



January 2012

## AROUND THE PARISH

### THE ECHO

You hear so much about memories at this time of year. From Thanksgiving Day on we are bombarded with the idea that we are not only making memories but somehow building upon them.

It is the sights, sounds and smells of the holidays that trigger vivid flashbacks for me. The turkey taking center stage, the cranberries and sweet potatoes all make me think of Mom.

The first Christmas bell, carol, or even laughter I hear, readies my mind for a long journey home and the loving sounds only family can provide.

But, oh how a whiff of chocolate, peanut butter cookies or pumpkin pie can set my soul a dancin' down memory lane!

It's easy for me to venture back to things I hold close to my heart. It takes very little to find myself remembering people, places and things which somehow mixed in with the very essence of who I am today.

I swear if they checked my DNA, they'd come up with elements of chocolate chip cookie mixed with genetic traits of dancing when the spirit moved me and smiling when I hear my wife's voice.

Memories are a much a part of who I am as today's choices become a part of all I will become.

But what about this New Years Eve thing?

Just below the sound of horns tooting and bubbly bubbling, lies the stark reality of the passing of another year. Many struggle with all they wanted to do and didn't. Some struggle with all

they think they can never accomplish and still others bask in the glow of success beyond measure.

For the first time in my 57 New Year celebrations I have discovered the real truth about time.

"The Echo."

If I take away all the fond, sweet feelings of the past and remove the element of regret from things I wanted to do right or things I did wrong, I am left with the facts.

Everything I do in 2012 will be reflected in how I see my life on New Years Eve that year.

Thus, my theory of "The Echo."

If you stand in a canyon and shout, "Hello!" "Hello" comes back to you.

You can't yell, "How are you?" and get a reply, "Fine. Thanks for asking!"

2012 is like a canyon. You stand on the edge on New Years Eve and what you put into it will come back to you. The more you put in, the more will come back. If you love more, you will get more love back. If you fear more, fear will come back.

So, this New Years Eve when you find yourself reflecting on 2011 remember, it has nothing at all to do with memories.

It's "The Echo."

What will you get back next year?

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### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

11/26/11

Michael Joseph Gallagher

&

Andrea Jane Bensusan

## RCIA JOURNEY

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, four candidates completed the first stage of their RCIA journey. We celebrated the Rite of Welcoming at the 11 AM Mass with Stephen Binder, Nicole Karczewski, Joe Tharp, and Ken Williams. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey, first to the Cathedral for the Call to Continuing Conversion on the first Sunday in Lent, then confirmation and full communion at the Easter Vigil, followed by a period of mystagogy until Pentecost.

*Submitted by: Ralph Hueske, RCIA Coordinator*

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## LIFE AD 2012

This pro-life ad will be published in the Reading Eagle on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States. Sponsors will be asked to contribute \$6 for individuals or \$12 for couples or families. Your names will be displayed in the ad under our parish name. Proceeds from the Life Ad support Mary's Shelter/Home, an alternative to abortion for pregnant women in need of housing and care. Last year, Life Ad raised \$11,800 for Mary's Shelter/Home. A sponsorship coupon is included below for anyone that is unable to sign-up after the Masses. The deadline for donations is Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact Bonnie at (610) 372-4010 for questions. Thank you for standing up against abortion.

The Life Ad Committee extends an invitation to anyone interested in helping organize and design the Life Ad. Contact the St. Ignatius Rectory at (610) 678-3767.



## Life Ad Donation Coupon

Place this coupon with your donation (check payable to "Life AD") into the Sunday Mass collection or mail to:

Life Ad  
Sacred Heart Church  
P.O. Box 6217  
Reading, PA 19610

Deadline for donation is  
Monday, January 9th.

*"A nation that kills its own children  
is a nation without hope"*

Pope John Paul II

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

The students of Sacred Heart School put on another moving Christmas show on December 16<sup>th</sup>. "Peace on Earth" showcased musical selections from each class, tied together by the story of the Nativity. Many thanks to Mrs. Melissa Heiser for all her hard work preparing everyone to celebrate Jesus' birth in song.

*"Committed to passing on the traditions and teachings of our Catholic Faith, Sacred Heart School promotes academic excellence, educating lifelong learners who aspire to meet the challenges of life and render service to others, to the honor and glory of God."* Thus reads the mission statement of Sacred Heart School, something we try to live out every day. This April, SHS will be

visited by team members from the Middle States Association of Colleges and School, Commission on Elementary Schools, as they review our strategic plan and self study, *Renewing the Vision*. Parents, faculty, administration and students have been hard at work, developing a plan that will take SHS into the future. Call the school office (610-373-3316) if you'd like to know more, and please keep us in your prayers.

The Annual Parish Christmas Party and Children's Christmas Bazaar were held December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the school gym. The room was transformed by the talented work of our "elves" (thanks parents, grandparents, family and friends!), and everyone, old and young, had a wonderful time. When all the auction items from both nights were tallied up, Sacred Heart School received close to \$24,000! More importantly, we gathered in friendship and fellowship on Thursday, and delighted in our children's sense of wonder and awe on Friday. Thank you to everyone on the committees, especially Karen Wittmeyer and Kate Goodman, chairs of the Christmas Party, and Amy Gaspari and Alicia Witmer, chairs of the Children's Bazaar. It's not too early to mark December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 on your calendars for next year's events - be sure to join us!

