



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.

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 | FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

OUR STAFF

Pastor

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john.mitchell@stpascals.org

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Rev. Mr. Richard Moore
richard.moore@stpascals.org

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Welcome Desk

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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

As we begin the Season of Lent, the Church recommends these spiritual practices:

Prayer: The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke tell us that Jesus spent 40 days of prayer and fasting in the desert. We can spend these 40 days of Lent in a renewal of our prayer life. Maybe we can set aside more prayer time by reducing our daily screen time (television, computer, cell phone, tablet) or by rising 10-15 minutes earlier in the morning.

Fasting: Fasting from food allows us to feel hunger and grow in sensitivity towards people around the world who lack access to food. Fasting involves saying no to a good thing (food) so that we can build up the spiritual discipline to say no to harmful things such as sin. The Church asks Catholics from age 18 until age 59 to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday which means having one full, meatless meal and two smaller meals as needed. People are excused from fasting if they are physically or mentally ill or if they suffer from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Pregnant or nursing women are also excused from fasting.

Abstinence: The Church asks Catholics who are 14 years old and older to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the Fridays of Lent. Since Jesus sacrificed his flesh for us on Good Friday, we refrain from eating flesh meat on Ash Wednesday, Lent Fridays and Good Friday to remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. Some options for meatless meals include pancakes, waffles, soup, cheese enchiladas, macaroni and cheese, fried egg sandwiches, grilled cheese sandwiches, cheese pizza, and of course, fish.

Almsgiving: Almsgiving involves sharing our time, talent and treasure with people who are in need. One option is to give through Operation Rice Bowl. Small cardboard Rice Bowls are available in our Gathering Space. You can also go online to csrcebowl.org for more information.

You are invited to participate in 40 Days for Life which is an internationally coordinated 40-day prayer vigil for all those affected by abortion. The local vigil is February 22 - April 2 from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM. People meet to pray outside of Planned Parenthood, 671 Vandalia Street, St. Paul. You can also pray at home during these 40 days for people who need support with an unplanned or difficult pregnancy. For more information, go to 40daysforlife.com/en/st.paul or contact Brian Walker, brian.walker@plam.org or 651.797.6363.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for February 2023: *For parishes.* We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for March 2023: *For victims of abuse.* We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

RCIA Session: "The Eucharist"

Wednesday, March 1, from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Founders Room

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1324-1327), states that the Eucharist is "the source and summit" of the Christian life. Jesus in the beautiful Bread of Life discourse in the Gospel of John (6:50-51) says, *"This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."*

We will discuss our Catholic understanding of the Eucharist and how it provides us with nourishment for our lives as disciples of Jesus. All are welcome to join us for this discussion—Catholics who want a refresher and those curious about the Catholic Church.

RCIA

Rite of Sending for Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

This year St. Pascal's is blessed to have two candidates, who are already baptized, preparing for confirmation or full communion with the Catholic Church in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This weekend we celebrate the Rite of Sending with them at the 10:30 am Mass. The Rite of Sending is our opportunity to surround the candidates with our prayer and support as they go forth to celebrate the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral of St. Paul on Sunday afternoon.

The Rite of Election is a transition point in the RCIA journey, and after this point the catechumens (unbaptized) are referred to as the "elect" to signify their new status. This point is referred to as election "because the acceptance made by the Church is founded on the election by God, in whose name the Church acts" (RCIA #119). Election is about being chosen by God to be in relationship with God. God has chosen them to be baptized at the Easter Vigil and to continue Christ's mission in the world.

At this same celebration, the bishop recognizes the candidates—those who wish to participate in the full sacramental life of the Catholic Church either by being received into the Catholic Church or completing their initiation sacraments (Eucharist and/or Confirmation). The candidates are called to live in the example of Christ. Please continue to pray for our candidates, Pamela Voss and Frank Leach.

RCIA Prayer Retreat

Deacon Richard and the RCIA team invite St. Pascal's parishioners and friends to join us for a prayer retreat on the morning of Saturday, March 11 from 9:00 AM - Noon. We will spend the morning discussing prayer and experiencing different types of prayer. All are invited to join us in taking some time this Lent to deepen our understanding of prayer. We will meet in the Founders Room. To help us plan, please sign up using the link on the parish website or call the parish office.

