dean

**Friday, December 10**  
8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. Dan & Kitty Mazzara

**Saturday, December 11**  
4:30 PM + Georgine Misukanis

**Sunday, December 12**  
*Third Sunday of Advent*  
8:45 AM The people of the parish  
10:30 AM + Jim Stach

### Sunday:

Bar 5:1-9  
Ps 126:1-6  
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11  
Lk 3:1-6

### Monday:

Is 35:1-10  
Ps 85:9ab, 10-14  
Lk 5:17-26

### Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11  
Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13  
Mt 18:12-14

### Wednesday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20  
Ps 98:1-4  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

### Thursday:

Is 41:13-20  
Ps 145:1, 9-13ab  
Mt 11:11-15

### Friday:

Is 48:17-19  
Ps 1:1-4, 6  
Mt 11:16-19

### Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11  
Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Next Sunday:

*Third Sunday of Advent*  
Zep 3:14-18a  
Is 12:2-6  
Phil 4:4-7  
Lk 3:10-18

### Heart Questions

#### Prayer of Repentance

*John went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

Luke 3:3

**Adults:** How do you need God's forgiveness right now? What Advent practice could help you express your repentance?

**Kids:** What do you want to ask God to forgive you for? What can you do during Advent to show you are sorry?

### Stewardship of Giving

*Financials for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022*

#### October 2021

##### Sunday Giving

Sunday Giving	\$ 60,278.16
Budgeted	\$ <u>63,764.58</u>
Deficit	\$ -3,486.42
YTD Sunday Giving	\$ 215,526.41
Budgeted	\$ <u>255,058.36</u>
Deficit	\$ -39,531.95

##### Mortgage Reduction (as of 10.31.21)

Loan Balance:	\$ 3,141,862.98
YTD Collected Donations	\$ 71,477.93
YTD Mortgage Pmt:	\$ <u>89,844.20</u>
Deficit	\$ -18,366.27
Reserve Account Balance:	\$ 180,999.24

**Thank you for your support!**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Sunday, December 5—ADVENT 2

After Masses Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast: Brioschi Hall  
9:00am Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
12:00pm Confirmation II: Staff Lounge  
2:00pm Piano Recital: Church

### Monday, December 6 – Friday December 10

3:00pm Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
7:00pm Boy Scouts: Brioschi Hall

### Tuesday, December 7

3:00pm Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
6:30pm Pastoral Council: Zoom

### Wednesday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

8:00am Holy Day Mass: Church  
11:15am Rosary: Church  
3:00pm Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
6:30pm Holy Day Mass

### Thursday, December 9

3:00pm Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
6:30pm Spirit Song Rehearsal: Church  
7:00pm Men's Club Membership: Brioschi Hall

### Friday, December 10

3:00pm Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot

### Saturday, December 11

9:00am Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
11:00am Women's Club Christmas Party: Brioschi Hall

### Sunday, December 12—ADVENT 3

*Retirement Fund for the Religious*

9:00am Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
4:00pm Piano Recital: Church

### Advent Evening of Reflection

*Thursday, December 16 at 6:30 PM in the Church*

Parishioners and guests are welcome to join us for this evening of prayer and reflection. The service will also be livestreamed.

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

Make a donation (any amount) in memory of (or 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 20. Suggested donation is \$10. *Memorials fund flowers & worship space needs.*

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

In Honor of / In Memory of

From:

*Thank you for your generosity and care!*

*Please note: Memorials/Honorariums received after December 20 will not appear on the Christmas Flowers bulletin insert on December 26 (Holy Family).*

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## A Highway for Our God

Father,  
from the beginning,  
you have revealed yourself.  
You have called us to walk in your ways.  
We wait for you to bring to fulfillment  
the work you are doing

from the creation of the earth  
to today.  
We wait in hope.  
Help us to do our small part  
to make a path for you,  
a highway for our God.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 5, 2021**

**All Flesh Shall See the Salvation of God**



*Today's readings: Baruch 5:1–9; Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6; Philemon 1:4–6, 8–11; Luke 3:1–6.* John the Baptist and Mary, the mother of our Lord, are our examples for how to live during Advent. Both waited, watched, and prepared. They did then what we hope to do now.

