

SACRED HEART PARISH FAMILY

550 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066-5000

(860) 875-4563

Website: www.sacredheartchurch.net

Fax: (860) 872-2535

E-mail: info@sacredheartchurch.net



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:

Christmas Eve Masses

4pm & 6pm

Christmas Day Masses

12 Midnight & 10am

(NO 4:30pm Mass Christmas Day)

The Holy Family - December 26

8am & 10:30am

(Regular Sunday Schedule)

Mary, the Mother of God

January 1

10am

New Weekend Mass Schedule

Vigil Mass – Saturday at 4:30pm

(Except the Easter Vigil)

Sunday Mass – 8:00am & 10:30am

The Deacon's Corner

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

We light the lantern of Christmas
to seek it's warm and loving heart
and to prepare for the birth of love in our own hearts.
We read again the story of the first Christmas.
We are reminded that the love brought to the world
by the Christ child
is needed now more than ever
in each of our hearts.

The heart of Christmas holds for each of us a special meaning.
For as much as Christmas is many voices singing,
so too is Christmas one silent prayer.
And as much as Christmas is a wondrous starry night,
so too is Christmas one candle burning.
And as Christmas is giving gifts,
it is also knowing the gifts we already have.
Christmas is a time to remember special people
who touch our lives,
and offer loving kindness to people
whose lives we can touch.

Christmas is a time to love, to share, to celebrate,
to be with others, and a time to be with yourself.
Look deep within this heart of Christmas.
Know it's love and feel it's light
entering your heart and illuminating your life.

Susan Florence

Youth Group Fundraiser

The drawing for the Youth Group's fundraiser will occur this weekend following the 10:30 Mass. Prizes are:

a Christmas floral arrangement; a box of See's Candies; a basket containing Dunkin' Donuts; a multi-function radio; and a \$50 gift certificate to the movie theater at Buckland.

Chances are: \$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.

Faith Formation & Youth Group News

Faith Formation and Youth Group will **NOT** meet on the following days because of the Christmas and New Year holidays:

December 26

January 2

We will meet again on Sunday, January 9, 2011 at the regularly scheduled times.

Young Adults Group Events

New Year Day Party – a gathering of the Young Adult Group on New Year's Day – January 1, 2011 at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Rooms. Please RSVP to Kelly (860-841-8127) or Jim (860-550-4428) so we will know how much food is needed.

SuperBowl Party - Save the date! Sunday, February 6, 2011. More information to follow!



Diocese of Norwich
Office of the Bishop
201 Broadway
Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 887-9294

MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

Christmas Message 2010

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

May the peace of the newborn Savior abide with you and your loved ones now and throughout the coming year!

At Christmas, the world is bathed in the beauty of God's glory and goodness. The generosity of God's love is captured in the hymns, prayers, and readings of the Christmas Liturgies that speak of the beginning of the Son of God's life on earth. We hear the angel's announcement to the shepherds of Jesus' birth and we welcome Him as Lord, the true light of the world. In gratitude to the Father for the gift of His Son, we pray that we may share His life completely by living as He taught.

Sacred Scripture tells us that when the angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds who were taking turns watching their flocks at night, "the glory of the Lord shone round them." (Luke 2:10) The angel's message announced the fulfillment of God's promise made known through the prophets: "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14.)

In a biblical sense, a person's name reveals who that person is. Throughout his life, the name remains as a blessing to reveal the person's destiny. God's Son is called Immanuel, a name that means "God is with us." With God's promise to send a Messiah, Isaiah, the prophet, understands God's intervention in time and in our lives. The authors of the Gospels see in this text the prophecy of Christ's birth.

The shepherds, the first to receive word of Christ's birth, were awaiting the birth of the promised Messiah to deliver Israel, to lead God's people to freedom from Roman occupation. The long awaited Messiah now was in their midst and the assurance given by the angel's message gave the shepherds great joy. "Today in the town of David, a savior has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

We can only imagine the unbelievable ecstasy of that moment. The Gospel of Saint Luke reports that the glory of God shone round the shepherds. The announcement of the blessed birth of Christ, a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, a trough where animals feed, caused them to hurry to find Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. After they heard the angel's message, they saw a heavenly host of angels and heard them praising God. (cf. Luke 2:12-17)

The glory of that holy night in Bethlehem continues to shine in our world. We are the shepherds to whom that announcement is made. The need for Christ and for deliverance is as real today as it was on the day of His birth. The shepherds' response is well documented but what about ours?

