



**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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**APRIL 9, 2023 | EASTER SUNDAY**

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## 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  
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### **Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation**

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kim.roering@stpascals.org

### **Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care**

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### **Communications & Office Manager**

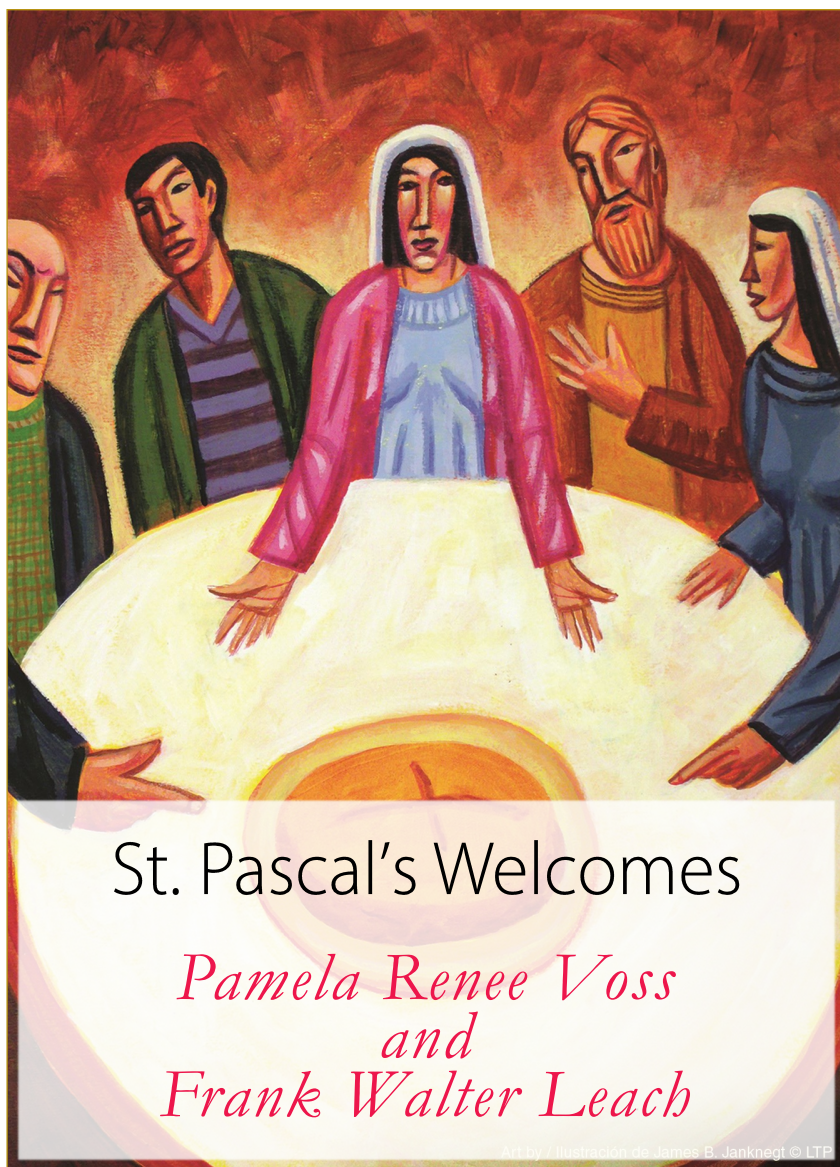
Thea Munoz | ext 133  
thea.munoz@stpascals.org

### **Welcome Desk**

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

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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



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## **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:

**Happy Easter!** From all of us here at St. Pascal Baylon Church, I wish you and your family a joyful Easter Sunday and a wonderful Easter Season. In the Gospel reading this morning, Mary Magdalene reports to Peter and John that the body of Jesus has been taken from his tomb. When Peter and John go to see the tomb for themselves, they see the burial cloths in the tomb, and then we are told that John “saw and believed” (John 20:8). On Easter Sunday and every day of our lives, we are invited to believe in the risen Christ. The Apostles had difficulty believing in the risen Christ until they saw him in the Upper Room on Easter morning. When they saw the risen Jesus, they believed. We were not in the Upper Room on Easter morning when Jesus appeared. We have not seen Jesus in the flesh as the Apostles did. Yet, we are invited to believe. I believe that if we step out in faith towards Jesus and say, “Jesus, I believe in you”, then we will see Our Lord in the Eucharist, in the Scriptures, in the assembly at Mass, and in each other.

