



# Around the Parish

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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The timing of **Valentine's Day** occurs after the joyous, but often frenetic bustle created by Christmas and the New Year. The energy from the holiday season dies down, the weather grows even colder, the days are short, and then, in the depths of winter, Valentine's Day occurs. Valentine's Day represents the enduring quality of love and its ability to emerge from the harshest conditions life can offer. For most, Valentine's Day evokes visions of whimsically decorated cards, rosy-cheeked cherubs, sweet confectionaries, and fragrant bouquets of crimson roses. Yet we don't often consider where the holiday came from and why we celebrate.

Most are familiar with the fact that there was a St. Valentine, at least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, on the date of February 14. The first St. Valentine was a physician-priest who lived in Rome in the third century. He joined with St. Marius in efforts to comfort the martyrs of the persecution of Christians by Emperor Claudius II. St. Valentine himself was arrested, beaten, condemned to death and beheaded for his beliefs on Feb. 14, A.D. 270. He was buried on the Flaminian Way and Pope Julius I later built a basilica over St. Valentine's tomb. The second St. Valentine was Bishop of Interamna (present-day Terni, 60 miles outside of Rome). He, too, suffered under the persecution of Claudius II. He was arrested, scourged and beheaded. No more is known of him. The third was martyred in Africa with several companions and that is all that's known about him.

All three St. Valentines have one thing in common: Each died for the love of God.

While Catholics had been observing The Feast of St. Valentine since 496 AD, at that time, it was commonly believed in England and France that birds began mating each year on Feb. 14. English poet Geoffrey Chaucer wrote about this in his famous poem, "Parliament of Foules".

And so, in addition to the saints' behavior, the birds' love-struck behavior added to the feast by giving it the dimension of a day for lovers. Chocolate filled hearts, love notes, and floral bouquets go hand-in-hand with Valentine's Day. But we must allow those loving gestures to represent the ultimate love — **love of God** — and the martyrdom of a courageous saint who gave his life rather than abandon his faith.

***Happy Saint Valentine's Day!***



**ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD**

AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.  
MAY THE SOULS OF OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

**Gerald Razzano 1/14/2025**  
**Dr. Vincent Parisi 1/23/2025**

THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

THEREFORE WELCOME ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.  
**Rom(15:7)**

Catherine Ziegler  
Danielle Cantatori  
Comylle Manigat  
Luckmane Manigat

**February 2025 LECTOR SCHEDULE**

<b>Feb. 1/2</b>	<i>Presentation of the Lord</i>	
5:00 PM		Sandie Wrable
7:30 AM		Vince Moffitt
9:30 AM		Denise Mogel
11:15 AM		Bill Wellock
<b>Feb. 8/9</b>	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
5:00 P.M.		John Gleason
7:30 AM		Beth Tharp
9:30 A.M.		Mary Ann Kase
11:15 AM		Margaret Hueske
<b>Feb. 15/16</b>	<i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
5:00 PM		Dean Reber
7:30 AM		Kathy Nevel
9:30 AM		Lori Anewalt
11:15 AM		Patricia Ann Kos
<b>Feb. 22/23</b>	<i>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
5:00 PM		Regina Doyle
7:30 AM		Mike Gallagher
9:30 AM		Lou Sutherland
11:15 AM		John Sylvester

**MARCH 8/9 Second Collection:**  
**BLACK & INDIAN MISSION &**  
**CATHOLIC HOME MISSION**  
**APPEALS Please show your support**



**ATTENTION :**  
**Prospective, Altar Servers**

Your time to serve in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

We are seeking **ADDITIONAL** candidates to be Altar Servers here at Sacred Heart Church. For weekend and Solemnity Masses. Sacred Heart School and Sacred Heart PREP students in 5th grade or older are welcome and encouraged. A 30-45 minute Orientation Training session will be arranged at a convenient time for interested candidates. Parents & Grandparents speak with your son, daughter or grandchild ask them if they have considered serving.  
**To Register :** Please call the Rectory (610-372-4010)

Join us for  an afternoon of...

