



Around the Parish

APRIL NEWSLETTER

2023

Miracle rescue: Lost at sea for 10 days, man prayed the Our Father each morning



Boston, Mass., Dec 16, 2022 / 13:40 pm

When Joe Ditomasso, 76, and Kevin Hyde, 65, boarded their 30-foot sailboat in Cape May, New Jersey, and headed for the Florida Keys, the two friends were looking forward to an adventure.

As things would turn out, what began as a joyful sailing trip begun on Thanksgiving week-end unexpectedly became a living nightmare.

Suddenly the sky darkened, and their small boat was buffeted by a massive storm. High winds and giant waves rocked the boat, snapping its mast. The two men and their canine companion Minnie were lost at sea with very little food and water, no fuel, and no power to

operate radios and navigation equipment.

What kept Ditomasso going? “My granddaughter. And the cross of Jesus.”

That they survived and were rescued 10 days later is being called a “miracle.” For Ditomasso, it was an answer to the prayers he said every morning.

Ditomasso told ABC7: “Every morning I’d wake up and kiss [the cross] and say the Our Father. And if nobody does not believe there’s a Lord, they have a problem,” he said.

‘WE WERE MENTALLY PREPARING FOR THE WORST’

The journey became dangerous for the men when a major storm blew them off course while off the coast of North Carolina, ABC7 reported.

“Once we cut that mast off, 40-foot seas. There were mountains, I was watching them,” Ditomasso said, according to the outlet.

“I never heard a wind so bad.... It sounded like the devil was out there.”

On Dec. 11, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, and maritime

partners embarked on a search for the men that spanned 21,164 square miles of waters from New Jersey to Northern Florida.

And that’s when a “Christmas miracle,” happened, Nina Ditomasso said.

AN ANSWER TO PRAYERS

On Dec. 13, the men spotted a 600-foot tanker vessel and began frantically waving their arms and a flag.

When they were spotted, the tanker brought both the men and Minnie aboard to safety.

“We all just started screaming when we heard the news, crying and cheering because it was just so unbelievable,” Nina Ditomasso told USA Today. She said that the men were exhausted and could barely speak after being pulled onto the tanker after their traumatic experience.

The men arrived home safely in New York Harbor on Wednesday evening, according to USA Today.

“All I asked the Lord was to see my granddaughter,” Joe Ditomasso said, ABC7 reported.

Via: catholicnewsagency.com

By Joe Bukuras

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Sacred Heart Parish's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH FOLLOWING THE 11:15 A.M. MASS



Kids, Bring your
own baskets,
treats available
in the Narthex
afterward.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Vigil 5:00 p.m.

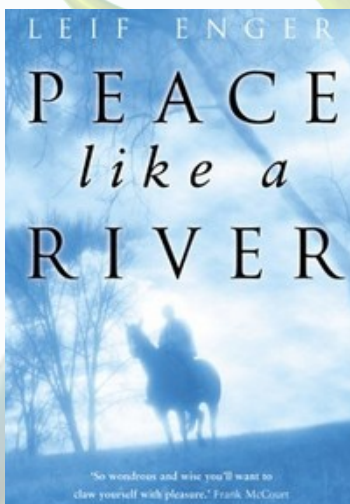
Palm Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m.

Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday Vigil 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., & 11:15 a.m.



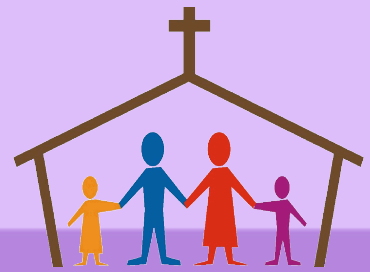
Please join us at the Sacred
Heart Book Club!

May 4, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

The Book Club will meet again in May to discuss our latest book. If you are interested, you can purchase, read the book on your own, and join us in the Parish Center.

Peace Like a River

By: Leif Enger



**WELCOME
TO THE PARISH**

Ms. Maura Levandowski



SAVE THE DATE

The World Apostolate of Fatima has invited Sacred Heart Church to be a host for the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue.

