



# Around the Parish

NOVEMBER 2020

ROOM AT THE TABLE

Have you ever noticed that dining room tables seat six, eight, or twelve - not seven, nine, or thirteen? I've been single all my life, usually not thinking much of it. But on holidays even the place-settings conspire against me, rendering a silent rebuke against my single status.

You can endure holiday dinners two ways if you're single: 1/ Bring someone you don't particularly care for; 2/Hear the awful words "pull up an extra seat," a euphemism for either a collapsible chair or one that is too high or too low for the table. Either strategy leaves you uncomfortable.

At Thanksgiving two years ago, while my calves cramped from straddling the leg of my brother's dining room table, Aunt Nell took the opportunity to ask for details about my love life, which was seriously lacking at the time. The event was excruciating.

Though I enjoy singlehood in the main, there have been times when I've worked myself into a mad frenzy looking for someone to fill a void I thought I couldn't satisfy on my own. Someone, anyone with a pulse would do. Over the years, I dated quite a few guys I liked - I was even engaged once but "till death do we part" seemed a very long time. I always ended up alone again.

So holidays, especially with the Aunt Nells of the family, can weaken my confidence, leaving me a little bereft. One day, noting my frustration surrounding the holidays, a friend of mine suggested we try something different on the next such occasion.

"How 'bout you and I go down to a homeless shelter and help out? Then maybe we'll be grateful for what we have," she proposed. I had a thousand reasons why this wasn't a good idea, but my friend persisted. The next Christmas I found myself in an old downtown warehouse, doling out food. Never in my life had I seen so many turkeys and rows of pumpkin pies. Decorations donated by a nearby grocery store created a festive atmosphere that uplifted even my reluctant spirit. When everyone was fed, I took a tray and filled a plate with the bountiful harvest. After a few bites, I knew what everyone was carrying on about; the food was really good.

My dinner companions were easy company. Nobody asked me why I didn't have a date or when I was going to settle down. People just seemed grateful for a place to sit and enjoy a special dinner. To my surprise, I found I had much in common with my fellow diners. They were people just like me.

My experience that Christmas brought me back to the shelter the following year. I enjoyed helping others so much that I began seeking more opportunities to serve. I started volunteering for the Literacy Foundation once a week. I figured I could sit in front of the TV, or I could use those evening hours to help others learn to read.

Caring for others has abundantly filled the void in my life that I had sometimes interpreted as a missing mate. When I stopped trying so hard to fit in, I realized I was single for a reason and found my own special purpose.

There is room at the table for a party of one. And sometimes "just one" is the perfect fit.

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Edward & Marie Lynch

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### SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

Sacred Heart School continues to adapt and change as we strive to provide a quality, Christ-centered education to our students. This month we brought back two more grades to five day, in-person instruction. Pre-K, and grades 2,3,4 and 5 are now back at school full-time, with some students choosing to remain virtual. The safety and well-being of our students and staff is always our number one concern, and we are so proud of our students for their efforts. We recently increased our bandwidth at school, improving our capability to provide remote instruction. Mask-wearing, hand washing and social distancing all play an important part in our health and safety plan as we continue to evolve and change, sometimes daily.

Service projects continue. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders wrote cards for the retired nuns at St. Joseph Villa and long for the day when we can visit them once again. The entire school celebrated "Pink Week" wearing pink and raising money for breast cancer research. Classrooms are collecting change for the Missions and soon other projects will begin. COVID-19 can't distinguish our commitment to service!

This month Father Hutta began celebrating Mass in classrooms, giving our students an intimate experience with the Eucharist and learning up close about the beauty and mystery of Mass. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been attending 8 AM Mass several times to help prepare

them for Confirmation, which will happen November 10<sup>th</sup>. Please keep those students in your prayers.

We remain grateful, as always for your support, encouragement and prayers. We truly are a family and we could not do it without you. May God bless you and bring you peace.

*Submitted by Kathy Napolitano, Principal*

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### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Bishop William Loose**  
Son of Stephen & Sarah Loose  
Bishop was born on 11-17-2019

**Enzo Anthony Miller**  
Son of Anthony & Alexandria Miller  
Enzo was born on 2-20-2020

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### SVDP FOOD DRIVE

Please join us in helping our friends at St. Joseph Food Pantry by donating canned or boxed good on November 14th/15th. Suggested items include: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, cereal, soup, canned fish, coffee, tea, and instant potatoes. All donations must be sealed and have a valid expiration date. Members of Sacred Heart St. Vincent de Paul Society will be accepting donations curbside at the main entrance of the Church before all Masses that weekend. If you forget your food items, a monetary donation will be very helpful and appreciated. Please practice social distancing and wear your mask!

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and commitment to help families in our area who are struggling.

## SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

10-17-2020

Francesco Natale Mercuri  
&  
Victoria Ray Pottieger



### HOLIDAY PIE SALE IS HERE!

The Monsignor Bornemann Knights are having their Annual Holiday Pie Sale starting the weekend of November 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>. Orders and payments can be made after the Mass or mailed to the address on the order form. The pies offered will be the same as in the past: Apple, Blueberry, Cherry, Coconut Custard, Pecan and Pumpkin.

Pies are \$8 each or 2 for \$15. Pies can be picked up in the IHM Room on Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 6 PM. More details each week in the bulletin or shown during the Livestream Mass 9:30 AM. We plan to be in the Narthex after Masses on the weekends of Nov 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> also.