# DESIGNER BAG BINGO

**kate spade** **Vera Bradley** **COACH** **TORY BURCH** **MICHAEL KORS**

**WHEN**  
*Saturday Feb. 1st, 2025*  
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM - GAMES START AT 7:00PM  
TABLE RESERVATIONS FOR 6 OR MORE  
SNOW DATE: SATURDAY FEB. 8TH

**WHERE**  
*St. Benedict's*  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER  
2020 CHESTNUT HILL RD.  
MOHNTON, PA 19540

**ADMISSION**  
**\$30**  
CHECKS PAYABLE TO K OF C COUNCIL 14654  
COME TO CHURCH TO PAY AND PICKUP TICKETS  
OR MAIL US THE MONEY AND WE WILL DO A WILL CALL  
CONTACT: RICH CONTE 610-223-8846

**REGISTRATION STARTS 6:00PM-7:00PM**  
INCLUDES 12 REGULAR BINGO GAMES  
W/ 6 CARDS PER GAME

**DOOR PRIZES, 50/50**  
HOT FOOD TO BE SOLD  
HOT DOGS, CH/HAMBURGERS, FRIES, MOZ. STICKS,  
SOFT PRETZELS, FIXINS AND SOFT DRINKS

**ADDITIONAL**  
GAME CARDS/SPECIALS/JACKPOT

**\$10**  
PER EXTRA SET OF 12 REGULAR GAME SHEETS W/ 6 CARDS PER GAME

**\$15**  
3 SPECIAL GAME SHEETS PLUS 1 JACKPOT GAME SHEET W/ 4 CARDS PER GAME

**\$5**  
JACKPOT GAME SHEET W/ 4 CARDS

**\$5**  
VIP WRIST BAND (WINNER CAN CHOOSE ANY BAG FROM REGULAR GAMES ONLY)

**\$4**  
FOR EACH SPECIAL GAME SHEET W/ 4 CARDS

Presented By:  **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



From the Pastor

**WE ARE ALL HELD HOSTAGE...**

*...by sin.*

A life lived separated from God is a life of slavery, bound by the chains of habitual vice. It then becomes harder and harder to choose the good – and easy to forget the glory for which we are created. So...

**...Why not unlock a new chapter in your life this coming Lent?**

**Confession is the key to breaking free.** Repentance isn't about beating ourselves up for falling short. It's about confronting the truth of this battle within ourselves head-on, throwing off those chains, and claiming our freedom in Christ. Lent begins soon. This year, make it a season of hope and joy and renewal.

**The Presentation of the Lord (February 2)**



**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

By Candlemas, forty days after Christmas, February 2, the season of Christ's coming has depleted our candle supply. Soon, the parish will order a new paschal candle from a catalogue or candlemaker, or in some communities, wax will be collected to be melted and molded. Last year's paschal candle shows the wear and tear of summer heat, or many funerals or baptisms.

Paschal candles have been around since at least the fourth century, when Constantine's biographer Eusebius reported that the night of the sacred vigil was "transformed into the brilliancy of day, by lighting throughout the city pillars of wax, while burning lamps in every place so that the splendor of this night was brighter than the brightest daylight."

Light was a precious commodity in the ancient world, and this lavish use of precious beeswax was a sign of the Christian's call to bear Christ's light into the world's darkness. In a pre-electric age, a whole city aglow from the paschal flame must have been a glorious sight, and a reminder to every baptized Christian of our vocation to "be the light of the world."  
~Rev. James Field



**this valentine's day  
"Show Your Love" to our  
Homebound**

Members of Sacred Heart and Holy Rosary Parish will work together to make a basket for each homebound parishioner filled with useful items.

"Heart" tags with items for the baskets will be displayed on the "~~SHOW YOUR LOVE~~" Tree. Please support this Community Outreach project. Choose your hearts, return purchased items and place in the basket under the tree. Until February 8/9.

