



# Around the Parish

## JUNE NEWSLETTER

# 2023

### Father's Day through the lens of St. Joseph

In June of last year, we looked at Pope Francis' apostolic letter of December 2020. As another Father's Day draws near it seems appropriate to reflect again on this enlightened document.

St. Joseph is often seen as a saint for fathers and father figures alike. A spiritual and virtuous counselor to emulate and seek guidance from as we map our role as fathers. Pope Francis penned the apostolic letter titled *Patris Corde* ["With a Father's Heart"] in preparation for the year honoring St. Joseph, 2021.

In his letter he explains the fatherhood of St. Joseph through seven lenses: a beloved father; a tender and loving father; an obedient father; an accepting father; a creatively courageous father; a working father, and a "father in the shadows." Let's take a closer look at each of these.

**Beloved Father:** Joseph is the earthly father of Jesus, but he, like Mary, knows that this child is born unto this earth to be the redeemer of humanity and that his true Father lives and reigns in the kingdom of heaven. As such, he uses his legal, earthly authority as a father to protect and provide for Jesus in safety and love so that he may grow into his fullness as the Messiah.

**Tender and Loving Father:** We can rightly say that Joseph modeled fatherhood for Jesus. Knowing what God's plan for Jesus was and being his earthly father, Joseph's gift of tender love and ministra-

tions helped him grow strong in mind and body. As a result, when it came time for Christ to take up his ministry he did so with the unconditional love of his family and an inherent understanding of his role in God's plan.

**An Obedient Father:** We often think that it is a child's responsibility to be obedient to his father. But Joseph shows us that even fathers are answering to a higher calling. When Mary is pregnant, Joseph has a dream that tells him the Child of God will be born through Mary. At that moment and forevermore, Joseph puts the welfare of Mary and Jesus above all else. Listening to God's commands he is obedient not only to the Word of God but also to his paternal responsibility of putting his family's best interests before his own.

**An Accepting Father:** Here, perhaps, is the most difficult lens through which Joseph models fatherhood for us. Can we accept our children and their lives even when we do not understand why it is so? Pope Francis tells us, "In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations, and disappointments." We see in Joseph the acceptance of God's plan, even though quite conceivably he didn't understand it, and most certainly was contrary to the societal norms of the day.

**A Creatively Courageous Father:** In *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis says that "in the face of difficulty, we can either give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it."

Joseph, as the father of Jesus, husband of Mary and protector of the Holy Family, is faced with difficulties time and again. However, trusting in the divine providence of God's plan, he creatively turns troubles into opportunities. If we feel like our difficulties outnumber our blessings at times, we need to remember that God trusts us to be creative, courageous, and find solutions to our problems.

**A Working Father:** St. Joseph has long been associated with the ethic of work. He earned an honorable living as a carpenter and provided for his family; likewise, he taught Jesus the value, joy, and dignity that can be found in providing for one's family from the fruits of his labor. How then, Pope Francis asks, "can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living?" We, as followers of Christ, must find ways to make certain that everybody has the opportunity to work.

**A Father in the Shadows:** The role of a responsible and loving father or father figure, as we have seen in St. Joseph, is not an easy one. A father must embody many truths and live them actively. He must teach, model and communicate the virtues of fatherhood so that the child can grow to the fullness of their potential. And then finally, he must be able to let go of all the previous truths. He must be a father in the shadows, who allows the child to have the freedom to walk "the paths of life unaccompanied."

By Sarah Hanley

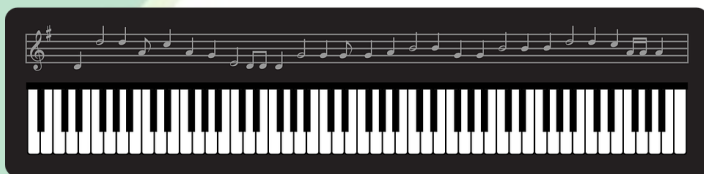
Via: catholicphilly.com

# SACRED HEART CHURCH

*Thank you*

A HUGE thank you to the members of our music ministry, in particular our choir members and cantors who regularly lead us in songs of praise and worship!!

You are just as much of an inspiration as the songs you sing are.



# SACRED HEART SCHOOL



*Congratulations to our 8th Grade Graduates!*



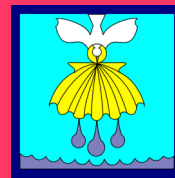
Neil Bitting  
Casey Changco  
Ilaria Cirandine  
Sofia Cirandine  
Emilio Decarlo  
Jonalyse Gil  
Vivian Golden  
Sophia Harrison  
Raleigh Knepp  
Priella Lenzi

Claire Mauro  
Lily Mauro  
Niyah Morales  
John Recktenwald  
Nicholas Richards  
Christopher Roberts  
David Schnatz  
Julien Scroggs  
Margarita Solis  
Jocelyn Vallejo

*This is just the Beginning*



# SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



**Odin David Ertel**

*Born September 20, 2022*

Son of Derek and Megan Ertel



**Luca Scarpino**

*Born January 15, 2023*

Son of Salvator and Iesha Scarpino



**WELCOME TO THE PARISH**

Jason Mattise-Nauman



Kathy Fox



Luis Quizhpi and Family



Rebecca Michonski



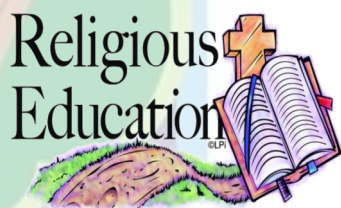
Michael Boland



Ben Swisher and Family



# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



back of the newsletter. You may also call Valerie Christo, VBS Director at 610-374-5430.

