

# SACRED HEART PARISH FAMILY

550 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066-5000

(860) 875-4563

Website: [www.sacredheartchurch.net](http://www.sacredheartchurch.net)

Fax: (860) 872-2535

E-mail: [info@sacredheartchurch.net](mailto:info@sacredheartchurch.net)



## 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”

## Fr. Stan's 40th Anniversary

Letters were recently mailed out to all parishioners containing information of Fr. Stan's upcoming celebration of his 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

A Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating this 40th anniversary will be held on Sunday, June 5, 2011 at 10:30am. Following Mass, a luncheon buffet will be held at A Villa Louisa in Bolton for all who have responded to the invitation.

*If you have not responded to the invitation, (or have not received an invitation,) please contact Rella as soon as possible (860-875-4563 or [rella@sacredheartchurch.net](mailto:rella@sacredheartchurch.net)).*

## Please Note

Rella will be attending a planning meeting on Friday, June 3 for the 2011 Convocation for Faith Formation Leadership. The Faith Formation Office will open at 12:30pm on this day.

## Garden Brigade

**REMINDER - Sacred Heart "Garden Brigade"** will meet June 4, at 9am in the fellowship rooms to begin work on the parish gardens.

***New gardeners welcome!***

Info? Call Jean at 860-875-7381.

## Please Join Us!

Saint James School Drama Club presents:

## GODSPELL JR.

Date: June 4, 2011 - Time: 7pm  
Place: Saint James School Auditorium  
Tickets: \$5.00/person  
(can be purchased at the door)

## Save the Date

Coney Island Picnic  
June 26 – 1:30-4pm

## The Deacon's Corner

### *"The Best Day of My Life"*

Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life. There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today, but I did. Today I am going to celebrate the unbelievable life I have had so far.

The accomplishments, the many blessings, and yes, even the hardships, because they have helped to make me stronger.

I will go through this day with my head held high and a happy heart.

I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds ...

Today none of these creations will escape my notice.

Today I will share my excitement for life with other people.

I will make someone smile.

I will go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't even know.

Today I will give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down.

I'll tell a child how special he is ...

... and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for them and how much they mean to me.

Today I will stop worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me.

I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and His divine plan ensures everything will be just fine.

And so ... tonight before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens.

I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and praise God for these magnificent treasures.

As today ends and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the "Best Day of My Life"

... and I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited by the realization that I know tomorrow is going to be the best day of my life, ever .....

## Welcome!

The parish family of Sacred Heart welcomes you! You are always welcome here.

Please let us know when there is anything we can do, any question we can help you answer, any need we can fill – anything at all that we can do to help you on your journey of faith.



MOST REVEREND  
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

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

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This coming May 21st and 22nd we will be having the Annual Seminary Education Fund collection throughout the Diocese of Norwich. Together as a diocesan family last year we collected \$76,388.51, towards a final expense of \$158,612.02. Thank you for your personal sacrifice in assisting us in covering some of the expense of educating our future priests. If your means allow you to further fund seminary education, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

This coming academic year we have six men who will be continuing on with their formation and education at major seminary. They are: Brian Maxwell who will be in his third year of major seminary, Michael Salerno, Martin Noe, Ian Bothur and Jonathan Ficara who are each entering their second year of major seminary, and Jeff Ellis who will be beginning his second year of philosophy this Fall.

On May 28, 2011, the weekend following the above mentioned collection, I will be ordaining Rev. Mr. Henry Agudelo to the Holy Priesthood for service in the Diocese of Norwich at St. Patrick Cathedral in Norwich. I invite you to attend this joyous Mass of Ordination for Deacon Henry, whose education and formation you all have had a part in through your continuing donations to this collection. The details of the ordination Mass are available both in the Four County Catholic this month and on the Vocation Website of our Diocese, [www.god-calls.org](http://www.god-calls.org).

