

The Heart of the Matter

A quarterly publication of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Hopedale

*Becoming and Making Disciples,
Welcoming All to Follow Jesus Christ*

Fall 2016



Dear Parish Family,

The holidays are quickly approaching! At the heart of our Thanksgiving celebration is the idea of giving thanks for the goodness of everything God has given to us. This has truly been an extraordinary year for Sacred Heart. Continued improvements to our physical building and grounds provide us and our visitors with a welcoming atmosphere to worship as a community. Many parishioners continue to give their time and talents to God – both in plain view and behind the scenes, helping to keep our programs and parish vibrant. There is so much work that has been done and yet so much work still to be done. We must continue to invest in our parish and our parish life. This requires a commitment from everyone in the parish. Everyone has a gift to share...no matter how small it is. Don't hide your gifts! Use them for the greater good!

Our commitment to one another has a ripple effect. When Sacred Heart is a strong and vibrant parish we are able to reach out and address the needs of our local community, as so many do by ministering at the Community Dinners in Milford and the Mustard Seed in Worcester. When more and more people make commitments, the stronger we become and we are able to look beyond our own borders and can support our brothers and sisters in our Sister Parish, St. Gerard's in Haiti. During the month of October, you donated \$7,550.80 for relief in Haiti after the damage of Hurricane Matthew. (Read more on page 5)

During the February school vacation, a group from Sacred Heart is going to Haiti to visit St. Gerard's. The purpose of our visit is to support the people in our twin parish, to listen to their stories and to let them know that they are not forgotten. Some of you know I have a Master's Degree in International Development, and so I cringe when I see people visit Haiti to "help these poor people" and taking work away from people in a country with an unemployment rate of over 65%. People in Haiti are industrious, clever, able to make due with very little, creative with no resources; they know how to paint, construct, nurse, doctor, repair their homes and country. They simply do not have the resources to do so.

Our February journey to Haiti will be an opportunity to meet face to face with the people of St. Gerard's parish and their three missions. We will have an opportunity to give thanks for the work that we have done together and listen to their hopes and dreams for their future. Together as a group we will try to understand the economy, religion, healthcare, sights and sounds, dreams of a people very much alive in the love of God and return home as advocates for those who have less.

As I learned in my Master's Program, development of a peoples must focus on sustainability. Parents understand to help children "develop" we provide resources and teach them to build their own lives and achieve independence. Or to quote a Chinese proverb: "You give a poor man a fish and you feed him for a day. You teach him to fish and you give him an occupation that will feed him for a lifetime."

My prayer for Sacred Heart and for St. Gerard's is that we will work together so that both parishes can be vibrant and sustainable.

Fr. Bill



Message Shapers

Sharing the Good News of the Gospel in ways that are relevant to 21st Century Disciples

Christmas is Coming!

Find Your Happy!

Everybody wants to be happy. Pursuing happiness is built into every person, of every age. We often think we'll find it in a new relationship, or that next accomplishment – yet true, lasting happiness somehow eludes us.

Happiness is not an accident — it's a choice. You were meant to live a life free from worry, shame, and resentment. But it won't happen just by chance.

Hope is on the way during this Advent series! Ponder the choices you can make that will keep you free to choose happiness and joy in your life.

God invites us to be happy in Him.



WEEK 1:

Balance Instead of busyness

WEEK 2:

Peace Instead of Chaos

WEEK 3:

Truth Instead of Expectation

WEEK 4:

Love Instead of Indifference

Weekend Experience

Welcoming All To Vibrant Liturgy & Worship

Giving Thanks and Preparing our Hearts....



On the evening of October 1st, our second "Harvest Fest" was hosted at Sacred Heart! Thank you to all who helped make it successful!



The Sacred Heart Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 10am – 2pm in the Fr. Reilley Parish Center. Join us again this year for gourmet food, raffles, vendors, bake sale, kid's activities and pictures with Santa! Through the generous donations of many parishioners and local merchants, last year's fair was a great success! We hope to make this year's fair even more successful!

How can you help?

- Volunteer your time (adults and teens) on Friday Nov. 18 to set up or Saturday November 19 to work at the fair or clean up.
- Make a monetary donation to our cash raffle.
- Donate a gift of service, gift card, gift certificate, gift basket or a new children's craft, toy or game for one of the hourly raffle prizes. Kindly drop off all donations to the Parish House **by Thursday, November 17**. Parish House hours are Monday – Thursday from 9:30-4:30pm.
- Offer to bake some treats to sell at our bake sale. The Café also needs canned soda, bottled water and juice boxes.



Ways to prepare for Christmas this Advent....

1. Participate in the Giving Tree and support those less fortunate
2. Attend the Advent Candlelight Reconciliation Service on Monday, December 12th beginning at 7PM.
3. Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Advent Ever: Rediscover Christmas at DynamicCatholic.com.

Operations

Good Stewards of What We Have Been Given



The tabernacle is now in the center of the sanctuary. (left)

The altar has been re-fabricated from marble contained in the old altar rails and altar. (below)

- The new family room is completed.
- New sound system and A/V system is installed.
- Flooring in the Sanctuary and main church has been completed.
- New fire alarm system completed.
- The next phase will include renovation work to the two rooms at the rear of the church and the possible replacement of the entrance doors.

Renovations update:

- The Day Chapel has been completed and dedicated to Deacon Joe.
- Painting in the Sanctuary and main church has been completed.
- The reconstructed Altar and Ambo have been installed.
- Ramps have installed on either side of the Altar to allow for handicap access to the Sanctuary and Tabernacle.
- All of the wiring that was above the floor in the Sanctuary has been put below in tunnels under the floor.
- The Tabernacle has been moved to the back wall. The candle holder is positioned above the Tabernacle.
- The organ, keyboard and all musical instruments have been repositioned to the left side of the Sanctuary.
- The Baptismal Font has been moved to the right rear in the Sanctuary.



