



**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.

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**DECEMBER 28, 2025 | THE HOLY FAMILY**

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## **OUR STAFF**

### **Pastor**

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

### **Business Administrator**

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

### **Director of Facilities and Maintenance**

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mike.kelleher@stpascals.org

### **Pastoral Associate for Music**

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### **Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation**

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### **Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care**

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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**

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

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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



Art by James B. Janknegt © 2008

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## **Mass Times**

Saturday 4:30 PM | Sunday 8:45 & 10:30 AM (ASL) | Tuesday through Friday 8:00 AM

1757 Conway Street | Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 | 651.774.1585

[www.stpascals.org](http://www.stpascals.org) | [church@stpascals.org](mailto:church@stpascals.org)

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

**On behalf of all of us here at St. Pascal Baylon Parish,** I wish you a Blessed New Year 2026. Making a fresh start with a new year is a good thing. We look ahead with eyes of faith to the next 365 days, knowing that God is with us on our daily journey as individuals and as a parish community.

**This upcoming Thursday, January 1, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.** This solemnity is the oldest Marian feast day in the Roman liturgical calendar and developed in the 5th century during the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD. We believe that Mary is the Mother of God because we believe that Jesus is one divine person with two natures, fully God and fully human. When Mary gave birth to Jesus, she did not give birth to a nature, or even two natures. She gave birth to one divine person. Among the themes of this Solemnity:

- 1) It is the Octave of Christmas and our remembrance of Mary's motherhood connects nicely to the Nativity of Jesus
- 2) January 1 is a day of prayer for world peace, and Mary is the mother of the Prince of Peace
- 3) January 1 is the first day of a new calendar year, and Mary continues to bring new life to her children through her maternal care for all of us and her intercession on our behalf.

**Looking ahead, I will be on vacation from January 12-22.** You will be in my thoughts and prayers as I enjoy some warm weather in Florida. While I am gone, there will be no weekday Masses here from January 13 to January 22. The first weekday Mass after my vacation will be Friday, January 23.

**On the weekend of January 17-18,** Father Chuck Huck, a retired priest from the Diocese of Crookston, will be here to preside at the weekend Masses and speak of "Food for the Poor," which is an ecumenical Christian nonprofit organization that provides food, medicine, shelter and other services to the poor in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Mark your calendars: Winter Game Night, Friday, January 23, 6:30–8:30 PM in Brioschi Hall.** Bingo, trivia, and more! All ages are welcome. Sponsored by the Parish Life and Activities Committee.

**Attention: Women ages 16-35. Are you discerning your vocation?** On Tuesday, January 27, 6:00–8:00 PM, Archbishop Hebda will host a Miriam Dinner at the Archdiocesan Catholic Center, 777 Forest Street, St. Paul, for women discerning a call to consecrated life. I would be happy to accompany you to the dinner, if you wish. Register online at [10000vocations.org/events](http://10000vocations.org/events) before Thursday, January 22. For more information, call: 651.962.6890 or email: [stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org](mailto:stpaulvocations@10000vocations.org).

**Prayer Intention of Pope Leo XIV for January 2026:** Let us pray that praying with the Word of God will be nourishment in our lives and a source of hope in our communities and help us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

## Holiday Grief & Growing Through Loss Spring 2026

The holiday season can be a challenge for any of us who are missing a loved one who has died. Find a holiday grief resource in the kiosk in the gathering space. Looking ahead to next year, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church will host the East Metro Growing Through Loss series from April 14 to May 12, 2026. All are welcome! More information will be available in the new year at [www.growingthroughlosseastmetro.com](http://www.growingthroughlosseastmetro.com) or contact Barb Uschold Anderson at 651.432.4959.

## — SOCIAL JUSTICE & CARING —

### January Donation Closet

Our collection this month is for Brittany's Place, an emergency shelter in St. Paul for girls and young women who have experienced commercial sex trafficking or are at high risk for sexual exploitation.

#### NEW items needed are:

##### Clothing (sizes small – XXL)

- Colorful and cozy hoodies, oversized
- Joggers (all colors)
- New winter boots (sizes 6 - 12)
- Slippers (sizes 6 - 12)
- Tennis shoes (sizes 6-12)

##### Personal care products (prefer ethnic based)

- Shea butter shampoo and conditioner
- Shea butter soap
- Aragon hair oil
- Ethnic hair care products (Y-tooth comb, bristle brush)
- Hair bonnets/turbans
- CeraVe facial cleanser
- CeraVe lotion
- Seabreeze astringent
- Dove body wash

##### Ensure a Dignified Shelter Exit

- Duffle bags/sports bags (new)
- Suitcases (gently used OK)

##### Donation Closet Guidelines

The SJCC is grateful for your generosity in contributing items for our various collections. To help us maintain an orderly donation closet, *please leave requested items only* for a given organization/month. We publish the monthly organizations and items requested in weekly bulletins, the *Pascal's Pulse* e-newsletter, and outside the donation closet. Note that paper and plastic bags are collected year-round for the food distribution programs at Progressive Baptist and St. Pascal's. Thank you for your assistance!

