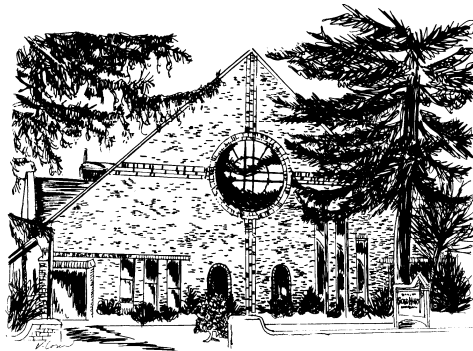


Sacred Heart Church



260 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060-1404

Telephone: 609-267-0209 • FAX: 609-267-9293 • Website: www.parishofsacredheart.org

Office Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9:00am - 5:00pm (Closed for Lunch 12:00pm-1:00pm)

Evening Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 6:00pm - 9:00pm • Sunday 8:30am - 1:00pm

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am & 7:00pm

Weekday: Mon.-Fri. 7:00am & 8:30am

Saturday: 8:30am

Confessions

Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:00pm

(Reconciliation Rooms are to the right of the Eucharistic Chapel)

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. John P. Czahur ext. 308

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Roberto Padilla
Residence: Christ The Redeemer Church
113 South Avenue, Mt. Holly
(609) 261-0181

Deacons: Deacon Jim Casa
fisherking13@comcast.net
Deacon John Hoefling
Deacon Stan Orkis
Deacon William Rowley

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Michele O'Toole ext. 301
secretary@parishofsacredheart.org

Business Manager: Mrs. Deneen Thomas ext. 303

Cemetery Manager: Mrs. Paula Pietrow ext. 304
cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org

Pastoral Administrator: Mrs. Marge McGinley ext. 306
mcginley@parishofsacredheart.org

Asst. to Pastoral Admin.: Ms. Merry Marcellino ext. 305
ministry@parishofsacredheart.org

Parish Maintenance Mr. Jason D'Entremont ext. 319
jasontmd@parishofsacredheart.org

Sacred Heart School

250 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Telephone: 609-267-1728

Email: schooloffice@sacred-heart-school.org

Website: www.sacred-heart-school.org

Principal: Ms. Kathryn Besheer ext. 340

Admin. Assist. Margo Lihvarcik ext. 316

Sacred Heart Religious Education

Telephone: 609-267-6319

Email: rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org

Director of Rel. Ed: Mrs. Jessica Donohue ext. 307

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Amy Raimondi ext. 324

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9:00am – 2:00pm

Fall Program Class Times

Grades 1st - 8th Tuesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

Grades 1st - 8th Wednesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

March 25 – March 26 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Parish Registration

Our Parish family warmly welcomes new members. Please register at your earliest convenience by stopping by the Parish House during the office hours.

The Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome new life into the Church through the sacramental sign of Baptism which is celebrated **every Sunday of the month at 1:00pm** with the exception of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We encourage parents who wish to have their child baptized to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole, at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 or stop in and pick up a Baptism packet.

Once the Baptismal Preparation class is attended, the form completed and the Godparent Eligibility Certificates are turned in then a date for your child's Baptism will be set.

Baptismal Preparation

Catholic Godparents are required to complete an Eligibility Certificate and have the certificates signed by the pastor of the parish where they are currently registered and practicing their faith.

We offer a Baptismal Prep Class for parents as a way of preparing them for their child's journey of faith. Classes are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. Please contact the Parish Secretary to register.

Sacramental Sponsorship Letter

This is a form required to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. To receive this form the following requirements must be met:

- If married, be in a valid marriage according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Completed the Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Be a registered, active participant of a Parish.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Couples wishing to celebrate and consecrate their love in the Sacrament of Marriage are asked to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole at 609-702-1848 ext. 301.

Arrangements are to be made with the Pastor a year in advance of the requested date. At least one person should be a registered member of the parish. All couples are required to attend preparation sessions.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Any Catholic who is seriously ill, advanced in age, or who feels the need for the comforting presence of the Church's sacramental prayer life may be anointed. Please contact the Parish Office at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 during office hours. In the case of an emergency, please call and follow the instructions listed on our telephone message.

