

Around the Parish

SEPTEMBER 2020

SUCKER DAY



I've never visited the town of Wetumka in Oklahoma. But I understand the folks there celebrate a day every year when they laugh at themselves. They call it Sucker Day and they plan a town festival on the last Saturday of September to commemorate it.

It all started in 1950 when a man calling himself F. Bam Morrison arrived in Wetumka and persuaded local residents to put up the money to bring a circus to town. They did not know F. Bam, but he was a nice enough fellow and they trusted his word.

Merchants bought plenty of food, beverages, and souvenirs in preparation for the crowds of people who were bound to attend. And Morrison sold advance tickets. The townspeople were ecstatic at the thought of a circus in their very own village. Children could hardly sleep at night.

On the day the circus parade was to march down the main street, ecstasy turned into dismay when nothing happened. F. Bam had slipped quietly away in the night with any money he had left. There would be no circus. The good folks of Wetumka had been swindled.

It didn't take long for their disappointment to turn into amusement, however. Someone came up with the idea of holding a four-day celebration anyway. And why not? They had all the food and goodies. Calendars were cleared and, besides, everyone's heart was set on having a good time.

They called their party The Sucker Festival. In a display of good-natured fun, people celebrated the fact that they'd been conned, snookered and hornswoggled. And now Sucker Day is an annual event Wetumka - a good excuse to come together, to laugh and to have some fun.

We're going to be fooled sometimes. Especially, if we easily place our confidence in people. But I'm not going to give up trusting just to avoid being had. I've observed that some of the happiest people I know are far from being the most wary - in fact, they are quite often open and trusting. These contented folks share at least two traits.

The first is that they are trustworthy. They are known to be honest and true to their word. And the second trait these happy and satisfied people share is that they easily trust others. Sometimes their trust is misplaced, but they've discovered that the benefits of trusting usually outweigh the risks of disappointment.

I expect I'll get taken in plenty of times yet by friends and strangers I believe in. But I hope the next time I trusted when I should have been more cautious, I can learn from the good folks of Wetumka and laugh at myself.

Because I'd rather let others into my heart than shut them out. I'd rather be a sucker for a day than unhappy for a lifetime. And I'd rather believe there is goodness in most people, for that is the only way to find it.

**PLEASE WELCOME
OUR NEW MEMBER**

Eugene Wisniewski



GOLF! GOLF! GOLF!

Thank you to the 80 plus golfers and all who either participated or donated your time, gifts, or talents to the 4th Annual Swing and A Prayer Golf Outing that was held on August 21st at the Reading Country Club! It was a big success! Proceeds benefit the Sacred Heart School Scholarship Fund.

Important dates for your calendar:

October 19th - Knights of Columbus Monsignor Bornemann Council Birthday - 7 Years!

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 BAPTISM

Ani Rose Scarpino

Daughter of Salvatore & Iesha Scarpino
Ani was born on 9-26-2019

Laila Rose Worley

Daughter of Scott & Antonella Scarpino
Laila was born on 12-20-2019

RCIA

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and it is the process by which adults can become full members of the Church. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 9th at 7 PM in the Church. If you are not Catholic but would like to find out about becoming Catholic, please join us. Or if you are a Catholic adult who was never confirmed, you are welcome too. We will be wearing masks over our nose and mouth and maintaining social distance. You can contact us at SacredHeartRCIA@gmail.com or call the rectory (610) 372-4010.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS!**

**Reagan Babiarz
Charlotte Bell
Benjamin Bernardo
Danielle Brillantes
Gemma Brunner
Amaya Butler
Jayliana Clemente
Ryan DeJohn
Stella Grande
Landon Hansbury
Rowan Harrison
Adeline Holt
Madelyn Kline
Greyson Kolb
Declan Nye
Emely Rodriguez
Anthony Romeo
Zachary Ruppert
Alexander Serfecz
Samuel Smith
James Spencer
Aubriana Zervanos**

OUR CONDOLENCES TO

The Engelhardt Family on the death of:
Theodore C. Engelhardt Jr.
7-20-2020

The Capozello Family on the death of:
Peter Capozello
7-27-2020

SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

Sacred Heart School is delighted to welcome Dr. Dipsy Etanislao to our faculty. Dr. Etanislao has a PhD in Educational Leadership and a Master's Degree in Educational Technology. She is bilingual and will be teaching Spanish to our junior-high students, as well as Science, Math and one period of Social Studies, and will be the 7th grade homeroom teacher. She brings to Sacred Heart School 20 years of teaching experience, a joy of learning and dedication to teaching the whole child. As we move into the ever-changing world of education during Covid, we are fortunate to have such an experienced educator join us.

As of this writing, the majority of grades at Sacred Heart School will be returning to school in a "blended" model, with two cohorts in each grade. Cohort A will be in person Monday and Tuesday, and Cohort B, in-person Wednesday and Thursday. The days students are not physical present in the building they will attend live-streamed classes, and all students in those grades will be taught remotely on Fridays. PreK, grade 4 and grade 5 will (as of today) be returning to school for 5 full days of in-person instruction, due to smaller numbers. About 20 of our students have chosen

100% virtual instruction, where they will attend class via livestream Monday-Thursday, and remotely with their classmates Friday. Guidance changes daily (sometimes it feels like hourly!) and we are committed to providing a quality, faith-based education to our families in a safe a way as possible. A big "thank you" to everyone for all their support and encouragement during these past few months, as we navigate the unknown. Never has the bible quote "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" (Philippians 4:13) meant more.

May God bless you and bring you peace.
Submitted by Kathy Napolitano, Principal

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sacred Heart Parish is looking to hire the following:

- **Parish Secretary** - strong computer skills and a familiarity with Microsoft Office Suite and a willingness to learn the parish database.
- **Communications & Activities Coordinator** - provide strategic & marketing direction for the parish and manage our communications through multiple platforms including social media, website and bulletin.

Knowledge of the Catholic Church is preferred.

The parish is flexible when it comes to scheduling and willing to consider full-time or part-time options.

Please submit resumes to: Sacred Heart Church, PO Box 6217, Reading, PA 19610 ATTN: Kate Banta or email business@shrcparish.org.

No phone calls please.

SACRED HEART SCHEDULE

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends: Vigil – Saturday at 5 PM

Sunday – 7:30, 9:30 & 11:15 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