

# SACRED HEART PARISH FAMILY

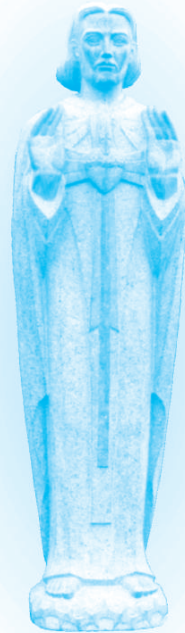
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## PASTORAL TEAM

**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.

## Youth Group Fundraiser

The Youth Group will be holding a fundraiser this weekend and next weekend. **Drawing prizes will include a Christmas floral arrangement.** Chances will cost \$1 for 1 ticket; \$5 for 6 tickets; and \$10 for 12 tickets. Proceeds will help to defray the cost of the Confirmation retreat and transportation.

### Upcoming:

#### 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

As I was working out in the yard today, I noticed many nests, made visible now that the branches had lost their leaves. Nests that were patiently and painstakingly put together from the raw materials of forest and field. Their centers were made soft with straw and feathers, a home ready to receive now life.

The nests are empty now, their duty done. Some parts are broken and the welcoming softness gone. Perhaps, in the spring, they will be occupied again, the broken parts repaired, the softness renewed, ready once again to receive now life.

I've been thinking, my heart right now is like those nests – empty, some broken parts, the softness gone. But its duty is not yet done. It's Advent. It is time for me to patch up the broken parts, put more softness in the center, warm it with prayer, and await the new life that is coming. It's time to make it a welcome home for my Jesus.

Perhaps you are feeling broken right now, but Jesus is coming in all the ways that only He can come to us. As a babe in the manger. As Messiah and King. As divine Son and Savior. As Emmanuel, God-with-us. He is not looking for a womb to dwell in, or even a manger. He is looking for open hearts, nests if you will, in which to make a home.

## Christmas Tag Program

Just a reminder that your gift card, or item(s) purchased are due back to Sacred Heart by Sunday, December 19th. The sooner the better!

Anyone who still wishes to make a cash or check donation, please mark the envelope and/or memo field of the check that it is for a **Christmas Tag**. Father Stan will make sure that I get the donation.

**The response last weekend was amazing.** Thank you.

All of the wishes for the children will be fulfilled, and we will be able to provide some other items to each family such as grocery cards to make their holidays a little brighter.

**Remember, do not wrap anything.** Questions? 860-870-8478.

God Bless,

Claire Crane

## Readings for the Week

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11  
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27  
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32  
Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23  
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30  
Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17  
Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25  
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

## First Reconciliation

The following children recently celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time:

Aiden Ives  
Amy Nguyen  
Tyler Rose  
Logan Santos  
Liam Smith

We congratulate these children and their families and pray that as they continue to receive the Lord's forgiveness they grow in his love and mercy.

## Nurture the Spirit Within

**WOMEN'S RETREAT:** January 28-30 "God Changes Everything"  
A retreat is a great opportunity to be with other women and to rediscover the presence of God in your life. Retreat begins on Friday evening with a buffet dinner from 6:00-8:00pm and ends on Sunday around noon. Retreat Offering: \$225.00

**DAY RETREAT FOR GRANDPARENTS** Wednesday, January 26 Day 10:00am - 2:00pm Presenter: Alice Smith

It is said that the bonds between parents and children are physical, but the bonds between grandparents and grandchildren are spiritual. Come and explore the spiritual dimension of grandparenting. The day will include the presentation, lunch and Liturgy. Program Offering: \$35

**EVENING RETREAT**  
Roller Coaster Ready? Faith, Values and Discipline for the Teenage Years Wednesday, January 26 6:00-9:00pm Presenter: Rick and Fay Lenz

A thoughtful but often humorous look (by the parents of six) at how to navigate the emotional and spiritual bumps, drops and curves of the roller coaster teenage years. Parents, grandparents, friends, teachers, youth ministers and relatives of teens are welcome to attend. The evening will include dinner, presentation, and Liturgy. Program Offering: \$35

Register online at [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org) or send name, address and offering to:

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center  
303 Tunxis Road  
West Hartford, Ct 06107  
(860) 521-0440

## Thank You

To the Sacred Heart Parish Family,

Thank you for your card, Mass intentions, thoughts and prayers in our time of need.

The Bates Family

## For Men 30 -50:

Friday and Saturday February 11&12 Blessed John XXIII National Seminary invites single men from around New England who are considering a priestly vocation to visit their campus. Cardinal Sean O'Malley will be among the presenters during the two day visit which will also include the opportunity to meet other men like themselves, participate in the liturgical life, attend Saturday classes and converse with the faculty. For more information speak with your pastor or contact the vocation office of the diocese – Fr Greg Galvin at 860-887-9294.

## 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](mailto:aposthispano@juno.com)

## 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 35:1–6A, 10**  
**James 5:7–10**  
**Matthew 11:2–11**

### MONDAY

**Matthew 21:23–27**  
*“Did the baptism of John come from heaven . . . ?”*

### TUESDAY

**Matthew 21:28–32**  
*“. . . John came to you in the way of righteousness . . .”*

### WEDNESDAY

**Luke 7:18b–23**  
*“Go and tell John what you have seen and heard . . .”*

### THURSDAY

**Luke 7:24–30**  
*“This is the one about whom it is written . . .”*

### FRIDAY

**Matthew 1:1–17**  
*“An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah . . .”*

### SATURDAY

**Matthew 1:18–25**  
*“. . . the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”*

## What We See and Hear

For 2,000 years Catholics and all Christians have been waiting for Jesus, the Messiah, to return again. The Jewish people, however, are still waiting for the Messiah to come for the first time. Each year during the Seder meal, they pray for the Messiah to come.