Funerals

In all cases, the family of the deceased parishioner should contact the funeral home directly. They will contact the Church to make further arrangements. For information regarding our Parish Cemetery, please call the Cemetery Office at 609-702-1848 ext 304

Care of the Sick, Homebound and Elderly:

The sick, the homebound and the elderly are valued members of our parish. Please call the Parish House at 609-267-0209 ext. 305 for a visit.

Bulletin Articles

Articles for the Bulletin need to be submitted **No Later than Friday** to appear the next weekend (**9 days prior**). Articles can be emailed to

bulletins@parishofsacredheart.org

March 25 – March 26 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
March 27th – April 2nd

MONDAY

7:00am **Frank & Irene Kwoka** Req. By The Redder Family
8:30am **Ruth Corbett** Req. By The Russo & Gsell Families

TUESDAY

7:00am **Terrence Monaghan** Req. By The Larkin Family
8:30am **Virginia Capri** Req. By Her Family

WEDNESDAY

7:00am **Josephine Muller, OSF** Req. By The Redder Family
8:30am **Josephine Muller** Req. By Sandy Roth

THURSDAY

7:00am **Ernie Lucarini** Req. By David & Joelle Wentz
8:30am **Ruben Reyes** Req. By The Cavan Family

FRIDAY

7:00am **Marlane DeMara** Req. By The Schmid Family
8:30am **Stanley Kiczek** Req. By Emily & Matthew Ziobro

SATURDAY

8:30AM **Stanley Kiczek** Req. By Nancy Mason
4:30pm **Francisco Antip** Req. By Pepita Mercado

SUNDAY

7:30am **The People of the Parish & Marlane M. Cella DeMara** Req. By Sandy Roth
9:30am **Anna Fox** Req. By Tom & Barbara Fox
11:30am **Desmond O’Keeffe** Req. By John, Janet & Maureen
7:00pm **AnneT. (Pedrick) O’Toole** Req. By The Nolen Family

The Devotional Candle in the Chapel of the Two Hearts



*Will Burn in Loving Memory of:
Tim & Michael Gaffney*

Eucharistic Adoration – Come and spend time in the quiet with Our Lord in the Chapel of the Two Hearts located next to the Parish House. Our Chapel is open for you and Jesus to spend some time during the following hours:
Monday through Friday 9:00am to 8:30pm
Saturday 9:00am to noon.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 (3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45)

SUNDAY OFFERING

Weekly 3/17 – 3/18 \$ 14, 972.92
Easter Flowers \$ 1,070.00

Thank you for the faithful and generous support that you continue to give to our Church.



CONFESSIONS

Saturday, April 1st **9:00am – 9:30am**
and 3:30 – 4:00pm
Monday, April 3rd **Parish Penance Service**
7:00pm

HOLY WEEK CONFESSIONS

Saturday, April 8th **9:00am - 9:30am** and
3:00pm – 3:30pm
Monday, April 10th **5:00pm– 5:30pm**
Tuesday, April 11th **9:00am – 9:30am**
Holy Thursday, April 13th **12:00pm–12:30pm**

Note that confessions will *not* be available Good Friday or Holy Saturday:

The dates & times above will be the last opportunity for confessions before Easter.

March 25 – March 26 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THE SEASON OF LENT

During the holy season of Lent, from Ash Wednesday, March 1st, to Holy Thursday, April 13th, you are strongly encouraged to participate in Mass and receive Holy Communion, to receive the Sacrament of Penance, to attend Lenten devotions and the Stations of the Cross, to read the Scriptures prayerfully, and to perform acts of self-denial and works of mercy.

PRAYER:

Daily Mass is celebrated at 7am & 8:30am. Weekend Mass and Confession times can be found on the front of the bulletin.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena is held every Wednesday at 7:15pm in the chapel. Stations of the Cross are held at 4pm & 7pm every Friday during the Lenten Season. Eucharistic Adoration is Monday through Friday from 9am to 9pm in the Parish House Chapel.

FASTING:

The days of fast and abstinence are ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY.

