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.

MAY 21, 2023 | THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

OUR STAFF

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Mass Times
Saturday  4:30 PM  I  Sunday  8:45 & 10:30 AM (ASL)  I  Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  8:00 AM; Wednesday  9:30 AM
1757 Conway Street  I  Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106  I  651.774.1585
www.stpascals.org  I  church@stpascals.org
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

The blessing of friends. It is a real blessing to have friends. I hope you are blessed with good friendships. This week I will be gathering with good friends among my priest classmates from the seminary. We were ordained together in 1996, and we gather each year in May for a dinner to celebrate our ordination anniversary. This year we are gathering for a delicious steak dinner on May 21, and the next day we will go golfing in the Annual Priest Golf Outing at Indian Hills Golf Club. Then I will enjoy more golf with my friends as I take a little time away from the parish office on May 23 to enjoy the beautiful Spring weather! As it says in Sirach 6:14-16, “A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure. Faithful friends are beyond price, no amount can balance their worth. Faithful friends are life-saving medicine.” I found this Prayer for My Friends at biblestudytools.com that you might enjoy:

A Prayer for My Friends. Lord Jesus, thank you for the friends in my life. I praise you for the friends you have blessed me with, the ones who have come alongside me to love, encourage, support and uplift me through all the twists and turns of life. I pray that you will be present in my friendships, that you would draw us together in deeper community with one another toward greater unity with you. Help me to be a good friend and to show compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Thank you, Lord, for the ways that my friends build me up and remind me of your goodness and faithfulness. Amen.

At the April 7, 2023 meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council, the following topics were discussed: the Boiler replacement project and funding; updates on the Archdiocesan Synod; Parish Council meeting plans during Father John's sabbatical in September-November 2023; update on the number of years the current members of the Council have served and their status for next year; new Council member recruitment for next year; updates from active parish groups and committees; updates on parish finances and facilities. If you have questions or a topic for the Parish Council to discuss, please contact Ann Karner, Council Chair, at akarner24@gmail.com. Updates and minutes from prior meetings can be viewed at stpascals.org/pastoral-council.

Would you like to be notified via Email about funerals at St. Pascal's? We send out email notifications about upcoming funerals at St. Pascal Baylon Church. To subscribe, go to: stpascals.org/e-newsletters and click on “Funeral notices” and fill in your contact information.

Would you like to receive our Pascal's Pulse Weekly E-newsletter? Get the latest news and event reminders (exclusive content, too!) delivered every Thursday to your inbox. We will never share your email address, and you may unsubscribe at any time. To subscribe, go to: stpascals.org/e-newsletters and click on “E-newsletters” and fill in your contact information. You can also call the Parish Office (651-774-1585) for more information.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for May 2023 – For church movements and groups. We pray that church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell

— SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

May Collection: Brittany's Place
During May, items will be accepted in the parish donation closet for Brittany's Place, an emergency shelter in St. Paul for girls and young women who have experienced commercial sex trafficking or are at high risk for sexual exploitation. Items needed at this time are:

Toiletries and Personal Care: bathroom caddies, loofahs, towels, wash cloths, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, hairbrushes/comb/picks, hair ties/ headbands/ clips, small black hair rubber bands, hair care products (culturally specific, such as Eco Gel, Carol's Daughter, Cantu)

Crafts and Activities: colored pencils, markers, crayons, fidgets, movies, books, board games, activity kits (ex. Legos, puzzles), notebooks, journals

Shelter Supplies: twin sheets sets, blankets, pillows, books, lamps, tote bags, alarm clocks/radios.

Items will be collected through May 28th. Thank you for your generosity!

Merrick Food Distribution
Monday, May 22
Please consider joining us, especially if you heard Fr. John's homily this weekend and the Holy Spirit moves you. All are welcome! This is our schedule:

• 1:15 pm - Some volunteers arrive to unload food delivery from Merrick and set up the food for packing
• 2:00 pm - The first shift of volunteers pack the grocery bags
• 3:30 pm - The second shift of volunteers meet and greet folks as food is distributed curbside out of Door 4.

