

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, looking for a parish home or a member of our parish community, 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 07, 2025 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OUR STAFF

Pastor

Fr. John Mitchell I ext 125 john.mitchell@stpascals.org

Business Administrator

Theresa Ruttger | ext 130 theresa.ruttger@stpascals.org

Director of Facilities and Maintenance

Mike Kelleher I ext 134 mike.kelleher@stpascals.org

Pastoral Associate for Music

Sharon Balcom I ext 126 sharon.balcom@stpascals.org

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

Kim Roering I ext 128 kim.roering@stpascals.org

Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care

Barb Uschold Anderson I ext 129 barb.ua@stpascals.org

Liturgy Assistant

Keri Mader I ext 127 keri.mader@stpascals.org

Communications & Office Manager

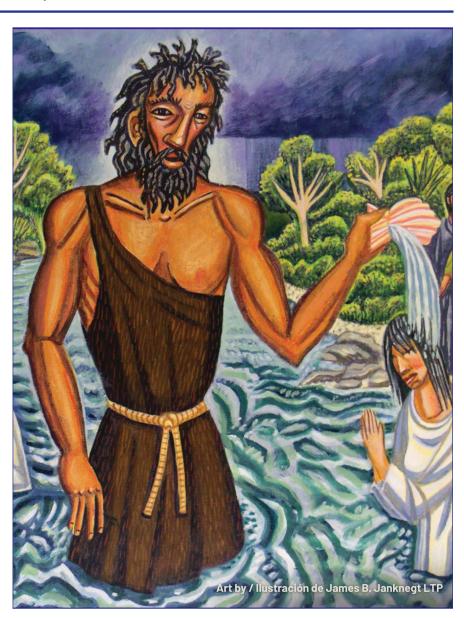
Thea Munoz I ext 133 thea.munoz@stpascals.org

Welcome Desk

Fletcher Tate | ext 120 fletcher.tate@stpascals.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

You are invited to The Spirit of Advent event on Sunday, December 7 at Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 1725 Kennard Street, Maplewood.

5:00 PM – Advent music, prayer and reflection

6:00 PM – Refreshments

6:30 PM – Christmas tree lighting and hot cocoa with Santa. All are welcome.

Beware! Do not respond to strange Emails or text messages. Unfortunately, scammers are at work year-round and even during this holy season of advent. Watch out for strange and suspicious text messages or emails. The scammer might contact you through email or text message asking for a favor and signing the message with my name. It might be portrayed as an urgent need which asks for a quick response. Do not respond. I will not contact you via text or email asking for help or for financial assistance. If you question the legitimacy of a message or request that comes from someone claiming to be me, please call the parish office to double-check. Or better yet, do not respond to the text message or email.

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 elderly religious worked for years for small stipends, resulting 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:

- 1. Use the Retired Religious Fund donation envelope in your Sunday envelope packet, and place your gift in the Sunday collection basket.
- 2. Give cash or a personal check addressed to St. Pascal Baylon Church, write "Retired Religious Fund" in the memo line, and send your gift to the parish office or place it in the collection basket.
- 3. Give online at: retiredreligious.org/ways-to-give/donate/
- 4. Give online at our parish website at stpascals.org. Go to the Give tab at the menu bar at the top of the page, then go to Parish Giving, then go to Seasonal Giving and click on Give Now, and then click on "Religious Retirement Special Collection". Thank you!

Prayer Intention of Pope Leo XIV for December 2025: For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

Christmas Care Cards—ALL Ages Help Needed

Note Return Date Correction: **December 19** or sooner!

Write/color a Christmas card to a parishioner who is homebound or who will benefit from our outreach and care. Find the cards in the basket in Gathering Space or contact Barb in the parish office. Follow the simple instructions: Write a note, pray the prayer of blessing, and RETURN the completed cards to the parish office, c/o Barb Uschold Anderson. For additional information, contact Barb at 651.432.4959 or barb.ua@stpascals.org.

Living Faith Booklets (January - March 2026)

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

— SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING -

December Donation Closet

This month, items will be collected for both the 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 listing the items being collected are available on the tree in the Gathering Space.

