



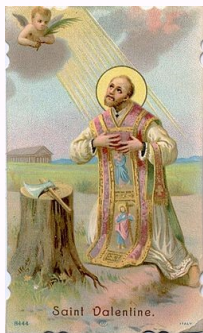
Around the Parish

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

2023

History of St. Valentine

FR. WILLIAM SAUNDERS



Who was Saint Valentine and how did he come to inspire Valentine's Day?

In the early martyrologies, three different St. Valentines are mentioned, all sharing Feb. 14 for a feast day. Unfortunately, the historical record is sparse. The first St. Valentine was a priest and physician in Rome. He along with St. Marius and his family comforted the martyrs during the persecution of Emperor Claudius II, the Goth. Eventually, St. Valentine was also arrested, condemned to death for his faith, beaten with clubs, and finally beheaded on Feb. 14, AD 270. He was buried on the Flaminian Way. Later, Pope Julius I (333-356) built a basilica at the site which preserved St. Valentine's tomb. Archeological digs in the 1500's and 1800's have found evidence of the tomb of St. Valentine. However, in the thirteenth century, his relics were transferred to the Church of Saint Praxedes near the Basilica of St. Mary Major, where they remain today. Also, a small church was built near the Flaminian Gate of Rome which is now known as the Porta del Popolo but was called in the 12th century "the Gate of St. Valentine," as noted by the early British historian William Somerset (also known as William of Malmesbury, d. 1143), who ranks after St. Bede in authority.

The second St. Valentine was the Bishop of Interamna (now Terni, located about 60 miles from Rome). Under the orders of Prefect Placidus, he too was arrested, scourged, and decapitated, again suffering persecution during the time of Emperor Claudius II.

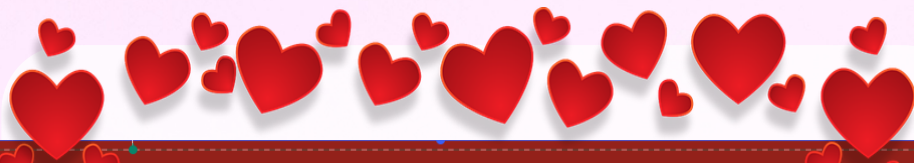
The third St. Valentine suffered martyrdom in Africa with several companions. However, nothing further is known about this saint. In all, these men, each named St. Valentine, showed heroic love for the Lord and His Church.

The popular customs of showing love and affection on St. Valentine's Day is almost a coincidence with the feast day of the saint: During the Medieval Age, a common belief in England and France was that birds began to pair on Feb. 14, "half-way through the second

month of the year." Chaucer wrote in his "Parliament of Fowles" (in Old English): "For this was on Seynt Valentyne's Day, When every foul cometh there to choose his mate." For this reason, the day was dedicated to "lovers" and prompted the sending of letters, gifts, or other signs of affection.

Another literary example of St. Valentine's Day remembrances is found in Dame Elizabeth Brews "Paston Letters" (1477), where she writes to the suitor, John Paston, of her daughter, Margery: "And, cousin mine, upon Monday is St. Valentine's Day and every bird chooseth himself a mate, and if it like you to come on Thursday night, and make provision that you may abide till then, I trust to God that ye shall speak to my husband and I shall pray that we may bring the matter to a conclusion." In turn, Margery wrote to John: "Unto my right well beloved Valentine John Paston, Squyer, be this bill delivered. Right reverend and worshipful and my right well beloved Valentine, I recommend me unto you, full heartily desiring to hear of your welfare, which I beseech Almighty God long for to preserve until His pleasure and your heart's desire." While speaking of the amorous flavor of Valentine's Day, no mention is made of the saint.

While it seems that the exchange of "valentines" are more the result of secular custom rather than the memory of St. Valentine, and that the celebration has been further paganized with cupids and the like, there is a Christian message that should be remembered. The love of our Lord, depicted beautifully in the image of His most Sacred Heart, is a sacrificial, self-less, and unconditional love. Such is the love that each Christian is called to express in his own life, for God and neighbor. Clearly, St. Valentine no matter which one showed such a love, bearing witness to the faith in his dedication as a priest and in the offering of his own life in martyrdom. On this Valentine's Day, looking to the example of this great saint, each person should offer again his love to the Lord, for only by doing so can he properly love those who are entrusted to his care and any other neighbor. Each person should again pledge his love to those loved ones, praying for their intentions, promising fidelity to them, and thanking them for their love in return. Never forget Jesus said, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:12-13). St. Valentine fulfilled this command, and may we do the same.



**NOW ENROLLING
3 & 4 YEAR OLDS**

thru 8th Grade

EXTENDED CARE OPTIONS

7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

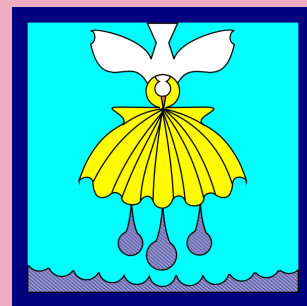
REGISTER ONLINE or CALL
www.sacredheartreading.com/register
610-373-3316

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

ENLIGHTENING MINDS ♥ ENRICHING SOULS ♥ INSPIRING HEARTS



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Vera Banks

Born October 8, 2019

Daughter of Kyle and Dana
Banks



SACRED HEART CHURCH

February 22nd, 2023

7:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m.

