

readings for the week

Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58
 Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Mk 10:17-27
 Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Mk 10:28-31
 Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/Mk 10:32-45
 Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Mk 10:46-52
 Friday: Dt 7:6-11/1 Jn 4:7-16/Mt 11:25-30
 Saturday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Lk 1:39-56
 Next Sunday: Dt 7:6-11/1 Jn 4:7-16 /Mt 11:25-30

please note

Rella will not be in the office on Thursday, May 29th in order to attend the Catechetical Leaders Retreat at Immaculata Retreat House. The Faith Formation Office will open at 12:30pm on this day.

aba update

We are pleased to report that the 2008 Annual Bishop's Appeal – "Bringing Hope to Those in Need" continues to be well received and generously supported by the 78 Parishes and 10 Missions of the Diocese of Norwich. As of today, our Diocesan family has raised \$2,068,661, which represents 61% of the 2008 ABA goal of \$3,400,000.

We thank those who have given generously to the 2008 Annual Bishop's Appeal and ask all who have not yet given to prayerfully consider doing so. The Appeal helps our Church and our Parish on so many ways. Please consider all the ways that God has blessed you and yours, and then think how the Church has brought goodness into your lives. Join our appeal and give back what you can so that we can remain strong and able to do God's great work!

you are invited

Ordination to Priesthood will take place on Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 10:30am at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Norwich.

Ordination of the Transitional Diaconate will be held on Tuesday evening, June 17, 2008 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Quaker Hill. All are welcome to attend.

trust

Do not forget the Lord, your God...who brought forth water for you to drink from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna."

Deuteronomy 8:14-16

It takes great trust to follow the Lord in a life of stewardship. Yet, just as He provided for the Israelites, God will provide us with all that we need. We in turn must be willing to hold our many gifts – not with a clenched fist – but rather with an open hand, ready and willing to share.

mark your calendars!

The annual parish picnic celebrating the **50th anniversary of our parish** as well as the **65th birthday of Fr. Stan** will be held on **Sunday, June 8** in front of the church.

There will be a "Bounce House", an "Inflatable Batting Cage", and a "Dunk Tank" as well as snow cone and popcorn machines.

Watch the bulletin for more announcements of our picnic. Mark your calendars! This promises to be great!

a special appeal for next weekend

Bishop Cote has informed us of a voluntary, special collection for **emergency relief for the victims of the recent fire in Norwich**. That devastating fire destroyed the apartments of over 150 residents. We will take up a collection next weekend, May 31-June 1, for this purpose. Please be as generous as you can.

anniversary banquet

We remind you to send in your RSVPs for the Anniversary Banquet at Maneely's on June 29th as soon as possible. If you plan on attending, we must know your choice of entrée. Please make your check payable to "Sacred Heart Church."

Any questions, please call the office (875-4563).

If you did not receive an invitation – please pick one up after Mass or call the office at 875-4563 so we can send you one. EVERYONE is invited.

MAY 25, 2008



Diocese of Norwich
Office of the Bishop
201 Broadway
Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 887-9294

MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

May 20, 2008

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

God has blessed the Diocese of Norwich with excellent priests, deacons, religious, and lay ministers who are devoted to the faith, live holy lives, and assume many important responsibilities in the life of our Church. Everywhere, throughout the Diocese, the Gospel is proclaimed, the Eucharist is celebrated, and the spiritual needs are met as each member of the Church assumes his or her proper responsibility for the well being of the whole. As Bishop, I am most grateful for all of the wonderful work being carried out in the name of the Church throughout the four Eastern counties of Connecticut, as well as on Fisher's Island.

Currently, we are experiencing a decline in the number of priests available for ministry, along with a rising demand for parish ministry. The challenging priestly personnel situation offers all of us both a challenge and an opportunity to re-examine how we as a community of faith will continue to proclaim the Gospel message.

Within a few weeks it will be announced that, for the present time, two parishes. Sacred Heart in Vernon and Saint Maurice in Bolton, will be "yoked." Yoking two parishes means that both communities will maintain their individual identities and activities, but under the leadership of one pastor. Both parishes will remain independent and vibrant, as they are, but sharing a single pastor.

