



Around the Parish

MAY NEWSLETTER

2023

Faith on the line in Iraq and at home



“There are no atheists in foxholes,” the World War II adage goes. Certainly Catholics who have faced war in Iraq and their families say that the experience has strengthened faith both in foxholes and on the home front. These eight war stories provide snapshots into the lives of those most intimately affected by the Iraq War—soldiers, mothers, a chaplain, and an Iraqi refugee. Their faith may be manifested by a crucifix hanging in a Humvee, a Chaldean Mass in Jordan, or a peace protest in Chicago, but they are united by a trust in God even in the worst of situations. After five years of fighting, war fills their daily prayers and faith is an essential part of their armor.

“I really hope somebody is praying”

Staff Sergeant Joseph Lemay, currently at Fort Stewart, Georgia, grew up in a military family. He is married and has three teenage children. Lemay served in the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003 and has been to Iraq three times.

I’ve had my ins and outs with the church. But my family, we have a pretty good faith. My dad is a permanent deacon. When I’d get to talk to him, he’d say, “We’re praying for you.” I’d say, “Keep doing it. It’s working.”

When I get a letter in the mail that says, “We’re all praying for you,” that means something. There are certain

things that happen to you over there where you realize that prayer is helping. I see a lot of families crumble under the stress of this, and the fact that mine hasn’t is due to prayer.

I also pray for my family. For the last five years my wife has been basically a single mom trying to raise three teenagers while going to school and working. We never really thought I’d go into combat, but my wife has still been great.

In the hours just before the initial invasion, we had rolled our convoy over near the Iraq border. It was dark, and to catch some sleep I crawled up on the canvas top of a supply truck.

About 4:30 a.m. I woke to the sound of rumbling. It was pitch black, but I could see an armada of helicopters and missiles flying into Iraq. I didn’t think I was going to live through it. At that moment, you think, “I really hope somebody is praying for me.”

I was in the middle of nowhere, so far away from home, lying on this truck wondering, “What in hell did you get yourself into?” You say a few Our Fathers right then.

I never wanted being in Iraq to be an excuse for having a deeper faith. I see people that have never gone to church and they find God all of a sudden. Then when they come home, their newfound faith doesn’t stick. I never wanted that to be me.

Trying to forget

Specialist Franklin Vera served with the 11-B Infantry Troop as a gunner on top of a Humvee. He and his family are members of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Chicago.

War was not what I had expected; it’s not what you see on TV. I had imagined we would be sweeping the streets and actually capturing “bad guys.” But I ended up transporting food and supplies and people. Somehow that didn’t really seem like that much in terms

of making a difference for the Iraqis, changing things in the country for the better. But overall we were making some progress in Baghdad.

I’m trying to forget some of the interactions with the Iraqis. We were trying to protect the civilians. Not all of them are bad—most of them are just trying to provide for their families. Some seemed to put all their faith in us to change their country for them, while many others didn’t seem to trust us. Some of the ones fighting, they think they are just defending their country, but they go overboard.

We had a few incidents when our trucks ran into bombs, but thankfully nobody got hurt or killed. When the bombs went off, my mind just went blank. Later I kept thinking that could have been it, that could have taken my life away. But I wasn’t really so worried about my own life but more about trying to make a difference.

I’m on leave now, but hopefully I don’t have to go back over there again.

The hardest thing for me was being away from my family. I just kept going on, trying not to think too much about the war, doing my job until I could come back. I talked a lot with friends and would stay in touch with phone calls, e-mails, and sometimes letters.

My family would always tell me they were praying for me, and I would pray quite a few times myself.



Via: uscatholic.org

SACRED HEART CHURCH

CONFIRMED AT THE EASTER VIGIL

Jason Mattise-Nauman

Erwin Tan

Dawn Tan



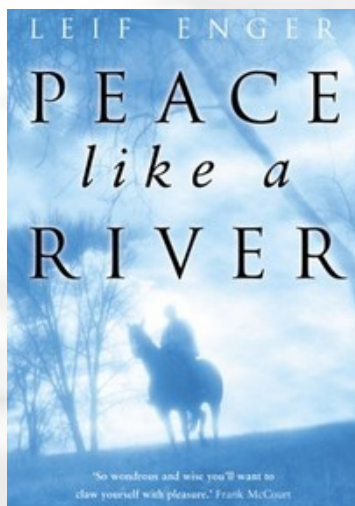
SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Three Sacred Heart students have been chosen to receive a *Bishop's Catholic Scholar Award*. The eighth graders selected are: Casey Changco, Rileigh Knepp, and Jack Recktenwald.

Results from the CYO Berks County Declamation Championship:

Casey Changco, 2nd place 8th grade girls

Julien Scroggs, 2nd place 8th grade boys.



Please join us at the Sacred Heart Book Club!

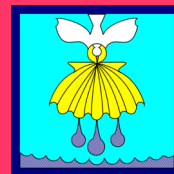
May 4, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Andrea Kohr

Born January 29, 2023

Daughter of Jarad and Lauren Kohr



Mason Orischak

Born September 28, 2015

Son of Robert and Rebecca Orischak

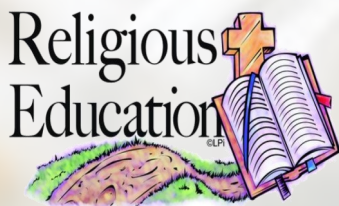


**WELCOME
TO THE PARISH**

Mr. Brock Molinari

May 2023 LECTOR SCHEDULE

May 6/7	5th Sunday of Easter	7:30 AM	Steve Bell
5:00 PM	Bill Wellock	9:30 AM	Mary Ann Kase
7:30 AM	Vince Moffitt	11:15 AM	Michael Gallagher
9:30 AM	John Gleason		
11:15 AM	John Sylvester		
May 13/14	6th Sunday of Easter	5:00 PM	Terry Vogel
5:00 PM	Mary Ann Kelly	7:30 AM	Beth Tharp
7:30 AM	Kathy Nevel	9:30 AM	Lou Sutherland
9:30 AM	Denise Mogel	11:15 AM	Margaret Hueske
11:15 AM	Karen Ann Cameron		
May 17/18	The Ascension of the Lord	5:00 PM	Pentecost Sunday
5:00 PM	Sandie Wrable	7:30 AM	Steven Bell & JoAnn Schmura
		9:30 AM	Joe Tharp
		11:15 AM	Lori Anewalt
			Ann & Dean Reber