**Archdiocesan Synod Update.** In November 2022, 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, or you can read the letter online at [archspm.org/synod](http://archspm.org/synod). In his pastoral letter, Archbishop Hebda established Synod Priorities for all parishes in the Archdiocese 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 as Primary Educators

Each pastor in the Archdiocese has formed a Synod Evangelization Team at their parish to discern the best ways to implement the Synod priorities at their parish. The following parishioners accepted my invitation to join our Synod Evangelization 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 to discern and implement the Synod Priorities. On April 29, our team will meet for a Small Group Visioning Day to equip our team to recruit potential small group leaders at St. Pascal Baylon parish over the summer and to begin preparations for the Fall 2023 Small Group Leadership Training Sessions. I already see active small group leaders and active small groups in our parish such as our Bible study groups, Just Faith group, Men’s Club, Women’s Club, Young at Heart group, monthly Merrick food distribution group, and our collaboration with Progressive Baptist Church in their weekly food distribution. These existing small groups can grow, and maybe there are new small groups we can develop. Please keep our parish in your prayers as we discern ways to implement the Synod Priorities over the next three years.

**The Pope’s Monthly Intentions.** Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father’s request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

**Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for April 2023: *For a culture of peace and non-violence.*** We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

## — SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

### Faith in Action

#### ***An Easter People Response***

As Easter People, we are called to share God’s love by loving our fellow human beings. We do this through charity (our donations), service (volunteering at food pantries and other charitable sites), and working for social justice especially in the area of deeply affordable housing (Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, or “Beacon”). Our parish takes actions to help the environment by recycling and energy saving changes to our building. While all of this is admirable, there is so much more to do. Please consider joining our Social Justice and Caring Committee, or “SJCC”, becoming involved with Beacon, or helping at the food pantries. For more information on how to help our neighbors contact Ann Karner at [arakarner24@gmail.com](mailto:arakarner24@gmail.com).

### **April Donation Closet Collection**

#### ***Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf***

The Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf at Progressive Baptist Church distributes food from 10:30 AM-12 Noon on Saturdays at 1505 Burns Avenue, with no residency or membership requirements. Items most needed are:

- Cereal
- Canned Soup

Items can be left in the donation closet between now and April 30. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Paper Grocery Bags Needed**

The Merrick Food Distribution at St. Pascal’s and the Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf at Progressive Baptist have had a lot of visitors recently, so our supply of grocery bags is very low. Donations of PAPER grocery bags are especially needed, in addition to plastic and reusable bags.

### **Water Damage Update**

Work is progressing on the restoration of the Old Church and Rooms 107 and 108.

- The floors are prepped and (as of the date of this update) waiting for carpet tiles to arrive during Holy Week.
- Drywall and paint work is done.
- Hallway lockers are in place.
- The breezeway bathroom tile is delayed and will arrive in early May. Work will begin when materials are delivered.

We will continue to keep you updated as this project progresses throughout the spring. Thank you for your patience and support!

## — REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

### Easter Blessings

#### from St. Pascal Regional!

#### 2023 STEM Innovation Grant Recipient

St. Pascal Regional Catholic School was awarded the 2023 STEM Innovation Grant from Minndependent. The grant is worth \$1075 and will be used to purchase two high-quality engineering units. One of the units is called "Rockets and Rovers," developed by NASA. Students will play the role of engineers and design their own rockets and rovers. The other unit helps students learn how to design water filters to better clean dirty water. Both units provide engaging, hands-on experiences and satisfy state standards regarding engineering. We are so grateful to Minndependent for their support of our elementary school science program!

## — WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS —

### Fish Fry Bake Sales Success

Thank you to all the bakers for the Fish Fry Bake Sales. They were a huge success! Stay tuned for the final results.

### Disbursements Requests

The Women's Club will be accepting requests from groups for funding of a project between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Please email Cindy Reisdorf at [jjreisdorf00@msn.com](mailto:jjreisdorf00@msn.com) for a form. *All requests must be received by Monday, May 1.* Awards will be made at our May 7 meeting.

### Women's Club Elections

Election of officers for the 2023-2024 year will be held at our May 7 meeting after the 10:30 AM Mass in Brioschi Hall. Please consider becoming an officer or member of the executive board. For further information, please contact Cindy Reisdorf at [jjreisdorf00@msn.com](mailto:jjreisdorf00@msn.com).

