



**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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**FEBRUARY 18, 2024 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

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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

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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



Art by / Ilustración de Mike Jaroszko © LTP

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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:

**Turning to God in prayer.** On the website for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis (archspm.org), I found a good article on prayer entitled, "What does it mean to repent, and why is Lent such a powerful time to do so?" written by Fr. Michael Van Sloun. In the article, he describes Lent as an ideal time for us to draw closer to God. When John the Baptist conducted his preaching ministry in the desert he cried out, "Repent!" (Mt 3:1), and when Jesus began to preach in Galilee he said exactly the same thing, "Repent!" (Mk 1:15). On Ash Wednesday, when ashes are placed on our forehead, we hear the words, "Turn away from sin (i.e., repent) and believe in the gospel" (Mk 1:15). To repent is to turn away from sin and self-centeredness and to turn to God, and prayer is one of the best ways to turn to God.

If your prayer life has fallen on hard times or you are looking for a renewal in your prayer life, Lent is a wonderful occasion to start or restart a warm, communicative relationship with God. Prayer comes in two major forms: communal and private.

Communal prayer is needed for a well-balanced prayer life. We Catholics regard the Mass as our highest form of communal prayer, so I invite you to fully, consciously and actively participate in Mass each weekend. "The participation of each person in the Liturgy is important. Each person needs to do his or her part. Those who come together for Liturgy do not have the luxury of acting as spectators, waiting for all to be done for them. Full, conscious, and active participation in the Liturgy (as commended by the Second Vatican Council) is not only their right but also their duty and their responsibility. That responsibility includes full engagement throughout the liturgical celebration. The baptized faithful who form the congregation are called to join in praise and thanksgiving in song and spoken word, to listen attentively to God's Word, and to exercise their baptismal priesthood in prayer for the Church, the world, and all in need during the Prayer of the Faithful. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist the baptized faithful join their prayer to that of the priest celebrant, offering Christ the Victim, not only by means of the hands of the Priest but also together with him, and offer themselves as well (GIRM, no. 95). Their participation culminates in the reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord, the sacrament that unites them more fully with Christ their Head and with one another." (Liturgical Participation, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops newsletter, 2010). In addition to the Mass, other options for communal prayer include the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:00 p.m. in church and morning prayer in our chapel on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Communal prayer also happens at the dinner table, in the living room, offering prayers with one or more people through a morning offering or reading together the upcoming Sunday Gospel passage.

Private prayer is the other half of a well-balanced prayer life. Options include, but are not limited to, silent meditation, Scripture reading and reflection, the Liturgy of the Hours, the rosary, lectio divina, centering praying, spiritual reading including biographies of the saints, prayer writing in one's journal, singing sacred music, playing sacred music on a piano or other instrument, a prayer walk outside, studying a theological topic, or viewing or creating religious artworks. Regular communication is key to every quality relationship. If we hope to be close to God, regular prayer is indispensable. I hope you have a blessed Lent. You are in my prayers.

**Monthly Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for February 2024: *For the terminally ill.*** We pray that those with a terminal illness and their families receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

## — SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

### **We Care Campaign: March 2 & 3**

St. Pascal's parish will gather the loose change and bills from the weekend collection and donate them to the Social Justice and Caring Committee's We Care Campaign. The three options chosen by the committee for its winter project are:

#### **Option 1: Joseph's Coat**

*An inner-city free store providing clothes and household items for the poor.* This storefront community recognizes the need to supply physical necessities and the importance to increase people's self-worth. Joseph's Coat offers support and encouragement for persons in the midst of conflict, crisis and transition.

#### **Option 2: Merrick Community Services Food Distribution Fund**

*A non-profit agency in Ramsey County that assists individuals and families become self-sufficient.* St. Pascal's partners with this agency to run a monthly food distribution ministry at the parish. Money donated to this option will be used to supplement the supplies donated to the parish by Merrick Community Services to ensure that more people can be served by this ministry.

#### **Option 3: 30-Days Foundation**

*A Twin-Cities based non-profit organization that provides financial grants (made payable only to the service provider requiring payment) for Minnesota residents.* Through this program, residents can get assistance paying for such things as car repairs, rent, medical bills, utility bills etc.

We encourage you to consider making a personal contribution as well, using the envelope provided in the packet of envelopes sent by the parish every other month or 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 by writing your desired option(s) on the envelope provided in the packet of envelopes sent by the parish or marking the appropriate option(s) on the envelope located on the tables near the entrances to the church and your contributions will be distributed as requested. Any unmarked contributions will be divided equally among the three options. Thank you for your generosity.

