

The Heartbeat

November/December 2018

From the desk of Father Larry Tharp

Sacred Heart Church

400 Nilles Road Fairfield, Ohio 45014 (513) 858-4210 Phone (513) 858-4211 Fax

Church website www.sacredheartfairfield.org

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The Efficacy of Prophesy

In Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:27 we are told to love our enemies. The Greek word used is "agapate" $(\alpha \gamma \alpha \pi \alpha \tau \epsilon)$ or unconditional love. Love them as God would love his creation. But loving one who does evil deeds affecting us or others does not mean we forfeit the right to selfdefense or defense of the innocent. It does not mean that we acquiesce to evil and its perpetrators with the Pollyanna (overly optimistic and naive) attitude betrayed by statements like, "Oh evil is OK. It will eventually burn itself out. There is nothing the people of God can do. Just ignore it and hope it does not come after you or the ones you love." This attitude is often portrayed as reflecting a "practical pacifist" mentality. It is an excuse for inaction. It denies the traditional Christian form of pacifism that is decidedly active; and does not play the victim.

However, equally odious to the truly Christian person is the violent and absolute approach that says, "I hate evil and, no holds barred, I will

seek it out and annihilate it; and anyone even remotely associated with it." This perspective fits well with the ineffective mindset of the 12th century "Inquisition," Such an approach contradicts the words of Jesus, "Turn the other cheek" (Mt 5:39) or the ownership of vengeance so eloquently stated in Deuteronomy Chapter 32. No, vengeance is like a breeder reactor, it produces more evil than the evil that started it. A violent or vengeful attitude can never (absent God's grace and intervention) transform itself into that which is righteous in the eyes of God.

Yet another corollary problem is the definition and identification of evil. In our contemporary world, politically correct open mindedness requires us to believe that every human opinion has merit. People frequently retort, "Who are you to define what is right or wrong; good or evil?" I offer this startling revelation, "Truth is not an opinion!" God's opinion is the only truth! Absent this axiom, there can be no rational morality or code of conduct. All casuistic law is dependent on some apodictic premise.

So if the extreme approaches bring no resolution, how do we love our enemy who practices evil and still exercise selfdefense in hope of holding the evil at bay or disabling it? The answer from my perspective is not to be a victim or a vigilante, but prophetic. Every believer in God and Judeo Christian principles of morality is commissioned by baptism to point out the error and heresy of what I refer to as "contemporary amoral pacifism against evil;" in other words, to be a prophet. If you do not take a public and prophetic stand against evil in all its forms, you are by definition "complicit" in the sin. You must stand up and be counted as one who is empowered by God's truth. Remember, God is watching and doing the counting; and His Church is counting on you.

Whether you are standing around the water cooler at the office, having a drink at the bar, talking to people at a picnic, or making a public presentation before a crowd with diverse opinions; rely on God's truth, take a stand, and be a prophet. It may not be the best way to "fit in," but it will make you ready and fit for the Kingdom of God.

"He Emptied Himself" By Bryan Miller, DRE



The liturgical season of Christmas is a joyous occasion during which we reflect upon the first coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Perhaps we are familiar with the Christmas stories found in Matthew and Luke – the magi, the shepherds, the angels, and the lack of room in the inn. But there are also other profound passages of Scripture that speak of Christ's coming not in narrative form but in a more directly instructional genre.

In St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians we find such a presentation of Christ's first coming. In the opening section of chapter two, Paul is trying to convince the Philippian believers that humility and unity are worth striving for. They should be "of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing," as well as "humbly regarding one another" (2:2). Paul suggests that the Philippians use Christ's humble coming as a pattern. They are to "have...the same attitude" that Christ himself had (2:5).

This humble "attitude" can easily be seen in Matthew's and Luke's narratives of Jesus's birth. What does Paul add to our understanding of the humble attitude? He begins his discourse with this statement, "...Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to grasped" (2:6). This is useful for Paul's argument that the Philippians ought to take Jesus as an example of humility. Certainly none of the believers could ever assert the claim that they were "in the form of God"; Jesus, however, could.

