

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

February 25 – February 26 2017
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

February 25 – February 26 2017
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
February 27th - March 5th

MONDAY

7:00am **Ignacy & Maria Goliszewski** Req. By
The Redder Family

8:30am **Cody Gardner** Req. By William
(Wax)Palese

TUESDAY

7:00am **Richard Inacker** Req. By Teresa
Redder

8:30am **The Special Intentions of Alice
Farkas** Req. By The Altar Rosary

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00am **Rev. John McVeigh** Req. By Sandy
Roth

8:30am **John & Betty Wetterer** Req. By Kay &
Andy Weiss

**The Special Intentions of the Rowley
Family** Req. By William Rowley

12:15pm **Liturgy of the Word with Distribution
of Ashes**

4:00pm **Liturgy of the Word with Distribution
of Ashes**

7:00pm **Katharine Lehman** Req. By Her Family
James F. Matreale Req. By The Vecchio
Family

THURSDAY

7:00am **Rev. John McVeigh** Req. By Jim &
Dottie Westlake

8:30am **Gladys Gilsenan** Req. By Mark & Laura
Jean Beierschmitt

FRIDAY

7:00am **Rosemarie Minerva** Req. By John &
Vivian Cacace

8:30am **James F. Lynam** Req. By William &
Kathleen Moran

SATURDAY

8:30AM **Isabelita Dimen** Req. By Jesus Dimen &
Family

4:30pm **Benny Peter Coelho** Req. By Allwyn &
Sandra Mascarenhas & Family

SUNDAY

7:30am **The Special Intentions of Eliza Peña**
Req. By Jeff & Teresa Redder

9:30am **The People of the Parish & Barbara
Langabeer** Req. By Kay & Andy Weiss

11:30am **Samantha Wenzel** Req. By Sacred
Heart Parish House Staff

7:00pm **Michele Hall** Req. By Her Family

*The Devotional Candle in the
Chapel of the Two Hearts*



*Will Burn for the Special Intentions of:
The Giambalvo Family*

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: Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2;
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-
19]; Mt 4:1-11

SUNDAY OFFERING

Weekly 2/18 – 2/19 \$ 14, 354.26

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

MARCH 1ST



7:00AM MASS With Distribution of Ashes

8:30AM MASS With Distribution of Ashes

12:15PM LITURGY OF THE WORD With
Distribution of Ashes

4:00PM LITURGY OF THE WORD With
Distribution of Ashes

7:00PM MASS With Distribution of Ashes

February 25 – February 26 2017
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

I am truly happy to inform you that the total amount of the Christmas Collection taken up this year was \$ 59,685.00. May the Lord bless all of you for your overwhelming generosity to Sacred Heart Church. Your steadfast, faithful support of our wonderful parish and your consistent, prayerful participation are most inspiring and I am sincerely grateful to all of you.

I also wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all those who took part in our liturgical celebrations throughout the joyful season of Christmas.

A special word of gratitude to those who helped to make these Liturgies such beautiful experiences of the presence of God in our lives as we gathered to celebrate the birth of His beloved Son: Deacons, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Music Ministers, Readers, Ushers, those who cleaned, prepared and decorated our Church, those who assisted in counting our collections, our dedicated Parish Staff, and so many faithful volunteers.

May I offer a very sincere expression of my gratitude to so many of you for your beautiful Christmas cards and kind wishes, delicious treats and baked goods, and thoughtful and generous gifts.

I pray that 2017 will be for you, your loved ones and all the members of our parish family a year that is filled with God's gifts of grace, mercy and peace as together we praise and thank Him for the abundant treasure of His love.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless you all.

Father John

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.

February 25 – February 26 2017
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Please remember in your prayers:

Connie Vazquez, Vinnie Vazquez-Garcia,
Paisley Trojanowski, Megan Dezur,
Walter Grzesczuk, Matthew Ottenwess,
Talia Rosko, Lenore Scaturchio, Barbara Kane,
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 Wernoch, Kay Weiss, Maria Wolfe,
Casey Davitt, Fredrick Naphys, Margaret Brock,
Herbert Cuccuini, 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, Jane Ciletti, Sabrina Kaiser,
Wilma Peterson, Christine, Morgan Ackerman,
Celeste Bunn, Tom Polinski, Raymond Bishop,
Jenny Hand, Walter Klarmann, 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

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

The Knights of Columbus

SAVE THE DATE

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

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

Youth Ministry

**Family Night Lenten Supper &
Stations of the Cross - March 10th
6pm to 8pm**

Join us for a pizza dinner and pre-Stations activities on Friday, March 10th. We'll join parishioners at 7:00pm for Stations of the Cross. More information coming soon, pre-registration required for dinner.