The other Fridays of Lent are DAYS OF ABSTINENCE.

ALMSGIVING:

Give of your time, talent and treasure. Donations of canned or boxed food to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry can be made by placing the items in the collection bins in the vestibule of the church. Monetary donations are accepted at the Parish House or you may mail them to The Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays during Lent Stations of the Cross will be held at 4:00pm and 7:00pm in the Church.

LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

MONDAY, April 3rd at 7:00pm

Following a brief prayer service and examination of conscience, priests from around the region will be available to hear private confessions.

A general absolution will not be given.

Please remember in your prayers:

Connie Vazquez, Vinnie Vazquez-Garcia, Paisley Trojanowski, Bobby Sumanga, Freddie J. Faber, III, Megan Dezur, Matthew Ottenwess, Talia Rosko, Martin O'Connor, Tracy & Erica Schwab, Matthew McDonald, Lenore Scatuorchio, Kristal Faber, Alice Farkas, Justin Beckett, Robert Lally, Tonya DeMaio, Olga Aponte, McKenzie Hunter, Gail Reilly, Alva Marino, Paul J. Marcinko, Fred Zimmer, Wayne Potts, Stephanie Martin, Pat Adornetto, Corey Kaiser, Baby Stella Grundahl, Rebecca Bozarth, Matthew Wernocho, Kay Weiss, Maria Wolfe, Casey Davitt, Fredrick Naphys, Margaret Brock, Herbert Cucuini, Daniel Toussaint, Baby Zoey Reed, Mason Damico, Lynn Kellogg, David McCoy, Lois Pedrick, John Rubino, George Sampson, Evan Martinez, Trey Nieves, Gisela Harrell, Camila Doris Perez, Annabelle Ochipinti, Loretta Minakee, Patricia Parker, Sabrina Kaiser, Wilma Peterson, Christine, Morgan Ackerman, Celeste Bunn, Tom Polinski, Raymond Bishop, Jenny Hand, Patricia O'Connor, George Schneider, Marie Donahue, Peggy Stewart, Dylan Crespo, Doris Gallo, Sharon Carroll, Teddy Smith, Arthur Netti, Clara Hynes, Don Hartman, Mary Hartman, Daniel DeMaio, Frank Anton, Michelle Schafle Reed,

As a parish family we remember all who are struggling or suffering in mind, body, or spirit, especially those who have requested our prayers.

Please pray for the men and women now serving in the military, especially the loved ones of our parishioners who are serving overseas:

L.Cpl. Noah Stimiloski U.S.M.C.
Capt. Robert J. Boccio, U.S.A.F
Michael Bakker, Isaac Paredes
Douglas Schwenck, Army Reserve
Richard DeLorge U.S.M.C
Peter Liedman, Dorinia Dibuono
Capt. James Rankin U.S.M.C
SSgt Daniel E. Naro, Sgt. Alison Lyport
Sgt. Stephanie Robertson, U.S. Army
Sgt. Russell Norton, NG Army
Cpl. Marshall Norton, U.S.M.C
Corporal Maxwell Hughes, U.S.M.C
Lt. Matthew Carr, U.S.M.C
Lt. Victoria Holbert, U.S.M.C

March 25 – March 26 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Confirmation 2017
Confirmation will be celebrated here at
Sacred Heart on
March 30, 2017
Very Reverend Phillip C. Pflieger, E.V.
Will preside



Parish Penance Service

You are invited to experience the forgiveness that only Our Lord can offer you. Come and celebrate the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Gather with other “struggling saints” as we share in a Reconciliation Service to be held at our parish church on Monday, April 3rd at 7:00pm. Join in prayer, scripture, an examination of conscience and the opportunity to encounter Jesus through the compassion of one of our many priests from our diocese who will be there to celebrate the sacrament. Take advantage of this opportunity to gather in His presence.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mass of Thanksgiving for Marge McGinley, our Pastoral Administrator and for the gift she has been to all of us over these last 26 years on **Sunday, June 4th at 3:00pm followed by dinner in the auditorium.** She will be retiring at the end of May. All are invited! You may drop off your well wishes or email them to Merry and also if you wish to RSVP please email Merry at ministry@parishofsacredheart.org or call 609-267-0209 x 305. You can also go to our bulletin on the website <http://parishofsacredheart.org> and click on the Save the Date link to RSVP.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR **EASTER MISSION – May 8, 9, 10**

Our Mission Leader will be Sister Bridget Haase, an Ursuline Sister, author, speaker, and storyteller. Sister Bridget, who has written the following books: “Doors to the Sacred: Everyday events as Hints of the Holy,” “Generous Faith: Stories to inspire Abundant Living,” “Enkindled,” “Life is a Gift.”