With much gratitude in my heart for your many continued prayers for all our priests, deacons, religious and me your unworthy servant, for your many sacrifices, financial and otherwise, thank you and may God continue to bless each of us with greater faith in His Divine love and mercy, each day of our lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

**[NOTE: We have delayed this collection so that it would not need to compete with the parish celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thank you for your understanding. Please be generous.]**

## Q & A About The New Missal – Part 2

By Father Paul Turner

### **Q. Why is going back to the Latin text going to be better?**

A. A couple of things. First of all, those Latin texts were worked on for hundreds of years. A lot of people don't realize this but, like when the priest says at the beginning of Mass Let us pray, and then starts in on a prayer, you are hearing an English translation of a prayer that might date to the sixth century. That prayer was worked on very hard in Latin to get it up into the shape that it is in. One reason that it's important to go back to the Latin is to study again what it has to say and make sure that what we're saying fits it. The other reason it's important to go back to the Latin is that we are a universal church, and even though Mass is celebrated in different languages around the world, we all use Latin as our common text, the text out of which all of these other translations were made. So, understandably, the Vatican would like that all of the different vernacular translations around the world would pretty much say the same thing. The way that you safeguard that is to have people keep looking back at the Latin and not copying from one another in the modern languages.

### **Q. Is this just turning back the clock to what we had before?**

A. Not at all. All of the work that is being done pertains to the work that followed the Second Vatican Council. A lot of the prayers we say at Mass date to the early years of the Church, but the particular arrangement of them in the Mass that we know now has all been given to us since Vatican II. The retranslation is a look at that work. The post Vatican II Mass and the Latin that was in there is a retranslation of that. For example, Eucharistic Prayer III is a Eucharistic prayer that people would hear on a typical Sunday. That entire prayer was written after Vatican II but it was written in Latin so that all of the vernacular languages could translate. They knew from the beginning that it was going to be done in the vernacular languages, but it was composed in Latin. So that's what this whole project is. It's going back to that time period after the Council to look at those texts and translate them once again.

### **Q. What are some concerns people are voicing about the new Missal?**

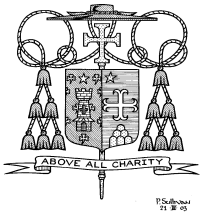
A. I think part of it is that we are so accustomed to doing it for 40 years that it's hard to think about having to relearn things. That's one concern. Another concern is that some prayers we are going to hear are more dense and the sentences are longer. It's going to be more of a challenge for the priests to say them and for the people to understand them upon first hearing. There's some concern about that that people won't be able to grasp the meaning of what is being said. I would say that people can understand it. The longer sentences have been in use in other languages outside of English, and people have been able to follow them along just fine. It will cause an adjustment for us but I really think in time people will grasp how to listen to the prayers that are being said and be able to pray right along.

### **Q. Is the Mass itself changing?**

A. No. No. There will be almost no change to the Mass itself. When you talk about say the gestures that are used, the postures, when we stand and sit, the processions, the vestments, the scripture readings, even most of the music that people sing, none of that is changing. That much is all staying the same. This is all about words. It's a different translation of the words that we say and hear at every Mass from day to day.

## In the Cluster

The **7-Week Life in the Spirit Seminar** that began May 4 continues at St. Joseph Church, Rockville at 7:30pm on Wednesday evenings. To learn more about Life in the Spirit Seminars, ask Joseph Labrie (860-872-6971) or Helen Syriac (860-643-6564). **International Day at Saint Joseph** - Sunday, June 5th, 2001 at the 9:30am Mass. Wear your heritage clothing! Show your nationality! Adults and Children are encouraged to participate. There will be a procession into church, so please meet in the church basement at 9:15am. Please bring a special dish from your heritage to share!



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

MOST REVEREND  
 MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

May 26, 2011

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you are all aware, the pastoral planning process has been underway in our diocese for the past few years. The Putnam Deanery was the first to complete the process and have some restructuring of the parishes implemented. Then the Norwich and Willimantic deaneries completed the process in May 2010. In October 2010, the parish clusters in those deaneries were directed to continue with various efforts at collaboration and sharing of resources in preparation for eventual yoking; that is, the leadership of two or more parishes being given to one pastor. Just in the last few weeks, the Middletown and Vernon deaneries have completed their process and their final recommendations are being prepared. The parishes of the New London and Old Saybrook deaneries will begin the pastoral planning process in September.

Now, we have arrived at a new level of our process, and some changes anticipated for so long are being implemented. The staffing and restructuring changes listed below are rooted in the Pastoral Planning work done by your parish committees over the last few years. The changes are being announced in all the parishes of the diocese, with an effective date of June 16, 2011. This step into the future will, with God's grace, help us all appreciate the needs of our diocese, and the realities we face for the future.

