

SACRED HEART PARISH FAMILY

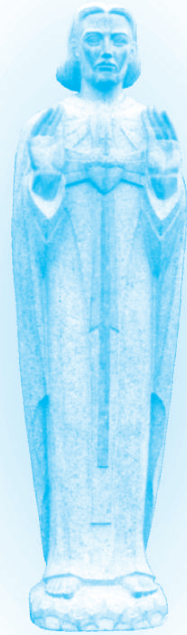
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PASTORAL TEAM

Rella Bernabucci
pastoral assistant

John Crane
trustee

Larry Deraleau
deacon

Donna Gessay
trustee

Ernie Golnik
liturgy and music

Sandy Rice
administrative assistant

Fr. Stan Szczapa
pastor



SACRED HEART MISSION STATEMENT

"We the community of Sacred Heart are committed to serving God and each other through our faith in Jesus Christ. We strive to do this through a joyful celebration of the Eucharist, a spirit of hospitality, a commitment to community outreach, a sense of responsibility to others and through the ongoing nourishment of our minds and hearts."

SUNDAY LITURGIES

Saturday 4:30 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 4:30-6:00 PM

or by appointment

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

As listed inside

WE WELCOME YOU TO SACRED HEART PARISH FAMILY. If you are new to the parish please introduce yourself to Father Stan after Mass. We would also appreciate it if you would come to or call the office and register. We need to know who you are so that we may serve you better.

SHUT INS

Please notify us of parishioners who are in the hospital. If any parishioner is unable to celebrate Liturgy with us because of illness or handicap, please notify the office so that we may bring Eucharist to them.

"Handicapped Accessible"

Sixth Week of Ordinary Time

On the **Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time** we hear Matthew's Gospel. Jesus speaks to his followers about religious laws and also of our own relationships. Go to offer gifts to God at the altar, but first, Jesus says, "Leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Monday is the **Memorial of Saint Cyril, monk, and Saint Methodius, bishop.**

We continue with first readings from the **Book of Genesis**. This is the beginning of the story of salvation: Cain and Abel, Noah and the Ark, the Tower of Babel. The week concludes with the **Letter to the Hebrews'** summary of the beliefs of our ancestors in the faith.

As we follow Jesus' ministry in **Mark's Gospel**, we witness Jesus' discouragement as he again encounters the challenges of the religious leaders: "he sighed from the depth of his spirit." As they retreat to the other side of the lake, Jesus warns his disciples against the rebellious "leaven" of the Pharisees and reminds them of the meaning of the miracle of the loaves - he is like God, come to feed them in whatever desert journey they encounter. Jesus heals a blind man who first sees only in a distorted way - a scene which begins the journey to Jerusalem on which Jesus tries to heal the blindness of his disciples. Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Christ but rejects Jesus' instruction that he must suffer and die before the resurrection. Jesus rebukes him and instructs his disciples about their discipleship. It is about taking up our own cross with him: "whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it." Then Jesus takes Peter, James and John and shows them his glory, to prepare them for the scandal of the cross.

On the **Seventh Week of Ordinary Time**, Jesus gives us one of the biggest challenges to living the Christian life: Love Your Enemies. "I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.

When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well."

Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Is 58:7-10/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16
Monday:	Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	Gn 1:20---2:4a/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	Gn 2:18-25/Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 3:1-8/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sunday:	Sir 15:15-20/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37

We can feel the tension in this week's readings. Jesus is trying to warn his disciples - and us - about the rebellious style of the Pharisees, about hypocrisy. And, he is trying to heal the blindness of his disciples - and our blindness - about what his mission is all about. He has come to free us from sin and the captivity we have to all kinds of self-centered patterns.

So when we stay reflective this week, we can become more conscious of how we rebel from the path of Jesus, from joining him in becoming less selfish. When we begin our days this week, we can ask, "Lord, help me see the ways I'm too self-centered this week. Help me notice the needs of those you place in my life. Stretch my heart to love more today." It is simple, but it begins to change our focus.

