



**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 10, 2023 | SECOND 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

## **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

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I will be sending a letter to Archbishop Hebda expressing my desire that he assign me to a second term as the pastor of St. Pascal Baylon Parish. I will complete my first 6-year term as the pastor here on June 30, 2024. The Archbishop asks all pastors to write him a letter as they near the end of their first term to express their thoughts about serving a second term at their parish or receiving a new assignment. I wish to serve a second term as the pastor of St. Pascal Baylon Parish from 2024-2030. I think our parish is a good fit for my talents, gifts and personality. Over the last two weeks, I asked for input from the parish staff, trustees, finance committee and parish council about serving a second term here, and I received a favorable response from them. Some pastors are assigned to a different parish after their first term ends, and this happened to both Father Mike Byron and me in 2018. Father Mike was sent to Pax Christi Parish in Eden Prairie after serving as pastor of St. Pascal Baylon from 2012-18. I was sent here to this parish after serving as the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Columbia Heights from 2012-18. I believe the Archbishop prefers to allow pastors, if possible, to stay a second term of six years in a parish if that is agreeable to both the parish and the priest. Sometimes a priest is assigned to another parish because his gifts, experience and talents are needed there. Sometimes the priest and parish would both be better served by a pastor change, and the pastor is assigned to another parish. At their ordination, priests give a promise of obedience to their bishop and his successors, so priests need to be open to the wishes of the bishop when it comes to an assignment. I encourage you not to worry. Let us place our lives in the hands of the Lord because *"we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good"* (Romans 8:28).

**Retired Religious Fund Collection.** Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health care needs of aging members. Many elder religious worked for years for small stipends which resulted in a large gap in retirement savings. At the same time, fewer religious are able to serve in compensated ministry. Like many Americans, religious communities face the monumental challenge of funding eldercare. I invite you to offer a gift to the retired religious through one of these methods, and I thank you:

- use the Retired Religious Fund donation envelope in your Sunday envelope packet
- give online at: [retiredreligious.org/ways-to-give/donate/](https://retiredreligious.org/ways-to-give/donate/)
- give cash or a personal check addressed to St. Pascal Baylon Church, and then write "Retired Religious Fund" in the memo line or on the front of the envelope, and send your gift to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket
- give online to "Religious Retirement" at our Give tab at our parish website: [stpascals.org](https://stpascals.org)

**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

## — SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

### Faith in Action: All I Want for Christmas Is...

As we prepare for Christmas, let us remember that it is not about what we get, but rather what we can give. A very precious but materially inexpensive gift is the gift of our time. Share time with a child not so much in the doing but in the listening. Share time with someone who has lost a loved one this year. Visit someone who lives alone or, better still, invite them to join you for a holiday meal. Think about the environmental impact of your decorations, your gifts, and even your wrapping paper. Consider donating to charity. Even small acts can become ways of putting faith into action.

### December Donation Closet

In December items will be collected for both Catholic Charities Giving Tree and Angel Tree.

**Catholic Charities Giving Tree** ensures that children and adults have access to essential items such as clothing, housewares, and self-care items. Folded flyers which list the items being collected is now available on a Christmas Tree in the Gathering Space.

Take a flyer, purchase your gift(s), and then place the UNWRAPPED gift(s) in the bin located in the Gathering Space by Monday, December 25.

**Angel Tree**, a program of Prison Fellowship, provides Christmas gifts to children on behalf of an incarcerated parent. This year St. Pascal's will provide gifts to 18 children. Angel Tree tags listing suggested gift items will be placed on the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space.

Take a tag, purchase the noted gift, wrap it, and then place it in the Angel Tree box in the Gathering Space. Angel Tree gifts are to be WRAPPED and returned to the parish by Sunday, December 17 with the tag attached to ensure the gifts get to the children by Christmas.

### Grief Tips for Managing Holidays #5

If you're alone... or feel alone... find ways to connect with others. Invite a neighbor to dinner, coffee, or a concert; make Christmas cookies with a friend or family; say "yes" to an invitation; attend a parish Mass.

For additional grief information, find the blue sheets in the kiosk or call Barb Uschold Anderson, Pastoral Care Associate at 651.432.4959.

*"Hope in gospel faith is not just a vague feeling that things will work out, for it is evident that things will not just work out. Rather, hope is the conviction, against a great deal of data, that God is tenacious and persistent in overcoming the deathliness of the world, that God intends joy and peace."*

—Richard Rohr, *The Theological Virtue of Hope: Mystical Hope*

## — REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

**Santa Shop Help Needed***Tuesday & Wednesday, December 12 & 13*

'Tis the season of giving, and we're excited to announce our upcoming annual Santa Shop! 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!