## — IN CHRIST WE LIVE FOREVER —

Please remember in your prayers...

*Kathryn "Kitty" Mazzara*

who was recently buried from our church. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends, and pray for her soul's eternal peace.

## — REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

**Volunteer Opportunity****Join Our Team as a Math Class Teacher's Assistant!**

Are you looking for a rewarding way to make a positive impact in our school community? We have an exciting volunteer opportunity for you to become a Teacher's Assistant for our combined first and second-grade class. Your role will be instrumental in supporting our young scholars as they explore the world of mathematics.

As a Teacher's Assistant, you will:

- Assist scholars in reading and understanding instructions.
- Provide gentle reminders about the tasks at hand.
- Offer guidance with Chromebooks (no tech expertise required).
- Help scholars overcome challenges when they encounter difficulties.

Your assistance in the classroom will greatly enhance the learning experience and reduce interruptions for Mrs. Schoenfelder as she teaches. We are dedicated to fostering independence in our students, and your helping hand will play a crucial role in their education journey.

*No teaching background is required for this role.* Your enthusiasm and willingness to support our scholars are what truly matter.

Details at a Glance:

**Volunteer Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 - 9:00 AM.

**Contact:** Principal Inna Collier Paske at [icollierpaske@stpascalschool.org](mailto:icollierpaske@stpascalschool.org).

**St. Pascal's Women's Club Fish Fry Bake Sale is Back and We Need Bakers!**  
**All Fridays of Lent from February 16 to March 22. Can you bake for one or two Fridays?**

- Drop off baked goods at the parish office on Fridays before 3:00 PM or at the Bake Sale table outside Brioschi Hall.
- Profits from the sales will stay within the parish and support our local community.

If you have questions or would like to help at a Bake Sale event, please contact:

Kathy Meyer (320.223.5130), [grammyofive@outlook.com](mailto:grammyofive@outlook.com)

Chris Igielski (651.336.1274), [csigielski@gmail.com](mailto:csigielski@gmail.com)

**The St. Pascal's Men's Club Lenten Fish Fry—All Fridays of Lent**

**Friday, February 16 through Friday, March 22 from 4:30 - 7:00 PM in Brioschi Hall (Please use the Flandrau Street entrance.)**

The "All-You-Care-To-Eat" buffet will offer fried and baked cod, coleslaw, mixed steamed vegetables, au gratin and seasoned fried potatoes, mac-n-cheese, dinner roll, and coffee/water. Milk, bottled water, and pop are available for purchase.

Adults (12 and up): \$16.00 | Children (6-11): \$8.00 | 5 and under: Free

Cash, check, or card accepted. Takeout is available if the hall is full or the wait is too long.

*All proceeds benefit St. Pascal Regional Catholic School's K-8 PhyEd program and other parish/school needs.*

## — WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS —

**Puzzle and Game Exchange**

*Two Weekends—February 17/18 & 24/25!*

Come check out the puzzles and games after all Masses this weekend and next. Items will be displayed in Brioschi Hall and are ready to find a new home.

**Spring Is for Flowers, Fresh Veggies and Gertens Plant Cards!**

St. Pascal's Women's Club online store for Gertens Spring fundraiser IS OPEN! Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com) and enter the Women's Club store number 447. Over 80 fantastic items are available: Gertens plant cards, hanging flower baskets, patio containers, bedding flowers, vegetables, and perennials. Order in your P.J.'s in the comfort of your own home. *Sale ends Wednesday, March 28.* Your orders will be available for pick up after all Masses on May 11 & 12. Just in time for Mother's Day!

This is a major fundraiser for the St. Pascal's Women's Club—please support us! If you have any questions, contact Ellen Aeling at 651.307.8241 or [ellenaeling@gmail.com](mailto:ellenaeling@gmail.com).

