

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”

Not long ago there were 2 towers built high into the sky—a tribute to human genius. In a matter of hours there were smoking ruins. The human spirit and genius were crushed beneath the rubble. From the heap of rose 2 spirits of our time; the good spirit of hope, compassion, understanding, kindness and goodness; and the evil spirit of fear, hatred, revenge and prejudice. Both entered a battle for the soul of America and its people.

Every act of evil, cruelty and ignorance was responded to with hundreds of good and kind acts of love.

The hearts of Americans were broken 10 years ago on 9/11, but united they stood in hopeful anticipation of better things to come. Some not yet born on that day now have an opportunity to view the past through the blood of the victims and first responders and the tears of families, friends and all of us who call ourselves Americans. We mourn once again on the anniversary of this day and at the same time we renew our pledge to work for justice and peace in our time so that we can be a new and brighter light for the rest of the world to see. We as a people of hope and compassion, justice and peace now have the opportunity to rise higher than any tower, for we realize that no one can destroy us except us ourselves. Now the truth for us is that we need to live by the motto of our nation: "In God we trust."

Father Alan

The Annual Sacred Heart Parish Family Picnic

**TODAY,
Sunday, September 11
1:30pm to 4:00pm**

No charge.

A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted.

The Deacon's Corner

DECIDE TO FORGIVE

Decide to forgive
For resentment is negative,
Resentment is poisonous,
Resentment diminishes and devours self.
Be the first to forgive,
To smile and take the first step,
And you will see happiness bloom
On the face of your sister or brother.
Be always first,
Do not wait for others to forgive.
For by forgiving
You become the master of fate,
The doer of miracles.
To forgive is the highest,
Most beautiful form of love.
In return you will receive
Untold peace and happiness.

Robert Muller

HELLO! I am your envelope reminder angel. While you were enjoying the summer sun activity, your church at home was still hard at work.



Your help will still be needed to meet current expenses. Please remember to use your envelopes during the summer and mail them to: Sacred Heart, 550 Hartford Tpke, Vernon CT 06066. Thank you!

School Supplies for Haiti

Needed: Single-Subject Notebooks, Rulers, Colored Pencils, Erasers, Pencil Sharpeners,. Watch the ads for Target, Walgreens, Office Depot, Staples, CVS and Walmart. -!

Welcome

The parish family of Sacred Heart welcomes you!

Whether this is one of your first visits with us or your first visit in a while; 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.

Faith Formation Registrations

Registrations for Faith Formation are currently being taken.

If you are new to the parish or are registering a child in the Faith Formation Program for the first time, please contact Rella or Sandy (860-875-4563). You may also e-mail Rella at rella@sacredheartchurch.net.

Classes are held on:

Sunday mornings for Gr. K-5 (9:10-10:25am)

Sunday evenings for Gr. 6-8 and Confirmation Preparation (both start at 6:15pm)

If there are enough children (Gr. K-5) interested in attending faith formation on

Wednesday afternoons from 4pm to 5:15pm, we will certainly meet that need.

Registration fees are:

\$60 for Confirmation Preparation;

\$50 for the first child in your family attending faith formation;

\$45 for the second child in your family attending faith formation;

a total of \$115 per family.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties in these difficult economic times, please speak with Fr. Stan or Rella.

Catechists Needed

Volunteers are needed to be catechists in our Faith Formation Program **for grades K & 5**. Kindergarten currently has 2 children enrolled; Grade 5 currently has 3 children enrolled.

Please consider sharing your faith in God with either of these two small classes. Remember, Faith Formation will begin Sunday, September 25th. Time is running out.

Please contact Rella at rella@sacredheartchurch.net or by phoning 860-875-4563 for more information or to volunteer. Thank you!

Faith Formation Catechist Orientation

Catechist Orientation will be held on **Tuesday, September 13, 2011** at 7pm in the Fellowship Rooms. Catechists will receive their class lists, their catechist manuals, and all materials relating to Faith Formation at this time.

This is an important meeting. All catechists are asked to make every effort to attend. Questions? Concerns? Please contact Rella.

