

Welcome to The Church of the Sacred Heart

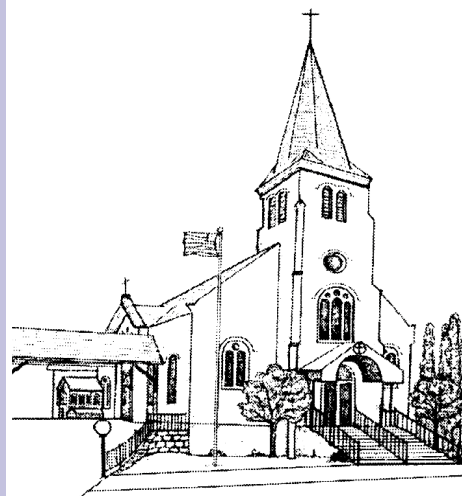
The Mother Church of East Central Minnesota

Parish Office / Mailing Address:
415 West 5th Street

PO Box 45 Rush City, MN 55069

Phone: 320.358.4370 Fax: 866.779.1580 Wey Hall: 320.358.3145

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Weekend & Weekday Masses

Saturday-Temporarily Suspended
Sunday 9:00 am
Wednesday 9:00 am

Private Prayers:

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays-
8:30-Noon

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Wednesday after 9:00 am Mass
until Noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions will be heard by request
after mass on Wednesdays or
by appointment.

Clergy

Pastor:

Fr. Shane Stoppel-Wasinger

Assisting Priest:

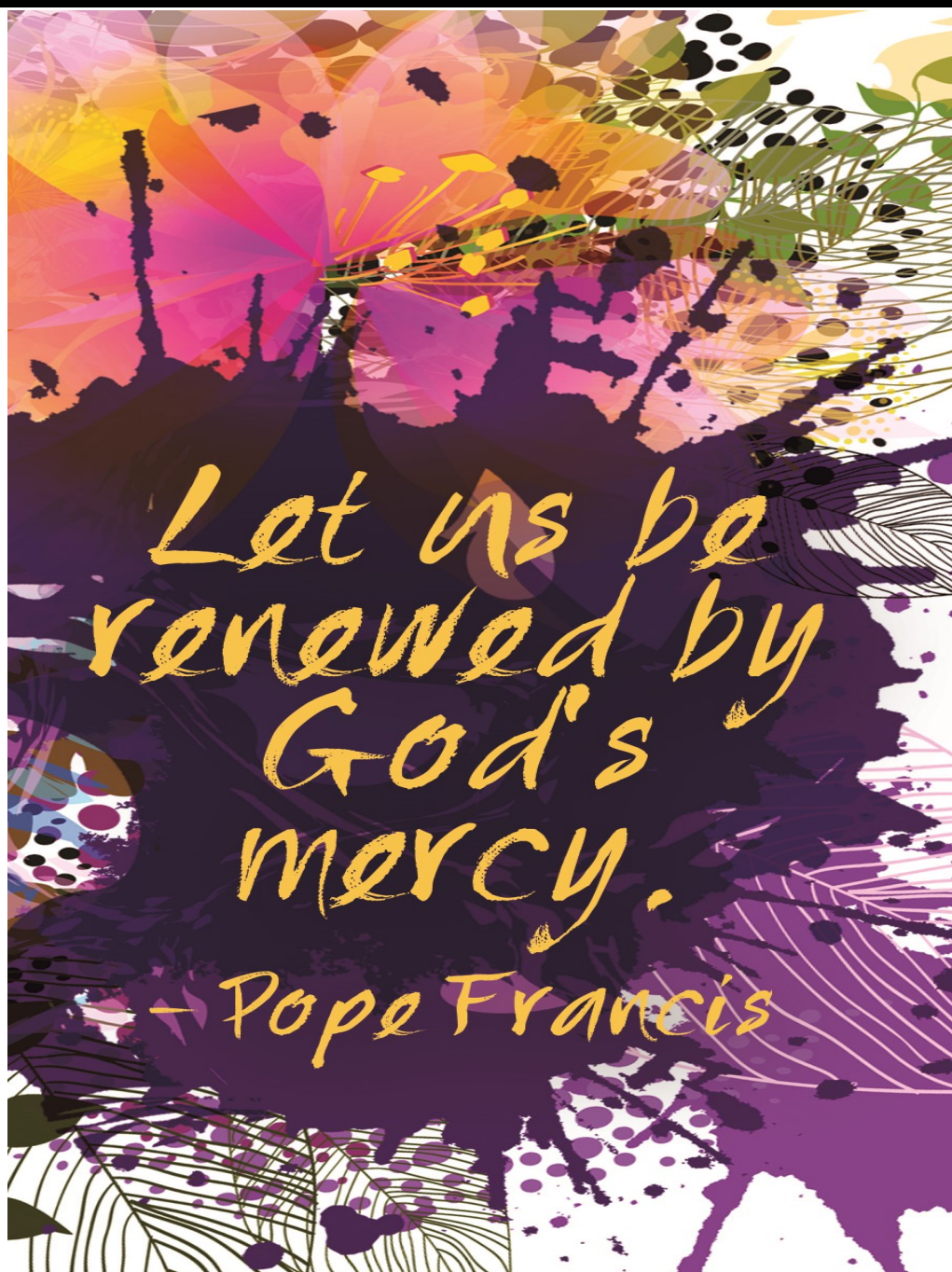
Fr. Chuck Brambilla
Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8:00 am. - 12:00 pm.

