



**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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**DECEMBER 03, 2023 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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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  
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 & Admin Assistant**

Amber Cummings | ext 132  
amber.cummings@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

We begin the Season of Advent this weekend. Advent has a twofold character: "as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation." (General Norms for the Liturgical Year, paragraph 39) The four weeks of Advent help us to focus our lives on Jesus and fill up our hearts with joyful expectation of His return at the end of time. The fourth week of Advent can vary in length depending when the Fourth Sunday of Advent occurs. This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent occurs on December 24, so the fourth week of Advent is only a few hours long on Sunday afternoon, December 24. That is, since December 24 is both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve, there are no weekdays for the fourth week of Advent this year. We enter the Christmas Season at our 4:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 24. None of us knows when Christ's Second Coming will happen, but we do not fear the Second Coming because Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am, you also may be" (John 14:1-3).

**Purchasing Christmas gifts for people in need.** Our parish will again participate in two projects to help people in need at Christmas time:

Catholic Charities Annual Giving Tree is a program that provides essential items such as clothing, housewares and self-care items to children and adults. We have flyers explaining the program placed on the Christmas tree in the Gathering Space. Take a flyer, purchase your gift, and then place the gift in the bin located in the Gathering Space.

Angel Tree, a Program of Prison Fellowship, provides Christmas gifts for children whose parent(s) are incarcerated. Angel Tree tags listing suggested gift items are placed 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 in the Gathering Space.

**Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for December 2023: *For persons with disabilities.*** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

## Parish Advent Reconciliation—Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 PM

Join us on this evening as we celebrate God's love and forgiveness. Several children will be celebrating this sacrament for the first time. This is an opportunity for the community to embrace these children, leading them to the sacrament by your example. A number of priests will be available to hear individual confessions. A social will follow in Brioschi Hall.

## Grief Tips for Managing Holidays #4

Consider getting a gift for someone and gift it in your loved one's memory. As you purchase and prepare the gift, reflect on the "gifts" your loved one has given you. Giving a gift can offer a healthy dose of pleasure, important amidst grief. For additional grief information find the blue sheets in kiosk or contact Barb Uschold Anderson, Pastoral Care Associate 651.432.4959.

## — SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

### Faith in Action: *Have You Noticed?*

Have you noticed the parent and child ushers? The parent and child servers? The sibling servers? Even family members singing in the choir? Children learn by doing an activity with a parent or grandparent. These experiences stay with them for a lifetime. How is God calling you and your family members to assist with church life each Sunday? Get started by reaching out to anyone who is currently doing something you are interested in and they will point the way. Let's move from a few people doing lots of things to many people doing a little as they put faith into action.

## — WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS —

### Women's Club Christmas Party!

Saturday, December 9 from 10:30 AM-1:00 PM  
in Brioschi Hall

#### **All women of the parish are invited!**

Join us for mimosas, a catered brunch, games and prizes. LAST CHANCE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE: Reservations for the party will be on sale in the Gathering Space through this weekend *All reservations must be prepaid.* Cost of the brunch is \$25. Please call Sharon Scanlon at 651.492.0477 with any questions.

### The Ever-popular Women's Club Christmas Bake Sale Is BACK!

December 16 & 17 after all Masses

Everyone put this on your calendar—there will be a fantastic array of Christmas goodies to purchase!

**Needed:** Baked goodies! Calling all bakers to start planning their favorite Christmas treat to donate. Drop your bake sale donation off at these times/locations:

#### **Friday, December 15**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the parish office

#### **Saturday, December 16**

9:00 AM - Noon and 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
in Brioschi Hall

#### **Sunday, December 17**

before Masses in the kitchen

Questions? Please Call Ellen Aeling at 651.307.8241.

## Living Faith Booklets

A limited number of Living Faith booklets for January – March 2024 are now available. If you would like one set aside for you or mailed to you, please contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

## — REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

### Santa Shop Help Needed

'Tis the season of giving, and we're excited to announce our upcoming annual Santa Shop event on December 12 and 13! To make this festive occasion a success, we're calling on our wonderful community for volunteers. We need your help wrapping presents that students will purchase for their loved ones. If you're able to lend a hand, please sign up for a time slot using the link provided below.