As we go through the week, we can pay closer attention to our resistance, the places we catch ourselves holding back. We can open our eyes to see the patterns in our lives that we might not have paid attention to before. It doesn't have to be serious evil we are choosing. It might just be ways in which we are avoiding losing our lives for him. Once we focus, start paying attention to the daily choices we make, our day becomes a day of prayer. We can be in communion with the Lord throughout the day because it becomes a day of dialogue, in the midst of all the busyness.

"Lord, as I put on this sweater, I'm aware how I just spoke to Helen. I'm sorry. That was all about my fear, wasn't it? I cut her off because I was just afraid of what she was asking of me. I became more aware of the cost to me than anything else. Please help me to continue to see how I respond to people. Please calm my fears." We can get in the habit of doing this kind of prayer every day, right where we are, in very brief moments. Finding intimacy with God in the midst of our daily lives is the goal of this kind of prayer.

All of this is reinforced by our prayer of gratitude each night. If we can feel the need for this kind of communion with our Lord each day, and thank God for it each night, there is no question that we will be developing a new pattern in our life. We tend to continue to do what we enjoy. And gratitude feeds even more openness and generosity.

Attention: Parents of Children Using Our Childcare Services

Because of leaks, wet floors, and a growing mold problem in the Childcare/Babysitting Room and the Parish Library, **childcare services will be discontinued until further notice.** We apologize for the inconvenience and hope that you understand that this action was taken to protect our children. Hopefully we will be able to offer Childcare/Babysitting Services soon since the insurance company and ServiceMaster are working on the problem. Thank you for understanding and patience.

The Deacon's Corner

Lord, my God,
when your love spilled over into creation
You thought of me.
I am from love of love for love.

Let my heart, O God, always recognize,
cherish,
and enjoy your goodness in all of creation.

Direct all that is within me toward your
praise.
Teach me reverence for every person, all
things.
Energize me in your service.

Lord God may nothing ever distract me from
your love...
Neither health nor sickness
wealth nor poverty
honor nor dishonor
long life nor short life.

May I never seek nor choose to be other than
You intend or wish. AMEN

Youth Group – Rose Commons Valentine Party

All members of the Youth Group will be hosting a Valentine Party at Rose Commons on Sunday, February 13th. We will meet in the Fellowship Rooms at 4:30pm on this day. Youth Group members are reminded to bring dessert with them to share at Rose Commons.

First Eucharist Parents Meetings

The parents of children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion have received letters informing them of parent meetings. The dates for the parent meetings are:

Monday, March 7

at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Rooms

Monday, March 21

at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Rooms

If you have not received a letter, please contact Rella as soon as possible. Thank you!

First Reconciliation Parents Meetings

The parents of children who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time have received letters informing them of parent meetings. The dates for the parent meetings are:

Monday, February 28

at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Rooms

Monday, March 14

at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Rooms

If you have not received a letter, please contact Rella as soon as possible. Thank you!

Pastoral Planning Update

GENERAL MEETING

Vernon Deanery - December 6, 2010 - First Regional Meeting

The meeting began at 7 PM with the diocesan prayer for restructuring.

Some preliminary information on the contents of individual folders was given. Then, Dr. John Shine, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools was introduced. Dr. Shine provided some information on the two parish schools in the deanery; St. Edward School in Stafford Springs and St. Joseph School in Rockville.

A summary of the comments on the schools:

- St. Edward School was established in the latter part of the 19th century. Currently the school has provision for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Enrollment has been stable for the past three years, holding at about 122 students. The subsidy from the parish was in excess of \$160,000 in 2008/9 academic year. However, since then it decreased to about \$100,000 per year. The per pupil cost per year is about \$900.
- St. Joseph School was established in the early 20th century. The school was named a Blue Ribbon School in 2006, under the criteria for the “No Child Left Behind” act. The high point for enrollment, shortly after the school was established, was 256 students. Current enrollment is 109 students. The subsidy from the parish has been about \$98,000 for the past three years. The per pupil cost per year is about \$800.
- Dr. Shine indicated that both schools are functioning well, but that the present situation is not sustainable in the long term. Dr. Shine explained that the major financial burden of the schools is borne by the parishes that own them, even though the schools are no longer functioning as parish schools. In reality, he said, the students in both schools come from several parishes, and both schools have several students who are non-Catholic. This is a very non-traditional situation, while we have maintained the traditional financial structure for schools, which is parish-based.
- He pointed out the extraordinary commitment both St. Edward’s and St. Joseph’s have made to their respective schools and to Catholic education. Finally, Dr. Shine mentioned that an “ad hoc” diocesan committee is currently studying ways in which the costs of Catholic education can be more equitably shared among all the parishes of a given area.

