

THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN  
**SACRED HEART CHURCH**

243 LAFAYETTE AVENUE ~ PALMERTON PA 18071

Rectory Office: 610-826-2335 • Fax: 610-826-5360

shpmtn@ptd.net • www.shcpalmerton.org

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

"As the family of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, we come together in faith to renew ourselves through the celebration of sacraments and strive to be the welcoming hands of Christ in our community."

**SACRAMENTAL & PRAYER LIFE**

Sacrament of the Eucharist / Mass

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM Sunday Morning 9:30 AM

**January 7, 2024**

**PASTORAL & SUPPORT STAFF**

Reverend Michael Mullins *Pastor*  
Steven Uhnak *Coordinator, Religious Education*  
Sandy Miller *Bookkeeper/Secretary*  
Bonnie Lazorick *Secretary*  
Dan Podorsky *Part Time Maintenance*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Religious Education Office** 610-826-2335

**St. John Neumann Regional School**

Dr. Christopher Heery, Principal 610-826-2354  
Palmerton Campus [www.sjnrschool.org](http://www.sjnrschool.org)

**Allentown Central Catholic High School** 610-437-4601  
[www.acchs.info](http://www.acchs.info)

**Marian Catholic High School** 570-467-3335  
[www.marianhighschool.org](http://www.marianhighschool.org)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday Friday: 7:00-8:00 AM  
Saturday: 4:00 – 4:45 PM.  
First Friday of the Month: 6:00-7:00 PM  
By appointment call the Rectory Office

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Baptismal Classes are held on an as needed basis.  
Please call the Parish Office to schedule a class.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

Couples planning to get married should inform the Church as soon as possible (at least one year) prior to the wedding to begin marriage preparation. Marriage Preparation Class must be taken prior to six months before the marriage is celebrated.

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND**

Anyone wishing to arrange for a home visit is to contact the Parish Office. Please do not wait for an emergency.

**PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES**

Private church visits Monday to Friday, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

**PARISH ACTIVITIES**

*Please contact the Chairperson of committee or the Rectory Office for details/contact info.*

**Altar Guild** Cass Chies  
**Altar Servers** Father Mullins  
**Bereavement Sharers** Olivia Erickson  
**Bible Study/Prayer Group/  
Prayer Chain** Peg Duell  
**C.A.C.P.A.C.** Sue Steigerwalt / Lori Nemeth  
**Cemetery** Frank Hager  
**Choir/Music Liaison** Joann Kercsmar  
**Disability Advocates** Marian Carty  
**Financial Council** Joe Koma  
**Funeral Luncheon Committee** Roseann Heydt/Peg Duell  
**High School Ministry** Tricia Matsko  
**Knights of Columbus** Joe Koma  
**Men of Good News** Ed Sidleck  
**Palmerton Festival** Dana Massey  
**Pastoral Council** Jerome Scarpati  
Lisa Kistler

**Pro Life Coordinator** Veronica Scarpati  
**Safety, Security and  
Maintenance Committee** Jim Matsko  
**Sacred Heart Helping Hands** Rectory Office  
**Vocation Promoter** Rectory Office

**Catholic Charities:**  
Tom Miller 610-435-1541 ext. 374

**Protecting God's Children  
Safe Environment Coordinator**  
Pamela Russo 610-871-5200, ext. 2204  
**Victim Assistance Coordinator**  
Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC800-791-9209

Allegations of abuse against a Bishop, contact  
Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at:  
[www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or  
call: 1-800-276-1562.

# January 7 – The Epiphany Of The Lord

## MASS Intentions

- Saturday 8:30 AM** (January 6): **First Saturday**  
Annette Wargo by  
Kathleen Vargo-Henskens
- 5:00 PM** John and Marie Villela by children
- Sunday 9:30 AM** (January 7):  
Edgardo and Erlinda Salazar by  
family
- Monday 8:30 AM** (January 8):  
In celebration of Ed and Eileen  
Robinson's Anniversary
- Wednesday 8:30 AM** (January 10):  
Paul Papay by Carol and family
- Thursday 8:30 AM** (January 11):  
Thomas Murphy by  
Mr. and Mrs. John Woginrich
- Friday 8:30 AM** (January 12):  
Michael Heery by  
Palmerton Campus students
- Saturday 5:00 PM** (January 13):  
Antonio G. Dias by wife and sons
- Sunday 9:30 AM** (January 14):  
Hertha Langan by Palmerton Library  
Monday Book Club

