

# Sacred Heart Church



260 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060-1404

Telephone: 609-267-0209 • FAX: 609-267-9293 • Website: [www.parishofsacredheart.org](http://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](mailto:fisherking13@comcast.net)  
Deacon John Hoefling  
Deacon Stan Orkis  
Deacon William Rowley

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Michele O'Toole ext. 301

[secretary@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:secretary@parishofsacredheart.org)

Business Manager: Mrs. Deneen Thomas ext. 303

[accountant@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:accountant@parishofsacredheart.org)

Cemetery Manager: Mrs. Paula Pietrow ext. 304

[cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org)

Coord. of Ministries: Ms. Merry Marcellino ext. 305

[ministry@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:ministry@parishofsacredheart.org)

Parish Maintenance Mr. Jason D'Entremont ext. 319

[jasonmd@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:jasonmd@parishofsacredheart.org)

## Sacred Heart School

250 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Telephone: 609-267-1728

Email: [schooloffice@sacred-heart-school.org](mailto:schooloffice@sacred-heart-school.org)

Website: [www.sacred-heart-school.org](http://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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

**June 3 – June 4 2017**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**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](mailto:bulletins@parishofsacredheart.org)

**June 3 – June 4 2017  
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK  
June 5<sup>th</sup> - June 11<sup>th</sup>**

**MONDAY**

7:00am **Joseph Smyth** Req. By the  
Clothier Family  
8:30am **Victor S. Mushinski** Req. By The  
Rudd Family

**TUESDAY**

7:00am **Thomas Able** Req. Nancy Brayton &  
Dick Ricords  
8:30am **Stan Bernatowicz** Req. By the  
Raimondi Family

**WEDNESDAY**

7:00am **Prudencia Antig** Req. By Pepita  
Mercado  
8:30am **Victor D. Grimes** Req. By The Rudd  
Family

**THURSDAY**

7:00am **Leonila Lozada** Req. By Pepita  
Mercado  
8:30am **Everett Hoffman** Req. By The  
Hansel Family

**FRIDAY**

7:00am **Robert Parker** Req. By Jane Quinn &  
Joseph Zboray  
8:30am **Fr. Jack McVeigh** Req. By The  
Rudd Family

**SATURDAY**

8:30AM **Stanley Kiczek** Req. By John & Maria  
Kaplon  
4:30PM **Steven Rodrigues** Req. By Allwyn &  
Sandra Mascarenhas

**SUNDAY**

7:30am **E. D. Stringfield** Req. By Merry  
& Joan Marcellino  
9:30am **Samantha Wenzel** Req. By Marge  
McGinley  
11:30am **Randy England** Req. By His  
Family  
7:00pm **The People of the Parish**

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



*Will Burn in Loving Memory of:  
Blanche Swensen*

**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:** Tb 1:3; 2:1b-8; Mk 12:1-12  
**Tuesday:** Tb 2:9-14; Mk 12:13-17  
**Wednesday:** Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Mk 12:18-27  
**Thursday:** Tb 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a;  
Mk 12:28-34  
**Friday:** Tb 11:5-17; Mk 12:35-37  
**Saturday:** Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20; Mk 12:38-44  
**Sunday:** Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13;  
Jn 3:16-18

**SUNDAY OFFERING**

**Weekly 5/27 – 5/28 \$ 11, 653.98  
Catholic Communications \$ 785.00  
The Ascension \$ 1, 745.00**

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

**One Body in Christ – The Annual Catholic  
Appeal**

Once again, we are being asked to participate in the Annual Catholic Appeal throughout the Diocese of Trenton. Each year the Bishop seeks the support of all of the members of the Diocese to further the work of our ministries. Each of us has a vital part in all we do in Christ's name, and each of us can share in all we do with a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Our single Act of Faith propels the works of love that build up our Church. You can make this happen with a gift to the ACA. Please take a moment and truly reflect on any help you can give. Many of you have already received a letter in the mail asking for your prayers and support for this Appeal. Pledge cards can also be found at all entrances to the Church. Thank you for the prayer, time and attention that you give to this request.

