

Sacred Heart

Catholic Church



In This Issue

2 An Opportunity to Inquire
The RCIA Process

3 Strengthening Each Other During Difficult Times
The Seasons of Hope Ministry

4 Ministry in Motion

5 Welcome to Our New Music Coordinator
Marie Chabot

6 Answering God's Call

7 October 2009 Calendar

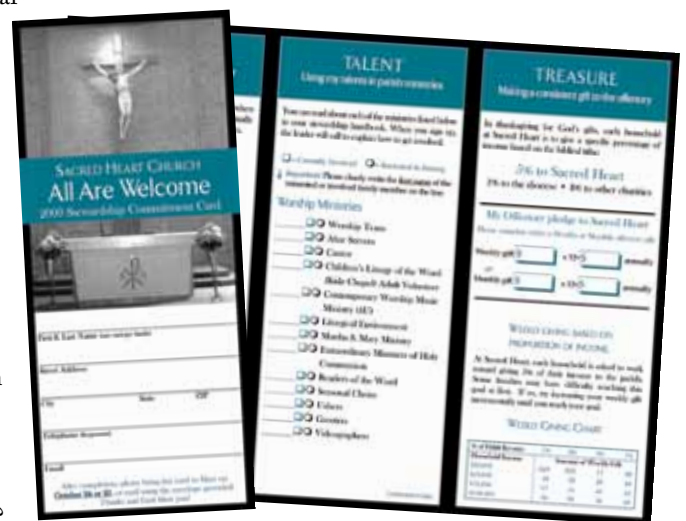
A Letter From Our Pastor

Our Annual Stewardship Renewal is Right Around the Corner!

Dear Parishioners,

Once again, it's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. Every year, someone asks, as you may have asked yourself, "Didn't we just have a Stewardship Renewal? Aren't we sufficiently 'renewed' by now?" Yes, we had a Stewardship Renewal last year, and we're going to have one next year, too! This is an annual occurrence — part of the rhythm of parish life at Sacred Heart. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. Is the Lord asking you to give more time, talent, or treasure to our parish this year?

Every parish family will receive a special stewardship package in the mail that further explains our parish's vision of stewardship. It includes a booklet that describes every ministry in the parish, as well as your Commitment Card. Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.





SACRED HEART

An Opportunity to Inquire *The RCIA Process*

“There are not a hundred people in America who hate the Catholic Church,” Fulton Sheen once said. “There are millions of people who hate what they wrongly believe to be the Catholic Church — which is, of course, quite a different thing.”

An opportunity to learn about the Catholic Church — what this Church is, not what it is often misunderstood to be — comes this fall through the RCIA process at Sacred Heart.

This year, all those who are non-Catholic but may be faithfully attending Mass with a Catholic spouse are especially invited to learn the truth about the Catholic Faith through RCIA.

“I would love to have those non-Catholic spouses consider joining in full communion with the Church through the RCIA program,” says Fr. Bill Konicki.

Anyone who is already baptized does not need to be baptized again, because the Catholic Church recognizes the validity of Christian baptisms.

Fr. Bill also invites all those who are not Catholic but are married to a Catholic to come to Mass and participate.

“Anyone who is not Catholic is welcome to come forward at communion and receive a blessing,” he says.

For those who aren’t sure about the Catholic Church or who have any questions or concerns about joining, Fr. Bill encourages them to simply talk to a Catholic.

“Find a Catholic, and talk to them about their Faith and how valuable that Faith is to them,” he suggests. “Or, if they

want to talk personally with me, I’d be happy to sit down with them.”

The Church’s teachings on divorce and remarriage, homosexuality, and the role of the pope are all potential areas for confusion or resentment by non-Catholics. Those areas, Fr. Bill recognizes, may be stumbling blocks for some.

“I’m willing to sit down with anyone who is challenged by some of the Church’s teachings,” says Fr. Bill. “And it may be that there are misconceptions; sometimes, the issues that people have with the Catholic Faith center on the man-made rules, and not the God-made ones.”

Everyone is welcome to make such inquiries through RCIA. And be assured that attending an RCIA meeting or showing interest is not a commitment.

“It’s an opportunity to explore and a journey of formation that allows you to get your own questions about the Church answered,” says Fr. Bill.

