



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 4, 2022 | 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

Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care

Barb Uschold Anderson | ext 129
barb.ua@stpascals.org

Liturgy Assistant

Keri Mader | ext 127
keri.mader@stpascals.org

Communications & Office Manager

Thea Munoz | ext 133
thea.munoz@stpascals.org

Welcome Desk

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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



Mass Times

Saturday 4:30 PM | Sunday 8:45 & 10:30 AM (ASL) | Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM; Wednesday 9:30 AM

1757 Conway Street | Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 | 651.774.1585

www.stpascals.org | church@stpascals.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Archdiocesan Synod Update. On November 19-20, Archbishop Hebda released his pastoral letter entitled "You Will Be My Witnesses: Gathered and Sent from the Upper Room." There are printed copies of the pastoral letter in the kiosk in our Gathering Space, and you can read the letter online at archspm.org/synod. Archbishop Hebda wrote the letter after reflecting upon the 2019-22 Archdiocesan Synod process which included prayer and listening events, small group meetings, video series, and a Synod Assembly last June with nearly 500 voting delegates.

Synod Priorities for the next three years. In his pastoral letter, Archbishop Hebda established a Synod Priority at our parishes over the next three years:

Year 1 (July 2023 – June 2024): Small Groups;

Year 2 (July 2024 – June 2025): The Mass;

Year 3 (July 2025 – June 2026): Parents are Primary Educators.

For Year 1, Archbishop Hebda asks each parish to begin small group ministry by February 14, 2024 (Ash Wednesday). Small groups can take many forms and be as simple as general faith sharing groups. The Archbishop asks that some of those small groups fulfill goals related to the three mysteries of the Upper Room as described in the pastoral letter:

- a) Fulfilling the Foot-washing Goal: one or more small groups that reach the marginalized and the poor;
- b) Fulfilling the Eucharist Goal: one or more small groups that teach about the beauty, form and meaning of the Mass;
- c) Fulfilling the Pentecost 'Praying in the Spirit' Goal: one or more small groups that promote a prayer ministry for those in need;
- d) Fulfilling the Pentecost 'Going forth' in the Spirit Goal: one or more small groups that are in the service of evangelization.

Synod Evangelization Team at our parish. Each pastor in the Archdiocese is in the process of forming a Synod Evangelization Team to discern the best ways to implement the Synod priorities at their parish. I have begun forming our team, and the following parishioners have agreed to be on our team: Jaci Bush, Nicole Fisch, Rich and Julie Moore, Kim Roering, John Scanlon, and Mary Weyandt. This team will work in collaboration with our parish pastoral council, other parish leadership groups and our parish staff. Our Synod Evangelization Team members will participate in the Catechetical Institute's School of Discipleship experience being offered February-March 2023. Shortly after Easter, I will meet with our team for a Small Group Visioning Day to discern and develop a vision of small group ministry in our parish. I already see active small groups in our parish such as our Bible studies, JustFaith, Men's Club, Women's Club, Young at Heart, our monthly Merrick food distribution, and our collaboration with Progressive Baptist Church in their weekly food distribution. There is potential for these small groups to grow in membership and for other small groups to come forth in our parish. Beyond Year 1, our Synod Evangelization Team will work with the parish pastoral council, other parish leadership groups, and our parish staff to implement the priorities of Year 2 and Year 3. Please pray for one another and for our Synod Evangelization Team as we read and reflect upon the pastoral letter and discern ways to implement its vision in our parish.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for December 2022: We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

The Immaculate Conception

*Thursday, December 8 (holy day of obligation)
Masses at 9:30 AM and 6:30 PM*

Both the morning and evening Masses will be livestreamed and available for viewing on the parish YouTube channel. For a convenient link, visit stpascals.org and click the "Livestream" button.

Advent Evening of Reflection: *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 PM

"Prepare the Way of the Lord!" This is heard over and over in Scripture and song during the Advent season. How do we prepare the way of the Lord amid challenges in our lives? Fr. John Mitchell and Barb Uschold Anderson will offer reflections on passages from Isaiah that encourage us as we prepare the way of the Lord. Parishioners and guests are welcome to join us in the worship space for this evening of prayer and reflection. The service will also be livestreamed.

Grief Tips During the Holidays

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, or grieving any other life change, take care of yourself during this important season!