Jesus had a natural right, so to speak, to claim "equality with God" because he is God! So if anyone had reason for assuming a proud attitude, by human standards, it was Jesus Christ. But he did not "grasp" at that equality. Often, because Jesus tried to keep a low profile, his authority was questioned by those who *did* "grasp at" authority – the scribes and Pharisees. "Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Or who is the one who gave you this authority?" (Luke 20:2).

Instead of asserting his rightful authority *in the same way* that his interlocutors were accustomed to doing, "rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" (Phil. 2:7). Jesus let his compassion and power speak for themselves (most of the time – think of Matthew 23!). St. Paul continues: "coming in human likeness and found human in appearance, he humbled himself" (2:7-8). During the Christmas season we celebrate Jesus coming "in human likeness" and in human "appearance." Of course, the Church teaches that Jesus did not just come in human *likeness* and in human *appearance*; Jesus was human. "When the fullness of time has come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4).

This Christmas, may we gaze at Christ in his humanity and in his humility, for he serves as our pattern.



Office of Faith Formation

Bryan Miller, DRE Marianne Fleckenstein, Secretary

November 2018

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH BEGINS NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK – Sacred Heart School will participate by receiving the Elijah Cup for grades 5-8 at the Mass on Nov. 6. On Nov. 13 grades K-4 will receive the cup and share in classrooms for the week.

SUNDAY MISSALS AND BLUE DEVOTIONAL BOOKS FOR NEW LITURGICAL YEAR WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE \$3 ON WEEKENDS OF NOVEMBER 17/18 & 24/25.
While supplies last.

<u>A BEAUTIFUL</u>, <u>MEANINGFUL</u> & <u>FAITH FILLED TRADITION AT SACRED HEART</u> – We need families to step forward and offer to receive the Elijah Cup into their homes for ONE WEEK. Offer to host for a week that something special is happening in your family. Offer to host it just because you can. Offer to host it because you know prayers for vocations are desperately needed.

This is about the future of our Church. This is about the future of our children and their children. Prayer is all God asks of us. ASK & YOU SHALL RECEIVE.

Please consider hosting the Elijah Cup as a sign of your commitment to your Catholic faith.

CALL MARIANNE AT 858-4213 OR EMAIL HER AT:

mfleck@sacredheart-fairfield.org



ADULT FAITH FORMATION:

	VIRTU	S
	Excellence	е
	Builds	
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PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN FOR ADULTS, Sunday, November 18, 2018:

The VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children for adult's session is mandatory for anyone wishing to volunteer with children's programs in any parish/school in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Sessions at Sacred Heart are held one Sunday *EVERY OTHER MONTH*, 6-10 PM in Fellowship Hall. Registration is limited to 40

people. Registration information can be found at www.virtusonline.org. Follow directions to register. Upon registering online you will be required to do an online background check. This process costs \$25. Sacred Heart will pay for the background check for parish volunteers. Please contact Marianne Fleckenstein BE-FORE you register online to setup meeting with her to fill out volunteer info form and receive a Fastrax To-ken code that pays for the online background check.

If you have any questions, please call Marianne Fleckenstein, the Local Safe Environment Coordinator for Sacred Heart at 858-4213. Her email is mfleck@sacredheart-fairfield.org

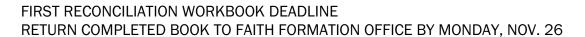
Faith Formation Continued

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

REP & HOME SCHOOL FAMILIES THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE MONDAY, NOV. 19, 7:00 P.M. IN CHURCH Please bring non-perishable food items for Fairfield Pantry.

SACRAMENT INFORMATION:

FIRST RECONCILIATION WORKSHOP for PARENT & CHILD SATURDAY, NOV. 10, 1:00-2:30 P.M. We will start in the church. Please bring workbooks for review.



CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK DEADLINE – MONDAY, NOV. 12^{TH} Candidate registration and proof of Baptism. Please call Faith Formation Office if you expect a delay in providing this information.

December 2018

NO VIRTUS CLASS IN DECEMBER

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

NO REP CLASSES ON DECEMBER 24 & 31 - MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

SACRAMENT INFORMATION:

CELEBRATION OF FIRST RECONCILIATION MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 7:00 P.M. Parent to stay with child. Confessions for the children ONLY due to allotted time.

CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK DEADLINE – Thursday, DECEMBER 13TH
Sponsor Information form & Sponsor Certificate signed & stamped by their parish priest. If parishioner at Sacred Heart, we will get signature for you.



Women Together

Submitted by Marty Bruner

Women Together is a parish ministry for widowed, divorced and single women of Sacred Heart and St. Ann churches. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, from September through May, in the Sacred Heart undercroft, Room 4 starting at 3:30 p.m. for a social gathering and then followed by the 4:00 p.m. meeting.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 20th.

We support our parish by volunteering for church activities and we offer opportunities to get involved in our community. We plan social activities and outings such as dining and plays.

We welcome anyone interested to meet our members, who not only participate in Women Together activities, but also volunteer in our community. For instance, The Fairfield Community Arts Center, Lane Library, Hamilton Welcome Center, Altrusa Hamilton Club, Fairfield Women Club, YWCA Women's Shelter and Mercy Hospital Auxiliary are some of our outlets.

We are represented as Arimatheans, Marthas, Eucharistic Minister at Mercy Fairfield, the adult choir, funeral liturgy coordinators, Mission Commission, wedding coordinators, Baptism Class Greeter, Parish Council and the Parish Picnic.

Some of our members knit and crochet items for the Mercy Hospital Prenatal Unit, they help with the foot care for the homeless and continue to donate personal hygiene products monthly to the occupants of the Women's Shelter in Hamilton.

Upcoming events:

- The annual Memorial Mass will be held on Sunday, November 4th starting at 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be available.
- Women Together is planning to have a Christmas Luncheon for its members this year. Date and location have not been finalized.

For more information about Women Together, please contact Marilyn Schlabach at 829-3697.

Health Ministry



Save the Date!

Our next blood drive will be on Thursday, January 24th!

Connecting Corner

Submitted by Peace and Justice

"If you want peace, work for justice." —Pope Paul VI

You are cordially invited to the 11:00 AM P&J meetings on the first Sundays of the month in RH1. Check each week in the bulletin's Connecting Corners for details on our social action topics and inspiring, knowledgeable speakers. Watch the educational videos, produced by excellent Catholic sources, on the P&J page of the SHJC website.

Dorothys' Cupboard is our connection with our hungry neighbors.

November: Thanksgiving foods: cranberry, pumpkin, canned potatoes, applesauce, and deodorant

December: Canned Fruits and Vegetables and laundry detergent

Our Partner Pantries are Fairfield Food Pantry, Open Door Pantry and Serve City. **THANK YOU** (see picture of school food collection September at Opening Mass)

Thank you, Bill and Becky Hull, for graciously agreeing to take on the medicine bottle challenge for Sacred Heart. We are so appreciative...Bekki has developed a "system" she says, that is working quite nicely. Please continue to donate the *no label* bottles with caps in the HeartCart. To understand this PBM (Pill Bottle Ministry), please access this web address: https://m25m.org/pillbottles/ If you want to help, let us know at 829-1074.