**June 3 – June 4 2017  
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church,

I know I speak for all the members of our parish family in extending to Marge McGinley our prayers and best wishes as she concludes her ministry here at Sacred Heart as Pastoral Administrator and begins her position at Virtua Health as Chaplain in the Pastoral Care Department. We are, I am sure, truly grateful to Marge for her many years of service and care to the people of our parish and community in so many ways. Her support and supervision of a variety of parish ministries assure us that they will continue to thrive, calling the willing and the gifted to serve with humility and holiness as Jesus teaches. Her special dedication to the important work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has brought comfort and encouragement to a multitude of individuals and households who witnessed the Corporal Works of Mercy coming to life through the ministry of all our wonderful volunteers. I am certain that her prayerful presence to the patients at Virtua and their families will offer healing and hope to those in need. May the Lord continue to bless Marge, her family and her work in the years ahead.

I am truly happy to inform you that Merry Marcellino will continue to serve the people of Sacred Heart as Coordinator of Ministries. Merry is a graduate of the 3-year Institute of Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program offered by the Diocese of Trenton and also received her Certificate of Completion for her participation in the Ministers of Consolation Program. Merry is also an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass and to the sick and homebound.

Some of Merry's many responsibilities will include: The coordination and scheduling of our parish liturgical ministers.

Prepare announcements, prayers and other important information for the celebration of our Sunday Liturgy and special liturgies.

The coordination of our parish ministry to the sick and the homebound.

Assisting bereaving families in preparing Mass for the funeral of a loved one.

Assist with the coordination of our RCIA program.

Keep current records of all those involved in the Virtus Program.

Organizing, with the collaboration of Parish and School Staff, our Parish calendar.

I am truly grateful for the dedication and commitment that Merry has and will continue to bring to our parish and know that we will continue to be blessed by her presence.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus continue to bless us all and keep us in His care.

Father John

**June 3 – June 4 2017  
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Connie Vazquez, Vinnie Vazquez-Garcia, Melissa Currie, Janice Staff, Nadia Nieves, Edward Stewart, Joey Eades, Paisley Trojanowski, Talia Rosko, Pat Adornetto, Megan Dezur, Bobby Sumanga, Garrett Schwab, Martin O'Connor, Christopher Pierce, Renate Conners, Freddie J. Faber, III, Arleen Bishop, Matthew Ottenwess, 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, Wayne Potts, Stephanie Martin, Corey Kaiser, Stella Grundahl, Rebecca Bozarth, Matthew Wernoch, Kay Weiss, Maria Wolfe, Casey Davitt, Fredrick Naphys, Margaret Brock, Herbert Cucuini, Daniel Toussaint, Zoey Reed, Mason Damico, Lynn Kellogg, David McCoy, Lois Pedrick, John Rubino, George Sampson, Evan Martinez, Trey Nieves, Gisela Harrell, Sabrina Kaiser, Camila Doris Perez, Celeste Bunn, Annabelle Ochipinti, Loretta Minakee, Christine, Patricia Parker, Wilma Peterson, Doris Gallo, Morgan Ackerman, Tom Polinski, Raymond Bishop, Jenny Hand, Patricia O'Connor, George Schneider, Marie Donahue, Peggy Stewart, Dylan Crespo, Sharon Carroll, 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:**

Capt. Anthony D'Errico II, U.S.A.F.  
L.Cpl. Noah Stimiloski U.S.M.C.  
Capt. Robert J. Boccio, U.S.A.F.  
Michael Bakker, Isaac Paredez  
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.

**Honoring Our Graduates  
Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>**



**Graduates Mass 11:30am**

**Sacred Heart School News**

**Sacred Heart School PTA  
Presents  
3rd Annual Golf Classic**



**Ron Jaworski's Ramblewood Country  
Club**

**Wednesday, June 21, 2017**

**11:30 Am Registration/1pm Shotgun  
Start**

**\$110 per Golfer**

**Includes:**

**Green Fees, Lunch, Golf gift bag and  
Buffet Dinner**

**To attend Dinner only- \$30**

**More Information call 609-784-8575**

**or email [fundraisers@sacred-heart-  
school.org](mailto:fundraisers@sacred-heart-school.org)**

**SERRA VOCATION PRAYER  
CHALICE**



**PRAYER IS A MOVING FORCE** in vocation development. Prayer is effective; prayer is powerful; prayer is essential. Few are called to priesthood or religious life, but all are called to pray for vocations.

“Lord, your Church is in need.

Touch the hearts of many within our Parish with the desire to serve you.

Call forth from this community sisters, brothers, deacons, priests and lay leaders.

Help us to live lives that will nurture childhood trust into adult commitment.

May this parish be a source of hope and a source of ministers for your Church, your people and your world.

Amen.”