SERRA VOCATION PRAYER CHALICE



God's Constant Care

The summary of today's first reading is that the Lord loves us with the constancy and tenderness of a mother.

St. Paul admonishes us to not pass judgment on each other for God is the ultimate Judge and knows the motives of our hearts.

Anxiety- whose life has not experienced it??!! Just consider recent times of loss of job, unemployment, diminished income, war issues, health concerns. Jesus consistently and compassionately tries to calm our fears.

We must have trust in our Heavenly Father who feeds the birds in the sky and clothes the grass of the field. He knows our every need. If we seek the Kingdom of God, we will be fed by the Father's serenity and clothed in His peace. Let us rejoice in the fact that God's watchful concern for us is complete.

DID YOU KNOW that there are special seminaries for men entering the priesthood later in life, seminaries where students range from ages 25 to 60? Many of these men have thought about being a priest at one time or another but, for whatever reason, pushed the idea to the back of their minds. They are men who have made a career change to a second vocation, the priesthood. They're ordinary people, men who have been electricians, teachers, barbers, policemen, social workers, businessmen, farmers, dentists. Some are widowers, even grandfathers. Diverse though their backgrounds may be, they now share one aim in life: to become a priest and serve God's people. Could you be one of them?

*Thank you
for praying for vocations.*

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

The SVDP Pantry is in need of the following:

Cereal, Meals in a can, Macaroni & Cheese, Baked Beans, Canned Vegetables and **Canned SOUP.**

If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks payable to:

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL
Thank you!

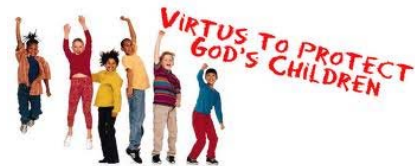
CEMETERY NEWS



St. Patrick's Day decorations may be placed one week prior to the holiday and must be removed two weeks after the holiday.

Please call Paula Pietrow, Cemetery Manager, at 609-267-0209 x 304 if you have any questions.

VIRTUS TRAINING



"Protecting God's Children."

This three hour mandatory workshop is for any volunteers who anticipate working with children in our parish's programs. This includes:

Religious Education, school volunteer, sports programs, ministries such as altar servers, children's choirs. All volunteers working with children must be fingerprinted as well.

The workshops will be held in the Library on:

Monday, March 6th, 6:30 to 9:30pm

If you plan to work with children (in a paid or volunteer position) please be sure to sign up for one of these workshops.

Please call Merry Marcellino at 702-1848 ext. 305 to register for a workshop.

**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.

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.



DIOCESE OF TRENTON

Faith to Move Mountains Campaign

For more information about
Faith to Move Mountains.

Website www.faithtomovemountains.org

Save the Date!
Sacred Heart School PTA
St. Patrick's Day



**9th Annual BEEF & BEER MARCH 18 - 7pm
in the Auditorium**

Beer, Wine, DJ, Dinner and Dancing!

No one under 21 yrs. of age permitted

\$30 a ticket

Tickets must be purchased in advance!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

of Tickets: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Table of 10?

Table

Name: _____

Questions: kelly.trojanowski@comcast.net
or call (609) 784-8575

SAVE THE DATE!

Mass of Thanksgiving for Marge McGinley, our Pastoral Administrator, and for the gift she has been to all of us for 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! We will be making a book with well wishes, thoughts, prayers and pictures, so if you would like to add something to the book, please drop off your pictures to Merry Marcellino in the parish house. You may drop off your well wishes or email them to Merry at ministry@parishofsacredheart.org

Come to see, ***The Letters:
The Untold Story of Mother
Teresa***

The St. Teresa of Calcutta Project comes to a close with the showing (and discussion of) the film, ***The Letters***. Based on the true story of St. Teresa, ***The Letters*** explores the life's work of the Nobel Prize recipient and one of the greatest humanitarians of all time. Her selfless devotion to helping the poor changed hearts, transformed lives and inspired millions throughout the world. Told through a series of personal letters written to her longtime friends and spiritual adviser, this powerful film is an unforgettable journey of faith, courage and compassion. ***The Letters*** is a perfect piece to start our own Lenten journeys.

