



The Desimone Newsletter (2016)

Special events in our family's life:

- Alissa's Holy First Communion (May 2016)
- New job for Jodi as a Behavioral Specialist/Mobile Therapist (August 2016)
- Michael's Confirmation (November 2016)

Other Highlights:

- Dance/Music Concerts
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- Holiday Message



Christmas 2016

Desimone Family

Photo taken October 2016 by Tom Pepe, Jr.

Happy holidays from our family to yours!

2017 is almost here and my wish for the New Year is peace, a deepening faith in Christ, and the ability to persevere through challenging situations. Saying this wish is much easier than living it. As each year passes I understand so much more about what the word "faith" means. It's more than just saying the word. It's really living it every day. It's living it when you really don't know

where the money is coming from when your finances aren't where you would like them to be. It's living it when you see the flaws in yourself, your spouse, your co-workers, your friends, and your family and you persevere anyway. It's living it just because you live for Jesus! Each day must be as clean and beautiful as freshly fallen snow before footprints or anything touches it.

Newest Adventure, Holy First Communion, Confirmation

My newest adventure in life right now is that I have taken on an extra job (along with my Para educator job in an elementary school) as a Behavioral Specialist/Mobile Therapist. I worked in this field a few years ago for about a year and a half and then got out of it when I got my first Guidance Counseling job. I have job searched and had interviews along the way, but no opportunity revealed itself. Then, I applied to two similar job opportunities in this field and I got two job offers in the same week. I honestly was stumped by the occurrence, but I love the new part-time position in this field! I take one day at a time in terms of my career and pray for God to lead me in the direction that He desires for me.

Alissa looked like a beautiful little bride on her Holy First Communion day in May. Her spirit is so happy and

contagious. As each day passes raising her I marvel at her intelligence, beauty, and kind spirit. Michael also had a big event in his religious life. He received Confirmation in November. Seeing him taller than me now it's hard to imagine he only weighed 5 pounds and 4 ounces at birth. Oh how time marches on! As Michael received confirmation I truly felt like I had achieved Michael's confirmation just as fully as he did. Countless trips were taken to drop him off at CCD and pick him up. My hope and prayer for Michael is that he truly understands how his faith will carry him through whatever struggle he faces in life. His appreciation of nature and amazing abilities in math will definitely take him to great success in whatever path he chooses. It's hard to believe he will be 14 in January. Where does the time go?

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Dance/Music Concerts, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, and New England



Dance Concerts in June and my niece Katey's graduation party in July



Top Picture: Gloucester and Bottom Picture: Newport

At the church on Alissa's Holy First Communion Day and Michael's Confirmation Day



The month of June and July were exciting months as usual. The three dance concerts were just amazing to watch! It was equally amazing keeping up with all of the rehearsal schedules and costume changes! Band and Orchestra concerts keep us busy too! We started off our New England trip this year by going directly to my brother Doug's place to celebrate their youngest daughter's high school graduation (Katey). The picture to the left is from this party. We all had a great time dancing. Alissa even encouraged Grammy to dance in the middle of the crowd with her. They were a big hit! The weather cooperated in Gloucester and we had a blast on the beach.

Uncle Doug and family treated us to boat and kayak rides. It was my first kayak ride ever. I just may try it again next summer I enjoyed it so much! ☺ Newport was filled with our usual fun in the pool, beach visits, and a week of soccer. In addition, Joe has been going on Boy Scout camping trips with the boys and has done a great job helping them earn badges. He has also been using his wonderful talents in math as Treasurer for the Knights of Columbus Group. Plus, Alissa has been busy as a Junior in Girl Scouts. In September we all went to Knoebels Amusement Park with her troop. In November, Alissa and I went to see the Rockettes in New York City.

A special message from our family: "Choose Joy"

"Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." James 1:2-3.

One thing we know we have in this life is choice. We can choose to love or hate. We can choose to forgive or not to forgive. We can choose to help someone or not to help someone. The list of choices is endless. But, one choice that I have been very mindful of lately is the choice of "Joy." That's much easier said than done. It's much like what I said back at the beginning of this newsletter. "Each day must be as clean and beautiful as freshly fallen snow before footprints or anything touches it." With just a simple prayer to God you can wipe away all of your sins to make you new again like new snow. So when those trials come,

remember, there is a purpose greater than us. Jesus redeems people. Redemption is joy. Start with praying for God's forgiveness. Forgive those that you encounter on a daily basis. God knows you won't forget, but He does ask you to forgive others so that He can forgive you. To summarize, I want to end with a quote from a minister that I enjoy listening to, "When you suffer, when you hurt, when you have pain: there is a promise in the pain-a big promise-that something better than your pain is coming through. There's a purpose greater than your pain and a purpose greater than your suffering. Keep hope alive. Good things are coming, friends" (Bobby Schuller).
Love to all,

Jodi, Joe, Michael, Matthew, Ryan, and Alissa Desimone

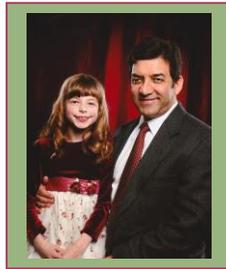
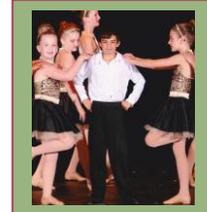


Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!



John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.



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