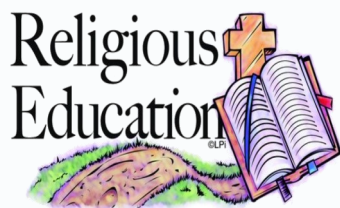
The days event will be held on

May 19, 2023.

More details coming soon.

April 2023 LECTOR SCHEDULE

April 1/2	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	9:30 AM	Mary Ann Kase
5:00 PM	Terry Vogel	11:15 AM	Bill Wellock
7:30 AM	Mike Gallagher		
9:30 AM	Lori Anewalt	April 15/16 2nd Sunday of Easter	
	John Gleason	5:00 PM	Mary Ann Kelly
11:15 AM	Margaret Hueske	7:30 AM	Kathy Nevel
	John Sylvester	9:30 AM	Lori Anewalt
		11:15 AM	John Sylvester
April 6	<i>Holy Thursday</i>	April 22/23 3rd Sunday of Easter	
7:00 PM	Steve Bell	5:00 PM	Sandie Wrable
April 7	<i>Good Friday</i>	7:30 AM	Mike Gallagher
3:00 PM	Mary Ann Kelly	9:30 AM	Denise Mogel
		11:15 AM	Karen Ann Cameron
April 8	<i>Easter Vigil</i>	April 29/30 4th Sunday of Easter	
8:00 PM	Karen Ann Cameron	5:00 PM	Terry Vogel
	Denise Mogel	7:30 AM	Vince Moffitt
April 9	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	9:30 AM	Lou Sutherland
7:30 AM	Beth Tharp	11:15 AM	Margaret Hueske



Save the Date for Stellar VBS! Join us **June 19-23 from 9:00-Noon** as we learn how to **Shine the Light of Jesus in a space-filled week!** The registration form can be found in the back of the newsletter. You may also call Valerie Christo, VBS Director at 610-374-5430.

Our students have been attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation and they will participate at the Stations of the Cross the week before Holy Week.

Our Religious Education Office is preparing our children and families for their First Holy Communion sacrament, May 6, 2023. Coming up in April we will have our FHC retreat and rehearsal. Mrs. Gleason is helping our children to learn a beautiful song to be used as a meditation Hymn, the day of FHC. Thank you for all of your help with our second graders!

Registration for Rel. Ed. has been sent to the families in our database. If you have any **First Graders for the year 2023-2024**, please consider registering your child with us so they can be ready in second grade to receive the training to receive their First Holy Communion!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sacred Heart Easter Egg Hunt Front of Church

April 9th, 2023
Following 11:15 a.m. Mass

Sacred Heart Book Club Wachter Room

May 4th, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

First Holy Communion

SH Religious Ed.

Sacred Heart Church

May 6th, 10:00 a.m.

Spaghetti Dinner

Knights of Columbus

Victor Emmanuel II

May 17th, 2023 @ 4:30—7:00 p.m.

Stellar Vacation Bible School

SH Religious Ed.

Sacred Heart Church

June 19th-23rd @ 9:00-12:00 Noon





**KNIGHTLY
NEWS**
MONSIGNOR BORNEMANN COUNCIL
#16066



Our next scheduled event is the ***Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale at Victor Emmanuel II*** on **Wednesday, May 17, 2023, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** As in the past, this too will be a Dine-In or Take-Out event. Ticket sales will begin after Mass at both churches on the weekends of **April 22/23, 29/30, May 6/7. Dinners are \$12 per meal and includes Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salad, Bread & Butter.** Cash bar is available for beverages. Your ticket stub will also be entered into a variety of raffles for prizes. We hope to see you there! **Anyone willing to bake should see/contact Randy Bjorken at 610-375-6229**, or just bring your baked goods to the dinner. Proceeds from this event helps to continue our Council's Mission to benefit our parishes.

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:

MARCH 30 - Officer's Meeting – IHM Room 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 20 - Membership Meeting – IHM Room 7:00-8:30 p.m.;
Rosary at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting.

SPAGHETTI DINNER TICKET SALES:

Weekends of April 22/23, 29/30, May 6/7

Spaghetti Dinner: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.
@ Victor Emmanuel II, Hazel Street on Rt 10.

