

SACRED HEART PARISH FAMILY

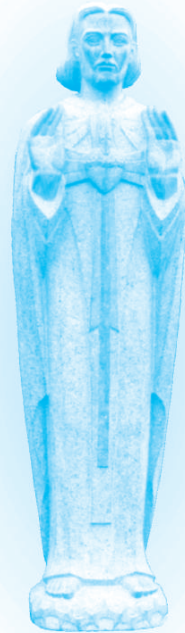
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PASTORAL TEAM

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”

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.

Whatever called you to be with us today; know that we were all called here once, just like you were. Pray with us. Celebrate with us. Walk together with us in faith. We eat together a lot; there's always plenty of food and it's always good so please join us for that, too.

Above all, 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.

Upcoming:

The Immaculate Conception

Of the Blessed Virgin Mary
In the Womb of Her Mother Ann
(*Holyday of Obligation*)

This Wednesday, December 8
9am & 7pm

Advent Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 14, 7pm

Christmas Eve Masses

4pm & 6pm

Christmas Day Masses

12 Midnight & 10am

No Vigil Mass, Saturday, December 25

New Weekend Mass Schedule

Vigil Mass – Saturday at 4:30pm

(Except the Easter Vigil)

Sunday Mass – 8:00am & 10:30am

The Deacon's Corner

This is the season when all seems dormant and bleak, when the earth itself seems empty and silent and waiting. Isaiah speaks to us of newness and life, of sprouts from stumps and blossoms from roots. He speaks of a time when enemies will be neighbors and justice and peace shall reign. John the Baptist cries out about preparing for a God who chooses to come and dwell among us.

Our wintry waiting selves could do with some newness and life and blooming right now. We could do with some light and warmth. Then a prayer - a song wells up in our hearts, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Our quiet Advent season becomes a season of miracles. Light shines in the darkness. The virgin becomes the mother. The least town welcomes a newborn King. The earth buds forth a Savior.

In our human smallness we have been noticed, not only noticed but loved, not only loved but visited, not only visited but died for. This is the miracle of Advent.

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 OR
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

First Reconciliation

The children who have been preparing in their Faith Formation sessions for their first celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will meet in the Oratory on Monday, December 6, 2010 at 5:30pm. Parents and siblings are invited to attend. The celebration of this Sacrament will be followed by a small party for the children and their families.

Special Collection This Week

Bishop Cote has authorized a **special collection to obtain donations to assist those who lack funds to pay for fuel** on December 4&5, 2010.

For the past 30 years the Diocese has distributed monies that have been collected to those persons and families who suffer severely because of their lack of fuel or electricity. Please help us to help those who are without heat or electricity during these cold winter months.

If you were not prepared to make a donation this weekend, **you may also do so next weekend!** Checks may be made payable to "Sacred Heart Church" – write "Diocesan Fuel Fund" in the memo area.

Keeping Christ in "Christmas Presents"

The **Gift Shop at Immaculata Retreat House**, 289 Windham Road in Willimantic will be having special Christmas hours in December for those looking for that special religious gift for Christmas. Hours: Thursday 6-7:30pm and Saturday 10am to Noon. The shop is also open during business hours Monday-Friday 9am - 4:30pm. For more information, call (860) 423-8484 or visit www.immaculataretreat.org.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Hispanic People of the Diocese of Norwich invite you to join us in our celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sunday, December 12, 2010 at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, 203 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut.

6:30pm Rosary & opportunity for confession
7:00pm Holy Mass (bi-lingual)
Most Rev. Michael R. Cote, D.D. Celebrant



Following the Mass, please join us for a fiesta of delightful music, delicious food & warm fellowship, as together we honor Our Lady and ask her intercession for peace in our hearts, in our homes, and in our land.

A good-will offering will be asked to cover the cost of the buffet.

For more information, please contact the Office for Hispanic Ministry: 860-456-3349 / e-mail: aposthispano@juno.com

Position Available

Primary Service Manager for grant-funded *Empowering People for Success Program (EPS)*. Applicant will provide outreach, case management, advocacy for home-based families with barriers to employment. BA/BS in a human service field with two years relevant experience. Office based in Willimantic and New Britain. Extensive travel required. Bilingual preferred. Send résumé to Search Committee, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Norwich, 331 Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360. Closing date: December 17, 2010.