A recent national study of the Catholic priesthood in America concluded that the number of priests in our country will continue to decline through the next decade. In our own diocese, in just five years, we will hopefully have seven men ordained, but will definitely have 16 pastors over the age of retirement. In light of these facts, and out of concern for the vibrant future of all our parishes, we make the following changes.

In the Norwich deanery, the three parishes of the Divine Mercy Community; Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Quaker Hill, St. John in Montville, and Our Lady of the Lakes in Oakdale, will continue their collaboration, but now with Fr. Joseph Whittel as pastor of the three parishes. For the present, there will be two assistant priests, Father Richard Breton and Father Tad Zadorozny, also assigned to the cluster. Under this plan the excellent work already accomplished by these parishes will continue and increase, to the benefit of the entire diocese.

This continued collaboration is very important because I ask that within the next year, the three parishes present to me a plan for how the Divine Mercy Community will continue to function if, in the future, only one priest is available to you.

The three parishes in the eastern part of the Norwich deanery; St. Catherine of Siena in Preston, St. Mary in Jewett City and St. Thomas the Apostle in Voluntown were all in the same cluster at the beginning of the pastoral planning process; but in October 2010, only the parishes in Preston and Voluntown were directed to prepare for eventual yoking. Current circumstances now make it necessary to bring the three parishes back together, and put them under the leadership of one pastor, Father Ted Tumicki. For the present, Father Tumicki will have an assistant priest as well, Father Stephen Gulino. This arrangement will allow for continued and increased collaboration among the three parishes, and will ensure that a strong Catholic presence will be maintained in each community.

As part of the implementation plan for the Norwich and Willimantic deaneries in October 2010, the parishes of St. Andrew in Colchester and St. Francis of Assisi in Lebanon were directed to prepare for eventual yoking. Now this plan will be put into place, and the two parishes will be under the leadership of the same pastor, Father Marek Masnicki. For the present time, especially to assist in the process of transition, an assistant priest, Father Benjamin Soosaimanickam, will also be assigned to these two parishes. Under this structure, the efforts at collaboration already underway will continue and increase, to the benefit of both parishes.

In the Putnam Deanery, several pastoral planning recommendations were implemented in 2009. It now becomes necessary to make one addition to what has already been put in place. As of June 16, 2011, the parishes of Most Holy Trinity in Pomfret and St. Mary in Putnam will be yoked under the leadership of one pastor, Father David Choquette, with Father Anthony De Marco as assistant priest. These parishes are geographically close, and both have moderately sized populations. Under one pastor, both parishes will continue to operate, and will have the advantage of several opportunities for collaboration and sharing of resources.

Lastly, although the Middletown deanery has just recently completed its pastoral planning committee work, circumstances already require some action. As of June 16, 2011 the parishes of St. Colman in Middlefield and Notre Dame in Durham will be yoked under the leadership of one pastor, Father Michael Giannitelli. For the present, an assistant priest will also be assigned to the two parishes, Father James Sucholet. In the pastoral planning process, these two parishes were in the same cluster, and so have already begun looking at ways in which they might collaborate. Under the leadership of one pastor, these discussions will continue and bring the two communities closer together.

Around the effective date of these new assignments, the Pastoral Planning Office will be scheduling several parish-wide meetings for those who would like more information on the process of pastoral planning in general, and the process of yoking two or more parishes under the leadership of one pastor.

Let us pray together as a diocese, that these changes in staffing and structure will be an opportunity for increased growth and vitality, not only for the parishes immediately involved, but for all our parishes and people. The strength of our Catholic faith,

(continued)

especially our love of the Eucharist, will carry us through any initial hesitations and bring us all to new levels of unity and cooperation. May God pour out his blessings upon all in the Diocese of Norwich.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Michael R. Cote

Bishop of Norwich

### Parish Restructuring Process Minutes

Minutes of May 3, 2011 - Cluster Three: St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, St. Maurice Attendance: Rev. Stan Szczapa, Donna Gessay, Joe Augustyn, Angela Atwater, John Machung, Matt Stein, Joel Cohan and Patti Cinea. Excused: Rev. Wojciech Pelczarski, Rev. Krzysztof Drybka

The following agenda was discussed:

1. The cluster read and provided feedback regarding two handouts submitted for review. The first proposed a reverse pyramid method of structuring times of weekend Mass availability from the current schedule of 3 parishes, 4 priests to a possible situation should the availability of priests and parishes be reduced. It also proposed the possibility of regionalizing St. Joseph School, with assigning Diocesan Director Dr. Shine to oversee issues related to staffing, performance review, and teacher/principle evaluations. Subsidies would be solicited from all parishes. This handout included opportunities of areas of collaboration from the cluster parishes, with overseeing and implementation by a group created from representatives from each of the clustered parishes.