12:10 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

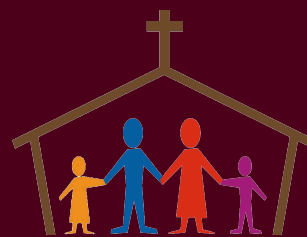
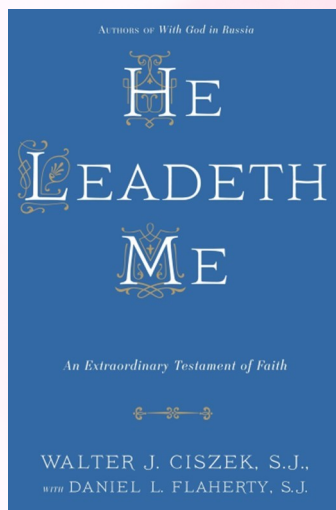
**Please join us at the
Sacred Heart Book
Club!**

**February 2, 2023 @
7:00 P.M.**

In the Parish Center

The book is:

He Leadeth Me by Walter
Ciszek S.J.



**WELCOME
TO THE PARISH**

Mr. and Mrs. Curt and Sue
Walmer



February 2023 LECTOR SCHEDULE

February 4/5

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

5:00 PM Karen Ann Cameron
7:30 AM Kathy Nevel
9:30 AM Lou Sutherland
11:15 AM Mary Ann Kelly

February 18/19

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

5:00 PM Sandie Wrable
7:30 AM Mike Gallagher
9:30 AM Denise Mogel
11:15 AM John Sylvester

February 11/12

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

5:00 PM Bill Wellock
7:30 AM Vince Moffitt
9:30 AM John Gleason
11:15 AM Steve Bell

February 22

Ash Wednesday

7:00 AM Kathy Nevel
12:10 PM Mary Ann Kase
7:00 PM John Gleason

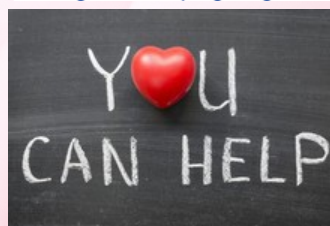
February 25/26

5:00 PM
7:30 AM
9:30 AM
11:15 AM

1st Sunday of Lent

Terry Vogel
Beth Tharp
Lori Anewalt
Margaret Hueske

There will be a collection of soap and paper products before and after the masses on **February 11th and 12th**. These items are being collected for *St. Joseph's Food Pantry in Reading*. Please mark your calendars and help us support our brothers and sisters in need. Monetary donations will be accepted as well. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

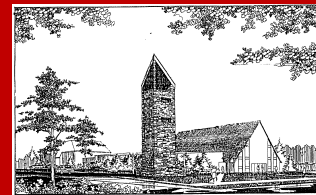


Our Volunteers make a difference in the lives of those living in poverty. They are caring and loving individuals inspired to feed the hungry, give a drink to the thirsty and welcome the stranger. Whether cooking a meal, distributing and/or serving food, they bring our mission to life! Our Group will be serving at the Kennedy House Soup Kitchen on February 25th and 26th.

If you would like to know more about this volunteer opportunity to help those in need, please email John and Marsha Gleason @: jm6gleason@comcast.net We are grateful to Volunteers sharing our vision to enhance the lives of those who live in poverty.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Sacred Heart Book Club Wachter Room

February 2nd, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Soap and Toilet Paper Drive Saint Vincent de Paul

February 11th & February 12th, 2023:
Before and after Masses

Kennedy House Soup Kitchen Saint Vincent de Paul

February 25th & 26th, 2023

Saint Joseph's Day Potluck Feast Knights of Columbus & Sacred Heart Church

SHS Gymnasium

March 20th, 2023 @ 6:15 p.m.





IT'S BAAAAACK!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023

The return of the ST. JOSEPH DINNER!!

That's right! The St. Joseph Dinner is in being planned for Monday, March 20th immediately following the Solemnity of St. Joseph Mass. Various groups from both parishes will be involved in some way to bring back this important event for both parishes. In a nutshell, to those who have not experienced this parish-wide dinner event, it is a pot-luck dinner where all those coming bring either a main dish, a salad of some type, or dessert as we break bread and socialize in the school's gymnasium. We are expecting a good turnout from those who we spoke to about bringing this dinner back.

Time is roughly 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. More information will be coming in future bulletins. A few weeks before the dinner we will be putting paperwork in the pews so you have the opportunity to let us know how many from your family may be attending and what you intend to make for the event. Foil pans for your dish will be distributed a few weeks prior to the dinner after Masses. For those of you who have attended in the past, the routine is nearly the same. The dinner is open to parishioners from both Sacred Heart and Holy Rosary Churches and was last held in 2019. We look forward to seeing you at the dinner.