### Volunteer Sign-Up Link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B48AAAF22A1FF2-46141429-santa>  
Additionally, we're seeking donations of new items to sell at the Santa Shop. Consider contributing ornaments, candles, holiday towels, socks, knick-knacks and other delightful surprises for moms, dads, siblings, and grandparents. While we are well-stocked on wrapping paper, we could use donations of tissue paper, holiday gift bags, and large brown grocery bags.

Let's make this holiday season extra special for our St. Pascal community by coming together and spreading the joy of giving!

### The St. Pascal's Women's Book Club Book Salon Holiday Gathering

Monday, December 11 at 7:00 PM in the Staff lounge located near the Conway entrance. The ladies will share some Christmas goodies and a discussion of *Through No Fault of My Own: A Girl's Diary of Life on Summit Avenue in the Jazz Age* by Coco Irvine. The book opens on Christmas Day 1926—right here in St. Paul!

The St. Pascal's Women's Book Club meets on the 2nd Mondays of each month at 7:00 PM. Contact Toni Baker at 651.731.7763 or [toni@bakers.us](mailto:toni@bakers.us) for a list of the 2024 book selections or for more information.

Make a New Year's resolution to join the group on January 8, 2024 and get yourself reading. Feel free to start early by coming this month! (January book to be announced.)

"There is something playful about God. You only have to look at a penguin ... to realize that He likes to play little jokes on creatures."

—Thomas Keating, *Open Mind, Open Heart: The Contemplative Dimension of the Gospel*

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

**Friday, November 24 at 4:00 PM through December 23 or until sold out**

St. Pascal's Men's Club is entering its 54th year of selling Christmas Trees. Come visit us in the Conway Street parking lot and check out our excellent selection of Fraser, Canaan, and balsam firs, as well as Scotch and white pine trees. Wreaths and swags from the Boy Scouts are also available. Tree Lot sale hours are:

Monday through Friday from 4:00 - 8:00 PM | Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

## — ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD —

### Archdiocesan Synod Update

#### Small Groups Coming to St. Pascal's

*Sign-ups begin in January 2024*

Small Groups are the next step in the Archdiocese's Synod Implementation Plan. They are intended to create and grow a small group ministry in our parish that fosters personal relationships, builds community, and helps parishioners grow as missionary disciples of Christ. Small groups will meet for 1-1/2 hours once a week during each of the six weeks of Lent. More details and sign-up forms will be available in January 2024. Questions can be directed to Kim Roering in the parish office (651.774.1585), John Scanlon, or Jaci Bush.

### RCIA: "Scripture"

*Wednesday December 6, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Founders Room*

Saint Paul in his second letter to Timothy reminds us: "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work". We will discuss the canon of scripture and how the Catholic church interprets the inspired word of God. All are welcome, Catholics and those curious about the Catholic Church.

### Year-End Financial Gifts

As this calendar year quickly comes to a close, consider a special year-end financial gift to the parish in support of our many ministries and/or to support our mortgage reduction efforts. Last year, we received many year-end gifts of cash or stock. These gifts are greatly appreciated and certainly encouraged! *Remember, all gifts must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2023 to be considered for the 2023 tax year.* Stock transfers and sales do take some time so please take that into consideration as you consider a gift to St. Pascal's.