Please Note

Fr. Stan and Rella will be attending an *Orientation for DREs & Pastors* workshop on Thursday, September 15, 2011. This workshop will be followed by a *Welcoming the New Roman Missal* workshop.

The Faith Formation Office will open at 12:30pm on this day.

Catechetical Sunday

For the pastoral activity of the Church, the cooperation of a great many people is needed, so that communities as well as individuals may grow to full maturity in faith.

This cooperation is provided by those who devote themselves to catechesis (Faith Formation). In sharing their faith with others catechists pass on what they themselves have learned to be truths of their faith.

Next weekend we will bless the name of the Lord for giving us such co-workers and pray that through the Holy Spirit they will receive the grace they need in their service to the Church.

Have you been thinking lately that your spiritual life needs a boost? Have you been too busy to give your full attention to prayer? Have you felt that your ready to renew and reinvigorate your relationship with Jesus? Have you lost your connection with God?

Perhaps it's time to go on a retreat. Time to come aside for a while in a prayerful atmosphere. If you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to think about it, talk to Larry. There is a retreat coming up at the Holy Family Retreat Center that may be just right for you.

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Sir 27:30-28:9/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

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 27:30–28:9
Romans 14:7–9
Matthew 18:21–35

MONDAY

Luke 7:1–10
"... not even in Israel have I found such faith."

TUESDAY

Luke 7:11–17
"Young man, I say to you, rise!"

WEDNESDAY

John 3:13–17
"... whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

THURSDAY*

John 19:25–27
"Here is your mother."

FRIDAY**

Luke 8:1–3
"... he went on . . . proclaiming and bringing the good news . . ."

SATURDAY

Luke 8:4–15
"Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

*Alternate readings exist for this day.

**Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

God Demands Forgiveness

Matthew is tough! When Luke reports Jesus' words about how often we must forgive, he tells us seven times per day (17:4). But when Jesus answers Peter in today's Gospel from Matthew, the amount has risen to "seventy-seven times." The Greek phrase can also be translated, "seventy times seven times." But whether it is 77 times or 490 times, the meaning is clear: we must always forgive.

Today's parable of the unforgiving servant shows us why. The amount that the servant owed to his master (ten thousand talents) was an astronomical amount, about one billion dollars. The amount that a fellow servant owed to him (one hundred denarii) was a few months' wages. By presenting this vast difference in amounts, the parable insists that if we appreciate the mercy that

has been shown to us by God, our only option is to forgive others. Because, no matter how much forgiveness we are asked to extend to another, God has shown us more.

Earlier in this Gospel, Matthew rephrases a petition of the Lord's Prayer to emphasize the same point: "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (6:14–15).

There is no doubt that when people have hurt or betrayed us, forgiveness is difficult. It takes strength, courage, and often considerable time for us to let the offense go. That is what makes today's Gospel so challenging. God does not suggest or invite forgiveness but demands that we forgive our brothers or sisters from our heart.



The Faith of the Church

In reflecting on the Lord's Prayer, we realize that God's mercy cannot penetrate our hearts as long as we have not forgiven those who have trespassed against us. We cannot divide love. We cannot love the God we cannot see, if we do not love the brother or sister who we do see (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2840).



Questions of the Week

The tragedy of today's parable is that the unforgiving servant learned nothing from the extravagant gesture of the king who forgave his debt. This suggests that the foundation of our ability to forgive others is gratitude for God's forgiveness to us.

Adults

Have I ever been grateful for the willingness of someone to forgive me? How might I use that graciousness to enable my forgiveness of others?

Children

Has anyone ever forgiven me when I did something wrong? Can I be generous enough to also forgive someone else?

Responding to God's Word . . .

Even though God demands that we forgive, he does not insist on reconciliation. One person is able to forgive, but it takes two willing people for a broken relationship to be healed. Reconciliation often demands a change in two hearts so that a new relationship can emerge.

This is why even when one person is willing to forgive, reconciliation may never happen. If one person remains immature or selfish, if one person will not turn from the abuse of alcohol or drugs, if one person remains manipulative or violent, a healthy new relationship cannot be established.

