



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter

November 10, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Parishioners of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish in Hilltown.

We are blessed to be part of the parish dedicated to Our Lady of Sacred Heart which encourages us to learn more and more about the Heart of Jesus and Mary and their desires. Pope Francis very recently wrote a letter about a Divine love of the Heart of Jesus which excerpts I would like to share with you in our newsletter.

ENCYCLICAL LETTER *DILEXIT NOS* OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE HUMAN AND DIVINE LOVE OF THE HEART OF JESUS CHRIST

1. HE LOVED US”, Saint Paul says of Christ (cf. *Rom* 8:37), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever “separate us” from that love (*Rom* 8:39). Paul could say this with certainty because Jesus himself had told his disciples, “I have loved you” (*Jn* 15:9, 12). Even now, the Lord says to us, “I have called you friends” (*Jn* 15:15). His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us his love and friendship. For “he loved us first” (cf. *1 Jn* 4:10). Because of Jesus, “we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us” (*1 Jn* 4:16).

CHAPTER ONE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HEART

2. The symbol of the heart has often been used to express the love of Jesus Christ. Some have questioned whether this symbol is still meaningful today. Yet living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and ending up as insatiable consumers and slaves to the mechanisms of a market unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart.^[1]

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “THE HEART”?

3. In classical Greek, the word *kardia* denotes the inmost part of human beings, animals and plants. For Homer, it indicates not only the centre of the body, but also the human soul and spirit. In the Iliad, thoughts and feelings proceed from the heart and are closely bound one to another.^[2] The heart appears as the locus of desire and the place where important decisions take shape.^[3] In Plato, the heart serves, as it were, to unite the rational and instinctive aspects of the person, since the impulses of both the higher faculties and the passions were thought to pass through the veins that converge in the heart.^[4] From ancient times, then, there has been an appreciation of the fact that human beings are not simply a sum of different skills, but a unity of body and soul with a coordinating centre that provides a backdrop of meaning and direction to all that a person experiences.

4. The Bible tells us that, “the Word of God is living and active... it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (*Heb* 4:12). In this way, it speaks to us of the heart as a core that lies hidden beneath all outward appearances, even beneath the superficial thoughts that can lead us astray. The disciples of Emmaus, on their mysterious journey in the company of the risen Christ, experienced a moment of anguish, confusion, despair and

disappointment. Yet, beyond and in spite of this, something was happening deep within them: “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?” (Lk 24:32).

5. The heart is also the locus of sincerity, where deceit and disguise have no place. It usually indicates our true intentions, what we really think, believe and desire, the “secrets” that we tell no one: in a word, the naked truth about ourselves. It is the part of us that is neither appearance or illusion, but is instead authentic, real, entirely “who we are”. That is why Samson, who kept from Delilah the secret of his strength, was asked by her, “How can you say, ‘I love you’, when your heart is not with me?” (*Judg* 16:15). Only when Samson opened his heart to her, did she realize “that he had told her his whole secret” (*Judg* 16:18).

6. This interior reality of each person is frequently concealed behind a great deal of “foliage”, which makes it difficult for us not only to understand ourselves, but even more to know others: “The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse, who can understand it?” (*Jer* 17:9). We can understand, then, the advice of the Book of Proverbs: “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life; put away from you crooked speech” (4:23-24). Mere appearances, dishonesty and deception harm and pervert the heart. Despite our every attempt to appear as something we are not, our heart is the ultimate judge, not of what we show or hide from others, but of who we truly are. It is the basis for any sound life project; nothing worthwhile can be undertaken apart from the heart. False appearances and untruths ultimately leave us empty-handed.

7. As an illustration of this, I would repeat a story I have already told on another occasion. “For the carnival, when we were children, my grandmother would make a pastry using a very thin batter. When she dropped the strips of batter into the oil, they would expand, but then, when we bit into them, they were empty inside. In the dialect we spoke, those cookies were called ‘lies’... My grandmother explained why: ‘Like lies, they look big, but are empty inside; they are false, unreal’”.^[5]

8. Instead of running after superficial satisfactions and playing a role for the benefit of others, we would do better to think about the really important questions in life. Who am I, really? What am I looking for? What direction do I want to give to my life, my decisions and my actions? Why and for what purpose am I in this world? How do I want to look back on my life once it ends? What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences? Who do I want to be for others? Who am I for God? All these questions lead us back to the heart.

