

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
accountant@parishofsacredheart.org

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

Coord. of Ministries: Ms. Merry Marcellino ext. 305
ministry@parishofsacredheart.org

Parish Maintenance Mr. Jason D'Entremont ext. 319
jasonmd@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

July 29 – July 30 2017
SEVENTEENTH 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

July 29 – July 30 2017
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
July 31st – August 6th

MONDAY

7:00am **Faith Frake** Req. By Her former
Coworkers

8:30am **David Perinchief** Req. By His
Family

TUESDAY

7:00am **Belinda Horner** Req. By Allen &
Sandra DiGirolamo

8:30am **George Barney** Req. By The
Chepega Family

WEDNESDAY

7:00am **Eliseo Antig** Req. By Pepita
Mercado

8:30am **John F. McMullen** Req. By Joan
Carvin & Family

THURSDAY

7:00am **John McMullen** Req. By The
Byham Family

8:30am **Vincent Frese** Req. By Martin &
Ursula Csercsevits

FRIDAY

7:00am **Jill Haines** Req. By Sofie Williams

8:30am **John McMullen** Req. By Elaine &
Bob Mackfee

SATURDAY

8:30AM **Jane LaCon Ciletti** Req. By
Eleanor Pendergast

4:30PM **Helen Ferrara** Req. By Tom &
Barbara Fox

SUNDAY

7:30am **Karl Giulian** Req. By Dave & Rita
Gillis

9:30am **The People of the Parish &
Martin O'Connor** Req. By His Wife
Victoria

11:30am **Special Intentions of Barbara
Kane** Req. By Her Parents

7:00pm **Stanley Kiczek** Req. By Bill &
Jacke Lindemann

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



*Will Burn for in loving memory of:
Joseph & Rita Pallante*

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: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35; Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37;
Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17; Mt 14:1-12

Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pt 16-9; Mt 17:1-9

SUNDAY OFFERING

Weekly 7/15– 7/16 \$ 12, 047.47

Weekly 7/22 – 7/23 \$ 13, 807.76

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

BAPTISMS

*We extend a warm welcome to our newly
baptized.*

Brooke Lynn Buchanan

*May the Lord give His angels
charge over you,
to guide you in all your ways.
Psalm 91:11*

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Dear Sacred Heart Parishioners,

With the completion of our wonderful new parish parking lot, I would like to, once again, express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your faithful and generous support of our parish and especially to the parking lot project. Many of you were able to make very generous pledges to the Faith to Move Mountains Campaign for the Diocese of Trenton. I am certain that your response to this Campaign encouraged Bishop David O'Connell to grant our request to construct a new parking lot. I am also truly thankful to so many of you for your most generous individual donations to Sacred Heart to be used for our new parking lot. A special word of thanks to the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring the concert this spring and for contributing matching funds to the parking lot project and to the Sacred Heart Altar Rosary Society for their truly generous offering to our Parish to be used towards the parking lot.

I am very happy to inform you that because of your very generous pledges and contributions we will be able to accomplish our other goals of gradually replacing the interior lighting of our Church and repairing and repainting the exterior of our Parish House which will begin soon.

I continue to be so honored to be a part of this wonderful parish and most grateful for your continued faithful and prayerful support.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus continue to bless us with His most holy love and keep us in His care.

God bless you all.

Father John

Please remember in your prayers:

Connie Vazquez, Vinnie Vazquez-Garcia, Pete Giambalvo, Ed Ciletti, Karen Tusim, Sue Ringenary, Michael Dow, Don McGhee, Catherine Hager, Karen McDonald, Melissa Currie, Janice Staff, Christine Taintor, Nadia Nieves, Edward Stewart, Joey Eades, Paisley Trojanowski, Talia Rosko, Pat Adornetto, Megan Dezur, Bobby Sumanga, Garrett Schwab, Frank Anton, Christopher Pierce, Renate Conners, Freddie J. Faber, III, Arleen Bishop, Maria Wolfe, 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, Daniel DeMaio, Matthew Wernoch, Kay Weiss, Casey Davitt, Fredrick Naphys, Margaret Brock, Herbert Cuccuini, Clara Hynes, Daniel Toussaint, Zoey Reed, Mason Damico, Lynn Kellogg, David McCoy, Lois Pedrick, John Rubino, George Sampson, Evan Martinez, Trey Nieves, Sabrina Kaiser, Camila Doris Perez, Celeste Bunn, Annabelle Ochipinti, Arthur Netti, Loretta Minakee, Christine, Patricia Parker, Wilma Peterson, Doris Gallo, Morgan Ackerman, Raymond Bishop, Jenny Hand, Patricia O'Connor, George Schneider, Marie Donahue, Peggy Stewart, Dylan Crespo, Sharon Carroll, Don Hartman, Mary Hartman, 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:

TSgt. Paul J. Stoshak 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.

