

# 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”

## Increased Weekly Giving Program

Our Increased Weekly Giving Program is now underway. Please respond by using the red response envelope enclosed with the letter you received from Father this past week. The following weekend, simply return to your regular envelopes while maintaining your new giving amount. The participation of ALL parishioners is essential for the success of this effort. If you increased your weekly offering but did not use the special envelope, please do so next weekend so we can properly acknowledge your response. Pray for the success of this most necessary program.

*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 you're 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: Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32  
 Monday: Zec 8:1-8/Lk 9:46-50  
 Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Lk 9:51-56  
 Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Lk 9:57-62  
 Thursday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Jn 1:47-51  
 Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Lk 10:13-16  
 Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Lk 10:17-24  
 Next Sunday: Is 5:1-7/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

### Wisdom

The Sacred Heart Bible Study Group will be opening up ***The Book of Wisdom*** on Friday October 7th. If you would like to join us please call Denice Jones @ 860-647-0159 to sign up.

### Dinner

The Diocese of Norwich-Office of Catholic Schools invites you to attend the Seton Scholarship Dinner honoring the recipients of the 1st Annual Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, D.D. Award, on Friday, November 18, 2011, at The Riverhouse at Goodspeed Station, Haddam, from 6:30-10:30 pm. Tickets are \$150.00/person. All proceeds benefit Catholic Schools within the Diocese.

For information, please contact 860-887-4086. To purchase tickets go to [www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org](http://www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org).

### The Deacon's Corner

"It helps, now and then, to set back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is the Lord's work.

Nothing we do is complete which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that should be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness,

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something and do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the results. But that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own.

- Archbishop Oscar Romero

### Catechist Needed

We still need a catechist for grade level 5. There are 5 children in this class. Please consider sharing your faith in God with this class. **Faith Formation classes have begun!**

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

### 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; know that 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.

## Pastoral Council Minutes

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

**Present:** J. Augustyn, G. Bates, P. Bennett, R. Bernabucci, P. Chaffee, J. Crane, L. Deraleau, D. Gessay, E. Golnik, B. Hess, M. Oliver, S. Rice, B. Selinsky, K. Smith, Fr. Stan

**Absent:** A. Furey, M. Kurban

The meeting opened with **scripture, reflection, and sharing, led by Larry.**

**New members** were welcomed to the council: **Greg Bates, Pat Bennett and Bob Selinsky.** Thank you to the **former members: Rich Gaughan, Betty Gonsalves, Jim Higgins and Matt Tracey.**

### OLD BUSINESS

1. **PAST MEETING MINUTES** – The Council **accepted** the **6/8/11 minutes as with a minor change:** The restructuring committee submitted their final report to Sr. Elissa, not the Bishop.
2. **FAITH FORMATION REPORT** – Rella was thrilled that she received a volunteer to lead the Kindergarten classes. She is still **in need of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade catechist, so please contact Rella ASAP to share your time, talent and faith!** Registrations for classes are still coming in, but the **count is lower this year** due to several of the younger students going back to St. Maurice for their faith formation. **RCIA is up and running with two candidates.** **Alyssa Condon** enjoyed her service in **Appalachia**, and **Colin Crane** felt his **leadership conference** was well worth his time. There are **nineteen 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in confirmation prep** this year. **Jimmy and Matt** will have a new title of **“Youth Ministers”**. There will be a **Youth Group kick off September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> with a sleep-over.**
3. **PARISH RESTRUCTURING** – The report was sent to the Bishop, and **Father** will be having a **meeting with Monsignor Brown and Sister Elissa next Wednesday at 1:00** to discuss the whole restructuring process. More information will follow after Father’s meeting.
4. **COFFEE HOUR** – **The Pastoral Council’s** next date to host is the **second Sunday, 9/11.** Sandy offered to pick up the donuts and several people volunteered to help at the coffee hours.
5. **HOSPITALITY** – **Larry** said that he sends out an average of **15 welcome letters per month.** We discussed that the Pastoral Council could help do **greetings at the doors**, especially if there is an absence of a scheduled greeter. Also, the Pastoral Council could help to **welcome newcomers to stay after for coffee.**
6. **MASS CHANGES** – **Father** said that all the planned changes are moving forward.
7. **CHURCH EVENTS** – The **Coney Island Picnic** made a small profit which went to the **Caregivers fund.** The **Family Picnic** is this coming **Sunday, 9/11 from 1:30 – 4:00, and 70 people are signed up.**
8. **CLUSTER COUNCIL** – This committee is **on hold** based on Father’s upcoming meeting next Wednesday.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. **PARKING LOT** – The **parking lot is in need of repairs.** Please **talk to your legislators and community leaders** to ask

for their assistance in this matter. The State pays our parish to use the lot, and the amount we receive has only increased \$1,000 in the last 20 years. **Any ideas are welcome.**