Today, we hear John proclaim that “all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” As John preaches, teaches, and baptizes in the wilderness, he focuses on what God is doing: God is saving. John performs his task. He makes straight a path. He clears the way.

John is called by God within the prophetic tradition of the people of Israel. We hear it when he quotes Isaiah and in the echo of those words in the prophet Baruch. Rooted in the

people of Israel and in Scripture, John has practiced listening to God's voice. In the wilderness, he hears that God is doing something new. God is bringing all flesh into the plan of salvation, as foretold in the prophets of old.

God was inaugurating the promised kingdom of justice and peace, creating a new heaven and a new earth. John called the people to turn away from the ways that had fallen short of God's vision for them, and people flocked to him because they saw the world's brokenness and knew that God had promised something different. Something new.

We wait in hope for the fullness of this same kingdom. Like John, we are called to prepare its way. How has God invited you to make straight his paths?



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 6

#### St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was a bishop in the fourth century who was known for his generosity, one sign of which was leaving coins in the shoes of people who left them out for him. He is also said to have secretly given money to a family to provide funds so the daughters could marry. Nicholas suffered under persecution and defended the Church teaching about the Trinity at a time when it was disputed. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children. To honor him today, you might choose to do an act of kindness secretly, just as he did. *Today's readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 5:17–26.*

### Tuesday, December 7

#### St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose was the bishop of Milan in the fourth century and a doctor of the Church. He wrote music that is used in the Liturgy of the Hours during Advent even today. Regarding care for the poor, St. Ambrose said it was not charity but a debt to those who were in need. Celebrate St. Ambrose's feast day by contributing to an agency that serves the poor in your community. *Today's readings: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 96:1–2, 3, 10ac, 11–12, 13; Matthew 18:12–14.*

### Wednesday, December 8

#### Immaculate Conception

God prepared Mary for her unique role in salvation history from the moment she was conceived. The special grace she received even before she was born helped give her the courage to say, "May it be done to me according to your word." Mary's yes changed the world. Each one of us has the opportunity to participate in what God is doing in the world every single day. How can you respond with the same wholehearted yes as the Mother of God? *Today's readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.*

### Thursday, December 9

#### St. Juan Diego

Today the Church celebrates St. Juan Diego, the patron saint of indigenous peoples. The Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego near Mexico City in the sixteenth century, a time when people of his culture were treated as less than those who had come from Europe. Mary's apparition and its miraculous image on Juan Diego's tilma embodied many elements of indigenous culture. This event was the beginning of something new for the peoples of the Americas. God is imaged in all people and all cultures. By listening to the stories of people who are different from us, we can participate in what God is doing in the world. *Today's readings: Isaiah 41:13–20; Psalm 145:1, 9, 10–11, 12–13ab; Matthew 11:11–15.*

### Friday, December 10

#### Peace

In Isaiah we hear about the possibility of peace flowing like a river. Life is full of conflict and misunderstanding. Relationships that seemed unbreakable can be torn apart by simple difficulties. When we consider the kingdom of God, of participating in God's peace forever, it fills us with hope. While at Mass, focus on what it must mean for Christ's peace to be with you. *Today's readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, 6; Matthew 11:16–19.*

### Saturday, December 11

#### Our Only Hope

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus predicts his passion. It is an interesting thing to consider the cross during the season of Advent, when we await the Lord's coming. Yet the shadow of the cross is always present in the life of Jesus. In this season of hope, we look at the cross, our only hope, and see in it the resurrection and the possibility it contains: God filling the earth as water covers the sea. *Today's readings: Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.*

