

Around the Parish

FEBRUARY 2020

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

It was Valentine's Day. I was in a new job. My boss walked up to me and handed me a red, heart-shaped balloon, "Happy Valentine's Day Mike!" My cubicle is one of hundreds in an acre of cubes. If I go to the bathroom, the lunchroom, or an must coming in to start my day, I'm lost. Every cubicle looks the same.

I tied the balloon to the wall of my cubicle, "There!" I thought to myself. "Now I'll be able to find my cube."

An hour later, I stood up and looked around. Every cubicle had a red, heart-shaped balloon tied to it.

For a short time, I thought I was different, but I was wrong. I was not the only balloon. Memories from the past came flashing back.

"Stop shaking the floor!" Dad yelled. We were three boys in a four-room house. I was the youngest of the family. Our house was so small, It was impossible not to bother our father. We tried to walk softly, but the floor shook and upset him.

I was 18 when we got an indoor bathroom. Before that, we used an outhouse. We were poor and knew it. My friends had indoor bathrooms, but we went outside to use ours. We trudged through the snow to do our business, even when it was -25 or lower.

Years later, I had my own home and family. Our house sat on the side of a hill, with a great view of the cove below us. The ocean currents filled the cove with fresh water and provided for the osprey and bald eagles who fed there. They were wonderful to watch.

The company I worked for at that time made major changes. After fifteen years of service, I was let go. I had to move. It was another hard time in my life. I was separated from my wife and kids. It was a year before we were back together.

We weren't separated because we wanted to be, it was the circumstances of my work. Later, we moved again and the n again. Life wouldn't allow us to stay in one place.

Years later, my wife passed away due to illness. I always seemed to be in a maze, alone, struggling to find my way.

In every case, I thought I was the only one, but I was wrong.

There were other kids who used an outhouse, other people who moved, and other spouses who lost loved ones.

We feel like we are facing unique problems, but, we're not. No matter what we face or how lonely we feel, there are always others suffering the same.

I thought I was the only balloon. I was wrong.



IT'S TIME TO PARTY!!!

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

12 NOON TO 4 PM

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL
GYM**

**ADULTS ONLY-FREE EVENT!
BEADS FOR ALL!**

WINE, CHEESE, BEER & SNACKS

**WEAR A MASK AND BE
ENTERED IN A PRIZE DRAWING**

SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

As I sit to write this newsletter submission, we are in deeply involved in planning our Catholic Schools Week events. This national celebration of Catholic education in the United States is entering its 46th anniversary year. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

At Sacred Heart School and Cabrini PreK we have an exciting lineup of activities, beginning with our Opening Mass on January 26th at 9:30, followed by our Winter Carnival/Open House at 10:30 in the school gym. There will be games, face painting and refreshments. Monday is another Open House and Registration event from 9:00-11:00. We will be celebrating our Catholic Community by collecting new baby items to donate to LifeLine of Berks County.

Tuesday we celebrate students with "College Colors Day!" Stop by school and see students wearing the colors of their favorite college team. It is also "Move-Up Day" for our students, when they get to spend some time in next year's classroom. And the most fun of all - The Brain Show assembly! This game show is loads of fun and a highlight for our students.

Wednesday is "Celebrate the Nation" - well - MANY nations! We have our Heritage Food Day, where students bring dishes from their family's heritage to share. In past years we have enjoyed food from Brazil, Italy, France, Spain, Colombia, Greece, Germany, Mexico, Russia, Ireland - just to name a few! We can't wait to see what delectable delights await us. That afternoon we celebrate with our talent show, and we end the evening with MORE food as our 8th grade has its fundraiser at GNA Ristorante in West Reading. COME JOIN

US that evening (food can be eaten in or taken out) and help our students while enjoying a night off from cooking.

Thursday is Teacher Appreciation Day! We start with "twin day" where students (and teachers) pick a partner and dress like twins. Should be interesting! Our teachers also are treated to a fabulous lunch provided by the Home and School Association - they even are excused from recess duty that day - now *there's* something to appreciate!

Friday we wrap up our celebrations with ice cream sundaes and a dance party afternoon, along with "Board Game Friday."

Please share the good news about Sacred Heart School with your friends and neighbors. We are happy to answer questions and give tours anytime. We thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

Submitted by: Kathy Napolitano, Principal

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Adam Cronomiz & Jay Tejada

Al & Robin Gombar

Jimmie Loomis & Maddy White

Kevin Rulapaugh & Jennifer Screvane

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Selene Helen Walborn
Daughter of Eric & Caitlin Walborn
Selene was born on 7-24-2019

A VALENTINE REMEMBRANCE

The Sacred Heart St. Vincent de Paul Society is collecting items for their Valentine's Day Baskets for Shut-Ins Project. Needed are small baskets in which to put the gift items in as well as: flavored/decaffeinated tea, light jam, Dove or Ivory soap, deodorant, gentle body wash, body lotion, shampoo, conditioner, sugar-free candy, note paper and stamps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, small packages of tissues, or anything else you think they would enjoy or need. ***We can no longer accept hotel soaps, shampoos, body washes.*** 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 10th at 7 PM in the Wachter Room. We are also in need of volunteers to deliver the baskets. If you have any questions, contact Ann Sutherland at asuther237@gmail.com. As always, SVDP appreciates your continued support of their projects.



Coming soon! - The Knights of Columbus Annual COAL/ Chance of A Lifetime fundraiser tickets will be available soon. Proceeds from the COAL drawing directly benefit the annual Knights of Columbus PA State Council Student Scholarship Program. Prizes range from trips to cash and more will be awarded. This is a drawing held each year on April

30 and features 16 different major prizes. Details and ticket books will be available later in January 2020 at both parishes. More details coming out soon!