The theme of the mission will be *“Walking the Path of Faith: God’s Power, Providence, and Presence in our lives.”* Sister Bridget will be speaking to all of us on the weekend prior to the mission May 6th and 7th at all of our Masses. Set the evenings of May 8, 9 and 10th aside and celebrate that Our Lord has risen!

Blue Mass

Join the Diocese of Trenton at our 18th annual Diocesan Mass in Celebration of Law Enforcement celebrating the dedication of those men and women who, by serving in various agencies of law enforcement, sacrifice a great deal to provide for the safety of our communities.

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location:

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
151 N. Warren & Perry Street
Trenton, New Jersey

For information, visit www.bluemass.org .

The Altar Rosary Society needs a few extra hands – Perhaps you have heard the saying, “Many hands make light the work.” Well, there are many small altar linens that are used at our Masses. These linens are ironed so they look neat and clean during our Masses and there are many volunteers that make that happen. Turn on a good TV show, put up the ironing board and the iron and before you know it, you’ve ironed enough cloths for the week. We could use your help as little as once a month. For more details please call Carol Ward at (609)267-4811. Your Church family needs you!

March 25 – March 26 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SERRA VOCATION PRAYER CHALICE

THE LOVING ENVIRONMENT OF A FAMILY draws forth an individual's greatest talents and gifts. We've come to realize that creating an atmosphere in which children can hear the Lord's call is one of the most significant responsibilities resting on our shoulders as parents. Our own lives must reflect the presence of God, His Word, and the love He offers His people. Parents, do you encourage your children to develop their talents and gifts? Do you encourage your children to think of Church ministry as a possible life choice?

Serra for priestly and religious vocations

Thank you for praying for vocations.

To learn more about the Vocation Prayer Chalice, please call Ann (609)-267-5836



God Sees into the Heart

The theme of light from St. Paul's Letter continues and is brought to fullness in the Gospel narrative of the man blind from birth. The man born blind could not see the light until Jesus, the Light of the World, covered his eyes with mud, sent him to the pool to wash and restored his sight. Jesus then seeks him out and gives him the ultimate sight: faith in the Son of God.

The presence of Christ demands that instead of going through life conscious only of our own agendas, we awake to see with the eyes of Christ. We are to live in the light as children of Light.

May we see the goodness of God that surrounds us, the richness of God's beauty in our lives.

**You are cordially invited to The Acies 2017
April 2, 2017**

2:00 Procession
2:30 Opening Prayers & Rosary
3:00pm Mass / Consecration to Our Lady
Followed by Fellowship / Dinner in the Auditorium

The Acies, the most important Annual Function of the Legion of Mary, is a ceremony in which Active and Auxiliary members renew their fidelity "to Jesus through Mary" and rededicate themselves to another year of service and prayer.

The Legion of Mary was founded in 1921 in Dublin, Ireland, and began at Sacred Heart Church in 1964. The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active Co-operation in Our Blessed Mother and the Church's work.

For more information on the Legion of Mary, or the Acies Celebration, please call Kimberly Smith, President-Legion of Mary, Sacred Heart at 609-9633-5984 or Adele Beauvais, Vice President-Legion of Mary, Sacred Heart at 609-668-8664

All Are Welcome

The SVDP Pantry is in need of the following:

Jelly, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Tuna, Baked Beans, and Canned Vegetables. If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks payable to:

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL
Thank you!

