

Saint Pascal Church

3935 North Melvina Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60634-2527
www.stpascal.org

Phone 773-725-7641
FAX 773-725-9368



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2011



THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

God's blessings to you and your loved ones on this beautiful and joyous day of Christmas! Christ is born! The human race is touched by God as He becomes one of us. It was an event awaited for so many dark centuries and then it happened! Jesus, born to Joseph and Mary, truly human, truly God.

My prayer for you is that this Christmas will be one of happiness and joy. These are hard days, for sure, and perhaps there will be fewer gifts under the tree. But look to the people who are with you, and thank God for them, for they are the greatest gifts we can be given in this life. So if Grandpa is a little cranky, do what you can to cheer him up. If Mom is working too hard, pitch in and help her out. If the kids are making too much noise, get on the floor and play with them, it will make you feel young again.

The church looks great, doesn't it? We have our Art and Environment group to thank for that. The choir has worked hard for months preparing the music. But more than anything else, what makes our church beautiful today is you. Your presence, your prayers — these are the gifts we seek and hope for throughout the year. To those who are here all the time, you loyal and devoted believers, thank you. To those who don't come so often, come on, we want you here! The feast is always better when more people come.

God bless you this wonderful Christmas day!

DID IT THROW YOU???

If you haven't been to Mass in a while, you surely noticed we are using some different words at Mass. This was just instituted at the beginning of Advent. Many of us still are trying to get the hang of it, so don't worry. The changes came in the hopes of bringing the words we use into closer proximity to the original Latin. It will take some time and we're just having fun with it, even as we make it a part of our prayer, hopefully deepening our devotion. Don't let it throw you, or bother you. just jump in!

...AND THEN HE SAID...

Please be sure to check the schedule included in this bulletin of the Masses for next weekend and the office hours at

Save the Dates!!

January 22– Respect Life Hour
 January 29 - School Open House
 February 25 - Trivia Night
 March 4 - Alumni Mass
 April 27- St. Pascal Award Silent Auction Dinner Dance



Watch the bulletin for details of these events!

the rectory. We're going to try to catch up on some house-keeping and so we'll be closed a couple days. We will be checking messages regularly, so if no one answers the phone when you call, we'll try to get back to you as soon as possible.

HITTING A HOME RUN!

As this year ends, we will soon be coming to the end of the Annual Catholic Appeal. This year has been especially important for us. The Archdiocese has been matching each dollar donated by us to go against our debt. We have made wonderful progress! At last check we are still about \$80,000 in the red. I hope we can crush this debt. If you haven't made a donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal or want to make a further donation, please do so. You can make the check out to Saint Pascal and be sure to mark it ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL in the memo. We have until January 31, 2012 to receive the matching funds. Please help keep our parish family on firm financial ground!

HELPING OUR OWN

As you can see, we have four trees in the church covered with beautiful red ornaments. This is the second year of "Watch the Love Grow" a program unique to Saint Pascal. For weeks, people have been donating money to "sponsor" an ornament. The money will be given to two Saint Pascal families, the Tufano's and the Gonzalez's, who are facing catastrophic medical bills. To add to this, we will be having a gala Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday January 14, at 5 PM, right after the 4 PM Mass in Heimsath Hall.

Just recently, one of our fine parishioners, Mike Garcia, has become seriously ill. Like the Tufano and Gonzalez families, the Garcia's have been heavily involved in parish activities. We want to help out Mike so the Scouts will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast.

We hope everybody will come by, eat well and enjoy these events for a good cause. If you'd just like to make a donation, you can send your gift to the rectory and it will be shared among these three families to help cover medical bills. Doesn't it feel good to help people!

Little Ways to Help St. Pascal.....

Help keep us number one in the Dream Machine Recycling Program while ensuring that we will be one of the quarterly \$3000.00 winners by sending in your plastic drink bottles and aluminum cans. Our recycling efforts also benefits our Veterans.



Christmas Crèches

Something new has been added to the environment in Church for the Christmas season. The display of Christmas Crèches near the Dakin St. entrance is a collection of Fr. Dore's (with 3 additional ones).

Each crèche enhances our understanding that Jesus' coming has no political, national or ethnic boundaries. Jesus' mission to unite all peoples into one family.

Please take a few moments to view them. They will be on display until the Feast of the Epiphany, January 8.

Thank you to the Art & Environment Committee and the maintenance staff for their advice and help in setting up the display.