Take a flyer, purchase your gift(s), then place the NEW and UNWRAPPED gifts in the bin in the Gathering Space *before December 25*.

Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, provides Christmas gifts to children on behalf of an incarcerated parent.

If you took an Angel Tree tag, please purchase the noted gift, wrap it, and then place it in the Angel Tree box in the Gathering Space or the Donation Closet. Angel Tree gifts are to be NEW and WRAPPED and returned to the parish by Sunday, December 14 with the tag attached to ensure the gifts get to the children by Christmas. Thank you for your generosity this season and all year round.

Thank you to all who donated to November's Joseph's Coat and Emergency Food Drive.

Donation Closet Guidelines

The SJCC is grateful for the generosity of parishioners in contributing items for our various collections. In order to help us maintain an orderly donation closet, please help us by only leaving REQUESTED ITEMS for a given organization/month as we have limited space. The monthly organizations and items requested can be found in bulletins and the Pulse e-newsletter as well as outside of the donation closet. Note that paper and plastic bags are collected year-round for use with the food distributions at Progressive Baptist and St. Pascal's. Thank you for your assistance!

Thank you to all who contributed to the Emergency Food Drive!

The Progressive Fishes & Loaves volunteers were so appreciative of the non-perishable food donated by St. Pascal's parishioners. We were able to put 2-4 items into each box and bag during the donation weeks. Progressive Fishes & Loaves serves between 130 and 150 families per week. Thanks again, and God bless all of you who answered the call to provide food for those in need!

Weekly Rosary—All are welcome!

Join us every Wednesday at 8:30 AM in the church to pray the Rosary together.

— ST. PASCAL REGIONAL — AN ASCENSION CATHOLIC ACADEMY SCHOOL

Enroll for 2026-27

It's already time to start thinking about next school year. Families can enroll or re-enroll their children at stpascalschool.org/enroll/.

Madrinasdela Escuela (School Madrinas)

We're excited to introduce our Madrinas Group, a team of parent volunteers who help welcome and support new families to our school community.

The word Madrina means "godmother" in Spanish, and our school Madrinas serve as mentors and guides for families who are new to Catholic education. They connect with parents, answer questions, share information about school life and help everyone feel at home in our faith-filled community. Through their outreach, our Madrinas also share the gift of Catholic education with neighbors, friends and parish families, helping more children experience a school rooted in faith, learning, love, and connection.

Interested in joining or learning more? Contact Ivette Muñoz, our Spanish Liaison, at spanishliaison@stpascalschool.org.

Thank you to all our Madrinas for their joy, dedication and hospitality in making SPRCS a welcoming home for every family!

– AROUND THE PARISH -

Thanks to everyone who shopped at our Holiday Boutique!

We made almost \$750 for the parish and more importantly, found new homes for many beautiful items. The remaining treasures were donated to Joseph's Coat, Angel Tree and the school's Santa Shop.

The Craft Boutique, the Jewelry Boutique and the Holiday Boutique all will be back next year. Watch the announcements in August 2026 for details about how to donate your hand-made creations, vintage jewelry and high-quality holiday decor to these community-building fundraising events.

Year-End Financial Gifts for 2025

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. Remember, all gifts must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2025 to be considered for the 2025 tax year.

Each year, we receive many special yearend gifts of cash or stock. These gifts are greatly appreciated and warmly encouraged! Stock transfers take some time so please take that into consideration as you consider a gift to St. Pascal's.

Thank you for your generosity.

Women's Club Christmas Party! All women of the parish are invited.

Saturday, December 13 from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in Brioschi Hall
Join us for mimosas, a catered brunch, games and prizes. Get your tickets through this weekend only. All reservations must be pre-paid. Cost of the brunch is \$27. Questions? Please contact Sharon Scanlon at 651.492.0477.

The Women's Book Club Holiday Gathering—Monday, December 8 at 7:00 PM

Location Change: Culver's on Old Hudson Road (near Sun Ray Shopping Center)

Come early and buy a meal and/or ice cream! SPRCS middle school students will be serving and earning money for their Washington DC trip. The afternoon and evening readers will set their 2026 Reading Calendar and we'll share a discussion of Hercule Poirot's Christmas by Agatha Christie.

