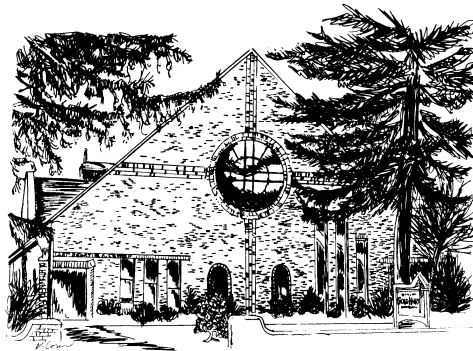


Sacred Heart Church



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 Powell 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

January 27 – January 28, 2018
THE FOURTH 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

January 27 – January 28, 2018
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASSES FOR THE WEEK
January 29th – February 4th

MONDAY

7:00am **Michael Gabriel Pilenza** Req. By Diane & Joseph Willard
8:30am **Marionito Mabutas** Req. By Isabel Relevo

TUESDAY

7:00am **Tom Miller** Req. By Alex Wajda & Family
8:30am **Maryellen R. Connor** Req. By Toni Rudd

WEDNESDAY

7:00am **Diosdado Gonzales** Req. By Jess & Terry Dimen
8:30am **Erin Katherine O'Toole** Req. By Her Family

THURSDAY

7:00am **Lourdes Solomon** Req. By Jess & Terry Dimen
8:30am **Cory Baker** Req. By His Mom

FRIDAY

7:00am **Patricia Ann Dixon** Req. By Jessie & Maridel Tuazon
8:30am **Doris Ongsiaco** Req. By Isabel Relevo

SATURDAY Feast of St. Blaise

8:30AM **Virginia & Carmen Capri** Req. By Their Family

4:30PM **Reginald Page** Req. By Mary Verme

SUNDAY

7:30am **The People of the Parish**
9:30am **Michael Byham** Req. By Sacred Heart School
11:30am **Michael Swenson** Req. By The Swenson Family
7:00pm **Alan Morrison** Req. By Mark & Laura Jean Beierschmitt

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



*Will Burn in Loving Memory of:
The Deceased Members of the
Lehman & Knight Families*



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: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22;
Mk 16:15-18
Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35;
Mk 1:21-28

SUNDAY OFFERING

Weekly 1/20 – 1/21 \$ 13,771.92

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

**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

January 27 – January 28, 2018
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Please remember in your prayers:

Connie Vazquez, Vinnie Vazquez-Garcia,
Anne Marie Whelan, Josephine Dowches,
Vickie Robles, Megan Dezur, Richard Dow,
Margaret & Gaylord Jeffers, Joel Rivera,
Fred Hammer, Stephanie James, Porfirio Robles,
Eric Wall, Caellie Boyd, Nicholas Gonzalez,
Dawn Vota, Betty Doviak, Ed Ciletti, Michael Dow,
Marie Chirico, Karen McDonald, Melissa Currie,
Janice Staff, Christine Taintor, Pat Adornetto,
Nadia Nieves, Trey Nieves, Talia Rosko,
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, 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, Daniel DeMaio,
Doris Gallo, Matthew Wernoch, Kay Weiss,
Casey Davitt, Fredrick Naphys, Clara Hynes,
Herbert Cucuini, Daniel Toussaint, Zoey Reed,
Mason Damico, David McCoy, Lois Pedrick,
John Rubino, George Sampson, Evan Martinez,
Sabrina Kaiser, Camila Doris Perez, Celeste Bunn,
Annabelle Ochipinti, Arthur Netti, Loretta Minakee,
Christine, Patricia Parker, Wilma Peterson,
Morgan Ackerman, Raymond Bishop, Jenny Hand,
Patricia O'Connor, George Schneider,
Marie Donahue, Peggy Stewart, Dylan Crespo,
Sharon Carroll, Don & 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.
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
Sgt. Marshall Norton, U.S.M.C.
Corporal Maxwell Hughes, U.S.M.C.
Lt. Matthew Carr, U.S.M.C.
Lt. Victoria Carr, U.S.M.C.
Capt. Anthony D'Errico II, U.S.A.F.



