



Around the Parish

AUGUST 2020

DIAPER SPELLED BACKWARDS

Last August I was feeling somewhat bummed by the thought of turning 40. After all, with the big 5-0 breathing down my neck like a demented dragon, I was starting to feel tired, achy, and old.

Then I opened a gift from our daughter, Dani, and her husband Mark - an empty silver picture frame with "Our First Grandchild" engraved on the bottom! I gasped and grinned until Dani finally said, "Read it out loud." Then my husband gasped and grinned too.

"Congratulations," I said. "Did you tell Mark's parents yet?" Mark said they just came from there (his parents live about a mile from our house) and he gave him Mom a similar picture frame engraved "Happy 26th Grandchild." Can you imagine? Of course, Mark is the youngest of nine kids, but that still seems like a huge pile of grandkids to dote over. The great news is Mark's mom Mary was equally thrilled. We can't wait for March to spoil the sweet new addition.

I was surprised to learn Dani had found out she was pregnant many weeks before the announcement. It seems you can pee on a stick these days and find out you're pregnant even before a missed period! She said, "We thought we'd better tell before you guessed 'cause of my bump and all." Truth be told, I hadn't noticed a baby bump yet, but I was glad she shared the good news.

"Soon we'll be buying diapers, onesies, and all that fun stuff," Dani said with a huge grin. "Yes, and did you know diaper spelled backwards is repaid?" I added helpfully.

"That should give you plenty to think about." Actually, Dani doesn't need to be repaid for bad baby behavior. Since both of my kids were over nine pounds at birth, they ate good, slept good, and did a good job filling diapers. Of course, 24 and 22 years later, I'm probably forgetting a few hundred crying jags and tantrums (some of them generated by the babies), but I enjoyed pregnancy and the babyhood of my kids.

It seems to me it was the tween and teen years that added growls, gray hair, and sleepless nights to my repertoire. An old Yiddish proverb said it best - "Small children disturb your sleep, big children your life." Still, every "big child" starts out a cute, cuddly cutie-pie. The more I get used to this whole Grandma ides, the more I like it. Yes, I'm still working full-time, but I think I'll have more time and patience for a Grandkid than I did when my two were little. As a young mom, I was torn in 99 different directions after work, while my husband did his farm chores and strolled into the house when it was almost bed time for the rug rats. This time around I'll get to watch the little tyke when I want to, and I'll appreciate every hour we spend together.

Did I mention March can't come soon enough? I can't wait to meet and greet the new little tyke that's already in my heart. I'm sure he or she will be the best baby in the world. As the late writer and humorist Teresa Bloomingdale said, "If your baby's beautiful and perfect, never cries or fusses, sleeps on schedule, burps on demand, and is an angel all the time - then you must be the grandma."

SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

“What will school look like this fall?” “What are your plans for health and safety?” “Can my child return to school and be safe” These are just a few of the many questions parents have been posing since we shut down our school in March.

The Office of Education for the Diocese prepared and presented a “Return to School Framework” that helped guide us as we prepared our health and safety plan. We continue to monitor guidance from local health departments, the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and are committed to safety above all.

Throughout the process (more of which will be shared next month), we are keep the following in mind: prayer, partnership, personal connections, perseverance and planning. We are purposely planning for all contingencies - face-to-face, hybrid and remote learning. We want all members of our community safe, healthy, supported and learning. Everything we are doing will improve our instruction and strengthen our community, no matter where we are. We will teach our children to rely on their faith to persist and persevere despite the obstacles we have all been facing.

As you can imagine, this has been a rigorous and involved process. We needed to consider, among other things:

- Entrance protocols
- Social distancing
- Scheduling
- Hygiene practices
- Curriculum planning
- Technology support
- Cleaning and disinfecting protocols

- Supporting Catholic identity

Our goal is to open in August with face-to-face instruction, with appropriate health and safety measures in place. Next month we will share particulars of our plan, as it is approved by the Office of Education. We ask that you keep our students, their families and our faculty in your prayers.

Submitted by Kathy Napolitano, Principal

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Jamie Vail & her daughter Molly

TOILET PAPER/BAR SOAP COLLECTION

Sacred Heart’s St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) will collect rolls of toilet paper and bars of hand soap for the St. Joseph’s Outreach on the weekend of August 1st/2nd. We collect these necessary items of daily living for the people who use the St. Joseph’s Parish Outreach Program. Vehicles will be stationed in front of the Church before all the Masses to accept your donations. Thank You!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Luca Joseph Kahn
Son of Daron & Kathleen Kahn
Luca was born on 12-9-2019

James Owen Gehris
Son of Wayne & Kristin Gehris
James was born on 11-11-2019



GOLF! GOLF! GOLF!

August 21st, Friday - 4th Annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament - Reading Country Club! Teams are now forming! The information mailer has been sent out, so get your team together now, and plan for a great time! Social Distancing considerations will be in place and we guarantee a good time for all. As was done in the past, Golfing Games of Chance and Skill will be offered. All we need is you! In the meantime, if you need more information about this worthy event to help raise funds for the Sacred Heart School Scholarship Fund, please contact Jim Tucker at (610) 781-7940.

Important 2020 KofC dates for your calendar:

November - ANNUAL PIE SALE - more to come!

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, contact our Grand Knight John Sylvester at (610) 451-6980.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

7-18-2020

**Joseph Nicholas Oros
&
Allison Marie Hoffa**

WHERE ARE OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ATTENDING COLLEGE?

- Thomas Esterbrook - Boston College
- Clayton Gibbs - Penn State Altoona
- Colleen Gieringer -University of Pittsburgh
- Kaitlyn LaManna - Newberry College
- Matthew Morelli - Villanova University
- James Pottieger - University of Pittsburgh

We wish all these students the best as they begin the next journey in their educational career! God Bless!

OUR CONDOLENCES TO

The Mulligan Family on the death of:
Diana S. Mulligan
7-10-2020

The Clemens Family on the death of:
Florence G. Clemens
6-16-2020

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Will be celebrated on Saturday, August 15th at 10 AM in the Church. Our children have waited patiently to receive this sacrament. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. There will be a Parents Meeting on Wednesday, July 29th at 6 PM in the Church. Please mark your calendars.

NEED INFORMATION? HAVE QUESTIONS?

Parish Website: shrcparish.org

School Website: sacredheartreading.com

Diocesan Website: allentowndiocese.org

SACRED HEART SCHEDULE

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends: Vigil – Saturday at 5 PM

Sunday – 7:30, 9:30 & 11 AM

Daily Mass at 8 AM (Monday through Friday) & First Saturday

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

9 AM TO 3PM

Church will be open for private prayer

FRIDAY

9 AM TO NOON

Church will be open for private prayer

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

6 PM TO 8 PM

Church will be open with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAYS

4:00 TO 4:45 PM

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART – Monday through Friday 10 AM