### First Friday Social

*Friday, January 2, 2025*

You are invited to gather in Brioschi Hall after the 8:00 AM Mass for coffee, tea, treats, and fellowship. Bring a friend, stay for conversation. ALL are welcome! Raise a cup of coffee to the New Year!

### Baptism Preparation

*Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:30-8:00 PM*

Those wishing to have a child baptized at St. Pascal's are asked to participate in a pre-baptism session. To register for the next session on Monday, January 12, or for more information about baptism at St. Pascal's, please contact Kim Roering at [kim.roering@stpascals.org](mailto:kim.roering@stpascals.org) (651.432.4958).

— ST. PASCAL REGIONAL —  
AN ASCENSION CATHOLIC ACADEMY SCHOOL

**Celebrating the Season**

Every December, we celebrate a small but meaningful tradition at St. Pascal, during which Principal Ms. Collier Paske personally delivers each teacher and staff member their favorite caffeinated drink as a simple way to say "Thank You." It's our way of honoring the dedication, joy and countless unseen moments of care our staff pours into students every single day. A warm cup, a quick hallway smile and a reminder that their work is seen, valued, and deeply appreciated. We are so grateful for this incredible team and the excellence they bring to our school community.

**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/](http://stpascalschool.org/enroll/).

**We're Hiring**

We are looking for a Lead Preschool Teacher and a long-term Substitute Teacher for Middle School Social Studies and Religion. Learn more and apply at [careers.archspm.org/](http://careers.archspm.org/). Search on Ascension Academy to find the listings.

**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 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 and 7:00 PM in the Staff Lounge. We invite all parish women to join either group for our monthly discussions. You can come as often as your schedule and interests allow.

On January 12, we will discuss *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg. It is a moving story about three people who find their way back from loss and loneliness.

On February 9, we will share thoughts on *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocum. For a list of the 2026 selections, contact Toni Baker at [toni@bakers.us](mailto:toni@bakers.us) or stop in at the parish office.

*This is the time to be slow, Lie low to the wall until the bitter weather passes.*

—John O'Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us*

**Winter Game Night**

*Friday, January 23, 2026 from 6:30-8:30 PM in Brioschi Hall*

Join us for a fun evening of bingo, trivia, and more! All ages are welcome. The evening is FREE. A free-will offering will be taken, and guests are asked to bring a snack to share. Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are preferred. RSVP by using the convenient SignUp Genius link at [stpascals.org](http://stpascals.org) or by calling the parish office at 651.774.1585. Questions? Contact Kim Roering in the parish office.

*Sponsored by the Parish Life and Activities Committee.*

— AROUND THE PARISH —

**Parish Office Holiday Hours**

We are closed January 1, 2026 for New Year's Day. Have a beautiful and safe holiday season!

**Giving Statements for 2025**

We can send your giving statements via email using a secure server. We save on postage and reduce our environmental impact with this system. Year-end statements will be sent in January via email. Individuals who do not have an email address on file will continue to receive their year-end statements in the mail or, if you need a paper copy, please contact Theresa Ruttger at 651.432.4960.

**Long May She Wave**

Due to wear and tear from Minnesota's unrelenting elements, St. Pascal's needs to replace its American flag. We need either a 3-foot-by-5-foot or a 4-foot-by-6-foot outdoor flag. If you would like to donate towards a new flag, contact Mike Kelleher at [mike.kelleher@stpascals.org](mailto:mike.kelleher@stpascals.org).

**Weekly Rosary in the New Year!**

The gentle repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery and to help us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells. Join us every Wednesday at 8:30 AM in the church to pray the Rosary together. All are welcome!

**Volunteer Opportunity**

St. Pascal Baylon enjoys well over 100 views of our weekend liturgies on the parish YouTube channel each week. We welcome our online viewers to our faith community!

