

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

**February 11, 2024**

### PASTORAL & SUPPORT STAFF

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

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Office 610-826-2335

#### St. John Neumann Regional School

Dr. Christopher Heery, Principal 610-826-2354  
Palmerton Campus [www.sjnrnschool.org](http://www.sjnrnschool.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	Pro Life Coordinator	Veronica Scarpati
Altar Servers	Father Mullins	Safety, Security and	
Bereavement Sharers	Olivia Erickson	Maintenance Committee	Jim Matsko
Bible Study/Prayer Group/ Prayer Chain	Peg Duell	Sacred Heart Helping Hands	Rectory Office
C.A.C.P.A.C.	Sue Steigerwalt / Lori Nemeth	Vocation Promoter	Rectory Office
Cemetery	Frank Hager	Catholic Charities:	
Choir/Music Liaison	Joann Kercsmar	Tom Miller	610-435-1541 ext. 374
Disability Advocates	Marian Carty	Protecting God's Children	
Financial Council	Joe Koma	Safe Environment Coordinator	
Funeral Luncheon Committee	Roseann Heydt/Peg Duell	Pamela Russo	610-871-5200, ext. 2204
High School Ministry	Tricia Matsko	Victim Assistance Coordinator	
Knights of Columbus	Joe Koma	Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC800-791-9209	
Men of Good News	Ed Sidleck		
Palmerton Festival	Dana Massey	Allegations of abuse against a Bishop, contact	
Pastoral Council	Jerome Scarpati	Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at:	
	Lisa Kistler	<a href="http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org">www.ReportBishopAbuse.org</a> or	
		call: 1-800-276-1562.	

# February 11 – Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

## MASS Intentions

**Saturday (February 10):**  
**5:00 PM** John Desko by daughter  
**Sunday (February 11):**  
**9:30 AM** Frances Binder by  
 Debbie, Frances and Monica

**Please note:**

**No Daily Mass Monday and Tuesday**

**Wednesday (February 14): ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**8:30 AM** Paul Papay by Carol and family  
**Noon:** Service  
**7:00 PM** Parishioners of Sacred Heart

**Thursday (February 15):**  
**8:30 AM** Parishioners of Sacred Heart

**Friday (February 16):**  
**8:30 AM** Antonio and Gloria Amorim by  
 daughters and sons

**Saturday (February 17):**  
**5:00 PM** Nancy Herzog by  
 Mary Ann and Bob Martenak

**Sunday (February 18):**  
**9:30 AM** Antoinette Homlak by children

**Ash Wednesday**

Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.



**Lent begins Wednesday  
 February 14, 2024**

**Mass with distribution of Ashes:  
 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM  
 Ash Wednesday Service: Noon**

### 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.**



*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: Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46

Lepers in those ancient days had to live not only with physical pain but also with psychological pain from the several laws regarding them. In addition to forced separation from the community, they were obliged to cry out "Unclean!" whenever they neared healthy people.

### Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1

Paul urges his flock to act like Christ as healers and at the same time to be compassionate toward all whom they may encounter.

### The Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45

With a loving and tender touch, disregarding strict laws against any kind of physical contact with lepers, Jesus touches a man with the disease and heals him. He then orders the man to follow the law by showing himself to a priest who would declare him "clean." Jesus offers to all those who trust Him.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK



**Monday:** Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 Mk 8:11-13  
**Tuesday:** Jas 1:12-18 Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 Mk 8:14-21  
**Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, 17 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 Lk 9:22-25  
**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 Mt 9:14-15  
**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Lk 5:27-32  
**Sunday:** Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9. 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

### Sanctuary Candle:

*Paul Papay by Carol and family*

### Marian Altar (2):

*Parents and brothers by Frank and Lucy Melo.*

### St. Joseph Altar (2):

*Salvador and Florinda Melo by Frank and Lucy Melo.*



## Bishop Schlert's Lenten Letter:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we journey through the sacred seasons of our faith, none is more rigorous than the Holy Season of Lent. During this time, the Church urges us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

In my Lenten Letter this year, I would like to reflect with you on the practice of **fasting**. Already by the second century, fasting was integrated into the lifestyle of Christians. Fasting is not merely an ancient ritual but a timeless discipline that deepens our spiritual relationship with God.

In this act of self-denial, we emulate Christ's sacrifice and cultivate virtues such as humility and temperance. Fasting redirects our focus from worldly desires to the eternal truths of our faith, fostering a spirit of prayer, holiness, and charity.

In the New Testament, Jesus fasts forty days and nights in the desert, modeling for us the forty-day period of Lent. When Jesus' disciples were disappointed because they could not cast out a certain evil spirit, He told them that "only prayer and fasting can cast this kind out, nothing else can." (Mark 9:29).

Because the very life and teaching of Our Lord exemplify the practice of fasting, we can conclude that a spirit of denial is integral to the life of a Christian and the overcoming of the Evil One. Saint Athanasius wrote, "Devils take great delight in fullness and drunkenness, and bodily comfort. Fasting possesses great power and it works glorious things. To fast is to banquet with angels."