Upcoming Events that connect you to God's Poor

- Our Thanksgiving Clothing and Small Household Items collection weekend is on Nov. 17 and 18. We collect gently
 used clothes, small household items, and clean reusable towels and bedding. Your donations immediately go to the
 congregation of Mother of Christ Church in Winton Terrace, the residents of Serve City, and clients of Rethreads who
 provide Fairfield families in need with used clothing. We collect the items in the Sacred Heart back parking lot, before
 and after Masses. Want to help...call 829-1074.
- Campaign for Human Development Collection will be in November check this website for more specific information http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/catholic-social-action/cchd/
- Open Door Pantry yearly benefit concert https://www.hamilton-city.org/DocumentCenter/View/4409/Open-Door-Pantry-Benefit-Concert-2018

Pictures from the last few months:







Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to All from Peace and Justice Commission

Knights of Columbus

The Fr. John Roettele Council will again be sponsoring two fundraisers for the holiday season.

Knights of Columbus Christmas Card Sale



We will be offering Christmas cards for purchase in the Narthex after the weekend masses on November 3-4th and November 10-11th. A great selection of spiritual cards are available.

Contact Barry DeRoo with questions. 513-805-3395

Knights of Columbus Fruit Basket Sale to Support Troops

Again this year the Knights of Columbus Father Roettele Council will be taking orders for holiday fruit baskets. We will be in the Narthex to take orders on November 3-4th, and 10-11th for Thanksgiving. Pickup will be on November 17th & 18th in the conference room opposite Faith Formation Office after Masses. Fruit baskets for Christmas can be ordered at the same

time and also on December 8-9th and 15-16th. Pickup for Christmas fruit baskets is on December 22nd & 23rd after Masses in the conference room.

This is the 12th year of sales. Proceeds are used in support of our troops. The generosity of Sacred Heart parishioners is greatly appreciated.

Contact Larry Timko with questions. 513-829-5100



Parish Ministries

Submitted by Greg Chura

Making the Mass Meaningful

I frequently read good advice to help deepen my understanding of our Faith. One subject that I read about often is people struggling to find meaning in the Mass. Today's society attempts to gain our attention on so many different priorities, none of which keep us focused on God. Often, that transfers to our participation in the Mass.

If you struggle with staying focused on what is happening before, during and after Mass, consider the following points (with all credit to Tom Hoopes, a writer in residence at Benedictine College in Kansas):

- 1. Upon entering the church, start by saying a simple prayer. Pope St. John Paul II offered the following: "'Mary is present, with the Church and as Mother of the Church at each of our celebrations of the Eucharist.' Through her intercession and at her side, help me enter this Mass more deeply."
- 2. Offer your sacrifice for someone. No need to tell them; offer your struggles to help them.
- 3. If (when) your mind wanders during Mass, look at the Crucifix or Tabernacle as you pray so as to meditate on the meaning of what we are saying.
- 4. Sincerely ask God to allow us to see and confront our sins that hold us back from experiencing the Mass more deeply.
- 5. We are human. We are distracted by the actions of others around us and judge them. What is happening in the Mass then? Try focusing on those objects used at Mass that are meant to be symbols of Christ: the altar, the candles, the vestments, the sacred vessels. They are designed to elevate the mind.
- 6. Are we listening to the readings? How does the Old Testament reading tell us about Jesus? Do we 'own' the Psalm, receiving its message personally instead of just responding? How does Jesus react to the world in the Gospel reading?
- 7. Do we offer ourselves up with the offertory gifts? A simple prayer we can quietly say is, "Jesus, I place myself before you with these gifts to be taken up and transformed by your grace."
- 8. Be present at the original sacrifice of Jesus when the priest elevates the host. Remember, time is endless with God.
- 9. Pray silently during the elevation. Simple examples are, with the Body, "My Lord and my God," and, with the Precious Blood, "Lord Jesus, Mercy!"
- 10. Before and after communion, pray! While in line, pray for our Lord to be with you as you receive Him. After receiving Him, thank Him for being with you and His sacrifice.
- 11. As you leave Mass, remember what you heard and received that you might share it with others.

Remember, as Catholics, we are called to take Christ into the world.



Helping Hands

Our Helping Hands group was able to assemble 60 personal care packages for Helping Hamilton Ministries to distribute to those in need in Hamilton thanks to the donations of our Sacred Heart families at our Back to School Night!