BENEFITS OF REGISTERING AT SAINT PASCAL

Keeping up with a parish of 2000 families can be a challenge! Saint Pascal also serves many more families who are not registered but who still come to us for pastoral care. It is beneficial for both the parish administration and the individual families to be registered. Registration is a confirmation of our desire and commitment to give ourselves to God and to one another in our community of faith. Our weekly offering is a prayer expressed through our material gifts received through our labors.

There are many concerns and difficulties that may make some reluctant to make this commitment. Some of the benefits of being registered include:

1. You will receive important mailings at Christmas, Easter and other times throughout the year, keeping you up to date on parish news.
2. Registration is proof of membership in the Church.
3. Preference of choice of dates for your Church celebrations.
4. Regular mailings of envelopes for Sunday offerings with name, address, and a number assigned to each registered parishioner printed on each envelope. Your offerings are confidentially recorded by our staff for proof of donations and tax purposes. Without using envelopes, we cannot verify your donations.
5. Persons involved in lay ministry should be registered in the parish.

Parishes often request verification of a person's status as a practicing Catholic, attendance at Mass, etc., when a person has been asked to be a Godparent or sponsor. Without registration, no such verification can be given.

If you would like to register, please stop by at the parish office and our staff will be happy to assist you.



Christmas Hours for the Parish Office

- Saturday, December 24th Open 9:00 am- 1:00pm
- Sunday, Christmas Day Closed
- Monday, December 26th Closed
- Tuesday, December 27th Open 8:30 am- 3:00pm
- Wednesday, December 28th
Closed for Office Cleaning
- Thursday, December 29th
Closed for Office Cleaning
- Friday, December 30th Open 8:30 am- 3:00pm
- Saturday, December 31st Open 9:00 am- 1:00pm
- Sunday, New Years Day Closed
- Monday, January 2nd Closed
- Tuesday, January 3rd back to usual hours

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24
3:45PM Carols 4:00PM Mass
9:30PM Polish Mass

11:30PM Carols Mass at Midnight

Be sure to invite your friends to our Christmas Day Mass!

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25
8:00AM, 10:00AM and 12:00PM (Polish)

Saturday, December 31
Mass at 4:00PM

Sunday, January 1
Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
8:00AM, 10:00AM and 12:00PM (Polish)

Join in the blessings of Christmas at St. Pascal and may God bless you this Christmas and always!



**ALOHA
Mark Your Calendar!**

**St. Pascal Award Silent Auction
and Dinner Dance will be held
April 27, 2012**

Watch the bulletin for more details!



**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SAINT PASCAL CONFERENCE**

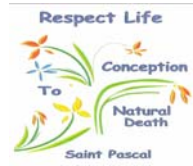
MERRY CHRISTMAS! On this joy-filled day, as we gaze on the infant child in the crib, we see God's great love for us and the SACREDNESS of human life. When our families gather to break bread, we will pray grace at the table as a sign of our thankfulness to a merciful God. Also, because of your kindness and concern, many parish families will celebrate with a delicious meal provided with your generous contributions of food and money. We thank you on their behalf, and wish you and your families the abundance of God's blessings. We are grateful that ours is such a caring and responsive faith-filled community.



"Changing"

Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night.

~Pope Benedict XVI Homily at Mass
for the Solemnity, of the Nativity of the Lord,
December 25, 2008



MERRY CHRISTMAS!
*From the Respect Life & Prayer
Shawl Ministries of
St. Pascal*

**The Small Christian Community
Core Committee prays that everyone
has a blessed and Merry Christmas!**



Come, receive the gifts of deeper faith, hope, and love by joining a Small Christian Community this Lent. The next season of our Small Christian Community meetings will begin the week of February 12, 2012. Make it a part of your Lenten experience. For more information, watch future bulletins for more details, or contact the rectory.

**Merry Christmas
from St. Pascal Bingo**

Open Thursdays Nights Doors open at 5pm Game begins at 7pm
Heimsath Hall (School Gym) Closed December 22nd

Father Paul's Birthday Bingo Bash Thurs. Dec. 29th

New Year's Eve (Thurs): Doors open at 5pm ~ Game at 7pm

Free Birthday Cake!

\$2,000 guaranteed payout

Corporate Sponsorship Available!

Bethlehem Reflection by seminarians Kevin McCray and Rafal Stecz

“And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.” (Mt 2:6)

It is hard to believe that we have been in Bethlehem for almost two weeks. We are part of the third year theology class from Mundelein Seminary. It is in the third year, where we spend the winter quarter in the Holy Land, being both a student and a pilgrim. We left Chicago December 1st, and will return in mid-February. Our travels during this pilgrimage will imitate Christ's life, in which we travel in his footsteps—from his birth in Bethlehem, to his childhood and young adulthood in Galilee, to his ministry and death in Jerusalem.