— In Christ We Live Forever —

Please remember in your prayers...

Donna Trumble

who was recently buried from our church. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends, and pray for her soul's eternal peace.

— REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

Join us for Preschool at SPRCSI

Our preschool program provides students and their families with a warm, welcoming environment. The teachers use their knowledge and experience to develop activities that promote the skills needed to be successful in kindergarten and beyond. We believe in developing the whole child—socially, emotionally, cognitively, creatively, and spiritually. Preschoolers develop the joy of lifelong learning through play-based, child-centered learning. Summer preschool programs are available. Call the school office at 651.776.0092 or visit stpascalschool.org for more enrollment information.

Check It Out: St. Pascal's Women's Club Gertens Spring Plant Sale!

We are selling Gertens plants and plant cards online. Go to the Gertens fundraising site at gertensfundraising.com and enter the Women's Club store number 447. Over 80 fantastic items are available: Gertens plant cards, hanging flower baskets, patio containers, bedding flowers, vegetables, and perennials. Order from the comfort of your own home. If you need help ordering, Women's Club members will be available after all Masses on April 1 & 2. Sale ends on Thursday, April 6. Your orders will be available for pick up after all Masses on May 13 & 14. Just in time for Mother's Day!

This is a major spring fundraiser for the St. Pascal's Women's Club—please support us! If you have any questions or need help ordering, please contact Ellen Aeling at 651.307.8241 or ellenaeling@gmail.com.

Desserts for Funeral Lunches

Our funeral lunch list for desserts needs some updating. Would you be willing to bring two dozen bars or cookies for a funeral? They can be either homemade or commercial. Items are needed by 10:00 AM on the day of the funeral. We try to use a rotating list so you would not be called for every funeral. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Chris Igielski at 651.336.1274 (text or phone) or email csigielski@gmail.com. Also, I am asking long-time contributors to verify their phone numbers (if you have changed your number in the last year or so) and/or ask to be removed from the list if no longer able to help. Thank you for all you do for St. Pascal Baylon.

The St. Pascal's Men's Club Lenten Fish Fry—All Fridays of Lent

February 24 through March 31 from 4:30 to 7:00 PM in Brioschi Hall (Please use the Flandrau Street entrance.)

The "All-You-Care-To-Eat" buffet will offer fried and baked cod, coleslaw, mixed steamed vegetables, au gratin and seasoned fried potatoes, mac-n-cheese, dinner roll, and coffee/water. Milk, bottled water, and pop are available for purchase.

Adults (12 and up): \$16.00 | Children (6-11): \$8.00 | 5 and under: Free

Cash, check, or card accepted. Takeout is available if the hall is full or the wait is too long.

All proceeds benefit St. Pascal Regional Catholic School's K-8 PhyEd program and other parish/school needs.

— SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

Faith in Action

Sign-up for Rent Is Due March 1

March 1 from 8:30 - 9:00 AM via Zoom. Learn more about Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and how you can get involved. Beacon has been working to increase the amount of deeply affordable housing for years. This year offers the best chance the Legislature will pass the *Bring It Home, MN* bill that will do just that. Be part of this important work without having to leave your home. Learn how on March 1. Use the convenient link on the parish website to register. Questions? Contact akarner24@gmail.com

Help Needed Friday and Saturday

Fridays at 9:30 AM or Saturdays at 9:00 AM
Progressive Baptist Church 1505 Burns Ave.
Join other St. Pascal's parishioners as we prepare food boxes this Friday to help feed our hungry neighbors. On Saturday help distribute those boxes. Over 70 families are served by this amazing local effort to help those in need. Our faith calls us to "feed the hungry". Can you help? For more information, contact Ann Karner at akarner24@gmail.com

Merrick Community Services at St. Pascal's Food Distribution

Monday, February 27 in Brioschi Hall
We unload the food delivery at 1:30 PM, pack the food at 2:00 PM and distribute the food from 3:30 - 5:00 PM (or until gone).