Some people might wonder why they are asked to make the journey through RCIA to join the Church. But that time spent with others is essential, Fr. Bill explains.

“Becoming Catholic is joining a faith community, so it’s important not to journey in isolation,” he says. “And it’s the role of the community to support you in your Faith.”

RCIA will meet this year between the Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses. If you feel called to inquire, please contact Fr. Bill Konicki at 508-473-1900.



“Find a Catholic, and talk to them about their Faith and how valuable that Faith is to them. Or, if they want to talk personally with me, I’d be happy to sit down with them.”

-Fr. Bill

OCTOBER 2009



Strengthening Each Other During Difficult Times

The Seasons of Hope Ministry

If you've lost a loved one, then you know all too well the feelings of isolation, loneliness, pain and grief that can accompany a loss. You may wonder if the pain and heartache will ever go away. The truth is, losing a loved one is never a pleasant experience, but there is hope for you, even in this season of your life. Jesus offers hope in the resurrection, and we here at Sacred Heart offer you support through our love and friendships. We encourage you to join us for our Seasons of Hope meetings where, together, we support one another through the grieving process in a spirit of Christian charity.

Seasons of Hope was established about a year-and-a-half ago when parish Ministry Coordinator Pam Chaplin connected with former parishioner Donna MacLeod.

"I met Donna when I was planning her mother-in-law's funeral," Pam remembers. "We talked about the Seasons of Hope program that she had published, and I decided to buy the book."

Pam's father had passed away, and she thought that through implementing a ministry for the grieving at Sacred Heart, she could help her mother better cope with her father's death.

"I thought, 'I'll bring her, and she'll benefit from it,'" says Pam.

But then, the unexpected happened. Three weeks before the scheduled start of the ministry, Pam's mother passed away as well.

"So, instead of just being a facilitator for the group, I was a participant," says Pam.

Pam witnessed firsthand the power of Christ-centered support for a grieving heart. She found great comfort through the support of her fellow parishioners who were grieving their loved ones as well. And she is eager to get another group started this year.

"We need at least eight people to get a group started," says Pam, encouraging more Sacred Heart parishioners to participate.

The plan is to meet every other week on Wednesday mornings in the Parish Hall. There, grieving parishioners will have a forum to share experiences about their loved ones with each other. They will break open the scriptures and reflect upon them together, helping each other to accept the hope that Christ offers in His resurrection and to recognize that, even as they continue to live this life without their loved ones by their sides, they do not have to live it alone.

"We don't have to go through the journey alone," says Pam. "People need to know that they shouldn't be handling the stress of bereavement by themselves."

We were made for community. We were not put on this Earth to live in solitude, and when we deal with great hardships in life, the support of others can give us great strength. If you are experiencing grief after losing a loved one, it doesn't matter how long ago that loved one passed away, we encourage you to take advantage of this parish ministry. Please contact Pam Chaplin at 508-473-1900.

Our 75th Anniversary is Coming!

Sacred Heart Parish and Morin's Studio of Milford are teaming up to publish a 75th Anniversary church pictorial directory.

- Every family photographed will receive a *free* directory.
- Discounted prices will be offered on family portraits.

Portraits will be taken October 17 and 18 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please make an appointment no later than Friday October 2nd by calling 508-473-0211.

**Your participation will
make our book complete!!!**



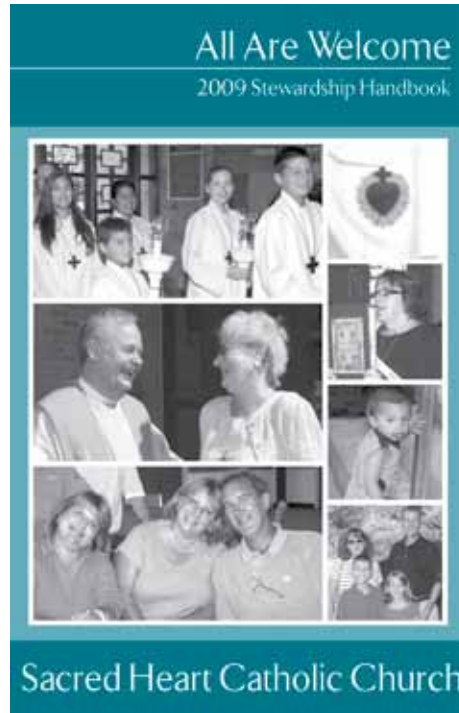
Ministry in Motion

Sacred Heart Parish offers members of our parish family a wide variety of ways to become involved in parish life on a daily basis. There are more than 40 active ministries at our parish that give parishioners opportunities to feed the hungry, promote fellowship, learn more about the Catholic Faith, and help Fr. Bill celebrate the sacraments.

