

Church of the Sacred Heart



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Together we foster a welcoming spirit of unity while honoring our diversity which leads to a graced harmony among us since Christ is the center of all we are and do.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT ~ MARCH 26, 2017

I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Today's statement of faith in Jesus comes from a depressing source. "The man blind from birth," who professes faith in Jesus as savior, doesn't even have a name in the account. His neighbors who have known him all his life refer to him casually as "the one who used to sit and beg." Jesus' own disciples immediately form a bad opinion of the man, assuming that his blindness results from sin. His community might have celebrated and rejoiced in his cure, but instead the Pharisees seize the opportunity to ridicule him. This nameless, penniless, friendless outcast becomes our model today. He alone worships Jesus. We should want to be like him. But do we? Last week's Gospel recounted another bold profession of faith in Jesus, that of the woman at the well. A Samaritan, she too is despicable in the eyes of the Israelites. Yet she inspires the conversion of her entire village. We are astonished, almost scandalized, that Jesus allows people we might call losers to profess faith in him as the Messiah. Is it really such an honor to be counted as Christians alongside these misfits?

SEEING AS GOD SEES

Today's readings encourage us to set aside our own assumptions and ask God to help us see as God sees. While our sights are set on happiness and success, God's vision of these blessings often differs greatly from ours. Though we are instinctively uncomfortable with the "losers" in our midst, God chooses them as our guides. In God's eyes, blindness becomes strength, misfits become champions, and dying with Christ becomes the path to everlasting life. We profess faith in Jesus not because doing so will enhance our prestige or increase our wealth, but simply because following Christ pleases God. God's vision for the Kingdom challenges us to seek humility. With God's help, we can resist the temptation to seek preferential treatment and live as children of light, servants to God's people.

PRIESTS

Rev. Robert Holtz, Pastor, ext. 11
Rev. Roberto Ignacio, Assistant, ext. 21

PARISH OFFICE

103 Fourth St. Riverton, NJ 08077
856-829-0090 • 856-829-2087 Fax
Leslie Crofton, Secretary, ext. 10
Joanne Moore, Secretary, ext. 24

PARISH MINISTRIES

856-829-1836
Mary Neary, Director

LITURGICAL MUSIC MINISTRIES

856-786-5380
Susan Barnett, Associate

DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Robert Bednarek
Rev. Mr. Joseph Donadieu
Rev. Mr. Kenneth Heilig
Rev. Mr. Michael Stinsman
All Deacons — ext. 10

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

102 Fourth Street - Family Center
856-829-1848 • **856-829-2087** Fax
Patricia Hutchinson, Director
Joanne Moore, Secretary

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

856-829-0090
Scott Perry, Business & Facilities
Director, ext. 14
John Scouler
Donna Casey

Web Site: www.shcriverton.org E-mail: sacredheartriverton@comcast.net



**SACRED HEART CHURCH
PARISH INFORMATION**

PARISH OFFICE

103 Fourth Street, Riverton, NJ 08077-1205

Monday through Friday

8:30 am — 12:00 noon & 1:00 pm — 4:00 pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Family Center, 102 Fourth Street, Riverton, NJ 08077-1206

Tuesday through Friday

12:30 pm — 4:30 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays

3:30 pm — 4:15 pm

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEW PARISHIONERS

Are always welcome, please register at the parish office.

MOVING?

Please notify us if you are moving out of the parish or changing your address or telephone number.

BAPTISMS

Please call the rectory as soon as possible to make arrangements. Parish registration must be confirmed and eligibility certificates for Catholic Godparents must be presented. Godparent and sponsor certificates may be obtained by those who have received all Sacraments in the Catholic Church. **CALL JOANNE MOORE AT 829-0090 x 24.**

MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made at the rectory at least **ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE.** Please contact us to receive guidelines for the celebration of marriage.



