



Around the Parish

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

2023

Let's Make an Effort to Bring Christ Back into Christmas

Whether it's first semester in college, starting a new job, getting in with a new friend group, or just changing your regular routine, many things happen in our life to deter us away from that close-knit relationship with God. It comes on slowly, just small changes that just once is fine, but over a long period of time turn into gaps separating you from the peace you once held dear.

For me, this has been my first semester of college, and though it has been the best semester of my life, it also has been a season of failure and learning. I say failure with learning because in God's plan, He doesn't allow you to fail for the purpose of failing and feeling useless.

He allows us to fail to learn that what we are doing or what we are involved in and are trying to push isn't in His will for our lives and will ultimately hurt us. Now, we definitely don't understand this while we are pushing through in our own stubbornness, but once we back up and look at the situation, we can see how God had His hand over us the whole time, guiding us minimally but still letting us make our own decisions.

Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us, a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Yes, this is a Christmas verse, but it has also become the verse for my first semester. In choir, we are sing-

ing the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah for our Christmas concert, and of course "For unto Us a Child is Born" is included. When we first started rehearsals, I was in love with all the songs and overjoyed to be singing the Messiah.

However, a couple of weeks in, I realized that the wording of the songs was absolutely beautiful, even more so than I originally thought. I started feeling the music and how the phrases glorified God and realized that in my own life I had separated myself from the Prince of Peace.

It was so subtle, like the setting sun, growing into the darkness of night. I had pushed my way into doing the things I wanted, and therefore didn't have the peace or reassurance that I once had of everything working out for my benefit.

However, Philippians 4:7 says, "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

The peace of God, the peace that is above all understanding, will guard us. A lady from a church I had been attending texted me this verse. She didn't know what I was going through, no one did. However, God places those people in our lives to encourage us and bring us back to Christ when we fall off on the way-side.

So why my title? Coming back to Christ at Christmas? So far, some would say my title would make no sense, but in fact, it really does.

Christ in Christmas is everything, just as Christ in our lives is everything. When we separate ourselves from Him, it is hard to return to Him after living secularly for that period of time. Especially at Christ-

mas. Christmas is the perfect reason for Satan to grab us and pull us even farther away from Christ, especially when we realize we are separate from Him and want to return.

The director at my BSU said, "If Satan can't turn you, he'll make you busy." Isn't that so true?

During the Christmas season, sometimes we can turn into selfish monsters concerned only with what we are going to get. We put so much attention on presents and parties that it is a wonder how we have time for Christ at all! Yes, of course, everyone goes to church at Christmas, but there is so much more we can do!

This Christmas, I have challenged myself and I challenge you to open your hearts and minds to the protection of peace from the Prince of Peace himself. The Wonder Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father wants to love you and wants you to love others. Christmas is a time of giving yes, but it is also a time of remembrance and celebration of the wonderful gift God gave us.

So, my challenge is this Christmas, find a verse that makes you remember the joy of Christmas, whether it is the most iconic Christmas verse out there, or not even a Christmas verse at all, and share it with everyone. Whether you share it by mouth, note, or present doesn't matter that's your decision. But this Christmas, share the gift of the word of God and celebrate its meaning and power, bringing Christ back into Christmas as you yourself come closer to Christ this Christmas.

By: *Lillian Herring*—Via The Odyssey

SACRED HEART CHURCH

*"What Are We Waiting For:
The Spirituality of Advent"*

Thurs. Nov. 30th

@ 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Scared Heart Parish
Center**

We invite you to attend this night of dialogue.

Featured speaker, Deacon Chris May

Hosted by the Legion of Mary

Light refreshments provided.

Come and See. Will this prepare you for the
Spiritual Advent you have been waiting for?

**SIGN UP
NOW!!!**

Children's Christmas Nativity

Saturday, December 23rd
(Following 5:00 p.m. Mass)

Children's Christmas Choir

Sunday, December 24th
(before Christmas Eve Mass)

Call Kirsten

@ 610-372-4010 x201

or email

Activity@shreparish.org

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Cavanaugh Loose

Born February 14, 2022

Son of Stephen and Sarah Loose

Ruby Josephine Mattiuz

Born August 8, 2023

Daughter of Kyle and Tysa
Mattiuz

Amelia Nguyen

Born October 18, 2023

Daughter of Thang and Tracy
Nguyen



December 2023 LECTOR SCHEDULE

December 2/3

1st Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM Sandie Wrable
7:30 AM Beth Tharp
9:30 AM Lou Sutherland
11:15 AM Karen Ann Cameron

December 16/17

3rd Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM Mary Ann Kelly
7:30 AM Kathy Nevel
9:30 AM John Gleason
11:15 AM Bill Wellock