The message is clear! We, too, are invited to welcome our Savior into our lives, our families, and our world. In our parish Churches, we find our Bethlehem. At the Altar, we see the manger cradling Jesus Who comes to us under the appearances of bread and wine. Jesus is as present to us as He was to the shepherds and the Lord seeks our welcome as He did theirs. He invites our worship. He rejoices in our love. In response, we glorify and praise God for all we have heard and seen; it was exactly as we have been told. (Cf. Luke 2:20)

Christmas tells us that our destiny is found in the name, Christian, that we bear. God's Incarnate Love, revealed in the birth of His Son, confers on us our identity. His divine love defines what we are called to be. Recreated in the image of His Son, we are to be a proclamation to one another of the love God has shown us in Jesus Christ. May we share His life completely by living as He taught!

Merry Christmas and the Lord's choicest blessings to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael R. Cote
Bishop of Norwich

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 7:10–14
Romans 1:1–7
Matthew 1:18–24

MONDAY

Luke 1:26–38
"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

TUESDAY

Luke 1:39–45
"Blessed are you among women . . ."

WEDNESDAY

Luke 1:46–56
"My soul magnifies the Lord . . ."

THURSDAY

Luke 1:57–66
"What then will this child become?"

FRIDAY

Luke 1:67–79
"Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit . . ."

SATURDAY*

John 1:1–18
"In the beginning was the Word . . ."

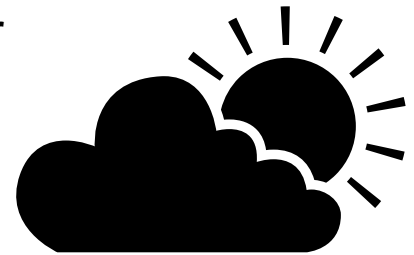
*Alternate readings exist for this day. The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Salvation from Disaster

The Scriptures say it so quickly and casually that it is possible for us to overlook the crisis that it must have caused: "Mary was found to be with child" (see Matthew 1:18). What must Joseph have felt when he discovered that Mary was with child? Shock, devastation, betrayal? He knew that he was not the father. What hurt he must have felt when he supposed that this woman, who he treasured and planned to make his wife, had been unfaithful to him.

Such intense feeling must have driven him close to despair. As a person of faith, it is likely he turned to God to complain: "God where are you? My life is shattered, my hope is gone. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Now in time, Joseph learned that Mary had not been unfaithful and that his marriage could proceed—although on terms he had never imagined. But in that first moment, it was easy to



presume that it might have felt that God was absent and unconcerned.

The experience of Joseph shows us that God often works in ways that are not immediately clear to us. He has a plan that is always unfolding, but usually that unfolding takes time.

Evil, sickness, and death will always be a part of our lives. But Christians face the future with hope because we believe that the present moment is only a part of the plan that God is enacting on our behalf.

When Joseph heard that Mary was pregnant, he was convinced that his life was ruined. But this apparent setback was, in fact, the first step in the Salvation of the world.



The Faith of the Church

The Church sees in the disaster of Israel's exile in Babylon a mysterious presence of the saving God and the beginning of a promised restoration. The remnant that returns from exile is a prefiguring of the Church, reminding us that in the darkest and most hopeless times, God is nevertheless leading us to Salvation (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 710).



Questions of the Week

Devastated by the news of Mary's pregnancy, Joseph remained open to the promptings of God. When he was informed of the miraculous situation, he accepted it with trust. He is, thus, the model of a good spouse and faithful believer.

Adults

Where am I struggling to recognize God's presence, and what steps can I take to trust that God is leading me into the future?

Children

When things are bad, do I realize that they will become better because God loves and cares for me?

Visit us at www.FaithFirst.com (click on "Faith First for Families," click on "Gospel Reflections") and share today's Gospel reading as a family.

Responding to God's Word . . .

In light of the experience of Joseph, we must be slow to judge when evil attacks us. Although God is always at work, it takes time to perceive what he might be doing in our lives.

When we receive bad news in our family, in school, or at our job, it is appropriate to be in shock or upset. But we are also called to believe that those disasters will not derail God's plan for our lives.

