

APRIL 2010

# Sacred Heart

Catholic Church

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### *A Letter From Our Pastor*

## Welcome Good People! Come to the Feast!

Dear Parishioners,

**E**aster comes early in the month this year and, as a community, we welcome you to worship! Sacred Heart Catholic Community is *home* to many in Hopedale, and we hope that you feel at *home* at Sacred Heart. Catholic Christians are part of "Holy Mother Church," and when we worship together we are coming home to our family, who always welcomes us with open arms. The Catholic Church is deeply rooted in family traditions. Many of us renew our family ties by visiting relatives and friends at holiday times like this glorious Easter time. We invite everyone to come back to our church family each weekend as a regular visitor.

Two strong family traditions that we celebrate at Sacred Heart are our strong commitment to life-long learning and our foundations as a stewardship family. Each weekend, when we gather to keep holy the Sabbath Day, we make a commitment to deepening our understanding of the Word of God and our Catholic Faith. We assemble as people of faith, seeking to understand more deeply the hand of God working in each of our lives.



*Continued on back cover*



# Kidz Chapel

## *Children's Liturgy of the Word*



Most of us are familiar with the scene in Matthew's Gospel when Jesus tells the disciples to "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them" (Mt 19:14). But do we think about how that applies to us as Jesus' present day disciples? Or do we just look at the scripture passage as Jesus' directives to those particular disciples?

For Sheri Lenart and the entire Kidz Chapel team at Sacred Heart, letting the children come to Jesus is a weekly goal.

"We want to bring the Gospel to their level," Sheri says of the ministry. "We want to help them better understand."

During the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses every Sunday, right before the first reading is proclaimed, the children are called up to the altar. There, Father prays over them and dismisses them for the Liturgy of the Word. One of our Kidz Chapel catechists then leads the children to the chapel, where they delve into the scriptures together.

"We sing songs and read either the Old Testament or New Testament reading for that day," Sheri explains. "Then, we read the Gospel and discuss it."

Kidz Chapel truly corresponds with what is going on in the church at the time, as the adults sit and listen to the Word of God proclaimed and the homily presented. But during the Children's Liturgy of the Word, the children are given an opportunity to interact with one another, to ask whatever questions they have, and even to occasionally serve as the readers themselves.

"We are showing them ways to participate, as well as helping them understand the scripture itself," Sheri says. "Children's Liturgy really serves to prepare the children for life as adult Catholics. It is also very fun for the kids. We incorporate visuals and let them talk, two things they cannot do in Mass, but two things that really help the children learn."

Sheri has served as a lead teacher for Kidz Chapel for about three years now, and she says that offering her time and talent to the Church in this way is an incredible blessing.

"I love helping children," she says. "It is wonderful to see the children gain a greater understanding of the scriptures, of Jesus, and of our Faith in general."

After about 20 minutes of reading and discussing the scriptures together, the children are led back into the church to re-join their families for the rest of Mass.

Kidz Chapel is open to all children in the parish. The lessons are geared toward children between the ages of 5 and 10, but children slightly older or a bit younger are more than welcome to attend. When Father calls them up to the altar, they can simply walk to the front of the church. There is no registration required.

If you think that your child would benefit from the Kidz Chapel Children's Liturgy of the Word ministry, we invite and encourage him or her to participate. Next Sunday during Mass, when Father calls the children to the altar, simply let them come!



# Preaching the Gospel Via New Technologies

For an institution steeped in history and age-old traditions, the Church's new message on technology may seem surprising. Nevertheless, Pope Benedict XVI is encouraging priests around the world to use new technology to promote the message and ministry of Christ.

"Priests stand at the threshold of a new era: as new technologies create deeper forms of relationships across greater distances, they are called to respond pastorally by putting the media ever more effectively at the service of the Word," said his Holiness in a message released Jan. 23.