**St. Pascal's Legacy Society**

Grandpa didn't have a will, but Grandma does. She had to settle Grandpa's estate without one, and she now knows how important a will really is. Do you have a will? Over 50% of all adults neglect to make out a will. You will be doing your family a huge service by taking the time to complete a will. Please consider naming St. Pascal's and other charitable organizations you care about as bequest beneficiaries when you complete your estate plan.

If you want more information on St. Pascal's Legacy Society, please call Theresa Ruttger at the parish office at 651.432.4960 or talk to a member of the Legacy Committee—Ellen and Mike Aeling, Susan Hommes, Joe Sullivan, and Brigid O'Malley.

*"Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth 'thrown in': aim at Earth and you will get neither."*

—C.S. Lewis

**St. Pascal's Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot  
Now through December 23 or until sold out**

St. Pascal's Men's Club is entering its 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*

To see a list of available trees and prices, check out the Parish News page at [stpascals.org](http://stpascals.org).

## — 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: "Jesus Christ"**

*Wednesday December 13 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Founders Room*

As we approach the season of Christmas and our celebration of the birth of Jesus we will dive into our Catholic/Christian understanding of the incarnation. As Jesus asks the disciples, "But who do you say that I am?", we too will explore who Jesus is to us and what it means to follow Jesus. All are welcome, Catholics and those curious about the Catholic Church.

**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 second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. For a list of the 2024 book selections or for more information, please contact Toni Baker at 651.731.7763 or [toni@bakers.us](mailto:toni@bakers.us). Make a New Year's resolution to join the Women's Book Club on January 8, 2024 and get yourself reading. Feel free to start early by coming this month! (*January book to be announced.*)

## CONTACT US

**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)*

**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)

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*St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church*

## Mass Times & Intentions

## Readings

December 10, 2023

### Tuesday, December 12

8:00 AM The people of the parish

### Wednesday, December 13

9:30 AM Women's Club

### Thursday, December 14

8:00 AM + Patricia Hawes

### Friday, December 15

8:00 AM The people of the parish

### Saturday, December 16

4:30 PM The people of the parish

### Sunday, December 17

*Third Sunday of Advent*

8:45 AM + William & +Darlene Timm

10:30 AM + Mary Harvey

### 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:

*Second Sunday of Advent*

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Ps 85:9-14

2 Pt 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8

### Monday:

Is 35:1-10

Ps 85:9ab, 10-14

Lk 5:17-26

### Tuesday:

Zec 2:14-17

(Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19

Lk 1:26-38

### Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31

Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10

Mt 11:28-30

### Thursday:

Is 41:13-20

Ps 145:1, 9-13b

Mt 11:11-15

### Friday:

Is 48:17-19

Ps 1:1-4, 6

Mt 11:16-19

### Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11

Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Next Sunday:

*Third Sunday of Advent*

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11

(Ps) Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

1 Thes 5:16-24

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Sunday, December 10—Advent 2

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

12:00pm Piano Recital: Church, Brioschi Hall

### Monday, December 11- Friday, December 15

4:00pm Men's Club Tree Sales: Conway Lot

### Monday, December 11

6:30pm Boy Scouts: Brioschi Hall

7:00pm Women's Book Club Holiday Book Salon: Staff Lounge

7:00pm Spirit Song: Church

### Tuesday, December 12

10:00am Visitation for Dean Larson: Chapel, Gathering Space

11:00am Funeral & Lunch for Dean Larson: Church, Brioschi Hall

6:30pm Advent Parish & 1st Reconciliation: Church

### Wednesday, December 13

9:00am Rosary: Church

9:30am School Mass: Church

6:30pm Choir: Church

6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room

6:30pm Faith Formation: Campus

### Thursday, December 14

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

7:00pm Spirit Song: Church

### Friday, December 15

9:00am Women's Club Baked Goods Drop-off: Parish Office

### Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17

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

### Saturday, December 16

9:00am Women's Club Baked Goods Drop-off: Brioschi Hall

After Mass Fellowship: Brioschi Hall

After Mass Women's Club Baked Goods Drop-off: Brioschi Hall

### Sunday, December 17—Advent 3

Before Masses Women's Club Baked Goods Drop-off: Kitchen

After Masses Fellowship: Brioschi Hall

After Masses Women's Club Bake Sale: Brioschi Hall

2:00pm Piano Recital: 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: \$ 89,844.20

Deficit \$ -11,370.79

Reserve Account Balance: \$ 164,447.68

# of payments from Reserve: 7

**Thank you for your support!**



***December 16  
and 17***



***Women's Club  
Christmas Bake Sale***

*Christmas treats for sale – after all Masses!!  
Cookies, candies, cakes, pies and more  
Come early to get the best selection!!!!*

**Needed – Yummy Christmas  
treats.** Please donate your  
favorite Christmas goodies!



**Drop off times:**

**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? - call Ellen at 651 307 8241*

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Open Our Hearts

God of boundless love,  
you are the source of all blessings.  
Be our companion through these Advent days.  
Bless our nativity scene.  
Draw us into the circle of love  
that surrounds the newborn Christ child.