#### NOVEMBER DATES:

- 11/15 Monthly Membership Meeting via Zoom
- 11/7-8, 14-15, 21-22 - Annual Pie Sale  
Orders/Payment Taken
- 11/24 HOLIDAY PIE PICKUP  
IHM ROOM 2 to 6 PM

The Knights of Columbus Monsignor Bornemann Council membership is open to all practicing Catholic male adults, aged 18 or over, who wish to serve their parish and community. Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. To join, contact our Grand Knight John Sylvester at (610) 451-6980.

## OUR CONDOLENCES TO

The Gross Family on the death of:  
**Joseph L. Gross**  
9-17-2020

The Bulcavage Family on the death of:  
**Elizabeth S. Bulcavage**  
9-18-2020

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## HELLO AND GOODBYE

Please welcome both Sr. Josandra Ciucci and Sean O'Brien to the Sacred Heart Rectory Staff. Sr. Josandra will be working as the secretary on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Janine Good will continue working as the secretary on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sean will be the Communications and Activities Coordinator and will be working on a part time basis with hours to be announced.

Sr. Josandra is a member of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters. She has many years of clerical experience. Her most recent ministry was at Villa of Our Lady Retreat House in Mount Pocono.

Sean is a lifelong member of Holy Rosary Parish. He has a BA in Communications from Penn State and an Elementary School certification from Alvernia University. He has been working for over thirty years.

Bonnie Batdorf will be retiring on October 30<sup>th</sup> after 16 years at Sacred Heart Parish. She will begin her next life chapter as Connor's Mimi with a move to Chadds Ford on Election Day. If you want to keep in touch or are planning a visit to Longwood Gardens - her new address is: 101 Painters Crossing, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. She would love to hear from you and thanks you for the privilege of being able to serve you over the years.



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS®**

Monsignor Bornemann Council #16066  
Sacred Heart Church & Holy Rosary Church

# ANNUAL HOLIDAY PIE SALE

**Pies cost \$8.00/each OR 2 FOR \$15** (mix or match!)

These 8-inch pies are available in 6 delicious flavors just in time for the Holidays!

- Apple ● Blueberry ● Cherry ● Coconut Custard ● Pecan ● Pumpkin

**PICK UP: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020**

**2:00pm TO 6pm in the IHM Room, Sacred Heart School**

*Note: pies are prepared the day before pickup by Lil's Bakery, (Wyomissing Farmers Market)*

*Please complete the order form below and return it with payment in an envelope marked "KofC PIE SALE" to the basket in the church center aisle, give it to a Knight after Mass, or drop it in the Rectory Office door mail slot with your payment by November 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

*Keep top portion on your refrigerator as a pick-up date reminder!*

*Tear here and return bottom portion with your order and payment, cash or check accepted. Return it with payment in an envelope marked "KofC PIE SALE" to the basket in the church center aisle, give it to a Knight after Mass, or drop it in the Rectory Office door mail slot with your payment by November 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

**Please make checks payable to: K of C #16066**

<b>FLAVOR</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>COST \$8.00EA OR 2 for \$15 (mix or match)</b>
APPLE		
BLUEBERRY		
CHERRY		
COCONUT CUSTARD		
PECAN		
PUMPKIN		
TOTALS		\$

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

# A Tax-Saving Way To Help your Parish Using your IRA

## The SECURE Act & Your Charitable Distributions

If you are 70 1/2 years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit your parish and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity, such as our parish, without having to pay income taxes on the money. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD for short.

## Why Consider this gift?

- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- If you are at least 72 years old and have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.
- Since the gift does not count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

## Next Steps

1. **Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor.**
2. **Ask your IRA Administrator about making a direct transfer to the Church or have the administrator send a check from your account to us. (To be tax-free, the donation must go directly from your account to the Church without passing through your hands.)**

Legal name:	Sacred Heart Church
Address:	PO Box 6217 Reading, PA 19610
Federal Tax ID#:	23-1547583

## PRAYER FOR ALL SOULS DAY

1. Spend some time reflecting on those who have been close to you, have died, and are now with the Lord.
2. Slowly read this scripture passage: Wisdom 3:1-3.  
“But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction but they are at peace.”
3. Remember someone close to you who has died. Bring this person’s image into your mind’s eye. As you remember this life, imagine the Lord Jesus escorting this person into heaven at the time of death. Finally, imagine this loved one waiting for you. Know that when your time of passing comes, the Lord and your loved ones who have gone before you will escort you into the kingdom of heaven.
4. Finish your short remembering with this prayer:  
Lord, You are the Resurrection and the Life. You promised that whoever believes in you will never die. Lord, through the power of your rising, help me believe in my own resurrection. Amen.

**Bishop Alfred A. Schlert will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation here at Sacred Heart on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM.**

## ELECTION DAY

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Don't forget to VOTE!  
In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. Every believer is called to faithful citizenship, to become an informed, active and responsible participant in the political process. We hope that voters will examine the position of candidates on the full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity, philosophy, and performance. We are convinced that a consistent ethic of life should be the moral framework from which to address all issues in the political arena. We urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not simply party affiliation or mere self-interest.



## SHRINE VOTIVE OFFERINGS

Anyone wishing to have a candle or candles burn at the shrines to St. Joseph or the Blessed Virgin Mary as a memorial or special intention for any particular Sunday/week, contact the office (610) 372-4010. The usual offering for the memorial candle is \$5.00. There are many weekends open.

## **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 2 PM**

**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**