With so many ministries to choose from, it can be difficult for parishioners to decide which ones are best for them, especially without more information about what each group does on a regular basis. With this in mind, the Sacred Heart Stewardship Committee is presenting the "Ministry in Motion" fair later this month as part of our Second Annual Stewardship Renewal.

Ministry in Motion will give parishioners a chance to learn more about the ministries we have to offer at Sacred Heart from ministry members themselves, enabling parishioners to determine how they can best share of their talents as disciples of Christ. The fair will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 4-7 p.m., and on Sunday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"I am a religious educator at a Catholic high school, and I find that, often times, the church language of 'ministry' is foreign to people; it is looked at as something for priests and religious," says Matt Smith, coordinator of the Sacred Heart Stewardship Committee. "I think it is essential as a church community that we educate people that ministry is service to God



and other people. And when we do various forms of service, whether it is in the community coaching baseball or building a home for Habitat for Humanity, we are doing forms of Christian ministry."

Ministry in Motion will feature information tables for various ministries facilitated by representatives of each ministry, who will be available to answer questions about what the ministries do, and share stories of the successes and challenges that each ministry faces. All of this will take place in a relaxed, "open house" atmosphere, and parishioners will have additional information brochures and ministry catalogues available for them to take home and look over.

In addition to offering information about parish ministries, Ministry in Motion will be a great opportunity

for fun and fellowship as well.

Complimentary snacks for the evening and morning sessions will be offered through the coordination of Paula Cadoret and Barbara Seidenberg. Sacred Heart will also be raffling off some prizes, including gift cards for fuel, Mary Kay cosmetic products, home-cooked meals, and other items.

To celebrate Sacred Heart's 75th Anniversary, the parish will be publishing a parish directory in 2010. Prior to the Ministry in Motion fair, parishioners will have the chance to sign up for a free photo session with Morin's Studio to have their portraits taken for the directory, with the opportunity to purchase additional prints. Pictures will be taken the two days of the fair from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"This is a fun and educational event, which will enable people to learn more before they sign up for ministries on Commitment Weekend, which is the following week," says Matt. "I often challenge people to understand the importance of expanding our ministry base by pointing out that 25 percent of our registered parishioners are active in receiving the stewardship message, but three-quarters of our registered families are not. People often don't identify themselves as having a place in ministry, but we do have a place through our baptisms, and a responsibility to share of ourselves."

For more information on Ministry in Motion, please contact the parish office at 508-473-1900.



Welcome to Our New Music Coordinator

Marie Chabot

When Marie Chabot's parents first brought home an organ, it wasn't intended for her – at least not initially.

“My parents bought an organ because my sister was very shy and they wanted her to have an outlet; they thought she was musically talented,” says Marie. “When the organ got to our house, I couldn't get away from it, so I begged them to let me take lessons. The teacher said I was too young at age 7, but I kept begging, and eventually she let me start. It was a little difficult at first, because I couldn't reach the pedals!”

That first experience playing the organ evolved into a love of music that would continue to grow throughout her life. And Marie recently brought this love of music, as well as a wealth of experience as a musician and music educator, to Sacred Heart Parish, when she became our new parish Music Coordinator on Sept. 12.

Marie's career in Sacred Music began when she was a girl, substituting on the organ for her older sister when her sister was a student at the New England Conservatory of Music. Marie played the organ at several churches throughout high school and college, and continued playing at St. Mark's Church in Attleboro Falls, Mass. after she graduated from the College of Our Lady of the Elms with a bachelor's degree in Theater and a double-minor in Music and Secondary Education.

Marie eventually moved to Nashville, Tenn., where she served as music director at an inner-city church, and she earned a master's degree in Religious Education from Loyola University in New Orleans. She returned to Massachusetts in 2000, and has been teaching elementary music at St. Mary's Primary School in Taunton, Mass.,

and serving as the music director at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Parish in Waltham, Mass.