If you are interested in serving with our amazing team of volunteers or would like more information, please email Mary Weyandt at mlweyandt@mac.com.

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 (akarner24@gmail.com)

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 651.342.8879
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

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St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church

Mass Times & Intentions

Readings

February 26, 2023

Tuesday, February 28

8:00 AM The people of the parish

Wednesday, March 01

9:30 AM The people of the parish

Thursday, March 02

8:00 AM Jim Chandler

Friday, March 03

8:00 AM Men's Club

Saturday, March 04

4:30 PM + Georgine Misukanis

Sunday, March 05

2nd Sunday of Lent

8:45 AM The people of the parish

10:30 AM + Bob & Lorraine Winkel

Use Your Smartphone to Make a Donation to St. Pascal's!

1. Scan this QR code with your phone.
2. Open the secure link and follow the prompts.
3. Thank you!



Sunday

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Ps 51:3-7, 12-13, 17

Rom 5:12-19

Mt 4:1-11

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18

Ps 19:8-10, 15

Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11

Ps 34:4-7, 16-19

Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10

Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19

Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25

Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8

Mt 7:7-12

Friday:

Ez 18:21-28

Ps 130:1-8

Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

Dt 26:16-19

Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8

Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 12:1-4a

Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22

2 Tm 1:8b-10

Mt 17:1-9

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, February 26—Lent 1

11:30am Confirmation I: Staff Lounge

Monday, February 27

1:00pm Merrick Setup: Brioschi Hall

3:30pm Merrick Food Distribution: Flandrau lot

7:00pm Boy Scouts: Brioschi Hall

Tuesday, February 28

8:45am Bible Study: Parish Conference Room

9:30am School Reconciliation: Church

6:30pm Bible Study: Parish Conference Room

Wednesday, March 1

9:00am Rosary: Church

9:30am School Mass: Church

6:30pm Choir: Church

6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room

6:30pm Faith Formation: Campus

Thursday, March 2

9:30am Bible Study: Parish Conference Room

6:00pm Spirit Song: Church

6:30pm SJCC: Zoom

7:00pm Men's Club Board Meeting: Brioschi Hall

Friday, March 3

9:00am Men's Club Fish Fry Setup: Brioschi Hall, Kitchen

4:30pm Men's Club Fish Fry: Brioschi Hall, Kitchen

7:00pm Stations of the Cross: Church

Saturday, March 4

We Care Campaign

Sunday, March 5—Lent 2

We Care Campaign

11:30am Women's Club Board Meeting: Brioschi Hall

2023 Friends and Family Event

We have a theme: The next running of "Off to the Races". We will have indoor horse racing down the middle of Brioschi Hall.

We have a date: Saturday, April 22, 2023

We have a location: Brioschi Hall

Now all we need is YOU! Please save this date on your calendar. We would like everyone to be there to make this a success.

We will need some help to run all the games, dessert auction, registration, selling tickets and more. If you would like to help in the planning or help on the day of the event, please let us know.

We are looking for a few people to take over this event in future years so please consider this. We are more than willing to work with you to learn all the things we do to make this event a success. To volunteer or for more information:

Mike Aeling: 651.307.8237 or mjaeling@gmail.com

Ellen Aeling: 651.307.8241 or ellenoaeling@gmail.com

CRS Rice Bowls: The First Sunday of Lent A Season for Slowing Down

During this sacred season, we will intentionally slow down so that we can pay closer attention to our relationship with God, our neighbors and our planet. Reflect on how the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey for a more enriching Lenten experience. How can practicing these pillars help you to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Stewardship of Giving

Financials for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

January 2023

Sunday Giving

Giving	\$ 88,058.00	YTD Giving	\$ 465,143.00
Budgeted	\$ <u>67,168.00</u>	YTD Budgeted	\$ <u>488,200.00</u>
+/-	\$ 20,890.00	YTD +/-	\$ -23,057.00

Mortgage Reduction (as of 12.31.2022)

Loan Balance:	\$ 2,872,047.09
Principal:	\$ 12,454.57
Interest:	\$ <u>10,006.48</u>
Monthly Payment	\$ 22,461.05

YTD Collected Donations	\$ 177,577.76
YTD Payment:	\$ <u>157,227.35</u>
+/-	\$ 20,350.41

Reserve Account Balance: \$ 200,390.13

of payments from Reserve: 9

Thank you for your support!