The Pope's message, which was a precursor to this year's World Communications Day, illustrates the importance of communicating the Word of God in increasingly relevant and far-reaching ways. Although Jesus preached and healed the people of Israel thousands of years ago, His message is just as applicable today as it was for the first Christians. Using modern methods of communication to transmit this message will increase the influence of Christ's teachings and allow a broader range of individuals to receive His Word.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," said Pope Benedict XVI, quoting St. Paul's letter to the Romans. "But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? Responding adequately to this challenge amid today's cultural shifts, to which young people are especially sensitive, necessarily involves using new communications technologies."

The Pope goes on to remind priests of their place in the midst of these new technological advances: "Using new communication technologies, priests can introduce people to the life of the Church and help our

contemporaries to discover the face of Christ. They will best achieve this aim if they learn, from the time of their formation, how to use these technologies in a competent and appropriate way, shaped by sound theological insights and reflecting a strong priestly spirituality grounded in constant dialogue with the Lord."

Priests who respond to the Holy Father's urgings will likely be found preaching not only from the pulpit, but also on social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace, Twitter, and perhaps Internet forums and chat rooms. In the near future, pastors are as likely to be found carrying a Bible as they are toting an iPad in their briefcase.



The Pope's words also apply to our mission as disciples and stewards of God's Word. At its core, stewardship refers to the wise and just management of anything that is placed under our care. For example, God gave us the Earth to cultivate and use for our own enrichment. The same can be said about new technologies. To use them for the purpose of communicating the message of Jesus is not only an option, but our responsibility.

And just as the Earth can be abused, so can technology. In his message, the Pope gives this warning: "Priests present in the world of digital communications should be less notable for their media savvy than for their priestly heart, their closeness to Christ. This will not only enliven their pastoral outreach, but also will give a 'soul' to the fabric of communications that makes up the 'Web.'"

Rather than lament the growing number of people who no longer acknowledge the existence and saving power of God, let's do something about it. Young people, especially, must be met at their level. By using modern technology to communicate the Gospel, more and more people are bound to come to know the joys of a life centered on Christ.



## Coffee and . . . *An Opportunity for Fellowship*

Coffee and donuts, or coffee and homemade muffins, or coffee and reflection – all this, plus an opportunity to gather with fellow parishioners, is offered each week in the Parish Center following the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Coffee and ... Coordinator Bob Maconochie explains that the weekly gatherings are conveniently nestled between the two Sunday morning Masses so that those attending the 8:30 a.m. service can stay afterwards, while those attending the 10:30 a.m. service can arrive early to socialize before Mass.

“Many parents come early while their children are attending faith formation,” he explains. “It’s convenient, and the best part is that once faith formation classes are over, the children come running in to eat all the leftovers.”

The ministry provides the coffee, tea and juice, and each week a different family volunteers to host and organize the food that will be offered.

“Basically, a host family coordinates the set up and clean up, as well as asks several families to contribute a breakfast edible,” Bob says. “We have had fruit platters, pastries, baked breads, and muffins.”

Bob says that this ministry was instrumental in his own involvement in the parish when he and his wife, Sue, were new to Sacred Heart three years ago.

“We heard they were serving coffee after Mass, and so we went because we knew it would be a good way to meet new

people,” he says. “When I walked in and saw there was only one person setting up, I volunteered to help. That’s how we initially became involved.”

Today, the ministry is organized by Bob, his wife, Sue, and

parishioner Christine Gaffney. It’s a year-round commitment, since at least one of them is always there to help the host families set up, or to fill in if there isn’t a volunteer family that week.

During the summer, when the Mass schedule changes, the group gathers after the 9:30 a.m. Mass, occasionally serving refreshments outside.

“The church has so many entrances and exits that, during

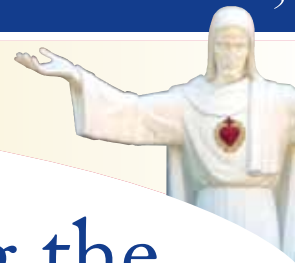
the year, many parishioners don’t even realize we are here,” Bob says. “But during the summer, weather permitting, we will set up on the sidewalk by the main entrance where we are much more visible.”

