

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Staff:

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Parish Office Hours
 Tues. – Thur. 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Heart of the Plains Cemetery
 Linda Epple
 970-347-7597

Religious Education
 Deacon Ed Green (SH)
 Christina Workman (HF)

4.12.2026

Mercy Sunday

Parish Information

Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00 PM Holy Family
Sunday: 8:00 AM SH; 10:30 AM HF; 12 PM HF Spanish
Tues: 6:00 PM SH preceded by Adoration & Confessions
Wed - Fri: 8:30 AM Sacred Heart
First Saturday of each Month: 8:30 AM Holy Family

Confessions

30 minutes before Weekend and Weekday Masses
Tuesday: 5:00 - 6:00 PM at Sacred Heart
Or by appointment

Baptism: Call Deacon Ed Green 720-550-0356.

Marriage: Call six months prior to wedding date.

Status of Operating Fund

(July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)	Sacred Heart		Holy Family	
Weekly Budgeted (Apr. 5)	\$2,403.84	\$192.30	\$1,442.30	\$67.30
Actual Collection	\$6,736.00	\$542.00	\$2,122.00	\$85.00
Over/<Under> Weekly Budget	\$4,332.16	\$349.70	\$679.70	\$17.70
Year-to-Date Budgeted	\$96,153.78	Capitol	\$57,692.20	Capitol
Year-to-Date Actual Collections	\$91,545.40	Funds	\$62,347.75	Funds
Over/<Under> Yearly Budget	(\$4,608.38)		\$4,655.55	
Expenses Budgeted for the year	\$115,125.10		\$83,528.40	
Expenses for the year to date	\$100,308.67		\$81,238.31	
Over/<Under> Yearly Budget	(\$14,816.43)		(\$2,290.09)	

I Desire Mercy: not Sacrifice

Outward sacrifices are expressions of an inward sanctification. Yet, in the Old Testament, Hosea exposes the hypocrisy of the priestly worship revealing that their worship was merely ritualism. It did not come from the heart.

Their vows, our vows, are external expressions of an internal devotion in which we dedicate our whole self to God: mind, body, heart, and soul. Our vows which we make at our baptism and renew each Easter internalize our pious devotions making us become what we do and say.

The Divine Mercy Devotion forms our hearts to be like his heart. In conforming ourselves to become as He is demands sacrificial love. Jesus expressed this in his prayer in the Garden and his prayer ought to be our daily:

My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by, not as I will but as You will (Mt 26:39).

Imploring God's infinite mercy, we too enter into the garden of our own sinfulness pleading that the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross was not in vain; but that his sacrifice makes us as He is: Full of gentleness and compassion (Col 3:12)!

In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith,

The more you trust in Me completely, the stronger is My Mercy. The more I can forgive. My Mercy is so powerful, that it can wipe out the sins of all mankind.

More precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation

April 12, 2026

"If you are suffering from a bad man's injustice, forgive him—lest there be two bad men."

St. Augustine

Mass Times & Intentions

- Sat. Apr 11 Holy Family 5:00PM: Stephanie Bernard Lyle †
 - Sun. Apr 12 Sacred Heart 8:00 AM: Rene Buchholz †
 - Sun. Apr 12 Holy Family 10:30 AM: Ralph Gassman †
 - Sun. Apr 12 Holy Family 12:00PM: Parish Family
 - Mon. Apr 13: *No Mass Here*
 - Tue. Apr 14 Sacred Heart 6:00PM: Gordon & Helen Ford
 - Wed. Apr 15 Sacred Heart 8:30 AM: Health & Faith of Bowman Family
 - Thu. Apr 16 Sacred Heart 8:30 AM: Mary Hafner
 - Fri. Apr 17 Sacred Heart 8:30 AM: Zach Dwyer
 - Sat. Apr 18 Holy Family 5:00PM: Phyllis Morman †
- † indicates Memorial Mass



- Apr 12 Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour 3-4 PM SH**
- Apr 12 Seminarian Appreciation Dinner 4 PM Kof C Hall**
- Apr 20-23 Fr. Tom gone (No Daily Mass)**
- Apr 25 Holy Family Spring Maintenance Day**
- Apr 26 Last Day of CCD Classes at Holy Family**
- Apr 27-May 1 Fr. Tom gone (No Daily Mass)**
- May 3 Last Day of CCD Classes at Sacred Heart**
- May 7 CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION 7 PM Sacred Heart with Bishop Jorge**
- May 16/17 Cross Catholic Outreach priest visit**
- May 31-Jun 5 TOTUS TUUS-Registration opens THIS WEEK!**

Pray for Them

Janet Klausner, Don Bratrsovsky, Jason Klausner, Bailey Navarro, Fr. John Shedlock, Barb Marty, Robert McMillion, Sally Bratrsovsky, Fr. Peter Dinh, Jeanette Neuhalfen, Mary Ockenfels, Bowman Family, Bill Epple, Theresa Schindlecker, for the repose of the soul of Tex Junker †, Adriana Elias Trinidad, Nayely Vasquez, Cristopher Flores



(Please let the parish office know if you or someone you know needs to be added or removed from the prayer list.)

Confession of Sins, Why?

Baptism is more than a naming of a child in church and welcoming him or her into a family. It is a mystery in which the child or adult is configured to Christ. In this ritual, the person is healed of sin, Original and Personal. Healed, we are partakers of Divine Life. We are co-heirs of the covenant and united to God's Life. This is Theosis or divinization of our souls as St. Peter explains.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire (2 Pt 1: 3).