When we make foolish choices, we must admit our failures and live with the consequences of our decisions. But we continue to believe that God is with us, guiding us to learn from

our mistakes and to avoid them in the future. When someone we love faces sickness or death, we are rightfully discouraged. But we remain confident that God will provide opportunities for love, reconciliation, and growth. He is always in control.

Evil is real. It can attack us. We should never pretend that bad things are somehow good things in disguise. The present moment can seem like a disaster. But it can lead to goodness and life. Even when the present situation appears to be a total loss, God can still use it as part of our Salvation.

SUGGESTIONS

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

In the home. At a family gathering, share ways in which God has led you from something negative to something good. Give thanks together.

In the workplace or in school. Recognize someone who is struggling with a difficult situation. Assure them of your support.

In the community. Approach someone in your church community who is coping with sickness or loss. Share your faith that God is with us.



Meditation Moment

Critics ridiculed the Russian novelist Feodor Dostoevski for reaffirming his belief in Jesus after a period of faith-confusion and faith-questioning. Dostoevski responded to them, saying, "It is not like a child that I believe in Christ and confess him. My hosanna has come forth from the crucible of doubt."

For reflection . . .

Did I ever go through a period of faith-confusion and faith-questioning, as did Dostoevski? How do I resolve faith questions now?

I ALWAYS THINK THE BEST WAY
TO KNOW GOD IS TO LOVE MANY
THINGS. LOVE A FRIEND, A WIFE . . .
WHATEVER YOU LIKE . . .
THEN, YOU WILL KNOW THERE IS A GOD.
THEN, YOU WILL BELIEVE.

VINCENT VAN GOGH

FROM VISION BY MARK LINK, SJ

Trust for the Future

Eternal God,
I know the past and present,
but only you know what is to come.
I panic when evil touches my life.
I jump to the conclusion that a present
evil will destroy my future. Allow me to
examine the past and recognize how
many times you were faithful, how
many times you led me from disaster
to life. Lead me to know that since
only you know my future,
I must entrust it
to your care.
Amen.

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

For the cloud of the Lord was
on the tabernacle by day,
and fire was in the cloud by
night, before the eyes of all
the house of Israel at each
stage of their journey.

Exodus 40:38

Profile in Faith

The Priestly Authors of the Pentateuch

The greatest disaster
of Israel's history was the exile.

Political power and
independence were lost.

Yet it was in the exile
that a group of priestly authors
redefined Israel's faith.
They came to see that their
relationship to God
was not dependent upon the land.

God was free to accompany
the people wherever
they journeyed.

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.

Author: George M. Smiga

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Front: iStockphoto

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition*, copyright 1989, 1993, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

© 2010 RCL Publishing LLC. All rights reserved.

The Faith Connection® is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and is published weekly by RCL Benziger, 206 E. Bethany Dr., Allen, TX 75002.

877-275-4725

Contact us at RCLBenziger.com



DECEMBER 19, 2010

The Work of the Church

4TH 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

MONDAY

TUESDAY

9:00am **Mass: For all the Sick of Sacred Heart**

WEDNESDAY

9:00am **Mass: Annette Lareau**, requested by Arthur & Pauline Casey

THURSDAY

9:00am **Mass: Fr. Robert Murphy, M.S.A., and the People of the Parish**

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

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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

FRIDAY - CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm **Mass (family)**

6:00pm **Mass: For the Deceased Members of the Lutton & Donahue Families**

SATURDAY - CHRISTMAS

12:00 midnight **Mass: For the People of the Parish**

10:00am **Mass: Father J. Ralph Kelley**

(NO 4:30pm Mass)

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

SUNDAY

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

10:30am **Mass: Carol Duhamel**, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family

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

FRIDAY OFFICES CLOSED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

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

Pietras Family Funeral Homes

**Small & Pietras
Funeral Home**
65 Elm Street
Rockville, CT 06066
(860) 875-0703

**Burke-Fortin
Funeral Home**
76 Prospect Street
Rockville, CT 06066
(860) 875-5490

**Coventry-Pietras
Funeral Home**
2665 Boston Turnpike
Coventry, CT 06238
(860) 742-1255

**Tolland Memorial
Funeral Home**
375 Mellow Road
Tolland, CT 06084
(860) 875-1415



Philip M. Pietras

Licensed Funeral Directors:
Philip M. Pietras ~ Jessica Pietras
Robert J. Binkowski ~ Jennifer E. Arrieta
Jacqueline L. Teske



Jessica A. Pietras



The Difference is Caring
40 W. MAIN ST., ROCKVILLE, CT 06066
860-875-9263
www.BeaconRx.com



- Jazz
- Tap
- Ballet

Beth Horr
Director, Choreographer
A warm & friendly dance for all ages
Colonial Square
68 Hartford Tnpk. Tolland
860-871-1922

Anne Miller



REAL ESTATE

"Visit our website..."