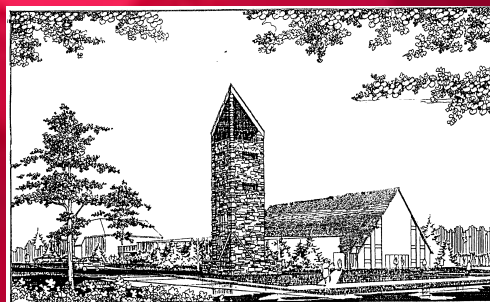
**Please donate only items requested.**  
Email: [activity@shrcparish.org](mailto:activity@shrcparish.org) (Regina Doyle)



**COFFEE & DONUTS**

Please join us on the 1st & 3rd Sunday: From September- May

**Next date February 2nd** in the Wachter Room for fellowship, coffee, juice, and donuts: following the 9:30 & 11:15 AM Masses. **(no 3rd Sunday in Feb)**



**Sacred Heart Church**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**~FIRST SATURDAY FELLOWSHIP~**

**Saturday, February 1st**  
**Rosary 7:30 A.M. Chapel**  
**Coffee, Tea, & light fare 8:30 A.M.**  
**(following 8:00 Mass)**  
**Wachter Room**

**~SOUP KITCHEN~**

**Kennedy House**  
**February 1/2 10:30- 1:00 P.M.**

**~KNITTERS & CROCHETERS~**

**Every Thursday 1:00 P.M.**  
**Bornemann Room**

**~KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS~**

**Membership Meeting,**  
**Thursday February 20th**  
**6:30 P.M. I.H.M Room (school)**

**~ST.VINCENT DE PAUL~**

**February 22/23 at all Masses**  
**FOOD AND PAPER COLLECTION**  
**benefits ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH**  
**Food Pantry**

**~ST.VINCENT DE PAUL~**

**Monday, February 24th**  
**Wachter Room**  
**6:30 P.M. Deacon Chris May**  
**(spiritual direction on 7:00 P.M.)**

**~ASH WEDNESDAY~**

**March 5th**

**PARISH FINANCIAL REPORTS**

<b>SACRED HEART CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT</b>			<b>SACRED HEART SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT</b>		
<b>JULY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024</b>			<b>JULY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024</b>		
	<b>6 Months</b>	<b>6 Months</b>		<b>6 Months</b>	<b>6 Months</b>
	<b>12/31/2024</b>	<b>12/31/2023</b>		<b>12/31/2024</b>	<b>12/31/2023</b>
<b>CHURCH INCOME:</b>			<b>SCHOOL INCOME:</b>		
Offertory Collections Income	365,116	382,822	Tuition & Fees Income	481,698	357,232
Donations, Bequests, Memorials Income	65,761	57,333	Fundraising Income (Net of Expenses)	55,132	37,230
Program Income	10,509	12,768	Gifts & Bequests	2,500	-
Other Income	3,414	2,799	Other Income	3,246	2,330
<b>TOTAL CHURCH OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 444,800</b>	<b>\$ 455,722</b>	<b>TOTAL SCHOOL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 542,576</b>	<b>\$ 396,792</b>
<b>CHURCH EXPENSES:</b>			<b>SCHOOL EXPENSES:</b>		
Administration Expenses	141,400	126,956	Administration Expenses	107,684	101,279
Religious Education Expenses	60,936	63,127	Instruction Expenses	393,482	379,836
Diocesan Assessment Expenses Church, Rectory, Parish Center Expenses	85,828	88,125	Building Operation & Maintenance	70,272	80,437
	101,815	93,684	Insurance Exp/Diocesan Assessment	23,572	23,025
Other Expenses	6,000	6,000	Other Expenses	3,315	-
<b>TOTAL CHURCH OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 395,979</b>	<b>\$ 377,892</b>	<b>TOTAL SCHOOL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 598,325</b>	<b>\$ 584,577</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL OF OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 48,821</b>	<b>\$ 77,830</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL OF OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ (55,749)</b>	<b>\$ (187,785)</b>
Capital Expenses & Improvements	-	(20,201)	Capital Expenses & Improvements	-	(19,317)
Endowment Donations	26,400	9,426	Home & School - Net	(32,420)	68,007 *
Estate Donation/Employee Retention Credit	119,066	225,000	Church Subsidy to School Income	-	134,600
Church Subsidy to cover School Expenses	-	(134,600)	Endowment Distributions from Church	60,000	60,000
Endowment Distributions to School	(60,000)	(60,000)	<b>NET INCOME/LOSS After Subsidy</b>	<b>\$ (28,169)</b>	<b>\$ 55,505</b>
<b>NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>\$ 134,287</b>	<b>\$ 97,455</b>			