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Divine Word Missionaries Mission Co-op

Fr. Fleury Lunimbu SVD will be with us on the weekend of July 29 & 30, 2017 to speak about the many ministries of his religious community the Divine Word Missionaries. They are an international religious community of missionary priests and Brothers serving in 70 countries helping to build chapels, celebrate the sacraments, and spread the Word of God in the remote mission communities. Over 6,000 active missionaries travel to the far corners of the world building hospitals to care for the sick, educating the poor, teaching the hungry to farm, and providing life's necessities like drinkable water, food, and shelter. They help people neglected and forgotten by society to build a better future and foster vibrant Catholic communities of service and faith around the world. This Mission Appeal is part of the Mission Co-op Program of our Diocese. Please be generous in the second collection to help support the missionary work of the Divine Word Missionaries. Their missionaries serve in some of the most difficult areas of the world.



A Wise and Understanding Heart

In today's first reading, Solomon requests of God the gift of an understanding heart and the ability to distinguish right from wrong. God grants this request and from this humble prayer Solomon's wisdom became legendary.

The wisdom granted to Solomon is echoed in the Gospel. The first three parables of today's Gospel compare the discovery of the kingdom of heaven to people's discovery of precious things and receipt of great abundance. The scribe who is learned in the kingdom of heaven is wise enough to hear, contemplate, and apply the meaning of Jesus' parables.

As Christians we need insight and wisdom to discern and apply Christian values to everyday life. Father Henri J.M. Nouwen wrote that as prayer leads us into the house of God and God's people, so action leads us back into the world to work there... visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked- through these actions within the house of God we point to the healing, restoring, redeeming and re-creating presence of God.



Parish Office

Summer Hours:

Friday June 30th – Friday August 25th

Monday – Thursday Office Hours:

9am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Friday Office Hours: 9:00am – 1:00pm

No Afternoon hours

Monday –Friday Evenings: 6pm – 9pm

Sunday: 8:30am- 1pm

Saturday: 9am-12pm and 1pm–5pm

Religious Education

Summer Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00am to 2:00pm

Friday No Office hours

Sacred Heart School Office

Summer Hours

Tuesday - Thursday

9:00am – 1:00pm

Monday & Friday No Office hours

The SVDP Pantry is in need of the following:

Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce, Jelly, Meals in a Can, 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!

**SERRA VOCATION PRAYER
CHALICE**



Prayer for Vocations

Loving God,
your Son, Jesus, has shown us that an open
heart finds the way.

Help me to find my way in this world.
Keep my heart open to following Jesus' way of
serving others in love.

Give me the courage to accept the guidance
you offer me through

my family, my friends, and my parish
community. Through the Holy Spirit, You call
me to a particular way of life.

If it is the way of a priest, sister, brother or
deacon, then help me to walk it in joyful service
to your people. With you, my God, I know I can
find my way.

Amen.

***Thank you
for praying for vocations.***

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

Bishop's Anniversary Blessing

Bishop's Anniversary Blessings 2017 October
22 - Burlington/Mercer: All couples celebrating
their **1st, 25th or 50+ wedding anniversary**
during the 2017 calendar year are invited to
gather with family and friends to share the
Eucharist, renew your sacred wedding vows,
and receive Bishop O'Connell's Episcopal
Blessing. Anniversary Couples from Burlington
and Mercer County must register to attend the
Mass and Blessing at St. Mary Cathedral on
Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 3 pm (registration
deadline is September 11, 2017). Please
contact the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole
609-267-0209 ext. 301 or email

secretary@parishofsacredheart.org

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.

Sacred Heart Altar Rosary



Join Members of the
Sacred Heart Altar Rosary
With our upcoming Group Travels.....

Local Day Trips include:

Start getting into the Holiday Season
With Sight and Sounds Glorious Christmas
Show!

November 16th

And then Join us as one of the FIRST to see
Sight and Sounds

Newest and Greatest Production in 2018

"JESUS"

MARCH 15TH!

A Little More adventurous?

Our Travels in 2018 include April in
Sunny Portugal

Or

September in Cowboy Country!

There will be an informational meeting on
September 6th about Sunny Portugal!

Call Terry Rensman
At 609-284-2517

For more details on all the trips!
Hope you will find one that appeals to you!

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.

The Grapes of Wrath Project

by Deacon Jim Casa

Interest is growing for this summer's "read the book-see the movie" project and you are invited to begin your reading of John Steinbeck's epic novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*. So, as this hot summer continues, make some time to relax with this stirring story of the Joad's family excursion into the heart of America and discover what they find. What you, yourself, may find is a new understanding of what we call, the 'spirit of America.' In order to fully appreciate Steinbeck's work, let's look at a third significant theme of the novel: *The Dignity of Wrath*.