### CRS Rice Bowls: Happy Easter!

Our CRS Rice Bowl journey has ended, but our prayers, fasting and almsgiving continue as we seek a closer relationship with God and our global family. Let us hold in our hearts our sisters and brothers in Honduras, the Philippines and Kenya and commit to share our Easter joy with people in our local community and around the world.

### Have you been using a Rice Bowl for Lenten almsgiving?

Please submit donations by **Monday, April 17**. Turn in your donations in one of three ways:

1. Bring your CRS Rice Bowl to St. Pascal's during Easter Week.
2. Convert your Rice Bowl gifts to a check made out to St. Pascal Baylon. *Be sure to note it is for CRS Rice Bowl and then drop it off or mail to the parish.*
3. Donate directly to Catholic Relief Services online at [www.crsricebowl.org/give](http://www.crsricebowl.org/give).

Thank you for your prayers and generosity!

## — FAITH FORMATION —

### Vacation Bible School

June 19-23, 2023 from 9:00 AM - 12 Noon

An out-of-this-world VBS experience is coming to St. Pascal's! Mark your calendars and plan to join us for STELLAR: SHINE JESUS' LIGHT. Ready to blast off for adventure? Registration forms are available in the kiosk, on the parish website, and in the parish office. Volunteers are needed in all areas, especially games and snacks. Contact Kim Roering in the parish office for more information.

### Growing Through Loss

Monday or Tuesday Nights (April and May)

The Growing Through Loss series, for those living with grief, will be offered at two locations in the upcoming weeks.

#### Tuesdays at 6:45 PM beginning April 11

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

7600 Cahill Avenue

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

#### Mondays at 6:45 PM beginning April 17

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

8211 Red Oak Drive

Mounds View, MN 55113

You may attend one or all the programs in the series. There is no fee, but donations are welcome. Brochures available in the kiosk. For further grief resources, please contact Barb Uschold Anderson, Pastoral Care Associate, at [barb.ua@stpascals.org](mailto:barb.ua@stpascals.org) or 651.432.4959.

### Candle Cup Cleaners Needed

Can you help clean the candle cups used during our Easter Vigil liturgy? This is a simple, but very helpful ministry you can do in your home. Instructions are provided. Please contact Sharon Balcom in the parish office at [sharon.balcom@stpascals.org](mailto:sharon.balcom@stpascals.org) or 651.431.4956 if you can help.

## C O N T A C T U S

### Parish Office

Phone 651.774.1585

Email [church@stpascals.org](mailto: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](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

Ann Karner, Chair ([akarner24@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:thea.munoz@stpascals.org)

#### Mass Announcements

Due 12:00 PM Tuesday

[keri.mader@stpascals.org](mailto:keri.mader@stpascals.org)

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St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church

## Mass Times & Intentions

## Readings

April 9, 2023

### Tuesday, April 11

8:00 AM The people of the parish

### Wednesday, April 12

9:30 AM Women's Club

### Thursday, April 13

8:00 AM The people of the parish

### Friday, April 14

8:00 AM Men's Club

### Saturday, April 15

4:30 PM + Frank Brodniewicz

### Sunday, April 16

8:45 AM + Don Hensel

10:30 AM The people of the parish

### 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:

Acts 10:34a, 37-43  
Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Col 3:1-4

Jn 20:1-9

### Monday:

Acts 2:14, 22-33  
Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11  
Mt 28:8-15

### Tuesday:

Acts 2:36-41  
Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22  
Jn 20:11-18

### Wednesday:

Acts 3:1-10  
Ps 105:1-4, 6-9  
Lk 24:13-35

### Thursday:

Acts 3:11-26  
Ps 8:2ab, 5-9  
Lk 24:35-48

### Friday:

Acts 4:1-12  
Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a  
Jn 21:1-14

### Saturday:

Acts 4:13-21  
Ps 118:1, 14-21  
Mk 16:9-15

### Next Sunday:

Acts 2:42-47  
Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24  
1 Pt 1:3-9  
Jn 20:19-31

## THE WEEKS AHEAD

### Sunday, April 9—Easter Sunday

8:45am Mass

10:30am Mass (ASL)