When we fast, we deny ourselves legitimate things so that we can master our cravings instead of being driven by them. The spiritual purpose of fasting should not be linked to the desire — which can be commendable for health reasons — to lose weight. Spiritually, fasting is linked to a desire for penance which in turn focuses our attention more clearly on prayer and the overcoming of sin.

Fasting is also a path of solidarity with the less fortunate, which leads to the Lenten practice of almsgiving/good works. It is a reminder of the hunger for justice in our world, especially in our time of disrespect for human life, of growing marginalization between people, and of multi-national conflicts. Let us, then, courageously approach the discipline of fasting with sincerity, seeking spiritual renewal and a closer union with the suffering Christ.

During this Lenten season, may we embrace fasting not as a burden, but as a transformative spiritual journey. By willingly surrendering certain comforts, we can open our hearts to God's grace and allow His love to fill the void left by material indulgence.

May God's grace guide us through this Holy Season of fasting, leading us to a richer, more profound experience of His love and mercy as we "banquet with Angels" in preparation for a joyous Easter.

*Devotedly yours in Christ, Bishop Alfred A. Schlert*



### **Reminders for Lenten Season: begins Wednesday, February 14**

- Fast (eat only 1 full meal) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Ember Days of Lent (2/21, 2/23 and 2/24).
- Abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent.
- Stations of the Cross occur on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM beginning February 14. School Stations of the Cross on Mondays at 1:30 PM.
- Confessions are on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays at 7:00 AM and Saturdays from 4:00-4:45 PM.
- Lenten Confessions with extra priests:
  - March 10: 3:00 PM Assumption BVM
  - March 11: 7:00 PM Sacred Heart
  - March 12: 7:00 PM St. Nick's
- **Ash Wednesday, February 14:**
  - 8:30 AM: Mass with Ashes
  - 12:00 PM: Ashes Service only
  - 1:30 PM: Ashes Service only @ The Palmerton
  - 7:00 PM: Mass with Ashes
- The DMI Survey to help our parish plan for future activities is available on our website at: [www.SHCPalmerton.org](http://www.SHCPalmerton.org) beginning February 14. Paper copies are available in the Rectory.



ADORATION  
of the  
BLESSED  
SACRAMENT

***First Friday of the Month, March 1  
Eucharistic Adoration 4:00 – 7:00 PM.***

***Confessions: 6:00 to 7:00 PM.***

***All are welcome to stop by for a few  
minutes, an hour or for however long you are able***

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

### **#302 "What are the essential elements of the sacrament of Reconciliation?"**

The essential elements are two: the acts of the penitent who comes to repentance through the action of the Holy Spirit, and the absolution of the priest who in the name of Christ grants forgiveness and determines the ways of making satisfaction."

### **#303 "What are the acts of the penitent?"**

They are: a careful *examination of conscience*; *contrition* (or repentance), which is perfect when it is motivated by love of God and imperfect if it rests on other motives and which includes the determination not to sin again; *confession*, which consists in the telling of one's sins to the priest; and *satisfaction* or the carrying out of certain acts of penance which the confessor imposes upon the penitent to repair the damage caused by sin."

### **#304 "Which sins must be confessed?"**

All grave sins not yet confessed, which a careful examination of conscience brings to mind, must be brought to the sacrament of Penance. The confession of serious sins is the only ordinary way to obtain forgiveness."

### **#305 "When is a person obliged to confess mortal sins?"**

Each of the faithful who has reached the age of discretion is bound to confess his or her mortal sins at least once a year and always before receiving Holy Communion."

### **#306 "Why can venial sins also be the object of sacramental confession?"**

The confession of venial sins is strongly recommended by the Church, even if this is not strictly necessary, because it helps us to form a correct conscience and to fight against evil tendencies. It allows us to be healed by Christ and to progress in the life of the Spirit."

**Word of the Week:** *Anno Domini (A.D.)* - Latin words signifying "In the year of our Lord". It is used to mark the years after Jesus' birth.

**Saint Quote of the Week:** Responding to the question if he felt afraid about the shootings that were taking place around him, he wrote: "*Are you kidding? I never thought I could pray with such fervor when I go to bed.*" - Blessed James Miller.



## **Saint of the Week: *Blessed James***

***Miller*** (1944-1982) was born in the United States. In 1959, he entered the novitiate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (Lasallians) and three years later he received the Habit. He taught Spanish, English and religion classes in high school. He made his final vows in 1969. He was commissioned to serve at the missionary school in Bluefields, Nicaragua. Five years later he was referred as director to the Lasallian campus in Puerto Cabezas. During his administration, the academy considerably expanded enrollment. In 1979, when the Sandinista group took over the government, he left the country and was eventually sent to Guatemala. He worked as a teacher and stood out for his work in the "Indian Center," a place where, in addition to providing academic education, he trained young people of the Mayan ethnic group for work and agriculture. His work was not well regarded by oligarchic groups and in 1982 he was assassinated. A month before he was immolated he wrote: "Personally I am fed up with violence, but I continue to feel deeply committed to the poor who suffer in Central America . . . Christ is persecuted because of our option for the poor. Aware of the numerous dangers and difficulties, we continue working with faith and hope and trusting in the Providence of God. He was beatified in 2019 by His Holiness Francis. Feast Day: 13 February.

