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.
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE BLESSING OF A NATIVITY SCENE
The custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi who made the Christmas crèche or Nativity Scene for Christmas Eve in the year 1223. When a Nativity Scene is set up in the home, you might like to use the following blessing:

**All:** (Make the sign of the cross.) In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Leader:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**All:** Who made heaven and earth.


**Leader:** God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love. When our need for a Savior was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus brings us joy, peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord God, we ask for your blessing upon all people who look upon this Nativity scene; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

Giving Tree. We are 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 tag from the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space or go to the following link: cctwincities.org/our-organization/events/giving-tree/.

**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(s) online or at your favorite store.

**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

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 (ASL)  
Carols 15 minutes before Mass

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent:
The Vision We Let In
Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled
—Luke 1:45

On the show Shark Tank, entrepreneurs present ideas to a panel of investors called “Sharks.” If one of these Sharks believes in the vision and character of the person, he or she will invest their own money on a leap of faith, believing that payback will come later. What if God was on “Shark Tank” and we were panelists? Would we believe God’s vision enough to invest our lives?

This is what Mary faced. Gabriel, serving as God’s emissary, presented God’s vision—let me come to life within you. Mary said yes and went all in. Do we? Is this not the very same proposal God places before us each day?

Belief in God is not a simple matter of believing that God exists or that God will provide; it’s about buying into God’s vision for creation and investing out lives in it. Are we prepared to do that? Are we prepared for the blessings that come with it?

*As you hear the world around you today, listen and attend with the ear of your heart. What message does the angel whisper to you?*

—S. James Meyer

Parish Office Holiday Hours
The parish office will be closed at 11:30 AM on Tuesday, December 21 for a staff holiday celebration; all day Friday, December 24 and Monday, December 27 for the Christmas holiday and on Friday, December 31 for New Year’s Day.

**In Christ We Live Forever**

Please remember in your prayers…

Leon E. Kabes
who was recently buried from our church.
We extend our sincere sympathy to his family and friends, and pray for his soul’s eternal peace.
Honor Roll for Trimester 1
We want to congratulate all of our middle school students who made the first trimester honor roll. We are so proud of you all. Keep up the good work!

'A' Honor Roll Students:
Naomi Daniel, Henry Harthorn, Thomas Harthorn, John Omoyeni, Trenton Patzwald, Alexander Rojas, Abigail Rockenback, and Joanna Velez

'A/B' Honor Roll Students:
Lucas Amde, Andrea Araujo, Ehizode Busayo, Erick Casanova-Garcia, Juan Pablo Cervantes, Christian Colunga, Brayden Conway, Nicholas Crist, Jamie Cruz Moran, Christopher Dominguez-Cruz, Lilbeth Dominguez-Cruz, Gabriella DuPree, Connor Florek, Yonel Garcia, McKenzie Henery, William Oliver, Sophia Paramo, Alexander Peeler, Adrianna Pinotti, Meredith Ryther, Jackson Schweitzer, and Lydia Pearl Taylor

Volunteer Opportunity
LiveStream Camera Operators Needed
St. Pascal's is looking for people who would be interested in this fun and important ministry for the 4:30 PM Mass on Saturdays and occasional special events. A short training session will be provided. The more people we get to help with this important ministry, the better. Contact Fr. John or call the parish office at 651.774.1585.

Act of Christmas Kindness
Remember Our Senior Friends at
Ceremony-Marian Center St. Paul
Anyone who would like to 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

May you give and receive many blessings, much happiness and even more love this blessed season of Christmas and beyond.

Parish 75th Anniversary Celebration—AKA St. Pascal's Friends and Family
Save the Date: April 23, 2022
Please be sure to mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. We will be celebrating St. Pascal's 75th Anniversary with a night of fun and games (new ones as well as returning favorites) and a fantastic catered dinner from Tinnucchi's.
Do you have St. Pascal's memorabilia? We are planning to create a display from our archives and parishioners! Further details about the event will be announced in February.

Seeking Dismissal Leaders for RCIA
This year we have a person preparing to celebrate baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Beginning sometime in January and up through Holy Thursday, we need dismissal leaders at various Masses. Following the homily, the dismissal leader and our catechumen (person to be baptized) will be dismissed and go to reflect on the Scripture readings of the day.
If you are able to help with this important ministry or would like more information, contact Kim Roering in the parish office at kim.roering@stpascals.org or 651.432.4958.

