

SACRED HEART PARISH FAMILY

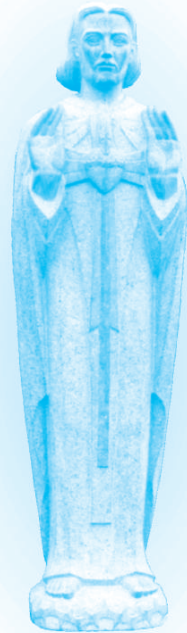
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PASTORAL TEAM

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.

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
 Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5---2:2/Mt 2:13-18
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
 Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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)

SuperBowl Party

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

When Teens Know One Parent Will Say “Yes”

All parents face the tough job of striking a balance between balancing privileges and safety.

To minimize the strong emotions and conflicts that tend to happen in the throes of decision making consider looking at the USCCB website: www.foryourmarriage.org ; under the heading: “Parenting and Family” for info on this and other important family topics.

The Deacon's Corner

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Child of Bethlehem-
 House of bread;
 Man of Jerusalem—
 City of peace;
 You have loved us without limit or condition;
 In our greatness and in our misery,
 In our folly and in our virtue;
 may your hand be always upon us
 and may your heart be within us
 so that we too
 may become bread and peace
 for one another.

Author Unknown

Retreats for the New Year

Start the New Year off on the right foot
with a retreat at Immaculata Retreat House
in Willimantic.

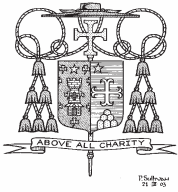
Retreat Weekend for Men entitled “Riding the Storm with Jesus” – Friday, January 7th to Sunday, January 9th. The storms of life can take many forms, but they all have one thing in common: the feeling of fear and loss of control. Can our relationship with Jesus free us from fear and anxiety? Join us as we discover that we, too, can learn to ride the storm with Jesus! Presented by retreat house staff. Suggested offering: \$180.

12 Steps to Christian Growth Weekend Retreat – Friday, January 7th to Sunday, January 9th. Author Philip St. Romain has adapted the 12 Steps of A.A. to help people break free of selfishness to become new persons in Christ. These Steps promote intimacy, are practical, understandable, and seemingly applicable to all. Join us as we discover how the 12 Steps can be adapted to lead to greater growth in our spiritual life! Presented by Brother Richard Cote OMI. Suggested offering: \$180.

Food, Fear and Faithfulness is a four-week interactive and informative look at the physical, emotional and spiritual stresses associated with overeating and poor body image. Presenter is Kathy Irr, R.N., spiritual director and retreat leader. Wednesday evenings, January 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. Suggested offering: \$60 for the four sessions.

To register for any of our programs, contact Immaculata Retreat House at 860-423-8484 or visit our website at www.immaculataretreat.org.

THE HOLY FAMILY



DIOCESE OF NORWICH
Office of the Bishop
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(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*

Sirach 3:2–7, 12–14
Colossians 3:12–21
Matthew 2:13–5, 19–23

MONDAY**

John 20:1A, 2–8
"... he saw and believed."

TUESDAY***

Matthew 2:13–18
"... it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness..."

WEDNESDAY

Luke 2:22–35
"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many..."

THURSDAY

Luke 2:36–40
"... and the favor of God was upon him."

FRIDAY

John 1:1–18
"And the Word became flesh and lived among us..."

SATURDAY****

Luke 2:16–21
"... and he was called Jesus..."

*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

**Feast of Saint John

***Feast of The Holy Innocents

****The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Refugees in Egypt

The story of the Holy Family's escape to Egypt is told only by Matthew who was intent on establishing Jesus' Jewish roots. The Gospel of Matthew often connects the life of Jesus with the Hebrew Scriptures, portraying Jesus as the new Moses and showing how he fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.

In this Gospel story, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream, just as one had appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. Joseph is faithful and willing to sacrifice his own desires for the safety of his wife and son. And so he takes them to Egypt.

The readings chosen for the feast of the Holy Family assure us that like families today, Jesus' family also dealt with troubles. Like other Jewish families of their time, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were victims of the harshness

of Herod's rule. Joseph made difficult decisions to protect his family, and Mary endured hardships not only at the moment of her son's birth, but also during the early years of his life.

At the time of Jesus' birth, Egypt was a place of refuge for those fleeing from danger in Palestine. It was outside the dominion of King Herod, but both Egypt and Palestine were part of the Roman Empire, so travel between

them was easy and relatively safe. And when Herod died, and the time came for the Holy Family to leave Egypt, symbolically, it was like the Exodus experience of Israel.