*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

**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](mailto: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.



The Holy Spirit’s Dynamism in the Church

Our Paschal journey begun so long ago in ashes is finished in fire. The wonder of the tongues of flame resting on each of the gathered disciples and of the Holy Spirit’s gift enabling them to speak in different languages is certainly profound and perplexing. The miracle of Pentecost was that diversity no longer divided the disciples but united them in the task of making disciples of all nations.

St. Paul’s Letter speaks of different kinds of spiritual gifts. Some are less dramatic than others but no less important. All genuine gifts come from God and build up the Community in whose service they are to be exercised.

St. Paul’s Letter has so much significance in our Christian lives, in our parish life at Sacred Heart. We are the body of the Church, a community of faith made up of many individuals with diverse ministries, involved in so many activities using the gifts of the Spirit in creating unity in the Church.

**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!***

June 3 – June 4 2017  
PENTECOST SUNDAY



The Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Council will be holding its Annual Spring Red Cross Blood Drive on June 20, 2017 between 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. The drive will take place in the Sacred Heart School Auditorium.

Donors may sign up on the weekends of June 3 / 4 2017 and June 10 / 11 2017 following Masses.

Donors may also sign up by logging on to the Red Cross Website and check the Sacred Heart Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus # 1179.

The Knights and the Red Cross Thank You

**"St Denis Recovery Ministry will be hosting a 12-Step Christian Recovery One-Day Retreat "Let Go, Let God"**

Acceptance-Surrender-God's Amazing Grace

Date: Saturday, June 10th

Time: 10am-3pm Cost: \$10

Church of St Denis: School Cafeteria  
90 Union Ave, Manasquan, NJ 08736

Lunch, fellowship, speakers, workshops, reflection-all in a 12-Step Christian Recovery setting.

Open to those in Recovery, those struggling with Addiction AND FAMILIES of those afflicted!"

Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions at 848-333-7085,  
Laura RSVP to 732-223-0287 or at  
[www.EventBrite.com](http://www.EventBrite.com)



**Offerings at Francis House of Prayer**

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center

Box 392 • Rancocas, NJ 08073

609-877-0509 or [FHOP@verizon.net](mailto:FHOP@verizon.net)

Please check [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) for directions and for our other offerings!

**PERSONAL RETREAT DAY**

Wednesday, June 9:30AM – 2:30PM

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.

**THE LABYRINTH AND THE PORTIUNCULA PERFECT TOGETHER**

Thursday, June 8: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

We will alternate between 20-minute centering prayer periods in the Portiuncula, our outdoor chapel (in English, The Little Portion, named for the chapel that St. Francis built in Assisi) and walking meditation on our labyrinth. If your body needs centering and your soul craves peace, come spend this gently refreshing evening at Francis House. Donation: Love Offering

**7 – DAY SILENT GUIDED RETREAT**

**PRAYING OUR EXPERIENCES WITH THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX**

Sunday, June 11, 7:00 PM to Sunday, June 18, 10:00 AM

Brother Joseph Schmidt, FSC, the author of 2 wonderful books on St. Thérèse of Lisieux, offers this guided, meditative-writing retreat, based on her life and spirituality. Thérèse allowed her life to flow into her prayer and her prayer to flow into her life. In this way, she calls us to live the Gospel mandate of prayer and love in the ordinary experiences of life. This retreat will provide daily group instruction and individual spiritual direction in a method of praying our experiences. Commuters welcome! Donation: \$450; \$60 non-refundable deposit.

**To register, call 609-877-0509.** Please check [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) for our other offerings!

## *The Grapes of Wrath Project*

by Deacon Jim Casa

Through the 'read the book - see the movie' programs that we offer here are Sacred Heart Parish, I hope that we address several purposes. That we will read some really good books. That we will increase our understanding of our faith. That we will broaden our understanding of the human condition. To travel, in spirit, to go far beyond the mere superficial. To be entertained and inspired by watching good films. To engage one another in stimulating conversations. No doubt, a tall order and with the 2017 summer project, we will cover all of these bases.

John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* is one of the greatest novels in American literature and the film version, directed by John Ford, was listed at #21 by the American Film Institute's best movies of all time. This summer, we are in for a monumental treat and all of you are invited to participate. Please give it some thought. *The Grapes of Wrath* will affect how you look at life.

