

# SACRED HEART PARISH FAMILY

550 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066-5000

(860) 875-4563

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

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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”

## Thank You!

Thank you to the parish families who have shown concern for their parish by responding to our Increased Weekly Giving Program. If you have not yet returned your response envelope, please consider doing so as soon as possible.

### Electronic Giving

Sacred Heart is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your **checking or savings** account or processed using your **credit or debit card**. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our parish. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Apply online at [www.sacredheartchurch.net](http://www.sacredheartchurch.net) or pick up an authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer available at the doors, or ask one of your friendly staff members.

### Readings for the Week

Sunday: Ex 22:20-26/1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40  
 Monday: Rom 8:12-17/Lk 13:10-17  
 Tuesday: Rom 8:18-25/Lk 13:18-21  
 Wednesday: Rom 8:26-30/Lk 13:22-30  
 Thursday: Rom 8:31b-39/Lk 13:31-35  
 Friday: Eph 2:19-22/Lk 6:12-16  
 Saturday: Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29/Lk 14:1, 7-11  
 Next Sunday: Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10/1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13/Mt 23:1-12

### First Reconciliation Parents Meeting

Meetings for parents of children currently **preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation** for the first time will meet in the **Parish House Living Room** on the following days:

**Thursday, October 27 at 7:00pm**

**Thursday, November 3 at 7:00pm**

**Thursday, November 10 at 7:00pm**

Please contact Rella (860-875-4563 or [rella@sacredheartchurch.net](mailto:rella@sacredheartchurch.net)) if you have any questions or concerns.

### A Cappella Songfest

Come and hear four of the finest A Cappella groups from UConn. They will be performing on Saturday, November 5, at 7pm, in the Aquinas Center located at St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, 46 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT for your enjoyment. The cost to attend will be \$15 adults, \$8 for students, and those under 12 are free, with a max of \$35 per family. Scrumptious desserts and refreshments will be provided during the concert. All profits made by the Knights of Columbus will be shared by those in need within St. Thomas Aquinas community. Tickets can be purchased from the Lisa Wild- Cornell, Parish Secretary at the office of St. Thomas Aquinas at 860-429-6436. Come enjoy a truly wonderful experience.

### The Deacon's Corner

#### MY SYMPHONY

To be content with such things as I have  
 To seek ever the kingdom of GOD and not the things of Earth, the riches of His grace rather than the wealth of the world;  
 To walk worthy of the Lord rather than endeavor to win the approval of man;  
 To trust in Him with all my heart rather than lean on my own understanding;  
 To be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;  
 To study to be quiet;  
 To listen diligently to the voice of the Lord at all times;  
 To be anxious about nothing;  
 To be thankful for everything;  
 To be praying always with all prayer in the Spirit;  
 To fight the good fight of faith, ever overcoming the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony, loving not my own life;  
 In a word, to let the indwelling Christ, day by day, manifest His love and grace through me;  
 This is to be the symphony of my life.

- Author Unknown

### Our Mass Language is Changing

#### PENITENTIAL RITE

We used to say:

I confess to almighty God,  
 and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
 that I have sinned  
 through my own fault,  
 in my thoughts and in my words,  
 in what I have done,  
 and in what I have failed to do;  
 and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin,  
 all the angels and saints,  
 and you, my brothers and sisters,  
 to pray for me to the Lord, our God.

Now we will say:

I confess to almighty God  
 and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
 that I have **greatly sinned**  
 in my thoughts and in my words,  
 in what I have done  
 and in what I have failed to do,  
**through my fault, through my fault,  
 through my most grievous fault;**  
**therefore** I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
 all the Angels and Saints,  
 and you, my brothers and sisters,  
 to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## **Catholics Must No Longer Support Capital Punishment**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Catholic Church's position on capital punishment has evolved considerably over the centuries.

And as a result, "it is not a message that is immediately understood -- that there is no room for supporting the death penalty in today's world," said a Vatican's expert on capital punishment and arms control.

Because the church has only in the past few decades begun closing the window -- if not shutting it completely -- on the permissibility of the death penalty, people who give just a partial reading of the church's teachings may still think the death penalty is acceptable today, said Tommaso Di Ruzza, desk officer at the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

St. Thomas Aquinas equated a dangerous criminal to an infected limb thereby making it "praiseworthy and healthful" to kill the criminal in order to spare the spread of infection and safeguard the common good.

However, over the centuries, justice has evolved from being the smiting arm of revenge toward a striving for reform and restoration, much like today's medical science, where amputation is no longer the only recourse for curing an infection.

Modern-day popes have reflected that change in attitude.

As far back as the 19th and early 20th centuries theologians pondered the seeming paradox between the Fifth Commandment, "You shall not kill," and the church's dark history of condoning state-held executions to deal with heresy and other threats and crimes.

Pope Paul VI took concrete action in distancing the church from this form of punishment, first by formally banning the use of the death penalty in Vatican City State, although no one had been executed under the authority of the Vatican's temporal governance since 1870.