The second handout identified a successful clustering of 3 parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Over a process of 6 years these three churches have evolved into a structure of one pastor, two parochial vicars, and two deacons. [Highlighted is that the 3 parishes share a cost of one business manager and one educational director. Each parish funds its own secretary. The entire staff has offices at a single location. There is one parish council with reps from all 3 parishes. Each parish has two Masses on the weekend.] Lessons learned that is that this process works only with cooperation from the priests involved and much communication is needed.

2. The cluster then began to tackle Part Two of the Final Report Form as follows:

The cluster began looking at the hard data from the Criteria for Parish Evaluations forms, with respect to weekly Mass attendance at all 3 parishes, the percentage of youth as a factor in the future health of each parish, the financial resources and the number and structural integrity of the buildings. It was determined that St. Joseph had the highest percentage of infants to age 16, the highest Mass attendance and weekly offertory collections. The school creates financial stress on the parish; however, parishioners are determined to provide financial support to the school through serious fundraising efforts. The school and their ability to provide

services to the Polish speaking community are considered an asset. Their buildings have been enhanced with one unused. Sacred Heart and St. Maurice were both negatively affected in their yoking as both suffered losses both of parishioners and financial income. They currently are experiencing some re growth, with St. Maurice drawing back former parishioners with young families and up to 30% more weekly income. The church building at Sacred Heart has been condemned for 12 years. It is planning a strategy on obtaining resources to demolish this building. Sacred Heart uses the former rectory solely for office spaces. St. Maurice has spent a majority of its financial revenue on the rehabilitation of both the rectory and Parish Center buildings, and faces a major expense of replacing the flat roof sections on its church. In light of this information, the cluster began to discuss the feasibility first of creating a cluster community which all 3 parishes would remain open with a single pastor administrating. It would be modeled on the clustering of 3 parishes in the Archdiocese. There would be one pastor utilizing assistance of support priests, sharing a business administrator for all 3 parishes, sharing the 2 deacons, and having one educational director. Fr. Stan proposed that he could pastor all 3 parishes. He would request help from possibly a priest from Immaculata Retreat House, or another available priest. He stated his need to live in his present residence, allowing for privacy. Communication would be facilitated by use of Facebook, cell phone and the bulletin. He requested that all offices would be centrally located at Sacred Heart. Finances would remain independent, pacifying the concern that only Sacred Heart would need to back the finances of demolition of its church building. The second proposal was the creating the cluster to consist of 2 parishes which would be yoked, sharing a priest. The pros and cons for each parish grouping were discussed, which included distances between parishes, staffing availabilities, financial situations and past relationships. St. Maurice stressed that feedback obtained from its communication about the restructuring meetings is that parishioners have experienced 4 pastors in 3 ½ years. The parish is in the process of new growth. Part of the sensitivity to a re yoking is it creates another change for the parish.

It was agreed that based on tonight's response, Patti would draft out answers for questions 2a-2f in a timely manner to solicit feedback and completion before the next cluster meeting. Communication would be done via email. This would be motioned for acceptance on May 17th, and allow the cluster to exert its efforts in completing Part Three of the Final Report Form.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Cinea

### Readings for the Week

Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21  
 Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26---16:4a  
 Tuesday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Lk 1:39-56  
 Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22---18:1/Jn 16:12-15  
 Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Jn 16:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23  
 Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28  
 Next Sunday: Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20



## 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

**Acts 8:5–8, 14–17**  
**1 Peter 3:15–18**  
**John 14:15–21**

### MONDAY

**John 15:26–16:4A**  
*"When the Advocate comes . . . he will testify on my behalf."*

### TUESDAY\*

**Luke 1:39–56**  
*" . . . blessed is she who believed . . ."*

### WEDNESDAY

**John 16:12–15**  
*" . . . he will guide you into all the truth."*

### THURSDAY\*\*

**Matthew 28:16–20**  
*" . . . I am with you always . . ."*

### FRIDAY

**John 16:20–23**  
*" . . . your pain will turn into joy."*

### SATURDAY

**John 16:23B–28**  
*"Ask and you will receive . . ."*

## Always Ready to Give an Account

In the Gospel reading we heard today, Jesus tells us that he is not going to leave us alone. He tells that he will send an "Advocate to be with [us] for ever." He reminds us that when we observe his commandments we are showing, to others, our love for him.