**Support Mater Dei Africa**

We will be collecting funds until the end of February. We have collected over \$2,000, and our goal is to collect \$3,000 to support 33 families with the supplies and training to begin their beekeeping business in Tanzania. To contribute, make out a check to "St. Pascals' Women's Club" and in the memo line write 'Mater Dei Africa'. Thank you for your contributions! If you have questions, please email Carmen Álvarez at [carmenalvarez@technologynorth.com](mailto:carmenalvarez@technologynorth.com)

## 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)

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 St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church

## Mass Times & Intentions

## Readings

February 18, 2024

### Tuesday, February 20

8:00 AM The people of the parish

### Wednesday, February 21

9:30 AM + Beverlee Huesmann

### Thursday, February 22

8:00 AM + Vince Arceno

### Friday, February 23

8:00 AM + Don Hensel

### Saturday, February 24

4:30 PM + Rose and  
+ Richard McCabe

### Sunday, February 25

*2nd Sunday of Lent*

8:45 AM + Francis Farrugia

10:30 AM The people of the parish

### Use Your Smartphone to Make a Donation to St. Pascal's!

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



### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

#### "Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing"

*Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30 PM in the Founders Room*

Jesus' ministry focused on forgiveness and healing, and in the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing we are healed by Jesus much as those that encountered Jesus 2000 years ago were healed bodily and spiritually. In reconciliation we have the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of our friendship with God. In the sacrament of anointing of the sick, it is Jesus who touches us to heal us from sin and sometimes even from physical ailment. We will discuss these two beautiful and empowering sacraments of healing. All are welcome to join us for this discussion, Catholics who want a refresher and those curious about the Catholic Church.

### CRS Rice Bowl—1st Week of Lent: A Season for Reflection

During this holy time, we are called to pause and pay closer attention to our relationship with God and our neighbors. Reflect on how the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving guide your journey and how the Eucharist helps us to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. To learn more and read this week's Story of Hope, visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org).

### Sunday: *1st Sunday of Lent*

Gn 9:8-15

Ps 25:4-9

1 Pt 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15

### Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18

Ps 19:8-10, 15

Mt 25:31-46

### Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11

Ps 34:4-7, 16-19

Mt 6:7-15

### Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10

Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19

Lk 11:29-32

### Thursday:

1 Pt 5:1-4

Ps 23:1-6

Mt 16:13-19

### Friday:

Ez 18:21-28

Ps 130:1-8

Mt 5:20-26

### Saturday:

Dt 26:16-19

Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8

Mt 5:43-48

### Next Sunday:

*2nd Sunday of Lent*

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Ps 116:10, 15-19

Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10

## THE WEEKS AHEAD

### Sunday, February 18—Lent 1

After Masses Fellowship: Brioschi Hall

After Masses Women's Club Puzzle Exchange: Brioschi Hall

### Monday, February 19—Presidents' Day

Parish office closed

10:00am Small Group 1: Spiritual Direction Room

2:30pm Small Group 2: Spiritual Direction Room

6:30pm Small Group 3: Spiritual Direction Room

### Tuesday, February 20

10:00am Small Group 4: Spiritual Direction Room

6:30pm Small Group 6: Spiritual Direction Room

### Wednesday, February 21

9:00am Rosary: Church

9:30am School Mass: Church

9:30am Small Group 7: Spiritual Direction Room

1:30pm Small Group 8: Founders Room

6:30pm Choir: Church

6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room

6:30pm Faith Formation: Campus

### Thursday, February 22

9:30am Small Group 9: Spiritual Direction Room

4:30pm Finance Council: Staff Lounge

6:30pm Small Group 10: Spiritual Direction Room

7:00pm Spirit Song: Church

8:30pm Spirit Song Social: Brioschi Hall

### Friday, February 23

8:00am Men's Club Fish Fry Setup: Brioschi Hall, Kitchen

4:30pm Men's Club Fish Fry: Brioschi Hall

4:30pm Women's Club Bake Sale: Gathering Space

7:00pm Stations of the Cross: Church

### Saturday, February 24

After Mass Women's Club Puzzle Exchange: Brioschi Hall

### Sunday, February 25—Lent 2

After Masses Women's Club Puzzle Exchange: Brioschi Hall

10:30am Rite of Sending (Confirmation)

11:30am Confirmation II Meeting & Lunch: Brioschi Hall

## SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING

### Faith in Action: Catholics and Politics – a good mixture

"A good Catholic meddles in politics . . . so that those who govern can govern (Pope Francis)." "Civil engagement is part of the task of discipleship (Bishop Cozzens)." In person absentee/early voting has begun and ends March 4. Precinct caucuses take place February 27. The presidential nomination primary is March 5. As Catholics we are called to be informed and to vote. We can't complain if we don't show up. Put your faith into action by getting these dates on your calendar, learn about the candidates and show up. Every vote counts.