Canned Goods Needed
Canned FRUITS AND VEGETABLES are needed by the Fishes and Loaves food pantry staffed by parishioners of St. Pascal's and Progressive Baptist Church. The pantry is supplied in part by food from Second Harvest which is facing the same supply challenges all of us are facing as we shop. There is a noticeable shortage of healthy canned fruits and vegetables. Place your donation in the container in the coat room at any time before New Year's. Any amount helps. For questions contact Ann Karner at akarner24@gmail.com or 651.330.0024.

Ramsey Family Service
Grace Lutheran and St. Paschal c share a ministry of service at the Ramsey Family Service Center by Aldrich Arena. If you would like to help with dinner or lunch service on occasion or regularly, sign up at saintpascalandgracechurch.cttwincities.volunteerhub.com.
Our immediate need is for 1 DINNER server (5:15:6:45 PM) on the 4th Monday of the even months (next December 27).
For more info, contact John Gambino at 612.204.8485 or john.gambino@cttwincities.org or Toni Baker at 651.731.7763 or toni@bakers.us.
John can help volunteers find dates other than the present need listed above.

Parish Office
Phone 651.774.1585
Email church@stpascals.org
For after-hours pastoral emergency (death, dying or anointing), call 651.774.1585 and dial 1.

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

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 Hackman

Parish Communication
Bulletin Notices
Due 3:00 PM Monday
thea.munoz@stpascals.org

Mass Announcements
Due 3:00 PM Tuesday
john.mitchell@stpascals.org

Like, follow & share us on Facebook:
St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church
Mass Times & Intentions

Tuesday, December 21
8:00 AM  Robert Cowden

Wednesday, December 22
8:00 AM  + Caleb Herrera Shanley

Thursday, December 23
8:00 AM  + Clem Kachelmyer

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve
4:00 PM  The people of the parish
10:00 PM  The people of the parish

Saturday, December 25
Christmas Day
4:30 PM  The people of the parish

Sunday, December 26
Holy Family
8:45 AM  The people of the parish
10:30 AM  + Bob & Lorraine Winkel

Readings
December 19, 2021

Sunday:
Mi 5:1-4a
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

Monday:
Is 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-4b, 5-6
Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday:
Sg 2:8-14
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday:
1 Sm 1:24-28
(Ps) 1 Sm 2:1-2, 4-8d
Lk 1:46-56

Thursday:
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14
Lk 1:57-66

Friday:
Christmas Eve
(No 8:00 AM Mass)
4:00 & 10:00PM
Is 9:1-6
Ps 96:1-3, 11-13
Ti 2:11-14
Lk 2:1-14

Saturday
Christmas Day
10:00 AM
Is 9:1-6
Ps 96:1-3, 11-13
Ti 2:11-14
Lk 2:1-14

Next Sunday:
Holy Family
Sír 3:2-6, 12-14
Ps 128:1-5
Col 3:12-21
Lk 2:41-52

The celebration of Christmas is not merely a sentimental waiting for a baby to be born. It is much more an asking for history to be born! - - - The Christ we are asking and waiting for includes our own full birth and the further birth of history and creation. It is to this adult and Cosmic Christ that we can say, “Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20) with a whole new understanding and a deliberate passion. This makes our entire lives, and the life of the church, one huge “advent.”

—Richard Rohr, Daily Meditations

Last Week to Donate to our Christmas Environment!

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 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.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 19—Advent 4
After Masses  Fellowship: Briosci Hall

Monday, December 20
7:00pm  Boy Scouts: Briosci Hall

Tuesday, December 21
11:30am Parish office closed (staff event)

Wednesday, December 22
11:15am Rosary; Church
6:30pm  Finance Council; Zoom
6:30pm  Choir; Church

Thursday, December 23
9:00am  A&E Christmas Decorating; Church

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve
Parish office closed
4:00pm  Mass
10:00pm Mass

Saturday, December 25—Christmas Day
10:00am Mass
NO 4:30 PM Mass for the Holy Family

Sunday, December 26—Feast of the Holy Family
Regular Sunday Mass times
No scheduled events

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).
Today’s readings: Micah 5:1–4a; Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45. In the season of Advent, we look to those who watched and waited for Jesus when he first came into the world. The people of Israel, who first heard the words of the prophets, were waiting. The prophets spoke God’s Word to them and gave them hope. They described the one who would come and the kingdom he would bring. Micah says his greatness extends to the ends of the earth.

