

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](mailto:shpmtn@ptd.net) • [www.shcpalmerton.org](http://www.shcpalmerton.org)

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

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT  
HOPE



## 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

**December 1, 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

Steven Uhnak, Coordinator

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

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	Sacred Heart Helping Hands	Rectory Office
Altar Servers	Father Mullins	Safety, Security and	
Bereavement Sharers	Olivia Erickson	Maintenance Committee	Jim Matsko
Bible Study/Prayer Group/ Prayer Chain	Peg Duell	Catholic Charities:	
C.A.C.P.A.C.	Sue Steigerwalt / Lori Nemeth	Tom Miller	610-435-1541 ext. 374
Cemetery	Frank Hager	Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator	
Choir/Music Liaison	Joann Keresmar	Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC:	800-791-9209
Disability Advocates	Marian Carty	Diocesan Office of Safe Environment Coordinator	
Financial Council	Joe Koma	Pamela Russo, M.S.W, M.S.	610-871-5200, ext. 2204
Funeral Luncheon Committee		Secretary Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services	
	Peg Duell	PO Box F, Allentown PA 18105-1538	
High School Ministry	Tricia Matsko	<a href="mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org">prusso@allentowndiocese.org</a>	
Knights of Columbus	Joe Koma	Diocesan Youth Protection Programs	
Palmerton Festival	Dana Massey	<a href="http://www.allentowndiocese.org/the-diocese/youth-protection/">www.allentowndiocese.org/the-diocese/youth-protection/</a>	
	Jerome Scarpati	Allegations of abuse against a Bishop, contact Catholic	
Pastoral Council	Lisa Kistler	Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at:	
Pro Life Coordinator	Veronica Scarpati	<a href="http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org">www.ReportBishopAbuse.org</a> or call: 1-800-276-1562.	

# December 1 – First Sunday Of Advent

## MASS Intentions

**Saturday** (November 30):  
**5:00 PM** Agostinho Mendes by wife

**Sunday** (December 1):  
**9:30 AM** Special Intention by Jordan Cook

**Monday** (December 2):  
**8:30 AM** Louis Cervenak by Gary and Rosa Sander and daughters

**Wednesday** (December 4):  
**8:30 AM** Adelino Mendes by mother

**Thursday** (December 5):  
**8:30 AM** George Duell by Eucharistic Ministers of SS Peter and Paul Parish

**7:00 PM** John and Robert Stribula by Donna and Bruce Wermann

**Friday** (December 6): **First Friday**  
**8:30 AM** Living and deceased members of the Slovak Catholic Sokols

**Saturday** (December 7): **First Saturday**  
**8:30 AM** Parishioners of Sacred Heart

**5:00 PM** Joseph and Barbara Mustacchio by Knights of Columbus

**Sunday** (December 8):  
**9:30 AM** Marianne Berk by husband George

### 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  
**By appointment, please call the Rectory Office.**



Please remember in your prayers our recently deceased, especially **Tony Massey**. May he be welcomed into the company of the Saints and may our dear Lord comfort his family.

*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, especially **Joe Koma**. 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.



Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament

**First Friday, December 6**  
**Adoration: 4:00-7:00 PM**  
**Confessions: 6:00-7:00 PM**

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### Reading I: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The oracles of the prophet that are presented concern the future new king who will rule Israel and produce a "just shoot," namely Jesus.

### Reading II: I Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Paul offers a petition to Christ for His love to be bestowed on the community. He also urges the community to maintain good conduct.

### The Gospel: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

The cosmic disasters at the end of time will echo the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus uses these facts to urge a sense of readiness in His disciples.



**Monday:** Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Is 29:17-24 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6



LIGHT A  
CANDLE  
FOR YOUR  
SPECIAL  
INTENTIONS

**Sanctuary Candle:** *Happy Birthday Anita* by Joan and Marge  
**Marian Altar (2):** *Terry O'Neil* by wife Debbie

If you are new to our Parish and would like to Register, please call the Rectory Office at: 610-826-2335. New Parishioners are always welcome!

**To be eligible to be a Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation** you must be an active, registered parishioner, minimum of 3 months, who is:

- Fully Initiated (received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.)
- Minimally 16 years of age.
- Attends Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days.
- In a valid marriage, if married.
- Supporting your Church to the best of your ability.

12/7-8	Lector	EM	Altar Servers
5:00 PM	J. Uhnak	Fr. Mullins/J. Kralik	L. Matsko
9:30 AM	L. Koons	Fr. Mullins/G. Berk/S. Miller (choir)	J/J Scarpati



December is a month we remember the great gifts we have been given. December 8th is the Immaculate Conception where the life of the Virgin Mary begins free from sin. December 12th is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas, who reveals that Mary is our spiritual Mother. December 25th we celebrate Christmas where God becomes visibly present to the world in poverty, humility, and love. May we focus on these precious, timeless gifts and prepare ourselves for the Second Coming of our Lord.