*Please call Theresa at 651.432.4960 if you plan to make a gift of stocks to the parish.*

## 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 4:30 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)

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

## Mass Times & Intentions

## Readings

December 03, 2023

### Tuesday, December 05

8:00 AM + William & +Darlene Timm

### Wednesday, December 06

9:30 AM + John R. Hanson

### Thursday, December 07

8:00 AM + Terry Lemke

### Friday, December 08

*The Immaculate Conception*

9:30 AM The people of the parish

6:30 PM The people of the parish

### Saturday, December 09

4:30 PM + Georgine Misukanis

### Sunday, December 10

*Second Sunday of Advent*

8:45 AM The people of the parish

10:30 AM + Bob & +Lorraine Winkel

### Scan to Donate to St. Pascal's!

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



### Sunday:

*First Sunday of Advent*  
Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7  
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
1 Cor 1:3-9  
Mk 13:33-37

### Monday:

Is 2:1-5  
Ps 122:1-9  
Mt 8:5-11

### Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10  
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17  
Lk 10:21-24

### Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a  
Ps 23:1-6  
Mt 15:29-37

### Thursday:

Is 26:1-6  
Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a  
Mt 7:21, 24-27

### Friday:

*Immaculate Conception*  
Gn 3:9-15, 20  
Ps 98:1-4  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

### Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26  
Ps 147:1-6  
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

### Next Sunday:

*Second Sunday of Advent*  
Is 40:1-5, 9-11  
Ps 85:9-14  
2 Pt 3:8-14  
Mk 1:1-8

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Sunday, December 3—Advent 1

9:00am Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
After Masses Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast: Brioschi Hall, Kitchen  
After Masses Women's Club Xmas Party RSVPs: Gathering Space  
11:30am Confirmation II: Staff Lounge  
11:30am Women's Club Board Meeting: Founders Room

### Monday, December 4 – Friday, December 8

9:00am Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot

### Monday, December 4

6:30pm Boy Scouts: Brioschi Hall

### Tuesday, December 5

9:30am School Advent Reconciliation: Church  
6:30pm Pastoral Council: Staff Lounge

### Wednesday, December 6

9:00am Rosary: Church  
9:30am Mass (not a School Mass): Church  
6:30pm Choir: Church  
6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room  
6:30pm Faith Formation: Campus

### Thursday, December 7

6:30pm SJCC: Zoom  
7:00pm Men's Club Board Meeting: Brioschi Hall  
7:00pm Spirit Song: Church

### Friday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

9:30am Holy Day Mass (w/SPRCS): Church  
6:30pm Holy Day Mass: Church

### Saturday, December 9

8:30am Women's Club Party Set Up  
9:00am Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
10:30am Women's Club Christmas Party

### Sunday, December 10—Advent 2

9:00am Men's Club Christmas Tree Sales: Conway Lot  
10:30am Baptism (Avwunuma family)  
12:00pm Piano Recital: Brioschi Hall, Church

## REMEMBER SOMEONE IN A SPECIAL WAY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

Make a donation (any amount) in memory of a family member or loved one, or in honor of someone who is ill or homebound. Please complete the form below and return it to the parish office or place it in the collection basket at Mass on or before December 20. Suggested donation is \$10. *Memorials fund flowers & worship space needs.*

### I would like to make a donation (circle one)

In Honor of / In Memory of

From:

**Thank you for your generosity and care!**

Please note: Memorials/Honorariums received in the parish office after December 20 will not appear on the Christmas Flowers bulletin insert on December 25.

## Stewardship of Giving

*Financials for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024*

### October 2023

#### Sunday Giving

Giving	\$ 57,516.17	YTD Giving	\$ 228,446.12
Budgeted	\$ <u>63,905.58</u>	YTD Budgeted	\$ <u>256,214.36</u>
Deficit	\$ -6,389.41	YTD Deficit	\$ -27,768.24

#### Mortgage Reduction (as of 10.31.2023)

Loan Balance:	\$ 2,732,705.44
Principal:	\$ 14,190.40
Interest:	\$ 8,270.65
Monthly Payment	\$ 22,461.05
YTD Collected Donations	\$ 78,473.41
YTD Payment:	\$ <u>89,844.20</u>
Deficit	\$ -11,370.79
Reserve Account Balance:	\$ 164,447.68
# of payments from Reserve:	7

**Thank you for your support!**

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Bless Our Advent Time

Eternal God,  
you are the architect of time.  
As we prepare for your promised coming,  
guide us to turn toward you.  
Let us see your face and we shall be saved.  
Bless our Advent wreath.  
As we light each candle,

may the flame of Christ's coming  
grow brighter  
and enkindle our eagerness  
to welcome him into our hearts, lives,  
and world.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Come, Lord Jesus



*Today's readings: Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7; Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19; 1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 13:33–37.* The season of Advent (from the Latin *adventus* meaning “coming”) is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ. We anticipate three advents: the first is the historical coming of the Christ two thousand years ago; the second, the coming of Christ among us now; and the third advent, the hope of Christ coming again at the end of time.