Pope Paul VI wrote in the encyclical letter *Evangelii Nutiandi*, the Church exists to evangelize, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to the world like in today's first reading. Saint Philip proclaimed the Good News to the Samaritans and they believed in Jesus Christ. The Samaritans' new faith was confirmed when Saints Peter and John laid hands on them and prayed that they receive the Holy Spirit.

This gesture became the physical representation of the calling down of the Holy Spirit. It is an integral part of all of the Sacraments of the Church. The calling down of the Holy Spirit by the priest over the offering of bread and wine during

the Eucharistic Prayer, is what makes the offering the Body and Blood of Christ.

Saint Peter in the second reading takes it a step further. It isn't enough for us simply to proclaim with words that Christ has died and was resurrected. We must also be ready to explain why it is that we believe, to make a "defense" for our belief—and to do so with "gentleness and reverence."

To make a defense in this sense is to explain by way of reason. To do that requires us to understand and to be willing to share our faith in Jesus Christ with others. We are exhorted to know what we believe and why we believe it. It is our calling to profess what we believe and believe what we profess.



## The Faith of the Church

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are given an increase and deepening of the grace given to us in Baptism. This grace strengthens our relationship with God, unites us more firmly with Christ, increases the power of the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us, and empowers us to spread the faith and defend it, through word and action, so that we may give true witness to Christ, without shame (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1303).



## Questions of the Week

We are encouraged by First Peter to keep our "conscience clear," when people make fun of what we believe or of our religious practices. We are not to get angry or frustrated, but to always be a good witness to Christ.

### Adults

*What is one thing that I can do this week to show others the joy that my faith gives me?*

### Children

*What might help me stand firm when others make fun of how I live my faith?*

\* Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 \*\* Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

# Responding to God's Word . . .

Saint Francis of Assisi is reported to have said that "We are to proclaim the Gospel at all times; use words when needed."

Whether Saint Francis ever said or wrote these words is unimportant. What is important is the message they send: As Catholic Christians we are called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus at all times, through our words and through our actions.

This is the message of the reading from Peter: everything we do or say should call others to see Christ in us. That's what it means to "sanctify Christ as Lord" in our hearts. If we

truly believe that Jesus is Lord, then our belief in him will change the way we think and act.

The acknowledgement that we should "always be ready" to defend our faith with "gentleness and reverence" offers good advice on how people will be drawn to Christ. In the early Church, people would say of Christians: "See how they love one another." Today, people will be drawn to Christ when we live the faith courageously and lovingly, and when we are joyous and passionate in our belief and practice. That's how we defend the faith today.

## SUGGESTIONS

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

**In the home.** Look for ways to demonstrate your faith publicly. This could be as simple as hanging religious symbols around the house or on your car.

**In the workplace or in school.** Pray publicly. Begin each day by blessing yourself and asking God to guide your efforts. Do the same before meetings and meals.

**In the community.** There are always people in need of food or clothing, shelter or comfort. Do something this week to assist people in need. Let others see that your actions are motivated by faith.



## Meditation Moment

An old legend tells about an angel walking down the street, carrying a torch in one hand and a pail of water in the other. "What are you going to do with those?" someone asked. The angel replied, "With the torch I'm going to burn down the mansions of heaven and with the pail of water, I'm going to put out the fires of hell. Then we shall see who really loves God." The angel's point is that many people keep the commandments more out of fear of punishment or hope of reward than out of love for God.

### For reflection . . .

*What is the biggest reason I keep the commandments: fear of punishment, hope of reward, or love of God?*

THE HAND WILL NOT REACH OUT FOR  
WHAT THE HEART DOES NOT LONG FOR.  
GERMAN PROVERB

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

## Lord, Send out Your Spirit

When I am feeling  
unloved and unwanted.  
Lord, send out your spirit.  
When others make fun of  
my beliefs.  
Lord, send out your spirit.  
When I need the courage to do  
what's right.  
Lord, send out your spirit.  
When others need me  
to proclaim the Good News.  
Lord, send out your spirit.  
When I forget that I am yours.  
Lord, send out your spirit.  
Amen.