Bob encourages parishioners to take the time to stop by either before or after Mass to socialize with others, describing it as a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and communion.

“Taking the time to be together like this, instead of rushing in and out of Mass, actually makes going to Mass a more complete experience,” he says.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Bob Maconochie at 508-634-2892.





# Liturgical Changes During the Easter Season

**T**he Easter Season is a special time in the life of the Church. We often think of Easter as only one day, but it is actually a 50-day season spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost – the longest special season in the Church’s liturgical year. In fact, Easter is so important that each Sunday throughout the year is looked at as a sort of “mini-Easter.”

During the Easter Season, there are some changes in the Church liturgy that help us to better focus our hearts on this special time, so that the glory of Christ’s Resurrection can sink into our spirits and last throughout the year.

At every Mass during the Easter Season (except for weekday feasts for martyrs or apostles, at which the appropriate liturgical color is red), priests and deacons wear white vestments, the color reserved for special

celebrations such as Christmas and the feasts dedicated to the Blessed Mother. White has long been a color that symbolizes purity. In the Old Testament, the psalmist cries out to Lord many times, asking Him to forgive his sins and “wash me, make me whiter than snow” (Ps 51: 9). In the Gospel of Mark, at the Transfiguration, we see Jesus robed in clothes of “dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them” (Mk 9:3). The vestments of the priest, who acts as the person of Christ during Mass, remind us that Christ, risen from the dead, is eternally transfigured in glory as He sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

The Easter candle is also now prominent in the sanctuary, and is lighted at every Mass to remind us that Christ is the resurrected Light of the World.

Finally, some of the most noticeable changes in the liturgy during the Easter Season are differences in our singing. We return to singing the Gloria on Sundays and major feast days, as well as singing the Alleluia before the Gospel. After its long absence from Masses during Lent, the Alleluia returns to our celebrations with great emphasis as the people sing out, “Alleluia, Praise God!” Our Lenten focus on our need for repentance and forgiveness is fulfilled at Easter, and we once again endeavor to express the inexpressible joy of Christ.



*The Easter candle is also now prominent in the sanctuary, and is lighted at every Mass to remind us that Christ is the resurrected Light of the World.*



# Parishioner Profile

## *The Wilson Family*

**F**or the past seven years, Ken and Mary Wilson have dedicated themselves to helping build up the Sacred Heart Parish community.

What they've learned in the process is that the stewardship concept of parish hospitality is something that doesn't bear fruit overnight.

"I remember when we first started out wanting things to happen in a big way — all at once — when we focused on community-building," Mary says. "What I've learned is that's not how it happens.

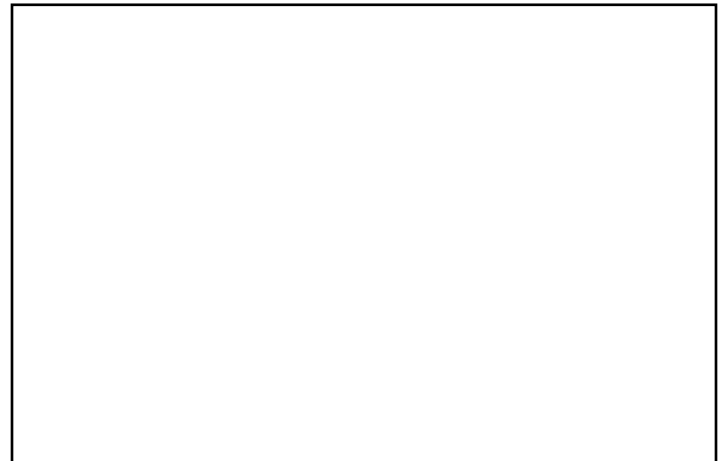
"It's one invitation at a time; one conversation at a time; one family who gets welcomed and supported. And it's in those individual ways that the community has grown. That's a big lesson."

This lesson has its origins in the first Parish Synod, when Mary shared her professional experience as a management consultant to assist the Parish Planning Team as a meeting facilitator.