Parish Staff Contacts

Admin Asst: Marsha Marcussen
Bookkeeper/ Music: Steve Yurick
Faith Formation: Claire Kind
Minister Scheduling: Amy Prickett
612-716-9147



Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time August 16, 2020

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!

Several months ago, when a friend was visiting me at the Saint Gregory the Great rectory, he asked me how could I tolerate living here. After all, there are visible leaks in the dining room, some of the rooms have very uneven floors, the bathroom has paint peeling and tiles have been falling off. The kitchen doesn't have a fan above the stove so that when you fry something, such as bacon, the smoke stays in the house unless I close the doors to the room and open the windows. This solution isn't so terrible in the summer, but in the dead of winter, well.... These are real facts about the rectory; I have accepted and learned to live with them.

I have no complaints about the living conditions at the rectory. As a matter of fact, I feel blessed and grateful for having a roof over my head. It may not be ideal, nevertheless, I am comfortable. This feeling of contentment and gratefulness about my home has taken on even more significance during the Coronavirus Pandemic along with our worldly events such as what has been going on economically and most recently the August 4th explosion.

I feel so blessed many times over nowadays, more so than ever before. Besides being concerned about my health, avoiding crowds, contracting the Coronavirus or limiting shopping outings among other things, my personal life hasn't changed all that much. My life as a priest and pastor has less activity at both parishes now as well as fewer parishioners who are attending Mass; the latter condition being the most difficult change to endure.

During these past five months, I have felt some guilt for not being as grateful as I could be for the many blessings God has given to me. I believe those of us who have been given so many blessings, can take them for granted

at times, and or not share our gifts we have received from God. It is far too easy to sit inside, remaining in our little corner of the world and choose not do something about the hunger people are experiencing near and far, or even to turn a blind eye to other parts of the world, such as in Lebanon.

Having served as a pseudo pastor in a Maronite Catholic Church, which was Saint Rafka in Denver, Colorado, I have a close connection to the Lebanese people. Most of my congregation were either born in Lebanon or were first generation Americans. Even though I have never physically been to Lebanon, I feel like I have. For this reason, it saddens me that the people of Lebanon are suffering immensely, even before the Beirut explosion several days ago which killed over a hundred and injured thousands. Prior to the explosion their economy was nearly in ruins with 50% of the population in poverty and food prices rising so high many can't provide food for their tables. Now, as if things couldn't get any worse, they have.

Approximately 27% of Lebanese are Catholic. There is an organization called Caritas Lebanon USA (a Catholic relief service that assists the poorest as well as those in great need, such as the 300,000 made homeless by the explosion). They are in need of donations. In light of this, at both parishes next weekend, we will take up a second collection for Caritas Lebanon. Please be generous. The need has never been greater in Lebanon.

I invite you to count your blessings and share some of them with those most in need.