As Music Coordinator at Sacred Heart, Marie is responsible for selecting all of the music for the weekend liturgies, playing the organ for the funerals and weddings, and working with the cantors. She will also be directing

a parish choir, which will sing on special Holy Days, and she encourages anyone who is interested in joining the choir or playing a musical instrument to become involved in music ministry at the parish.

“It is so much better to have many people from the parish working in any ministry because of the diversity that different talents bring,” says Marie. “The more voices we have, the more complex our repertoire can become, and the more joyous it can be to have people singing, praising God

and playing instruments.”

Marie says that her transition to Sacred Heart Parish has been very smooth thus far, and she felt very comfortable with her new parish family from the time she sat down for an interview.

“Fr. Bill was very funny, and I found myself laughing during that interview more than I've ever laughed at an interview before!” she says. “And it was fun; it just felt like home.”

We hope that Marie continues to feel at home here at Sacred Heart, and we welcome her with open arms into our parish family. Please take a moment to personally welcome Marie to Sacred Heart the next time you see her at Mass. And if you are interested in more information about becoming involved in the Sacred Heart music ministry, please contact the parish office at 508-473-1900.





SACRED HEART

Answering God's Call

We are, first and foremost, to be Christ's disciples, following Him wherever He may lead us, and calling others to do the same.

Imagine for a moment that you are one of the first disciples. This is not an easy task. After all, it is difficult to fathom what it was like to live in Galilee 2,000 years ago as Jesus walked the Earth. But let's take a moment and put ourselves in the places of Simon, Andrew, James and John – the first four disciples called by Jesus.

Employed in the fishing trade, these four men were engaged in a hard day's work when Jesus approached them.

"As He passed by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and His brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, 'Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.' Then they left their nets and followed Him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then He called them, so they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed Him" (Mk 1:16-20).

The first disciples abandoned the only life that they knew. They left behind their careers, and even their families, because of Christ's call to be "fishers of men." They left the comfort of their surroundings and followed Christ, leading others to Him as they did so. They did exactly what He asked and immediately answered His call.

Can you imagine how uneasy that must have made them feel? Fishing was their livelihood. They were secure in their jobs, making good lives for themselves, no doubt. Yet, they were called to leave all of that behind and follow Christ wholeheartedly.

In truth, Christ calls us in much the same way today. He calls each of us to put Him before all else – before our careers and before our families. We are, first and foremost, to be Christ's disciples, following Him wherever He may lead us, and calling others to do the same.

For most of us, this call does not come at the expense of our secular careers or our family members in practice. Many of us are not called to leave the comfort of our homes for a missionary life. But we are all called to follow Christ sacrificially, using everything we are and all that we have for His greater glory and the building of His kingdom. This entails a life of total self-sacrifice.

In the coming months, our First Communicants will take their first steps toward answering this call since their baptisms, as they prepare to receive Christ in the Eucharist and celebrate the second Sacrament of Initiation. Please pray for them as they embark on their journeys to answer God's call and become "fishers of men."

Save the Date! Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sacred Heart Christmas Fair!!

Please join us for Fun, Food, Raffles, Kids Corner, and Great Gift Options!

Here's a sampling of what you'll find ~

- Artisans and more ~
 - o Sacred Heart Craft Table – a unique assortment of handcrafted items lovingly made by some of our gifted parishioners.
 - o Knitted Baby Clothes – great for the most special occasions.
 - o Our very own Mary Kay Specialists.
 - o Homemade Candy- Who Can Resist!
- o Jewelry!! (Hint: MEN TAKE NOTICE)
- o Looking for More? Sorry...need to stop by to see what the other Artisans have to offer.
- Raffles Galore ~
- Then, stop by the Cafe for a delectable bite to eat and a beverage so you can Shop Some More...

Psst...we almost forgot.....keep an eye out for special guests...