Following Dr. Shine’s comments, the meeting continued with an explanation of materials distributed to committee members in their folders: prayer, agenda, October Count for parishes in the deanery, a map of the diocese, a list of suggested parish activities, an explanation of terminology involved in restructuring, the final report form to be used in June 2011, and several articles on the planning process in Norwich and in other dioceses.

Each cluster was asked, at the beginning of the individual meetings, to choose a chair, a note-taker and a contact person. Each parish was asked to send a completed Parish Evaluation Form to the Pastoral Planning Office, so that the forms can be available for the next meeting. Each cluster was asked to send the minutes of their meetings to the Office within the next week.

The General Meeting concluded, and the cluster meetings began following a break.

CLUSTER MEETING

Cluster Three: St Joseph, Rockville; Sacred Heart, Vernon; St. Maurice, Bolton. Attending: Members of Parish Committees from all three parishes including the priests from St. Maurice and Sacred Heart. Absent - One member from Sacred Heart

The meeting began with introductions of all members and designations of Chair, Recorder, and contact person were made as follows: Chair—Joe Augustyn Recorder—Angela Atwater Contact Person—Stephanie Labanoski

Grouping of Parishes

An initial discussion ensued around why St. Joseph was not clustered with St. Bernard's. Father Stan from Sacred Heart noted that it was decided that the two largest parishes of St. Bernard's and St. Matthew's should be clustered together. The map of the parishes indicates that the three parishes of St. Joseph, Sacred Heart and St. Maurice were closer to each other.

Presentation of Strong and Weak Points of Each Church

St. Maurice and Sacred Heart have not finished their questionnaires but St. Joseph had its completed form with them.

- St. Maurice committee members indicated that they were yoked with Sacred Heart but are now separate again with a priest who is the administrator. They have lost a lot of their congregation during the yoking process and from the loss of a very popular Pastor. Because of yoking, the parish was down to two masses. Many of the parishioners went to nearby St. Bartholomew in Manchester. The parish strength is that it has nearly 30 active ministries.
- Sacred Heart members indicated that they also have lost members because of yoking with St. Maurice and the decreasing of the mass schedule. However, the church has seen an increase of new parishioners especially young couples with children. Its main weakness is the large condemned church which cannot be torn down because of a nearly quarter of a million dollar price tag for demolition. Its strengths include lots of ministries. For example the hospital ministry has 25 people. Sacred Heart is the Chaplain for Vernon Manor and is on call all the time. There are 675 households with 417 envelopes in circulation. About half of these envelopes come in each week with other coming in at an irregular basis.
- St Joseph indicated that their strengths included the following:
 - Operates and funds a Parochial School
 - Only one in the cluster that has daily Mass in the mornings.
 - Offers Polish services and ministries
 - Only one in area to have 40 hours devotion and Divine Mercy on Monday evenings
 - Prominent and convenient location in town with easy access and large parking area
 - All facilities are in good condition and well maintained. Church heating and cooling systems have been replaced with completion targeted for January 2011.
 - Continuous Daylight hour access to the Church.
 - Numerous volunteers in social, spiritual and maintenance support activities.
 - Solid spiritual and working relationships with the Pauline Fathers who contractually provide priest for the parish.
- St. Joseph also indicated that resources that are needed to improve the parish would include more Financial Diocesan support for the Parochial School and help in promoting the school to other Parishes.
- Its thoughts in combining resources with other parishes would include:
 - Share rotated use of maintenance or custodial personnel.
 - Combine procurement practices, cost savings in purchasing items as a group.
 - Devise a backup plan to cover each parish when workload demands and absences occur at each parish.

Where Can Parishes begin to collaborate.

The committee only had a brief time to discuss this issue. It was evident that most of the members thought that collaboration around the many parish ministries would be one area that should be discussed.