The Feast of St. Blaise
Saturday February 3, 2018

**The Blessing of throats will take place at
the conclusion of the 8:30am and 4:30pm
Masses**

St. Blaise, was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. Since the eighth century, Saint Blaise has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. We pray in a special way for protection from afflictions of the throat and from other illnesses. The blessing of Saint Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick.

**Sacred Heart School's Evening of HOPE
for Catholic Education**

Second Annual



February 3rd, 2018

Open Cocktail Hour Begins at 6:00pm

Deerwood Country Club

845 Woodlane Road

Westampton, New Jersey 08060

Proceeds will benefit Sacred Heart School
Annual Fund

Formal Attire \$100 per person: \$175 per
couple For Questions, contact Sacred
Heart School at 609-267-1728

Or email:

Diamondgala@sacred-heart-school.org

January 27 – January 28, 2018
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SERRA VOCATION PRAYER CHALICE



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Gracious God, You have called me to life and gifted me in many ways. Through Baptism You have sent me to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others.

Strengthen me to respond to Your call each day. Help me to become all You desire of me. Inspire me to make a difference in others' lives.

Lead me to choose the way of life You have planned for me. Open the hearts of all to listen to Your call. Fill all with Your Holy Spirit that we may have listening hearts and the courage to respond to You. Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others the desire to make the world a better place by serving as Lay Minister, Sister, Priest, Brother or Deacon.

Amen.

*Thank you
for praying for vocations.*

*Thank you
for praying for vocations.*

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



HEALING MASS

You are invited to attend the Healing Mass every First Friday of the month at Sacred Heart Church. **The next Healing Mass will be held Friday February 2nd in the Church. 7:30PM** – Healing Mass, and praying over the sick. For more information please contact Lina Sumanga at 261-2674



RESTING IN THE ARMS OF GOD
St. Mark's Gospel ends with the subtle acknowledgement of the impact of Jesus' ministry and fame.

News of His work on behalf of the sick, the possessed and the poor is beginning to spread, and the Gospel of Mark is filled with the tension of the spreading fame of Jesus' good works and of His desire of solitude and silence.

On February 2nd, we commemorate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Simeon and Anna recognize the Infant Jesus as the Light of the World. We invoke the intercession of St. Blaise as our throats are blessed on February 3rd. St. Paul cautions the Corinthians to be free of anxieties. Our faith as Christians offers all of us moments of peace. We pray that this abiding peace may permeate our lives and the lives of those to whom we minister.

The SVDP Pantry is in need of the following:

Canned Soups, Cereal, Mac & cheese, meal in a can, baked beans, rice (1lb or 2lb bags, please), toilet tissue, bar soap.

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

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL
Thank 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.

**Lenten Mission – We Thirst: Lessons
in Mercy**

St. Aloysius Parish, Jackson

February 12 -16

You are invited to an inspirational and informational four-evening series that will explore the epidemic of addiction in our society and our responsibility as followers of Christ in responding to those who are suffering. Each evening will cover one aspect of the bio-psycho-social-spiritual model of addiction.

Facilitator Nina Corona is an addiction specialist as well as a Professor of Theology at Villanova University. She is a deeply committed Catholic who is equally committed to breaking the addiction cycle in people and communities. She has long experience in addiction; particularly opioid addiction. She will share with us insights both scientific and religious about addiction.

God is present in all aspects of life, even when we fall into darkness; for as Psalmist writes in Psalm 139, “If I say, “surely darkness shall hide me, and night shall be my light – Darkness is not dark for you, and night shines as the day”. Even in darkness, God is near calling us from darkness into His own marvelous light.

So come to “We Thirst: Lessons in Mercy” and be robed in the Light of God and bring a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, a fellow student, or a family member!

Click on the link below for more info:

<http://www.ninamari coron a.com/new-events/>

Sacred Heart Cemetery

*A final resting place
of peace and dignity*

Purchasing your cemetery property now, before your family actually needs it, offers you and your loved ones the opportunity to make that important and inevitable decision together. It is a kindness to those people you love to have arrangements made in advance.

Sacred Heart Cemetery is situated on a well maintained parcel of land in Hainesport, NJ, on Marne Highway (Rt 537) at the Mt Holly Bypass (Rt 541).