"The Synod was to identify who we were as a parish, what was important to us, how we wanted to work together, and what kind of community we wanted to be," Mary says. "As a result of the Synod, we decided that we wanted to be a welcoming community focused on the Eucharist. We put together our six Parish Life Teams, and we changed the structure of the parish so we could continue to thrive and be a viable faith community."

Since that time, Ken and Mary have actively shared of their time and talents to make the long-term parish goals identified at the Parish Synod a reality.

Mary currently serves as the convener of the Formation Team — the Parish Life Team responsible for all formation activities in the parish, including sacramental prep, faith formation classes, and intergenerational lifelong learning. She puts her administrative experience with faith formation into practice as a volunteer with the Kidz Chapel Children's Liturgy of the Word ministry, and she teaches sacramental preparation classes to the students who are preparing to celebrate their First Reconciliation and First Communion. She is also active



with the Women's Small Faith Groups and serves the Liturgy as a cantor.

Ken shares of his extraordinary culinary talents as a cook for many parish events, including the recent Men's Retreat breakfast. He also has served as an usher and has done work with the Justice and Service Team.

In raising their children, Erin and Andrew, the Wilsons place an emphasis on serving others in loving imitation of Christ. As a family, the Wilsons work with the "Wheels for the World," a disability ministry that collects and refurbishes wheelchairs and other mobility devices and distributes them around the world. They have also volunteered with the Mustard Seed soup kitchen, where they help to feed the hungry in Worcester.

"It is intense for the little ones, but they get it," Mary says. "I think when you spend time together as a family in service, your children have a better understanding of how to be a community."

In living their lives as disciples of Christ, the Wilsons have truly succeeded in their goal of building community at Sacred Heart.

"It's been a real journey," Mary says. "I think you start out participating in a group of activities, and over the years it has changed so that we have been truly building community. If we are travelling and are out of town for Mass, we are thinking,

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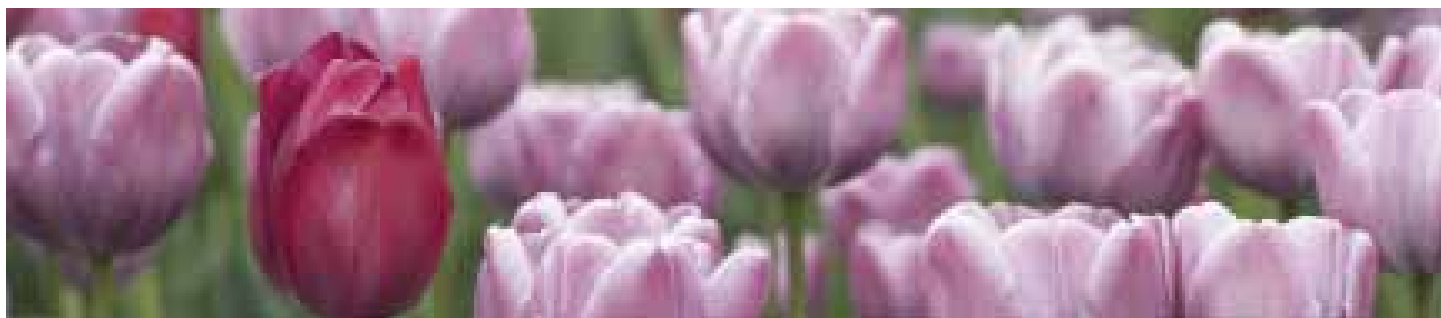


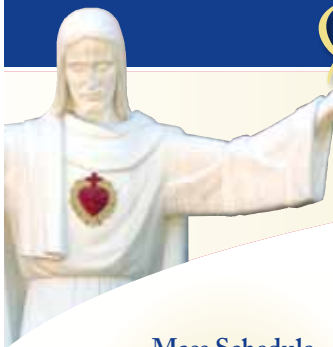
# Sacred Heart Church Calendar

*Please see page eight of the newsletter for daily and weekly Mass times. This calendar is compiled a month before publication, and dates and times of events may have changed. Please confirm with the parish office, or check our Web site, [www.sbchopedale.org](http://www.sbchopedale.org).*