### Sacrament of Penance Schedule

- Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM**  
**Before weekday Mass: 7:00-8:00 AM**  
**First Friday of the Month: 6:00-7:00 PM**  
**Confessions also by appointment, please call the Rectory Office.**



Please remember in your prayers our recently deceased, especially two Retired Priests of the Diocese of Allentown: **Rev. Monsignor John P. Murphy and Rev. William N. Seifert.** May they be welcomed into the company of the Saints and may our dear Lord comfort their families.

**Let us continue to remember and pray** for all our deceased relatives, friends, benefactors, and parishioners, those serving in the military, those struggling with addictions, the homebound and those who are sick and have asked for our prayers. Individual names will be added to the list of Prayers for the Sick upon request from the individual or from the sick person's Power of Attorney.

### SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### Reading I: Isaiah 60: 1-6

The prophet announces that all parts of the world will come to Zion to rebuild Jerusalem. Then throughout land the glory of the Lord will shine forth.

#### Reading II: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Paul's chief insight into the mystery of Christ is that Gentiles are to be recognized as full participants in the life of the Church.

#### The Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

The special personages in this episode are the magi, or wise men, who come to visit Jesus. Over time, Christianity has made them into kings, numbering them as 3 because of the number of gifts they presented to the Child. Above all, they symbolize the Gentile world coming to the Jewish Christ.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK



- Monday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1Jn 5:1-9 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Mk 1:7-11
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20 1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25 Mk 1:40-45
- Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Ps 89:16-17, 18-19 Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mk 2:13-17
- Sunday:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42



LIGHT A CANDLE FOR YOUR SPECIAL INTENTIONS

**Sanctuary Candle:** Peter Haja, Sr. by wife and sons.

**Marian Altar:** Andrew and Irene Homyak by Mary Ellen and Alice.



The Epiphany of the Lord



Epiphany is a life-changing realization which changes the rest of one's life. The Magi who came to adore the newborn king endured a long,

tiresome journey. Yet, they did not go back the same way they came. Instead, they were so affected by the love of our Lord that they departed for their country by another way. They went back filled with awe at how God humbled Himself to be with His creation. Have you experienced an epiphany in your life? A moment where you discovered the truth and love of our Lord and could never go back to your old life. Many saints have had epiphany moments with our Lord by reading the Sacred Scriptures, others have had a change of life after encountering our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. May we seek to grow closer in union with our Lord that we may like the wise men share forth the joy of new life as disciples in Christ.

The diocese is seeking to help the parishes grow wiser in its strengths and weaknesses that we may discover areas for growth and help all to get the support they need. To do so, there will be an online survey in which we hope all will participate. We will post the link soon in the bulletin as well as on our website: [www.SHCpalmerton.org](http://www.SHCpalmerton.org).

### **Learn and Live the Faith (Compendium of CCC)**

#### **#287 "Why is the Holy Eucharist the paschal banquet?"**

The Holy Eucharist is the paschal banquet in as much as Christ sacramentally makes present his Passover and gives us his Body and Blood, offered as food and drink, uniting us to himself and to one another in his sacrifice.

#### **#288 "What is the meaning of the altar?"**

The *altar* is the symbol of Christ himself who is present both as sacrificial victim (the altar of the sacrifice) and as food from heaven which is given to us (the table of the Lord).

#### **Word of the Week:**

**Anamnesis** - After the consecration at Mass, the prayer of remembrance in which the Church calls to mind the Lord's passion, resurrection and ascension into heaven. This is the high point of the Mass as a memorial of what occurred during Christ's visible stay on earth as a pledge of what he continues to do invisibly through the Eucharist.

### **Saint Quotes of the Week:**

*"It seems to me that we do not pay enough attention to prayer, for unless it arises from the heart which ought to be its center, it is no more than a fruitless dream. Prayer ought to carry over into our thoughts, our words and our actions."* –

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys.