Thanksgiving Clothing Drive

Start cleaning out the closets! The Annual Thanksgiving Clothing and Small Household Items Collection will be after the weekend Mass on November 17th and 18th in the back parking lot of Sacred Heart. Gently used clothes, small household items and clean, reusable towels and bedding will be accepted.



November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 All Saints Day 7:30am Mass 8:15 All School Mass 9:30am Small Faith Group (RH1) 7pm Mass	2 7am Mass 12pm Eucharistic Adoration	3 8am Mass 8:30am Rosary 8:30am Confession 4pm Mass
4 8am, 10am, 12pm Mass 11am Peace & Justice (CR) 1:30pm Memorial Mass 2:30pm Reception (UC)	5 7:30am Mass 7pm REP (SCHOOL) 7pm Bible Study (HOSP)	6 7:30am Mass 8:15am 5-8 Mass 6:30pm Confession 7pm CRHP Women (HOSP) 7pm Parish Council (CR)	7 7:30am Mass 7pm RCIA/RCIC	8 7:30am Mass 9:30am Small Faith Group (RH1) 6pm K of C Degree Ceremonial (RH2&3, 4) 6:15pm Children's Choir (CH) 7pm Choir (CH) 7pm Adult Faith Formation (FH)	9 7am Mass 12pm Eucharistic Adoration	10 8am Mass 8:30am Rosary 8:30am Confession 1pm 1st Reconciliation Workshop (CH) 4pm Mass
11 8am, 10am, 12pm Mass 11am Parish Cof- fee (RH2&3) 1:30pm Baptisms	7pm REP (SCHOOL) 7pm Bible Study (HOSP) 7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul (RH4) 8pm Pre Baptism Class (RH2&3)	13 7:30am Mass 8:15am K-4 Mass 4pm Fairfield Food Pantry (RH4) 6:30pm Confession 7pm PTS Meeting (FH) 7:30pm K of C (RH2&3)	14 7:30am Mass 7pm RCIA/RCIC 7pm Yarn Work- ers (RH4)	15 7:30am Mass 9:30am Small Faith Group (RH1) 6:15pm Chil- dren's Choir (CH) 7pm Choir (CH) 7pm KofC Women (RH2&3) 7pm Adult Faith Formation (FH)	16 7am Mass 12pm Eucharistic Adoration	17 8am Mass 8:30am Rosary 8:30am Confession 4pm Mass Thanksgiving Clothing Drive (Lot)
18 8am, 10am, 12pm Mass Thanksgiving Clothing Drive (Lot) VIRTUS 6pm (FH)	19 7:30am Mass 7pm REP (SCHOOL) 7pm Bible Study (HOSP)	20 7:30am Mass 8:15am All School Mass 4pm Women To- gether (RH4) 6:30pm Confes- sion	21 Parish Office Closed 7:30am Mass 7pm Mass	22 Thanksgiving Parish Office Closed 7:30am Mass	23 Parish Office Closed 7am Mass 12pm Eucharistic Adoration	24 8am Mass 8:30am Rosary 8:30am Confession 4pm Mass
25 8am, 10am, 12pm Mass 1:30pm Bap- tisms	26 7:30am Mass 7pm REP (SCHOOL) 7pm Bible Study (HOSP) 7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul (RH4)	27 7:30am Mass 8:15am 5-8 Mass 6:30pm Confession 7:30pm K of C (RH2&3)	28 7:30am Mass 7pm RCIA/RCIC 7pm Yarn Work- ers (RH4)	29 7:30am Mass 9:30am Small Faith Group (RH1) 6:15pm Chil- dren's Choir (CH) 7pm Choir (CH)	30 7am Mass 12pm Eucharistic Adoration	

UC- Undercroft CR- Conference Room FH - Fellowship Hall UR- Stage/Upper Room CAF- Cafeteria SCHOOL- Entire school CH- Church

HOSP- Hospitality Room in the Undercroft

RH 1, 2, 3, 4– Rooms in Undercroft

NOTES:

