



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.

MARCH 10, 2024 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

OUR STAFF

Pastor

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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

God so loved the world, but does God love me?

In our Gospel reading this weekend from John, chapter 3, we hear an often quoted saying of Jesus, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16). Some people call John 3:15 "the Gospel in a nutshell" because it succinctly summarizes in Jesus' own words the reason God sent him into the world. That is, God loves us and wants to save us.

As I reflected on John 3:16, I asked myself, "How many people believe that God loved the world but question whether God loves them personally?" In my ministry as a priest, I meet and talk with people from various walks of life who experience the joys, sorrows, successes, losses, achievements and struggles that are part of life in this world. Sometimes I hear people question whether God loves them personally and individually. Personal suffering, grief and pain can lead to deep questions about God and wondering if God loves us now or could we have done something to cause God to stop loving us. To these deep questions, I offer these personal insights:

God is love. In 1 John 4:16, we read these words: "God is love". In those three words, we have a definition of who God is and what God does. God is love, and God loves.

God's love is everlasting. In Isaiah 49:15, we read, "I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you."

We might feel small, but God knows us intimately. One of my favorite psalms is Psalm 139 which begins with these words: "Lord, you have search me, and you know me: you know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. You sift through my travels and rest; with all my ways you are familiar. Even before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you know it all. Behind and before you encircle me and rest your hand upon me."

God's love is shown to us through other people. We may struggle to feel God's direct love because God can be mysterious, and God's ways and actions can be difficult to see. At the same time, God loves us personally and individually through the people who love us and show us kindness: family, friends, spouse, children, grandchildren, grandparents, and more. In those times we feel unloved by God or that God is not listening to our prayers, look at the people in your life who are showing love to you, the people who are listening to you and helping you, the people who express concern and kindness to you. In each of those people, God's love is being shown to you through them.

Monthly Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for March 2024: *For the new martyrs.* We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

CRS Rice Bowl: Fourth Week of Lent—Increasing Disasters, Increasing Resilience

Located in Southeast Asia between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Indonesia has beautiful beaches, diverse cultures and the world's fourth largest population. Climate-related disasters such as cyclones are also becoming more frequent and destructive. Visit crsricebowl.org to find out how—with the support of Catholic Relief Services and generous communities like yours—Evita and her disaster preparedness group are working to keep their community safe.

Have you been using a Rice Bowl at home for part of your Lenten almsgiving? At the end of Lent, you can turn in your donations in one of three ways:

1. Bring your CRS Rice Bowl to St. Pascal's during Holy Week or Easter Week.
2. Convert your Rice Bowl gifts to a check made out to St. Pascal Baylon. (Be sure to note it is for CRS Rice Bowl and then drop it off or mail to the parish.)
3. Donate directly to Catholic Relief Services online at www.crsricebowl.org/give

— SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

Faith in Action: St. Pascals Responds to Food Insecurity

The large bulletin board in the Gathering Space contains information about our parish's response to food insecurity. Please check it out. Besides useful information regarding the issue, see pictures of fellow parishioners as they feed those in need. You can be part of the solution by donating food this month. Your generosity is appreciated.

Donation Closet

March 2024: *Merrick March Food Drive*

Items most useful to the community at this time are:

- Cooking Oils—canola, olive, sesame, chili
- Vinegars—red or white wine vinegar, rice vinegar
- Spices
- Cooking Sauces—soy, Worcestershire, Sriracha
- Proteins—peanut or almond butter, tuna, canned chicken
- Grains—all types of rice, flour, and noodles

A complete list with specific ideas can be found in the kiosk, on the parish website, or by going to merrickcs.org/march-food-drive-2024. Items will be collected through the weekend of March 31.

RCIA: "Prayer"

Wednesday, March 13 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Founders Room

"There are as many ways to pray as there are moments in life. Sometimes we seek out a quiet spot to be alone. Sometimes we look for a friend and want to be together.

Sometimes we like a book, sometimes we prefer music. Sometimes we want to sing out with hundreds, and sometimes only whisper with a few. Sometimes we want to say it with a deep silence." (*Henri Nouwen*)

We will spend our evening discussing different styles of prayer and will also spend time experiencing different types of prayer. All are welcome to join us—Catholics who want a refresher and those curious about the Catholic Church.

— IN CHRIST WE LIVE FOREVER —

Please remember in your prayers...

*Thomas Norton
Josephine Leko*

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

— REGIONAL SCHOOL NEWS —

Enroll now for the 2024-25 school year
Kindergarten will again be FREE, and no one in other grades is turned away due to financial circumstances. Scan the QR code to learn more.