Pope Paul also spoke publicly against planned executions and called for clemency for death-row inmates. Pope John Paul II also would punctuate his Angelus and general audience talks with impassioned appeals to spare the life of a prisoner on the verge of execution.

It was the Polish pope who "earnestly hoped and prayed" for a global moratorium on the use of capital punishment and the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

Pope Benedict, too, continues to send appeals for clemency in high-profile cases via telegrams either through a country's bishops or nuncio, and he has praised a U.N. resolution calling upon states to institute a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

The 1992 Catechism of the Catholic Church recognized "as well-founded the right and duty of legitimate public authority to punish malefactors by means of penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime, not excluding, in cases of extreme gravity, the death penalty." At the same time, it said, "bloodless means" that could protect human life should be used when possible.

The "extreme gravity" loophole was tightened with changes made in 1997, which reflected the pope's 1995 encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae." It specifies that the use of the death penalty is allowed only when the identity and responsibility of the condemned is certain and if capital punishment "is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor."

However, given the resources and possibilities available to governments today for restraining criminals, "cases of the absolute necessity of the suppression of the offender 'are very rare, if not practically nonexistent,'" it says.

Pope Benedict, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, had a major role in drafting the 1992 Catechism and, especially, its 1997 revised passages. When he told journalists about the changes in 1997, he said while the principles do not absolutely exclude capital punishment, they do give "very severe or limited criteria for its moral use."

"It seems to me it would be very difficult to meet the conditions today," he had said.

When a journalist said the majority of Catholics in the United States favor use of the death penalty, Cardinal Ratzinger said, "While it is important to know the thoughts of the faithful, doctrine is not made according to statistics, but according to objective criteria taking into account progress made in the church's thought on the issue."

Di Ruzza said the divergence of many Catholics in the United States from the church's current position is a sign that "the universal church must also accompany the particular churches a little bit" and help guide them on this "journey of purification," which is more a process of "maturity rather than a revolution or change in tradition."

Without reading Popes John Paul and Benedict's clear condemnations of the death penalty, the catechism will "unfortunately have the risk of being ambiguous or taken out of context," he said.

The church upholds the inherent dignity of all human beings, even the most sin-filled, and believes in hope, conversion and mercy, he said.

There is always room for conversion, he said, and forgiveness does not mean being naive about the real evil the human being is capable of committing.

The death penalty does not solve much; a victim still feels loss and crime is not deterred, he said.

Communities must strive to promote the common good, and it's dubious "that you can kill someone for the good of all," he said.

"The beauty of forgiveness must also be truly discovered; it's this that saves us," said Di Ruzza.

Otherwise, "by killing the just or the unjust without understanding that they have dignity, we will find ourselves after 2,000 years in the same courtyard shouting, 'Kill him!,' like they did with Jesus."

"God forgave us. He did not call us to death. Jesus let us overcome death" so as to more fully embrace life, he said.

## 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

**Exodus 22:20–26**  
**1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10**  
**Matthew 22:34–40**

### MONDAY

**Luke 13:10–17**  
*“... you are set free from your ailment.”*

### TUESDAY

**Luke 13:18–21**  
*“To what should I compare the kingdom of God?”*

### WEDNESDAY

**Luke 13:22–30**  
*“... many ... will try to enter and will not be able.”*

### THURSDAY

**Luke 13:31–35**  
*“... on the third day I finish my work.”*

### FRIDAY

**Luke 6:12–16**  
*“... he called his disciples and chose twelve of them ...”*

### SATURDAY

**Luke 14:1, 7–11**  
*“... those who humble themselves will be exalted.”*

## The Commandment to Love

Today’s Gospel reading relates a controversy between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. The Pharisees, in the person of a lawyer, decide to test Jesus, questioning which of the commandments in the Law was the greatest.

Jesus goes beyond the scope of the question with his answer and unites the greatest and first commandment—love of God—to a second—love of neighbor. His view actually is not that different from views held by his contemporaries.

Leviticus 19:18 presents love of God as the greatest commandment in the Law; other Jewish teachers also united love of God with love of neighbor. Yet Jesus’ combination of the two as the greatest commandments exercised an authoritative influence on subsequent Christian writings (see *1 Cor 13:13*).

This combination of the two commandments had already been

made in Judaism, and by basing his answer on Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, Jesus demonstrates his knowledge of and fidelity to the Jewish tradition.

This double commandment is the source from which the Law and the prophets are derived. Nevertheless, only Jesus wielded enough moral authority among his followers to focus their views on the single theme of the early Christian “law of love.”

The Covenant between Yahweh and Israel encompassed both dimensions: the vertical and the horizontal. It demanded from the people fidelity to God (a vertical connection) and special care for orphans, widows, and strangers (a horizontal connection).

The Old Covenant and the New Covenant remind us that God’s love for us is unconditional, and it never ends. Because of this, we are to demonstrate real love for *all* of God’s people.