We are looking for people to help operate the livestream camera for the 4:30 PM Saturday Mass. The time commitment would be roughly one weekend per month, and training is provided. If you want to help with this fun and important ministry or if you have any questions, please get in touch with Mike Kelleher in the parish office at [mike.kelleher@stpascals.org](mailto:mike.kelleher@stpascals.org).

— 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  
*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](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****Tuesday, December 30**

8:00 AM Camille King

**Wednesday, December 31**

8:00 AM + Polly Tate

4:00 AM The people of the parish

**Thursday, January 01***Mary, Mother of God*

10:00 AM The people of the parish

**Friday, January 02**

8:00 AM Men's Club

**Saturday, January 03**

4:30 PM + Mary Sikorski

**Sunday, January 04***The Epiphany of the Lord*

8:45 AM The people of the parish

10:30 AM + Nick Jelinek

**Readings**

December 28, 2025

**Sunday:***The Holy Family*  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14Ps 128:1-5  
Col 3:12-21

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**Monday:**1 Jn 2:3-11  
Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6  
Lk 2:22-35**Tuesday:**1 Jn 2:12-17  
Ps 96:7-10  
Lk 2:36-40**Wednesday:**1 Jn 2:18-21  
Ps 96:1-2, 11-13  
Jn 1:1-18**Thursday:***Mary, Mother of God*  
Nm 6:22-27  
Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8  
Gal 4:4-7  
Lk 2:16-21**Friday:**1 Jn 2:22-28  
Ps 98:1-4  
Jn 1:19-28**Saturday:**1 Jn 2:29—3:6  
Ps 98:1, 3c-6  
Jn 1:29-34**Next Sunday:***The 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 28—Holy Family**

No scheduled events

**Monday, December 29**

6:30pm Boy Scouts: Old Church

**Tuesday, December 30, 2025**

No scheduled events

**Wednesday, December 31—New Year's Eve**

8:30am Rosary: Church

4:00pm Holy Day Mass: Church

**Thursday, January 1, 2026—Mary, Mother Of God**

New Year's Day

Parish office closed

10:00am Holy Day Mass: Church

**Friday, January 2, 2026**

No scheduled events

**Saturday, January 3, 2026**

8:00am First Friday Social: Brioschi Hall

**Sunday, January 4, 2026—Epiphany**

11:45am Confirmation I: Old Church

**Monday, January 5, 2026**

6:30pm Boy Scouts: Old Church

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

6:30pm Pastoral Council: Staff Lounge

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026**

8:30am Rosary: Church

6:30pm Faith Formation: Campus

**Thursday, January 8, 2026**

9:30am Small Group 9: Spiritual Direction Room

6:00pm Men's Club Board &amp; Membership Meeting: Brioschi Hall

6:30pm SJCC: Zoom

**Friday, January 9, 2026**

No scheduled events

**Saturday, January 10, 2026**

No scheduled events

**Sunday, January 11, 2026—Baptism of the Lord**

11:30am Confirmation II: Old Church

**Vatican Unveiled at the Mall of America***January 10 – February 1, 2026, daily*

In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Catholic Church in Minnesota, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis is hosting “Vatican Unveiled”, an exhibit of the largest collection of papal artifacts outside of Rome. Some of the items in this unique, historical collection include a document with the second oldest papal signature outside of the Vatican and a Swiss Guard uniform from the time of Pius X so rare that the Swiss Guard asked to borrow it for their own exhibit. The 19,000 square foot exhibit is open and welcoming to all—experience interesting historical perspectives, artistic items with old-world craftsmanship, and papal artifacts that show the humanity behind the leaders. To purchase tickets, go to [www.archspm.org/vaticanunveiled](http://www.archspm.org/vaticanunveiled).

**St. Pascal's Legacy Society**

**Tax Efficient Legacy of Faith.** Gifts of life insurance policies to St. Pascal's can yield substantial tax savings to you while maximizing your Legacy gift. Consult with your tax adviser. For 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.

**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!

**Stewardship of Giving: November 2025**

Reconciled Financials for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

**Sunday Giving**

|          |              |              |               |
|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Giving   | \$ 85,732.82 | YTD Giving   | \$ 335,910.35 |
| Budgeted | \$ 67,928.06 | YTD Budgeted | \$ 335,220.30 |
| + / -    | \$ 17,804.76 | YTD + / -    | \$ + 690.05   |

**Mortgage Reduction (as of 11.30.2025)**

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Loan Balance:             | \$ 2,294,210.94 |
| Principal:                | \$ 4,536.49     |
| Interest:                 | \$ 14,140.65    |
| Monthly Payment           | \$ 18,677.14    |
| YTD Collected Donations   | \$ 118,959.34   |
| YTD Payment:              | \$ 93,385.70    |
| + / -                     | \$ + 25,573.64  |
| Reserve Account Balance:  | \$ 92,512.96    |
| # of payments in Reserve: | 5               |