What should be brought back to the individual parishes about this meeting.

There was discussion around publishing the minutes in the parish bulletin and having members speak at each church to enlist suggestions from the parishioners and to share some of the information. The sense of all the committee was to have members give a verbal report to the parish that it is meeting in clusters and discussing how the cluster can collaborate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

Sirach 15:15–20
1 Corinthians 2:6–10
Matthew 5:17–37

MONDAY

Mark 8:11–13
"... no sign will be given to this generation."

TUESDAY

Mark 8:14–21
"Do you not yet understand?"

WEDNESDAY

Mark 8:22–26
"Can you see anything?"

THURSDAY

Mark 8:27–33
"Who do people say that I am?"

FRIDAY

Mark 8:34–9:1
"For those who want to save their life will lose it..."

SATURDAY

Mark 9:2–13
"This is my Son, the Beloved."

Choose Wisely

The question posed in today's readings is: "How does a wise person live in harmony with God's plan for the world?" Jesus helps us to understand the depths of the spirit that underpins the Law. As Sirach reminds us, we have the freedom to choose fire or water, life or death. Jesus challenges us to make this radical choice based upon love of God and neighbor.

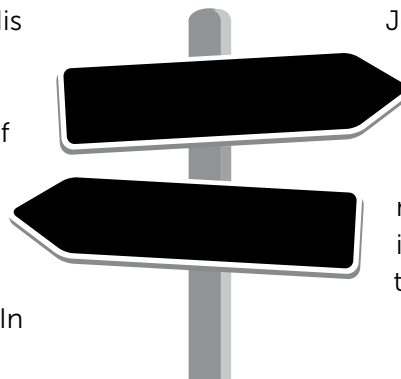
In this passage Matthew begins by upholding respect for the Torah and its 613 precepts of the Law, but invites us to move into the heart of wisdom. Jesus presents a new order. His is a call to go beyond mere compliance with the Law to an extraordinary conversion of the heart. This is impossible without the grace of the Spirit.

This gospel passage is part of the Sermon on the Mount. In

it Matthew follows the literary structure wherein Jesus states the old law, "You have heard the commandment . . ." Then Jesus offers a practical illustration of what is being asked. Finally, he gives his command for holiness, which touches the depth of conversion called for by the Law.

This Gospel presents four commandments regarding: murder, adultery, divorce, and oaths. The passage for next week will cover two more areas of the law. These are known as the six antitheses. Six times in a row,

Jesus contrasts ideas about the meaning of the Law by making parallel statements and moving more deeply into the heart of the matter.



The Faith of the Church

In the document on the Church in the Modern World of the Second Vatican Council, the bishops upheld human freedom as the only way people can turn themselves toward good. However, they warn that in cherishing our freedom, we must not think that this gives us the right to do anything we like. Rather, genuine freedom is nurtured as we discover the image of God in humanity and act out of respect for human dignity (Cf. *Gaudium et Spes* 17).



Questions of the Week

Matthew helps us to understand that Jesus does not make new laws. Rather, he brings us to a new vision based on love for God and others. This radical shift in the freedom to choose out of love is only possible through the infinite capacity of God's grace and our potential for wisdom.

Adults

How does Jesus' new law of love move me to a deeper understanding of the commandments?

Children

How will I act out of love for God and others this week?

Responding to God's Word . . .

Holiness for the wise means making choices based on morality. For example, Jesus takes the law regarding murder and shows us that anger lies at its root. He calls us to uncover the anger in our hearts and challenges us to a change of heart wherein we treat all persons with dignity, respect, and love.

We are challenged to go beyond the mere commandments and uncover our internal motivation for our actions and words. The New Order, which Jesus begins, takes us into not only the avoidance of sin, but a radical pursuit of the good. A new note

has been struck with emphasis on interiority and radical response.

Interiority, the inner nature of the person, is grown and matured in the Christian community, which Paul refers to as the Body of Christ. As members of Christ, we can choose charity over ego; faithfulness over lust; truth over falsehood and life over death. Our journey of faith grows us into the wisdom to choose freely for the sake of God's Kingdom of justice and peace. We strive to internalize and manifest the law of love through the choices before us each day.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. Show your gratitude for the members of your family by acknowledging their goodness rather than taking them for granted.