The cemetery is owned and operated by the Church of the Sacred Heart of Mt Holly. Persons buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery must be Catholic or a relative of a Catholic. The cost of one full grave is \$900 and one cremation plot is \$500, which includes perpetual care. Terms are \$50 down and monthly payments until paid in full.

If you have an immediate need, or wish to discuss arrangements for future needs, please call the Cemetery Manager at 609-267-0209 x304 or email: cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org



WHEN ALL THE HUSTLE-BUSTLE OF THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER..... Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? If you agree then you'll want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

The next weekend dates are Mar 23-25 and May 4-6, 2018. Call 609-741-8012 for information or email applications@wwme-southjersey.org. Visit our website: wwme-southjersey.org.

The Lost Horizon Project

by Deacon Jim Casa

As we continue to make our way through this cold time of year, it is time for the parish's 'read the book - see the movie winter project.' This winter we will go to an enchanted place called Shangri-La.

The key to **Lost Horizon** are its four principle characters.

Let's consider them:

> Hugh Conway is the British diplomat and the hero of our story. Nationally respected, dedicated, insightful, brilliant. Conway finds himself at a cross-road place in his life as his job demanded him to carry out the mission of saving his countrymen from a rebellious uprising in India. The question that Conway needs to consider, is there more to his life than just fame and fortune or is there more and is Shangri-La the place to find his answer?

> Roberta Brinklow is a Christian missionary who, by chance, now finds herself in the mission field of a life time, Shangri-La. How will she convert the people of Shangri-La? What will be her approach? How will they respond?

> Henry D. Barnard is an aggressive American businessman. He believes that he has found the goldmine of goldmines by coming to Shangri-La; but, is there something that Barnard is running away from?

> Captain Charles Mallinson is the youthful Vice-Consul who yearns to get back to a normal life and Shangri-La is clearly not in his future plans. How much influence does have on Conway may be at the heart of the story's finale'.

So, begin your reading Hilton's **Lost Horizon** and save the date of Friday, March 9th when we will gather to screen the film (directed by the legendary, Frank Capra) and engage in a serious discussion of the novel and movie. Updated information will be included in future bulletins.

Altar Rosary News



Tickets Still Available!

Join the Sacred Heart Altar Rosary Members
To be one of the first to experience the
New Spectacular Sight and Sound show:
JESUS

The trip includes:

- *Buffet Meal at *Shady Maple Restaurant*
- *Round Trip Motorcoach Transportation
- *All Taxes and Gratuities (*Except Driver*)

☐ Cost: \$110.00

For Reservations and more information

Call: Terry Rensman

609-284-2517

ALSO



Join us for Information on our September 27 to
October 4 Trip

To Cowboy Country;

South Dakota and Wyoming!

Some of the sights we will see:

Mt Rushmore, Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and
more!

Meeting will be February 5th in the Library
At 630 PM.

Call Terry Rensman for more information.
609-284-2517

January 27 – January 28, 2018
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Healing the Wounds of Abortion



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 our retreat weekends. For more information, contact Judy Warenkiewicz at 732-536-6871. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

2018 Weekend Retreat
February 16-18, 2018
August 24-26, 2018



Calling All Jerry Blavat Fans!!

The Holy Cross Alumni Association is hosting our second annual dance party featuring the "Geator with the Heater" on Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 7pm to 12am at Holy Cross in Delran. Tickets are \$50 and include buffet, beer, wine, & soft drinks. Tickets may be purchased online at www.newholycross.org or by contacting Karen Krankowski at 609-284-2209. Limited tickets are available; this event will sell out quickly so don't wait! All proceeds benefit the alumni scholarship fund.



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!

DISCERNMENT WEEKEND

LISTENING TO YOUR BODY'S WISDOM

February 9 – 11 7PM Friday to 1PM Sunday Listening is part of discernment. Focusing is a process that helps us pay attention to the hidden wisdom that lies within our own bodies. Our bodies have a way of knowing too, not only our minds. Do you want to learn to listen more attentively to the truth within you? God speaks there too! Donation: \$150; \$50 non-refundable deposit. Residents and commuters welcome. Meals included for all.