*The Grapes of Wrath*. In stark and moving detail, Steinbeck's compelling saga depicts the lives of ordinary people striving to preserve their humanity in the face of social and economic desperation. When the Joad family lose their farm in Oklahoma, they join thousands of others, traveling to the 'promised land' of California. A portrait of the bitter conflict between the powerful and the powerless, one man's fierce reaction to injustice and a woman's quiet, stoical strength, *The Grapes of Wrath* is a landmark of American writing, one that captures the horrors of the Great Depression as it probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America. Clearly, *The Grapes of Wrath*, though set in the 1930's is as current as tomorrow's newspaper; it is storytelling that transcends time.

So, begin your reading of *The Grapes of Wrath* and save the date, Friday evening - September 22 - when we will gather to see Ford's classic movie and discuss both novel and film. Look for updates about the novel in future Parish Bulletins.

### **Senior Spirituality & "So Much More" Day!**

All maturing adults are invited to join us for a day of inspiration. Please join Msgr. Walter Nolan as he inspires us with his great gift of story-telling, presenting a two-part discussion on "A Personal Story about the Cross and the Beatitudes" – and – "Another Personal Story about the Cross and how the Beatitudes Intersect our Lives", as only he can. Bobby Byrne, and known for his Irish Ballads, Broadway Show-tunes, Italian arias, and even Elvis impersonations will provide entertainment. See them on July 12<sup>th</sup> at St. Leo the Great in Lincroft, from 10am to 3pm. Mass will be celebrated at 11:30am. \$15.00 fee includes lunch. Register at [www.dioceseoftrenton.org/pastoral-care](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/pastoral-care) or contact: Deanna Sass at 609-403-7157.

### **Nicky's Run 5K & Family Fun Walk**

#### **Description**

The 5th Annual Nicky's Run Memorial 5K promotes youth suicide awareness and prevention. All proceeds benefit the Nicky Green Foundation (NG52).

This event is a 5K race on the Rancocas Valley Regional High School's varsity cross country course at their sports complex at 1 Mill Creek Rd & Powell Rd. in Eastampton, NJ.

#### **Trail run on a secluded course -- no public roadways!**

Registration 5K Run: By June 8th: \$25.00

Early Check-in and Day of Run Registration (June 10): \$30

1 Mile Fun Run/Walk Pre & Race Day: \$20

ONLINE Registration closes 10pm Thursday night, June 8th.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Eastampton/NickyGreenMemorial5kRun1MileRunWalk>

Early Check-in/Package Pick-up - Friday, June 9th. Time and Location TBD

Day of Run Check-in begins at 7am for those who did not Check in on Friday night.



**Living the Good News Today**

*“You renew the face of the earth.”*

Many times in my life I have had experiences that are even more incredible and wondrous because they intersected with some other unexpected activity or encounter and left me profoundly aware of how God is at work in our lives. While some people might be inclined to explain what happened as coincidental and just good luck, I like to savor the expression that *“There are no coincidences with God.”* As the Church celebrates Pentecost, I would like to reflect on one of those coincidences that must have left the apostles with a sense of awe and wonder at how God works!

While serving at McGuire AFB, I would frequently visit the base chapel. In the vestibule of both chapels, the chaplains used to set out literature for people to take and enrich their faith. These pamphlets included Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish spiritual materials. I especially enjoyed taking the handouts from the Jewish chaplain and learning more about the customs and traditions of the faith in which Jesus was raised. I still refer to those pamphlets when I prepare for prison ministry!

Did you know that 50 days after Passover, the Jewish faith observes the feast of Shavuoth (the Feast of Weeks)? This feast commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai seven weeks after the beginning of Passover. When this event happened, the Israelites entered into a covenant with God, declaring that *“all that the Lord has spoken we shall do.”* (Exodus 19:8)

In this weekend’s readings, the Acts of the Apostles begins by remarking that *“the time for Pentecost was fulfilled.”* The word “Pentecost” was used by Hellenist (Greek) Jews to describe Shavuoth. So, the apostles, Mary, and other disciples of Jesus were in Jerusalem marking this Feast of Weeks in which Jews were renewing that covenant with God and reaffirming the historic seven-week journey from slavery to redemption to freedom to responsibility.