The Joad family members stand as exemplary figures in their refusal to be broken by the circumstances that conspire against them. At every turn, Steinbeck seems intent on showing their dignity and honor; he emphasizes the importance of maintaining self-respect in order to survive spiritually. Nowhere is this more evident than at the end of the novel. The Joads have suffered incomparable losses over the course of the story. At a point the novel after the family has faced their greatest challenge, the Joads managed to rise above hardship to perform an act of unsurpassed kindness and generosity to someone who has less than they do, showing that the Joads have not lost their sense of the value and the wonder and the gift of human life.

Steinbeck makes a clear connection in his novel between dignity and rage. As long as people maintain a sense of injustice—a sense of anger against those who seek to undercut their pride in themselves—they will never lose their dignity.

So, friends, continue your reading of *The Grapes of Wrath* and save the date, Friday evening - September 15 (7pm) - when we will gather to see John Ford's classic movie version (starring Henry Fonda) and discuss both novel and film. Look for updates about the novel in future Parish Bulletins.

Healing the Wounds of Abortion

Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortive Retreat

The psychological and spiritual wounds of abortion can be sharp, deep and crippling. You may feel a deep numbness and may not be able to name the pain or recognize any of the symptoms. It can also have a devastating impact on the father or grandparents of the aborted child and friend/s of the mother. You do not have to continue to hide in shame and fear. Rachel's Vineyard's Retreat is a chance to focus on this painful time in your life through a supportive non-judgmental process, in an atmosphere of confidentiality, understanding, and compassion. It is designed to help both women and men experience the mercy and compassion of God.

If you have suffered through an abortion and have isolated yourself from healing and forgiveness, you might consider attending one of our retreat weekends. For more information, contact Judy Warenkiewicz @ 732-536-6871. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

2017 Weekend Retreats

August 25th – 27th, 2017

July 29 – July 30 2017
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION INTERN

PROGRAM Francis House offers a 3-year Intern Formation Program for those desiring to become Spiritual Directors. This program has four critical aspects: growth in prayer through the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*, the practice of Ignatian discernment, the knowledge and experience of various kinds of prayer, the Practicum in the art and discipline of giving Spiritual Direction. Please contact Sister Marcy before August 1 for further information by calling 609-877-0509.

CLASSICS ON CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

10 Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 9, Feb. 6,
Mar. 6, Apr. 10, May 8, June 5

The evenings include two 20-minute contemplative prayer periods. We will also view a 20-minute segment of Fr. Thomas Keating's DVD series, *Opening to the Presence of God* and engage in good spiritual reading on contemplative prayer between sessions. This year we will use *The Heart of Centering Prayer*, by Cynthia Bourgeault, and *The Divine Dance*, by Richard Rohr, OSF for our reading between sessions. Donation: \$175, includes both books.

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS RETREAT IN EVERYDAY LIFE

9 Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Jan. 10
Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 11, May 9

If you need or desire a retreat but simply cannot get away, please give yourself the gift of this retreat that invites you to pray through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius using two Jesuit resources: *The Ignatian Adventure* by Kevin O'Brien, for our prayer and *The New Spiritual Exercises* by Louis Savary as complementary reading. Donation: \$175, includes both books.

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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

We hope you are still enjoying your summer. However, the opening of school is just around the corner. Once again, your Sacred Heart Conference of The Society of St. Vincent dePaul would like to help our struggling families by providing their children with school supplies. We would like to provide a book bag containing the following items: pencils, pens, loose leaf paper, spiral bound notebooks, folders, composition books, rulers, crayons, colored pencils, glue, and pencil boxes. We especially need **BOOK BAGS**. As always, please know that we greatly appreciate your continued generosity and are blessed by your caring.

This back-to-school program in its 10th year has prepared hundreds of needy children for another year of learning.

Please note: Donations may be dropped off in the food bins at the back of the church, at the St. Vincent dePaul center, or pantry and should be received no later than, Sunday, August 27. Our projected numbers for year indicate a need for more secondary items and bags. We also need to supply for slightly more girls than boys.

Again, heart felt thanks for your contributions.

If you have any questions please call Sherry Papale at 609-261-0652.

July 29 – July 30 2017
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Living the Good News Today

“Give Your servant, therefore, an understanding heart.”

In 2011, The United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed July 30th as the International Day of Friendship. The celebration of this day was intended to support the Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace. The UN provided the following background on the origins of this day:

“The General Assembly recognized that enormous harm and suffering are caused to children through different forms of violence. It emphasized that the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence should be instilled in children through education. If children learn to live together in peace and harmony that will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and cooperation.”