**Diocesan Lent Retreat Series:** Join us for a special Lenten retreat series held at different parishes throughout the Diocese of Allentown, occurring every Monday from February 19th to March 18th. Every week will feature adoration and confession from 6:30-7:30 PM, a speaker 7:30 PM, and refreshments at 8:00 PM. The event series on Mondays during Lent is as follows:

***Feb 19:*** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Roseto,  
Topic: "***Healing***" by Maggie Riggins.

***Feb 26:*** St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven,  
Topic "***Presence***" by Lillian Fallon.

***March 4:*** St. Catharine of Siena, Reading,  
Topic "***Sacrifice***" by Rob Johnson.

***March 11:*** SS. Peter and Paul, Lehighton,  
Topic "***Promise***" by Kristin Osenbach.

***March 18:*** Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena,  
Allentown, Topic "***Holy***" by Fr. Trigilio.

Visit the Diocesan Flocknote page to sign up at:  
**[allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup152184](http://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup152184)**.





2/10-2/11: In Support of the Parish  
 2/17-2/18: In Support of the Parish  
**Second Collection:**  
 Catholic Home Missions

Attendance weekly goal: 450  
 Actual 2/3-2/4: 297



**Online giving** . . . Visit our parish website at: [www.shcpalmerton.org](http://www.shcpalmerton.org) to sign up for online giving with "MyEoffering."

Questions, contact Sandy Miller in the Rectory Office at: 610-826-2335.



**Your 2023 Contribution Statements** are available in the Parish Center for those who requested.

**Next Generation Diocese Initiative:** Take a 10 minute survey to help our parish plan for the next 10 years. The survey, *Disciple Maker Index* (DMI) will be available on our website at: [shcplamerton.org](http://shcplamerton.org) beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14. The Diocese is asking all active parishioners to participate in the survey. There will be computers available in the Parish Center for those who don't have access to a computer. Please call the Rectory to set up an appointment. You can also contact the Rectory Office if you would like to complete a paper copy. The deadline to submit paper copies is Friday, March 22.

**February 13 at 11:00 AM: Our Funeral Luncheon Committee** provided its first luncheon in January, 2020. Since then, they have provided numerous luncheons to the families and friends of the deceased parishioner. We thank Roseann Heydt, Peg Duell and their team for making this possible. **A Reorganization meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13 at 11:00 AM in the Parish Center** to discuss moving forward with this service. If you would like to be part of this Ministry, please plan on attending this meeting. Questions, contact the Rectory Office at: 610-826-2335.



**Save the dates for our Second Annual Flea Market Fundraiser,** Friday, June 21 through Sunday June 23, 2024. **Save your** unwanted Christmas Gifts or gift cards that you received that you will not use, we will gladly take. Watch for details in upcoming Bulletins. If you have any questions, please contact Bernice Borowski at: 610-392-0625 between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM.



**COOKS WITH COLLARS**  
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**ONE DAY LEFT TO VOTE:**  
**voting closes tomorrow 2/12/24.**

**Thank you to all who voted!!** I am confident to say that we will reach and exceed our Goal of \$2,000. Anyone wishing to donate **offline** can place your donation in the container in the back of Church or go online to view the videos and vote by the end of the day tomorrow! Thank you again to all who contributed!!



**BINGO! April 14 @ 1:00 PM**

Contact the Rectory Office at 610-826-2335 if you would like to volunteer to help with this fundraiser. Many various ways to help.



**Saturday, April 13. Reserve your seat today for the Bus trip to Sight and Sound for "Daniel".** The bus will leave from Sacred Heart Church parking lot on Saturday, April 13 at 8:00 AM for the 11:00 AM show. Will return immediately after the show expected return time 4:30 PM. **Cost:** \$130 per person includes bus and show. Bring a box lunch to eat on the way back. Call the Rectory Office to reserve your seat today at: 610-826-2335.



**Consider giving your child the gift of a catholic education.** SJNRS is accepting applications for Kindergarten registration.

Children who will be age 5 by October 15, 2024, are eligible to register for Kindergarten. **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. Heery, Principal at: [office.sjnrschool@gmail.com](mailto:office.sjnrschool@gmail.com) or phone at: 610-826-2354 for a registration packet, schedule a tour or questions.



**Calling all high school students ages 14-17.** You are invited to join us on Wednesday, February 21, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center for our monthly meeting. If interested in participating, please call or text Tricia Matsko at: 484-633-6510.



Join us Sunday, February 25 following 9:30 AM Mass for coffee and donuts in the Social Hall.



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IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

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