**PLEASE PRAY
FOR OUR DEARLY DEPARTED
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Loretta Horgan, Rudolf Bozicek, William Jeffers, Marta Shears, Earl Gray Jr, Sr. Madeline Mary Smith, Teresa McNulty, Frank Wigmore, Leo Carr, Francis Rooney Jr, Patricia Mori, Joseph Corso, Raymond Buenzle, Eugene McDonald, Robert Barry, Richard Boucher, Domenico Lombardi, Timothy Piazza, Flora Kramer, Jason Wark, Kiersten Ott, Connie Giampaolo, Glen Jackson, John Bruno, Stephen McCarty, Jim Dennis, John Yezzi Sr, Constance O'Brien, Cecelia Johnson, John Doyle, Charles Milligan, Marie McMullen, Sandra Perkins, Jerry McKeever, Frances Orfe, Sean Cullen, Don DyBalski, Kenneth Schiller, Edwin Matczak, Joseph Hartman Sr, Harriet Guelich, Maureen Deegan, Anthony Giampaolo, Harry Doherty, Edith D'Andrea, Maureen McGlashon, Lily Corso, Paul Tillger, Joseph Fassano, Anne Schwartz, Carol Lattanzi, Dolores DiPasquale, Donald Weist, Stephen DeJoseph, Ray McCue, Daniel Cooney, Marypat Chrupcala, Joseph Berkley, John Mahony Sr, Mary Paolini, Joseph Pignatelli, Mary Smith, Mary Taylor, Anthony Garbett, James Murphy, Kathryn Agnes, Mary Burns, Elizabeth Johnson, Loretta Fratto, Evelyn Morton, Julius Romero, Mary Mulvihill, Lillian Wille, Mildred Lipsett, Leon Paulikas, Mary Chiaccio, Helen Nachurski, Constance Bergmeister, Robert Cristella, Maryann LaSalle, Margaret Donovan, Joseph Peditto, Christine Rossell, Vincent Fynan Sr, Regina Criqui & Ralph Talarico



Monday, March 27, 2017

8:00 am **Jason Wark**
r/o Bernadette Marino

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

8:00 am **Effie Kosmatka**
r/o Lewis
George Gasper
r/o His Wife, Marianne & Family
Travis Gartner
r/o His Mother

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

8:00 am **Margaret McCann**
r/o Eileen McCann
Richard Boucher
r/o Charlene & Mark Wurtenberger
Rudolf Bozicek
r/o The Tomic Family

Thursday, March 30, 2017

8:00 am **Jason Wark**
r/o Fran & Joe Slawski & Family

Friday, March 31, 2017

8:00 am **People of the Parish**

Saturday, April 1, 2017

8:00 am **People of the Parish**
4:30 pm **Marge Downey**
r/o Her Family
Rita Huber
r/o Ed & Toni Farina
Carol Hill
r/o Mary & Tom Hannan

Sunday, April 2, 2017

7:30 am **Leo Carr**
r/o The Van Bernum Family
William McGehrin
r/o His Wife, Rose & Family
9:00 am **Don Schofield**
r/o His Family
Timothy Piazza
r/o Mary Neary
10:30 am **Loretta Horgan**
r/o The Maratea Family
John Steimel
r/o The Maratea Family
Durwood 'Woody' Gettings
r/o The Maratea Family
12:00 pm **Marypat Chrupcala**
r/o Her Family
Jason Wark
r/o The Papenberg Family



**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

Bobby Barnett, Joanne Brady, Debra Burns, Billy Byrem, Dorothy Clinton, Tony Colkers, Jim Cox, Melissa Creagh, Joan Deangelis, Tanya DiMaio, John Doherty, Diane Donnelly, Fr. Michael Doyle, Florence Ehrhardt, Mary Lou Francis, Debbie Frank, Marianne Ford, Dot Fries, Jane Gasper, Loretta Gibson, Kelsey Goodwin, Thomas Heliger Sr, Becky Jones, Joachim Jung, Maura Kendall, Don Kline, David Kloss, Edward Knicley, Matthew Laverty, Howard & Joy Lawmaster, Amanda Layton, Margaret Link, Molly Maerten, Robin Graff Marinelli, William Martens, Melissa Milewski, Dawn McGinley, William McGonigal, Mary McGovern, Kathy Moir, Eleanor Mortiz, Shawn Mulvihill, Rick Muraresku, Alexa Pagano, Guido Pasquale, Anthony Pignatelli, Anthony Portella, George Reinas, Bob & Kate Salamon, Mildred Santos, Theresa Scafidi, Michael Stanley Schneider, Charles Sharpe, Ed Siemietkoski, Jim Sutton, Jeanne Thomas, Marcia Thomas, Lynne Turley, Bob Venango, Fr. Michael Waites, Ruth Wentworth, and Lillian Zamichieli