2. **REVENUE DRIVE** – The **diocese** will be running an increased revenue drive soon, and **Father will present this to our parish on 9/18.**
3. **SOUND SYSTEM** – It is **hard to hear** the speakers in some places in our church since there are areas that the sound system does not cover well. If parish members are experiencing trouble hearing a reader, **please address the readers** to ask them to speak more clearly and loudly, **or try moving to a different spot in church.**
4. **9/11 ANNIVERSARY** – Father Stan shared a **handout** with the Pastoral Council that was written by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops one year after 9/11. It is a **message of living our faith and hope for peace.**

The meeting **closed with prayer by Father Stan.**

The **next meeting** of the Pastoral Council will be **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** **Bill** offered to do the **scripture reading** for us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Chaffee

### “Ministry to the Homebound” Workshop

A “Parish Ministry to the Homebound” Workshop will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 9:00am – 12:00pm at St. Joseph’s Parish Hall, Willimantic for parishes who would like to participate. Michelle O’Mara the Director of the People with Disabilities ~ Office for Pastoral Services from the Diocese of Bridgeport will be presenting the workshop. For information please contact Susan Williams Office of Family Life at 860-889-8346 ext. 283.

### Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat Weekends

If you are silently grieving after an abortion; healing, forgiveness and peace can have a beginning with a **Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat.** Retreat Oct. 7-9 in Farmington, CT call Mary at 203-882-1326. Retreat Oct.14-16 in Westerly, RI call Carol at 401-421-7833 ext.118. Retreat Nov.4-6 in Stockbridge, MA call Claire at 413-452-0661. Rachel’s Vineyard Website: [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) **“Project Rachel”** is also a Diocesan outreach for anyone in need of healing. Priests in “Project Rachel” can help you find peace, healing and forgiveness. Call 860-889-8307 or 800-554-5173. All inquiries are confidential.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

**A Weekend of Discovery ~ A Lifetime of Love!** Any married couple who desires a richer, loving joy-filled life together deserves to experience a **Marriage Encounter Weekend!** Focusing on one another without distractions, you have time to share feelings and hopes and examine your lives together. Rediscover each other with a heart-to-heart Marriage Encounter. To register for the next weekend in Willimantic, CT on Nov. 11-13 call 860-644-7260. For more info go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

### Time of Renewal

Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception invite you to a Time of Renewal on Saturday, October 1. Mass at 9am, Divine Mercy Talk 9:30-12:30. St Isaac Jogues Parish Center, 1 Community Street, East Hartford. Speakers: Fr. Dan Cambra MIC & Brother Michael Baker MIC. For more information contact Rachele LaBreque at 860-289-1286

## 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

**Ezekiel 18:25–28**  
**Philippians 2:1–11**  
**Matthew 21:28–32**

### MONDAY

**Luke 9:46–50**

*“... whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.”*

### TUESDAY

**Luke 9:51–56**

*“... he turned and rebuked them.”*

### WEDNESDAY

**Luke 9:57–62**

*“Follow me.”*

### THURSDAY\*

**John 1:47–51**

*“You will see greater things than these.”*

### FRIDAY

**Luke 10:13–16**

*“... whoever rejects you rejects me ...”*

### SATURDAY

**Luke 10:17–24**

*“... rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

\* Feast of Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael

## Free to Change and to Be Changed

A real change of heart, a complete conversion, is no simple matter. Many things conspire to keep us from changing or accepting change. Today's readings grapple with the most fundamental changes of our lives—from sinners to forgiven sons and daughters, from ego-centered and self-absorbed creatures to Christ-centered people with generous hearts.

When Ezekiel challenges the people of his time to true change and conversion of heart, he identifies their resistance with their own frozen judgments, “The way of the Lord is unfair!” Perhaps their comparative lens on life never allowed them to see themselves and their own need to change or the mercy of God in providing them the opportunity to be changed.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus issues a similar but somewhat different

challenge to the religious leaders of his time. Absorbed and caught up in their own presuppositions about good and bad, right and wrong, they, too, are frozen in their positions and unable to recognize their need to change and be changed. The great public sinners of the time—tax collectors and prostitutes—are more open to acknowledging their need for a change of heart.

In the second reading, Paul offers an earnest plea to the Philippians to let go and be free of self-interest in order to change and live in an entirely new way—the way of Jesus' self-emptying.

In various ways, today's word of God captures our fundamental resistance to a change or conversion of heart. It is often affected by our being too caught up with ourselves. Letting go of self-concern frees us to change and be changed by God's grace and power.



### The Faith of the Church

All followers of Jesus are called to a perfect holiness of life, something that only God can accomplish in us. Still, for our part, we need to cooperate with God's grace by being open to change and grow in the life that Christ offers us. This kind of availability to what God has to offer is the hallmark of the lives of the saints (Cf. the Second Vatican Council, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, n. 40).



### Questions of the Week

It is notoriously difficult for us to determine what holds us bound. And yet we must identify those things that contribute to our lack of freedom. Only when they are identified can we let them go and be free to embrace what Christ wants of us.

