

Around the Parish

MARCH 2020

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

A man was strolling along the beach one day when he spotted a bottle washed up on the shore. He went over and picked it up and noticed a message in the bottle. He popped the cork out and inside was a weathered treasure map indicating that there was buried treasure to be found in the shallow waters below. But the man thought it was a hoax, so he slipped the map back in and threw the bottle back into the ocean.....

A little later, another man was walking along the beach and the bottle had washed upon the shore. He too picked up the bottle, popped out the cork, and found the treasure map. This man, however, was curious enough to wade into the water and hoped it was buried shallow enough to find. But once the cold ocean waters reached up to his thighs, he decided to quit. "This is not worth it!" he thought to himself. So, he scrambled back to shore and chucked the bottle back into the ocean.....

A third man was walking by the beach and noticed the bottle washed upon the shore. We went over, opened the bottle and found the map. The map looked authentic enough, and promised great treasure... So he got himself a small raft and set out into the ocean to claim the treasure...he rowed out far enough into the ocean where the "X" on the map was and to his surprise, he saw the glint of something shining object below...he could see that there was something that looked like a treasure chest, but he couldn't quite reach it and the deeper he went, the greater the cold and pressure on his body and his mind.., "I am about to lose my breath, and the longer I take, my raft might be swept away!", he thought. So the man decided to give up the hunt so he would ensure his own life and safety..when he reached the shore once more, he took the bottle from the raft and tossed it back into the ocean.....

Finally, one more man was walking along the beach. He noticed the bottle, went over, popped it open, and was excited to find a map promising great treasure. He noticed someone had left a raft by the water's edge, so he took it and paddled out. He too, got far enough to where the "X" marks the spot, and squinted into the waters and saw the shadow and glint of the treasure below. He took a deep breath and plunged into the waters. Like the man before him, the cold, darkness and pressure upon his senses increased as he got closer. He also realized that if he kept swimming, that he might lose his breath, the raft, and even his own life! But this treasure could be worth all the risk, and he persisted. Just as he was about to give up, he grabbed the long chain that was binding the chest and pulled it up along with himself back to the surface. He broke the surface of the water gasping and exhausted but with the treasure chest safely in his grasp. He paddled back to shore, opened up the treasure chest and found what the map had promised - gold, and precious diamonds and jewels that would make him secure for the rest of his life.

A relationship with Jesus Christ is a similar treasure hunt. People hear the same message, but the way they receive it will determine the reward they might find. Eternal life is waiting for all those who are willing to take that risk to follow Jesus all the way to the "X" (the Cross), where we find love, forgiveness and life everlasting... for eternity.

MARCH 2020 NEWS FROM THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

The Advancement Office has been busy with reenrollment of our current students and recruiting new students for next school year. Currently, 77% of our current students have enrolled for the fall and we have enrolled 14 new students for next school year. Sacred Heart has much to offer new students, including the opportunity to grow not only academically, but into contributing members of our local communities. At Sacred Heart School we teach mind, body and spirit. Please visit our school website www.sacredheartreading.com - new students tab - for more information or call the school office at (610) 373-3316 to schedule a tour.

Sacred Heart School's "Walk for Annual Fund" campaign will kick off on Monday, March 2nd. Our Annual Fund is used for the upkeep of our building, books for our library, art supplies, salaries for our wonderful teachers and many other daily operational needs. Every dollar we receive directly affects each and every student. The Walk for Annual Fund is a fun way for our students to help raise money for their school. The Walk will be held on Friday, 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. 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:

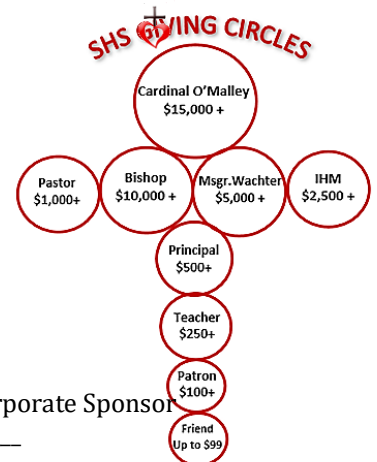
(circle one) VISA Mastercard American Express

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

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

In the midst of our observance of Lent is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. In an effort to help foster parish devotional life, parish fellowship and to further our assistance to the needy, the parish will celebrate this feast in the following ways:

- † A novena to St. Joseph at the end of all Masses the 9 days preceding the feast;
- † A parish covered dish social in the auditorium of the school following Mass at 5:30 PM on Thursday, March 19th, celebrating St. Joseph's table;
- † An offering of canned goods for the needy, to be brought to Church on the feast. This food will be given to St. Joseph Food Pantry in Reading.