*"It seems to me that we are charcoal ready to be kindled and that Holy Communion is entirely suited to set us on fire. But when this charcoal is kindled only on the surface, as soon as it is set aside, it is extinguished. On the contrary, that which is fired all the way to the center is not extinguished, but is consumed."* - St. Marguerite Bourgeoys.



#### **Saint of the Week: *Marguerite***

***Bourgeoys*** (1620–1700) was the sixth of twelve children and grew up in Troyes, France. When Marguerite was 19 years old, her mother died; thereupon Marguerite formed a special relationship with Our Lady.

Two religious communities rejected her, but she met the founder and governor of Montreal, Canada, when she returned to France to visit her sister. He invited Marguerite to open a school in the New World. From that first school in an abandoned barn, her ministry grew to include teaching crafts to women and founding the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame. She served as superior for many years. When Pope John Paul II canonized her in 1982, she became Canada's first female saint. Feast day: 12 January.



***This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany. Which is the Time to Bless Homes.***

The Blessing includes a "chalking" of the front door with the year and the letters "**CMB**" referring to the legendary

names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar or reference to the Latin phrase "**Christus mansionem benedicat**" which means "**May Christ bless this house.**" Another tradition is to tape the first Christmas card received with the image of the Magi above the inside of the front door. Both traditions remind us to seek and welcome Christ every time we pass through the doors of our family home.

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



*First Friday Eucharistic Adoration.* Come spend time with Jesus. Open your heart and let Him make a difference in your life. *Join us for First Friday Adoration anytime between 4:00 – 7:00 PM. All are welcome to stop by for a few minutes, an hour or for however long you are able.* Father Mullins is also available for Confessions from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. *Plan to join us Friday, February 2.*



***Are you a new parishioner or visiting for the first time?***

Welcome! Please introduce yourself to Father. We invite you to become an active participant of our parish community and welcome you. Please call or stop by the Rectory Office during the week between 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM or call the Rectory Office at: 610-826-2335 to Register. We look forward to having you as a part of our parish community.

***If you are planning on receiving an upcoming Sacrament*** (Baptism, Marriage, etc.) you must first be registered in the Parish, worshipping and supporting the Church regularly. To make arrangements to Register, please contact the Rectory Office at 610-826-2335.

***Any parishioner who is engaged*** is reminded that you need to set up a meeting with Father Mullins so everything can be arranged with the Church. In the Diocese of Allentown, a minimum of 6 months (although a year is preferable) notice is required to complete everything necessary for a marriage. Please call Father Mullins at: 610-826-2335 to arrange an appointment.



Blessed with 90 years we offer our prayers and best wishes to: ***Nancy Rezeli.*** May God be your guiding light and the angels from heaven above shower endless joy on you. Happy Birthday!

***There are a few 2024 Calendars*** available at all Church exits. Please take a calendar as you leave Mass today. We express our gratitude to the Schisler family and Campton Funeral Home for generously sponsoring the calendars for our Parish.

# Weekly Offering



**01/06-01/07:** In Support of the Parish  
**01/13-01/14:** In Support of the Parish

Attendance weekly goal: 450  
Actual 12/23-12/24: 283  
Christmas 12/24-12/25: 593

Please encourage family, friends and neighbors to come celebrate with us at Mass. If we reach our attendance goal, Father Mullins will consider adding another Mass on Sunday.



**Online giving . . .** Visit our parish website at: [www.shcpalmerton.org](http://www.shcpalmerton.org) to find out how you can sign up for online giving with "MyEoffering." Questions, contact Sandy Miller in the Rectory Office at: 610-826-2335.

## Contribution Statements

If you would like to receive a 2023 Charitable contribution statement, please sign the sheets located at the writing desks at the Church exits. Please fill out sheet completely with name, address, phone number and email. Statements will be emailed to all who provide their email address. All other Statements will be placed in the Parish Center by January 31 for pick up. Questions can be directed to Sandy via email at: [shpmtn@ptd.net](mailto:shpmtn@ptd.net).