ASH

WEDNESDAY RETREAT THE IMPACT OF GOD

Wednesday, February 14 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM We will use Iain Matthew's *The Impact of God* as the focus of our Lenten retreat and the inspiration 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 book for your 6-week Lenten journey.

MAKING ROOM FOR GOD

THE BEAUTY OF THE DESERT

Friday, February 16 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM Blessed Charles De Foucauld is best known for his heartfelt "Prayer of Abandonment." His prayer will become ours as will his heart's desire to live a life hidden in Christ from the desert dryness of his soul, the cave of the heart where God alone dwells, even while serving others. We will view a short DVD of his life and receive *Hidden in God: Discovering the Desert Vision* of Charles De Foucauld. Charles has so much to say to us about God's presence in the desert. There the house of your soul is swept clean to make room for God. This gnawing emptiness is precisely the place of God's consolation. Is this a desert time for you? What a perfect Lenten retreat! Donation: \$35, includes lunch and book for your Lenten journey.

CENTERING PRAYER WEEKEND RETREAT

February 16 – 18 7PM Friday to 1PM Sunday A centering prayer weekend provides the time, space and discipline needed to experience the inner stillness which occurs when given the opportunity for frequent centering prayer periods alone and in common. Jesus says, "Come to me all you who are weary, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mt. 11:28) Donation: \$130/\$50 non-refundable deposit. Commuters welcome.

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

January 27 – January 28, 2018
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Living the Good News Today
 "Harden not your hearts."

In August 2016, my husband Jeff and I took five of our grandchildren to the Franklin Institute to view a special exhibit (The Science Behind Pixar). Even at ages 5-6, the four younger children were curious to learn about the making of some of their favorite movies (e.g., Wall-E, Cars, and Toy Story).

During our visit to the museum, we also took advantage of letting the kids explore the other many wonderful exhibits. Predictably, we made our way to the area with the Giant Heart, which was surrounded by many children fascinated by the pulsating heartbeat and what might be inside. We had to coax the three youngest (age 5) grandchildren to go inside with us. It was so delightful to see their initial trepidation transformed into wonder as they moved through the chambers of the heart and listened to the descriptions of how the heart functions. As soon as we exited, they were ready to go back in again!



This weekend's responsorial psalm (verses from Psalm 95) teaches us to remember the experiences of the Israelites, who had been set free from the slavery of captivity in Egypt and began a long, arduous journey through the desert. The psalm was written

many generations after Moses led the people out of Egypt, but the psalm reminds us that people continued to act like their ancestors and were not listening to God:

"Oh, that today you would hear His voice:
 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah.'"

What environment causes a person's heart to harden? It doesn't happen overnight. As the beating exhibit at the Franklin Institute showed us, the heart is a powerful organ of our body, hidden beneath our skin and bones. For human beings, though, the heart is also a symbol of the feelings that we share in our lives:

- The heart symbol is a popular emoji;
- Special celebratory announcements frequently contain heart images: engagements, weddings, anniversaries, and births;
- Our hearts also experience sadness, such as in the loss of loved ones and broken relationships;
- The heart is the place where human beings share empathy, compassion, and mercy.

It is dangerous for our well-being and that of others to allow our hearts to become hard-hearted.

In the Franciscan family, everyone who professes to live the Gospel life makes a commitment not only to live in fraternity, but also to build a more fraternal and evangelical world. After Pope Francis was elected as pontiff in 2013, he issued his first Message for the World Day of Peace (Jan. 1, 2014): "Fraternity the Foundation and Pathway to Peace." After reading just

the first page, I felt as though St. Francis of Assisi himself was speaking through this message, as the word "fraternity" was used ten times (42 times throughout the entire document)! Fraternal living embraces the concept that we are all brothers and sisters through the grace of God.

If we strive to have the heart of Christ, the Holy Father tells us that fraternity must be cherished dearly:

- Fraternity is the foundation and pathway to peace;
- Fraternity is a prerequisite for fighting poverty;
- We must rediscover fraternity in the economy;
- Fraternity extinguishes war;
- Corruption and organized crime threaten fraternity;

Fraternity helps to preserve and cultivate nature. Christ teaches us how to live in this spirit of fraternity. The Gospel this weekend reminds us that His teaching astonished the people of His time, as it does in our own moment in history. We allow the de-personalization of society by diminishing fraternal human encounters.