### Rally at the Capitol

Minnesota made history last year by passing a \$1 billion housing budget. As exciting as that is, Minnesota needs sustained, long-term investment in affordable housing and equitable housing policies. If you agree, join other parishioners at the *Start With Home Rally for Affordable Housing* at the Minnesota State Capitol on Tuesday, February 20 at 1:30 PM. We all benefit when our neighbors, families and friends live in safe, secure and affordable homes. Carpools to the rally will be available. For more information contact Ann Karner ([akarner24@gmail.com](mailto:akarner24@gmail.com)).



# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



## In His Mercy

Loving Father,  
you sent a rainbow  
as a sign of your mercy  
and of our relationship with you.  
Soften our hardened hearts.  
May the mercy that we show others

be a sign that through the waters of baptism  
you live in us and that we are your  
adopted children.  
May our Lenten prayer and sacrifice  
fortify us to continue your mission on earth.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

**Abundant Mercy**



*Today's readings: Genesis 9:8–15; Psalm 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:12–15.* “See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every little creature.” With these words, God shows his love as he promises anew to be in relationship with creation. In the reading from the First Letter of Peter, we hear that God saved the eight who were aboard the ark through the waters of the flood and now saves us through the waters of baptism. God, whose love brought us into being, seeks relationship and communion with us. To reconcile us with him, he sent his Son, who prepared for his mission by fasting for forty days in the desert.

During the forty days of Lent, many of us give in to temptation and find ourselves repenting time and again. Knowing that God is merciful and understands our shortcomings, we can always resolve to begin anew. God yearns for relationship with us and does not give up on us.

As one of your Lenten practices, you may have chosen to read the day's Scriptures attentively. Try to approach the readings with fresh eyes willing to allow the text to relate to your life today. Familiar texts can speak to us in the new circumstances, challenges, joys, and sorrows of our lives. All we need is an openness to the Word. God's Word is always relevant.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, February 19 The Neighbor

In Matthew 22:36–39, Jesus tells the scholar about the two greatest commandments: loving God and loving neighbor. Today's passage from Matthew depicts how our actions show love for both God and neighbor. Inviting the sheep on his right to the kingdom, the Son of Man recounts that their feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and welcoming the stranger also fed, clothed, and welcomed Christ. When a reminder is needed on how God expects us to treat our neighbor, return to this passage. *Today's readings: Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18; Psalm 19:8–10, 15; Matthew 25:31–46.*

### Tuesday, February 20 Patiently Waiting

Both the psalm and Gospel show us how to pray. Portraying the need for trust, the psalmist sings, “I sought the LORD and he answered me, / delivered me from all my fears.” In the Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that they need to come to God with humility as they pray that his will be done. Instead of expecting instant gratification from prayer requests, keep in mind that God acts in his time, not ours. Be patient and trust; God will not leave you alone. *Today's readings: Isaiah 55:10–11; Psalm 34:4–7, 16–19; Matthew 6:7–15.*

### Wednesday, February 21 Grateful Hearts

Jesus comments in today's Gospel on the generation's desire for a sign. How many times have you prayed and asked for a sign? Many of us want proof that God will come through for us. Remember that God knows what is best for each of us. During this Lent, seek to discern and appreciate what you have been given and thank God for what he has provided. *Today's readings: Jonah 3:1–10; Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 18–19; Luke 11:29–32.*

### Thursday, February 22 The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Upon Peter's assertion that Jesus is the Messiah, we hear Jesus tell Peter that he is the rock upon which the Church shall be built. As Christ's followers, we too must voice that Jesus is our Savior. Our faith can be the foundation upon which others' faith can grow. Pope Francis implores us to go out in mission so that through encounters with others, the Church will grow. Our faith is not a secret but a wonderful gift. This Lent, how will you contribute to strengthening the foundation of the Church? *Today's readings: 1 Peter 5:1–4; Psalm 23:1–3a, 4–6; Matthew 16:13–19.*

### Friday, February 23 Continuing the Mission

On the optional Memorial of St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr, the Church recalls a second-generation Christian who was a disciple of the apostle John. Before St. Polycarp was burned at the stake, he put his trust in God. He was unafraid of what would happen to him. Pray to be able to trust that God is with you, no matter the trial you face. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 18:21–28; Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–7a, 7bc–8; Matthew 5:20–26.*

### Saturday, February 24 Learning to Love

“If you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?” we hear in today's Gospel. To love without conditions can be difficult. Yet this is what Jesus asks from us. When we have been wronged, it is tempting to seek revenge. Yet, Jesus shows us a higher path. Instead of revenge, Jesus loves everyone and instructs us to forgive. What would it mean for you to love your enemy and to forgive someone who has hurt you? *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:16–19; Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5, 7–8; Matthew 5:43–48.*