Come on Friday, at 7:30pm, to the Sacred Heart Library to see the film; Deacon Jim Casa will then lead an open discussion about the life of St. Teresa.

Join St. Paul Street Evangelization

"The moment has come to commit all of the Churches 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.

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!

ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT 40 DAYS OF GRACE AHEAD!

THE TRINITY AND YOUR TRANSFORMATION

Wednesday, March 1 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

We love beginning Lent together with this retreat at Francis House because it provides a gentle structure for the six-week journey ahead. This year we will use Richard Rohr's, *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* as focus of our Lenten retreat and the motivation for our practices of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Make this Lent a special time of grace for you! Liturgy is also included with the reception of ashes within it. Donation: \$35, includes lunch and \$20 book for your use all during Lent.

THOUGHTS MATTER

Thursday, March 2 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

"My thoughts make all the difference in my world." Believe it or not, we have the ability to choose our thoughts. This freedom is essential to our spiritual well-being and emotional health. This morning retreat will help us learn to notice our thoughts as they arise and choose to accept them or replace them. With prayer and practice, we can choose our thoughts and receive a mind at peace, stilled and available for conscious thinking at will. What a wonderful Lenten practice! Donation: \$20, includes lunch & materials.

GLORIFY GOD BY IMPROVING YOUR HEALTH

4 Mondays March 6, 13, 27 & April 3 9:30 to 11:00AM

Our human bodies are the most intricate and amazing of God's creations! They were created to be beautiful, healthy, strong, and resilient. Given half a chance, your body will heal itself. Come learn how you can make small changes in your nutrition and lifestyle to create big and lasting results in your health and wellbeing. We will discuss a different topic each week, and you will create a unique plan for yourself to improve every aspect of your life – mind, body, and soul! Led by Colleen McNally, Certified Integrative Nutrition Health Coach. Donation: \$60. Includes materials.

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

February 25 – February 26 2017
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Living the Good News Today

*“It is of course required of stewards
that they be found trustworthy.”*

Last weekend, we had Sunday family dinner at my house, which brought great enjoyment to all of us. Although the dining room table was set before our youngest son arrived with his family, his older son wanted to help by filling the water glasses. As he went back and forth from the table to the kitchen, he noticed an appealing calligraphy wall calendar that I had hung on the dining room wall. This perceptive first grader proceeded to tell me that my calendar was wrong. So, I glanced over to see make sure it was opened to February, then shared my puzzlement with him about what he had seen “wrong.” Pointing to my calendar, he observed that we were not crossing off dates to mark time, so he wanted me to fix that. For me, this was one of those huggable moments with children when they teach us to slow down, pay attention, and appreciate where we are and what we are doing.

When Catholics celebrate the liturgical year, we not only mark time, but we also consecrate it by our praying and living in the grace of God. This week, the Church will change seasons, moving from Ordinary Time to the penitential season of Lent. If we marked off the days as my grandson had expected, what would we find in that daily consciousness? How close are we to God in our daily journey of activities? Would we honestly ask ourselves what we might have missed during our busy days and be more attentive tomorrow?

The readings for this weekend are an excellent prelude to Lent. In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul describes the humility with which Christians should be regarded by others: *“as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.”* His instruction makes it clear that God not only judges WHAT we do, but also the motives in our hearts. How different our Lenten journey could be if we listened more carefully to the Word of God and changed our hearts to be full of the desire to serve Christ with every fiber of our being—to be stewards of God’s Creation!

After reminding the Corinthians that they are to be servants and stewards, St. Paul further qualified his instruction with these words: *“Now it is of course required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”* For the true disciple of Christ, there can be no duplicity of agendas. Although the world can tempt us with choices to make, not all worldly desires lead us to God. To remain true to God, we must listen carefully to the Word and to take our promises to God seriously.

In his Message for Lent this year, Pope Francis reflected on Jesus’ parable of the rich man and Lazarus,

which included a quote from this weekend’s Gospel: *“No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money”*

The Holy Father observed that the rich man had no name in the parable. To what had he become a slave? Love of riches, lavish outward appearances, and self-idolatry? He left no earthly legacy of being a steward who had been trustworthy. Instead, he had failed to notice so much in his lifetime, especially poor Lazarus!