February Activities:

- 6th Planning Meeting - IHM Room 7PM
- 8th Habitat for Humanity "ReStore" volunteering - 9 AM to 1 PM
Muhlenberg ReStore location
- 20th General Meeting - IHM Room
6:45-9:00PM
- 24th March for Life
Washington, DC

Important 2020 dates for your calendar:

- March 7th Habitat for Humanity
"ReStore" volunteering
9 AM to 1 PM
- May 6th Annual Spaghetti Dinner
4:30 to 7:30 PM
- August 21st Annual Swing and a Prayer
Golf Tournament

The Knights of Columbus Monsignor Bornemann Council membership is open to all practicing Catholic male adults, aged 18 and over, who wish to serve their parish and community. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month. To join, please contact our Membership Committee Chair Bill Fatora at (484) 855-9478.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO

The Tiehl Family on the death of:
Mary Elizabeth Tiehl
12-18-2019

The Maddaloni Family on the death of:
Jeanne D. Maddaloni
12-21-2019

The Klick Family on the death of:
Paul T. Klick Sr.
1-10-2020

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 60th year on his/her 59th 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 there 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 (March 1st to June 7th). 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Celebrated on Wednesdays at 1:15 PM with our parish school children and Fridays at 12 Noon at Holy Rosary and at 7 PM at Sacred Heart. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament will take place at all times.

SENIORS NEWS

Come and join the fun on Monday, February 3rd because we are celebrating Valentine's Day! The festivities will begin at 1 PM in the Wachter Room. Join us for drinks and refreshments! Don't miss out on all the fun! Come and bring along a friend!

FEBRUARY 2020 FUNDRAISING NEWS

We are incredibly appreciative of all the donations we've received so far to our Annual Fund and overwhelmed by the selfless generosity of our parishioners. Our Annual Fund is used for the upkeep of our building, books, art supplies, salaries for our wonderful teachers and many other daily operational needs. Every dollar we receive directly affects every student.

Our "Walk for Annual Fund" campaign kickoff is fast approaching. SHS Walk for Annual Fund is a fun way for our students to help raise money for their school. The campaign begins on March 2nd and our walk will take place on May 1st. (rain date May 8th). Pledge now and pay over time - all pledged donations have until June 30th to be paid in full. Prayerfully consider a donation to our Annual Fund to continue Sacred Heart's legacy. You can also support our school by purchasing gift cards through our SHOPS/scrip program. SHS purchases gift cards at a discount and sells them at face value. We carry many of the local grocery stores & restaurants and can order from over 700 retailers. You can order or purchase your SHOPS cards after the 5:30 PM, 9:30AM, & 11:00 AM Masses on most weekends and in the IHM room on Mondays & Fridays from 8-9:45 AM. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Questions? Please contact Beth Gasperack at (610) 685-2347 or bgasperack@sacredheartreading.org.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

___ Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

___ Please charge my credit card for my gift. (enter credit card info below)

___ I wish to pledge \$ _____

(Pledges are due by June 2020)

___ Please invoice me monthly payments of \$ _____ for _____ months

___ Please charge my credit card for a monthly payment of \$ _____ for _____ months

Student to receive credit: _____

Name/Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please circle all that apply:

Current Parent Former Parent Grandparent of current SHS student Parishioner Corporate Sponsor

Foundation Faculty/Staff Alumnus - Class of _____ Other _____

I wish to remain anonymous

Matching Gifts: ___ A matching gift will come from my employer.

Planned Giving: ___ I would like information on planned giving.

For Credit Card Payment:

(circle one) VISA Mastercard American Express

Name as it appears on card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

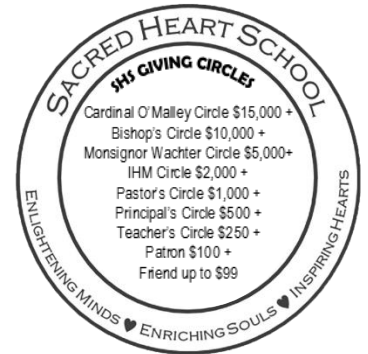
Validation Code: _____ (on back of card for VISA/MC; on front of card for AMEX)

Signature: _____

Thank you for supporting Sacred Heart School!

Gifts to Sacred Heart School are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

701 Franklin Street • West Reading, PA 19611 • (610) 373-3316 • www.sacredheartreading.com



FEBRUARY 2020 EVENTS

- 2 Coffee & Donuts – 10 AM – Wachter
- 3 Seniors Meeting – 1 PM – Wachter
Legion of Mary – 6 PM - Bornemann
Parish Council – 7 PM – Wachter
- 5 RCIA – 7 PM – Bornemann
- 6 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
- 10 SVDP – 7 PM – Wachter
- 12 RCIA – 7 PM - Bornemann
Baptism Class – 7 PM – Wachter
- 13 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
W.I.N.E. – 7 PM – Wachter
- 16 Coffee & Donuts – 10 AM – Wachter
Third Order Carmelites – 1 PM – Chapel & Wachter
- 19 Liturgy Committee – 7 PM – Wachter
RCIA – 7 PM – Bornemann
- 20 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
Knights of Columbus – 7 PM – IHM Room
- 23 Mardi Gras Celebration – 12 Noon – School Gym
- 24 Newsletter Mailing – 8:30 AM – Wachter
- 26 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
RCIA – 7 PM – Bornemann
- 27 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
W.I.N.E. – 7 PM – Wachter
- 28 Stations of the Cross – 7 PM - Church