When we recognize how generous and loving our Lord is through these feasts, we are called not to be afraid when the Lord comes again in judgment. Instead, we are called to rejoice and give thanks for He has promised even greater blessings for those who are faithful and serve Him.

**Learn and Live the Faith (Compendium of CCC) #428 "Are all called to Christian holiness?** All the faithful are called to Christian holiness. This is the fullness of Christian life and the perfection of charity and it is brought about by intimate union with Christ and, in him, with the most Holy Trinity. The path to holiness for a Christian goes by way of the cross and will come to its fulfillment in the final resurrection of the just, in which God will be all in all."

**#429 "How does the Church nourish the moral life of a Christian?** The Church is the community in which the Christian receives the Word of God, the teachings of the "Law of Christ" (*Galatian 6:2*), and the grace of the sacraments. Christians are united to the Eucharistic sacrifice of Christ in such a way that their moral life is an act of spiritual worship; and they learn the example of holiness from the Virgin Mary and the lives of the Saints."

**Saint Quote of the Week:** *"The measure of your holiness is proportionate to the goodness of your will."* - Blessed John Ruysbroeck.

*"The love of Jesus is at once avid and generous. All that He has, all that He is, He gives; all that we are, all that we have, He takes."* - Blessed John Ruysbroeck.



**Saint of the Week: Blessed John Ruysbroeck** (1293-1381) was born in Belgium to a devout mother, who trained him from infancy in the ways of piety and holiness. At age eleven, John moved and was educated by his uncle, a priest. Ordained in 1317, he served as a chaplain for 26 years. He wrote several spiritual books in his native language. In 1343, John and his uncle retired to a hermitage at Groenendael. Their reputation for wisdom and holiness began to spread, and the hermitage attracted like-minded men. The group founded a formal religious community of Augustinian canons regular in 1349 with John as Prior. Many people came for spiritual guidance. John led a life of extreme austerity, becoming renowned as a sublime contemplative and skilled director of souls. Nicknamed the Admirable Doctor and the Divine Doctor, he was undoubtedly the most outstanding of the Flemish mystics. Feast day: December 2.

**Word of the Week: Baruch** - trusted friend and amanuensis of the prophet Jeremiah, living in the seventh century B.C. God delivered lengthy warnings to Jeremiah about the Israelites. Chapter 36 in the Book of Jeremiah describes in detail how he dictated these messages to Baruch and ordered him to read them to the people in the temple. King Jehoiakim listened to the warnings with displeasure and ordered them destroyed. Jeremiah repeated the dictation of the messages, so determined he was that the people be enlightened. Both Jeremiah and Baruch fled the kingdom. The Book of Baruch is in the Catholic Bible. Its first five chapters are the prophecy with which Baruch consoled the Jewish exiles. Chapter 6 is the Epistle of Jeremiah, which seems to have been authored by Jeremiah rather than Baruch.

**Grow deeper in your faith this Advent:** Take and read a free book, *"33 Days to Eucharistic Glory"* (located behind the last pew in the back of Church). It presents profound truths, inspiring stories, and daily prayers to help you grow closer to our Lord.

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT



As we begin the Advent season, please plan to join in our Advent preparations for the coming of our Lord.

**Confession** Will be heard during Advent in the Church as follows:

Weekdays: 7:00 to 8:00 AM  
 (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)  
 Thursdays: 6:00 to 6:45 PM  
 Saturdays: 4:00 to 4:45 PM

### Advent Confessions with multiple Priests

#### Assumption BVM, Slatington

Sunday, December 15 @ 3:00 PM

#### Sacred Heart Church

Monday, December 16 @ 7:00 PM

#### St. Nicholas, Walnutport:

Tuesday, December 17 @ 7:00 PM

### Mass Schedule

#### **Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation):**

Feast Day 12/9: 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM

**Christmas Eve 12/24:** 4:00 and 7:00 PM

**Christmas Day 12/25:** 9:30 AM

#### **Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation):**

Eve 12/31/24: 5:00 PM

Day 1/1/2025 8:30 AM and 7:00 PM

**Please note:** During Advent, Father will celebrate **an extra Mass on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM** in the Parish Center. Plan to join him this Thursday, December 5.

Anyone who wants to learn more about our faith or desiring to grow deeper in our faith should join **Father Mullins in the Parish Center Tuesday, December 3, at 7:00 PM, for Catechesis for Adults.** All are welcome.

**St. Joseph Missals** are available in the Parish Center for \$5.

**Oplatki (Christmas Wafers)** are available in the Parish Center for \$3.00 per pack (six Wafers per pack).

**Photo Directory:** You should have received your individual photo or will be receiving within the next week. Church Photo Directory will be available in January.



The Feast of St. Nicholas is Friday, December 6. **St. Nicholas will be visiting our Parish next weekend December 7-8** with a treat for children (up to age 12).

**Children should leave one shoe** by the Christmas Tree in the Main Vestibule of the Church before Mass. Don't forget to pick up your shoe after Mass and see what treat you can take home.