**FEDERAL DONOR RECORDKEEPING RULE
ON CHARITABLE DEDUCTION**

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 included a section relative to charitable deductions. The rules require that people claiming charitable deduction back up those deduction claims with cancelled checks; records from banks or credit card companies; or written notices from the charity or not-for-profit institution. The burden is on the donor to maintain or obtain the required records.

The parish will provide a record of contributions, upon request, which will satisfy the IRS requirements. Contributions of cash can only be used as a deduction if church envelopes are used enabling the parish to identify the donor. Please call **Deneen Thomas at 609-267-0209 ext. 303** or e-mail accountant@parishofsacredheart.org

March 25 – March 26 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

PARISH CHICKEN DINNER

Saturday, April 1st at 6pm
In the Sacred Heart Auditorium



Dinner includes: salad, Sweet Potato Crusted Chicken, Herb Roasted Chicken Breast, Oven Roasted Potato Medley, Roasted Winter Vegetable Medley, rolls, beverage and dessert.

Catering by: Mirabella's

Price is \$13 per person, children under 6 are free

If you are attending, please call the Parish House at 609-702-1848 ext. 488 or by email bcurtis@HIG.net

Please give us your name, the number of people in your party, and the number of children under the age of 6.

We need volunteers. If you are able to help, please use the contact information above.

The Knights of Columbus

March 26, 2017 @ 3 P.M. In the Auditorium Benefit Concert to assist in the Paving the Parking Lot Fund

(Please park on side of Auditorium)

Come out to an Afternoon of Celtic Maritime and Traditional American music with the one and only *Charlie Zahm* and accompanying him will be the violin virtuoso *Tad Marks*.

A free will offering will take the place of a traditional set price. All proceeds will go to help fund the Sacred Heart parking lot

The Knights of Columbus Raffle Tickets to assist the Seminarians of the Trenton Diocese can still be obtained through members of the council or by contacting Dan Fox Grand Knight 609-261-8257. The Grand Prize is a \$5000 Vacation Gift Card. Drawing is on June 16, 2017

Annulment Information Sessions

For many people, the process of marriage annulment is very mysterious, often accompanied by considerable misinformation. In order to dispel misconceptions, the diocese sponsors ***Annulment Information Sessions*** annually in parishes within each county of the diocese. For more information, call 609 406-7434 or e-mail rmoore@dioceseoftrenton.org.

Join St. Paul Street Evangelization

"The moment has come to commit all of the Church's energies to a new evangelization." (Saint John Paul II)
St Paul Street Evangelization is a grassroots, nonprofit Catholic evangelization organization, dedicated to responding to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking our Catholic faith to the streets. As an on-the-street Catholic evangelization organization, St Paul Street Evangelization provides a non-confrontational avenue for you to share Jesus Christ and the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith with a hungry culture. Contact Team Leader Pete Bender at pbender2171@gmail.com or call 609-832-2191 about joining a team already operating in the local area.

OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

March 25 – March 26 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sacred Heart School Presents
**LITERACY
SHOWCASE &
STORY HOUR**

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP
YOUR CHILD LOVE TO READ!

Books available! See techniques in action that
will keep your child engaged in reading!

Tuesday, April 4th
6-8pm in the Sacred Heart School Library
250 High Street Mount Holly, NJ

2017 Holy Land Tour

With Fr. Roberto Padilla

September 6 – 16, 2017

Tel Aviv – Nazareth – Haifa- Sea of Galilee –
Jerusalem – Bethlehem

Featuring tours of Tel Aviv, Old Jaffa, Ceasarea, Haifa, Megiddo (site of one of the oldest churches ever discovered), Mt. Tabor (site of the Transfiguration), Cana, Church of the Annunciation, Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha (site of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes), and all the holy sites in and around Jerusalem, including the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and a visit to Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity.

Price includes:

- Nine full days of touring and sightseeing
- Estimated round trip airfare*out of New York area Airport.
- Guided luxury coach tours for the duration of the tour
- Four Star hotel accommodations
- Full breakfast each morning
- Full course dinners each night
- All scheduled tours and admissions included – no “optional” tours or additional dinner charges

Wherever Tours

www.wherevertours.com

Phone 800 585 5262



Offerings at Francis House of Prayer

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center
Box 392 • Rancocas, NJ 08073

609-877-0509 or FHOP@verizon.net

Please check www.FHOP.org for directions and for our other offerings!