St. Pascal Regional Catholic School is excited to be partnering with an Emerging Media class at the University of St. Thomas (UST). Approximately half the students are majoring in video production, and the other half is focused on graphic design. Some of the students in the class, all seniors, visited our school last week. UST students also will be working with staff and scholars at other Ascension Catholic Academy schools. The final project will include some videos to help promote SPR. We are grateful for this partnership with UST.

St. Pascal's Women's Book Club

Monday, March 11 at 7:00 PM

We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Staff Lounge, located near the Conway entrance. You can come as often as your schedule allows. This month, March 11, we will discuss *Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker.

On April 8, we will have our Annual Author Night with Matt Goldman, author of *Carolina Moonset*. Join us for a social at 6:30 PM and discussion from 7:00-8:00. These are always fun and interesting evenings—don't miss it!

St. Pascal's Women's Club Fish Fry Bake Sale: *Can you bake for one or two Fridays?*

- Drop off baked goods on Fridays (through March 22) at the parish office 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

Chris Igielski (651.336.1274), csigielski@gmail.com

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

St. Pascal's Women's Club Gertens Spring Plant Sale

Spring is coming—celebrate with St. Pascal's Women's Club Gertens Spring Plant sale! We are selling Gertens plants and plant cards online. Over 80 fantastic items are available: hanging flower baskets, patio containers, bedding flowers, vegetables, perennials, and plant cards. Go to www.gertensfundraising.com and enter the Women's Club store number 447. Order from the comfort of your own home. Check out Gertens brochures on the parish web site or see printed brochures in the kiosk in the gathering space. If you need help ordering, Women's Club members will be available after all Masses on March 23/24 or contact Ellen Aeling. *Sale ends on 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 or need help with your order, please contact Ellen Aeling at 651.307.8241 or ellenoaeling@gmail.com.

Women's Club Legacy Award 2024

Every year the St. Pascal's Women's Club honors one of our own with the Women's Club Legacy Award. This May, the award will be presented at the appreciation dinner.

We are accepting nominations from women of the parish through April 1.

Please email the name of your nominee to Andreleavitt@comcast.net or drop a note in a sealed envelope marked "Women's Club Legacy Award" in the collection plate.

C O N T A C T U S

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](mailto:kери.mader@stpascals.org)

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St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church

Mass Times & Intentions

Readings

March 10, 2024

Tuesday, March 12

8:00 AM The people of the parish

Wednesday, March 13

9:30 AM Women's Club

Thursday, March 14

8:00 AM The people of the parish

Friday, March 15

8:00 AM The people of the parish

Saturday, March 16

4:30 PM + Georgine Misukanis

Sunday, March 17

5th Sunday of Lent

8:45 AM The people of the parish

10:30 AM + Fr. Mike Byron

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:

4th Sunday of Lent
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

Ps 137:1-6
Eph 2:4-10
Jn 3:14-21

Monday:

Is 65:17-21
Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b
Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday:

Ez 47:1-9, 12
Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday:

Is 49:8-15
Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18
Jn 5:17-30

Thursday:

Ex 32:7-14
Ps 106:19-23
Jn 5:31-47

Friday:

Wis 2:1a, 12-22
Ps 34:17-21, 23
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday:

Jer 11:18-20
Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12
Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday:

5th Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31-34
Ps 51:3-4, 12-15
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Sunday, March 10—Lent 4

No scheduled events

Monday, March 11

10:00am Small Group 1: Spiritual Direction Room
2:30pm Small Group 2: Spiritual Direction Room
6:30pm Boy Scouts: Brioschi Hall
6:30pm Pre-Baptism Session: Founders Room
6:30pm Small Group 3: Spiritual Direction Room
7:00pm Women's Book Club: Staff Lounge

Tuesday, March 12

10:00am Small Group 4: Spiritual Direction Room
6:30pm Small Group 6: Spiritual Direction Room

Wednesday, March 13

9:00am Rosary: Church
9:30am Small Group 7: Spiritual Direction Room
9:30am School Mass: Church
1:30pm Small Group 8: Parish Conference Room
6:00pm Eagle Board of Review: Spiritual Direction Room
6:30pm Choir: Church
6:30pm RCIA: Founders Room
6:30pm Faith Formation: Campus

Thursday, March 14

9:30am Small Group 9: Spiritual Direction Room
6:30pm Small Group 10: Spiritual Direction Room
7:00pm Men's Club Membership Meeting: Brioschi Hall
7:00pm Spirit Song: Church

Friday, March 15

8:00am Men's Club Fish Fry Setup: Kitchen, Brioschi Hall
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, March 16

After Mass Fellowship: Brioschi Hall

Sunday, March 17—Lent 5

After Masses Fellowship: Brioschi Hall
11:30am Confirmation I: Staff Lounge
11:45am Palm Sunday Proclaimer Rehearsal: Church

EASTER FLOWERS

You may purchase a plant or make a donation (any amount) in honor of a family member, loved one or 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. Suggested donation is \$10. Thank you for your gift!