Families today can see that the Holy Family did not enjoy any special privileges and that, like us, dealing with hardships and changes was part of their reality.



The Faith of the Church

Jesus, the Word of God, became flesh in a poor family and was born in a humble stable. Soon after his birth, the family fled into Egypt as refugees. Mary and Joseph shared in the condition of many families today; they lived a simple life, and together they raised their son in the traditions of their religion. Jesus grew up obedient to his parents like any other Jewish child (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 525, 530, 531).



Questions of the Week

Often, we tend to spiritualize the birth and early years in the life of Jesus as a time of celebration with angels singing and shepherds keeping watch in the fields. Today's reading reminds us of the hardships the holy family experienced.

Adults

Do I treat refugees and exiles today the same way I would treat the Holy Family? How?

Children

Have I ever been in a strange place where I did not feel at home? What happened?

Responding to God's Word . . .

Most Catholics look at the Holy Family as unique and gifted by God with special blessings. Some even think that Mary had it easy during those early years because Jesus, being the Son of God, could help her with her chores in almost "magical" ways. Nothing is further from the truth.

The Incarnation, the mystery of the Word made flesh, means that in Jesus, God assumed our humanity fully, with all the suffering and limitations that it brings. Mary and Joseph suffered uncertainty and discomfort at the time of the birth of their son. Soon after, they became exiles in a foreign

country in order to escape Herod's persecution and the dangerous conditions of life in Palestine.

Egypt served as a place of shelter, for awhile, but not to abide in. Eventually, the family settled in Galilee in a small town called Nazareth. Nazareth was held in low esteem; even the Jews questioned whether anything good could come from it.

But the Holy Family can be a model for us, not because they were special, but because they went through all the obstacles and adversities that many families suffer today, yet they always remained faithful to God.

SUGGESTIONS

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

In the home. Discuss among family members your experiences and relationships with any immigrants.

In the workplace or in school. Reach out to a foreigner or recent arrival. See if there is any way in which you can be of assistance.

In the community. Find out if there are any immigrant families in your area that may need help. Reach out to them.



Meditation Moment

TV film directors sometimes follow a quiet scene with a noisy, violent scene. The Church does this in today's liturgy. It follows the quiet birth of Jesus with the violent stoning of Stephen. This helps to remind us that Christmas is not only the first day of Jesus' life but also the first day of his long, painful journey to Calvary. It also reminds us that we too must be ready to suffer for our faith—as Jesus and Stephen did.

For reflection . . .

The story of Stephen invites me to ask: How have I suffered for my faith in the past? How willing am I to suffer for it in the future?

OFFER YOURSELF AS A
LIVING SACRIFICE TO GOD.

ROMANS 12:1

FROM VISION BY MARK LINK, SJ

Protect Our Families, O God!

God our Father,
You created us as a family
to be in relationship and
communion with you and with one
another. Protect our families from
physical and verbal abuse; make us
faithful and forgiving just as you
are faithful and forgiving. Protect us from
the anger and violence of our society
and help us to always reflect in our
lives the same love that united the
Holy Family. Teach us respect and
appreciation for our differences.
and make us one in you.
Amen.

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

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11

Profile in Faith

Saint Barbara
(CA. A.D. 306)

Barbara was the daughter of a heathen who kept her prisoner in a tower.

When she told her father she was a Christian, he denounced her and had her tortured and beheaded. Although some believe the story is only legend,

Barbara continues to be a popular saint.

Her feast day
is December 4.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR
† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
October 1, 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: Adele J. Gonzalez

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The Work of the Church

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

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

- 9:00am **Mass: *John Settembrino***, requested by his
wife, Grace

THURSDAY

- 9:00am **Mass: *Fr. Robert Murphy, M.S.A.***
4:30pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Living Room
7:30pm **Intercessory Prayer**, Eucharistic Chapel

FRIDAY

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

SATURDAY

- 10:00am **Mass: *Alfina Neri***, requested by her
family,
- and - ***For the People of the Parish***

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY

- 4:30pm **Mass: *For Peace in the World***

SUNDAY

- 8:00am **Mass: *Robert Deschenes***, requested by
Sallie White & Family
10:30am **Mass: *Ernest Golnik, Sr.***, requested by Art
Martineau

Meetings

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY - Fellowship before and after Mass

MONDAY OFFICES CLOSED

TUESDAY 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, JANUARY 5

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 –

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