### Make Stewardship Your Resolution in 2024

Making an estate plan is an act of care for yourself, your loved ones, and your community. By creating your plans, you can outline important financial and healthcare decisions for the future, provide for your loved ones, and ultimately, act as a steward of everything God has placed in your care.

Through the Diocese of Allentown's new partnership with **FreeWill**, you can start the new year by completing this important act of care. **FreeWill** is a secure online platform that can walk you through the process of creating your estate plan — 100% free of cost. Visit the Diocesan website at: [allentowndiocese.org](http://allentowndiocese.org) and click on the **Giving Tab** to begin.



All are invited to attend a planning meeting on Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center to discuss BINGO in 2024.



**Come and See what we are all about.** Accepting applications for enrollment. For information call: 610-826-2354.

The distinctive purpose of **St. John Neumann Regional School** is to create Catholic-centered education enlivened by the Gospel spirit of love. The school community exists to maintain academic standards and to foster catholic values and to empower children to be all that they can be.

**Kindergarten registration** is now open! Children who will be age 5 by October 15, 2024 are eligible to register for Kindergarten. Please contact the Palmerton Office at 610-826-2354 or email: [office.sjnrschool@gmail.com](mailto:office.sjnrschool@gmail.com) for a registration packet and schedule a tour with Dr. Chris Heery, Principal, at: 610-826-2354.

**SJNRS is also accepting students** for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester of the 2023-24 school year and new enrollments up to Grade 8 for the 2024-2025 school year. Please contact Dr. Chris Heery, Principal.

**Catholic Schools Week** begins January 28<sup>th</sup> thru February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The theme this year is "United in Faith and Community."

**Marian Catholic High School Open House**

Sunday, January 28, 2:00-4:00 PM

Come, learn how to make a Marian education possible. To RSVP, please contact Mary Milosh at: [mmilosh@mariancatholics.org](mailto:mmilosh@mariancatholics.org) or 570-467-3335 ext. 117.



**January 20, 2024 – 10:00 AM**

**SJNRS Gym, 259 Lafayette Avenue Palmerton**

Open to all public and private school-age children ages 9-14. Contact Joe Koma via text or phone at: 610-554-8524 or Email: [joekoma2280@gmail.com](mailto:joekoma2280@gmail.com).

**Please support our bulletin advertisers who sponsor the printing cost of our parish bulletin.**

We express our gratitude to each advertiser for their generous support of our Parish. If you are a business owner or a professional business and would like to place an Ad in our bulletin, please call the Rectory Office. Each week our **Sunday bulletin** is posted on our web page. Please visit our website at: [www.shcpalmerton.org](http://www.shcpalmerton.org) to view.



**Tickets on sale for Sight & Sound Theater, Lancaster Bus Trip to see: "Daniel" Saturday, April 13, 2024.** Leave Sacred Heart 8:00 AM, return back at 4:30

PM. \$130 per person includes bus and show. Bring a box lunch to eat on the way back. Limited seating. First come, first serve. From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, **DANIEL** is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life on stage. A wonderful Christmas gift. Call the Rectory Office to reserve your seat today.

*All are invited to take part in a Holy Hour sponsored by the St. Monica Ministry.* The Holy Hour will take place at St. Theresa Church, Hellertown at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, January 9. We will come together before the Blessed Sacrament to ask Our Lord's mercy and to invoke the powerful intercession of St. Monica for our fallen-away loved ones. Presiding at the Holy Hour will be Rev. Stephan Isaac, Parochial Vicar at the Cathedral Church of Catharine of Siena, Allentown. Immediately after the Holy Hour, a meeting and book discussion will take place in the rectory. All are welcome, and no registration is required. For details email: [StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com](mailto:StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com).

**RETROUVAILLE: Rediscover The Love In Your Marriage.** Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille. If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program is February 16-18, at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more info or to register, visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**Reminder:** Please follow the Borough regulations when attending Mass on days when we receive 2 inches or more of snow and the forty-eight hours following the end of the snowfall. On even-numbered days, park on the even-numbered house side of the street. On odd-numbered days, park on the odd-numbered house side of the street. Attending Mass does not exclude anyone from following these directives. Your cooperation will enable our Borough to clean designated sides of our streets to benefit everyone.



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IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

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