December 2018

DCCCIIDCI 20							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 8am Mass 8:30am Rosary 8:30am Confession 4pm Mass	
2 8am, 10am, 12pm Mass 11am Peace & Justice (RH1)	3 7:30am Mass 7pm REP (SCHOOL) 7pm Bible Study (HOSP)	4 7:30am Mass 8:15am K-4 Mass 6:30pm Confession 7pm CRHP Women (HOSP) 7pm Parish Council (CR)	5 7:30am Mass 7pm RCIA/RCIC	6 7:30am Mass 9:30am Small Faith Group (RH1) 6:15pm Children's Choir (CH) 7pm Choir (CH)	7 7am Mass 12pm Eucha- ristic Adoration (CH) 7pm Mass	8 Immaculate Conception 8am Mass 4pm Mass	
9 8am, 10am, 12pm Mass 11am Parish Coffee (RH2&3) 1:30pm Bap- tisms	10 7:30am Mass 7pm REP (SCHOOL) 7pm Bible Study (HOSP) 7:15pm 1st Reconciliation (CH) 7:30pm St. Vincent de Paul (RH4)	11 7:30am Mass 8:15am 5-8 Mass 4pm Fairfield Food Pantry (RH4) 6:30pm Confession 7:30pm K of C (RH2&3)	12 7:30am Mass 7pm Penance Service (CH) 7pm Yarn Work- ers (RH4)	13 7:30am Mass 9:30am Small Faith Group (RH1) 6:15pm Children's Choir (CH) 7pm Choir (CH)	14 7am Mass 12pm Eucharistic Adoration (CH)	15 8am Mass 8:30am Rosary 8:30am Confession 4pm Mass	
16 8am, 10am, 12pm Mass	17 7:30am Mass 7pm REP (SCHOOL)	18 7:30am Mass 8:15am All School Mass 6:30pm Confession	19 7:30am Mass 7pm RCIA/RCIC	20 7:30am Mass 9:30am Small Faith Group (RH1) 6:15pm Children's Choir (CH) 7pm Choir (CH) 7pm K of C Women (RH2&3)	21 7am Mass 12pm Eucha- ristic Adoration (CH)	22 8am Mass 8:30am Rosary 8:30am Confes- sion 4pm Mass	
23 8am, 10am, 12pm Mass 1:30pm Bap- tisms	24 Christmas Eve Parish Office Closed See Bulletin for Schedule	25 Christmas Parish Office Closed See Bulletin for Schedule	26 7:30am Mass 7pm Yarn Work- ers (RH4)	27 7:30am Mass 9:30am Small Faith Group (RH1) 6:15pm Children's Choir (CH) 7pm Choir (CH) 7pm K of C 4th Degree (RH4)	28 7am Mass 12pm Eucha- ristic Adoration (CH)	29 8am Mass 8:30am Rosary 8:30am Confes- sion 4pm Mass	
30 8am, 10am, 12pm Mass	31 Parish Office Closed See Bulletin for Schedule	UC- Undercroft CR- Conference Room FH - Fellowship Hall UR- Stage/Upper Room CAF- Cafeteria SCHOOL- Entire school CH- Church HOSP- Hospitality Room in RH 1, 2, 3, 4- Rooms in Un					

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Sacred Heart of Jesus Church 400 Nilles Rd. Fairfield, OH 45014 (513) 858-4210 Phone (513) 858-4211 Fax

November & December Happenings



11/1 All Saints Day

11/4 Memorial Mass 1:30 p.m.

11/10 First Reconciliation Workshop 1:00 p.m.

11/17-11/18 Thanksgiving Clothing Drive

11/18 VIRTUS 6:00 p.m.

11/21 Mass of Thanksgiving 7:00 p.m.

12/8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12/10 First Reconciliation 7:15 p.m.

12/12 Advent Penance Service 7:00pm

See the bulletin for Christmas and New Year's Schedules