



February 2012

## AROUND THE PARISH

### FOUR SEASONS OF A TREE

Don't judge a life by one difficult season.

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn to not judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted. The second son said no - it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed, he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful. It was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them. He said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

Then man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season. And that the essence of who they are - the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life - can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the

beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall. Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest!



### HAVE A HEART!

The Sacred Heart St. Vincent de Paul Society is collecting items for their Valentines Day Baskets for Shut-ins Project. Needed are small baskets in which to put the gift items. You can help make this project a success by donating the following: flavored/decaffeinated tea, light jam, scented soap, deodorant, gentle body wash, body lotion, shampoo, conditioner, potpourri, sugar-free candy, notepaper and stamps. You may place your items in the basket located in the vestibule in front of the windows next to the fundraising table or drop them off at the rectory. You are also invited to join in packing the baskets on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Wachter Room. We are also in need of volunteers to deliver the baskets. If you have any questions, please call Ann Sutherland at (610) 775-9527. As always, SVDP appreciates your continued support of their projects.

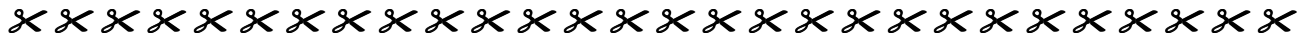
# News from SHS Advancement Office

## SHS 2012 Annual Fund

We are on our way with the 2012 Annual Fund! Parish support of our Annual Fund is very important to its success! We have a \$75,000 Annual Fund goal to fulfill by June 30, 2012. Once you make a donation to the 2012 SHS Annual Fund, you will not be asked again. You may choose to send a donation right away or you may choose to make a pledge to be fulfilled by June 30, 2012. We ask that you carefully consider supporting the 2012 SHS Annual Fund. Donation forms and envelopes are always available at the fundraising desk in the Church. You can also visit [www.sacredheartreading.com](http://www.sacredheartreading.com) to make a donation online.

Contributions to the SHS Annual Fund are used by the school in the year they are given to benefit every child, every day. Each \$1,000 raised through the SHS Annual Fund provides annual support equal to a \$25,000 endowment. So please consider a donation to the 2012 Annual Fund today!

Questions, contact Ruth Butler, Director of Advancement, 610-745-8273 or [rbutler@sacredheartreading.org](mailto:rbutler@sacredheartreading.org).



### Sacred Heart School Annual Fund

701 Franklin Street • West Reading • PA • 19611 •  
[www.sacredheartreading.com](http://www.sacredheartreading.com)

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION (Choose One):

- I wish to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_. **NOTE: pledges must be fulfilled by June 30, 2012.**
- Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- Please charge my credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please charge my credit card and make a monthly deduction of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ months beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_.

VISA  MasterCard  AMEX Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

EXP Date \_\_\_\_\_ Validation Code \_\_\_\_ \_ (on back of card)

#### DONOR INFORMATION:

Name / Name of business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### SHS Student to receive fundraising credit:

- Current Parent  Former Parent  Grandparent of current SHS student  Parishioner
- Corporate Sponsor  Foundation  Faculty/Staff  Alumnus - Class of \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to remain anonymous

## SENIORS NEWS

Sacred Heart Seniors will be meeting on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in the Chapel. Martha Sitler from Berks Encore will present "Race for a Healthy Heart", The Heart Horse Race Game. Through this simulated horse race game, each team (or "horse") races for a healthy heart by answering questions on facts about the heart and prevention of heart disease and heart attack. Refreshments will be served in the Wachter Room after the RACE! Come in out of the cold and enjoy fellowship, food, and fun! Bring a friend!

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## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Patrick Matthew Babiarz  
Reagan Kendall Babiarz  
Son & daughter of  
Matthew & Kendall Babiarz  
Patrick was born on 6-11-08  
Reagan was born on 10-19-11

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Sacred Heart Gala is scheduled for Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 10 PM at the Vanity Fair Designer Outlet Building. This event is held once every four years and is a major fundraiser for the school. Proceeds from the Gala will be used to upgrade technology for our students by equipping each classroom with SMARTBOARDS! Tickets will be \$100 a person. More Gala details will follow soon but, in the meantime, if you are interested in being a corporate sponsor, please contact Janine Gonzales at (210) 240-8271.