### Monday, April 10—Easter Monday

Parish office closed

No scheduled events

### Tuesday, April 11

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

### Wednesday, April 12

8:45am Rosary: Church

9:30am School Mass: Church

6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room

6:30pm Faith Formation: Campus

### Thursday, April 13

6:00pm Spirit Song: Church

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

### Saturday, April 15

10:30am 1st Eucharist Retreat: Brioschi Hall, Church

After Mass Fellowship: Brioschi Hall

After Mass Friends & Family ticket sales: Gathering Space

After Mass Fellowship: Brioschi Hall, Kitchen

### Sunday, April 16

After Masses Friends & Family ticket sales: Gathering Space

After Masses Fellowship: Brioschi Hall, Kitchen

11:30am Confirmation I: Staff Lounge

### Finance Council Meeting Update from March 23, 2023

#### The Finance Council reviewed and discussed:

- February Income was lower than budget.
- Cash reserves are still strong.
- Utility costs are high but close to budget. (Snow removal is much higher than budget.)
- Next year's budget is being prepared.
- We took a tour of the building to see the water damage and ongoing repairs. There was extensive damage but insurance will cover most of it.
- Plan is to upgrade both bathrooms to modern facilities (toilets first, then sinks). This will lower the chance of this happening again and make them more user friendly.
- Friends & Family Event and the Fund-A-Need (boiler replacement) were reviewed.
- Composting program will start soon. This will lower trash removal costs and be good for the environment.
- Recruiting for new members for Finance Council and Parish Council will be in April and May.

### Stewardship of Giving

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

#### February 2023

##### Sunday Giving

Giving	\$ 48,318.36	YTD Giving	\$ 513,462.26
Budgeted	\$ <u>67,168.74</u>	YTD Budgeted	\$ <u>555,369.48</u>
+/-	\$ -18,850.38	YTD +/-	\$ -41,907.22

##### Mortgage Reduction (as of 12.31.2022)

Loan Balance:	\$ 2,854,510.40
Principal:	\$ 12,495.85
Interest:	\$ <u>9,965.20</u>
Monthly Payment	\$ 22,461.05

YTD Collected Donations	\$ 197,330.91
YTD Payment:	\$ <u>179,688.40</u>
+/-	\$ 17,642.51

Reserve Account Balance: \$ 193,695.48

# of payments from Reserve: 9

**Thank you for your support!**

### St. Pascal's Women's Book Club

Monday, April 17 at 7:00 PM—please note date change!

Spring has sprung and it's time to come out and join the St. Pascal's Women's Book Club. We're delaying our meeting to the third Monday to allow us to focus on Easter. Ordinarily we meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Staff Lounge, located near the Conway entrance.

On April 17, we will discuss *The Last Thing He told Me* by Laura Dave. Next month, on May 8, we will share thoughts on *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich.



# ST. PASCAL BAYLON CATHOLIC CHURCH

There is no fee to participate in this event. However, signing up ahead of time helps us plan for the evening. Sign up via the link on the parish website at [www.stpascals.org/parish-news](http://www.stpascals.org/parish-news).

Sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Committee



1757 Conway Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651-774-1585  
[www.stpascals.org](http://www.stpascals.org)

Parish Contact:  
Kim Roering  
[kim.roering@stpascals.org](mailto:kim.roering@stpascals.org)

## DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME

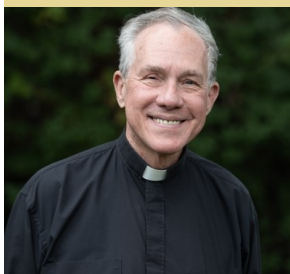


## What is the THIS that we do?

**Eucharist as grounded in conversion,  
community, commitment and self-giving**

From its inception, the Church has always protected its most precious treasure: the command of the Lord, “Do this in memory of me.” From the very beginning, the Church was aware that the Lord’s Supper is not simply a question of commemoration, however sacred it might be. Enlightened by God’s Holy Spirit, the Church has grasped that everything of Jesus had passed over into the celebration of the sacrament. The liturgy is an encounter with the patterns of the Lord’s life, and by our embodiment of his patterns of living, we can be confident that Christ remains present among us. Spend an evening exploring the implications of a Eucharistic life so that you too may encounter Him alive as did his early disciples.

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
6:30-8:30 pm  
Brioschi Hall**



*Fr. Paul Feela recently retired as pastor of Lumen Christi Catholic Community in St. Paul. In addition to his pastoral assignments in the archdiocese, Fr. Feela taught liturgy and sacramental theology at the St. Paul Seminary at the University of St. Thomas. He is now devoting his time to writing.*

# FRIENDS & FAMILY

St. Pascal's 20th Annual Fundraising Event

## 2023 FUND-A-NEED

### *HEATING SYSTEM UPDATE*

Currently we have two boilers which are used to heat the parish and regional school buildings. The Kewanee is 75 years old, and the Pacific is 60 years old.