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. This year, it lands in early December, shortening our Advent season by an entire week. One of the best-known customs of the season is the Advent wreath. The circle of evergreens

symbolizes the eternal character of God's time and Christ's reach into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles on the wreath—three violet, one rose—mark our progress through the season. The rose candle is for the Third Sunday of Advent, called *Gaudete Sunday* after the first word of the entrance antiphon on that day, meaning “rejoice.” The day symbolizes our joy as we draw closer to the birth of Christ. Bless your Advent wreath with the lighting of the first violet candle, and as a prayerful entrance into Advent invoke today's psalm response: “Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved” (Psalm 80:4).



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 4

#### Say the Word

Today's Gospel relates a miracle performed by Jesus. Within the dialogue, the words of a Roman soldier become what we pray at Mass: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." The soldier understands that Jesus' words carry divine power. Throughout Advent, we follow the soldier's example of faith by assuming a stance of humility and openness to the work of the Lord. *Today's readings: Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; Matthew 8:5–11.*

### Tuesday, December 5

#### The Shoot of Jesse

The Jesse tree is an Advent custom that helps us connect the festive practice of decorating Christmas trees to Jesus' biblical ancestors. Its name is derived from today's first reading, "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots" (Isaiah 11:1). Jesse, the father of King David, is often looked upon as the first person in the genealogy of Jesus. For your Jesse tree, start with a bare branch and hang a new ornament every day. These ornaments represent the individual figures from the Bible. They can be made from any material you choose. *Today's readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Luke 10:21–24.*

### Wednesday, December 6

#### St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was the bishop of Myra (modern-day Turkey) in the fourth century. According to legend, he anonymously provided generous help to those in need. One story says he dropped bags of gold down the chimneys of poor families, widows, and orphans. Surprise family members with a stocking filled with gifts. Plan an anonymous gift for a person or agency in need this Advent. *Today's readings: Isaiah 25:6–10a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29–37.*

### Thursday, December 7

#### St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose served as the bishop of Milan during the fourth century. A brilliant theologian and doctor of the Church, St. Ambrose helped articulate the Christian faith through his writings. He is also remembered for a beautiful Advent carol, "O Come, Redeemer of the Earth." Create your own playlist of Advent music to keep your heart and mind firmly planted in the spirituality of preparation. *Today's readings: Isaiah 26:1–6; Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 19–21, 25–27a; Matthew 7:21, 24–27.*

### Friday, December 8

#### Immaculate Conception

The Church sets aside today as a holyday of obligation, recognizing that Mary was conceived without original sin so that she could become the vessel to bear God made flesh. Today's Gospel highlights the fullness of grace given to Mary, by which she said yes to God's plan for her life. Advent is a perfect time to pray the joyful mysteries of the Rosary, from the mystery of the annunciation through the incarnation to the rearing of Jesus in faith. *Today's readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.*

### Saturday, December 9

#### St. Juan Diego

On December 9, 1531, the Virgin Mary asked Juan Diego to tell the bishop that she desired a temple to be built on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico. From this place, she would hear the anguish of all who live in the region and respond with love, compassion, and protection. Hesitant to accept Juan Diego's account of Mary's appearance, the bishop requested a sign. Mary sent Juan Diego to pick roses where only desert plants grew. She arranged the roses in Juan's cloak and sent him back to the bishop. When Juan opened his tilma before the bishop, he discovered an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe imprinted on it. *Today's readings: Isaiah 30:19–21, 23–26; Psalm 147:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Matthew 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6–8.*