December 7/8

The Immaculate Conception

5:15 PM Steve Bell
7:00 AM Kathy Nevel
12:10 PM Joe Tharp
7:00 PM Mike Gallagher

December 23/24

4th Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM Dean Reber
7:30 AM JoAnn Schmura
9:30 AM Lori Anewalt
11:15 AM John Sylvester

December 9/10

2nd Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM Steve Bell
7:30 AM Joe Tharp
9:30 AM Denise Mogel
11:15 AM Margaret Hueske

December 24/25

The Nativity of the Lord

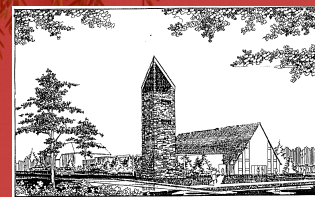
5:00 PM Ann Reber (vigil)
10:00 PM Lou Sutherland (night)
7:30 AM Vince Moffitt
9:30 AM Mary Ann Kase
11:15 AM Mike Gallagher

December 30/31

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



SHS *ADULT ONLY* Bazaar
Sacred Heart School Gym
December 7th, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Children's Nativity
Outside In Front of the Church
December 23rd, 2023 - after 5:00 Mass

Children's Christmas Choir
Sacred Heart Church
Before Mass
December 24th, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Vigil Mass
Sacred Heart Church
December 24th, 2023 @ 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass
Sacred Heart Church
*December 25th, 2023 @ 7:30 a.m.,
 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.*



2023 Christmas Bazaar
Preview Party
Thursday, December 7th
6 - 9pm

\$10
donation
at the door

*All proceeds
directly
benefit Sacred
Heart School*

**Bazaar Preview
Party Highlights:**

- Open Bar of Wine & Beer
- Hot & Cold Hors d'oeuvres
- Entertainment by Vuja Del
- Silent Auction items in all price ranges
- Children's Bazaar raffle open
- Fun & Fellowship
- Live Auction



**TO ALL PARISHIONERS OF SACRED HEART AND HOLY ROSARY -
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE MEMBERS OF
OUR MONSIGNOR BORNEMANN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL!**

Thank you to everyone who made our Annual Holiday Pie Sale a great success! We sold a total of 289 pies which will help in our Council's continuing financial efforts to help our local parishes and aid the four seminarians that we have taken under our wing through the RSVP program! We truly appreciate your participation in our activities throughout the year and are looking forward to 2024, and as always, we are always looking for more good Catholic men to join our Council!

Your participation in our various yearly events provides help in the following ways:

- * **RSVP Program:** Financial Support of four local Seminarians.
- * **Roses & Rosary Program** - Council presence and gifts at Baptisms for both churches.
- * **Support of LifeLine** of Berks County at the Annual Banquet and providing donations for Coats for Kids with 26 Newborn to 2T coats provided this year.
- * **Provide aid** to both parishes when asked.
- * **Conduct events** and provide a special meal for our local Veterans.
- * **Coats for Kids Program** - Berks Catholic Charities with donation of 85 3T to teen coats this year.
- * **Facilitate the Annual Swing and A Prayer** golf outing in conjunction with Sacred Heart School.

Recitation of the Rosary is now on the weekly schedule, and we hope you can join us on Sunday mornings after the 9:30am Mass in the church and at 5:30pm before Mass on Tuesday evenings. All are welcome!

Important 2023/2024 K of C dates for your calendar:

November 30 - December's Officer Meeting - IHM Room 7:00 pm

December 7 - CHRISTMAS BAZAAR PREVIEW NIGHT - Sacred Heart School

December 21 - Membership Meeting - IHM Room 6:30-9:00 pm

January - C.O.A.L. - Chance of A Lifetime ticket sales

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 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.

*Merry
Christmas*

Be sure to Join us all for the Nativity

Saturday, December 23rd after the 5:00 p.m. Mass

And the Children's Christmas Eve Choir at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 24th, before 5:00 p.m.



**WELCOME
TO THE PARISH**



Mrs. Luigina Becker

*Mr. & Mrs. Michael and
Brenda Stanislaw*

Ms. Reri Russek

Mr. Connor Loose

Mr. Jordan Martz

*Mr. & Mrs. Eric and Maquez
and Family*

*Mr. Matthew Napolitano
and Mrs. Brianna Donahue*

**OUR CONDOLENCES
TO:**

The Burkhart Family and
Friends on the passing of:

Joseph Burkart

10-19-2023

The Spink Family and
Friends on the passing of:

John Spink Jr

10-9-2023

The Ciarlone Family and
Friends on the passing of:

Domenica Ciarlone

11-8-2023

The Speece Family and
Friends on the passing of:

Paul Speece

11-19-2023