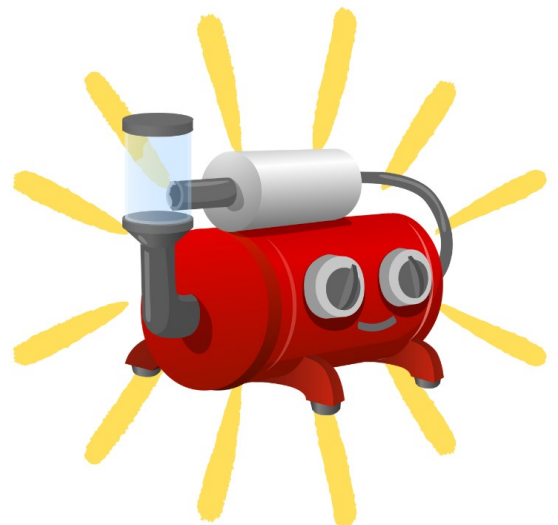
The older boiler is only 75% energy efficient and is costly to maintain and use.

A group of parishioners (all experts in boilers) recently contacted three different companies—each one recommended that we replace this equipment as soon as possible due to the increased possibility of failure during the periods of heavy use.

A new boiler will be between 85-92% efficient and will require far less maintenance. The new equipment will be used as the primary heat source and the Pacific as a supplemental system during the coldest part of winter.

A new boiler will lower our heating and maintenance costs. It will also significantly lower the concern about boiler failure during our cold winter months.

This will ensure we can continue to be good stewards of our parishioners' donations and our building infrastructure.



over...

Dear Friends,

April 2023

Our aging boilers have provided heat for the community for many years. Both the main and backup units are nearing their end of lifespans, so it's time to look at modern alternatives.

- The main boiler, a Pacific model 972-A was manufactured in 1960. The backup, a 1949 Kewanee installed in 1950, each have an estimated 75% efficiency rating.
- \$29,000.00 was spent in maintenance and repairs for the system during the last fiscal year.
- The January gas bill was almost \$9,000 this year. The gas usage in October 2022 was 136 therms while November's bill showed a usage of 2,353 therms. (January 2023 was 7,271 therms).
- The new boiler will have a controller (thermostat) that ties in with our existing air conditioning and fan system enabling targeted heating times and temps. Currently the 1949 and 1961 technology allow for on/off and nothing else.
- A group of parishioners and staff explored the many new options on the market. They contacted three contractors and are in the process of comparing bids.
- Depending upon the type of boiler chosen, efficiencies will increase to 85%, 89% or 92%. The group will weigh the cost/benefit before determining the boiler system and contractor.
- We will replace the old 1949 Kewanee with the new boiler. The "newest" unit, the 1960 Pacific has been recently refurbished and will provide backup heat if needed during our coldest months. This is standard procedure for many buildings in our cold climate. The backup boiler will sit idle and will be fired up only when necessary, thereby saving energy and maintenance costs.
- Initial estimates are ranging from \$150,000 to over \$200,000, depending upon type. Asbestos removal will be quoted separately.

The time is now to start saving for the future. Fr. John, the Trustees and Finance Council are all in agreement that a proactive approach is best. Last year's roof project had a phenomenal response, and we are very grateful for your support. Please thoughtfully consider supporting this vital infrastructure project. Due to the cost, this will be a multi-year fundraiser.

***Give online at [st.pascals.org](http://st.pascals.org) or mail your donation by completing this form.***

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Name:	_____	Donation: \$	_____
Address:	_____		
	_____	Email:	_____

# FRIENDS & FAMILY

**St. Pascal's 20th Annual Fundraising Event**

## Off to the Races!

*WITNESS THE SPECTACLE AND THRILLS OF THE RACE TRACK!*

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**DATE:** April 22, 2023

**TIME:** 5:30 – 9:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Brioschi Hall

**COST:** \$30 per person

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**DINNER:** Tinucci's "Champagne Chicken Dinner"    **CASH BAR:** Beer, wine and pop

*COME FOR THE DINNER, STAY FOR THE FUN!*

### ENTERTAINMENT

Horse Racing! No cost to pick your horse—everyone has an opportunity to bet on the winning horse!