Tuesday, May 23, 2020 - Lifeline of Berks County Banquet,
@ The Doubletree in Reading

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 Donahue Family and
Friends on the passing
of:

John Donahue

2-14-2023



The Pisco Family and
Friends on the passing
of:

Kathleen Pisco

2-14-2023



The Krupa Family and
Friends on the passing
of:

Stephen Krupa

2-20-2023

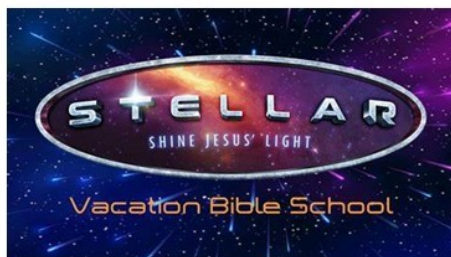


The Duffy/ Tulenick
Family and Friends on
the passing of:

Margaret "Peggy" Duffy

3-1-2023





Dear Parents:

Stellar VBS is helping kids experience Jesus' love at Sacred Heart Church this Summer!

Welcome to Stellar VBS – the summer event that puts kids on track and shining Jesus' light to the world!

At Stellar VBS kids will be launched on a cosmic quest, where they will have a blast, shining Jesus' light into the world. Stellar VBS rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure. The Stellar VBS program creates light years of faith-building fun through a Bible-rich program grounded in hands on, multi-sensory learning experience. Your kids will be talking about vacation bible school at Sacred Heart for years to come!

Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through a program called, Operation Kid-to-Kid. Teens will put together a tremendous Bible Adventure for our little ones; music, singing and playing are high points of every VBS as well as games, which sometimes result in the priests and Mrs. Christo getting soaked by the children. Of course, finally galactic themed snacks and crafts.

Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join us at Cosmic Closing, the last day where kids will sing and dance to their joy of why they can trust in Jesus! For many kids this will be the best week of the summer, especially if they bring their best friend along. All are welcome, Catholic, and non-Catholic!

Please make check payable to: Sacred Heart Church in the amount of **\$30.00**

Detach and mail to: Sacred Heart Parish – Religious Education, P.O. Box 6217, Reading, PA 19610 or Drop off at the Rectory.

Blessings,
Valerie Christo, VBS Director
Phone: 610-374-5430
Email: sacredheartreled17@gmail.com

2023
Sacred Heart Parish
Vacation Bible School
June 19th – 23rd
9:00 am to 12:00 Noon
Ages 5-10 Years Old!

Please return by:

June 12, 2023

2023 VBS Registration Form

\$30.00 per child

Parent Name: _____ Email: _____

Home address: _____ Cell#: _____

Childs Name: _____ Grade Completed _____ Age (5-10) _____ Allergies? _____ Boy _____ Girl _____

Childs Name: _____ Grade Completed _____ Age (5-10) _____ Allergies? _____ Boy _____ Girl _____

Childs Name: _____ Grade Completed _____ Age (5-10) _____ Allergies? _____ Boy _____ Girl _____

Attention! If they have **allergies**, please write on the back, and let us know. As well as medication needed.

Office use only: Date rec'd _____ Amount Paid _____ Check #: _____

SACRED HEART PARISH WISH LIST

The parochial staff of Sacred Heart Church & School are grateful for the enormous amount of support we receive from the members of our parish. While our operations budget accounts for typical day-to-day expenses, there are some items that are not covered. We work hard to preserve our resources and often utilize them beyond their useful life span.

Thank you for considering a monetary donation for one or more of the items listed.

Upgrades to the school faculty lounge (painting, flooring, cabinetry, etc.)
Estimated cost: \$4,500

Liturgical books for school students to use during Advent, Lent & Easter
Estimated cost: \$200

Newly established fund for students who need financial assistance for lunches, field trips, etc.
Goal: \$1,000-\$2,000

Repointing of stone walls outside of church
Estimated cost: \$5,000

Additional money needed for church security
Total estimated cost = \$17,765
Amount currently raised = \$3,000

Monetary donations to purchase items for parish use may be tax deductible. Please use this form to select the items you would like to be covered by your monetary contribution.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Item(s): _____

Please send donations to:

Sacred Heart Church

PO Box 6217

Reading, PA 19610