



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Staff



Fr. Larry Tharp
Pastor

frtharp@sacredheart-fairfield.org

I was assigned as pastor of Sacred Heart in July of 2006. Ordained in 1977, I have served as associate pastor at three Cincinnati and one Dayton Area parish. Before coming to Sacred Heart I was pastor of Our Lady of Loretto in Cincinnati (1990-1995) and St. Teresa of Avila in Cincinnati from 1995 to 2006. I was the Director of Financial

Services for the Archdiocese from 1985 to 1995 having apprenticed under Bishop Carl Moeddel from 1980 to 1985. I was a founding member and served as vice-president of The National Catholic Risk Retention Group, Inc. (Vermont) from 1987 to 1996. I am currently serving as Dean of the Hamilton Deanery, chair of the Archdiocesan Presbyteral Council, and continuing my role on other consultative bodies of the Archdiocese. I have been honored to be chosen to teach two practicum courses on Pastoral Administration at the Athenaeum. My roots are in rural Butler County. I attended Hamilton Catholic and Badin. I was raised in Reily Township, worked with my father at his shop, and made it through college by working the summers in College Corner as a farm tractor mechanic and welder. Being at Sacred Heart feels like coming home.



Deacon Hoang (Dominic) Vu
Permanent Deacon

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I was ordained permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr on April 24, 2010 and was assigned to Sacred Heart Parish. I started my assignment as deacon on May 15, 2010. I have been a member of Sacred Heart since 1993. My wife, Lan, and I have

been married since 1983 and we are blessed with three children who have all attended Sacred Heart School. Prior to receiving Holy Order, I was a Quality Assurance Officer and Product Researcher at Procter & Gamble for 27 years. I completed my career with P&G in December 2009 and am now currently in transition. I think of my being deacon as a blessing from God: I am grateful for this call to vocation and I am still discerning the life of a permanent deacon in the service of the church and God's people. I enjoy volunteering and am happy to be of help to the parish as my situation allows.



Kathy Middendorf
Church Secretary

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What a blessing it has been to join this staff and Parish family. Our switch to Sacred Heart Church and School has been the best decision we have ever made. Since I graduated from Ball State in 1997, I have worked in Office Management and Accounting. I married my wonderful husband Rob Middendorf in 1997

and we have two children, Jake and Abby. I gratefully accepted the position as church secretary for Sacred Heart in 2008 and my kids started school in August of 2009. Not only do I work with a wonderful group of people, but I get to put my faith into action every day. I enjoy watching my kid's sporting events, reading, knitting, and spending time laughing with my family and friends. One of my favorite quotes is "The most wasted of all days is one without laughter." I am so blessed!



Marcia Hogan
Finance Officer

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My association with Sacred Heart Parish goes back a long way. I attended school here, was married here, am a long time parishioner, and my children were educated here as well. I have worked in the parish finance office since 1988 and my responsibilities include bookkeeping duties for both the church and the school. It is a blessing to work every day

with a staff as faith-filled and compassionate as ours. I am inspired as well by the many loyal parishioners who are profoundly devoted to our faith. My husband, Tom, and I have been richly blessed with two awesome daughters, a terrific son-in-law, and two adorable grandchildren. In my free time I take great joy in just being with family and friends. I also like cooking, traveling, and researching my family tree—especially my Irish roots.

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Melody Wallace
Music Director

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I have been the music director at Sacred Heart Church since 1999. As the music director, I conduct the children's choir, the adult choir, the 4:30 p.m. Mass choir and lead music at other masses. I am also a professional musician working as a voice teacher, vocalist, accompanist, vocal coach, pianist, organist and transcriber in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky area. I received my Bachelor of Music Degrees in Piano Pedagogy and Piano Performance from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. I am a graduate from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where I earned my Master of Music degree in Vocal and Piano Accompanying. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my cats, Ginger and Cecilia.



