

OLH

NOW

more than ever

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AUTUMN BECOMES FIRST COMMUNION SEASON

In a year that has proven different from all others, even the reception of the sacraments had to undergo changes.

A very patient second grade, scheduled for a May 3rd First Holy Communion Day, found themselves celebrating the sacrament either in the local parishes as small groups or individuals during the summer, or on a brisk Saturday morning in OCTOBER!

Church for their traditional class mass. Father Mike was the main celebrant and homilist, assisted by Father Janusz.

Since social distancing is strictly enforced even in churches, the other students participated on the mass via live-stream. Parents were permitted to celebrate with the class.

Following the liturgy, the new communicants were treated to a special brunch in

the auditorium.

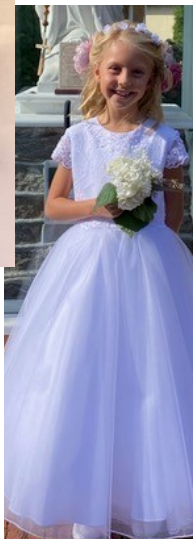
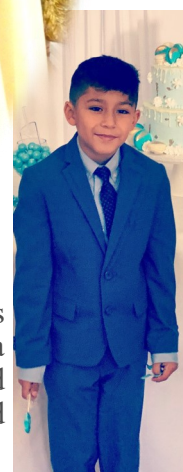
A special menu was prepared, ending with a beautiful cross-shaped cake, prayer cards and "caring crosses".

While this may not have been the traditional way to commemorate First Holy Communion, it has given the class of 2026 a very special memory. And..for the school....there will be one more First Communion in Mayfor the second graders...Class of 2027!

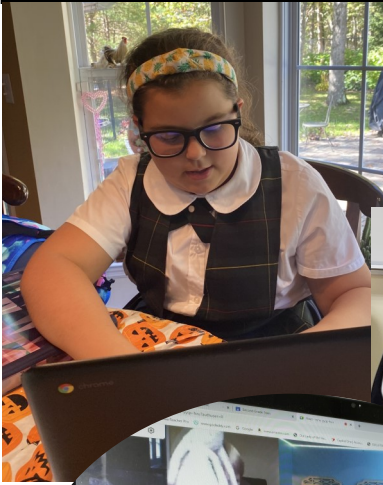
The now-third graders approached the altars at the Basilica Parish of the Sacred Hearts, Our Lady of Poland and

St. Rosalie's where they were greeted by Fathers Maddaloni, Vetrano and Lipski. They were accompanied by their parents at these special masses.

On the Friday following their First Holy Communion, the entire third grade class gathered at Our Lady of Poland

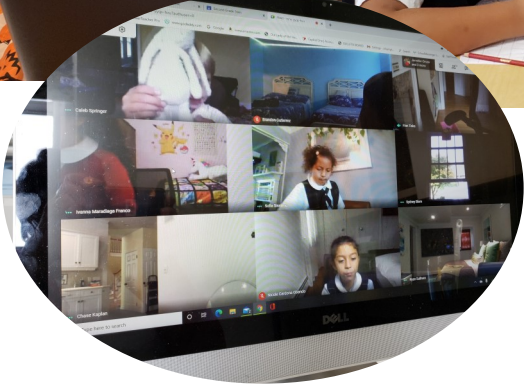


EDUCATION TAKES NEW DIRECTION



Ever since the “official” start of the Pandemic of 2020, OLH students and their families have joined millions world-wide in a combination of in-person learning coupled with remote instruction where teachers lead lessons with their students seated in front of monitors. This can take place at home, or, in some cases, in the classroom itself.

Technology has certainly been used to its advantage these



seems like a quest for the perfect Christmas gift might be a new computer that can handle all the demands of



past few months. It is a good idea that the perfect Christmas gift might be a new computer that can handle all the work and school.

PRIMARY GETS “ALL FIRED-UP”

No matter how difficult these times may be, the health and safety education of the children must be maintained. OLH is fortunate to have very pro-active groups: the Southampton Village Police and the Southampton Fire Department to help in developing positive relationships with students, and teaching basic survival skills.

Chief Alfred Callahan (an OLH graduate himself, and father of kindergartner



Harper) brought the team from Southampton Fire Department for the annual hands-on view of the equipment and some important lessons on staying safe, and preventing fires in the home.

Absent from the demonstration was the “SMOKE HOUSE”, a student favorite. Again, the demands of the pandemic era made that impossible to be shared. The most important lessons, however, were taught and so well-received by the primary grade classes.



FATHER BLESSED THE BEASTS — AND THE CHILDREN

Way back in 1990, the OLH mascot was a scruffy mix-ed breed named Philippe, a dog who came to school one day and stayed until he died.....in the principal's office. A few years after his arrival, The school created the first-ever BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS IN HONOR OF St. Francis of Assisi that was actually a play-date for Philippe and ten of his canine friends.

A new mascot, Emilee, a beautiful bearded collie, was Philippe's « successor » in 1996. She enjoyed those blessings and saw the crowds of family pets grow to close to one hundred, including falcons, fish, cats, gerbils and even a horse.

The annual event has been held in the rear play area, the auditorium, the new gym, and now in rear playground-parking area.

Father Stanley Kondeja was the first priest to bless the pets, followed by Father Janusz and Father

Mike.

Meggie, the current school dog, a golden-doodle, had the opportunity to welcome a huge crowd of more than one hundred-fifty petsincluding a baby goat...to this year's outdoor blessing. It was great to know that, even in these hard times, our pets can get together and share a special blessing!

(The blessings must have great « powers of longevity » since Philippe lived to be 13. Emilee went to dog-heaven at age 15. Meggie is already a spry eight year old!)





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**BE A
FRIEND...**

BE SAFE...

**BE
CREATIVE.....**

**WEAR A
MASK!**

"WHO IS THAT MASKED MAN?"



While sitting in on a GoogleMeet session, a faculty member overheard a second grader say how much he liked remote classes. His comment: "Now I know what the new kids look like". (His class has ten students who are new to OLH.)



How easily we forget that the children have not seen each other since March and have not seen each other "full face" ..if at all.



Looking forward to Hallowe'en when masks are worn to help us assume new identities, it will be interesting to see how the OLH students incorporate their everyday Facial masks into their costumes.