OCTOBER 2009



October 2009 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.*

Thursday, October 01, 2009

9:00 AM-3:30 PM Thrift Shop Open

Friday, October 02, 2009

9:00 AM First Friday Communion
Service with Adoration and Rosary in the Church

Saturday, October 03, 2009

Stewardship Renewal Kickoff
Confirmation Retreat at Oakhurst
8:30 AM AA in the Parish Hall

Sunday, October 04, 2009

Stewardship Renewal Kickoff
Confirmation Retreat at Oakhurst
Respect Life Sunday
8:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Hall Conference Room
9:40 AM Coffee and Reflection in the Parish Hall
9:40 AM Faith Formation Classes in Rooms 1,2,3,4,5,7, and 8 (Topic - The Bible and the Good Life)
10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Hall Conference Room

Monday, October 05, 2009

6:30 PM Girl Scout Leaders in the Parish Hall

Tuesday, October 06, 2009

6:00 PM Daisy Troop 71010 in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

9:30 AM Mom to Mom in the Parish Hall

Thursday, October 08, 2009

11:30 AM Hopedale Senior Lunch Club in the Parish Hall
7:00 PM Prayer and Insight Group for Men in the Parish House

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Stewardship Witness Talk
8:30 AM AA in the Parish Hall

Sunday, October 11, 2009

Stewardship Witness Talk
8:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Hall Conference Room
9:40 AM Coffee and Reflection in the Parish Hall
9:40 AM Faith Formation Classes in Rooms 1,2,3,4,5,7, and 8 (Topic - Time, Talent and Treasure)
10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Hall Conference Room
11:45 AM Anointing of the Sick in the Church

Monday, October 12, 2009

Columbus Day - Office Closed
6:00 PM Daisy Troop 71010 in Room 2

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

10:30 AM Communion Service at Draper Place
7:30 PM Parish Life Night

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

9:30 AM Mom to Mom in the Parish Hall
10:30 AM Mass at Continuing Care

Thursday, October 15, 2009

9:00 AM-3:30 PM Thrift Shop Open

Saturday, October 17, 2009

8:30 AM AA in the Parish Hall
9:00 AM-6:00 PM Church Directory Pictures Taken in the Parish Hall
4:00 PM-7:00 PM Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall

Sunday, October 18, 2009

World Mission Sunday
8:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Hall Conference Room
9:00 AM-1:00 PM Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall
9:00 AM-6:00 PM Church Directory Pictures Taken in the Parish Hall
9:40 AM Faith Formation Classes in Rooms 1,2,3,4,5,7, and 8
10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Hall Conference Room

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

5:00 PM Food Delivered to Mustard Seed

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

9:30 AM Mom to Mom in the Parish Hall
7:00 PM Baptismal Prep in the Parish House

Thursday, October 22, 2009

9:00 AM-3:30 PM Thrift Shop Open
7:00 PM Prayer and Insight Group for Men in the Parish House

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Stewardship Commitment Weekend
8:30 AM AA in the Parish Hall

Sunday, October 25, 2009

Stewardship Commitment Weekend
World Youth Day
Priesthood Sunday
8:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Hall Conference Room
9:40 AM Coffee and Reflection in the Parish Hall
9:40 AM Faith Formation Classes in Rooms 1,2,3,4,5,7, and 8
10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Parish Hall Conference Room

Monday, October 26, 2009

7:30 PM PPT in the Parish House

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

10:30 AM Mass at Draper Place

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

9:30 AM Mom to Mom in the Parish Hall

Thursday, October 29, 2009

9:00 AM-3:30 PM Thrift Shop Open

Saturday, October 31, 2009

8:30 AM AA in the Parish Hall
2:00 PM First Reconciliation Prep Session 1 (Parents and Kids) in the Parish Hall and in the Church



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Mass Schedule

Saturday

4 p.m. Reconciliation
5 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

Our Annual Stewardship Renewal is Right Around the Corner!

continued from front cover

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check “Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.” Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries, or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry. This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to Sacred Heart.

There are two primary reasons we ask each household in our parish to return a Commitment Card each year. First, it is important to formally re-commit ourselves to

the parish, similar to how spouses celebrate anniversaries, or how we renew our baptismal vows at Easter. Secondly, we need to annually reevaluate our commitments because a lot can change in a year! You may have more free time to devote to ministries, or you may have received a raise that enables you to support the parish more generously. Further, your commitments assist us in projecting whether or not we will meet our ministry and financial obligations for the year.

As your pastor, I ask that you prayerfully consider how you can share of your time, talent and treasure to help maintain a vibrant parish life at Sacred Heart. In giving of ourselves as disciples of Christ, we are able to serve others in our community, and help build the Church here in Hopedale and throughout the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Bill Konicki