**Thank you for your support!**



# Christmas FLOWERS

*Thank you to all who donated money for flowers and enhancements for our worship space during this holy season.*

*Let us hold the following in our hearts...*

**Dedicated in memory or honor of:**

Aleski Family  
Marianne Anderson  
Gregory Arko  
Len Atzmiller, Father-in-Law  
The Bannick Family  
Edmund & Mary Barnes  
Bednarz Family  
Behling Family  
Family Members  
Don I. Carlson  
Lona & Michael Carney  
Olivia Clarke  
John Daniewicz  
Deceased Family Members  
Marcie Ellis  
Mary Hiber Fenn  
Steve Flottmeyer  
Andrew Gerbozy  
My Sister, Nancy Ann (Jarosch) Gerlach  
Donald & Della Girling  
Vince & Margaret Graupmann  
Grausnick Family  
Edward Graw  
Joseph & Patricia Grill  
Denny Groess  
David N. Hanson  
John R. Hanson  
Shelly A. Harm  
Deceased Family Members  
Mary Hawkins  
Mary, Jim & Greg Hawkins  
Tim Heille, Son  
Don Hensel & all my loved ones in eternity  
Kenneth, Betty, Michael & Steve Hough  
Igielski Family  
Kathleen Ann Jarosch  
Joan & Larry Jarosiewicz  
Matilda & Marko Jurkovich  
Susie Korf  
Susan Korf, Wife  
Walter & Angie Korf, Parents  
Roberta Korf, Step Mom  
Jackie Kramlinger  
Ed & Ann Kramlinger  
Steve Krampe  
Krupich Family  
Jack Kubiak

**Dedicated by:**

Christine Aleski  
Mike & Terri Grill  
Martha Arko  
Rodney Korf  
Jeanne Hess  
Joe & Margie Fernlund  
Chris Igielski  
Toni Behling  
Joann Bertini  
Shirley A. Hanson  
Linda Spence  
Anonymous  
Kathleen Daniewicz  
Bill & Ora Dorgan  
Patricia Ellis  
Kathy Hiber  
Ann Flottmeyer  
Darlene Gerbozy  
Kenneth B. Jarosch  
Girling, Friesen & Westenhofer families  
Girling, Friesen & Westenhofer families  
Dan & Pam Norton  
Your Family  
Mike & Terri Grill  
Yolanda Groess  
Deborah L. Hanson  
Shirley A. Hanson  
Deborah L. Hanson  
Joan & Bob Hauri  
Anonymous  
Stephen  
Nancy Heille  
Betty Hensel  
Linda Spence  
Chris Igielski  
Kenneth B. Jarosch  
Nancy Heille  
Martha Arko  
Girling, Friesen & Westenhofer families  
Rodney Korf  
Rodney Korf  
Rodney Korf  
Joe Kramlinger  
Ann Flottmeyer  
Christine Gamardt  
Marlene Krupich  
Lisa & Sue Kubiak

**Dedicated in memory or honor of:**

St. Pascal Faith Community  
Mike Leier  
Nick Leis  
Ralph & Jackie Logan  
Luis & Angela Lopez  
Salvador Lopez  
My Grandparents Cecil & Irene Mack  
Marusich Family  
Ro May  
My Parents John & Gerry McKenzie  
Gerry & John McKenzie  
Mike & Joanne McMahon  
Doris & Joe Milla  
Georgine & Richard Misuka  
Ray Muetzel  
Kathryn Munoz  
Norton Family  
Pishko Family  
Dorothy Pretski  
Matthew David Rapacz  
Mary Reiners  
Loved Ones  
Family & Friends  
Dave Runing  
Schelling Family  
Joe & Dee Schmitz  
Bernard & Veronica Schobe  
Patrick, Trish, Mary, Mike & Tom Scoles  
Mary Sikorski  
Ronald Snyder  
William C. Spicer  
Jim Stach  
Johanna Stenzel  
Merrill Stenzel  
Stonis Family  
Mary Tacheny  
John & Lorraine Trad  
Jodi Timmons  
Our Parents  
Rosanne Uschold  
Kay & Bernie Vagnoni  
Paul Vogel  
John & Savina Vukelich  
Thomas Welch  
Betty & Louis Welter  
Ralf Westenhofer  
Francisco & Elvira Yanez  
Dean, Gloria & Kyle Zilley  
Harold & June Zimmer