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

If it were illegal to be a Christian, would there be enough evidence against me to bring an indictment and a conviction?

(Unknown)

## Profile in Faith

### Saint Charles Lwanga

Saint Charles (1860–1885) was a Ugandan catechist. When King Mwanga began killing Christians because of their faith, Charles refused to back down and even baptized new Christians against the king's command. Charles and 11 other Catholics were burned to death because they were Christians. Their feast day is June 3.

NIHIL OBSTAT  
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum  
IMPRIMATUR  
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas  
January 26, 2011

The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur are official declarations that the material reviewed is free of doctrinal or moral error. No implication is contained therein that those granting the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur agree with the contents, opinions, or statements expressed.

Author: Daniel S. Mulhall

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Front: iStockphoto

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## The Word of God This Week

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### TODAY (THURSDAY)

**Acts 1:1–11**  
**Ephesians 1:17–23**  
**Matthew 28:16–20**

### SUNDAY

**John 17:1–11A**  
*"Father, the hour has come."*

### MONDAY

**John 16:29–33**  
*"I have conquered the world!"*

### TUESDAY

**John 17:1–11A**  
*"... glorify me in your own presence..."*

### WEDNESDAY

**John 17:11B–19**  
*"... protect them from the evil one."*

### THURSDAY

**John 17:20–26**  
*"The glory that you have given me I have given them."*

### FRIDAY

**John 21:15–19**  
*"Tend my sheep."*

### SATURDAY

**John 21:20–25**  
*"Follow me!"*

## Go and Make Disciples

The Church has been celebrating the solemnity of the Ascension since apostolic times. In the fifth century, Saint Augustine affirmed its apostolic origin. The feast day falls on Thursday, and it ranks with the feasts of Easter and Pentecost, among the most solemn in the liturgical calendar.

The language used by the Evangelists to describe the Ascension must be interpreted according to the times in which it was used. To say that Jesus was taken up or that he ascended does not imply that the writers placed heaven directly above the earth.

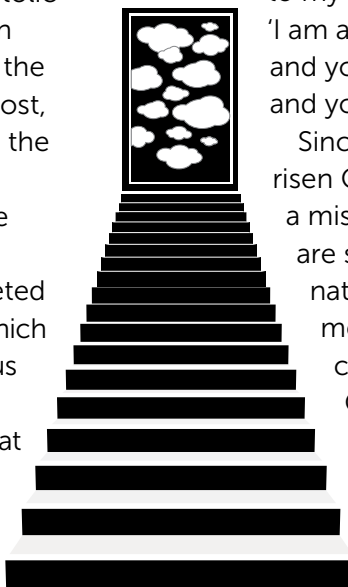
The Ascension is spoken of in the Bible as an established fact.

Thus, in John 6:62, Christ asks the Jews: "What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?" and

in 20:17, he says to Mary Magdalene: "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Since all power belongs to the risen Christ, he gives the eleven a mission that is universal. They are sent to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them as the means of entrance into the community of believers, the Church, and into the union of the ones baptized in the Risen Christ. Baptism will signal their rebirth in water and in the Holy Spirit.

This feast day is meant to celebrate the completion of the work of our salvation and Christ's entry into heaven with our glorified human nature.



## The Faith of the Church

The Ascension is hinted at in Christ's words to Mary Magdalene: "I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren . . ." This final moment is linked to the Incarnation. Only Christ, the Word of God, can open the way so that we too shall go where he has preceded us. After this, the apostles became his witnesses to all nations (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 660–661, 664).



## Questions of the Week

The Ascension of the Risen Christ marks the beginning of a new era. Jesus goes back to the Father—where he came from—and invites us to follow him. We are also asked to share this Good News with others.

### Adults

*In what ways do I witness to Christ's Death and Resurrection? How do I show with my actions that I am a Christian?*

### Children

*Do I tell my friends about Jesus? What do I usually say?*

# Responding to God's Word . . .

Is he gone for good? I wonder if some of the disciples asked themselves this question. Is this the real end?

