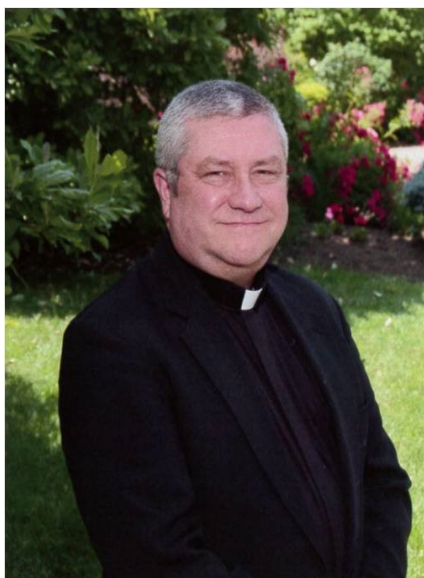


Sacred Heart Church Staff



Pastor, Father Larry Tharp

(513) 858-4210 x 3014

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 of three Cincinnati and one Dayton-area parish. Prior to coming to Sacred Heart, I was pastor of Our Lady of Loretto in Cincinnati (1990-1995) and St. Teresa of Avila in Cincinnati (1995-2006). 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.



Business Manager, Kathy Middendorf

(513) 858-4210 x 3015

kmm@sacredheart-fairfield.org

What a blessing it is to work at Sacred Heart Parish. I have been here since 2008 and have enjoyed every minute I've been here. 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. Not only do I work with a wonderful group of people, but I get to put my faith into action every day. I enjoy spending time with family, reading, knitting, and laughing with my friends. One of my favorite quotes is "The most wasted of all days is one without laughter." I am so blessed!



Parish Secretary, Lauren Obszarski

While I am new to Sacred Heart, my family certainly is not. My husband, Stephen, is a Sacred Heart School alumnus. And many of you will remember my mother-in-law, Karin, who was a longtime teacher at the school. Stephen and I live in Colerain Township and belong to St. James Parish in White Oak. We have two children, Jocelyn (12) and William (10), who both attend St. James School. I'm very excited to have this new opportunity here at Sacred Heart! I've met many people in the last few weeks and everyone has been so kind and welcoming. I look forward to getting to know all of the wonderful families here at Sacred Heart Parish!

Sacred Heart Church Staff



Music Director, Melody Wallace

(513) 237-3978

melodywallace@embarqmail.com

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.



Faith Formation Secretary and Local Safe Environment Coordinator, Marianne Fleckenstein

(513) 858-4213 x 3023

mfleck@sacredheart-fairfield.org

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.