*One winner per race by a drawing of all guests who pick the correct horse.*

### GAMES

\$10 a try. Golf, Ring Toss, Heads & Tails, Cut the Cards and Spin Wheel.

*One prize will be awarded for each game at the end of the evening.*

### MYSTERY GIFTS

Pick any box on the table for \$20. Boxes are opened just before dinner.

*All boxes contain a prize.*

### DOOR PRIZES

**FUND-A-NEED** *(See the flyer included with this mailing.)*

**over...**



*...AND MAYBE LEAVE WITH SOME PRETTY COOL STUFF!*

## **LIVE AUCTIONS**

- **DESSERTS:** Special desserts are either baked or purchased by parishioners. These desserts are then auctioned off before dinner is served.
- **FIRST TABLE TO EAT**
- **TWO SIGNED VIKINGS JERSEYS** (Purple People Eater and Fran Tarkenton)
- **TWINS FIRST PITCH:** Throw out the first pitch at the Twins Game on (date to be determined). Tickets for the game are also available so all your family and friends can come and watch. *At this time we are still waiting on approval from the Twins.*

## **ITEMS FOR SALE**

- **COMMUNITY MIXERS:** Parishioners host a special evening (themed dinner, cultural dinner, fun night, teaching a skill, etc.) Spaces for these are sold the night of the event. Any unsold spaces will be sold after Masses on April 23. If you would like to host an event, please see contact information below.
- **TWINS GAME TICKETS:** \$5.00 each

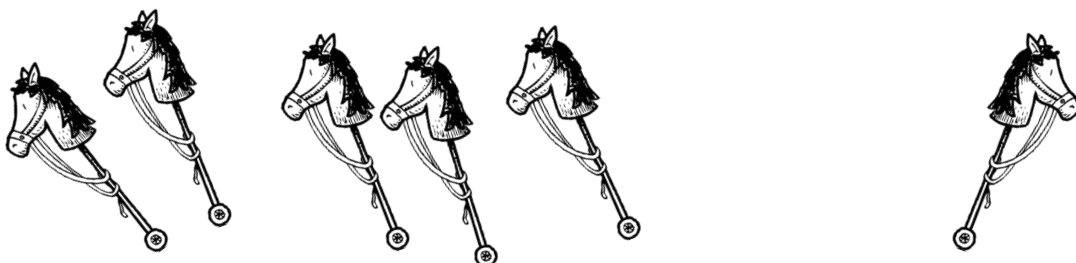
## **CAN'T WAIT TO COME?**

*DINNER TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE AFTER ALL MASSES ON THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 1-2 AND 15-16.*

You may also purchase your tickets online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c48abac23abf49-friends#/> or visit the Parish News page at [stpascals.org](http://stpascals.org) for a convenient link. *Pre-payment is required to attend.*

For more information please contact:

Mike (651.307.8237) or Ellen (651.307.8241) Aeling



# EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

God of joy,  
you raised Jesus from the dead  
and unlocked the path to eternal life  
for all of creation.  
Awaken us to the gift of salvation  
poured into the world  
with Christ's victory over death.

Infuse our hearts with joy  
as we pray, sing, and dance in celebration.  
Bless our Easter worship  
and time gathered with family and friends  
this day.  
Through Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, April 9, 2023**