If you or a family member would like to be prayed for at Mass and listed in the bulletin, please call 856-829-0090.



An Invitation:

Why not start the day with Mass at 8:00 am? It's only a half hour with so many blessings. Please try it! Your Angel

MEMORIALS

THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS THIS WEEK
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
GLEN W. JACKSON
AT THE REQUEST OF
HIS FAMILY



Men's Fellowship



Please join us on Monday, March 27th at 7:00 pm in the Family Center.

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13



Second Bann

Alexandra Rodolico and Timothy Wasco

THIS WEEK AT SACRED HEART PARISH

NOTE: Please remember all announcements to be placed in the bulletin should be brought to the Parish Office by Friday, one week prior to the weekend the bulletin will be published.

Monday, March 27

6:00 pm — Legion of Mary
Family Center
7:00 pm — Men's Fellowship
Family Center

Tuesday, March 28

Miraculous Medal Novena
Following 8:00 am Mass
1:00 pm — Willing and Able
Family Center
7:00 pm — NA Meeting
Lower Church

Wednesday, March 29

9:00 am — Bible Study ~ *Gospel of John*
Family Center Meeting Room
8:00 pm — AA Meeting
Lower Church

Thursday, March 30

6:00 pm — Mary's Rosary Guild
Lower Church Rosary Room
7:00 pm — Bereavement Support Group
Family Center Meeting Room
7:00 pm — Dance Class
Lower Church

Friday, March 31

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Following 8:00 am Mass
7:00 pm — Stations of the Cross
Church

Sunday, April 2

Fifth Sunday of Lent
After the 9:00 am Mass — Coffee & Donuts
After the 10:30 am Mass — Coffee & Donuts
Lower Church
1:15 pm — Celebration of Baptisms
Church
8:00 pm — AA Meeting
Lower Church

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of March 18 & 19, 2017

\$12,032.00

Same Weekend last year's collection

\$11,261.00

Average needed for weekly expenses

\$14,950.00

**Thank you very much for your generosity.
Please remember Sacred Heart
in your Last Will and Testament**

Understanding Our Catholic Faith

The man born blind:
Gazing deeply and directly into the light...
Fr. Thomas Rosica, Our Catholic Faith

'From the very beginning of John's Gospel, the question of origins pervades the story. Where is Jesus from? Who sent him? What rabbinical school did this son of Nazareth attend? Where did he get all of this? Where did he learn to break God's law? Such questions permeate the provocative Gospel story of the healing of the blind man in John's Gospel (9:1-41).

The story of the blind man's healing takes exactly two verses; the controversy surrounding the cure, thirty-nine verses. It is the controversy that is the rest of the story! In response to such questions about Jesus' origins, the formerly blind man replies, "He restored my sight. Where do you think he's from?" The blind man progresses from darkness to light: he regards Jesus as a man, then a prophet, and finally confesses that he is the Son of God. The Pharisees first appear to accept the blind man's healing but then begin to doubt and finally deny Jesus' heavenly origins. The blind man's simplicity confounds the wise. They end up refusing to see – rendering themselves blind. It is not difficult to sympathize with the Pharisees. They were only attempting what many of us have been trained to do: observe, analyze, describe and explain the phenomena.

The formerly blind man did not know all the correct religious phrases with which to interpret his salvation. He was not pious in the traditional sense or even respectful of his elders. What he knew for sure was that once upon a time he sat in darkness, and now the whole world was drenched in sunlight. And he acknowledged that. "One thing I know." As if the most insignificant thing he happens to know is who saved his life!