I would like to purchase an Easter plant in (circle one)

Honor of / Memory of:

Donated by:

Please make checks payable to St. Pascal's.

Please note: Memorials/Honorariums received in the parish office after March 26 will not appear on the Easter Flowers bulletin insert on March 31.

Spring Family Fiesta

Saturday, April 13, 2024 from 5:30-8:30 PM in Brioschi Hall

Enjoy delicious food, the company of fellow parishioners, games, and more! Family friendly—all ages welcome! There will be a FREE drawing to throw out the first pitch at a Twins game, a FREE raffle for a kid's bike, and a dessert auction. More details and ticket information coming soon. Sponsored by the Parish Life and Activities Committee.

DESSERT AUCTION: Guests at the dinner will have a chance to engage in a friendly competition for the highest bidder on a dessert—with the winner of the live auction for each dessert purchasing the right to satisfy their sweet tooth (and that of their friends). Please consider joining in the fun and entering a dessert into the auction. For those who don't bake themselves, we encourage purchasing from a local bakery—all desserts are welcome!

Please contact Mary Weyandt at mlweyandt@mac.com or Kim Roering at kim.roering@stpascals.org (651.432.4958) if you are interested in donating a dessert, or if you have any questions.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Light of the World

Lord God,
when we were unfaithful,
you remembered us.
Your love is so great
that you sent your Son
to be the Light of the World.

May I keep my eyes fixed upon your light,
and never surrender to the dark,
O Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you,
in the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Light of Hope in the Darkness



Today's readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23; Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6; Ephesians 2:4–10; John 3:14–21. Hope and joy are recurring themes in the readings and prayers on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Midway through Lent, just as we begin to weary in our resolve, the readings remind us of God's love and the eternal life that awaits, and the prayers relate the Christian response of joy. The entrance antiphon begins, "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her," recalling for us that Lent is also a season for joy.

The liturgical color varies from the season's violet to rose today to visually encourage us. This day points to the

reconciliation that is ours because of Christ's death and resurrection. And we have merited none of this. Only by the mercy of God do we live in Christ. As the reading from Ephesians states, "It is the gift of God; it is not from works so no one may boast."

Some accept the gift of faith, but as the Gospel states, "The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light." At baptism, we received the light of Christ and, with that light, join Christ in dispelling darkness. This week, be aware that you carry the light of Christ within you and can bring others to it.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 11 Blind Faith

John tells the story of a man pleading for Jesus to cure his dying child. The miracle of the cure convinced this man and the others present that Jesus was the Messiah. But what about those of us who have never witnessed such a miracle? Take some time to journal about your faith in Jesus. On what do you base your belief? How much do you trust in the Lord? *Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17–21 Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12a, 13b; John 4:43–54.*

Tuesday, March 12 Journeying Together

Asking for or accepting help shows courage because it implies that we are not self-sufficient. Recognizing our dependence on God and one another is a virtue. Being in relationship with others requires listening. Today, await the answer when asking someone how he or she is doing. Then really listen. Similarly, make sure that you leave space and time in your prayer for God's voice to bubble up inside of you. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.*

Wednesday, March 13 Blind Faith

While the Lord is a just judge, people are not always so fair or righteous. Are you your worst critic? The idea of self-compassion might seem hedonistic or selfish, yet it can be hard to give what we do not possess. If we desire to extend God's kindness to others, we need to express compassion toward ourselves. Examine how well you practice patience and mercy toward others. To improve, begin with yourself. *Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.*

Thursday, March 14 Taking a Pause

During every Mass, we encounter Christ in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. He is present especially in the consecrated bread and wine, in the Scriptures, in the ministers, and in the assembly. God does not want us to continue wandering in the desert; he beckons us to the promised land of eternal life. This week, meditate on a part of the Mass. Practice being truly present during Mass to allow space for conversion and transformation. *Today's readings: Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.*

Friday, March 15 Genuine Encounter

What does it mean to truly know someone? Have you followed a famous figure or professional contact and felt that you knew everything about him or her without having even met the person? Or perhaps you met the individual and encountered someone different than you had imagined. In today's Gospel, the inhabitants of Jerusalem think that they know Jesus, but their knowledge is on a surface level. They do not know the One who sent him. When you read the Scriptures, invite the words to fill your heart so that you can know the Lord. *Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21, 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.*

Saturday, March 16 The Body of Christ

Many things can distract us as we seek to become closer to God and spread the Good News. How can you stay rooted in a life of discipleship? What are some of the things you can do in your community to continue the ministry of Jesus? Can you read to children at the library? Or volunteer in a soup kitchen? Does your community have a cleanup day for which you could sign up? Strive to be walking testimonies of Jesus' love. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18–20; Psalm 7:2–3, 9bc–10, 11–12; John 7:40–53.*