Christmas Concert

Saint Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester celebrates its 150th Anniversary with a Christmas Concert on Friday, December 17 at 7pm.

Come hear the parish's **200-member choir** ages 4-94!

Dear Sacred Heart Church Parishioners,

She had no other place to lay her head. Last Thursday evening an older woman -- I'll call her Susan -- who had just been released from a hospital, was brought to the Cornerstone Shelter because she had no other place to go. She was without shoes a coat and a bit fearful.

It is a heart-breaking situation and is happening more and more. People without a place to go after their hospital stay are brought directly from the hospital to the shelter. Many times they are just dropped off without asking if we have a bed. It is very sad.

I want you to know it is because of your consideration and others like you that we were able to help Susan.

She had a warm clean bed to sleep on. From our clothing bank she received the shoes and other needed clothing items. A hot meal from our soup kitchen. Through our caseworkers we will help Susan help herself.

Thank you for your continued support and generous donation of volunteer service, much needed food donations, turkey voucher, and \$100.00 to the Cornerstone Foundation. You have made a difference.

Please keep us in your prayer.

Peace & Blessings,

Helen Syriac
Executive Director
The Cornerstone Foundation

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

Isaiah 11:1–10
Romans 15:4–9
Matthew 3:1–12

MONDAY

Luke 5:17–26

"... your sins are forgiven ..."

TUESDAY

Matthew 18:12–14

"It is not the will of your Father ... that one ... should be lost."

WEDNESDAY*

Luke 1:26–38

"... he will be called Son of God."

THURSDAY

Matthew 11:11–15

"Let anyone with ears listen!"

FRIDAY

Matthew 11:16–19

"... to what will I compare this generation?"

SATURDAY

Matthew 17:9A, 10–13

"... the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands."

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Justice and Peace As One



Isaiah's poetic description of the future messianic era captures our imagination and fills us with hope during the Advent season. The prophet envisions a time

when justice and peace will embrace not only Israel, but also the human community and all of creation.

In today's Gospel passage, John the Baptist fearlessly proclaims, "Reform your lives! The reign of God is at hand" (see Matthew 3:2). John stands in the tension between the end of the patriarchs and prophets and the new era of the messianic kingship of Jesus.

This coming Reign of God can be likened to Isaiah's peace-filled creation and the right ordering of relationships marked by justice. To welcome and be

a part of this kingdom, repentance is a vital step.

For John, no inherited privilege or external observances can substitute for true conversion. A more radical change—seeing yourself, others, and the entire created world as God does—is the principle John is proclaiming.

The Greek word for conversion, *metanoia*, is not about a static remorse for sin. Rather, it is a dynamic and determined "turning around" of one's life. It is a positive commitment to a new way of life.

No amount of religious piety or external behavior can bring about this re-forming. It is a matter of the heart and the Spirit within, rousing us to ongoing growth and deepening commitment to the deeds of justice and peace. John's call to reform is a constant challenge to all who would call themselves Christian.



The Faith of the Church

We are called to remain fully conscious of the Mystical Body of Christ in our daily living as we wait for the perfection of the glory of Heaven. This promise and hope for the restoration of all peoples and all creation has already begun in Christ and is carried forward within us through the Holy Spirit as we discover the meaning of our earthly lives (Cf. *Lumen Gentium* 48, 50).



Questions of the Week

John's clothing of camel's hair and his feeding on honey and grasshoppers calls to mind the desert days: both for the nation of Israel and today in our own struggles. His message of hope and expectation fills us with a renewed desire to true conversion during the Advent season.

Adults

What action can I take to turn my mind and heart around this Advent?

Children

What does the word hope mean to me?

Responding to God's Word . . .

The Gospel call to repent enlivens our minds and hearts to move out of our religious complacency. All too often we rely upon regular attendance at Mass, reception of the sacraments, and an occasional prayer of petition as sufficient for our spiritual growth.