Consider offering a Christmas gift to the poor. There is a tree in our sanctuary with tags stating the items needed. Take a tag, purchase the gift and place it under this tree **by December 15.** These gifts bring light and hope to those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

**The Bible Study/Prayer Group** meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Parish Center. All are invited to attend. For info call Peg at: 610-826-8009.

We are considering having a **Mother's Support Group** that will meet once a month. We can have various activities for the children, but also give young mothers an opportunity to gather, share and support one another and grow in the faith. If interested, contact Father Mullins providing three preferences for the desired time and day to meet.

Thank you to Tricia Matsko for coordinating this annual event and all the ladies that participate in our Advent by Candlelight Program. It is a beautiful evening for the women of our Parish and community.



Consider providing your child the gift of a Catholic School education: **Safe caring environment that offers Excellent Faith-Based Education, Small Class and Individual Attention. Financial Aid Available.** Call Dr. Chris Heery, Principal at: 610-826-2354 for details.



**RAFFLE: \$5/ticket for the Indoor/Outdoor Nativity Set** on display in the church. (4 piece nativity set: Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Angel.) Largest figure is 18"

tall. All raffle tickets must be turned in by **Sunday, December 8.** The winning ticket will be drawn on Sunday, December 8, 3:30 PM (following BINGO). **You need not be present to win.** For tickets, please stop by the Rectory or call: 610-826-2335. We thank Tammy Bubser who handcrafted this beautiful set and donated it to us.

## Weekly Collection

**11/30-12/1:** In Support of the Parish  
**12/7-12/8:** In Support of the Parish  
**Second Collection:** Retirement for Religious

Next weekend our second collection is to help the aging religious. "Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement," says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, Sister Celeste Bujros. Donations provide for the care, medicine and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priest who have dedicated their lives to service. Thank you in advance for your support.



Did you know Sacred Heart provides **Online Giving**. To create your account, go to: [www.shcpalmerton.org](http://www.shcpalmerton.org) and click on the **online giving icon**.

### ***Please Support the Annual Fund for Retired and Infirm Priests of the Diocese of Allentown.***

You should have received a request letter in the mail to support the faithful retired priests of our Diocese. Among those retired priests who served our community at Sacred Heart are: Monsignor Bob Wargo and Father James Ward. You may return your gift in the mail or drop it in the collection basket. Visit the website at: [www.weloveourpriests.org](http://www.weloveourpriests.org). Thank you in advance for your generous support!



**Looking for something special to give that hard to shop for person on your list.** Why not enjoy a Sunday afternoon of fun and quality time with that person(s) by purchasing a BINGO gift card (\$25 value). Stop by the Rectory Office to purchase or call Sandy to place your BINGO gift card order today at: 610-826-2335.



**Every Second Sunday of the month! Join us next Sunday, December 8** in our Parish Social Hall/Gym. Doors and Kitchen open 12:00 Noon. Bingo starts 1:00 PM. Cost: \$25. All proceeds benefit Sacred Heart Church.



Please join us for family movie night in the Parish Social Hall/Gym on Saturday, December 14, after the 5:00 PM Mass. We will be showing the movie "**The Star**," an animated story of the Nativity as seen from the perspective of the animals who were there.



**SJNRS is sponsoring Breakfast with Santa next Saturday, December 7, from 8:00 until 11 AM.** Open to the Public! \$5 tickets available at the door.

Full Hot Breakfast—Crafts for Kids—Selfies w/Santa. NEW! Santa's Workshop. Shop for wonderful gifts for the entire family! **Please bring a new unwrapped toy to be distributed to children of families in need.** No stuffed toys please. Toys will be picked up by the Carbon/Tamaqua based Marine toys for tots campaign. To reserve tickets in advance, call: 610-826-2354. To volunteer contact Carolyn at 610-751-3744. Thank you!

Mark your calendar **December 15 after the 9:30 AM Mass!** Help is needed to bring in the Christmas trees and remaining decorations from the shed to prepare our Church for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Questions call Cass Chies at: 414-515-7319.

**2025 Calendars** are 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 each year.



To all who attended Thanksgiving Day Mass and those who brought items to assist our local needy. We express our gratitude to C.A.C.P.A.C. for overseeing the distribution of these items. Your generosity is much appreciated.



**CACPAC is sponsoring the annual Palmerton and Surrounding Area Toy Drive** for new toys or gift cards. **No used toys or stuffed animals.** Please leave your donation, in the box located at the entrance to the Parish Center, **by December 12.** Distribution of toys, to help local families make their Christmas brighter, is scheduled for December 14.

### **Palmerton Community Christmas Events:**

**Christmas in the Park:** Saturday, 12/7/24 from 12 noon to 5:00 PM.

**An Ecumenical Advent Service at "Little White Church:"** Sunday, 12/8 at 3:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

**Did you find a missal** approximately 4x6 with a zipper vinyl cover embroidered with the Sacred Heart? Owner would be grateful if you could return it to the Church. Missal was a gift and has sentimental value to her. Thank you.



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