

Welcome / Welcome Home!

*Whether this is your first visit to Sacred Heart
or you have been here before -
we are glad you are here*

Sacred Heart stands ready to help you
in a variety of ways

Here are some of the ways we most often can help you

divorce

It is very sad to the Church that many people have separated themselves from communion with the Church simply because

they were under the impression that a divorce meant automatic excommunication. *This is rarely the case!* PLEASE! Call the office and talk to Father Stan for a confidential assessment of your options. Even if you have been remarried, there may be uncomplicated options available to you. You have nothing to lose by inquiring, and **the Church very much wishes you to explore the options available to you.** Call 875-4563 or email fatherstan@sacredheartchurch.net

baptism

Do you have or are you expecting a child for whom you wish the Sacrament of Baptism? We baptize children throughout the year and we are able to prepare you for the Baptism in a painless way – **even if you have been away for a long time.** Please call to get this easy process started.

Are you or an older child unbaptized? Adults and older children are accommodated in a special process that respects their lived experience and their unique appreciation of the experience of Faith. Again, please call Rella or Father Stan to find out more. Call 875-4563 or email rella@sacredheartchurch.net or fatherstan@sacredheartchurch.net

did you skip confirmation?

This happens more often than you might have thought. Sometimes a person just isn't ready for the Sacrament of Confirmation when they are in High School. **This isn't a difficult problem at all** – and, no, you won't have to be placed back into a class of teenagers. Call Rella or Father Stan to find out just how easy this is. Call us whenever you are ready. Call 875-4563 or email rella@sacredheartchurch.net or fatherstan@sacredheartchurch.net

getting married?

If you're planning on getting married in a different Catholic parish, you'll be asked to present a certificate from "your" parish. Don't have a parish? Well, you do now. Here you are and we're glad to have you. This isn't a problem – call the office and register. We'll need your name, address, and ask some simple background questions of you (such as, "Are you already baptized? etc.) Let us know you're planning to be married so that we can help. Call 875-4563 or email rella@sacredheartchurch.net or fatherstan@sacredheartchurch.net

parish registration

Newcomer or long-timer – there are some people who just haven't gotten around to registering in the parish yet. We ask that you please consider doing so. It gives us an understanding of just who our Parish Family truly is, including valuable information about faith experience, approximate age, how many of our family are candidates for sacraments, etc. It's not just curiosity on our part – it helps us to plan both for our present Parish Family and for the Parish of your future. We offer (and recommend) contribution envelopes if you should desire them and choose to use them, *but that decision is entirely yours.*

By the way, registration benefits you in other ways, too. It helps you if we can contact you when you are ill and are needing our assistance. We have a large array of services you might have use of – have you ever needed to photocopy your medical bills or perhaps some paperwork for your child's school? Ever need to send or receive a fax? Borrow some tables or chairs for a party or picnic? We really would like everyone to register, whether here at Sacred Heart or in another place. We are one Church, and registration does help the Church to better minister and become more efficient. Call 875-4563 or email rella@sacredheartchurch.net or fatherstan@sacredheartchurch.net

support

Whether you are grieving a loss or struggling to break from an addiction – we can help. You have lots of different options and we have the experience of many contacts to refer you to. One of them may be perfect for you. This is a Season of Life. Perhaps this is the time for your life to begin again – call the office when you're ready. Call 875-4563 or email fatherstan@sacredheartchurch.net

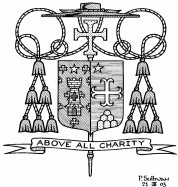
formation

Faith grows best when it is nurtured and cared for. We can help with the many Faith Formation tools we offer to you. Tailored by age (children through adults) or by where you are in life's journey, our programs can be just the tool you need to give your faith a boost. Most of our members will tell you that worshipping with us at Mass is the best first step (whether the large Sunday Mass or a small Daily Mass) but you don't have to start that way – perhaps you want to learn more about Scripture (one option is Bible Study) or you feel the need to help the disadvantaged (we have many opportunities – from our devotion to the poor of Haiti to our devotion to the poor of our community whom we help through The Cornerstone). Do you love to read? Why not join our Book Club? There is something for you here at Sacred Heart – and if there isn't we want to know about it so we can fill the need. Rella can help you. Call 875-4563 or email rella@sacredheartchurch.net

We could go on and on, but we'll just say again how glad we are that you worshipped with us.

You are always welcome in this house.

EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



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MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

Easter Message 2008

My dear brothers & sisters in the Lord,

The peace of the risen Lord be with you and all whom you love. On this Easter Sunday, we rejoice in the Lord's victory over sin and death. Assembled with their companions, the Eleven apostles first heard the good news of Jesus' Resurrection. While they were discussing all this, Jesus stands among them. In their fright, in their guilt, and in their wonderment and awe, the Risen Lord greets them, "Peace be with you!" (cf. Luke 24:36-37)

The Lord's greeting is earth shaking. The Gospel tells us that the disciples' joy was so great they could not believe their eyes. They were dumfounded (cf. Luke 24:41). We can understand how they felt. After all, just days before one of their number had betrayed the Lord, another had denied Him, and most of them had abandoned Him to his executioners. They had seen His lifeless body taken down from the Cross. Prepared for burial, His body was placed in a tomb.