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



The Lord Alone

Faithful God,
from the very beginning
you have called your people
to worship you
with single-minded focus.
You are the one true God,
source of all goodness and mercy.
Grant us the strength
to resist earthly temptations,
the will to turn from distractions,
and the desire to orient our lives
toward loving you first.
We ask for your patience
as we seek to grow in holiness
this Lent
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 26, 2023

God First



Today's readings: Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6, 12–13, 17; Romans 5:12–19 or 5:12, 17–19; Matthew 4:1–11. Jesus gets the last word when the devil tries to lure him with earthly temptations. He quotes the Shema from Deuteronomy, chapter 6: “Hear O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength” (6:4–5). This most fundamental expression of faith orients our spiritual focus for the season of Lent. It is a clear invitation from the Scriptures to turn our hearts toward God.

A simple pie chart of how the majority of our time is spent during any week will reveal the priorities around

which our lives are ordered and what or whom we worship. Do we seek the accumulation of possessions or power; do we worship celebrities or ideologies; do we serve egocentric goals or addictions? Lent offers us the opportunity for *metanoia*, the profound transformation of mind and heart. Now is the time to take a self-inventory and make deliberate choices that place God first in our heart and mind. These choices are expressed in the activities and gestures of our daily living. Sketch out your pie chart and take an honest look at it. Then write a love letter back to God, telling him your plan for how you intend to place God at the center of your life this Lent.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 27 Mercy Works

How shall we grow in holiness this Lent? We don't have to guess. Today's Scriptures lay out the blueprint. The instructions from Leviticus give clear direction for avoiding sin. Equally important, the Gospel passage from Matthew calls us to active engagement in the corporal works of mercy. We have six weeks before Easter. Pick one work of mercy to focus on each week of Lent; resolve to try the works of mercy you find most challenging first. *Today's readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Matthew 25:31–46.*

Tuesday, February 28 Our Father

Each Lent we are invited to deepen our prayer life. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us exactly how to do just that through giving us the words of the Lord's Prayer. How can we magnify our prayer life? A possible start could be by praying the Lord's Prayer more intentionally. Write or type the prayer line by line on a sheet of white paper. Cut into strips. Reflect on each line of the prayer. Make the practice part of your daily prayer routine this Lent. *Today's readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–5, 6–7, 16–17, 18–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

Wednesday, March 1 Create in Me A Clean Heart

Responsorial Psalm 51 is prayed repeatedly through the season of Lent because it expresses the humble stance we are called to assume: "A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn." Catholics celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation each Lent as an essential step of spiritual preparation for Easter. Seek reconciliation early in Lent as a way to turn over the soil of your heart and make room for the new seeds of faith to grow in the coming weeks. *Today's readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

Thursday, March 2 Ask, Seek, Knock

Today's Scriptures are deeply reassuring. The psalmist glorifies God, "on the day I asked for help, you answered me." Jesus promises, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." What do you need to ask God for today? Write a letter to God and lay out all the burdens you carry. Ask for what you need with confidence in God's faithfulness. *Today's readings: Esther C:12, 14–16, 23–25; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8; Matthew 7:7–12.*

Friday, March 3 Time to Heal

Jesus reminds the disciples, and us, of how broken relationships harm the soul. Lent is the time for reconciliation with God and with the people in our lives. Do you have an estranged relationship? What steps can you take toward healing? For starters, name a relationship that seems to hold you in bondage. Ask God to guide you in seeking freedom from anger, judgment, frustration, and resentment. Attend to the ways God provides opportunities to take repairing steps in the coming days. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

Saturday, March 4 Lifting Up a Relationship

The call to pay attention to difficult relationships in our lives continues in today's Scripture readings. Jesus tells us the first steps toward healing: pray for that person daily as part of your Lenten sacrifice. This can be challenging. Praying for those who cause us distress requires humility. Heed the advice of our Lord and take note of the movement of your heart as you do so in the coming weeks. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*