The man who has now recovered his sight does not start with special knowledge but with acknowledgment. Jesus is the one who gives him life, who saves him, who removes his blindness, who gives him hope and courage. Jesus – he's the one! He's it! We know that the blind man is not the only one to admit "Jesus is it!" The blind man's spiritual descendants are legion throughout history!

Attempts to solve the question of suffering and death have often brought about greater suffering than the initial pain and anguish that one experiences. "Why me?" "Why must suffering exist?" "Whose fault is it?" "Can suffering have any meaning?" "Of what value?" "Who causes this?" "Why does such an evil exist?" "Why am I being punished so?" Often we use the metaphor of blindness to describe our inability to grasp the meaning of the suffering we endure.

If we read this story as an ironic comedy and nothing more, we miss the loneliness of its final scene in which Jesus and the man converse outside the synagogue. The man's profession of faith has a terrible consequence for him and for all of us. He is cast out of the synagogue. He is cut off from the Torah, from his family, from the Friday evening Sabbaths with his family and friends, from the certitude of the Law – all because he gazed deeply and directly into the Light. And yet, it was his persistent gaze that brought him a strange form of healing and sight.

Many of us are very reluctant today to even acknowledge the source of our salvation, the bringer of our hope, the cause of our joy. We are afraid to name him for fear of what others will say. Or is this reluctance perhaps because we aren't convinced that Jesus is the one, that he's it?

If I ever get near heaven, I look forward to a long, unrushed conversation with the stars of the Gospels of these three weeks of Lent: the woman of Samaria (John 4), the blind man (John 9), and Lazarus (John 11). They were very fortunate and blessed people to have been made new again through Christ's personal words, his consoling touch, his loving gaze, his compassionate words. I would like to ask each of them four questions: "Where did this guy come from? What did you experience when you looked him in the face? What did you feel when he spoke to you? How did you know that he was it?"



Save the Date
Vacation Bible Camp
June 26th to 30th from 9 to 12pm
Early registrations welcome!
Contact: m.neary@shcriverton.org

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY AT SACRED HEART

The Bereavement Support Group meets on Thursdays, between 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Family Center Room 6. Each week we will focus on a different topic.

March 30th: Our Journey Towards a New Life

You are welcome to come for any or all of the sessions. For more information please call Fran at 786-0445.

COFFEE & DONUTS



We will be serving coffee & donuts next Sunday, April 2nd, following the 9:00 and 10:30 am Masses in the lower church. This is an excellent opportunity for current parishioners to

renew old acquaintances and make new ones and for new parishioners to meet us and learn more about us.

LIGHT AND SHADOW

In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't. — Blaise Pascal

HEART TO HEART MINISTRY SOCK DRIVE



We all know that our feet are in contact with the cold ground, therefore it is important to protect and cover them from the cold! Help us keep the 'feet' of our brothers and sisters warm this winter!

We will be collecting all types and sizes of socks (new) for men, women and children (including sport types).

All socks will be donated to Sacred Heart Parish/School in Camden for distribution. Please drop off socks in Church at St. Elizabeth Anne Seton's side altar.

Thank you for your generosity!

Join Our Golf Outing



Save the date!
Sacred Heart Church
3rd Annual Golf
Outing
May 8th, 2017
More information to follow.

42ND ANNUAL HOLY THURSDAY DINNER

Our parish is planning our annual Holy Thursday Dinner on April 13th. (the following text is from the 1st & 2nd Holy Thursday Dinner) We would urge those attending the dinner to also attend the Celebration of the Last Super at 6:00pm. We see the dinner as a continuation of the Eucharistic Meal and an opportunity for sharing life as well as sacraments.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish (casserole, vegetable or salad) to serve 12. The main course of ham is provided as well as beverages, rolls and desserts.

For tickets please call Marianne Gasper at 829-8769.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us on Friday's of Lent beginning at 7:00 pm for the beautiful Catholic tradition of Stations of the Cross. Led by the deacons of our parish with a sung refrain at the end of each Station, Stations are a prayerful meditation on the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus.