On the contrary, the Ascension of Christ is the starting point of the missionary activity of the Eleven. The Ascension is not the end of Jesus' presence among us, but the beginning of a new way of being in the world. The glorified Lord continues in the world by the words and actions of those who believe in his words and allow the Spirit to act in them even 2,000 years later.

This feast is also a celebration of hope, since all of us have ascended with Christ in the hope and in the promise of eternal life. When we celebrate the Ascension, we remember that we also have come from God and are going back to God.

With the Ascension of Christ, the way is open, and the faithful invited to traverse it by holding his hand. Saying that Jesus "was raised up" does not imply a place, but a new dimension where our expressions "up and down" have no place and make no sense. Where God is—that is heaven.

## SUGGESTIONS

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

**In the home.** Ask your family about the meaning of living with God forever. Is it something that happens only after death? (Cf, John 17:3.)

**In the workplace or in school.** Tell your friends about your belief in the Ascension. Ask them their opinions.

**In the community.** Invite some friends or neighbors for coffee and cake and ask them about their belief in the Ascension. Give them time to voice their opinions. Make it a conversation, not a class.



## Meditation Moment

A woman saw a little girl in the street playing with filthy trash. The child was poorly dressed and ill-nourished. The woman became very angry and said to God, "Why do you let a thing like that happen in the world you created? Why don't you do something about it?" God replied, "I did do something about it; I created you."

### For reflection . . .

*That story invites me to ask myself: How seriously do I take Jesus' command to transform our world into the kind of place God created it to be?*

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST IS HIS LIBERATION FROM ALL RESTRICTIONS OF TIME AND SPACE. IT DOES NOT REPRESENT HIS REMOVAL FROM EARTH, BUT HIS CONSTANT PRESENCE EVERYWHERE ON EARTH.

WILLIAM TEMPLE

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

## Always with Us

God of hope and promise, From the moment of Creation, You longed to be in communion with us. You spoke through the prophets and through events, until you manifested the fullness of your love in the Incarnation. You lived our life and died our death, but the tomb could not hold you in. You are the Word, the Christ, and where you are you want us to be. We thank you for always being with us. Amen.

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

Above all the Gospel must be proclaimed by witness. Through wordless witness Christians stir up questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: What or who is it that inspires them? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News. *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 21

## Profile in Faith

### Padre José Pérez

Servant of God Padre José Pérez, (1890–1928) was born in Mexico, joined the Franciscans, and because of civil unrest, studied in California. After ordination, he returned to Mexico. The government's persecutions forced him to wear disguises when visiting Catholics. Jose was captured while returning from a secret Mass and was stabbed to death by soldiers. Feast Day: June 7.

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January 26, 2011

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Author: Adele J. Gonzalez

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*MAY 29, 2011*

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## THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### SATURDAY

4:30pm **Mass: Annita & Rudy DeTuccio**, requested by Dolores, Annita & Genavina Betti, and **Bernard Morrison & Mary Zajac**, requested by Helen Jakielo

### SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: For the People of the Parish**  
10:30am **Mass: Angelo & Doloresse Bernabucci**, requested by their family

### MONDAY - WEDNESDAY

(No Mass)

### THURSDAY – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION)

9am **Mass: Alice & Stanley Szczapa**  
4:30-6pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, living room  
7:00pm **Mass: For All in Whose Memory Easter Flowers Were Given**  
7:30pm **Intercessory Prayer**, Eucharistic Chapel

### FIRST FRIDAY

9:00am **Mass: For All Living & Deceased Members of Sacred Heart Parish**  
9:30am-5pm **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
5:00pm **Close of Adoration**

## THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### SATURDAY

4:30pm **Mass: Carol Deraleau, 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary**, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family

### SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: For the People of the Parish**  
10:30am **Mass: In Thanksgiving for 40 Years of Priestly Ministry**

## Meetings

### SATURDAY

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

### SUNDAY

**Fellowship before and after Mass**

### MONDAY & TUESDAY - OFFICES CLOSED

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

**OFFICES CLOSED**  
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**  
1:00pm **40th Anniversary Party for Father Stan**  
– at Villa Louisa

## **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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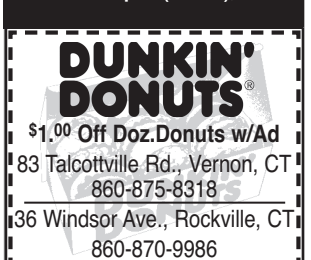
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