(860) 647-8000

www.annemillerrealestate.com

Homes Condos Multi-Families Commerical



**IVY BRIDGE GROUP
Host Families Needed**

(888) 424-4613 www.ivybridgegroup.com/signup

- Share your loving home environment
- Stipends Paid Monthly • 24/7 staff support



PHONE NO. (860) 875-3800
FAX (860) 875-2121 • www.ctcrimelaw.com

PAMALA J. FAVREAU

ATTORNEY AT LAW

CRIMINAL DEFENSE • MOTOR VEHICLE
DMV ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
CRIMINAL APPEALS • PERSONAL INJURY
30 Lafayette Square (Rt 30), Suite 101, Vernon

Connecticut
Single Catholics



CatholicMatch.com/CT

TAX PREPARATION
Small Business Specialist
Personal Financial • Planning

KDL Accounting Services

Richard M. Marchesani, CPA, MBA

120 KATE LANE, TOLLAND, CT 06084

Fax 860/872-0155 860/872-8780

Mary A. Oliver Co. LLC
Insurance and Financial Services

For All Your Financial Needs Including IRAS

Annuities • Certified Senior Advisor

Call MARY for Appt. @
860-871-2126

In business/parishioner for over 30 years

**LADD-TURKINGTON
& CARMON
FUNERAL HOMES**

19 Ellington Avenue, Rockville
551 Talcottville Road, Rt. 83, Vernon

860-875-3536



The Taste of Quality is Long Remembered...

**REIN'S
DELI**

860-875-1344

435 Hartford Tpke. (Rte. 30), Vernon

Join The Fun...Events
at rockvillebank.com

Rockville Bank

Connecticut's Best Community Bank | That's My Bank!



2134

Are You Living Alone?

What if you fell and could not reach a telephone?

Lifewatch, the Personal Emergency Response System, can get you help with just a press of the lightweight waterproof button! Referred by doctors, hospitals and social workers. Personal Caring Service Since 1980. Nationwide Service. www.Lifewatch-USA.com

Lifewatch helps people who live alone keep their independence.



You're Never Alone
With Lifewatch!

Specials
**\$12.95
a Month**



LIFEWatch USA
Personal Caring Service Since 1980

TOLL FREE 1-800-998-5601

**HOLMES
Funeral Home**
860-643-2441



**WATKINS
Funeral Home**
860-646-5310

**HOWARD M. HOLMES
RICHARD P. HOLMES**

**SCOTT B. HOLMES
MARK C. HOLMES**

S.L. ZOCCO Memorials, Inc.

Monuments
Cemetery Lettering
Bronze & Granite Markers

860-242-5881

Next to Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery

242-7371

804 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield



- Specialize in Hunan & Szechuan Cuisine
- Full Bar Service
- Exotic Cocktails

**Best Chinese - Tolland County
2010 CT Magazine Readers'
Choice Poll**

519 Talcottville Rd., Vernon
860-872-1977 • 860-872-3693
Fax 860-872-8056

It's better to GIVE
than to receive

Need a place to buy a gift?

Find a business that supports your community at SeekAndFind.com



Rockville 860-875-6281

THANK YOU
TO OUR
ADVERTISERS
FOR
SUPPORTING
OUR CHURCH
COMMUNITY!



ADVERTISING SALES OPPORTUNITIES

LITURGICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.

- Sales Experience Necessary
- Full Training
- Full Time with Benefits and Paid Expenses
- Unlimited Earning Potential
- Some Overnight Travel Required

email: hrh1td@4LPi.com for more information

MAIN ST. BUYERS

BUY SELL TRADE

Gold, Silver, U.S. Coins, Tools, Electronics, DVDs,
Gift Certificates, Computers

27 West Main Street, Rockville, CT
860-896-7441