“We Care Campaign”

March 4 & 5, 2023

to support



Friends of San Lucas

Friends of San Lucas is a MN-based non-profit dedicated to generating support for the Mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. The mission, founded in 1963 by Fr. Greg Schaffer, is managed by 100 Guatemalan staff and helps over 30,000 people who live there. Contributions to the mission support seven program areas including education, healthcare, housing, coffee trade, charity with dignity, a women’s center, and a visitor’s program. More information can be found at sanlucasmission.org



St. Pascal’s Social Justice and Caring Committee (SJCC) typically selects three options for the We Care campaigns that take place.

For this particular campaign, donations are for the sole purpose of supporting the Mission in San Lucas Toliman.

Please see reverse side for more history and the connection St. Pascal Baylon has with the San Lucas Toliman Mission.

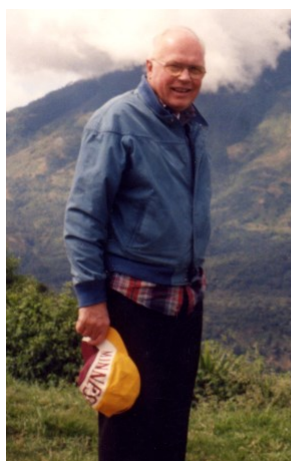
*St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church and the San Lucas Toliman Mission:
A Connection Through the Years*

From St. Pascal's Social Justice and Caring Committee

San Lucas is a Catholic mission community in the Toliman mountains of Guatemala.

Father Greg Schaffer, a Minnesota native, came to San Lucas in the 60s with the School Sisters of Notre Dame to serve the needs of the local church community.

In 1972, Father Greg embarked on a 3,000 mile walk of epic proportions from the steps of the Minnesota Capitol to the church of San Lucas. This year marks the commemoration of that walk 50 years ago. Father took a big risk which was born of desperation and a lot of faith for San Lucas, a community that found itself trying to address inequalities of historic proportions. The mission community of some 30,000 had been decimated by systemic economic and social injustice. The people at the mission could not find any sustained income other than near slave labor working for the wealthy plantation owners who owned most of the land and dominated the economy. Father Greg called it "the process of poverty," which robbed people of the resources to maintain their sense of dignity.



Father Greg completed his walk of 3,087 miles with a small group of supporters and raised over \$75,000, which equates to just over \$500,000 in today's money. The money was used to develop programs of education, health care, an orphanage, the production and sale of coffee, housing, and visitor support. It was largely successful in sustaining the mission despite the Guatemalan government's opposition to the needs of the population. Father Greg's leadership at that crucial time, and for the next 30 years, was largely responsible for the growing success of the community. Yet, even today the community needs continuing support.

St. Pascal Baylon Parish has a special connection to San Lucas. In the 1970s and 1980s Father Greg, who grew up in New Ulm, visited our church. His brother lived on 4th Street with his wife and children who attended St. Pascal Baylon school. Father Greg's nephew, his brother's son who is also named "Gregory Schaffer", was a graduate of St. Pascal Baylon School. He also became a priest and now serves at the Venezuelan Mission of Jesucristo Resucitado in Ciudad Guayana, and provides the same leadership his uncle did at San Lucas.

From 1997-2003, three different week-long mission trips to San Lucas took place involving some 35 members of the St. Pascal's community. A number of these members are still attending St. Pascal Baylon. They went to San Lucas to help serve the needs of the mission, but also to learn about the role of the church in furthering God's work in this poor community.

Father Schaffer spent a judicious amount of time with his guests on each trip from our church, but he also did the same for many other mission groups to San Lucas from across the country. He explained what the Catholic communities in many poor central and south American areas were up against to survive and prosper. "Liberation Theology" is the overriding label of the church's continuing effort even today to help many of these areas that are still struggling to survive. As Father Greg, now deceased, said "the process of poverty" still exists because of continuing government indifference.

Please consider making a good contribution to the "WE CARE CAMPAIGN" for **San Lucas**.