While the mere sight of Jesus would easily recall their guilt, His presence and His greeting of peace changed all of that. They heard his greeting: "Peace be with you!" They did not need an explanation. They knew exactly what Jesus meant. All is forgiven! Why are you so upset? (cf. Luke 24:38) In that moment, His disciples passed from death to life; they went from the sin and despair of betrayal and denial to the joy and hope of the victory of new life that Jesus shared with them. Through the Church, Jesus continues to share that joy with us. In His Risen Presence, the Lord greets us with His peace and we rejoice in His gift of new life.

At times we betray, deny, and turn away from the Lord but in the same way that Jesus greets His disciples on the day of His Resurrection, He reaches out to us. He embraces us with His love. He touches our hearts with His peace. Just as that short but powerful greeting of peace bestowed new life on His disciples, Christ's peace embraces us with mercy and forgiveness. His peace gives us a rebirth to new life. It shares with us the power of the Resurrection to begin living in a new way. The old way of living—of selfishness, indifference, pettiness, and sin—passes away and in its place, God's love fills our hearts.

"No part of our lives or our world is untouched by His Resurrection; for this mysterious event is the complete victory of love, obedience, humility, and self-giving over the darkness of hatred, shame, sin, and despair. Even the once insurmountable obstacle of death is no more. Its power is smashed in the response of God the Father—the raising of Jesus from the dead." (Easter Meditation, author unknown.)

In our Eucharistic worship this Easter Sunday, Jesus stands before us and He greets us with His Peace. The power of sin and death is destroyed. His greeting is as much a sign of His Resurrection and His desire to share His life with us today as it was when He first appeared to His disciples and spoke that greeting to them. How can we fail to rejoice and to celebrate His Resurrection? How can we not return to the Lord and share in His victory? In the light of faith, we celebrate the Eucharist on Easter and we renew our belief that Jesus is Risen. Through the power of the Spirit, Jesus abides with us today and every day.

Easter celebrates the great truth that we are forever changed, forever made new through Jesus' Resurrection. With full heart, we renew our Baptismal commitment to serve God faithfully and live as faithful witnesses to Our Lord Jesus Christ. As we renew our commitment to the

Lord, Jesus embraces us with His love and changes our hearts with His gift of peace.

With faith and hope, we continue our prayers for peace, for an end to war, and for our servicemen and women, especially for those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. May this Easter 2008, see the dawn of world peace, especially in the Middle East, and the victory of God's love.

Peace be with you! Happy Easter!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, D.D.
Bishop of Norwich

attention sunday faith formation classes

All classes scheduled for Sunday, March 23 will not meet because of the Easter Holiday. They will meet again next week (March 30) at their regularly scheduled times.

confirmation rehearsal

Rehearsal for Confirmation will be held on Friday, March 28 at 7:00pm in the church for all 10th grade teens who have been preparing to receive this Sacrament. Letters about the rehearsal, etc. have been sent. If you have any questions, please contact Rella (875-4563) or at rella@sacredheartchurch.net.

youth group at cornerstone

Some members of the Youth Group will be going to Cornerstone on Saturday, March 29 to prepare and serve lunch. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:55am.

confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered by Monsignor Thomas Bride on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at the 5:00pm Mass. **You are all invited to attend** this Mass and celebrate with our nine teen candidates and one adult candidate.

readings for the week

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/
Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

MARCH 23, 2008

the work of the church

HOLY SATURDAY

8:00pm **Easter Vigil Mass: *For those coming into the Church***

EASTER SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: *Harold & Gertrude Rogers***, requested by their daughter, Joyce Melia

10:30am **Mass: *Tony Gonsalves***, requested by his wife, Betty

MONDAY

9:00am **Liturgy of the Word with Communion**

TUESDAY

9:00am **Mass: *Father Tom Doyle***

WEDNESDAY

9:00am **Mass: *For the People of the Parish***

THURSDAY

7:00pm **Mass: *Deceased members of the Labbadia & Davia Families***, requested by Maria Davia

7:45pm **Intercessory Prayer**

FRIDAY

9:00am **Mass: *Rev. Joseph Ricard***

SATURDAY

5:00pm **Mass: *Confirmation***

SUNDAY

8:00am **Mass: *Ann Martin***, requested by the Sacred Heart Ministers of Holy Communion

10:30am **Mass: *Delphis "Del" Dufresne***, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family

meetings

SATURDAY

7:00pm **Narcotics Anonymous***, Library

SUNDAY

NO

Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass
Faith Formation or Youth Group

MONDAY

Offices Closed

TUESDAY

Offices Closed

WEDNESDAY

4:00pm **Faith Formation Levels 1,2,4,5**

5:45pm **Brownie Troop 697**, Northeast Community Rooms

7:00pm **Pastoral Council**, Library

8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous***, South Community Rooms

THURSDAY

10:00am **Bible Study**, South Community Rooms

7:45pm **Intercessory Prayer**, Eucharistic Chapel

8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book***, South Community Rooms

FRIDAY

7:00pm **Confirmation Rehearsal**

SATURDAY

7:00pm **Youth Group at Cornerstone**
Narcotics Anonymous*, Northeast Rooms

SUNDAY

9:10am ***Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass***
Faith Formation Levels K – 4

6:30pm **Faith Formation Level 6 – 8**

NO

Confirmation Prep or Youth Group