**Dedicated by:**

David Larson  
Lois Leier  
Dianne Leis  
Girling, Friesen & Westenhofer families  
Fran & Geraldine Lopez  
Fran & Geraldine Lopez  
John M. McKenzie  
Toni Behling  
Girling, Friesen & Westenhofer families  
John M. McKenzie  
Kathleen Daniewicz  
Shawn & Sue McMahon  
Karen Shanley  
Carol Luedtke  
Eileen Mutetzel  
Anonymous  
Dan & Pam Norton  
Christine Aleski  
Doug & Lynn Kennedy  
David & Diane Rapacz  
Anonymous  
Norma Roscoe  
Carol Rueb  
Dave & Sue Nechrebecki  
Chris Igielski  
Doug & Lynn Kennedy  
Stephen  
Catherine Scoles  
Scott Sikorski & Barb Bassett  
Kathryn Snyder  
Deborah L. Hanson  
Anonymous  
Shirley A. Hanson  
Shirley A. Hanson  
Chris Igielski  
Anonymous  
Nancy Heille  
Linda Spence  
John & Brenda (Kuehn) Urbanski  
Barb Uschold Anderson  
Anonymous  
Marlene Krupich  
John & Linda Vukelich  
Marge Arney  
Fr. David & Dan Zimmer  
Girling, Friesen & Westenhofer families  
Fran & Geraldine Lopez  
Eric Zilley  
Fr. Dave & Dan Zimmer



**LORD JESUS,**

You have come to us as a small child,  
but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts,  
the gift of eternal love.

*St. Bernard of Clairvaux*



## RECLAIMING SUNDAYS

On the last weekend of each month, St. Pascal's is including an insert in the bulletin with the coming month's theme and suggested activities from *Reclaiming Sundays: Recover Sunday as a Day for the Lord and Family* published by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Copies of the complete guide are available in the kiosk and online at [archspm.org/sundays](http://archspm.org/sundays).

### JANUARY

#### *Invitation and Prayer*

“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.” *Pope Francis*

Pope Francis reminds all Christians in *Evangelli Gaudium* that the joy that transforms our lives when we encounter the living Jesus is a joy that must be shared.

#### SAMPLE ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY:

- Invite someone outside of your family to share an aspect of your “reclaimed Sunday” (e.g., invite a neighbor for dinner, ask family friends to go on a walk with you).
- Liturgical Living: Intentionally celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. (E.g., light candles and have a little procession to place the Magi in your Nativity scene, use blessed chalk to bless your doorways, eat a meal of middle Eastern food, sing “We Three Kings,” etc.) Invite someone to share your celebration.
- Liturgical Living: Celebrate the Baptism of the Lord by remembering your own family baptisms. Light your candles, look at photos and videos from the sacramental celebration, invite godparents to share your celebration, bless each other with holy water, pray for your godparents, pray for the priests who baptized you all, etc. While you have all these mementos out, document your family’s baptism dates and mark them on your calendar to celebrate in years to come.
- Recommended resource to assist in building habits of prayer is the Hallow App.

#### **At St. Pascal's...**

- A family-friendly Epiphany home blessing can be found on the reverse side. Chalk will be available in a basket in the gathering space on January 3 & 4 or contact Kim in the parish office.
- We are called to live out our baptism each day. Take some time to reflect on ways your baptism leads you to share in the life and mission of Christ.

The traditional date of Epiphany is January 6, but in the United States it is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

It is a long-held Catholic tradition to bless one's home on (or near) the celebration of the Epiphany by using chalk to write a special inscription above the home's entrance.

The inscription written over the door changes every year. For this year, you should write: "20 + C + M + B + 26." The Letters C, M, and B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first letters of the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The + signs represent the cross, and 2026 is the year.

Here is a very family-friendly Epiphany home blessing.

### **Blessing the Chalk**

Adult: Our help is the name of the Lord:  
All: The maker of heaven and earth.

Adult: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:  
All: From this time forth for evermore.

Adult: The Lord be with you.  
All: And also with you.

Adult: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all who use it in faith to write upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit their home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Instructions for Blessing the Home**

Optional Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-16.

Also optional, you can sprinkle holy water in each room of your house while singing hymns or praying the rosary. Then gather at the front door to your home.

Using the blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your front door (or front porch step, or a wall within your home) as follows:

20 + C + M + B + 26

saying:

*The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-six years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.*

Then say the following prayer:

*Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*