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

12/30/11  
Conor Felix Larkin  
&  
Emily Nicole Sutherland

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## A NOTE FROM JOE OROS...

Thanks to Dave Nicodemus and the members of both the Contemporary Choir and the Classical Choir for sharing their talents with us and for all their hard work that helped make the Christmas Season spectacular. Also thanks to the members of the Concert Choir for performing at the Christmas Benefit Concert hosted here. They were amazing! Thank you to all!

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## OUR CONDOLENCES TO...

The Mills Family on the death of,  
**Robert J. Mills Jr.**  
12-30-11

The Hackett Family on the death of,  
**Linda L. Hackett**  
12-29-11

The Sauppee Family on the death of,  
**James G. Sauppee Sr.**  
1-7-12

The DiPaolo Family on the death of,  
**Joseph DiPaolo**  
1-9-12

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## OUR LENTEN OBLIGATION

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life.

When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

***Who must fast?***

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60<sup>th</sup> year on his/her 59<sup>th</sup> birthday.

***Who must abstain?***

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

***What does fasting mean?***

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of the fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

***What does abstinence mean?***

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

***Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence?***

Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

***Are their other obligations which we should fulfill?***

Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (February 26<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins once a year.

Catholics are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Operation Rice Bowl.

**LENTEN ACTIVITIES**

**Ash Wednesday - February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Distribution of Ashes at all Masses:  
7 AM, 8:30 AM (School Mass), 12:10 PM,  
and 7 PM

**Stations of the Cross**

Celebrated twice every Friday.  
February 24<sup>th</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup> at  
1:30 PM with and by our parish school  
children.

February 24<sup>th</sup> through April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.  
Both with Benediction of the Most  
Blessed Sacrament.

**PLEASE WELCOME  
OUR NEW MEMBERS**

**Patrick & Kimberly Hurley**

**Amanda & Michael Orndorff**

**Jose & Hellynnette Rivera and their  
children Josiel & Mariannette**

## TUITION ASSISTANCE

Tuition assistance applications for the 2012-2013 school year have arrived and are available at the school and the rectory. If you are interested in applying for tuition assistance for a parish student who will be attending Sacred Heart School, you **MUST** complete a PSAS application. Your application must be postmarked by May 1, 2012 to be eligible for consideration. Simply complete the application, prepare a \$24 check and mail both to Private School Aid Service in the envelope provided.

Private School Aid Service is an independent clearinghouse that reviews financial information submitted by applicants and determines their need for tuition assistance. Monsignor DeSantis makes the final decision regarding the amount of assistance to be granted to each applicant.

PSAS evaluates every applicant's financial situation based solely on the application materials. The information PSAS considers includes such factors as: marital status of parent; size of family and dependency status; number of children in schools that charge tuition; age of parent; total taxable and non-taxable income for parents (including child support, Social Security, Welfare, etc.); medical and dental expenses; child care costs; current value of real estate and other major assets and value of a business and/or farm ownership.

**Don't delay – the May 1, 2012  
Deadline is not negotiable!**



## GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!

It's that time of year again! Sacred Heart Brownie/Junior Girl Scout Troop 1051 will be selling Girl Scout Cookies in the narthex of the Church on the weekends of February 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. Get them while they last!

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## TUITION TRANSFER GRANTS

Sacred Heart School is excited to announce that the Bishop's Commission on Catholic Schools will offer \$1500 Tuition Transfer Grants to any parishioner who transfers their child into the second to seventh grades from any private or public school. No financial aid forms are required for this two year grant and it is a direct reduction from your school tuition (\$1000 in year one and \$500 in year two). Sacred Heart School has been very effective at preparing our children for a successful high school and college experience. Our excellent faculty is dedicated to maximizing the God given potential of each child entrusted to our care in a nurturing family atmosphere. With our small class sizes and many extracurricular activities, your child will have a greater opportunity to participate and lead throughout the year. Sacred Heart School. Academic success. Catholic values. For more information and a tour, please call our Principal, Mrs. Napolitano at (610) 373-3316.