Be patient and realistic. Be kind and gentle with yourself. Decide what is important to you and scratch the rest off the list for this year. Spend some quiet time before the rush of the holidays listening to your heart. Acknowledge your limits and express your needs to those with whom you plan to spend the holidays.

Remember that it is okay to say "no." When loss and grief overwhelm us during the holidays, we can be tempted to scrap the whole thing and to do absolutely nothing. But you can keep traditions alive by adapting them in ways that make sense given the new reality of your life.

Advent can be a time of quiet reflection and spiritual preparation. May this season of hopeful anticipation touch the yearning within you with healing care and love. Reach out if you would like some prayer support or a listening ear to a friend, family member, or Barb Uschold Anderson, Pastoral Care Associate at 651.432.4959.

— In Christ We Live Forever —

Please remember in your prayers...

Eric Arthur Williams

Dorothy Buhl

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

— REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

Santa Shop 2022

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 13 & 14

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 a 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, and to 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. For more information, please contact Barb Odhiambo at bodhiambo@stpascalschool.org. Sign up to volunteer at bit.ly/SantaShop22

The Women's Book Salon

Holiday Gathering

Monday, December 12 at 7:00 PM

Join us in the Staff Lounge where the ladies will share some Christmas goodies and a discussion of *The Mistletoe Murder and Other Stories* by PD James. Throughout the year, the group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. For a list of the 2023 selections or for more information, contact Toni Baker at toni@bakers.us (651.731.7763). Make a New Year's resolution to join us January 9 and get yourself reading. Feel free to start early by coming this month!

Young At Heart Mass & Luncheon

Thursday, December 15 at 11:00 AM

Attention, Men and Women 55 and over! Join us at 11:00 to celebrate the Eucharist then after a short meeting, we will enjoy a roast beef dinner catered by Tinucci's. Father John and Deacon Rich will share their talents and usher us into a pre-Christmas atmosphere with reminiscent thoughts and music. We will ask a \$13.00 donation, payable on the day of the meeting, to help defray expenses. Please register by Friday, December 9! Contact Betty Hensel at bjhensel@comcast.net (651.714.8958) or call Linda Spence (651.730.9061). We look forward to seeing many of you!

St. Pascal's Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot

Now through December 23 or until sold out

St. Pascal's Men's Club is entering its 53rd year of selling Christmas Trees. Come visit us in the Conway Street parking lot and check out our excellent selection of Fraser fir, balsam fir, Scotch pine, and white pine trees. Wreaths and swags also available. Tree Lot hours are:

Monday from 6:00 - 9:00 PM

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

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

— SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

Faith in Action: Holiday Compassion

"If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in truth and in deed." (1 John 3:17-19)

How do we love in truth and in deed? In this time of seasonal giving, acts of charity may involve the giving of our treasure as we contribute to projects like Angel Tree and Giving Tree. A gift of service, such as volunteering to help with food distribution at Progressive Baptist Church or the St. Pascal/Merrick food distribution here at the parish is another way to put your faith into action. Finally, remember little acts of kindness to the clerk in the store, the waitstaff at a restaurant, or another driver on the road. Compassion shown in many different ways is the sign of a true Christian.

The Spirit of Giving

During Advent our parish is participating in two opportunities to help people in need this Christmas.

Catholic Charities Annual Giving Tree is a program that provides essential items such as clothing, housewares and self-care items to children and adults. Folded flyers which list the items being collected are available on the Christmas tree in the Gathering Space. Simply take a flyer, purchase your gift(s) and then place the UNWRAPPED gifts in the bin located in the Gathering Space between November 27 and December 25.

Angel Tree, a Program of Prison Fellowship, provides Christmas gifts for children whose parent(s) are incarcerated. Our parish has committed to providing gifts for eleven children on behalf of their incarcerated parent. Angel-shaped Angel Tree tags which list suggested gift items can be found on the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space. Take a tag, purchase a gift, wrap it, and then place it in the Angel Tree box that will be set up in the Gathering Space. Angel Tree gifts need to be WRAPPED and dropped off at church by December 18.

Thank you for your generosity!

