



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.

DECEMBER 31, 2023 | THE HOLY FAMILY

OUR STAFF

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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



Mass Times

Saturday 4:30 PM | Sunday 8:45 & 10:30 AM (ASL) | Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM; Wednesday 9:30 AM

1757 Conway Street | Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 | 651.774.1585

www.stpascals.org | church@stpascals.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

With the start of a New Year, some of us like to make a New Year's resolution about something we want to change or do better in the New Year. I read a good article online entitled, "The Psychology Behind Why New Year's Resolutions Fail" by Cynthia Vinney, PhD, (December 7, 2023) at verywellmind.com. She states that some reasons we are not more successful at keeping our New Year's resolutions are we think too big, or we are not considering the "why" behind the resolution, or that we may not be ready for change. Vinney recommends that rather than setting one big resolution, New Year's might be a good time to create a timeline for the next year that sets a variety of small milestones that will help us arrive at a bigger goal over time. This might work better with our psychology and make it more likely that the changes we make actually last. God bless you in this New Year.

Statement Regarding Pastoral Blessings, (December 18, 2023) - From Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda. In these last days of Advent, we are reminded of the amazing love that prompted God the Son to take on human flesh. While the Child Jesus found exceptional welcome, love and support from Mary and Joseph, we cannot deny that he was born at a time and place that epitomized the very messiness of human life. In the course of his public ministry, Jesus was surrounded more often not by saints but by those who struggled with sin, by those who did not always respond to God's plan for their lives. Jesus came into their world and loved them... indeed loved us. Today's declaration from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF) on the topic of blessings is well situated in that Advent reality. The statement, approved by Pope Francis, reminds us that all of us are loved by God, and that we all are in need of God's mercy and would benefit from his blessing as we strive to live out his call more perfectly. It addresses the particular situation of couples who are living together outside the bond of a marriage recognized by the Church—whether they be heterosexual or homosexual— who come to the Church asking for a blessing even when their state in life might prevent them from participating in the sacraments. In particular, today's Declaration indicates that an ordained minister may privately impart informal, non-liturgical blessings on these persons in these situations. The Declaration issued today by the DDF was intended to offer nuance to the Church's teaching on blessings without in any way changing the Church's perennial teaching on marriage or on sexual morality. The blessings do not imply that the Church is officially validating the status of the couple. Effort is particularly to be taken, moreover, to make sure that such blessings are not confused with the sacrament of marriage. Nevertheless, the hope is that these blessings can assist those who request them to "open their lives to God, to ask for his help to live better, and also to invoke the Holy Spirit so that the values of the Gospel may be lived with greater faithfulness." As we prepare to celebrate the greatest blessing bestowed upon humanity—the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh at Christmas—let us continue to pray for each other as brothers and sisters, whatever our state in life, that we all would be increasingly open to the action of grace in our lives.

Monthly Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for January 2024: *For the Gift of Diversity in the Church.* Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

— SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

Faith in Action: Giving Tree Thank You

The generosity of parishioners in connection with the Giving Tree drive during Advent was overwhelming—and marvelous. Mrs. Santa used Santa's red sleigh twice (filled to the brim) with the many wonderful gifts donated by parishioners for use by Catholic Charities. Many people in need will be blessed with the help that we at St. Pascal's have provided. There is one more thing we would ask of you: Winter is long and the needs are great for those facing economic challenges. Remembering those facing housing insecurity and/or food insecurity in your prayers puts faith into action. God bless you.

January Collection

Progressive Fishes and Loaves Food Shelf

The January collection is to be used to supplement the weekly food distribution at Progressive Baptist Church. The food items needed are:

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Soups, Chili, and Stews
- Peanut Butter
- Honey
- Syrup
- Chips, Popcorn, Pretzels

Items will be collected in the donation closet through January 28. Thank you for your generosity.

Update: Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative News

We are thrilled to announce that Gladstone Crossing has received 14.7 million dollars in funding from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency! Gladstone Crossing is a planned 40-unit affordable supportive housing development in Maplewood. The intended resident population is youth-led families exiting homelessness (families where the primary parent is under 24). Thanks to support from St. Pascal's and other Beacon congregations, Gladstone had a successful land use meeting this past July, and this funding is a huge step in Gladstone's life cycle. For more information please check out the link to a blog post on the SJCC page at stpascals.org.