The Book Club meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 and 7:00 PM—take your pick and even switch back and forth. For a list of the 2026 selections or for more information, contact Toni Baker at toni@bakers.us.

Make a New Year's resolution to read more and join the group in the Staff Lounge (located near the Conway entrance) on *January 12, 2026*. Better yet, get a head start and join us this month at Culver's!

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

Now through December 21 or until sold out

St. Pascal's Men's Club is entering its 56th 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 - 8:00 PM

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 Anne Weyandt, Chair

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

Mary Butler-Levine

651.735.0004

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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Mass Times & Intentions

Readings

December 07, 2025

Monday, December 08

Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM + Mary Jane Krug

6:30 PM The people of the parish

Tuesday, December 09

8:00 AM The people of the parish

Wednesday, December 10

8:00 AM Women's Club

Thursday, December 11

8:00 AM The people of the parish

Friday, December 12

8:00 AM Christine Cahill

Saturday, December 13

4:30 PM + Mary Sikorski

Sunday, December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

8:45 AM + Eileen Muetzel

10:30 AM The people of the parish

Make a Donation to St. Pascal's!

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



Sunday:

2nd Sunday of Advent Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12

Monday:

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

Lk 1:26-38 **Tuesday:**

Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13ab Mt 11:11-15

Friday:

Zec 2:14-17 (Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19 Lk 1:26-38

Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday:

3rd Sunday of Advent Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

REMEMBER SOMEONE IN A SPECIAL WAY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

Make a donation in memory or 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 on or before noon on *Monday, December 22*. Suggested donation is \$10.

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

Honor of / Memory of:

From:

Thank you for your generosity and care.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

Sunday, December 7—Second Sunday of Advent

After Masses Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast: Brioschi Hall, Kitchen After Masses Women's Club Christmas Party Ticket Sales:

Gathering Space

9:00am Men's Club Tree Sales: Conway Lot11:30am Confirmation II: Staff Lounge

Monday-Friday, December 8-12

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

Monday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

8:00am Holy Day Mass: Church 6:30pm Boy Scouts: Old Church 6:30pm Holy Day Mass: Church

7:00pm Women's Book Club Holiday Gathering: Culver's

Tuesday, December 9

6:30pm Pastoral Council: Staff Lounge 7:00pm Spirit Song Rehearsal: Church

Wednesday, December 10

8:30am Rosary: Church 6:30pm Choir: Church

6:30pm Faith Formation: Campus

Thursday, December 11

6:00pm Men's Club Board & Membership Meeting:

Brioschi Hall

7:00pm Spirit Song Rehearsal: Church

Friday, December 12

No scheduled events

Saturday & Sunday, December 13 & 14

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

Saturday, December 13

10:30am Women's Club Christmas Party: Brioschi Hall

Sunday, December 14—Third Sunday of Advent

12:00pm Piano Recital & Reception: Church, Brioschi Hall

Monday, December 15-Friday, December 19

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

Monday, December 15

6:00pm Piano Recital & Reception: Church, Brioschi Hall

6:30pm Boy Scouts: Old Church

Tuesday, December 16

No scheduled events

Wednesday, December 17

8:30am Rosary: Church 6:30pm Choir: Church

6:30pm Faith Formation: Campus

Thursday, December 18

6:00pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting: Old Church

6:30pm Simbang Gabi (Mass)

Friday, December 19

No scheduled events

Saturday & Sunday, December 20 & 21

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

Saturday, December 20

After Mass Fellowship: Brioschi Hall

After Mass Women's Club Christmas Bake Sale: Brioschi Hall

Sunday, December 21—4th Sunday of Advent

After Masses Fellowship: Brioschi Hall

After Masses Women's Club Christmas Bake Sale: Brioschi Hall





Come & Join

The Filipino Catholic Community of Minnesota in celebrating

"Simbang Gabi" 2025

Dec 11 (Thu)