Recitation of the Rosary is now on the weekly schedule, and we hope you can join us on Sunday mornings after the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the church and after Adoration on Tuesday evenings. All are welcome!

Important 2023 K of C dates for your calendar:

FEBRUARY 2 - Officer's Meeting – IHM Room 7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 16 - Membership Meeting – IHM Room 7:00 p.m.—
8:30 p.m.; Rosary at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting.

FEBRUARY 24 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS BEGINS –
WEEKLY 7:00 p.m.

March 20 – St. Joseph Dinner:

School Gymnasium after Mass – approx. 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Knights of Columbus Monsignor Bornemann Council membership is open to all practicing Catholic male adults, aged eighteen and over, who wish to serve their parish and community. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month. To join, contact John Sylvester at 610-451-6980, or go to bornknights.org and fill out the Contact Form located on our website OR sign up directly using the online KofC link.



**OUR CONDOLENCES
TO:**

The Gernert Family and
Friends on the passing
of:

Jeanette Gernert

1-1-2023



The Wentzel Family and
Friends on the passing
of:

Edith Wentzel

1-1-2023



The Kimball Family and
Friends on the passing
of:

Jenne Kimball

12-9-2022



BUILD YOUR LEGACY & SUPPORT

SACRED HEART PARISH

Support Our Parish Endowment

Sacred Heart Parish is fortunate to hold an endowment that can provide a perpetual stream of income for our parish mission "To Teach All Nations." To make a tax-deductible contribution to our endowment fund or if you are interested in establishing a new named endowment to benefit our parish, please call the parish office at **610-372-4010**.

A Gift in Your Will or Living Trust

A charitable bequest is an easy, flexible, and versatile way to ensure we can continue the mission of Jesus Christ in the Church. Simply include Sacred Heart Parish in your will or living trust.

Leave A Legacy to Our Parish

When you designate our parish as beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement plan or bank account, you are leaving a legacy that will impact generations of Catholics long into the future.

Donate Stocks or Other Appreciated Assets to Support Our Parish

Make a bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, or mineral interests, for the benefit of Sacred Heart Parish. By donating directly to us, you allow the parish to receive the full pre-tax value of those appreciated assets and you avoid capital gains taxes.

Support Our Parish through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to Sacred Heart Parish without having to pay income taxes on the money. Simply ask your broker to make your check payable directly to Sacred Heart Parish.

Gifts That Pay You Income

There is a way for you to support Sacred Heart Parish and feel confident that you have dependable income in your retirement years. A charitable gift annuity can provide you with regular payments and allow us to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ. You can also qualify for a variety of tax benefits, including a federal income tax charitable deduction when you itemize.

If you have any questions or would like more information about ***Building your Legacy*** through planned gifts, please contact the rectory office at **610-372-4010** and ask for Kirsten.



PARISH FINANCIAL REPORTS

SACRED HEART CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

	6 Months 12/31/2022	6 Months 12/31/2021
CHURCH INCOME:		
Offertory Collections Income	355,598	386,498
Donations, Bequests, Memorials Income	77,304	105,064
Program Income	17,417	18,775
Other Income	4,055	4,760
TOTAL CHURCH OPERATING INCOME	\$ 454,374	\$ 515,097
CHURCH EXPENSES:		
Administration Expenses	129,249	131,329
Religious Education Expenses	58,417	51,906
Diocesan Assessment Expenses	61,939	53,364
Church, Rectory, Parish Center Expenses	124,262	117,000
Capital Expenses & Improvements	28,861	220,100 *
TOTAL CHURCH OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 402,728	\$ 573,699
SUBTOTAL OF OPERATIONS Before Subsidy	\$ 51,646	\$ (58,602)
Endowment Donations	556,536	573,550
Church Subsidy to cover School Expenses	(170,500) **	(153,300)
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$ 437,682	\$ 361,648

* Capital Expenses & Improvements - 2021-22 includes remainder of 2020-21 school/church roof replacement expenses.

** Subsidy to school higher due to costs associated with starting new Prek program.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

	6 Months 12/31/2022	6 Months 12/31/2021
SCHOOL INCOME:		
Tuition & Fees Income	313,470	252,807
Fundraising Income	55,954	76,891
Gifts & Bequests	15,324	14,000
Extended Care	4,554	4,824
Other Income	333	17,963
TOTAL SCHOOL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 389,635	\$ 366,485
SCHOOL EXPENSES:		
Administration Expenses	102,425	116,186
Instruction Expenses	365,363	320,461
Building Operation & Maintenance	73,136	58,943
Insurance Exp/Diocesan Assessment	20,221	19,325
Capital Expenses & Improvements	15,380	13,593
Other Expenses	-	-
TOTAL SCHOOL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 576,525	\$ 528,508
SUBTOTAL OF OPERATIONS Before Subsidy	\$ (186,890)	\$ (162,023)
Church Subsidy to School Income	170,500 **	153,300
NET INCOME/LOSS After Subsidy	\$ (16,390)	\$ (8,723)



THANK YOU

For your continued support!