Save the Date for Stellar Vacation Bible School! 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 Religious Education Office is preparing our children and families for their First Holy Communion sacrament, **May 6, 2023.**

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



First Holy Communion

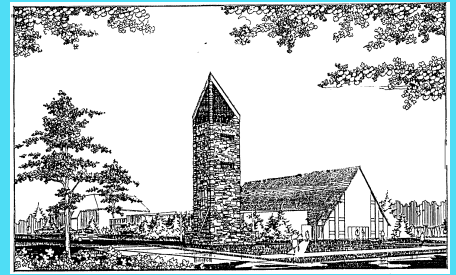


William Bell
Margaret Bennethum
Vivian Brunner
Anthony DePrince
John Duncan
Giuliana Grande
Molly Vail
Hope Varish



Jadiel Henriquez
Yvand Jumelle
Makalya Parznik
Emilia Peralta
David Rohrbach
Victoria Schaeffer
Edith Spencer
Deaglan Taylor

UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

World Apostolate of Fatima

SH Fatima Rosary Group

International Pilgrim Virgin Statue

May 19th, 2023

Stellar Vacation Bible School

SH Religious Ed.

Sacred Heart Church

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





Our next scheduled event is our **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 at 5:30 p.m. before Mass on Tuesday evenings. All are welcome!

Important 2023 K of C dates for your calendar:

MAY 4 - Officer's Meeting – IHM Room 7:00 p.m.

MAY 14 – MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 17 – ANNUAL PARISHES SPAGHETTI DINNER SOCIAL - Victor Emmanuel II

MAY 18 - Membership Meeting – IHM Room 7:00-8:30 p.m.;
Rosary at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting.

MAY 23 - LifeLine of Berks County Banquet, Doubletree in Reading

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.**

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 signup directly using the online KofC link.



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.

Prayer service,
Adoration, Mass.



OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

The Loeper Family and
Friends on the passing
of:

Sylvia Loeper

3-23-2023



The Starkey Family and
Friends on the passing
of:

Rita Starkey

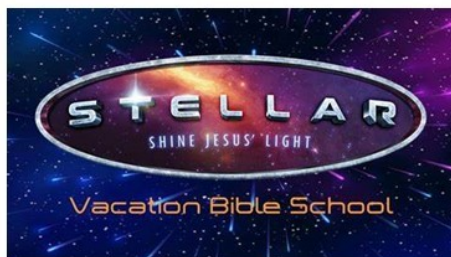
3-25-2023



The Arentz Family and
Friends on the passing
of:

Patricia Arentz

3-22-2023



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 #: _____

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORTS

SACRED HEART CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 TO MARCH 31, 2023

	9 Months 3/31/2023	9 Months 3/31/2022
CHURCH INCOME:		
Offertory Collections Income	518,441	544,809
Donations, Bequests, Memorials Income	177,538	223,786
Program Income	23,962	24,612
Other Income	8,005	6,181
TOTAL CHURCH OPERATING INCOME	\$ 727,946	\$ 799,388
CHURCH EXPENSES:		
Administration Expenses	186,971	186,469
Religious Education Expenses	89,087	79,223
Diocesan Assessment Expenses	84,433	80,046
Church, Rectory, Parish Center Expenses	202,424	177,895
Capital Expenses & Improvements	28,861	261,758 *
TOTAL CHURCH OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 591,776	\$ 785,391
SUBTOTAL OF OPERATIONS Before Subsidy	\$ 136,170	\$ 13,997
Endowment Donations	559,592	1,122,837
Church Subsidy to cover School Expenses	(208,500) **	(143,300)
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$ 487,262	\$ 993,534

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

** Church Subsidy to School higher mainly due to costs associated with starting new Prek program.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 TO MARCH 31, 2023

	9 Months 3/31/2023	9 Months 3/31/2022
SCHOOL INCOME:		
Tuition & Fees Income	531,550	479,177
Fundraising Income	105,317	114,708
Gifts & Bequests	16,674	16,000
Extended Care	9,175	10,112
Other Income	460	14,763
TOTAL SCHOOL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 663,176	\$ 634,760
SCHOOL EXPENSES:		
Administration Expenses	146,569	159,005
Instruction Expenses	558,600	475,876
Building Operation & Maintenance	104,600	89,205
Insurance Exp/Diocesan Assessment	34,033	31,838
Capital Expenses & Improvements	17,590	18,819
Other Expenses	7,168	8,699
TOTAL SCHOOL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 868,560	\$ 783,442
SUBTOTAL OF OPERATIONS Before Subsidy	\$ (205,384)	\$ (148,682)
Church Subsidy to School Income	208,500 **	143,300
NET INCOME/LOSS After Subsidy	\$ 3,116	\$ (5,382)

DID YOU KNOW?

You can reduce your taxes with an IRA gift. The IRA charitable rollover permits individuals who are 70 1/2 to roll over up to \$100,000 from their IRA to Sacred Heart Church and/or Sacred Heart School free from federal income tax. An IRA rollover gift also qualifies for your Required Minimum Distribution, permitting you to lower your income and taxes this year.