A look at the history of our Diocese shows us that both of these parishes share the same roots. Both began in the late 19th century as mission churches of St. James Parish in Manchester, when all of Connecticut was one diocese. When the Diocese of Norwich was established in 1953, Sacred Heart was a mission of St. Maurice Parish. Then, in 1958, Sacred Heart was made a separate parish. Today both parishes are coming together again, but in a very different way.

Father Stanley Szczapa, presently pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Vernon, has agreed to assume the pastoral

responsibility for both St. Maurice Parish and Sacred Heart Parish, serving as pastor of both. Father will continue to reside at Sacred Heart rectory in Vernon, while assuring that the parishioners of Saint Maurice continue to have the spiritual benefit of a pastor. If in the future it is possible to assign a parochial vicar to assist Father Szczapa, then it would be my hope that the parochial vicar might be assigned to be in residence in St. Maurice's Parish, Bolton.

I know that you will join me in thanking Father Szczapa for his willingness to accept this new pastoral responsibility.

As the yoking becomes a reality, staff and parish councils from both parishes will come together under Father Szczapa's direction to work out the details of ministry and administration, including a new Mass schedule. It deserves special mention that the 50th anniversary celebration of Sacred Heart Parish, scheduled for June 29, 2008, presents a wonderful opportunity for both parishes to join together in recognition of their common roots, as well as their future dreams and possibilities.

While we can make plans and offer assistance in this transition, it is only with your good will, your cooperation, active participation, collaboration and prayers, that the yoking of these two parishes will be a success. It is my sincere prayer that both parish communities will continue to thrive and grow. As we initiate this new structure, I am grateful for your understanding and cooperation since its success depends greatly upon your prayerful support and good will.

My prayer for you is that God the Father will grant all of you "... the strength and love of the heart of His Son" (Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). Through the intercession of Saint Maurice, may you receive God's grace to respond as faithful witnesses to the Lord. And may the Lord bestow His blessings upon Father Szczapa and the young men of our Diocesan family who will someday answer the Lord's call to the priesthood. May God bless all of you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Cote". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Bishop of Norwich

* Note: Some groups meeting at Sacred Heart including but not limited to *The Red Cross, Vernon Jr. Women's Club, Brownies, Cubs, Alcoholics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book* and *Narcotics Anonymous* are not part of and not acting on behalf of the Parish or the Diocese

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

the work of the church

SATURDAY	BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
5:00pm	Mass: <i>Gertrude Soucy</i> , requested by her family
SUNDAY	BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
8:00am	Mass: <i>Kathleen Horvath</i> , requested by the Kurban family
10:30am	Mass: <i>Walter “Stan” Surdel</i> , requested by the Sacred Heart Ushers
MONDAY	
9:00am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion
TUESDAY	
9:00am	Mass: <i>Fr. Rapolis Krasauskas</i>
WEDNESDAY	
9:00am	Mass: <i>Gaspare Davia</i> , requested by Maria Davia
Thursday	
7:00pm	Mass: <i>Gertrude Soucy</i> , requested by Carmella & Gilbert Soucy
7:45pm	Intercessory Prayer
FRIDAY	
9:00am	Mass: <i>Stanley & Alice Szczapas</i>
SATURDAY	THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
5:00pm	Mass: <i>Francis & Vilma Valli</i> , requested by daughter Donna Valli
SUNDAY	THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
8:00am	Mass: <i>Frank Langone</i> , requested by the Sacred Heart Readers
10:30am	Mass: <i>For the 1st Communicants</i>

meetings

SATURDAY	
7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous* , Northeast Rooms
SUNDAY	
	<i>Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass</i>
MONDAY	
	Offices Closed
TUESDAY	
	Offices Closed
WEDNESDAY	
8:00pm	Alcoholics Anonymous* , South Community Rooms
THURSDAY	
10:00am	Bible Study , South Community Rooms
8:00pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book* , South Community Rooms
SATURDAY	
7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous* , Northeast Rooms
SUNDAY	
	<i>Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass</i>