These kinds of celebrations and observances rarely make the front pages of our newspapers and magazines, or the prime spot on TV news shows, yet they are so important in bringing about a transformation within human beings to choose something of great value.

In a dream, God allowed Solomon to ask Him for anything. Solomon makes this request: *“Give Your servant, therefore, an understanding heart.”* Not only did his request please the Lord, but it moved God to bestow on Solomon a wisdom and understanding that surpassed anyone else—past, present, or future!

As we look around at the violence that occurs all over the world, from the events very close to our home to those in faraway lands, the effects can bring fear and hopelessness. During prolonged periods of such violence, it can be very difficult for people to value friendship and to believe that peace and harmony can come about, especially when there are such significant cultural differences.

When we hear the Gospel parables from Jesus this weekend, He describes the kingdom of heaven as a treasure buried in a field, a pearl of great price, and a net thrown into the sea. These images were easy for His followers to understand. Like Solomon, our challenge today is to have an understanding heart so that we can build bridges in our communities of hope and friendship, making God’s kingdom visible here and now. It requires us to pay attention to ordinary daily circumstances and to be present in a more deliberate way—with a wise and understanding heart.

In the current issue of *Maryknoll* magazine, there is an excellent article by Larry Parr, a lay missionary in El Salvador, a country that has widespread gang violence that reaches as far as the US! After taking some time to understand the many forces at play in his village outside San Salvador, Larry realized that there was great hope for

the youth if they could see alternatives to what the gangs pressured them to do.

This led him to launch a sports program in which a commonly shared love of soccer could not only reduce conflict, but also build new hopes and dreams for the future of youth through commitment to education and service to the community. With the help of the adults in their community, Larry promoted this vision, which is a living example of strengthening friendship to build a culture of peace:

*“In **Playing for Peace**, our youth not only find a safe place to play sports but in each practice we pray and reflect on God and our call to improve our community. Our motto is ‘God, Academics, Sports’ because we believe that focusing on these three elements can help young people change their negative views and work to build a new culture of solidarity and love for others. They learn teamwork, friendship, creativity, discipline, the importance of education and respect and how to achieve their goals.”*

We don’t have to go as far away as El Salvador to embrace a culture of peace and understanding. If we have truly listened to Jesus this weekend, we know that we are called to recognize the presence of the kingdom of God and to labor for its good. There are so many ways easy ways to do that:

- Respond to the requests in the parish bulletin to become a catechist in our religious education program, sharing not only your faith, but your friendship;
- Prayerfully consider leaving your comfort zone and meeting someone new in a volunteer ministry, such as Society of St. Vincent de Paul, ministry to the sick (hospital and homebound), or prison ministry;
- Engage the youth in your daily interactions in meaningful discussions about the challenges they face and affirm the goodness that you see in them. Value their participation in projects that you believe are important to the building of God’s kingdom.

Many years ago, I met a very wise and kind woman in prison ministry who told me that she could have never persevered through so many difficulties and sorrows in her life had it not been for the inspiration of Chapter 8 from St. Paul’s letter to the Romans. Every time I hear this reading now, I am reminded of her friendship, faith, and encouragement. Indeed, we might all find a way to get beyond discouragement and conflict if our hearts truly understood that:

“All things work for good for those who love God.”

Teresa S. Redder, OFS

July 29 – July 30 2017
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WEEKLY PLANNER

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY July 30th
 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Divine Word Mission Co-op at all Masses
 Mass Music Practice 6:30pm

SUNDAY August 6th
 The Transfigurations of the Lord
 Mass Music Practice 6:30pm

MONDAY July 31st
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm -8:00pm PHMR
 KOC Basketball 8:00pm Gym

MONDAY August 7th
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm -8:00pm PHMR

TUESDAY August 1st
 SVDP 7:00pm SVDP Center
 Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR

TUESDAY August 8th
 SVDP 7:00pm SVDP Center
 Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR
 Columbiettes 7:30pm LIB

WEDNESDAY August 2nd
 Baptism Prep Class 7:30pm Church
 OLPH 7:15pm Chapel

WEDNESDAY August 9th
 OLPH 7:15pm Chapel

THURSDAY August 3rd
 Boy Scouts 7:00pm

THURSDAY August 10th
 Boy Scouts 7:00pm

FRIDAY August 4th
 Religious Ed. Summer Program
Summer Office Hours
Friday Office Hours: 9:00am –1:00pm
No Afternoon hours

FRIDAY August 11th
Summer Office Hours
Friday Office Hours: 9:00am –1:00pm
No Afternoon hours

SATURDAY August 5th
 Mass Music Practice 3:30pm

SATURDAY August 12th
 Mass Music Practice 3:30pm

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)