Paper and Plastic Bags Needed

Please bring any extra bags you may have to the donation closet.

The Progressive Baptist Fishes and Loaves Weekly Food Shelf and St. Pascal's monthly food distribution with Merrick Community Services need LOTS of grocery bags to pack food for those in need.

— REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

Davanni's Night is Coming!**Washington, D.C. Fundraiser for SPRCS***Tuesday, January 9, 2024 from 4:00 - 8:00 PM*

Help support St. Pascal Regional scholars, who will be going to Washington, D.C. next year. Stop by our neighborhood Davanni's at 310 White Bear Avenue for something delicious to eat. 20% of your total order will be donated to this fundraising effort. Thank you for your support while enjoying some great Davanni's food! Be sure to mention St. Pascal's when you order.

Bake Sale Thank You

Thank you ALL for making the St. Pascal's Women's Club Christmas Bake sale a HUGE SUCCESS!! Thank you to all the bakers, buyers and workers at the sale—you are all amazing! And it brought together so many of us to chat, laugh and check out the baked goods. Just like before the pandemic!! The Women's Club raised more than \$1500 which will be disbursed in June to different projects at St. Pascal's.

Winter Game Night**Save The Date: Friday, January 26, 2024***6:30-8:30 PM in Brioschi Hall*

The Parish Life and Activities Committee is planning a fun game night for parishioners of all ages in January. Watch for details!

Livestream Masses**Join us even if you can't make it to Mass.**

Homilies from the 4:30 PM Saturday and 10:30 AM Sunday Masses are livestreamed, video recorded, and available to view on the parish YouTube channel. Find a convenient link at stpascals.org/homilies. Replay a favorite homily or catch up on a Sunday you may have missed. Visit the parish YouTube channel to select past homilies (4:30 PM or 10:30 AM with ASL), special events or past funeral Masses.

Finance Council Meeting Update

On November 28, 2023, the Finance Council met and discussed the following items:

- Fiscal Year end audit was presented by the auditor. There was some concern about the amount of our long term debt, but otherwise, the audit was a success.
- October financial reports were reviewed. Expenses are close to last year.
- The Annual report to the parish is in the mail along with pledge cards for 2024.
- A generous donation was received to be applied directly to the mortgage principal
- Long-range building maintenance plan was distributed to the committee.
- Hot water issues are being worked on and should be resolved soon.
- A bid was received for the replacement boiler. This bid was for several smaller boilers instead of one large one. This will make it significantly more efficient.
- The Fund-A-Need for 2024 was discussed, which will be to complete the fundraising for the new boilers.

Read these and past meeting minutes at stpascals.org/councils.

— RCIA —

"Mary and the Saints"*Wednesday, January 3, 2024**6:30-8:00 PM in the Founders Room*

We start every new year with the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mary has a very special place in our Catholic faith as does our relationship with the communion of saints. Join us as we talk about these special women and men, their lives, and more importantly their assistance to us in living as disciples of Jesus. All are welcome, Catholics and those curious about the Catholic Church.

— FAITH FORMATION —

Coming Summer 2024**Vacation Bible School****SCUBA: Diving Into Friendship with God***June 24-28, from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon*

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for an amazing undersea adventure! Kids will experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. They will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about! Watch for further details in the spring. For more information contact Kim Roering in the parish office at 651.432.958 or kim.roering@stpascals.org.

Grief Tips for Managing Holidays #8

Grief is not an illness, it is a natural and necessary sequel to love. Dr. Alan Wolfelt, Director of the Center for Loss and Transition, also says that grieverers are the experts at their own experience and can be affirmed by companions who offer a safe place, open heart, and hope. Allow a companion to walk alongside you, as you continue on the journey. For additional grief information find the blue sheets in kiosk or contact Barb Uschold Anderson, Pastoral Care Associate 651.432.4959.

— CONTACT US —

Parish Office

Phone 651.774.1585

Email church@stpascals.org

For after-hours pastoral emergency (death, dying or anointing), call 651.774.1585 and dial 1.