### The Faith of the Church

Jesus often offended the teachers of the Law because he showed them the power of the Spirit working in the letters. He unfolded all the demands of the Commandments. The love for neighbor flows from the love of God. The Decalogue can only be interpreted in light of this single commandment of love (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 581, 2054).



### Questions of the Week

The words of Jesus are unmistakable; it is not enough to love God if that love does not lead us to loving our brothers and sisters. The Covenant with God calls for both, love of God and love of neighbor.

#### Adults

*How do I live out these two commandments in my daily life? Give examples.*

#### Children

*How do I treat others in school? Can they see that I am a Christian by the way that I behave?*

## Responding to God's Word . . .

How many times have we heard someone ask, "If they are such good Catholics and go to church every Sunday, why do they act in such a way?" This is a common and valid question. Are we content with going to church and participating in religious activities?

The greatest commandment according to Jewish Law taught us to love God with everything we have and to love our neighbor as we would ourselves. To love God does not mean that we come to church on Sunday and then the rest of the week act as if

we do not know who God is. It means that every moment of our lives is filled with an awareness of the presence and the love of God.

If we "know" that we are God's beloved, then we can love others. But some of us cannot truly love someone else because we do not first love ourselves. *This* is love—not that we loved God but that he loved us first . . . since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another . . . God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them (1 John 4:10–16 paraphrased).



### Meditation Moment

A TV documentary, "The Civil War," took audiences by storm in 1990. One program in the eleven-part series featured a letter written by Sullivan Ballou to his wife, Sarah, just before the first battle of Bull Run. Realizing he might be killed, he wrote: "How hard it is to . . . burn to ashes the hopes of future years when, God willing, we might still have lived and loved together to see our boys grown to honorable manhood around us. If I do not return, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I loved you, nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name. Forgive . . . the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless . . . I have sometimes been." Sullivan was killed at Bull Run.

#### For reflection . . .

*How readily do I express my feelings to my loved ones?*

I SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU IN THE  
BRIGHTEST DAY AND IN THE DARKEST NIGHT.

SULLIVAN BALLOU TO SARAH

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

### We Are God's Beloved

Lord God,  
You established a  
Covenant with your people  
and asked two things of them:  
to love you with all their hearts  
and to love others as they love  
themselves. Help us to believe  
that we are your beloved sons and  
daughters so that we can love others  
as much as you love us. It is difficult  
to believe that we are loved  
so unconditionally, but when  
we do, that love overflows to  
others. Please, God,  
help us to trust in  
your love.  
Amen.

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

Those who say, 'I love God,' and  
hate their brothers or sisters,  
are liars; for those who do not  
love a brother or sister whom  
they have seen, cannot love  
God whom they have not seen.

1 John 4:20

## SUGGESTIONS

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

**In the home.** Share with your family what it means to you to love others as you love yourself. Ask them how they interpret this commandment.

**In the workplace or in school.** This week, try to show your love of God through the way you behave toward others.

**In the community.** Think about people in your community. Do you love them as you love yourself? Share your feelings with your family.

### Profile in Faith

**St. Gabriel of  
Our Lady of Sorrows  
(1838–1862)**

Born in Italy, Gabriel entered the Passionist Order and was known for his spirit of prayer, cheerfulness, and love for the poor. After only four years, he died of tuberculosis at age 24. His example invites us to attend to small details in life, to be considerate and kind.  
Feast Day: February 27

NIHIL OBSTAT  
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum  
IMPRIMATUR  
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas  
August 22, 2011

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*OCTOBER 23, 2011*

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**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SUNDAY**

- 8:00am **Mass: Ray & Carol Duhamel**, requested by  
Maureen Ianucci
- 10:30am **Mass: Edward Simcoe**, requested by Mary  
Ann Simcoe, - and -  
**Fr. Robert Wilson**, requested by requested by  
Mary Ann Simcoe

**MONDAY**

ANTHONY MARY CLARET, BISHOP  
*No Mass*

**TUESDAY**

- 9:00am **Mass: Nancy Szczapa**, requested by Bob &  
Millie Leiper

**WEDNESDAY**

- 9:00am **Mass: Stanley Szczapa, Sr. – and –**  
**For the People of the Parish**

**THURSDAY**

- 4:30-6pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
7:00pm **Mass: For an Increase in Priestly Vocations**  
7:30pm **Intercessory Prayer**

**FRIDAY**

- SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES  
9:00am **Mass: For All Who Are Terminally Ill**

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SATURDAY**

- 4:30pm **Mass: Ernest Golnik, Sr., 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary**,  
requested by the Sacred Heart Liturgical  
Ministers, - and -  
**Wesley Whitham**, requested by his family

**SUNDAY**

REFORMATION SUNDAY

- 8:00am **Mass: For the People of the Parish**
- 10:30am **Mass: Jill Vercelli**, requested by Sallie White,  
- and -  
**Joseph Nguyen**, requested by his sons and  
daughter

**Meetings**

**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

**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**

## **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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