In the workplace or in school. Make a direct effort to treat others with dignity and respect, particularly those with whom you may disagree.

In the community. Get to know the older adults in your parish or neighborhood and draw upon their gifts and wisdom.



Meditation Moment

In his autobiography, Mahatma Gandhi tells how in his student days in South Africa he was drawn to Jesus. One Sunday, Gandhi writes, he went to a Christian church. He was stopped at the entrance and told that if he desired to attend services, he was welcome to do so in a church reserved for black people. Gandhi did not pursue the matter further.

For reflection . . .

What is one way that my daily behavior might better reflect what I profess on Sunday: we are one family under God?

PEOPLE LOOK AT US THE REST OF THE WEEK TO SEE WHAT WE REALLY MEANT BY OUR WORSHIP TOGETHER ON SUNDAY.

ANONYMOUS

FROM VISION BY MARK LINK, SJ

The Law of Love

Place the law of love deep within our hearts. Grace us to live that deep connection with the entire Body of Christ. Inspire us to make choices with the wisdom of a holiness that reflects your love for all. Imbed in us the truth of human dignity that we might treat others with charity. Plant the seeds of your New Law within our hearts and give us the courage and wisdom to live in that order. Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart as a guide for your faith journey this week.

"Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart."

Psalm 119:34

Profile in Faith

Saint Matthew

Matthew was among the early followers of Jesus. He was also known as Levi, the former tax collector. His ministry was to the Jewish community. Thus, the Gospel of Matthew stresses Jesus' fulfillment of the Jewish prophecies and obedience to and preservation of biblical law. His feast day is September 21.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
October 1, 2010

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Prayer, Praise and Sacrament

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY

4:30pm **Mass: Ernest Golnik, Sr.**, requested by Sallie White, - and -
Donald Morel, requested by his family

SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: For the People of the Parish**
10:30am **Mass: Steven Michael Brown**, requested by his family, and -
Ed Kayan, requested by his wife, Hilda

TUESDAY

9:00am **Mass**

WEDNESDAY

9:00am **Mass**

THURSDAY

4:30pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, Living Room
7:00pm **Mass: Jacqueline Savarese**, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family
7:30pm **Intercessory Prayer**, Eucharistic Chapel

FRIDAY

9:00am **Mass**

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY

4:30pm **Mass: Mary Pappas Piazza**, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family

SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: For the People of the Parish**
10:30am **Mass: Art Guerette, 1st Anniversary**, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family

Meetings

SATURDAY

7:30pm **Narcotics Anonymous**, North Activity Rooms

SUNDAY - Fellowship before and after Mass

9:10am **Faith Formation, Grades 1-5**
4:30pm **Youth Group Valentines Party at Rose Commons**
6:15pm **Faith Formation, Grade 6 - 8**

MONDAY OFFICES CLOSED

7:00pm **Haiti Ministry**, Deacon Chuck White Memorial Haiti Room

WEDNESDAY

8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous**, South Community Rooms

THURSDAY

10:00am **Bible Study**, South Community Rooms
7:30pm **Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book**, South Community Rooms

SATURDAY

7:30pm **Narcotics Anonymous**, North Activity Rooms

SUNDAY - Fellowship before and after Mass

NO **Faith Formation, Grades 1- 6**
NO **Confirmation Prep**
NO **Youth Group**

Haiti Needs

When shopping, please keep in mind that we are now collecting
SOAP & QUART-SIZED ZIPLOCK BAGS
for the people of Haiti.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

– BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Parents please call three months prior to baptism date for an appointment with a Pastoral Team member who will detail the program for parents.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY –

Couples planning to marry take part in marriage information program at least nine months prior to the wedding date.

FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS –

October through May
Call 875-4563 for information

MONTHLY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT – Oratory

The first Friday of each month
– 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

ROSARY – Oratory

Monday Thru Friday - 8:30 AM

INTERCESSORY PRAYER – Oratory

Thursday - 7:45 - 8:15 PM

PASTORAL CONDUCT –

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