SWEET SERENITY

GOD'S GRACE AND HEALING FROM ADDICTION

Tuesday, March 28 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Only God can heal us from addiction. Come, let us review the traditional 12 Steps that enable us to cooperate with God's desire for us and receive his grace of freedom and healing. It seems we are all addicted to something. Sweet Serenity is for all of us. A wonderful Lenten Retreat! Donation: \$20, includes lunch and materials.

PERSONAL RETREAT DAY

Wednesday, March 29 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Take a day away from the busyness of your life to rest a while in the Lord and experience God's presence. Come to Francis House for silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction. The day begins and ends with a brief prayer together. Donation: \$10; \$40 with spiritual direction. Please bring a bag lunch.

A NIGHT OUT

Saturday, April 1 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Looking for a night out? We will enjoy Liturgy and dinner followed by Pivotal Players, a multi-part film series by Bishop Robert Barron, that illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics and scholars who not only shaped the life of the church, but changed the course of civilization. We will view the part of the series that focuses on the life and impact of St. Catherine of Siena. What a great way to spend a Saturday night at Francis House! Limited to 12 people. Donation: \$25

JUST SILENCE

Thursday, April 6 9:30 AM – Noon

Come to the Silence. Silence helps us hear God. It is God's favorite language. We will begin and end with prayer together. The rest of the time is for you and God...in the silence. Perfect for Lent. Donation: Love Offering.

To register, call 609-877-0509. Please check www.FHOP.org for our other offerings!

March 25 – March 26 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Living the Good News Today

“Then they threw him out.”

As the entire Church observes liturgical Cycle A (Gospel of St. Matthew) readings, it is a special time for everyone in our parish to be aware of those who are journeying through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program. On the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent, the elect participate in special rites called the scrutinies. It is very deliberate that these rites coincide with the Gospel accounts of the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus from the dead. As we mark the second of these scrutinies, we can see how important the word “see” is across the readings.

On the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website, there is an excellent explanation of the Catholic conversion process written by Jeannine Marino, J.C.L. Those who have never been baptized come forward in the worship area for the rite of scrutiny over three Sundays. Whether we are present at that Mass with them or not, the Church asks the parish community to increase our prayers and support of the elect (unbaptized) and the candidates. It is helpful for us to understand what is taking place from the USCCB explanation:

“The Scrutinies are rites of conversion and repentance. They include prayers of intercession and exorcism and are intended to deliver the elect from sin, protect them from temptation and invite them closer to Christ, who is the living water, the light of the world and the Resurrection and the Life.”

Journeying with His disciples, Jesus encountered a man who had been born blind, which prompted His disciples to ask whether the sin behind the man’s blindness had come from his parents or from himself. After Jesus replied that none of them had sinned, He told them that this man’s blindness would allow God’s works to be made visible through him. The resonating messages from Jesus: *“I am the Light of the world.”*

Just imagine if we had been present with those who had known this blind man for years:



- Were they used to seeing him require assistance to get around?
- Did they resent his regular begging presence?
- How did it make the man feel to know that people associated his birth handicap with sin (whether his parents or his own)?

• What did they think of Jesus spitting on the ground and making clay to put on his eyes?

On that particular Sabbath day, though, we would have witnessed Jesus choosing this particular man to heal

his blindness. Then, we would have seen the disbelief of those who knew him, asking him many questions and then taking him to the Pharisees because they could not accept what had happened.

Although I have heard this Gospel story many times, I had a keener awareness this year, while on the RCIA journey as a sponsor, of how fearful people can become when they see extraordinary things that challenge what they have been taught over the years. Those who witnessed the healing by Jesus of the man born blind had a very fundamental belief about sin and its effects put into question. Many people who were present thought Jesus was the sinner!