Volunteers are needed to help wrap plastic ware prior to the date. We also need volunteers interested in setting up and decorating the gym on that Thursday afternoon, receiving dishes prior to Mass, and break-down and clean-up. Margaret Hueske has once again offered to co-chair this event. Anyone who is interested in helping, please contact either Margaret at (484) 706-0301 or Bonnie at (610) 372-4010. Covered dish sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex of the Church on March 14th and 15th. We will be placing papers in the pews to mark the number attending and aluminum pans will be available for your dish as well. ***Please plan on making the celebration of the husband of Our Lady and the Protector of the Christ, part of your parish life.***

SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

On Friday, February 7th Mrs. Hannahoe and Mrs. Buchanan, science teachers from Berks Catholic High School, came to Sacred Heart School to judge the 7th and 8th grade Science Fair projects. The following students were recognized for excellence and will be competing at the Berks County Science and Engineering Fair at Albright College:

7th Grade

1st Place - Nate Hnatishion

2nd Place - Ava Smith

3rd Place - Thania Cubas

Honorable Mention: Lauren Landau,
Carmine Lenzi

8th Grade

1st Place - Meghan Munter

2nd Place - Claire Pakradooni

3rd Place - Rocco DeCarlo

Honorable Mention - Taryn Bender,
Jule'ah Dubel-Haag

Sacred Heart School Grand Champion

Nate Hnatishion

Thank you to Mrs. Danelle Parisi, Sacred Heart science teacher, for guiding these students to success.

Congratulations also to the Sacred Heart School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team, who were awarded the Berks County CYO Team Sportsmanship Award for 2019-2020, for demonstrating sportsmanship and Catholic values. Two 8th grade Sacred Heart boys who played on a merged team with St. Margaret School, were also awarded the Sportsmanship Award. Congratulations to these student athletes and their coaches for showing exemplary sportsmanship this year.

Submitted by Kathy Napolitano, Principal



The KofC Annual COAL/ Chance Of A Lifetime fundraiser tickets are available now! Proceeds from the COAL drawings directly benefit the annual Knights of Columbus PA State Council Student Scholarship Program. Prizes range from vacations and cruises to cash and more will be awarded. This annual event drawing is held April 30 and feature 16 different major prizes. Tickets are \$1 each and are available for purchase by the Knights of Columbus! See one of your friendly Knights after Mass and view the Poster showing all the available prizes. First prize is a 2020 Chevrolet Spark, 16th Prize is an iPad Pro with a bunch more in-between! See the poster in the Narthex bulletin board for a glimpse of all 16 prizes. We will be selling tickets on weekends in March. Refer to the bulletin for exact date.

Also, please join us during Lent for Light Lenten Meal and Stations of the Cross on the three dates in March 13th, 20th, and 27th. There is no cost for the meal which is soup and cheese sandwiches. Lenten Meal is from 6 PM - 7 PM followed by Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 PM.

February Activities:

- 5th Planning Meeting - IHM Room 7PM
- 7th Habitat for Humanity "ReStore" volunteering - 9 AM to 1 PM
Muhlenberg ReStore location
- 12th General Meeting - IHM Room
6:45-9:00PM
- 13th Lenten Meal 6 PM to 7 PM
Wachter/Bornemann Rooms

- 20th Lenten Meal 6 PM to 7 PM
Wachter/Bornemann Rooms
- 27th Lenten Meal 6 PM to 7 PM
Wachter/Bornemann Rooms

Important 2020 dates for your calendar:

- 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.

**PLEASE WELCOME
OUR NEW MEMBER**

James Weidle

MANY, MANY THANKS!

Thanks to all of you who donated countless items for the Valentine's Day Baskets. From socks to stamps, from personal care items to prayer books, from snacks to tea bags. Over 40 baskets were filled to the brim for our fellow parishioners who are homebound. On behalf of those who received the baskets, thank you very much for your thoughtfulness. Their Valentine's Day is a little brighter because of you! New members are always welcome! St. Vincent de Paul meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7 PM in the Wachter Room.

SENIORS NEWS

The March Seniors Meeting will be held on Monday, March 2nd at 1 PM. Senior Stations of the Cross will be conducted by Deacon Bill Kase in the Church. Afterwards we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with refreshments and the company of old and new friends. So don't be left out in the cold...come and join us!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Mabel Clare Valente
Daughter of Chris & Megan Valente
Mabel was born on 9-1-2019

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. We 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.

MARCH 2020 EVENTS

- 1 Coffee & Donuts – 10 AM – Wachter
- 2 Seniors Meeting – 1 PM – Wachter
Legion of Mary – 6 PM - Bornemann
Parish Council – 7 PM – Wachter
- 4 Stations of the Cross – 1:15 PM – Church
First Penance – 6 PM – Church/Wachter
RCIA – 7 PM – Bornemann
- 5 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
- 6 Stations of the Cross - 7PM - Church
- 9 SVDP – 7 PM – Wachter
- 10 Intercessory Prayer Committee – 7 PM - Bornemann
- 11 Stations of the Cross – 1:15 PM – Church
RCIA – 7 PM - Bornemann
- 12 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
W.I.N.E. – 7 PM – Wachter
- 13 Stations of the Cross – 7 PM - Church
- 15 Coffee & Donuts – 10 AM – Wachter
Third Order Carmelites – 1 PM – Chapel & Wachter
- 18 Stations of the Cross – 1:15 PM – Church
First Penance – 6 PM – Church/Wachter
Liturgy Committee – 7 PM – Wachter
RCIA – 7 PM – Bornemann
- 19 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
St. Joseph Covered Dish Social – 6 PM – SHS Gym
Knights of Columbus – 7 PM – IHM Room
- 20 Stations of the Cross – 7 PM - Church
- 23 Newsletter Mailing – 8:30 AM – Wachter
- 25 Stations of the Cross – 1:15 PM – Church
RCIA – 7 PM – Bornemann
- 26 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
W.I.N.E. – 7 PM – Wachter
- 27 Stations of the Cross – 7 PM - Church