In reflecting on how sin can bind us, Pope Francis noted that the rich man’s *“opulence was seen in his extravagant and expensive robes... The man was clearly ostentatious about his wealth, and in the habit of displaying it daily... In him we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride... Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol... Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.”* For serious and trustworthy stewards, wealth is a privilege that also carries responsibilities and leads to gratitude.

In his Lenten message, Pope Francis offers the Church a theme: ***“The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift.”*** Citing the Word of God as the basis for everything, the Holy Father sees Lent as an urgent call to conversion—to respond to God’s invitation to hear and ponder more deeply the desire to change our hearts. When we rediscover the gift of God’s Word, we begin to see differently and to *“serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need.”* This attitude can radically change our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

There is a real spiritual blessing that comes from marking time, especially when it is done with other people—like grandchildren! ☺ Even if a person is unable to attend daily Mass, there is still the opportunity to read the daily Scripture readings (cf. <http://www.usccb.org>). Praying over the Word of God can lead our hearts to more deliberate action as God’s servants and stewards.

What if we had the chance to experience Jesus in our midst like His disciples did? Would Jesus find us anxious about what to eat, drink, or wear, or where to go, what to do, and how to get there? If we too hastily answered “No” to that question, would He find us worrying about our bills, health, unfinished business, or future? Psalm 62 teaches us very simply how important it is to know that our strength and salvation come only from God, so we must devote our daily focus with this implicit trust:

“Rest in God alone.”

Teresa S. Redder, OFS

February 25 – February 26 2017
EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WEEKLY PLANNER

SUNDAY February 26th
 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Adults RCIA LIB
 Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church

MONDAY February 27th
 Bible Study 9:30 PHCR
 Children's RCIA 5:00pm PHMO
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm – 8:00pm
 Basketball 6:30pm Gym
 First Reconciliation 7:00pm Church

TUESDAY February 28th
NO Religious Education Classes
 Basketball 6:30pm Gym
 SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center
 Rite of Election Practice RCIA 7:00pm Church
 Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR

ASH WEDNESDAY March 1st
Mass Times 7:00am, 8:30am & 7:00pm
Distribution of Ashes at the end of Mass &
Liturgy of the Word Service
12:15pm & 4:00pm
NO Religious Education Classes

THURSDAY March 2nd
 Family Literacy Night 7:00pm School
 Music Practice 6:00pm Church
 Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR
 Basketball 6:30pm Gym
 Adult Choir 7:30pm Church

FRIDAY March 3rd
 Sacred Heart School Liturgy 8:30am
 Stations of the Cross 4:00pm & 7:00pm
 Basketball 6:30 Gym

SATURDAY March 4th



Mt. Holly St. Patrick's Day Parade
High Street will be closed approximately
10:00am to 3:00pm
 Basketball 8:30am Gym
 Mass Music Practice 3:30pm Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY March 5th
 First Sunday of Lent
 Rite of Sending/Election RCIA 9:30am Mass
 Adults RCIA LIB
 Holy Cross Lacrosse at 11:30am Mass &
 Auditorium
 Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church

MONDAY March 6th
 Bible Study 9:30 PHCR
 Children's RCIA 5:00pm PHMO
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm – 8:00pm
 Basketball 6:30pm Gym
 Virtus Instruction 6:30pm LIB

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

WEDNESDAY March 8th
 Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
 Basketball 6:30pm Gym
 OLPH 7:15pm Chapel
 Baptism Prep Class 7:30pm Church
 Bible Study 7:30pm PHMR

THURSDAY March 9th
RE Summer Program Section 1 5pm- 6pm
 Music Practice 6:00pm Church
 Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR
 Basketball 6:30pm Gym
 Adult Choir 7:30pm Church

FRIDAY March 10th
 Sacred Heart School Stations 1:45pm
 Stations of the Cross 4:00pm & 7:00pm
 Youth Ministry Family Night Lenten Supper &
 Stations of the Cross 6pm to 8pm Aud
 Mother Teresa Movie Night 7:30pm LIB

SATURDAY March 11th
 First Communion Retreat 9:00am-11:30am
 Auditorium and Church
 Mass Music Practice 3:30pm Church