Jesus explains that baptism—born from above—restores us and makes us heirs to the kingdom but does not take away our free will. Weakened, we can still sin and sin grievously against the Divine Will. Sin corrupts our souls because we follow Satan's inspirations and not the Holy Spirit.

After our baptism, we can sin again grievously, or venially. St. John in his letter explains the difference **"If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death" (1 Jn 5: 16).**

To restore us from personal sins, Jesus breathes his resurrected Spirit upon the Apostles and tells them,

Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld (Jn 20:23).

Jesus institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the power given to forgive sins after Baptism, because He knows we will fail. Instead of condemning, Jesus offers reconciliation. To reconcile us, Jesus breathes on his apostles, newly ordained priests, his Holy Spirit to forgive sins in his name— not their own name. They act in the person of Christ.

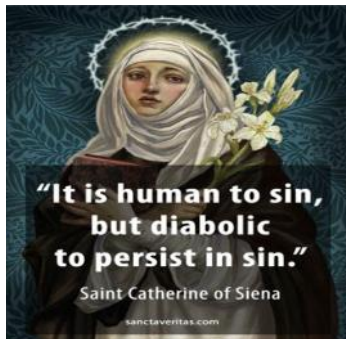
Scripture reveals Jesus' power to forgive healing the lame man. For 38 years the lame man wanted to be healed. Jesus dares to ask him if he wants healing. This directly addresses the cause of his sinfulness. Unresponsive, Jesus simply tells the man, Get Up, take up your mat, and walk (Jn 5:8). When Jesus encounters him again, He warns him,

See that you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you (Jn 5:14).

So too with the adulterous woman; naked, dragged through the streets, screaming, the spectacle is obscene. In the end, what does Jesus tell her?

Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on, sin no more (Jn 8 11).

On Mercy Sunday, Jesus tells us the same after we sin. Confess and sin no more. Freed from sin, we constantly convert and turn towards Jesus, ready to receive his embrace, and his mercy.



Trust Jesus. This radical call of Jesus requires first a conversion, a commitment, and finally a conviction of the heart.

The process of being converted means we follow the call of Christ.

Christ spells out his call unequivocally:

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matt 16:24).

Discipleship is more than accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior. Christ empowers us with his love so that we take ownership of our conversion. We commit. We no longer live for ourselves, but live for Him Who died for us.

Committed, God calls us to conviction into his life and out of this world.

"If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you" (Jn 15:19).

As disciples, we accept the radical challenge of Christ. We abandon ourselves from the customs and traditions of this world and exemplify the attitude and actions of Christ. We conform to Christ.

Radical discipleship demands trust. We trust Jesus. He earned it. He accomplished what He came to do: free us from sin and death. In exchange, Jesus expects much from us. His high expectations do not hinder us, in fact they inspire us to achieve holiness.

Even though Jesus has high expectations, He does not expect anything more from us than what He already gave. To be his disciple we too die unto ourselves to find the true fulfillment. He died for us and so He asks us to die for Him, by dying to our sinfulness. Now we understand that in giving, we will receive. If we give our sins to God and detach it from this world, we will find our treasure, Jesus.

Any mental picture of your life that focuses on past sins is a lie and thus comes from the devil. Jesus loves you and has forgiven you your sins, so there is no room for having a downcast spirit. Whatever persuades you otherwise is truly a waste of time. It is also something that offends the heart of our very tender Lover. On the other hand, if the mental picture of your life consists in what you can be or could be, then it comes from

God Padre Pio letters (To Maria Gargani, August 26, 1916)

People who get angry easily are not simply bad tempered. Something deeper is happening inside them. Their body carries a very low tolerance for stress. Instead of calmly processing frustration, their nervous system reacts as if they are in danger. It switches straight into fight mode.

A careless word, a minor change in plans, a tiny inconvenience, any of these can feel like a personal threat. These threats trigger an uncontrolled response that typically is aggressive and protective.

Our body feels threatened because we fail to process the threat properly. To easily angered people, all threats seem dangerous, even behaviors that are non-threatening.

In this light, anger becomes the safest and fastest way the body knows to release that pressure and create protection. It is a self-defense mechanism that is learned in childhood or through experiences in which we feel vulnerable.

Angry patterns often start in childhood in homes where emotions were ignored or punished. Many times, a child never had a safe way to express sadness, fear, disappointment, anger, or sorrow.

Unexpressed feelings build up over time and the body reacts. These feelings turn into anger because anger creates power when a person feels powerless. Feeling threatened, they fight and anger fights against the injustice, real or otherwise. A person becomes aggressive, attacking others seeing them as a threat, even when they are not.

Isolation is another way to deal with unexpressed emotions. A person isolates, thinking the separation will protect them when, in fact, the emotions are still churning within. Anger and isolation are dangerous responses because the feelings are not properly expressed just because we isolate or get angry.

Over time the brain responds automatically. It fires anger first, without thinking. It negatively reacts, even in moments that do not call for anger but for understanding and connection.

Here is what most people miss. Anger is not the enemy. It is a signal that something deeper needs to be addressed: the emotions that have not been properly understood. Emotions are necessary and powerful. They need a proper response since they create stress, hurt, loneliness and exhaustion.

When anger becomes the only response, it pushes people away, and it creates the very isolation that keeps feeding the negative emotions.

If this sounds familiar, understand, anger is not proof that you are defective. It is a sign you are hurting and need new skills. Your emotions need a proper outlet, not over-reaction. Bodies get tired of carrying pain it was never taught to release.

To counter anger and isolation, slow down. Process your thoughts. Examine your past and create a plan before reacting. This is not weakness; it gives you the chance to finally express your emotions properly and be heard without burning everything around you.

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