C O N T A C T U S

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

Ann Karner, Chair

Parish Finance Council

Meetings 4th Thursday at 5:30 PM

Mike Aeling, Chair

Sacramental Information

Reconciliation

Saturday from 3:45-4:15 PM
or contact Fr. John in the parish office
Communal celebrations as announced

Baptism

One pre-baptismal session is required.
To register for a pre-baptismal session 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 5:00 PM Monday
thea.munoz@stpascals.org

Mass Announcements

Due 12:00 PM Tuesday
keri.mader@stpascals.org

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Come, Peaceable Kingdom

Almighty God,
you are the giver of peace,
the source of harmony.
Guide us to follow your will
so that we may be united

in thought and act
and look forward to a time
when the wolf is guest of the lamb.
and all the earth knows you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Kings Rule, God Reigns



Today's readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15:4–9; Matthew 3:1–12. Isaiah's prophecy reinforces the vision that a new king will come from the "holy mountain" upon which Jerusalem will be built. The scene that Isaiah imagines is much like the Garden of Eden, where animals have no enemies and the kingdom is peaceful. The prophet puts forth the hope that one day God will reign over the earth and the will of God will bring true harmony and peace.

The refrain for Psalm 72 parallels justice and peace. Peace will result when a king governs with justice, when the poor are rescued and saved. To govern with integrity, the king must be blessed. From that blessing, "all the tribes of

the earth" can be blessed. Listen carefully to this psalm that proclaims that a leader protects and serves those who are defenseless, vulnerable, and victims of injustice. What better way to anticipate the second week of Advent than to find a way to treat with kindness a victim of injustice? What better way to "think in harmony," as St. Paul states in the second reading, than to seek reconciliation with a family member or friend? Keep in mind St. Paul's instruction to "welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomes you."

The reading from Romans today speaks of endurance, encouragement, unity, harmony, and hope. Each day this week, as you contemplate John the Baptist's call to repent, read Romans 15:4–9 and choose a different phrase to ponder.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 5

Be Strong and Hope

In the first reading, Isaiah imagines the peaceful wonders that will come to pass when the Son comes to save. Scripture envisions a beautiful and peaceful world, as we glory in salvation. The images of the desert blooming with flowers, the lame leaping, and streams bursting forth in the desert are all ample subjects for quiet reflection as we await the nativity of the Lord. Just as the bystanders to the cure of the paralytic witnessed something “incredible,” so do you during your day. Watch for the incredible. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 5:17–26.*

Tuesday, December 6

St. Nicholas

“Comfort, give comfort to my people,” begins the reading from Isaiah. These are apt words for the optional Memorial of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, prostitutes, sailors, and repentant thieves, among others. To celebrate this day, many traditions have arisen involving candy and small gifts. Some consider St. Nicholas the “real Santa” because of his acts of charity, especially to the poor. Celebrate this fourth-century holy and generous bishop by being kind to another. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 96:1–2, 3 and 10ac, 11–13; Matthew 18:12–14.*

Wednesday, December 7

St. Ambrose

In the Gospel today, Jesus invites the crowds to find solace in him, saying, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Today too we find hope in these words, knowing that we can give our burdens over to God. On the Memorial of St. Ambrose (340–397), we recall someone who unburdened many people by helping them resolve conflicts. He was an eloquent defender of the faith. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11:28–30.*

Thursday, December 8

Immaculate Conception

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the refrain of the responsorial psalm sings of God’s “marvelous deeds,” then the Letter to the Ephesians tells of our adoption by God. Finally, in the Gospel, faith is proclaimed in Mary’s words, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.” Celebrate Mary’s yes to God through an action for another. *Today’s readings: Genesis 3:9–15; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.*

Friday, December 9

Flowers of Hope

The optional Memorial of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin is dear to many Mexican Catholics because it celebrates the appearance of Mary to a peasant. After Mary’s appearance, Juan’s cloak was inscribed with the Virgin’s face and filled with flowers. This proved to the bishop that Juan Diego was the Blessed Mother’s messenger and that the bishop should build a shrine at Tepeyac Hill. Juan Diego, canonized in 2002, was the first Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas. Put a fresh flower today on your table and share the story of St. Juan Diego with a friend. *Today’s readings: Isaiah 48:17–19, Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6, Matthew 11:16–19.*