Dec 12 (Fri) @ 6:00pm - St. Joseph Catholic Church

- TBD

8701 36th Ave. N, New Hope, MN 55427

Officiating Priest-Father Terry Rasmussen

Dec 13 (Sat) @ 4:30pm - St. Jerome Catholic Church

380 Roselawn Ave E, Maplewood, MN 55117

Officiating Priest-Fr. Jim Buryska

Dec 13 (Sat) @ 5:00pm - Pax Christi Catholic Church

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Dec 14 (Sun) @ 4:00pm - St Peter's Catholic Church

6730 Nicollet Ave, Richfield, MN 55423

Dec 15 (Mon) @ 6:30pm - St. Bonaventure Catholic Community

901 East 90th St., Bloomington, MN 55420

Officiating Priest - Father James Chitteth

Dec 16 (Tue) @ 5:30pm - St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

680 Mill St., Excelsior, MN 55331

Officiating Priest-Father Alex Carlson

Dec 16 (Tue) @ 6:30pm - St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 8th St., Minneapolis, MN 55402

Officiating Priest-Bishop Kevin Kenney

Dec 17 (Wed) @ 6:30pm- Mary Mother of the Church

3333 Cliff Rd. E, Burnsville, MN 55337

Officiating Priest-Father Jim Perkl

Dec 18 (Thu) @ 6:30pm - Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church

1757 Conway Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106

Officiating Priest-Fr. John Mitchell

Dec 19 (Fri) @ 6:30pm - St. John Neumann Catholic Church

4030 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan, MN 55122

"Misa de Gallo"
Dec. 20, 2025 (Sat) @ 6:00 AM Mass

5:30 AM Caroling by (CSFA) Cultural Society of Filipino Americans

Guardian Angel Catholic Church 8260 4th St N, Oakdale, MN 55128



Dodge Flores (651) 260.1072 Roland & Beth Dico (952) 212.0162

Fellowship follows after the "Misa de Gallo" mass.





The Origin and Meaning of Simbang Gabi Novena

Rev. Fr. Marvil-Paul R. Felipe, SDB

Traditionally, Christmas Day in the Philippines is ushered in by the nine-day dawn Masses that start on December 16th. Originally, it popularly came to be known as *Misa Aguinaldo* or also known as the *Misa de Gallo* (Rooster's Mass) in the traditional Spanish, and these Masses are also more popularly known in Tagalog as *Simbang Gabi*, or "Dawn Mass".

Why Misa Aguinaldo? De Aguinaldo means gift, which is peculiar to Christmas. That is why the faithful wake up early for nine days before Christmas to join in the celebration of the dawn Mass. The faithful make this their "Aguinaldo" to God for the great gift of Jesus. The practice can also be understood as the preparation of the faithful to receive from God the great gift or "Aguinaldo" of Christmas, which is Jesus, the savior of the world.

Why *Misa de Gallo*? Usually, the rooster crows at the break of dawn. During the old times, farmers as well as fishermen use the roosters as their alarm clock. So, upon the first crow of the rooster, they wake up early to drop by the church before going to their work and ask for the grace of good harvest. Originally the Mass was celebrated for them.

These nine dawn Masses are also considered as a novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Catholic faithful. This refers to the Roman Catholic practice of performing nine days of private or public devotion to obtain special graces. In traditional Catholic belief, completing the novena is also supposed to mean that God might grant the devotee's special wish or favor.

Simbang Gabi has become one of the most popular traditions in the country. It is a significant moment not only because it strengthens relationships among family members and parishioners but also because it is the time where our faith is intensified. This is the time where we mostly feel the presence of the Lord because it is the spiritual preparation for Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. It does not matter if one has the stamina to complete the novena or not, what really matters is what is inside the heart. The blessing does not depend on the number of Masses attended, but what is important is the disposition of the person who receives the Lord's blessing.

Over the generations, local Filipino faith communities have creatively adapted *Simbang Gabi*. While only candles and lanterns are used in rural areas, as in centuries past, most churches today have electric lights, lanterns and sound system is keeping with the economic means of the congregation. The annual *Simbang Gabi* provides a strong indication of the dept Catholicism in the hearts of Filipinos.