If you wish to volunteer for the first shift: please arrive at 1:45 pm for directions, prayer, and reflection before packing the food

For the second shift: please arrive at 3:15 pm for directions, prayer, and reflection before Distributing the food.

- If you'd like to serve with both shifts you can pray twice!

You can sign up here via Google Form: https://forms.gle/tfFfwjxvZzh57Upe6

You can also send an email to Mary Weyandt at mweyandt@mac.com to sign up or if you have any questions. You will get a confirmation email after you sign up.

Hope to see you on Monday. The weather is looking good, with a forecast of 77° and partly sunny!
**SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING**

**We Care Campaign**
**June 3-4**
St. Pascal’s parish will gather the loose change and bills from the collection and donate them to the Social Justice and Caring Committee’s next We Care Campaign. The three options chosen by the committee for its summer Campaign are:

**Option 1: Our Lady of Peace Hospice**
The Our Lady of Peace Hospice in St. Paul provides health and emotional support services to patients at the end of life, their families and their caregivers to reduce stress, alleviate suffering and maintain dignity for all.

**Option 2: Sacred Heart Church in El Paso, Texas**
Sacred Heart is a Catholic church in El Paso, Texas that provides shelter to migrants crossing the Mexico/United States border who are in need of emergency accommodation. As a result of the recent Title 42 ban being lifted, the parish is serving an unprecedented number of migrants and are in desperate need of funds for providing assistance to minister to these migrants (such as food, medical supplies etc.)

**Option 3: Catholic Relief Services - Ukraine**
Catholic Relief Services assists the poor and vulnerable overseas. Money donated to this option will be used to help families in the Ukraine receive care for children, cash assistance, clothing, counseling, food, hygiene supplies, transportation to safe shelter etc.

Consider making a personal contribution as well, using the envelope provided in the packet of envelopes sent by the parish or those found on the tables located near the entrances to the church. If you prefer to give to one or more of these charities, please indicate this on the envelope and your contributions will be distributed as requested. Any unmarked contributions will be divided equally among the three options. Thank you for your generosity.

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**FAITH FORMATION**

**Vacation Bible School**
**LAST CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS!**
**Registrations due Friday, May 26**
An out-of-this-world VBS experience is coming to St. Pascals! STELLAR: SHINE JESUS’ LIGHT will be held June 19-23 from 9 am – 12 Noon each day. Ready to blast off for adventure? Registration forms are available in the kiosk, on the parish website, and in the parish office. Registrations are due Friday, May 26. No registrations are accepted after this date. Contact Kim Roering in the parish office for more information.

**Faith Formation Registration for 2023-2024 Now Open**
Wednesday evening faith formation is open to all children of St. Pascal’s who attend public schools.
Forms are available on the parish website and in the kiosk. Note that there are 3 forms to be completed:
- FAMILY INFORMATION FORM—1 per family
- INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM—1 per child enrolling
- SOCIAL MEDIA AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION PERMISSION—1 per child enrolling

**Registrations are due August 1st!**
However, as we need to allocate appropriate space for each group, it is essential to have a clear picture of our faith formation numbers sooner rather than later. Fees will not be collected until after August 1.

**First Reconciliation and First Eucharist**
**Registration now open for children in grade 2 and older**
Children in grade 2 and older during the 2023-2024 school year whose families belong to St. Pascal’s are welcome to prepare for and celebrate First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Registration forms and information are now available on the parish website. Registrations are due by August 1st. For more information contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

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**SAV THE DATE**
**St. Pascal’s Celebration of Service, Commitment, and Generosity**
FREE Dinner and Compassion Kit Making Event
Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 5:30-8 pm
5:30-8 pm in Brioschi Hall
Join us to celebrate the many ways our parish supports social justice efforts through contributions and advocacy. More details and registration information to come!
**Mass Times & Intentions**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Intention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 23</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>+ The people of the parish</td>
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<td>Wednesday, May 24</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 25</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
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<td>Friday, May 26</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 27</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>+ Fr. Mike Byron</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 28</td>
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<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>+ The people of the parish</td>
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**Readings**