Help us prepare our hearts  
to welcome him home  
with a deep abiding love  
and with gratitude for his friendship.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Sunday, December 10, 2023 Prepare a Home for the Lord



*Today's readings: Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Psalm 85: 9–10, 11–12, 13–14; 2 Peter 3:8–14; Mark 1:1–8.* The Lord is always coming toward us, seeking a home in our lives. Advent mindfully prepares our hearts as a permanent dwelling place for the Lord. The letter of St. Peter urges us to “conduct ourselves with holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the day of God” (2 Peter 3:11–12). Time is precious during this year’s short Advent as it competes with the secular frenzy of the season. Stay attuned to the spirit of Advent as you prepare for the coming of our Lord.

Adorn your surroundings with reminders to keep your focus on spiritual preparation. Religious imagery forms us in powerful ways. The practice of setting up a nativity scene

at home begins in Advent and continues through the celebration of the Epiphany. St. Francis of Assisi began this custom in 1223 when he celebrated Christmas with his brothers at Greccio with a staging of the stable in Bethlehem that included live animals. This tradition quickly spread, and people began to construct nativity scenes in their homes, churches, and public spaces. You might set up your entire scene all at once, leaving the crib empty for the Christ child to arrive on Christmas Eve. Or set up the scene slowly, placing the figures far from the scene and moving them closer day by day with the Magi arriving on Epiphany with gifts for the child Jesus.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 11

#### Christ Will Come Again

Today's readings paint a hope-filled picture of the way Christ comes to us at the end of time, often referred to as the *parousia*. At this time, illness, disability, drought, hunger, sin, conflict, and every source of discord will be wiped away and the full glory of the Lord will be revealed. Prayerfully, reflect on today's readings, resplendent with the promise that our God comes to save us. *Today's readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85: 9–10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 5:17–26.*

### Tuesday, December 12

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe

Today we continue to celebrate Mary's radiant appearance to Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill, Mexico, in 1531. Mary, whose features were those of a Mesoamerican Indian, offered hope to the oppressed native peoples, who in turn, named her *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is widely celebrated around the world. Venerate our patron saint of the Americas in a special way today: place her image near the Advent wreath, prepare a special meal, pray the Rosary, recall the miraculous story of her apparition and all that followed. *Today's readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Luke 10:21–24. Zechariah 2:14–17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Luke 1:26–38 or Luke 1:39–47.*

### Wednesday, December 13

#### St. Lucy

The Church remembers St. Lucy, a fourth-century martyr whose name means “light,” as the patron saint for those with eye disease. Many cultures celebrate St. Lucy with festive customs. In Sweden, this day is called *Luciadagen*. The eldest daughter of the family dresses up as St. Lucy and greets the family with special breads. Legends tell of St. Lucy's handing out bread in the time of famine. Make or purchase two loaves of braided bread and adorn them with

candles. Enjoy one and surprise a neighbor with the other. *Today's readings: Isaiah 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8, 10; Matthew 11:28–30.*

### Thursday, December 14

#### St. John of the Cross

Today the Church commemorates this saint from sixteenth-century Spain: St. John of the Cross, whose spiritual writings continue to offer inspiration. Severe persecution and suffering in prison unlocked his poetic gifts. His memorial is placed in Advent because his writings so often highlight Christ as light penetrating the darkness. Light a candle to remember John of the Cross as a reminder that Christ, our light, illuminates our hearts especially in times of suffering. *Today's readings: Isaiah 41:13–20; Psalm 145:1, 9, 10–11, 12–13ab; Matthew 11:11–15.*

### Friday, December 15

#### Follow the Lord

The response of today's responsorial psalm proclaims, “Those who follow the Lord will have the light of life.” Catholics often celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation each Advent as an essential element of their spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas. We need help to resist the temptation to sin and to grow in holiness. Do not delay. Seek reconciliation this Advent and make room in your heart to welcome Jesus. *Today's readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, 6; Matthew 11:16–19.*

### Saturday, December 16

#### Las Posadas

*Las Posadas* (from Spanish meaning “the inns”) is a widely observed Advent tradition celebrating Christian hospitality beginning December 16 and continuing for nine days until December 24. The *posadas* symbolize Mary and Joseph's difficult search for a place to stay. There are many creative ways to observe *Las Posadas*. Through the celebration we are reminded that by welcoming the poor and needy, we also welcome Jesus. *Today's readings: Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80: 2ac, 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.*