Mary waited for the messiah throughout her early life. But she waited for Jesus in a way unique to her. When she was invited to be part of this completely new thing God was doing, she said yes with her whole heart. And then she set out.

Elizabeth’s words to Mary communicate something important. “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Mary is blessed because she knew that God was a keeper of promises. As we wait in hope, we can meditate on this truth. Take some time to think about what we hope for. We often worry about the conditions of the world. The weight of its brokenness can be hard to bear. But God keeps promises. In the words of the prophets and in the life of Jesus, a new possibility is revealed. Take some time today to meditate on the possibility of a world filled with God’s love, governed by justice and peace to the ends of the earth.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Keeper of Promises**

Father, you keep your promises to Sarah, to Hannah, to Elizabeth, to Mary, to your people Israel. You have promised to heal the world and to fill it with your love like water fills the sea. Help us to wait in hope. Give us food for the journey that our eyes might see your salvation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

**Blessed Are You Who Believed**

THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 20
Nothing Impossible

“Nothing will be impossible for God.” It is easy to be discouraged when confronting a struggle. People have cried out to God throughout salvation history, longing to heal the brokenness in their lives and in the world. God’s solution came in a way beyond their comprehension: God coming to experience human life and thereby redeem it. Consider illustrating this Gospel passage or copying the Scripture. While you are reflecting, meditate on these words: “Nothing will be impossible for God.” What are the seeming impossibilities in your life? Where might God provide solutions beyond your imagination? Today’s readings: Isaiah 7:10–14; Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4ab, 5–6; Luke 1:26–38.

Tuesday, December 21
The Visitation

Imagine yourself alongside the newly pregnant Mary as she goes “in haste” across eighty miles of rough terrain, seeking out someone also experiencing a miraculous pregnancy. What did she see, hear, and think about as she was walking? We know that John the Baptist leapt for joy within his mother at the sound of Mary’s voice. What do you think Elizabeth felt when John leapt 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.

Wednesday, December 22
He Has Lifted up the Lowly

Mary proclaims the Magnificat, her song of praise to God, in Luke 1:46–56. Copy the Scripture. Which words particularly speak to you? While reading the Scriptures, we see how God has acted in history. This can help us to see what God is doing today. How do you see God acting as Mary proclaims? Today’s readings: † Samuel 1:24–28; † Samuel 2:1, 4–8; Luke 1:46–56.

Thursday, December 23
Great Mercy

In today’s Gospel, the birth of John is described as “the Lord had shown his great mercy toward” Elizabeth. When have you experienced God’s mercy? God kept the promise to Elizabeth, and in doing so, kept the promise of the prophets of old, that one would come who would prepare the way of the Lord. Today’s readings: Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 8–9, 10, 14; Luke 1:57–66.

Friday, December 24
Nativity Scene

Laying out a Nativity can be a contemplative experience. If you have already set up a Nativity, spend some time sitting before it in silent prayer. What do you notice? Did you know that St. Francis of Assisi put together the first Nativity? Nativities have helped Christians to pray about the incarnation for hundreds of years. Today’s readings: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Luke 1:67–79.

Saturday, December 25
Joy to the World!

Today we celebrate the incarnation, God becoming human that we might share in God’s divine life. We might wonder why God would choose to become something so vulnerable as a new baby. Why would God want to enter into the human condition, with all its limitations? Why would God enter into a world with sadness and suffering, and death? He came to open the way to a new possibility: a kingdom marked by justice, peace, and life. God’s love is more than anything we can imagine, and God’s will is for us to live in that love. Today’s readings: Night: Isaiah 9:1–6; Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–14; Dawn: Isaiah 62:11–12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11–12; Titus 3:4–7; Luke 2:15–20; Day: Isaiah 52:7–10; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27, 29; Hebrews 1:1–6; John 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14.
Help Us to Grow

Father, through the holy family, you have made all families holy. You have given them as a model for us as we walk through life together. Help us to be ever more merciful.