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

*Holidays as announced***St. Pascal Regional Catholic School**

Phone 651.776.0092

Email icollierpaske@stpascalschool.org**School Office Hours**

Mon-Fri 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Parish Councils**Parish Pastoral Council**

Meetings 1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM

*Ann Karner, Chair (akarner24@gmail.com)***Parish Finance Council**

Meetings 4th Thursday at 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

Mass Announcements

Due 12:00 PM Tuesday
keri.mader@stpascals.org

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St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church

Mass Times & Intentions

Readings

December 31, 2023

Tuesday, January 02, 2024

8:00 AM The people of the parish

Wednesday, January 03, 2024

9:30 AM The people of the parish

Thursday, January 04, 2024

8:00 AM The people of the parish

Friday, January 05, 2024

8:00 AM Men's Club

Saturday, January 06, 2024

4:30 PM + Patricia Hawes

Sunday, January 07, 2024

8:45 AM + Rose Peck

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:
Holy Family
Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Ps 105:1-6, 8-9
Col 3:12-17
Lk 2:22-40

Monday:
Mary, Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27
Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday:
1 Jn 2:22-28
Ps 98:1-4
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday:
1 Jn 2:29—3:6
Ps 98:1-3, 6
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday:
1 Jn 3:7-10
Ps 98:1, 7-9
Jn 1:35-42

Friday:
1 Jn 3:11-21
Ps 100:1-5
Jn 1:43-51

Saturday:
1 Jn 5:5-13
Ps 147:12-15, 19-20
Mk 1:7-11

Next Sunday:
Epiphany
Is 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Sunday, December 31—Holy Family

New Year's Eve

No scheduled events

Monday, January 1—Mary Mother of God

Not a holy day of obligation in 2024

New Year's Day (parish office closed)

10:00am Mass: Church

Tuesday, January 2

6:30pm Pastoral Council: Zoom

Wednesday, January 3

9:00am Rosary: Church

9:30am Mass (not a School Mass): Church

6:30pm Choir: Church

6:30pm Catechist meeting: Staff Lounge

6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room

Thursday, January 4

6:30pm SJCC: Zoom

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

7:00pm Spirit Song: Church

Friday, January 5

No scheduled events

Saturday, January 6

After Mass Small Group Sign Up: Gathering Space

Sunday, January 7—Epiphany of the Lord

After Masses Small Group Sign Up: Gathering Space

11:30am Confirmation II: Staff Lounge

Monday, January 8—Baptism of the Lord

6:30pm Boy Scouts: Brioschi Hall

6:30pm Pre-Baptism Session: Founders Room

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

Tuesday, January 9

9:00am Winter Decorating: Church

11:00am Parish office closed (Staff Holiday Lunch)

Wednesday, January 10

9:00am Rosary: Church

9:30am School Mass: Church

6:30pm Choir: Church

6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room

6:30pm Faith Formation: Staff Lounge

Thursday, January 11

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

7:00pm Spirit Song: Church

Friday, January 12

No scheduled events

Saturday, January 13

After Mass Small Group Sign Up: Gathering Space

Sunday, January 14

After Masses Small Group Sign Up: Gathering Space

St. Pascal's Women's Book Club

Time to make a new Year's Resolution to read more!

Join the St. Pascal Women's Book Club. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Staff Lounge. All parish women are invited to join the group for its monthly discussions. You can join us as often as your schedule allows. On January 8, we will discuss *Girl Gone Missing* by Marcie Reardon. On February 13 we will share thoughts on *Good Night Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea. Contact Toni Baker at toni@bakers.us or 651.731.7763 for a list of the twelve 2024 selections.

Stewardship of Giving

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

November 2023

Sunday Giving

Giving	\$ 73,099.82	YTD Giving	\$ 278,433.68
Budgeted	\$ <u>63,939.62</u>	YTD Budgeted	\$ <u>321,372.94</u>
+ / -	\$ 9,160.20	YTD Deficit	\$ -42,939.26

Mortgage Reduction (as of 11.30.2023)

Loan Balance:	\$ 2,699,445.92
Principal:	\$ 13,958.69
Interest:	\$ <u>8,502.36</u>
Monthly Payment	\$ 22,461.05
YTD Collected Donations	\$ 118,844.32
YTD Payment:	\$ <u>112,305.25</u>
Surplus	\$ 6,539.07
Reserve Account Balance:	\$ 163,544.67

of payments in Reserve: 7

Thank you for your support!