**May 21, 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday: Ascension Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acts 1:1-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9</td>
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<td>Eph 1:17-23</td>
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<td>Mt 28:16-20</td>
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<tr>
<th>Monday:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acts 19:1-8</td>
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<td>Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5accd, 6-7ab</td>
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<td>Jn 16:29-33</td>
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<th>Tuesday:</th>
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<td>Acts 20:17-27</td>
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<td>Ps 68:10-11, 20-21</td>
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<td>Jn 17:1-11a</td>
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<th>Wednesday:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acts 20:28-38</td>
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<td>Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab</td>
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<td>Jn 17:11b-19</td>
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<th>Thursday:</th>
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<td>Acts 22:30; 23:6-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11</td>
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<td>Jn 17:20-26</td>
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<th>Friday:</th>
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<td>Acts 25:13b-21</td>
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<td>Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab</td>
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<td>Jn 21:15-19</td>
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<th>Saturday:</th>
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<td>Acts 28:16-20, 30-31</td>
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<td>Ps 11:4, 5, 7</td>
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<td>Jn 21:20-25</td>
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<tr>
<th>Next Sunday: Pentecost Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acts 2:1-11</td>
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<td>Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Cor 13:23b-7, 12-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jn 20:19-23</td>
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**THE WEEKS AHEAD**

**Sunday, May 21—Ascension of the Lord**
After Masses Fellowship: Brioschi Hall

**Monday, May 22**
3:30pm Merrick Food Distribution: Brioschi Hall
6:30pm Boy Scouts: Brioschi Hall

**Tuesday, May 23**
No scheduled events

**Wednesday, May 24**
8:45am Rosary: Church
9:30am School Mass: Church
7:30pm Men’s Club Softball: Brioschi Hall

**Thursday, May 25**
4:30pm Finance Council: Staff Lounge

**Friday, May 26**
7:30am Fun & Fitness Day (SPRCS): Campus
9:00am Pentecost Decorating: Church

**Saturday, May 27**
No scheduled events

**Sunday, May 28—Pentecost Sunday**
No scheduled events

**Monday, May 29—Memorial Day**
Building Closed

**Tuesday, May 30**
9:00am Summer Decorating: Church

**Wednesday, May 31**
8:45am Rosary: Church
9:30am School Mass
7:30pm Men’s Club Softball: Brioschi Hall

**Thursday, June 1**
6:30pm SJCC: via Zoom

**Friday, June 2**
No scheduled events

**Saturday, June 2**
6:00pm Recital: Church

**Sunday, June 3—We Care Campaign**
No scheduled events

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**In Christ We Live Forever**

Please remember in your prayers…

*Mary Fuith*
*Kathryn Munoz*
*Mary Martin Carrigan*

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

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**Let’s Celebrate Faith In Action**

Construction dollars totaling $200mil, 5,500 state rental vouchers to supplement federal vouchers, and $25mil to strengthen supportive housing services. Bring It Home, MN is a reality. Members of our parish, along with people from 100 different churches, wrote emails and attended rallies and meetings at the Capitol to help the neediest in our communities. There is more work to be done. Stay tuned.

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**Gardeners Needed**

Do you have a green thumb that is itching to keeping our gardens maintained? We are in need of help during the summer months. Contact Mike Kelleher at the parish office for more information.

**Grocery Bags Needed**

The Merrick Food Distribution at St. Pasca's and the Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf at Progressive Baptist use many, many bags. Donations of paper, plastic, and can be left in the donation closet.

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**Attention Gardeners**

Don’t forget to plant extra produce to share with your fellow parishioners this year. Our excess produce table was very popular last fall, and we will bring it back as soon as we have produce to share. For more information contact Julie Ludden at julianneludden@gmail.com.
SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Empower Us

Almighty God, you empowered the apostles to bring others to faith through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Help us continue their mission in our families, schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, and parish. Gift us with the courage to witness our faith. Inspire us to show the world our belief with our words, actions, and gestures. Use us as instruments of your grace through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 21, 2023
You Will Be My Witnesses

Today’s readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3. 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20. Our Scripture readings for almost every day of the Easter season have taken us progressively through the Acts of the Apostles. In this book, Luke pens with broad strokes the Church’s development from the resurrection of Jesus to the apostle Paul’s first incarceration.