RETURNING TO THE HEART

9. In this “liquid” world of ours, we need to start speaking once more about the heart and thinking about this place where every person, of every class and condition, creates a synthesis, where they encounter the radical source of their strengths, convictions, passions and decisions. Yet, we find ourselves immersed in societies of serial consumers who live from day to day, dominated by the hectic pace and bombarded by technology, lacking in the patience needed to engage in the processes that an interior life by its very nature requires. In contemporary society, people “risk losing their centre, the centre of their very selves”.^[6] “Indeed, the men and women of our time often find themselves confused and torn apart, almost bereft of an inner principle that can create unity and harmony in their lives and actions. Models of behaviour that, sadly, are now widespread exaggerate our rational-technological dimension or, on the contrary, that of our instincts”.^[7] No room is left for the heart.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr. Tadeusz Lizinczyk, OSPPE



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Starting November 11, 2024

- **Daily Mass
(Monday - Friday)**
- **Adoration (Wednesday)**
will take place in the
Chapel
at **7:30 AM**
 **9 Broad Street**
(next to Rectory Residence)

- **Confessions &
Weekend Masses**
will remain in the
Big Church
 **100 Broad Street**

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

*Faith can Move
Mountains*

YOUTH GROUP

November 10, 2024

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
Cafeteria

Grades 7 ~ 12 Teens

olshyouthhilltown@gmail.com

Parish Pantry - Thanksgiving

It's hard to believe that we are approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas! Our Parish Pantry is therefore getting ready for our Thanksgiving dinner distribution, which will take place on Saturday, November 23rd. Our plan is to provide the food/supplies needed for a complete Thanksgiving meal, and to distribute these via curbside pickup. We are once again anticipating serving between 30 and 35 families, so we are respectfully requesting donations of the following:

Our Planned Menu is as Follow:



- Frozen turkey
- Boxed stuffing
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Canned green beans
- French's fried onions
- Canned fruit
- Bottles of sparkling juice
- Cans/Jars Turkey gravy
- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Brown sugar
- Cans of cream of mushroom soup
- Canned vegetables
- Frozen apple or pumpkin pie
- Canned coffee or boxed tea



Frozen turkeys and pies can be placed in the freezer in the Usher's room just off the Church Narthex; all other donations can be placed in the Parish Pantry bins in the Church Narthex. Gift cards for local grocery stores are always helpful and most welcome; these can be purchased and easily donated via the Parish Scrip Program - 1) Lorri Resuta at (215) 534-3092 or Email olshscrip@gmail.com or 2) through Electronic Parish Giving: "SCRIP-Parish Pantry." or 3) SCRIP Table in the Church Narthex.

Thanks to your ongoing generosity and support, our Pantry has been able to consistently help those in need. We ask for your continued assistance through this coming holiday season. May our Heavenly Father richly bless you for being the blessing you are to others!

Our Thanksgiving Food Distribution will be taking place on

Saturday, November 23rd

Any Questions ~ Deacon Gary
(215) 230-889 or olshparishpantry@gmail.com

Be the change.

Help change a life. Give blood.



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

Blood Drive

Father McBride Hall (Gymnasium)

100 Broad Street

Hilltown • Pennsylvania

Tuesday | November 19, 2024

2:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Please call 1 (800) RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org and enter: **sacred heart** to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.

If you are an eligible type O, B- or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation.

Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions
on the day of your appointment.



Scan to schedule
an appointment



1-800- RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App



Thanksgiving Day

Mass

November 28

9:00 AM

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

*"Give thanks to the
Lord for He is good"*

FIRST FRIDAY

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

December 6, 2024

6:00 PM

First Friday Schedule

A Holy Hour:

Including devotions,

Reflection,

Some quiet time

Reconciliation during Holy Hour

Mass following the Holy Hour with Reconciliation

All will be held in the Church





Our Lady of the Sacred Heart presents...

19th Annual Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fair

Candy Cane Wonderland

Saturday, December 7 • 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Sunday, December 8 • 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Crafters & Vendors • Delicious Foods • Daily 50-50
Parish Raffle • Bake Table • Basket Raffle • Visit from Santa
Santa's Attic • Gems & Jewels • Book Nook • Kids Crafts & Stories

100 Broad Street • Hilltown, PA 18927



Our Lady of Sacred Heart Cemetery to Host Ceremony
on National Wreaths across America TM Day

December 14, 2024

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Cemetery
1729 Hilltown Pike
Hilltown, Pennsylvania 18927**

Our Lady of Sacred Heart Cemetery, an official Wreaths across America (WAA) location, will host a wreath-laying ceremony, joining more than 2,100 other locations across the country for National Wreaths across America Day. Coordinated and led by Comcast VETNET have raised enough funds to place 167 wreaths on the headstones of our fallen service members at Our Lady of Sacred Heart cemetery. This annual event seeks to further the WAA mission of Remember, Honor, Teach, ensuring that the memory of those who served our country endures.

Ceremony will begin at 12:00 PM

Prayer Service led by Father Tadeusz Lizinczyk, OSPPE
Wreath Laying Ceremony from Comcast volunteers, friends, families and Veterans

We will assemble in the Church Parking Lot at 11:30 AM, and proceed along Broad Street and Hilltown Pike towards the Cemetery.