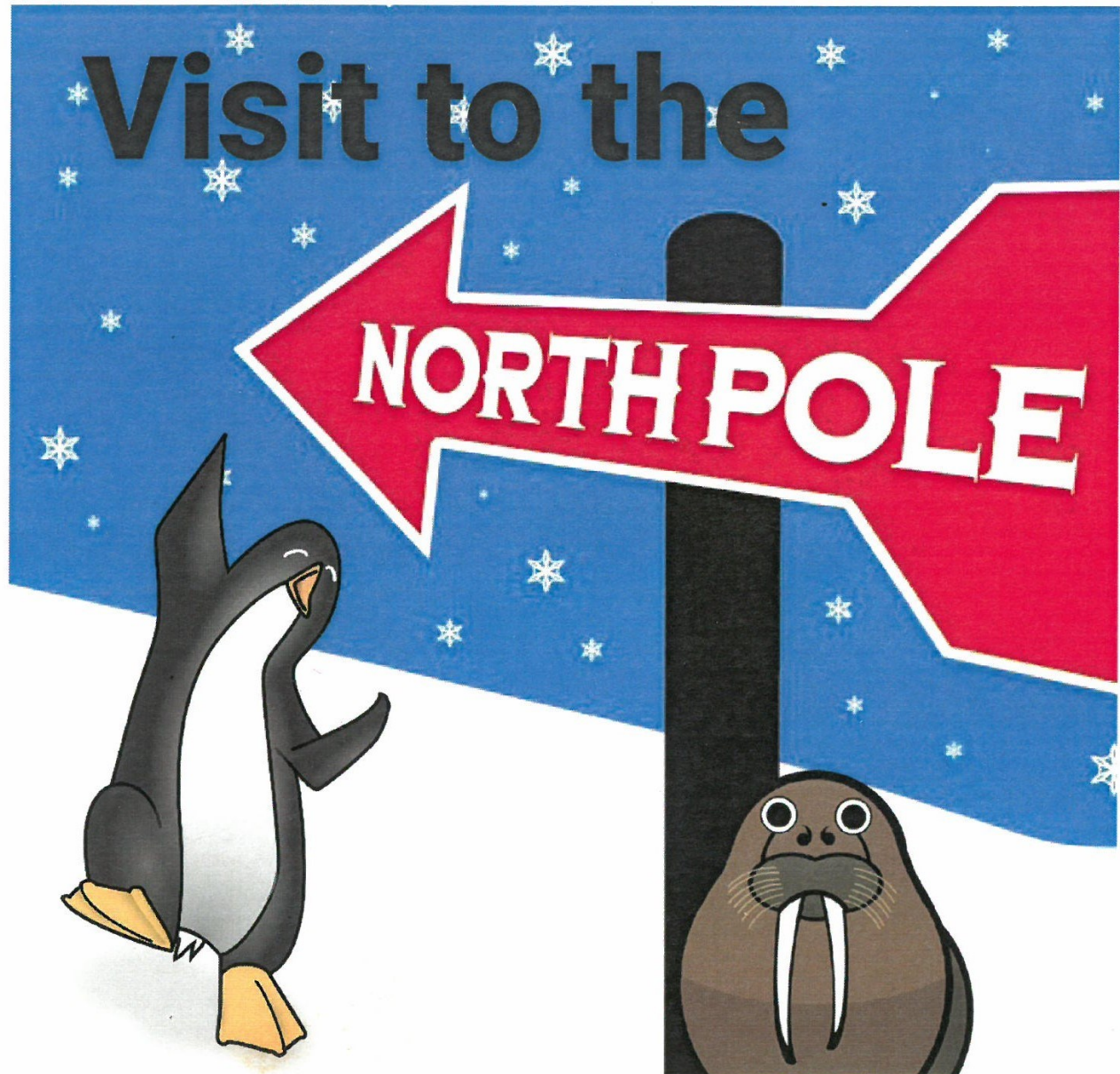
Saturday, December 10

Our Lady of Loreto

While lighting the first two candles on your Advent wreath today, make a commitment to continue joyful expectation during Advent. Pray the Rosary or the Magnificat and observe yourself becoming less stressful during this time of many demands from the secular world. Today’s memorial remembers the birthplace of Mary, in Palestine. *Today’s readings: Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.*



You're invited to join the preschool at
St. Pascal Regional Catholic School for a



Saturday, Dec.10, 9 -10:30 a.m.

Free and open to all!

**Enter through Door 5
on Third Street.**

**CRAFTS!
ACTIVITIES!
TREATS!**



AN ASCENSION CATHOLIC ACADEMY SCHOOL

Questions? Email
preschool@stpascalschool.org

1757 Conway Street, St. Paul 55106