Pope Francis began his message with his "best wishes for a life filled with joy and hope." What brings us joy and hope? It is too easy in our modern world to become easily absorbed in rapidly advancing technology and busy lives that we do not notice our own deepest longings and those of others throughout the world, especially those who suffer terribly. Where will we place priority in our lives to tend spiritually to our heart's awakening to God's grace and love?

Like other things that we notice about our bodies, do we know the signs of advancing hard-heartedness? Just as a medical doctor regularly counsels patients to have a healthy heart through physical exercise, Pope Francis made an earnest appeal for the perennial exercise of empathy that is discovered in God's love:

"Fraternity needs to be discovered, loved, experienced, proclaimed and witnessed to. But only love, bestowed as a gift from God, enables us to accept and fully experience fraternity."

The Franklin Institute shared a fun fact to help visitors understand what the Giant Heart represents: "It is the right size for a 220-foot tall person—someone about twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty!" Sometimes, we do need exaggerated depictions to learn about complexity for our intellectual development. Our human minds, though, can never fully comprehend the greatness of God's endless love, which is offered unconditionally to every living person. All we have to do is listen to God's voice, found in the Word, in our praying and contemplation, in every encounter with another person, and in His glorious Creation made for us to enjoy. As our hearts are filled with the delights that we experience, we can urge others to:

"Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord."

Teresa S. Redder, OFS

January 27 – January 28, 2018
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WEEKLY PLANNER

SUNDAY January 28th
 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Start of Catholic Schools Week
 RCIA Adults 10:00am LIB
 Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church
 Girls Scout Cookie Sale after Mass in Pantry

MONDAY January 29th
 Catholic Schools Week
 Bible Study 9:30am to 11:00am PHCR
 Religious Ed. Summer Program 5 pm - 6 pm
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm – 8:00pm
 Basketball 6:30pm AUD

TUESDAY January 30th
 Catholic Schools Week
 Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
 Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR
 SVDP 7:00pm Center
 PTA General Meeting 7:25pm AUD

WEDNESDAY January 31st
 Catholic Schools Week
 Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
 Basketball 6:30pm AUD
 OLPH 7:15pm Chapel
 Bible Study 7:30pm LIB
 Daisy Troop Meeting 6:00pm-7:30pm PHMR

THURSDAY February 1st
 Catholic Schools Week
 Music Practice 6:00pm Church
 Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm Church
 Introduction to the Bible 7:30pm PHCR

FRIDAY February 2nd
The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
 Sacred Heart School Liturgy 8:30am
 End of Catholic Schools Week
 Healing Mass

SATURDAY February 3rd
 Feast of St. Blaise Blessing of throats at
 8:30am Mass and 4:30pm Mass
 Confirmation Retreat at 8:30am Mass
 Then 9am to 2:00pm AUD
 Mass Music Practice 3:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY February 4th
 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 RCIA Adults 10:00am LIB
 Mass Music Practice 6:30pm Church

MONDAY February 5th
 Bible Study 9:30am to 11:00am PHCR
 Cub Scouts 5:00pm – 8:00pm
 Altar Rosary Tour Group Info Mtg. 6:30pm LIB
 First Reconciliation 7:00pm in the Church
 School Beginner Band Concert 7:00pm AUD

TUESDAY February 6th
 Catholic Schools Week
 Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
 First Reconciliation 7:00pm in the Church
 Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR
 SVDP 7:00pm Center
 PTA General Meeting 7:25pm AUD

WEDNESDAY February 7th
 Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm
 Basketball 6:30pm AUD
 OLPH 7:15pm Chapel
 Bible Study 7:30pm LIB
 Daisy Troop Meeting 6:00pm-7:30pm PHMR

THURSDAY February 8th
 Music Practice 6:00pm Church
 Basketball 6:30pm AUD
 Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR
 Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm Church
 Introduction to the Bible 7:30pm PHCR

FRIDAY February 9th
 Basketball 6:30pm AUD

SATURDAY February 10th
 S.H. Sch. Sweet Heart (Father Daughter) Dance
 PK 3 - 4th Grades 5:30pm-7:30pm AUD
 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 (below the LIB)