This week our Altar Servers for Stations of the Cross will be:

Aiden Bove, Meghan Bove and Zachary Coletti

NEED A MIRACLE?

Our Lady of Grace Statue is available to visit in your home for a week at a time. She has been known to bring peace and healing when she visits. The Legion of Mary representative will bring the statue to your home and lead a brief prayer. Then Legion of Mary (Mary Mother of Divine Mercy group) will continue to pray for your intentions and your family while the statue remains in your home. To schedule a visit please call Angel Sauro at 856-461-3873.

Our Lady looks forward to visiting you.



EASTER FLOWERS



We are accepting monetary donations to assist with the cost of decorating the Church for Easter. If you would like to make a donation please place it in an envelope marked "Flower Offering" found in the four corners of the Church.

Please drop the envelopes in the collection basket.

CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

The future king, David, in today's first reading, is an example of a type of character present throughout the Hebrew scriptures. He is the child born out of place (not the eldest or most favored) who ends up receiving the promise of the covenant. The spirit of God's anointing rushes upon him. In this way, he is similar to the man born blind from today's Gospel. David's family and the blind man's community did not expect the miraculous grace of God's love to work through them. Perhaps they, too, were "blinded" by the expectations and assumptions of those around them. Yet, after being touched by God, they both came to "see" the presence of God's will for them. Both became messengers of God's will. That same Spirit of God's anointing rushed upon us at our baptism; we were given a candle as a sign of our membership in the Body of Christ, the Light from Light. Our vocation, then, is to fulfill that enlightenment, that anointing, as Ephesians tells us, by living as "children of the light."

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APRIL 1

This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four. — Mark Twain



Save the Date
Rosary Rally
100th Anniversary
Our Lady of Fatima
Friday, May 12th
at 7:00 pm
Sacred Heart
Parish
Riverton, NJ

**Young Family Sacrifice Ideas for Lent**

1. Pray the Rosary together every night. (little ones can do a decade a day).
2. Give up secular radio and listen to Catholic radio to forty days. (* 640 AM Relevant Radio * or Christian Music 106.9 FM Klove).
3. Turn off the TV and have family game night at least once a week.
4. If the family makes a food sacrifice... calculate how much money would have been spent and give it to the Poor Box
5. Read about the Saint of the Day at dinner every night.

WEEKEND MUSIC – MARCH 26TH

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|-----|--|---|
| 431 | Amazing Grace |  |
| 390 | Open My Eyes | |
| 125 | Beyond the Days | |
| 596 | I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light | |

**Make a Joyful Noise**

With Voices, Hands and Hearts

Re-CHOIR-ments for joining any of the Sacred Heart Music Ministry Ensembles:

- 1) Hearts that love God and are willing to give some of their time and talent.
- 2) Voices that can sing a melody (or harmony). Ability to read music is helpful but not necessary.
- 3) Hands that can play melodies and harmonies. Ability to read music is necessary for instrumentalists - especially accompanists. Bell choir: music reading helpful but not necessary.

Reasons for becoming a Member of a Sacred Heart Music Ministry Ensemble:

- 1) Always have a reserved seat for Christmas and Easter.
- 2) No auditions or solos unless you wish to be a cantor.
- 3) Making music uses both sides of your brain.
- 4) People involved in music live longer and healthier.
- 5) Singing burns 50 calories an hour.
- 6) "to sing is to pray twice."
- 7) Music ensemble members show their love of God as they work together to serve the Lord through music.

If you are interested or would like more information about Sacred Heart Music Ministry Ensembles, please call the music office 856-786-5380 and leave a message. You can also speak to one of the cantors after Mass or Susan Barnett after the 10:30am or 12:00pm Masses (choir loft).

**Prayer in the Park
Mom's with little ones...**

This Lent draw closer to Jesus through his Mother. Join others moms as we pray the Rosary and Fellowship, while the little ones play. Every Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Community Center Park at 212 Somerset Ave in Merchantville. For more information please call Theresa at 848-525-2589.