Help us to forgive one another and to do small things with great love. Help us to grow together in holiness. Give us the wisdom to imitate Mary, holding all great mysteries in our hearts. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 26, 2021
All Families Are Made Holy

Today’s readings: Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 128: 1–2, 3, 4–5; Colossians 3:12–21 or 3:12–17; Luke 2:41–52 or 1 Samuel 1:20–22, 24–28; Psalm 84:2–3, 5–6, 9–10; 1 John 3:1–2, 21–24; Luke 2:41–52. Little is known about the life Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived in Nazareth. From the time they returned from Egypt until the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, the only story that appears in Scripture about the family is the founding of Jesus in the temple. A close reading of this text shows that they were observant Jews and they went to Jerusalem each year for Passover. It also can be seen that they traveled with their extended family, so they had other significant relationships in their lives. They had regular family struggles. Mary asks, “Why have you done this to us?” She sounds like many mothers who are raising adolescents. Their family life is a model for ours, but it must have been very ordinary indeed.

Imagine what that can mean for us.

Jesus knows our hearts and our struggles because he lived them too. God entered into a family and set the family apart as a place of sanctification. The holy family makes all families holy. The family is an ordinary place filled with ordinary love, peace, mercy, justice, and forgiveness. It is a place to grow in holiness. This week, as you go about your routine, imagine how you are connected to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, across time and space, to their home in Nazareth. If you are preparing a meal or folding the laundry, you are doing holy work, just as they did.
This Week at Home

Monday, December 27
St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Today the Church celebrates the Feast of St. John, apostle and evangelist. He and his brother were early disciples of Jesus and witnesses to the resurrection. He traveled to Ephesus, where he composed his Gospel and letters, and later wrote the Book of Revelation from the island of Patmos. It is traditional to bless wine and cider on the Feast of St. John. Today's readings: 1 John 1:1–4; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12; John 20:1a, 2–8.

Tuesday, December 28
The Holy Innocents
When Herod massacred all baby boys under two years of age, he sought to eliminate the threat the messiah posed to his power. His horrific, violent act epitomizes a truth we know even today: those who benefit most from the world's brokenness and injustice will always oppose the transformation God has promised. The infant Jesus needed protection, protection God provided in the person of St. Joseph. The deaths of the children were profound violations of the law of God. God is the God of life. God raised the infants to be saints, that the profound injustice of their deaths might be transformed: from death to life, that is the way of our God. Today's readings: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Psalm 124:2–3, 4–5, 7b–8; Matthew 2:13–18.

Wednesday, December 29
Simeon: Waiting in Hope
God had promised Simeon that he would not see death until he had seen the salvation of Israel. The child Jesus, not yet six weeks old, is brought to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord. What must it have been like for him to feel the fulfillment of the promise? What desires of your heart are you awaiting God to fulfill? Today's readings: 1 John 2:3–11; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 5b–6; Luke 2:22–35.

Thursday, December 30
Anna the Prophetess
Anna the prophetess “spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Israel.” The hope that she has held onto has been realized before her eyes, and she cannot keep it to herself. She goes out into the world to be the bringer of the Good News, to bring hope. When we celebrate Christmas, we are making present the incarnation through which God continues to bring about a renewed world. Christians are to testify about our hope, just as Anna did. How can you share your hope today? Today's readings: 1 John 2:12–17; Psalm 96:7–8a, 8b–9, 10; Luke 2:36–40.

Friday, December 31
Word Made Flesh
“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” The evangelist John tells us the cosmic significance of the birth of Jesus. Because John uses the language of philosophy and poetry, it can be hard to grasp what he means. But because he uses these elevated ways of speaking, it is possible to approach the inexplicable mystery that is contained in the incarnation. Read today's Gospel. What word or phrase sticks out to you most? Copy it and meditate on it as you pray this week. Today's readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.

Saturday, January 1
Mary, the Holy Mother of God
“Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Mary’s central place in this great mystery of God dwelling among us led her to a place of contemplation. Though she was the one chosen to bring Jesus into the world, she did not have all the answers. Praying the Rosary, we have the opportunity to contemplate like Mary, deepening our reflection while our words proclaim the memorized prayers. Pray the Rosary today and ask Mary to help you to hold all these things in your heart. Today's readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4: 4–7; Luke 2:16–21.