## APRIL 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28 Mar</b> PASSION SUNDAY (Palm Sunday) Mass – 10AM	<b>29 Mar</b>	<b>30 Mar</b> 7:00p -8:30p Sacrament of Reconciliation and Tenebrae	<b>31 Mar</b> 9:30a -11:00a Mom to Mom	<b>1</b> HOLY THURSDAY 7:30PM Holy Thursday Service	<b>2</b> GOOD FRIDAY 10AM Walk the Walk 12PM Simple Meal 3PM Stations of the Cross 7:30 PM Good Friday Liturgy	<b>3</b> 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 7:30p Easter Vigil
<b>4</b> EASTER SUNDAY Masses 8:30 & 10:30AM	<b>5</b> 6:30p -9:30p Girl Scout Leader Meetings 7:30p Cub Scout Committee Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30a -11:00a Mom to Mom	<b>8</b> 9:00a -3:30p Thrift Shop 11:30a -2:30p Senior Lunch Club 6:30p -8:00p Men's Prayer Group 7:30p -9:00p Women's Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Confirmation Liturgy
<b>11</b> 9:30a -10:15a Faith Formation Classes 10:30a Mass 11:45a -12:15p Anointing of the Sick	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:30a Draper Place Communion Service 7:30p -9:30p Parish Life Night	<b>14</b> 9:30a -11:00a Mom to Mom 10:30a Mass at Continuing Care	<b>15</b> 9:00a -3:30p Thrift Shop 7:30p -9:00p Women's Prayer group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 1:30p -4:00p First Eucharist Prep. 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass
<b>18</b> 9:30a -10:15a Faith Formation Classes 10:30a Mass 12:00p Senior Dinner Baptisms	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5:00p Mustard Seed	<b>21</b> 9:30a -11:00a Mom to Mom	<b>22</b> 9:00a -3:30p Thrift Shop 6:30p -8:00p Men's Prayer Group 7:30p -9:00p Women's Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass
<b>25</b> 9:30a -10:15a Faith Formation Classes 10:30a Mass	<b>26</b> 3:30a -4:30p First Eucharist Rehearsal 7:30p -9:30p Pastoral Planning Meeting	<b>27</b> 10:30a Mass at Draper Place	<b>28</b> 9:30a -11:00a Mom to Mom	<b>29</b> 9:00a -3:30p Thrift Shop	<b>30</b>	<b>1 May</b> 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p First Eucharist





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## Mass Schedule

### Saturday

3 p.m. Reconciliation  
4 p.m. Vigil Mass

### Sunday

8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses  
*(September through May –  
in effect after Labor Day)*  
9:30 a.m. Mass ONLY  
*(Memorial Day through Labor Day)*

### Weekdays

9 a.m. Mass – Monday through Thursday  
9 a.m. Communion Service  
and Adoration – Friday

### Holy Days

7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass  
*(Evening before Holy Day)*  
9 a.m. Mass

## Come to the Feast! *continued from front cover*

As a stewardship family, everyone is invited to share their time in prayer and worship; their talent as we share the gifts God has given us for the building up of people God; and their treasure, financially supporting the ministry we share. Both life-long learning and stewardship are very important traditions in our Sunday worship.

Life-long-learning and stewardship make us a church family that imitates the four facets of the experience of Christian Community, as found in the Acts of the Apostles. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the breaking of the bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). They make us a church family in the one Body of Christ! To help strengthen and reinforce the learning that takes place

during Mass each Sunday, we have opportunities for people of all ages; from Kidz Chapel for kids up to 10 years old, to our faith formation classes for ages 7 to 16; from Coffee and Reflection for teens and adults, to the Men’s and Women’s prayer groups, just to name a few.

As pastor, I welcome all of you as we come together to shout “Alleluia, He is Risen.” May we be reunited in worship as we renew our family ties together. Come and strengthen your family and our family!

Happy Easter Season!

*Fr. Bill Konicki*

Fr. Bill Konicki, IVD