



**SACRED  
HEARTS  
RETREAT  
CENTER**

226 Great Neck Road  
Wareham, MA 02571

Office: 508-295-0100

Fax: 508-291-2624

Email: [retreats@sscc.org](mailto:retreats@sscc.org)

Website: <http://www.sscc.org/wareham>

March 2017

Dear Friends,

The sackcloth curtain is hung behind the altar, the winter boughs and ornaments have been replaced by bare sticks from the forest and stones and sand from the shore... Lent has arrived. Lent is the special time in the life cycle of the Church when the Lord calls us into the desert so he can speak to our hearts. It is a time to try to strip ourselves of distractions, and focus on what is truly important. Life and death are put before us, “**choose life** that you and your descendants may live”...says the scriptures. Choosing life means choosing with our hearts... which may require changing the ways we think. Lent gives us that opportunity. Our fasting, our service/almsgiving and our prayer can create an emptiness/an openness in us that the Lord will fill with His Love.

Our retreatants these few weeks include over 100 students from three universities, Salve Regina, UMass Dartmouth and Boston College, a men’s recovery group and a women’s group all of whom choose to take a time out to ponder, like Mary, the life and death of her Son. Lives are transformed, hearts are transformed; fulfilling our mission to transform the world, one person at a time.

**From the desk of Fr. Bill Petrie. ss.cc.**

The beautiful time of Lent has begun. During these 40 days it's never too late to change or create new ideas for this penitential season. Regarding prayer, there is a web site from Pope Francis that offers a brief morning afternoon and evening prayer that you can use for your cell phone or computer. Register at "click to [pray.org](http://pray.org)". The content is very meaningful and it sets a spiritual tone for your day. Probably the oldest Lenten practice is "fasting." In Waltham Ma. there is a ministry providing fasting bread delivered to your residence for a minimal expense. Besides our Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fast days, many choose to fast on bread and water every Lenten Friday. Some choose to do it on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. When Jesus went into the wilderness He was already full of the Holy Spirit. But when He came out again after fasting He returned with the power of the Holy Spirit. For further information you can contact "[livethefast.org](http://livethefast.org)". Visitors are invited for our daily retreat house mass Monday-Friday at 8:00am. Fifteenth century Christians in Europe began praying the Stations of the Cross in their local parishes because few could make the trip to the Holy Land. What do these ancient traditions say to you?

**Sacred Hearts Retreat Center Support Team**

**Team Update:**

Congratulations to Brenda White, Tony Costa and The Fort Square Retreat Group who each won \$100.00 in the March raffle drawing.

The Sacred Hearts Retreat Center Support Team now has 218 members, 69% are raffle participants, and has raised \$25,000 in support of the Center’s operation since October 2016. While these contributions have significantly helped, additional initiatives will be needed going forward. We continue to recruit additional Team members and add to the monthly raffle program.

**Grant Received:**

On Valentine’s Day we received a check for \$4,000.00 from the Charles Ezekiel and Jane Garfield Cheever Fund I, a donor Advised Fund of the Boston Foundation for the support of the Retreat Center in memory of Fr. Stan. We are very grateful for this donation and to all who made it possible for us to receive this very generous grant. It will certainly help us reach our goal of continuing the valuable ministry of offering inclusive programs

for both adults and youth that deeply nourish their spirituality in a changing and challenging world and doing so with a balanced budget.

**Events:**

**St. Mother Teresa Films**

Enhance your Lenten journey and witness the life of a great contemporary saint. On two Tuesdays of Lent the Sacred Hearts Retreat/Spirituality Center will present two documentary films about St. Mother Teresa produced by Fr. Bill's sisters, Ann and Jeanette Petrie.

March 14 Mother Teresa Legacy and

March 21 The World of Mother Teresa.

After each film Fr. Bill Petrie, ss.cc., who worked with Mother Teresa in India for 25 years will be on hand for your questions/comments. All are welcome. Invite your friends.

Each Tuesday there will be two showings: 10:00 AM followed by soup, bread and fellowship. In the evening the soup and bread will be served at 6PM followed by the movie at 7:00 PM. Space is limited to 50 per showing. PLEASE CALL 508-295-0100 TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT. Free will donations to benefit the Retreat Center.

**Triduum Retreat** – This year I will organize the retreat—With the richness of these days and their liturgies the retreat practically guides itself... those who have made it an annual event, the central focus of their year, would agree. Since Fr. Petrie will be gone by then, God will provide the priest for the liturgies. To register call 508-295-0100. Cost \$225/person; \$400/couple.

It is so hard to believe it has been three months since Stan began his new life. He is ever present. One group recently said that they felt like he was hanging around all day during their retreat. On Valentine's Day when we received the grant check, I felt it was a gift from him. The empty space created by his physical absence this Lent calls me to be filled with gratitude for the time we had and for all he did for the retreat center and for so many people.

This Lent let us open our hearts and choose life.

Blessings and love to all,

Sr. Claire

This newsletter was sent only by email. Please pass the info on to all your friends. Create a link to your e-mail list.

**Please help. Complete and return the coupon below.**

-----  
***Retreat Center Support Team***

**Sacred Hearts Retreat Center, 226 Great Neck Road, Wareham, MA 02571**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed \$120.00 One year. \$60 for 6months \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months @\$10/mo.

Visa Master Card Discover

Credit card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Sacred Hearts Retreat Center

I do not want to be included in the drawings, but I want to make a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.