#### Adults

*How can I identify the things that keep me bound to an old way of living and cut me off from embracing a full and complete change of heart by God's grace?*

#### Children

*How can I let God know that I want to do what he wants me to do?*

## Responding to God's Word . . .

Our intellects enable us to know and understand ourselves and the world around us. Our wills enable us to make decisions and take action. Today's word gives special attention to our will and our process of making decisions, especially important decisions that give direction to our lives.

We can live *willfully*, that is, determined to exercise control and have things our way. Alternately, we can live *willingly*, that is, in a way that makes us open and available, especially to what God calls us to be and to do.

We could easily be living among the people of Ezekiel's time or the

Philippians to whom Paul wrote or with those who heard the teaching of Jesus. It is and has always been a universal spiritual challenge to let our wills, our capacity to decide and choose, be pliable and ready to move with the direction God gives us—God's will.

The effects of sin and our inclination to ego-centeredness dispose us to be willful. First, we must recognize how that plays out in our lives. Then, with God's grace and in the supportive environment of a community of faith, we can embrace a different way, the way of willingness.



### Meditation Moment

A man turned to drink. He also turned from God and his family. One day while walking along, repenting how his life turned out, he saw a bent, rusty nail in the gutter. It reminded him of himself and his life. So he picked it up and took it home. Placing the nail on an anvil, he began to straighten it out and clean it up. An hour later, it looked almost new again. Then it occurred to him. He could straighten out and clean up his own life in the same way. That thought triggered his conversion. He turned away from drink and back to God and to his family. Today, he keeps that nail, straightened and cleaned, in his wallet.

#### For reflection . . .

*Was there a time when I was almost like that bent, rusty nail? What changed me?*

WHO REPENTS SIN IS ALMOST INNOCENT.

SENECA

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

### Reshape My Uncertain Heart

Jesus,  
as I watch you  
in your temptations and  
in the struggles of your earthly  
ministry and in the garden of  
Gethsemane and on the cross of  
Calvary, I know your only focus  
is doing your Father's will.  
Reshape my own uncertain  
heart so often caught in my own  
will and my own plans.  
Conform my heart to yours,  
so that I may be  
finally and fully free to  
embrace the holy will  
of God. Amen.

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

When we focus on doing our own will or accomplishing only our own goals, we do not move beyond ourselves. When we are open and available to doing God's will, a universe of infinite possibility opens up for us.

## SUGGESTIONS

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

**In the home.** Strategically place a card with the words from the Lord's Prayer "thy will be done" as a reminder to live in a willing way.

**In the workplace or in school.** Decide to do something that reflects the will of others rather than your own. Reflect and pray on that action.

**In the community.** Identify advertising that appeals to the possibility of controlling life and arranging various outcomes. Reflect on the message.

### Profile in Faith

**Matt Talbot** (?–1925), an Irish laborer, has been named "venerable" by the Church. In his early years, he suffered from alcoholism and stole to support his drinking. He gave up alcohol and devoted himself entirely to a life of prayer and reparation. He moved from doing his will to doing God's will.

NIHIL OBSTAT  
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum  
IMPRIMATUR  
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas  
May 23, 2011

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Front: iStockphoto

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*SEPTEMBER 25, 2011*

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**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SATURDAY**

4:30pm **Mass: *John Leiner***, requested by a friend

**SUNDAY**

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

10:30am **Mass: *Joyce Bachl***, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family

**MONDAY**

COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS

*No Mass*

**TUESDAY**

VINCENT DEPAUL, PRIEST

**9:00am** **Mass: *Fr. Kenneth "Cap" Flint***, - and -  
***Fr. Robert Lynch***

**WEDNESDAY**

WENCESLAUS, MARTYR, AND LAWRENCE RUIZ & HIS COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

9:00am **Mass: *For All the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Who Are Sick***

**THURSDAY**

MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAFAEL, ARCHANGELS / ROSH HASHANA

4:30-6pm Sacrament of Reconciliation, Living Room

7:00pm **Mass: *Gail H. (Ashland) Slajda***, 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

7:30pm **Intercessory Prayer**

**FRIDAY**

JEROME, PRIEST & DOCTOR

9:00am **Mass: *For the Intentions of Don Hilton***

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY**

**TIME**

**SATURDAY**

4:30pm **Mass: *Frank and Antonette Cybulski***,  
requested by Helen Jakielo

**SUNDAY**

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

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

1:00pm ***Blessing of Animals***

**Meetings**

**SATURDAY**

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

**SUNDAY**

**Fellowship before and after Mass**

9:10-10:25am **Faith Formation**, Gr. K-5

6:15-7:30pm **Faith Formation**, Gr. 6-8

6:15-8:45pm Conf. Prep. & Youth Group

**MONDAY**

OFFICES CLOSED

**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

**Fellowship before and after Mass**

9:10-10:25am **Faith Formation**, Gr. K-5

1:00pm **Blessing of Animals**

6:15-7:30pm **Faith Formation**, Gr. 6-8

6:15-8:45pm Conf. Prep. & Youth Group

## **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  
800-624-7407 or  
860-889-4455

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