Our first impression is that Bethlehem is a city of peace. Bethlehem has greeted us pilgrims like Christ greeted his people, when he would say, “Be not afraid”, or “Peace be with you.”—and so he does even in our age. Even with the mixture of cultures and religions in the city, it exudes a tranquility that most cities lack. You can feel it as you walk the hilly streets bathed in moonlight. You can also feel it in the friendliness of the people you encounter throughout the day, regardless of their religious beliefs. The people of Bethlehem are a relationship-oriented people and it shows in the hospitality they extend to strangers and travelers.

By being pilgrims to Bethlehem, we continue the tradition that was started immediately after our Savior was born. We read in scripture that the Good News was proclaimed by an Angel to shepherds in the fields, that a Savior was born that day. The shepherds said, ***“Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”*** (Lk 2:16)

We also read in Matthew, of the Wise Men, who journeyed from the East to seek the newly born “King of the Jews”, so they could worship him. Having found him, ***“they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts...”*** (Mt 2:11).

And so we, who find ourselves this Advent season as travelers and pilgrims, find ourselves in Bethlehem, paying homage to the Gift that came to this place over 2000 years ago, the place where God entered into our world in the form of a little baby.

Daily we see an endless stream of tour groups coming from around the world to visit the grotto. They kiss the star in the floor, which indicates the cave where Jesus was born. They touch rosaries and other religious items to this venerated spot, items that will be given to others once they return home. In spending a Holy Hour at the place of Christ's birth, we have seen the sacred and the profane. We have seen pilgrims in deep humility and reverence kiss the sacred star with tears of joy in their eyes, and we have seen tourists snapping pictures as if they were at Disney World. But that is the world that Jesus came to save. He who is the sacred has come to our profane existence that we might have Peace and Life in abundance.

The Church of the Nativity was originally built with a massive door as its entrance, but in the Middle Ages it was made smaller. Even later the Muslims, who venerate Jesus as a Holy Prophet, came to the Holy Land. They made the door even smaller. In fact, they made it so small that to enter the church one has to stoop. Regardless of one's station in life, rich or poor, healthy or diseased, beautiful or homely, intelligent or simple, powerful or weak, all have to stoop and bow as they arrive to pay homage to Christ's birthplace. We read in Philippians, ***“that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”*** (Phil 2:10-11) It makes sense that we should bow before the baby, just like the shepherds and wise men did over 2000 years ago, who showed us how to humble oneself for others and to die to self so that all may have life in its fullness.

As we humbly continue to journey in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, please be assured that you the parishioners of St. Pascal will continue to be in our prayers as we visit the holy places, and that you will be in our prayers and in our intentions during Mass. We ask that you keep us in your prayers and that we all pray for the Peace that Christ came to bestow on us his chosen people. May you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



PRAYER CORNER

This week we pray:



For the community of the church. May the Good News come to life in us, and may we speak the living word of the gospel at all times.



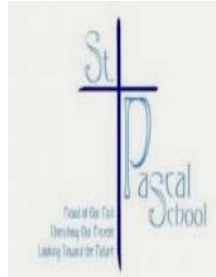
Recycling Is Our Connection to the Future!

WE ACCEPT ALL: newspaper, magazines, catalogs, mail, envelopes, folders, fax & copy paper (No cardboard nor phone books, please.)

THE PAPER RETRIEVERS ARE IN THE MOODY ST. PARKING LOT, SO, FILL 'EM UP! PROCEEDS GO TO RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE.



SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, March 4, 2012



We are excited to announce the 3rd ALL Saint Pascal School Reunion to be held on **Sunday, March 4, 2012**. We will begin with 10:30 AM Mass celebrated by our very own (1951) graduate, renowned philosopher, noted writer, and Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal Francis George. After Mass, all alums are invited to Heimsath Hall for coffee and... Graduates will have the opportunity to reminisce, chat over coffee, take a guided tour with current St Pascal students, share memorabilia, reconnect with long lost friends and much more. What a great opportunity!

So ...

1. If you are a Saint Pascal School graduate, mark your calendar for **March 4th**.
2. Tell friends & family who also graduated from Saint Pascal.
3. Sign up on www.stpascalschool.com, and click on the "Alumni" tab to be included in the alumni directory and to get further information.