How we will recognize the Messiah when he comes is the key point of this Sunday’s Gospel. What signs should we look for and how should we interpret those signs?

John the Baptist, who had been preaching the need for repentance in preparation for the Messiah’s coming, was now in jail for challenging the ruling elite. But even in jail he was hearing great stories about Jesus. And so he sent a representative to ask Jesus, “Are you

the one?” Jesus’ response to John is basically, “Here’s what I’m doing. Make up your own mind.”

Jesus then questions the crowds about how they read the signs that John revealed. Was John “a reed shaken by the wind” (a meaningless noisemaker) or a rich man of leisure? No, Jesus said, John was a great prophet. Why do we have so much trouble understanding such clear signs?

The Gospel today asks us to think about what we see and hear. While we may no longer witness the blind

made to see or the lame made to walk in miraculous ways, the signs of the Kingdom of God are present all around us if we only open our eyes to see and ears to hear.



## The Faith of the Church

The Church exists because of God’s will. Jesus, as head of the Church, fills it with his life and saving grace through the Holy Spirit. The Church is the sacrament of Salvation.

Through her members, the Church praises God, gives witness to Christ, and serves the world in love, justice, and mercy. The Church is a living body, sustained by the Holy Spirit (Cf. *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, p. 115).



## Questions of the Week

The way that people today can see signs of the Messiah is through the actions of the Church and its members. What we do and say or don’t do or don’t say will be the signs that people interpret.

### Adults

*What can I do this week to be a living witness to my faith in Jesus?*

### Children

*What can I do this week to show my friends that Jesus matters in my life and that he is truly the Messiah?*

## Responding to God's Word . . .

Have you ever played the game *Clue*? You roll the die, move between rooms, ask questions, and collect information. You use the clues you gather to help you deduce the solutions to a crime: who, where, and with what.

For many people, belief in God is like this game: a matter of collecting data, following signs, and then interpreting the information to reach a conclusion.

Some may see starving people or a natural disaster and think that there is no God or that God must not care very much for humanity. Isn't it amazing that others can witness the same things and be

overwhelmed at the abundance of God's love seen in the outpouring of help that occurs during these times of trouble?

As Catholics, we are called to take an active role in the lives of those around us, to recognize those times as—in the words of Therese Wilson-Favors (Director of African-American Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Baltimore)—“set-ups for God to show up.”

We are called not only to pay attention to the signs of God's love in the world; we are also called to “be” those signs. So take time this week to think about the clues in your life that point to God.

## SUGGESTIONS

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

**In the home.** As a family, decide on one thing that you can do each day this week to be signs of Christ's living presence in the world.

**In the workplace or in school.** Pay special attention to people who seem to be sad or lonely, and help them feel Christ's presence through your love and care.

**In the community.** Contribute time and money to the Church's public ministry of healing the sick, feeding the hungry, or visiting those in prison.



## Meditation Moment

The prophet Malachi foretold that God would send a *forerunner* “like the prophet Elijah” (Luke 1:17) to prepare for the Messiah's coming. John is that *forerunner*. His instructions to people are simple: “Turn away from your sins” (Luke 3:3).

### For reflection . . .

*John's words still apply today. The first step in preparing for the coming of Jesus into my life is to “turn away” from my sins. If I turn away from them, Jesus will begin to enter into my life in a way that I never dreamed to be possible.*

[JESUS SAID,]

“LISTEN! I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK; IF ANYONE HEARS MY VOICE AND OPENS THE DOOR, I WILL COME INTO HIS HOUSE AND EAT WITH HIM.”

REVELATION 3:20

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

## Give Us a Sign

Lord God,

When I am in doubt,

give me a sign to guide me.

When I feel alone, give me a sign

to know that you are with me. When

I feel afraid, give me a sign to make me

feel brave. When I am happy, give me

a sign that you share my joy. When I see

others in need, give me a sign to act

as your hands. And when I am

blinded by sin to all of your signs,

give me the grace to see.

Amen.

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

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?”

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these . . . you did it to me.

Matthew 25:37b, 40b

## Profile in Faith

**Henriette DeLille**  
(1813–1862)

Henriette DeLille was a free woman of color who lived in New Orleans. She founded the Sisters of the Holy Family who today continue to minister to those most in need. Mother DeLille was proclaimed venerable by Pope Benedict XVI on March 27, 2010.

NIHIL OBSTAT  
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum

IMPRIMATUR  
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas  
August 9, 2010

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## The Work of the Church

### 3<sup>RD</sup> 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

MONDAY LUCY, VIRGIN & MARTYR

TUESDAY JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST & DOCTOR

9:00am **Mass: For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**

7:00pm **Communal Penance Service**

#### WEDNESDAY

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

#### THURSDAY

4:30pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation: Living Room**

7:00pm **Mass: Fr. Robert Murphy, M.S.A.**

7:30pm **Intercessory Prayer, Eucharistic Chapel**

#### FRIDAY

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

### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### SATURDAY

4:30pm **Mass: Ernest Golnik, Sr.**, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family

#### SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: Drew Iadarola**, requested by Pat Iadarola and Family

10:30am **Mass: Theresa Spalding**, requested by Edward & Mary Chartier

## Meetings

#### SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY - **Fellowship before and after Mass**

MONDAY **OFFICES CLOSED**

#### WEDNESDAY

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  
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