

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.**

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 Rella or Father Stan 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 Lk 24:1-12
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 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

attention: sunday faith formation classes & youth group

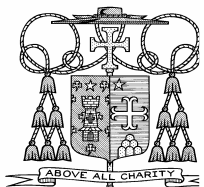
All Faith Formation classes and Youth Group meetings held on Sunday will not meet this weekend, April 8 in observance of Easter. Next Sunday (April 15) is the beginning of the Spring Vacation break for the Vernon School System. Classes will resume, therefore, on Sunday, April 22 at their regularly scheduled times.

thank you!

The Youth Group wishes to thank the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church who supported them in their recent Food Fast through prayers and offerings. The money raised will be sent to Catholic Relief Services to help them in their efforts to ease hunger in our world.

tag sale – items wanted

The Youth Group will once again be participating in the Annual Vernon Tag Sale. We are looking for donated items to sell. As you go about with your spring cleaning, please remember the Youth Group. All items must be clean and usable. Please no clothing. You may donate all clothing items to Cornerstone or our Haitian Mission. If you have any questions, please call Rella at 875-4563 or e-mail her at rella@sacredheartchurch.net.



Diocese of Norwich
Office of the Bishop
201 Broadway
Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 887-9294

EASTER MESSAGE 2007

MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord:

With inexpressible joy we welcome Easter and its good news. On this day, Christ, our hope has arisen. In Him sin and sadness, death and despair give way to the victory of His Resurrection. As we hear once again the news of Jesus' Resurrection, we echo His disciple's joy on that first Easter by singing praise to God. Alleluia! "...Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Alleluia! (Luke 24:35) This is the great event of our faith.

Jesus Christ died for our sins. "...He was buried and He was raised to life on the third day..." (1 Corinthians 15:4) In the darkness of that first Easter, Mary Magdalene discovers the stone rolled back from Jesus' tomb and not only the darkness of that night but also the darkness of sin and death begin to fade forever. "...the night is over and the real light is already shining." (1 John 2:8) Jesus Christ is that light.

We know the account well! Perhaps, it is so familiar that we fail to comprehend the enormity of this great event by which life is forever new and by which we are saved from sin and death. On that first day of the week, Mary

Magdalene tells Peter and John, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they have put him." (John 20:2) Hearing her report, they went to the tomb and saw the first signs of His Resurrection – the burial cloths (not together in one place) and the empty tomb. The Gospel tells us that the Apostle, John, saw and believed (cf. John 20:9) and Peter returned home "amazed at what had happened." (Luke 24:12)

In our day, through the words and actions of Mary Magdalene and the Apostles, Peter and John, we see the empty tomb and the burial cloths, not together but in separate places, and we renew our faith in the Resurrection. These signs have such great significance for all who believe. For we know that if Jesus Christ is not raised from the dead, our faith is in vain. (Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:14)

Can we possibly imagine Mary Magdalene's excitement as she encounters Jesus near the empty tomb or the disciples' joy when they hear her report that she has seen the Lord and that Jesus has spoken to her?

Can we possibly imagine the joy in the hearts of His disciples when the Risen Lord first appears to them? His greeting to those who a few days before had denied and abandoned Him was simply, "Peace be with you," and then He showed them His hands and His side. (John 20:19-20) There is no scorn or derision; only peace and love. "This has taught us love – that He gave up His life for us...." (1 John 3:16) For where God is, there is love. (Cf. 1 John 4:16)

This Easter Sunday, as on every Sunday, the doors of our parish Churches open in welcome to all to celebrate the great event of our faith, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior! We, too, may have abandoned or denied Him; we, too, may have turned away from Him and sinned. But through the Sacrament of Penance, Jesus raises His hand in a greeting of peace and forgives our sins. His peace restores us to the new life of grace He won for us on the Cross and that He shares with us through His Resurrection. This first day of the week is so much like that first Easter as Jesus stands in our midst and embraces us with His Peace. He calls us to live His love, to share His peace. From the first word on our lips to the last deed we do each day, all must be done in His Name, in His peace, and in His love.

This is new life! It is a life born of eternal love, God's love. New life means forgiveness and mercy; it gives birth to hope and it renews our faith. In the radiance of new life, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and by believing in Him, we gain everlasting life through Jesus' Name. (Cf. John 20:31). Through Baptism we receive God's gift of new life. It is important that on Easter we renew our Baptismal promises to renounce sin, to profess our faith in God, and to live for Christ. In short, we accept God's gift of new life and promise to live it to the fullest, that is, to live like Christ.

This Easter we rejoice in our one hundred sixty-five (165) sisters and brothers in the Lord who have become full members of the Church at the Easter Vigil. We are strengthened by their faith and we warmly welcome them as members of our diocesan family.

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 2007, see the dawn of world peace, especially in the Middle East, and the victory of God's love.

This Easter morning, the Church invites us to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection, His victory! Jesus welcomes us so that He may share with us His life, His love, His peace! "May the Risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know Him in the breaking of bread and follow Him in His Risen life." (Easter Sunday, Alternative Opening Prayer) Alleluia!

A blessed Easter to you and to all whom you love in Jesus' Name.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

APRIL 8, 2007

the work of the church

- SATURDAY** THE VIGIL OF EASTER
8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass: *For the Deceased Pastors of Sacred Heart; Father Kelley and Father Doyle*
- EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**
8:00am Mass: *For the People of the Parish*
10:30am Mass: *Ronald Lavigne & Arthur Lavigne*, requested by Marge Lavigne & family
- EASTER MONDAY**
9:00am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
- EASTER TUESDAY**
9:00am Mass: *Edmund Gorman*, requested by his sister, Carol Duhamel
- EASTER WEDNESDAY**
11:00am Mass at Welles Village: *Deceased members of the Benigno & DeMarco families*, requested by Jennie DeMarco of Welles Village
- EASTER THURSDAY**
4:30-6pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, Living Room
7:00pm Mass: *Lillian Gilman*, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family
- EASTER FRIDAY**
10:30am Mass at Vernon Manor: *For the People of the Parish*
- SATURDAY** DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
5:00pm Mass: *Robert Regan*, requested by Dorothy Regan
- SUNDAY** DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
8:00am Mass: *George Sedlik, Jr.*, requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family
10:30am Mass: *Muriel Iadarola*, requested by her husband and family, and *Drew Iadarola*, requested by his Father and family

meetings

- SATURDAY**
7:00pm **Narcotics Anonymous***, Northeast Rooms
- SUNDAY**
NO **Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass**
NO **Faith Formation** – Levels 1 – Confirmation Prep
NO **Youth Group**
- MONDAY** Offices Closed
- TUESDAY** Offices Closed
- WEDNESDAY**
4:00pm **Faith Formation**
7:00pm **Pastoral Council**, Library
8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous***, South Community Rooms
- THURSDAY**
7:30pm **Adult Confirmation Prep**, Living Room
7:45pm **Intercessory Prayer**, Eucharistic Chapel
8:00pm **Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book***, South Community Rooms
- SATURDAY**
7:00pm **Narcotics Anonymous***, Northeast Rooms
- SUNDAY**
NO **Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass**
NO **Faith Formation** – Levels 1 – Confirmation Prep
NO **Youth Group**

* Note: Some groups meeting at Sacred Heart including but not limited to *Brownies, Alcoholics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book and Narcotics Anonymous* are not part of and not acting on behalf of the parish or Diocese