Questions?? Email: schoolboard@stpascalschool.com and a member of the Alumni Committee will contact you.

You are already a part of St. Pascal history, why not display your school pride? We are creating an Alumni Wall in the school. Ceramic tiles to display your name and graduating year are being sold for \$10. These tiles can be purchased at all alumni events. However, you can print an order form online at www.stpascalschool.com, "Alumni" tab.

Send the form and your check or money order to the school:

St. Pascal School
Attention: Alumni Committee
6143 W Irving Park Road.
Chicago, IL. 60634



Attention Vendors!!



Be a vendor at the 2012 "St. Pascal Carnival Market." St. Pascal parishioners, are especially welcome! This is your chance to advertise to the parish community.

✓ **Friday, June 15—Sunday, June 17, 2012**

✓ **Market hours 4:00 P.M.—7:00 P.M. during carnival dates**

✓ **8 ft. tables**

✓ **New location & hours ensure plenty of foot traffic**

✓ **A reasonable fee of \$45.00 covers all three days!**

For more information, or to reserve your space now, please contact

Pam Rubeo, c/o St. Pascal Church, 3935 N. Melvina Ave. Chicago, Illinois 60634

prubeo@sbcglobal.net 773-387-8133

Help us make history...

*Have You Been a
Parishioner of
St. Pascal's for
Over 40 Years?*



The 100th Anniversary Committee is looking to interview long-time parishioners of Saint Pascal. We will ask about your family, neighborhood, favorite memories, changes over time at the church, and more. The committee will be video taping the interviews beginning in February 2012. Please consider adding your story to the history of the church! If you or someone you know has been in the parish for more than 40 years and are interested in being interviewed, please contact Mary Boss at 773-283-7613.

Do you have any old photos or other memorabilia relative to Saint Pascal that you would consider donating or lending to the Anniversary Committee? If so, please drop it off at the rectory to the attention of the 100th Anniversary Committee, or e-mail it to SaintPascalWebsite@yahoo.com. If the pictures are of people or events, the committee would appreciate any detailed information that can be provided.

STEWARDSHIP FOR DEC 17/18, 2011

Due to the Holiday, reporting will be delayed

Thank you for your generosity!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." - Luke 2:7 Where is Jesus in your life? Have you made room for Him or is He still in the manger wrapped in rags? If we are living our lives like all the rest of the modern and commercial world, we may be leaving Jesus out. It might be time to pick up this Infant Child and make Him a priority in our lives.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
- Friday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
- Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
- Monday: St. Stephen
- Tuesday: St. John
- Wednesday: The Holy Innocents
- Thursday: St. Thomas Becket
- Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Saturday: St. Sylvester I



"I'LL LIGHT A CANDLE FOR YOU..."

Many people offer the traditional gift of prayer by lighting a candle for a deceased loved one or a special intention. The candle represents our continued prayers, long after we have left the church. Lately, there has been an obvious decline in the money offered for the candles. We still maintain the inexpensive donation of \$2 per candle. We need this to cover our costs and obligations. Please don't forget to make the offering as you offer your prayer. Thank you.



WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR ST. PASCAL

- Sunday, December 25, 2011**
Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25
8:00AM, 10:00AM and 12:00PM (Polish)
- Monday, December 26, 2011** Rectory Closed
- Tuesday, December 27, 2011** Rectory Closed
- Wednesday, December 28, 2011** Rectory Closed
- Thursday, December 29, 2011** Rectory Closed
8:30 AM Eucharistic Adoration
9:00 AM Senior Meeting
7:00 PM Bingo
- Friday, December 30, 2011** Church
- Saturday, December 31, 2011** Church
9:00AM Confession
4:00 PM Mass
4PM-5PM SVDP Food Collection
Vestibule
- Sunday, January 01, 2012** Vestibule
8AM-1PM SVDP Food Collection
Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God
8:00AM, 10:00AM and 12:00PM (Polish)

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS ON PAGES 10 & 11!



Gift cards will be available on Sunday, December 18th from 10:00 – 10:30 in Room 100.

St. Pascal School and St. Pascal School Families have earned over \$1800. for T.R.I.P. cards sold between May 2011 and November 30, 2011. Forget the long lines, shop from the comfort of your home. Give gift cards and earn tuition credit at the same time. All gift cards purchased provide a percentage that can be use towards tuition, given directly to the school or to help a needy family. You do not need to have a student at St. Pascal School. The program is available for everyone to use. Even families who have students at the area Catholic High Schools can save money on their tuition.