In gratitude for all of my blessings, Father Shane

LIVE THE LITURGY -

Inspiration for the week

As much as some folks may not want to admit it, we all want to be healed. Human beings suffer physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. There are many wounds. Of all of the maladies that can afflict us, the ones that require the greatest attention are of a spiritual nature. What can happen if we are healed inwardly, brought back to center, and restored in our relationships, especially in our relationship with God? We will find the courage, strength, conviction, and hope needed to deal with the more tangible struggles that may not find an easy remedy. Inner strength, gained by persistent faith, is what allows strong, determined, and courageous people to overcome incredible challenges and hurdles. Be persistent in your faith, and seek the inner spiritual healing that you so desperately desire and need.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

We will have a second collection at the Masses on August 22 and 23 for Caritas Lebanon. Please see Father Shane's article above for more information. Thank you!



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encouraging Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We are hardwired for wholeness and crave it. When something is broken, we want it fixed. If a part of our body is not working properly, we want it



healed. How often do we find ourselves saying, "I'm tired of struggling with this cold, I can't wait for my surgery to heal, or I want my treatments to make me better?" Wholeness and healing restore our relationships and make us free to love as we desire. We know very well how our limitations, imperfections, and brokenness really limit us. They can easily prevent us from being and doing what we want to do.

Our physical and emotional wounds and maladies are easier to identify. If my back hurts, I feel it and know what part of my body needs attention. If I am feeling intense anger, I can identify the emotion and take necessary steps to uncover its cause. Being persistent often brings greater and quicker results. But will pursuing and even achieving our physical and emotional healings really be enough? We forget that there is a deeper healing that we seek and desperately need. As we look around at humanity, there are some physical and emotional wounds and scars that cannot be made whole. They are limitations that must remain and, for one reason or another, cannot be rectified. Does this mean that the wholeness and healing that my being longs for is not possible for me? Must I settle with less than what God promises?

The answer is no. Ultimately, there is a desire that goes deeper than the physical and emotional. It is a desire that resides in our soul. What we really seek and thirst for is healing and wholeness for our soul. Inner strength, conviction, focus, grounding, love, hope, faith, courage, determination, peace, and connectedness are all words that center us on eternity. They direct us to a presence we discover in our core, which is none other than the presence of God. In God, we are healed. When we are persistent in reaching out to and establishing our relationship with God, real healing and wholeness begin to happen.

There are some limitations and some of our brokenness with which we may simply have to live. This does not mean that we have to abandon our journey to wholeness and healing. If we have done our inner soul work, we have worked toward and acquired what and who we ultimately need and desire.

And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me."

-Mt. 15:22, 24-25

Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you or someone you know is in need of a prayer shawl please contact the office or feel free to take one from the rack in church. 320.358.4370



Claire Kind will be taking over the Faith Formation program for 1st through 8th grade. She also is the coordinator at St. Gregory the Great. We are still in need for a point person for Wednesday nights. Please call the office for more details.

Joan Hetherington will be the Confirmation Coordinator for the 9th and 10th grade, in addition to her responsibilities she also coordinates confirmation at St. Gregory the Great. More details about Faith Formation will be forthcoming.



We have an opportunity for someone to be the Funeral Luncheon Coordinator. Please contact the office for further details. Thank you.



Father God, Your Word says the prayer of faith shall heal the sick. We come to You today in Faith asking that you heal us from every sickness, disease, and illness. We receive our healing by faith. In Jesus name AMEN.

Continued prayers for:

Sue Roth, Janet Yurick, Gerald Mollberg,
Margarette Brooker, Jim Thorn,
Judy Strandmark, Jim Kirchberg, Shirley Kirchberg
Traci Bartz

August 22 & 23 Celebrants

Fr. Fitzgerald	St. Gregory	5:00 p.m.
Fr. Fitzgerald	Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m.

August 29 & 30 Celebrants

Fr. Shane	St. Gregory	5:00 p.m.
Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m.

BOOYA SAVE THE DATE!!

Sunday, September 27, 2020!

Raffle and mainly "Take Out Booya"

Limited seating in the parish hall.

More details coming soon!

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

Get more value for your donations by giving cash! Please note "Food Shelf" on your envelope. If you do donate food, please no produce that can spoil. Thank you.

Mission Statement

Sacred Heart parish is a community of Catholic Christian believers, established by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. We strive to grow in holiness through prayer, celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments, and reflection on the scriptures. We work hard to build the kingdom of God through evangelization, catechesis and service for all.