*Submitted by: Kathy Napolitano, Principal SHS*

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## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Casey & Jennifer Tharp and their  
children Jocelyn, Pierce & Alexander**

**Michael Herman and daughter  
Madeleine**

**Nelsa Mejia**

## Sacred Heart Troop 445 Celebrates 74<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout!

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Erik Bjorken became the 74<sup>th</sup> Eagle Scout of Troop 445 since its inception in 1933. For his Eagle Project, Erik, a senior at Berks Catholic, spearheaded the restoration and painting of 186.5 linear feet of wrought iron railing that surrounds the backyard of Dayspring Home's Hazel Street resident/office in Reading. Along with a multitude of volunteers from the Sacred Heart Troop, friends from Berks Catholic, family members and Crosswalk members (a subsidiary of Dayspring Homes), 114 man-hours and a lot of paint went into the project which was completed over a 3 week period in August.

Throughout his scouting career, Erik has earned 24 merit badges and held a variety of positions within the troop such as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader. He has earned both the Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII Catholic Religious Awards and is a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, an honorary scouting society based on leadership and helping others. He has sailed at Sea Base in the Florida Keys and backpacked over the mountains while at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico.

Erik, who also works as one of Sacred Heart's sacristans, will be acknowledged in the next few weeks during a Mass. He will be entering college in the fall and will pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Widener University. Please congratulate Erik when you see him on this fine accomplishment!

**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).**

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**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

*All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

## MANY, MANY THANKS!

- ☺ Coffee and Donuts with Santa was a wonderful treat for children and parents alike thanks to the hard work of the Committee: Rina Carhuayano, Denise DeAntonio, and Beth Thrap. A special thank you to Santa and his elves for making an appearance during his busy season.
- ☺ The Christmas Wish Program with Catholic Charities was a huge success thanks in part to our parish coordinator, Gerri Dando. The other part is the generosity of our parish family who always reaches out to the less fortunate.
- ☺ Decorating the Church for Christmas takes many hands and we thank all those who helped.
- ☺ To Rose Kennedy for her hard work organizing and leading rehearsals for the Children's Choir on Christmas Eve with the help of Joe Oros and John Hutta.

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## OUR CONDOLENCES TO...

The Grab Family on the death of,  
**Richard G. Grab**  
12-1-11

The Graeff Family on the death of,  
**Dolores A. Graeff**  
12-4-11

The Muller Family on the death of,  
**Teresa F. Muller**  
12-11-11

## A VALENTINE REMEMBRANCE

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.

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## SENIORS NEWS

January's Senior Meeting will be held on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1 PM in the Chapel. Come chase away the winter blues playing BINGO!, a Sacred Heart Seniors favorite. After the general meeting we will move to the Wachter Room for BINGO! replete with prizes, food and fun. So look through your home and bring in those things that are still in good shape but just not something that you can use. Remember that one man's trash is another man's treasure! So come in out of the cold and warm up with friends, fellowship, entertainment and as always...refreshments!



## BENEFIT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sacred Heart will be hosting a Benefit Christmas Concert on January 8th at 3 PM. The concert will benefit the John Paul II Center for Special Learning and will feature several local parish choirs as well as our own choir. A free will offering will be taken. A small reception will follow the concert. Please come to hear the sounds of the season as well as help raise funds for John Paul II!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!! Don't forget to register your Giant Rewards Card and designate Sacred Heart School (school code: 04256) to receive A+ rewards points each time you shop! Visit [www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus/](http://www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus/) or call 1-888-448-4642 to register your card! Each dollar you spend at Giant will earn cash for our school and you don't have to do anything more than your normal grocery shopping!!

You can earn MORE POINTS for our school by purchasing the following: Earn Triple Points on Healthy Idea™ labeled items and Double Points on other participating brands. So look for signs throughout the store as you shop!

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## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

This ministry, which is sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul Society and ably

manned by the Parish Knitters and Crocheters, knits mantels of healing for those in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, those who are homebound, and those people in our parish who are experiencing pain, sorrow, personal problems, loneliness or simply can't be with us for worship. Each shawl sends the message that the recipient has been prayed for and that the mantle is a token of love and concern from Sacred Heart Parish. Recipients can wrap the shawls around them knowing they are also being wrapped in prayers for God's presence and healing.

If you know someone from our parish who is experiencing pain or sorrow and you would like them to have a prayer shawl, please contact Bonnie at the Rectory.

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## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday the real presence of Jesus is in the Church/Chapel for the entire day beginning after 8 AM Mass till 10 PM. Please take time from your busy schedule to spend an hour or a half hour with Jesus. Many blessings have been received and prayers answered after time was spent in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

If you can commit one hour or ½ hour a week or once a month, your presence would be greatly appreciated. We especially need additional volunteers to partner with our present volunteers at the following times: 1 PM to 2 PM; 2 PM to 3 PM; 3 PM to 4 PM; 4 PM to 5 PM; 6 PM to 7 PM and 7 PM to 8 PM. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time with our Lord. If you would like more information, please call Bonnie Batdorf at (610) 372-4010.