John shakes us out of a comfortable faith practice and inspires us to become more of what we are created to be. As an eighth-grade teacher once told her students, "You have a unique gift to contribute to the world. If you do not act on it, the world will be that much poorer and lacking."

We can lament the state of the world and become overwhelmed with

the challenges presented to us. We can feel helpless to make things better for future generations. We can turn off the daily news and escape the vitriolic language that divides countries and even political groups in the United States. But the Gospel challenges us and offers us a powerful vision of hope in the kingdom that is to come.

Indeed, Advent reminds us to be people of hope when the world seems to be on a fear-filled spiral downward. It stirs us into action for small acts of peace-giving and justice-living as we anticipate the coming of the kingdom.

SUGGESTIONS

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

In the home. Avoid everyday arguments by really listening to one another's perspectives. Repeat things you have heard to clarify what people are saying. Healthy conversation is a component of healthy families.

In the workplace or in school. Look for peaceful resolutions to workplace or school conflicts.

In the community. Create a "peace pole" at your parish as a visual reminder to pray for peace.



Meditation Moment

Years ago, a man was shocked to read his own obituary in the morning paper. His death was mistakenly reported. But what shocked him most was how the obituary described him: as someone who had devoted his life to making weapons of war. That morning he resolved to turn his energies in a new direction: working for world peace and human betterment. That man was Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Peace Prize.

For reflection . . .

John the Baptist's warning to us to turn from our sins and Nobel's decision to turn his energies in a new direction challenge me to inventory and reassess my own goals in life.

[JESUS SAID,]

"WILL A PERSON GAIN ANYTHING
IF HE WINS THE WHOLE WORLD
BUT IS HIMSELF LOST OR DEFEATED?"

LUKE 9:25

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

Teach Us to Be Peacemakers

God of all creation,
bring justice and peace
to our world.

Teach us to be peacemakers.
Guide us in our pursuit of justice
and the common good.

Inspire us to welcome all,
forgive all, and love all.

Direct us as we walk in the
shadow of Jesus:

the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Inspire us to perceive the world
through your eyes, that we
might find hope and joy
each day.

Amen.

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

[A]nd what does the
Lord require of you but
to do justice, and to love
kindness, and to walk
humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

Profile in Faith

Elijah

The great Hebrew prophet Elijah provided food for the widow, restored her son to life, rained down fire in the contest with the prophets of Baal, and was taken to Heaven in a fiery chariot. He is still honored in Jewish Passover rituals and is compared to John the Baptist and Jesus in Christian contexts.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
August 9, 2010

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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The Work of the Church

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY

4:30pm **Mass: Rita Peter**, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family, - and -
Ann Votta, requested by Yvonne Sullivan

SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: For the People of the Parish**
10:30am **Mass: Frank Chmielewski**, requested by Helen Jakielo - and -
John Marshall

MONDAY

SAINT NICHOLAS, BISHOP
5:30am **First Penance**

TUESDAY

AMBROSE, BISHOP/PEARL HARBOR DAY
9:00am **Mass: For Peace In the World**

WEDNESDAY

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN THE WOMB OF HER MOTHER (A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION)
9:00am **Mass: For the People of the Parish**
7:00pm **Mass: Bernard Corcoran**, requested by Tom & Arlene Furey

THURSDAY

4:30pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation: Living Room**
7:00pm **Mass: Ann Votta**, requested by Mary & Mike Aude
7:30pm **Intercessory Prayer, Eucharistic Chapel**

FRIDAY

10:30am **Mass at Vernon Manor**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (PINK!)

SATURDAY

4:30pm **Mass: Carol Deraleau**, requested by Doreen Przybylowicz, - and -
Carol Duhamel, requested by Joseph & Elaine Brown

SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: For the People of the Parish**
10:30am **Mass: Ann Votta**, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family - and -
Ernest Golnik, Sr., requested by Ceil Ray

Meetings

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

- **Fellowship before and after Mass**

MONDAY

OFFICES CLOSED
7:00pm **Parish Restructuring**, at St Matthew, Tolland
7:00pm **Haiti Ministry**, Deacon Chuck White Memorial Haiti Ministry Room

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

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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