Bryan Miller
Director of Religious Education

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I have been serving Sacred Heart parish as the Director of Religious Education since January 4, 2009. I do my best to ensure that the parishioners of Sacred Heart have a working knowledge of Catholic doctrine, a vibrant spirituality, and a religious community to call home. This is accomplished through Adult and Family Faith Formation programs, Religious Education programs for K-8, Sacramental Preparation programs, and Catechist training programs. I enjoy working at Sacred Heart and being able to interact with so many wonderful students, staff, and parishioners! I can honestly say that this is the most rewarding, challenging, and enjoyable position I've ever held. Thank you Sacred Heart! I have been married to my wife, Annette, since 1992. We have two beautiful children, and reside in Colerain Township in Cincinnati.



Marianne Fleckenstein
Faith Formation Secretary

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I am originally from Kalamazoo, MI (ergo the accent, I'm told) and moved to the area in 1992 with four of my seven children. We joined Sacred Heart parish and in 1994 I became the Faith Formation Secretary. I can't explain it, but once you work here there is no other place that compares. Your heart is hooked and forever belongs to Sacred Heart.

God's Spirit truly dwells here. When we moved to New Hampshire in 1999, a piece of my heart stayed here at Sacred Heart. By 2005 we were back in Cincinnati when I received a call that made my heart leap for joy. Would I be interested in returning as the Secretary of Faith Formation? A prayer answered, a dream come true....I was reconnected to that piece of my heart. To work where your faith is enriched by the Christian people you work with and that have become life-long friends, you can't ask God for more. Well, maybe one thing, health and prosperity for my seven children, five of whom are married, and my nine beautiful grandchildren.



Douglas Webb
Plant Manager

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I came to Sacred Heart Church and School in 1991 as Plant Manager. In addition to overseeing the maintenance and custodial services for the Parish, I have been involved in the renovation of the Church Sanctuary and Foyer, as well as the building of the new school addition. During the years, I have come to know and respect the Faculty

and Staff of Sacred Heart and have been blessed with many new friendships and valued faith building experiences. I have come to appreciate, even more than ever before, the value of a community effort in meeting a goal.....with help and assistance, whether it be from the pastor or the youngest student in the school. Sacred Heart has truly become a family to me. My wife, Julie, and I reside in Oxford and we have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. In addition to our family, I enjoy photography, astronomy (I can often be found gazing at the stars on a clear night), civil war history, and vacation time in northern Michigan.

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Bill Dirr
Head of Maintenance
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I was born and have lived in the City of Fairfield my whole life. I attended Sacred Heart and Badin High School. I joined the Sacred Heart School maintenance staff in 2001. When I am not at work, I enjoy watching sports, going fishing, and working on cars. I am so grateful to be a part of this parish.

NO PHOTO

Dustin Harris
Maintenance
dharris@sacredheart-fairfiel.org
I was born in Hamilton, OH and I still live in Hamilton. I joined the Sacred Heart School maintenance staff in 2010. My wife Casey and I have been together for 7 years and we have three girls; Jaylynn, Nevaeh and Addison. When I am not at work I enjoy spending time with my family, fishing, and playing cards. I could not be more happy to be a part of this parish. It is a great place.

NO PHOTO

Jeffrey D. Morris
Maintenance
jmorris@sacredheart-fairfield.org
I was born in Hamilton. Now I live in Fairfield. Married to Cindy Morris. We have 2 sons and a daughter. I have 2 grandsons and 8 granddaughters. My hobbies include reading, drawing, pen and ink and charcoal.



Nancy Brunner
Youth Director
nbr1@zoomtown.com
My husband Jim and I moved to Fairfield in 1986 with no intention of switching parishes. However, as God had different plans for us, one year later we did exactly that; jumping whole-heartedly into the life and activities of Sacred Heart Church and School. When a friend repeatedly asked me to be her RCIA sponsor, I finally and begrudgingly said yes. Little did I know that my response would be such a pivotal moment in my life. A year later, another yes as I moved into high school catechesis. After eight years, I was offered the opportunity to become the Director of Youth Ministry. Without any hesitation, I again said yes. Although I am employed in the financial field, youth ministry really is my passion. I feel blessed and honored to be given the wonderful privilege of helping our teens develop their faith and relationship with God. Jim and I have 3 grown children and 5 grandsons. In my spare time (is there such a thing?), I love family dinners and get-a-ways, reading, gardening and cruising around the countryside.

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