\* Gala Income - for special projects

**DID YOU KNOW? A contribution from an IRA can go directly to a church to save money on taxes. To avoid paying taxes on the donation, the donor must follow the IRS rules for Qualified Charitable Distributions. With a QCD, these distributions become TAX-FREE as long as they are paid directly from an IRA to the church. Since the amount is going directly to the church, the amount withdrawn from the IRA is not taxable to the donor.**

## Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., will be on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Diocesan Pilgrimage tradition to Mary's House is typically held every four years. More information will be forthcoming for individuals, parishes, and schools. If you have questions about the Pilgrimage, email [pilgrimage@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:pilgrimage@allentowndiocese.org) or call Fr. Hoffa at 610-921-2729, ext. 2205.



**Pilgrimage from Paris to Lourdes** Join Holy Family Parish of Minersville as we participate in our Parish Pilgrimage from Paris to Lourdes, France, April 27 - May 6, 2025. Highlights include Mass every day including the newly reopened Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris, tours of the Louvre, Versailles and dinner in the Eifel Tower. We will also visit the Mother House of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Lyon and the Papal Palace of Avignon with a wine tasting at the Papal Vineyards of Châteauneuf du Pape. The tour culminates with our visit to the grotto of Lourdes where the Blessed Mother visited St. Bernadette as we celebrate Mass and participate in the Eucharistic and Candle Lit Marian Processions. Please contact Fr. Stokes for more information at Holy Family Parish of Minersville (570) 544 - 4741.



**Donations have fallen short by \$5,000, we are in need of about 100 volunteers to help make this event a success. Please help if you can! If you are able to help in any way, through a financial contribution or volunteer your time. Scan QR Code**



## St. Paul's Parish, Reading

### SEVENTH ANNUAL ONE FAMILY GALA

This year's GALA will be celebrating Catholic Education. **Featured Speaker** will be **Rev. Allen J. Hoffa**, Pastor of Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Reading. The recipient of **ST. PAUL'S ONE FAMILY AWARD** will be **Mr. Phillip J. Fromuth, PH.D.**, Retired Superintendent of Catholic Education, Diocese of Allentown. Within our One Family Gala, we will also celebrate a reunion of former St. Paul's Grade School Students. Please spread the word if you were or know of anyone who was a student of St. Paul's grade school! The event will take place on **Sunday, February 23, 2025**, at Redner's Event Center at First Energy Stadium, 2024 Centre Avenue (Rt. 61), Reading, PA 19605. We begin with a **Cash Bar at 5:00 PM**, followed by **Dinner at 6:00 PM**. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a basket raffle. **Ticket cost is \$75 each**, this includes Hot Buffet. Get Tickets at St. Paul's Church @ 610-372-1531 or [stpaulsrcchurch@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsrcchurch@comcast.net). **Deadline for reservations is February 10, 2025.** Table sponsorships will be available: Gold sponsors (\$1,000) receive complimentary tickets for an entire table of 8 with a table placard, Silver sponsors (\$500) receive 4 complimentary tickets, Bronze sponsors (\$250) receive 2 complimentary tickets. There will also be a listing of Patrons (\$10); they will also receive event recognition along with the sponsors. Our sponsorship deadline as well as our dinner reservation deadline is **February 10, 2025.**

We are reaching out to invite you to be part of worldwide event that will impact some of our community's most deserving members! On **February 7, 2025**, Community Evangelical Church will host **Night to Shine**, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation at Alvernia University. This year, our goal is to host **300 honored guests, with 600 volunteers and 300 caregivers.** Unfortunately, we are facing some challenges this year.



**February 7, 2025**  
at Alvernia University's PLEX  
465 St. Bernardine St, Reading, PA 19607



**Guest Registration**



**Volunteer Registration**

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom experience centered around God's love for teens and adults with special needs, sponsored in-part by the Tim Tebow Foundation.

**What to Expect:**

- Dinner with their Buddy
- Corsage or Boutonniere
- Hair and Makeup Services
- Coat Check
- Limo Rides
- Walking the Red Carpet
- Crowned King or Queen
- Dancing Karaoke
- Shoeshine Station
- Take Home Bag and Photo
- Activity Station
- Photo Booth
- Sensory Room
- Medical Personal
- Respite Lounge for the Parents/Caregivers