When the Pharisees called the man’s parents to confirm that it was indeed their son, blind from birth, they did. They said nothing about Jesus though, for fear of being thrown out of the synagogue. Are there still people in the world who are afraid to speak the truth about Christ for fear of being thrown out? When have we been afraid to see as Christ wants and why? How does the light of Christ work in our daily lives to reveal the Truth?

The man who was born blind was not afraid—he had been transformed by the grace that comes from God alone. When the Pharisees questioned him, he related all that had happened to him and fearlessly pushed back on them with these bold words:

“This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where He [Jesus] is from, yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does His will, He listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He would not be able to do anything.”

The healed man’s testimony not only resulted in the Pharisees reminding him that he was totally born in sin, but *“then they threw him out”* because they could not bear the thought that he might teach them something—admit to their own blindness! Jesus seeks him out, though, and allows him to profess that he has come to believe in Him.

With their preoccupation with knowledge of the law, the Pharisees thought that they could see clearly and pass judgment. They even questioned Jesus, *“Surely, we are not also blind, are we?”* How difficult it was to see things in a new light when it put your own power at risk! This is also an ever-present danger for all of us. We must not be afraid to admit that we are often spiritually blind. This will enable us to desire a lifetime of conversion into the image and likeness of Christ, who is our Light. If we keep that desire in our hearts, then we would be responding purposefully to these words of Jesus:

“I came into this world...

so that those who do not see might see.”

Teresa S. Redder, OFS

**March 25 – March 26 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

WEEKLY PLANNER

SUNDAY March 26th
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Second Scrutiny 9:30am Mass
Adults RCIA LIB
Mass for the Confirmandi 3:00pm
Knights of Columbus Concert Charlie Zahm
and violin virtuoso Tad Marks 3:00pm AUD
(please park on side of Auditorium)
Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church

MONDAY March 27th
Children's RCIA 5:00pm PHMO
Cub Scouts 5:00pm – 8:00pm
CYO Softball 6:00pm AUD
Confirmation Practice 6:30pm and 7:30pm
Church (Corrected)

TUESDAY March 28th
Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center
Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR

WEDNESDAY March 29th
Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
OLPH 7:15pm Chapel
Bible Study 7:30pm PHMR

THURSDAY March 30th
Confirmation 4:00pm and 6:00pm
Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR
KOC Basketball 7:00pm Gym

FRIDAY March 31st
No School for Sacred Heart Students
Stations of the Cross 4:00pm & 7:00pm

SATURDAY April 1st
Confessions 9:00am to 9:30am &
3:30 to 4:00pm
Parish Chicken Dinner 6:00pm AUD
Mass Music Practice 3:30pm Church

GATHERING LOCATION KEY

AUD- Auditorium/Gym
Chapel- Adoration Chapel of 2 Hearts- Entrance faces High St., on side of Parish House closest to the School
LIB- Library
PHCR- Parish House Conference Room (Room behind the Library)
PHMO- Parish House Ministry Office
PHMR- Parish House Meeting Room (Under Library)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY April 2nd
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Third Scrutiny 9:30am Mass
Adults RCIA LIB
No Baptisms
Legion of Mary Acies 2017 2:00pm Church
3:00pm Aud
Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church

MONDAY April 3rd
Scholastic Book Fair in Library
Children's RCIA 5:00pm PHMO
Cub Scouts 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Parish Penance Service 7pm Church

TUESDAY April 4th
Scholastic Book Fair in Library
Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center
Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR
Altar Rosary 7:00pm PHCR

WEDNESDAY April 5th
Scholastic Book Fair in Library
Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
OLPH 7:15pm Chapel
Bible Study 7:30pm PHMR

THURSDAY April 6th
Scholastic Book Fair in Library
RE Summer Program Section 1 5pm- 6pm
Cub Scouts 6:30pm AUD
Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR
Adult Choir 7:30pm Church

FRIDAY April 7th
Scholastic Book Fair in Library
Sacred Heart School Liturgy 8:30am
Middle School Youth Group 6:30pm Aud
Stations of the Cross 4:00pm & 7:00pm
Healing Mass after 7:00pm Stations

SATURDAY April 8th
Confessions 9:00am to 9:30am &
3:00pm to 3:30pm
Mass Music Practice 3:30pm Church