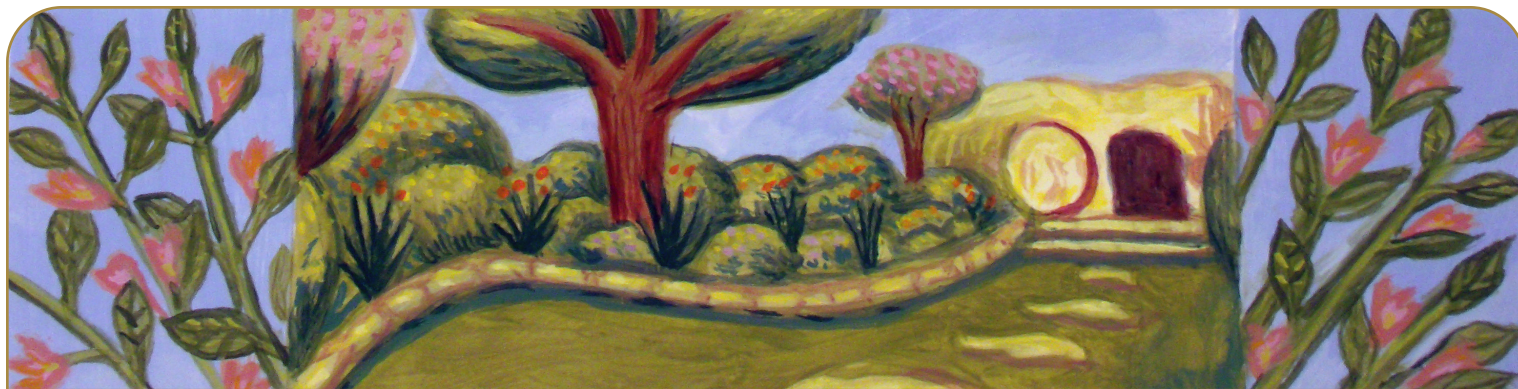
**Alleluia!**



*Today's readings: Acts 10:34a, 37–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8; Sequence Victimae paschali laudes; John 20:1–9 or Matthew 28:1–10 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13–35.* Celebrating Easter is like watching the sunrise in the most beautiful place ever visited. All along our journey through Lent our eyes have been tuned for directional arrows in the Scriptures pointing our steps toward God, who summons us unceasingly.

At Easter we open our hearts fully as the Son rises gloriously and his rays fill us with joy. Together with the

community of faith, we renew our baptismal vows. Like a long-married couple renewing their marriage vows, we baptized Christians renew our commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church. We welcome sprinkles of blessed baptismal water as a symbol of our bond in faith. It is a joyous response to God's invitation to return to him with ready hearts. The resurrection is celebrated with our jubilant renewal of faith as the Gloria and Alleluia are sung and trumpets and bells resound. Our sanctuaries and homes are filled with fragrant flowers and our tables hold choice foods to share with those we love. The Son is alive and with us always! Alleluia!



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, April 10 Do Not Be Afraid

In Matthew's resurrection account, the first appearance of the risen Lord is to Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary." The encounter is utterly unexpected. The women were looking for the disciples. They could not imagine seeing Jesus. The first words Jesus speaks are "Peace" and "Do not be afraid." With their fear dispelled, the women embrace their call to be the first witnesses of the risen Christ. *Today's readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

### Tuesday, April 11 Called by Name

John's resurrection account mirrors Matthew's in that the first appearance of the risen Lord is to Mary Magdalene. Consumed with grief and confusion, Mary is unable to recognize Jesus until he calls her by name. At the sound of her name, Mary is forever transformed. With certainty, she announces the good news. On the day of our baptism, and continually throughout our lives, God calls us by name and sends us as living witnesses to the world. *Today's readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22; John 20:11–18.*

### Wednesday, April 12 Be Alert

There is so much good news to unpack and celebrate about the resurrection of Jesus that the Church gives us fifty days in the Easter season to do this. Today is one of the many times when we hear about the time Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. He approaches and walks with them, first listening, then teaching, and ultimately revealing. Jesus does that with each of us, day by day, through the Easter season. Be alert for when he shows up! *Today's readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

### Thursday, April 13 Go Deeper

As Jesus ate and spoke with his disciples in Jerusalem, Luke tells us that "he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:45). He reinterpreted sacred Scripture in light of his birth, death, and resurrection, revealing a new layer of meaning about the plan of God. How might we allow our daily reading of the Scriptures through this Easter season to bring us to a deeper understanding of the paschal mystery in our time? *Today's readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

### Friday, April 14 Fifty Days

Today we hear from John about Jesus' third appearance to his disciples, this time on the beach of the Sea of Tiberias. The disciples have returned to their occupation of fishing. Jesus will be sending them back to the vocation to which he called them as evangelists. Jesus did not give up on his beloved disciples; he does not give up on us. Easter is not over; it has just begun. During these fifty days of Easter, we have time to contemplate how the Lord draws us close, feeds us, and empowers us to be living witnesses of joy. *Today's readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

### Saturday, April 15 Go Out to the Whole World

The octave (eight days) of Easter concludes with Mark's account of how Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene. She immediately went to announce the good news. But, alas, she was met with resistance and disbelief. Witnessing the truth of Jesus Christ in today's culture requires confronting skepticism and rejection. But as Jesus instructed the disciples then, he commands us now to persist and "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). *Today's readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*