The demand to forgive does not imply that we are responsible to fix or make every relationship whole. Two people are necessary for that. Forgiveness shows our willingness to explore the possibility of reconciliation. It is the openness to reconnect *if* we find that a new and viable relationship is possible.

Reconciliation, then, is always a grace—a gift which only God can give. All we can do is forgive, to be open to the change that God may work between us and the one who has hurt us. It is this forgiveness that is demanded of us and upon which our forgiveness from God depends.

SUGGESTIONS

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

In the home. Identify someone who has hurt you. Look for an opportunity to discuss the wrong and open the way for reconciliation.

In the workplace or in school. Find someone to whom you have been dismissive or mean. Find an opportunity to apologize.

In the community. Notice if there are groups in your neighborhood or church who speak against each other. Reflect upon a way to bring them together.



Meditation Moment

Whenever we forgive from the heart, we build a bridge over which we must pass on our way from earth to heaven. For each of us is a sinner. And the only way we can pass from earth to heaven is over the bridge of God's forgiveness. "If you forgive others . . .," Jesus said, "your Father in heaven will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14). In other words, the surest insurance policy against the loss of heaven is to forgive others from the heart.

For reflection . . .

Jesus' words invite me to recall someone who has hurt me and to consciously forgive that person now.

TO ERR IS HUMAN, TO FORGIVE DIVINE.
ALEXANDER POPE

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

A Prayer for Forgiveness

God of Mercy,
you know who has hurt me.
You can see how my heart tightens
whenever I hear my offender's name.
You watch as I lick my wounds believing
that feeding my anger will make me
whole. Come to me Lord. Open my
heart! Clear my mind to understand
that resentment only tortures my soul.
Allow me to let go and forgive,
so that my heart might open
again and let love in.
Amen.

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

Forgive your neighbor the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does anyone harbor anger against another, and expect healing from the Lord?

Sirach 28:2-3

Profile in Faith

Ben Sira

Ben Sira was a devout Jew who wrote the Book of Sirach about 200 years before Christ's birth. His writing is considered inspired Scripture by Catholics. His instruction includes many beliefs that are also found in the teaching of Jesus, such as the connection between our forgiving others and God forgiving us.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
May 23, 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.

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY

4:30pm **Mass: *Mary Piazza***, requested by Lise P.
Casella

SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: *Frank Ray***, requested by his wife, Ceil
Ray

10:30am **Mass: *10th Anniversary of the 9/11
Catastrophe – For All Who Died at the
World Trade Center, Pentagon, and
Pennsylvania, and their families***

MONDAY

MOST HOLY NAME OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
No Mass

TUESDAY

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, PRIEST AND DOCTOR

7:00pm **Mass: *For Blessings upon All Bishops,
Priests and Deacons***

WEDNESDAY

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

11:00am **Mass at Welles Village**

THURSDAY

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

NO

Sacrament of Reconciliation today—call for appt

7:00pm **Mass: *For All Parents Who Have Lost a Child***
7:30pm **Intercessory Prayer**

FRIDAY

MARTYRS CORNELIUS, POPE AND CYPRIAN, BISHOP

9:00am **Mass: *Fr. Robert Lynch***

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY

4:30pm **Mass: *Sandy Bair***, requested by the Sacred
Heart Parish Family, - and –
Margaret Pustello, requested by Ann Noel and
Jean Merz

SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: *For the People of the Parish***

10:30am **Mass: *Mary Piazza***, requested by Lisa P.
Casella

Meetings

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

Fellowship before and after Mass

1:30-4PM

PARISH PICNIC – NO CHARGE/FREEWILL OFFERING

MONDAY

OFFICES CLOSED

TUESDAY

7:00pm **Catechist Orientation**, South Community Rms

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

7:30pm **Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book**, South
Community Rooms

FRIDAY

10:00am **Bible Study**, South Community Rooms

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

Fellowship before and after Mass

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 –

To report sexual abuse by a representative of the diocese of Norwich, or for assistance to victims / survivors, call
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860-889-4455

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