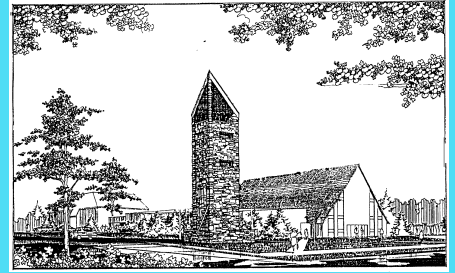
On April 25 we had our final class of the 2022-2023 Religious Educational Program. We were able to award multiple children with various awards such as, CYO Religious Award, Perfect Attendance and Religious Achievement. During that evening, we also acknowledged our Catechists who did a wonderful job in helping our children to learn about Jesus and the Catholic Church. We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to them, for their time and dedication to the program.

First Holy Communion was held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, where we had 16 children receiving their sacraments. We are grateful for Mrs. Marsha Gleason for volunteering her time to help prepare our children for their first important meeting with Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

**Registration for Religious Education** 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!

Valerie Christo  
Director of Religious Education

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **8th Grade Graduation**

**Sacred Heart School**

Sacred Heart Church

*June 5th, 2023*

### **Kindergarten Graduation**

**Sacred Heart School**

Sacred Heart Church

*June 7th, 2023*

### **Stellar Vacation Bible School**

**Religious Ed.**

Sacred Heart Church

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

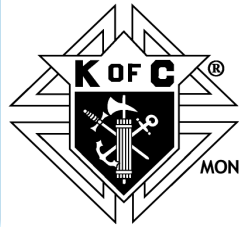
### **Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing**

**Knights of Columbus**

Reading Country Club

*August 18th @ 1:00 p.m.*





## KNIGHTLY NEWS

MONSIGNOR BORNEMANN COUNCIL  
#16066

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who attended, helped, baked, or donated to our annual Spaghetti Dinner Social! ***It was a big success!*** We served 286 dinners altogether for both dine-in and take-out, and our Bake Sale and Raffle did very well too! Proceeds from events like this one help us to continue Our Mission in serving our parishes, priests, seminarians, and community. Again, *thank you* for your participation.

Our next event will be the **Swing and A Prayer Golf Outing on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>** at Reading Country Club, 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. Now in our 6<sup>th</sup> year, proceeds from this event benefit Sacred Heart School. Please look to the bulletin for more news on how to sign up or become a sponsor.

**Recitation of the Rosary** is now on the weekly schedule, and we hope you can join us on Sunday mornings at 10:40 a.m. in the church after the 9:30 Mass, and Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. during Adoration in the Chapel. All are welcome to participate!

### Important 2023 K of C dates for your calendar:

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

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

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023 – SWING AND A PRAYER GOLF OUTING** – more info coming soon!

*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](http://bornknights.org) and fill out the Contact Form located on our website OR signup directly using the online KofC link.*



### **OUR CONDOLENCES TO:**

The Manual Family and  
Friends on the passing  
of:

**Andrew Manual**

2-21-2023



The Shecktor Family and  
Friends on the passing  
of:

**Nina Shecktor**

4-13-2023



The Lattanzio Family  
and Friends on the  
passing of:

**Susan Arnold  
Lattanzio**

4-21-2023





# Helping Children Follow Jesus



At Stellar VBS, children don't just hear about God's love; they see it, touch it, sing it, taste it, and put it into action through God Sightings. As they travel from station to station, they go deeper into their understanding of God and God's Son, Jesus. Most important, children learn that because Jesus loves us, he came to die for our sins and make a way for us to live with God forever.

You'll notice that there's no set time for children to make a faith commitment. We feel that Stellar helps children build relationships—with other children, with adults, and with Jesus. And since each child is at a different point in his or her relationship with Jesus, programming a time for commitment may be confusing to some children. However, if it's part of your church tradition to include a time for children to make a faith decision.

If you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to follow Jesus, give this simple explanation:

God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. When we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

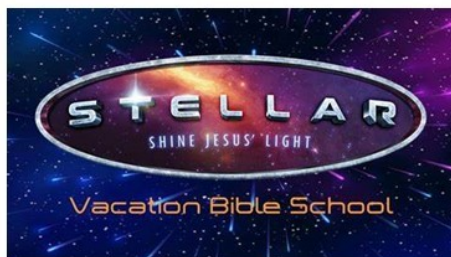
You may want to lead the child in a simple prayer inviting Jesus to be part of his or her life. You may also want to share one or more of the following Scripture passages with the child. Encourage the child to read the verses with you from his or her own Bible.

- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8-11
- Romans 6:23
- Ephesians 2:4-8



If you feel uncomfortable about talking to the child, refer him or her to your church's pastor or another leader who will help the child understand what it means to believe in Jesus. Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s)





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 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**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 #: \_\_\_\_\_