There will be no gift cards sold on Sundays in Room 100 any longer. Gift Cards are available in the school office any-time during office hours.

For more information, please call the school office at 773-736-8806.

Thank You,
St. Pascal School

Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday/Sunday, December 24/25, 2011

8:30 AM - Mass for the People
 4:00 PM - Mass for the People
 9:30 PM - Polish Mass
 12:00 AM - Mass for the People
 8:00 AM - Mass for the People
 10:00 AM - Mass for the People
 12:00 PM - Polish Mass

Monday, December 26, 2011

8:00 AM - †Teofil & Victoria Serwanski

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

8:00 AM - †Philip W. Regner

Wednesday, December 28, 2011

8:00 AM - †Martin Risa

Thursday, December 29, 2011

8:00 AM - Purgatorial Society Members
 †Florence Olson
 †Jeanne Flaherty
 †Bruno Sobczak Jr.
 †Wayne Grzybek

Friday, December 30, 2011

8:00 AM - †Stanley Pyka

Saturday, December 31, 2011

8:30 AM - †Salvator Urso
 4:00 PM - Mass for the People

Sunday, January 01, 2012

8:00 AM - Mass for the People
 10:00 AM - Mass for the People
 12:00 PM - Polish Mass

† Deceased

REMINDER TO ALL ORGANIZATIONS

When checking out keys in the rectory, if you are not given a green room condition sheet, please ask for one. This sheet must be filled out and returned with the key.

It is one of the ways the maintenance staff can be made aware of things that need fixing.



Please notify the rectory if you have someone in your home who is unable to join us at Mass and he/she would appreciate having the Eucharist brought to the home.



If your address has changed or if you are moving out of our parish and no longer wish to be a parishioner, please notify the rectory at 773-725-7641.



In Memoriam

Please remember all our faithful departed.

Gerald Loux, Gaetano Fucarino, Patrick Thomas Snyder and Geraldine Draniczarek



OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND WHO ARE UNABLE TO SHARE THE LITURGY WITH US:

In Our Prayers

Luba Bac
 Dorothy Binkowski
 Jackie Brennan
 Mike Brennan
 Irene Buda
 Bob Clancy
 Gerald Daily
 Regina Daren
 Mike Garcia
 Christine Hege
 Marilyn Heger
 Grace Henmuller
 Windelina F. Jison
 Deborah Juszynski
 Vlastie Kayden
 Michael Komanecki
 Burton Lappen
 Harvey Lappen
 Will Lill
 Cheryl Hoika Lipkie
 Mary Lohan
 Netta Lohrmann
 Andre Lombardo

Robert Martino
 Franz Mayer
 Loretta McDevitt
 Jenny Meyne
 James Mikucki
 Mickie Nieves
 Kathy O'Connor
 Margaret Oliver
 Cheryl Perez
 Harriet Pergande
 Clayton Poe
 Patricia Prince
 Bridie Regan
 Rosemary Renault
 Elizabeth Skulski
 John Skulski
 June Tamanaha
 Kiyoshi Tamanaha
 Angelo Tufano
 Carmela Tufano
 Richard Tufano
 Walter Wojdyla
 Jolanta Wolfe

If you or a loved one is in need of prayers due to an illness, please call the rectory to put your name on the prayer list. Names are kept on the list for 4 weeks unless we are notified that a person has not recovered.

If someone on this list has recovered, please call the rectory to have the name removed.

Proudly Serving Our Country

Let us all pray for protection of those serving in the military and for a peaceful and just solution to conflict and violence. Please remember in your prayers the following people of our parish community who are serving our country:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Cpl. Jeffrey Brown | Sgt. Stephen Mieszala |
| Airman Scott W. Bubel | Sgt. Michael Nowacki |
| 2nd Lt. John Cvikota | Sgt. Wayne Persico |
| Sgt. Sarah Cvikota | PFC Phillip J. Renault |
| LCpl Michael Gaudio | Sgt. Jeffery Wm. Richter |
| PFC Roman Gronke | PFC Garrick E. Rothstein |
| LCpl Chris Henning | Lt. Cmdr. Jason Schneider |
| SFC Carmen Hernandez | Cpt. Scott Sengenberger |
| PV2 Leon Hernandez | 1st Sgt. Thomas Solak |
| SPC Nathan Hernandez | Sgt. Steve Sullivan |
| LCpl Michael Kocur | PFC Matt Tagliola |