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Form Us in Love

Triune God,
you entered humanity,
were welcomed by humble parents
and laid in a manger.
On this feast of your human family,
bless our families—received and chosen.
Help us grow in love.
Foster in us patience and kindness.
Open our hearts to make room for you
and guide us on our path to holiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Bless Family Life



Today's readings: Genesis 15:1–6; 21:1–3; or Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9; or Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5; Hebrews 11:8, 11–12, 17–19; or Colossians 3:12–21; Luke 2:22–40. On the Feast of the Holy Family, the Church honors Jesus' earthly family, offering encouragement and a model to all families. By sending Jesus to enter the world through a human family, God takes on all the messiness that comes with family life. God shows us tangibly that God desires to be close to us in our everyday living, in our closest relationships, and in the life in our homes. Families are called the hearth of the domestic church because it is within our families that we are first formed in faith and nurtured in love. In both the trials and joys of family life, we learn how to strive for holiness.

Today marks the exact midpoint in the Christmas season. We continue to recall what befell the holy family as they welcomed the infant Jesus during their stay in overcrowded Bethlehem; they were visited by the most unexpected guests and went to great extremes to protect their newborn child.

The Feast of the Holy Family offers us an opportunity to reflect upon the holiness in our primary relationships. Today's second reading from the Letter to the Colossians gives us a blueprint for household living. Read it with loved ones and together prayerfully discern some resolutions for the new year.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, January 1

Mary, Holy Mother of God

According to the Scriptures, Mary reflects in her heart on all the amazing events surrounding the birth of her child. As we move from one calendar year to the next, we are invited to reflect with gratitude on the gifts given to us as well as look forward to the new year with hope, faith, and trust in the abiding presence of Emmanuel. This time of the year, when traditionally New Year's resolutions are made, is also the perfect time to make spiritual promises. Ponder how you hope to grow in your relationship with the living Christ in the coming year. *Today's readings: Numbers 6:22–27; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:16–21.*

Tuesday, January 2

Sts. Basil and Gregory

St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen were fourth-century contemporaries, both born to parents who were named saints and both blessed with siblings who became saints. Through their writings, they made important contributions to how the Church understands the mystery of the Trinity. Their articulation of Jesus as fully human and fully divine shaped the language of the Nicene Creed we profess every Sunday at Mass. *Today's readings: 1 John 2:22–28; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.*

Wednesday, January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

The Church reserves today as an optional memorial dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus. The name Jesus, (in Hebrew, *Yeshua*) means “Savior.” St. Paul urges all Christians to keep holy the name of Jesus, “*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth*” (Philippians 2:10). *Today's optional memorial readings: Philippians 2:1–11; Psalm 8:4–9; Luke 2:21–22.*

Thursday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Born in 1774, Elizabeth Ann (Bayley) Seton was by the age of twenty-nine a widowed mother of five children. In her grief she discovered the Catholic faith and received the call to form a new religious order. In starting her first Catholic school for poor girls, Elizabeth founded the Catholic parochial school system that still thrives today. Elizabeth was canonized in 1975 as the first person born in the United States to be named a saint. Today the Sisters of Charity serve in communities around the world following the inspiration of their founder, Mother Seton. *Today's readings: 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.*

Friday, January 5

St. John Neumann

Born in 1811, John Neumann emigrated from Bohemia to New York to care for the spiritual needs of European immigrants. As a young priest he entered the Redemptorists and was subsequently named the bishop of Philadelphia. In just seven years, he built eighty-nine Catholic churches, hospitals, orphanages, and almost one hundred schools. He organized the first diocesan Catholic school system in the United States and is remembered to this day as the patron of sick children and immigrants. *Today's readings: 1 John 3:11–21; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 4, 5; John 1:43–51.*

Saturday, January 6

The Twelfth Day of Christmas

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil of Christmas and concludes on Monday, January 8, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Throughout the season we celebrate the birth of Christ into our hearts, our lives and our world, and commemorate that Jesus comes to save us and lead us to eternal light. Listen to the Christmas carol “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” originally written to convey the essential elements of the Christian faith during centuries of religious persecution. *Today's readings: 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; Mark 1:7–11.*