AS OF NOVEMBER 7, 2016...

Cards Received:	152
New ministers:	64
Total pledged:	\$188,921.00
Projected expenses 2017:	\$367,426.18

Mission & Outreach

Looking outward to the needs of others and serving with compassion

Haiti Ministry News

Hurricane Relief: Thank you all for your donations to Haiti through Catholic Relief Services. Your generosity allowed us to send \$7550.80 to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. This money will be used to help various parishes, including Saint Gerard. Fr. Tilus, pastor of Saint Gerard our twin parish, tells us that 363 homes in the parish were completely destroyed, 424 were damaged, and the roofs of the main church and the three chapels were blown off.

February 2017 Trip: Our parish visit to Haiti will occur February 17-25, 2017. We will be staying at Saint Paul House (Kay Sin Pol in Kreyol). If you are interested in joining us let Fr. Bill know before November 21; the cost is \$1,800.00 per person. You must have a passport. Fr. Bill will have orientation meetings for all those going.

Haiti Ministry donations: Because of your continued support with pledges, Sacred Heart Parish has been able to continue to send ~\$800.00/month to Saint Gerard. This money is used to pay for teacher salaries and to provide meals for students. In November 2015, along with a shipment of pews, many musical instruments were donated. These instruments have given our twin an opportunity to start a school of music.



Fr. Tilus' email: "I am very glad to contact you and to inform that, since the first week of July, we start an intensive course of music with 50 young people, 4 teachers, one for tambor, one for piano, one for guitar, one for wind instruments. We are enhancing the value of the materials that you have shipped for the parish. I share some photos with you."



Up Front & Personal

Sacred Heart "Element" in Memory of Chico Claro

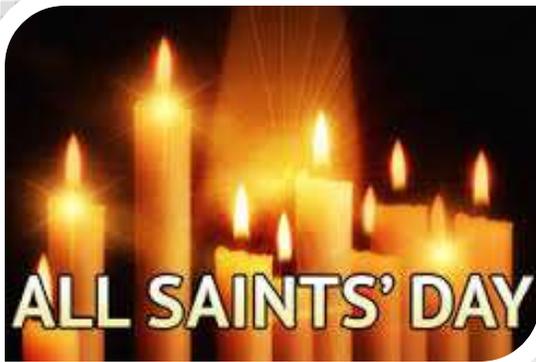
On October 25th, a new addition to the Sanctuary called the "Sacred Heart Element" was installed. This artistic piece is suspended on the Sanctuary wall of the church 35 feet above the Tabernacle. The work was a one-year creation of Hot Glass Works of Jamaica, Vermont. There, artistic husband and wife glass blowing team of Hank and Toby, have been plying their craft for over forty years. Through the generosity of parishioner Tony Claro and family, the "Element" is commissioned in memory of Tony's brother, the late Francisco "Chico" Claro, a beloved Sacred Heart Parishioner.

What does the Sacred Heart Element represent? The art work is a 4-foot diameter piece that tilts down to face the altar and congregation. The outer circle is composed of small glass heart coins set around the perimeter representing the gathering of the congregation. A recessed field of cobalt blue roundel glass plates are set in lead and are etched and variegated as lighter blue. The center is a convex assembly of a flowering heart leaf pedals of pink and red glass. There is a curved Christian cross-part of our SHC Hopedale logo- as an overlay.



Architect Joseph McPhee has applauded the Sacred Heart Church Community for its openness to Church rebuilding and renovation. Our leadership and parishioners have embraced the challenge that renovation and rebuilding bring. Mr. McPhee reminds us that, "Church is sacred space. For this reason parishioners can grow accustomed to the stable and iconic symbols that comfort and ground us in an ever changing world. Yet to be a Roman Catholic Parish in the 21st century requires both fidelity to our faith heritage and openness to what can and sometimes must change." To get a good look at and ponder the meaning of the Sacred Heart Element, please spend some time in the Sacred Heart Sanctuary.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS



Parishioners We Said
Good-Bye to this
year....

Dr. Rubin Aspiras

Mary Bianchi

Mary Brennan

George Bushnell

Robert Callery

Victoria Crossland

Jean Curran

Art Dattner

Barbara Doherty

Rose Fafard

Lillian Forniciari

Florence Garafano

Larry Hughes

Patricia Lang

Gertrude LeClaire

Colleen Lum

Rita Martin

Geri May

Meghan McGrath

Arnold Neally

Patricia Oneschuk

Eleanor Ronan

Mary Sanfillipo

Regina Stare

Margaret Tolenti

James Woolhiser

During the month of November, we remember those we loved who have died. Our hearts ache, our tears flow at an end of a valued relationship. We grieve because of their physical absence, but we also rejoice to have known that love.

We remember and honor our loved ones, especially those who have died during the past year. We also pray for ourselves ~ the ones left behind...for our grief, for our courage, for our memories, for our love, for our strength, for our faith and for our hope.

May they rest in peace...





PRSR T STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 HOPE DALE, MA
 PERMIT NO. 12

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – Vigil 4:00 PM
 Sunday – 8:30 & 10:30AM
 Daily – *9:00 AM Mon – Thu
 Holy Days – 7:30 PM Vigil
 eve prior; 9:00 AM

*Daily Mass is cancelled when there is a funeral AND when school is closed due to inclement weather.

Communion Service –
 Fridays
 9:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered on Saturdays at 3:00 PM or by appointment.

Parish Office
 508-473-1900



Christmas Eve - 4 & 7PM

Christmas Day – 10AM



Bring food for your table to be blessed...

Bring food for the FOOD PANTRY to be shared...