While so many faithful Jews were in Jerusalem observing the Feast of Shavuoth, God sent the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Such a coincidence! Just as Jesus had observed His last Passover with His disciples, the Holy Spirit was now with that faith community to help them

understand what Jesus meant when He gave them a “new and everlasting covenant,” No coincidence that this happened seven weeks after Passover on the feast marking the covenant with God. The responsorial psalm

(Psalm 104) was written before Jesus, but the author understood the wondrous work of God in the world: *“When You send forth Your spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the earth.”*

As Catholics, our celebration of Pentecost directs us to the renewal that is always at work in the world through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Acts of the Apostles captures for us the transforming moment in salvation history when the fullness of the Holy Trinity was revealed and God was renewing the face of the earth. It must have been so amazing to those who had gathered in Jerusalem to hear the apostles proclaiming the Good News and to be able to understand them in so many different languages!

To this day, one of the traditions of Shavuoth is to recite the liturgical poem Akdamut, written by the 11<sup>th</sup> century Rabbi Meir ben Issac Nehorai. This poem extols the greatness of God, who gave His people the Law and prepared a wondrous future for the pure and upright of heart in the world to come. The Jewish chaplain’s handout highlighted keywords from this poem that are part of our Catholic tradition, too:

*“We are His choice. Then let us rejoice that He blessed us and gave us the Law.”*

Isn’t it simply incredible how God sent the Holy Spirit on the Feast of Shavuoth? If anyone were to spend significant time reflecting on God’s Law and then renewing their commitment to living by the covenant, would their hearts and minds be open to what was proclaimed by the apostles? On that first Pentecost, many people in Jerusalem saw, heard, and were moved to be baptized in this Spirit of God. As Jesus taught the apostles, so would they go out into the world and teach others about God’s law of love, a new and everlasting covenant with His people.

Twenty centuries have passed since that first Christian Pentecost happened. We can appreciate what St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians when he said that *“No one can say that ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.”* When Jesus came to teach us the Way, the Truth, and the Life, He transformed the world that had been so broken by sin. This weekend is a very good time to reflect on our baptism and confirmation, when the Holy Spirit transformed our own lives and called us into something much bigger than ourselves. Jesus has taught us that the Law is much more than simple compliance with rules and regulations. The face of the earth is renewed when we remember true communion:

*“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”*

Teresa S. Redder, OFS

**June 3 – June 4 2017  
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**WEEKLY PLANNER**

SUNDAY June 4th  
Pentecost Sunday  
Mass Music Practice 6:30pm

MONDAY June 5th  
Cub Scouts 5pm to 8pm PHMR

TUESDAY June 6th  
Sacred Heart School Fun Day  
SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center  
Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHMO  
Altar Rosary 7:00pm PHCR

WEDNESDAY June 7th  
Sacred Heart School Pre-K Ceremony 9:30am  
AUD  
Baptism Prep Class 7:30pm Church  
OLPH 7:15pm Chapel  
KOC Spirituality evening 7:00pm

THURSDAY June 8th  
Sacred Heart School Kindergarten Graduation  
9:30am AUD  
Mass Music Practice 6:00pm Church  
Boy Scouts 7:00pm  
Adult Choir 7:00pm

FRIDAY June 9th  
Sacred Heart School Eighth Grade Graduation  
4:00pm Church



SATURDAY June 10th  
Blood Drive Sign-ups at all Masses in Pantry  
Mass Music Practice 3:30pm

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

SUNDAY June 11th  
*The Most Holy Trinity*  
Mass Music Practice 6:30pm

MONDAY June 12th  
Cub Scouts 5pm to 8pm PHMR  
KOC Basketball 7:00pm Gym

TUESDAY June 13th  
PTA Teacher Appreciation Lunch LIB/PHCR  
SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center  
Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHMO  
High School Youth Group 7pm to 9pm AUD  
Knights of Columbus 7:30pm PHMR  
Columbiettes 7:30pm LIB

WEDNESDAY June 14th  
OLPH 7:15pm Chapel  
KOC Spirituality evening 7:00pm PHCR

THURSDAY June 15th  
Sacred Heart School Last Day  
Student Council 7pm AUD  
Mass Music Practice 6:00pm Church  
Boy Scouts 7:00pm  
Adult Choir 7:00pm

FRIDAY June 16th

SATURDAY June 17th  
Blood Drive Sign-ups at all Masses in Pantry  
Mass Music Practice 3:30pm  
Christ the Redeemer All Day AUD

**GATHERING LOCATION KEY**

- AUD-** Auditorium/Gym
- LIB-** Library
- PHCR-** Parish House Conference Room (Between the Library and the Chapel)
- PHMO-** Parish House Ministry Office (Merry's office)
- PHMR-** Parish House Meeting Room (Under the Library)