Today we flip back to the very beginning of Acts. In the opening scene, Luke sets the stage for the foundation of the Christian community, the Church. In just a few short lines of Scripture, we hear Jesus’ final words to his disciples and witness his ascension to the Father. Jesus promises the disciples, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,” and proclaims, “You will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Thus launches the subsequent twenty-eight chapters in which we hear the dramatic details about the experiences of the disciples, the powerful role of the Holy Spirit in the formation of the Christian community, and the spread of the Word of God.

It is often said that the most remarkable miracle of all those attributed to Jesus is the wildfire-like spread of the Gospel and the supersonic growth of the number of new Christians baptized. The Acts of the Apostles relates this miraculous emergence of the Church against all odds.
**THIS WEEK AT HOME**

**Monday, May 22**

**Eternally Bound**

Jesus prepares his disciples for times when they will be scattered and feel alone. He assures them again that though they may be separated, they will never be abandoned. Their bonds, permanently forged in the Holy Spirit, will bring them peace in the midst of challenges. So it is for us today. We are bound together with an invisible thread in the community of faith.


**Tuesday, May 23**

**Remain Close**

Jesus affirms God’s desire to be close to us in his heartfelt prayer on behalf of his disciples the night before he died. From today through Thursday, we hear this prayer in its entirety in the Gospel readings. Jesus ardently prays that we remember his teachings, stay close to one another, and remain close to God the Father. Sometimes we struggle to believe that God wants this loving relationship with us. Read John 17 in one sitting with this in mind. It is a powerful antidote to doubt.


**Wednesday, May 24**

**Farewell**

Take note of the parallel scenes between today’s reading from Acts and the Gospel reading from John 17. Paul speaks to the community at Ephesus as he departs on his journey to death. Jesus speaks his prayer-filled goodbyes to his disciples on the eve of his arrest. Both Paul and Jesus insist that their strength in resisting the Evil One is rooted in the Holy Spirit. So it is with us to this day. The Holy Spirit serves as our armor and source of unity for the life of the world.


**Thursday, May 25**

**Show Me the Path of Life**

At the heart of today’s readings, we pray Psalm 16:11, “You will show me the path of life.” This prayer reflects St. Paul’s experience throughout his ministry. At every turn he receives the Lord’s guidance to show him where to go, what to say, and how to invite new believers to faith. This verse is also at the heart of Jesus’ ardent prayer to the Father on behalf of his beloved disciples. Make it the heart of your daily prayer as well. *Today's readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6–11; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; John 17:20–26.*

**Friday, May 26**

**Feed My Lambs**

The last resurrection appearance in John’s Gospel offers a perfect opportunity for the prayer practice called *Ignatian contemplation.* In your imagination, place yourself on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias with the disciples in their final conversation with Jesus. Notice the details: the sunrise, waves lapping on the shore, salty scent of the sea and caught fish, smoke of the charcoal fire, the disciples crowding close to hear Jesus speak. Jesus has powerful words for us to hear today: I love you. Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Follow me. *Today's readings: Acts 25:13b–21; Psalm 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20ab; John 21:15–19.*

**Saturday, May 27**

**Stay Focused**

John’s Gospel ends with Jesus’ command to Peter to focus on following him. When Peter looks sideways to ask about a fellow disciple, Jesus replies, “What concern is it of yours?” (John 21:22). God’s concern is not rooted in comparing disciple to disciple. It is part of the human condition to get distracted by what others are doing and to measure ourselves against our perceptions of others. Jesus’ final words strongly counteract that temptation—stay focused! *Today's readings: Acts 28:16–20, 30–31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20–25.*


[Keeping the Seasons] Lent and Easter 2023