

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

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT



JOY

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 15, 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

Allentown Central Catholic High School 610-437-4601

www.acchs.info

Marian Catholic High School 570-467-3335

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	prusso@allentowndioocese.org	
Knights of Columbus	Joe Koma	Diocesan Youth Protection Programs	
Palmerton Festival	Dana Massey	www.allentowndioocese.org/the-diocese/youth-protection/	
	Jerome Scarpati	Allegations of abuse against a Bishop, contact Catholic	
Pastoral Council	Lisa Kistler	Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at:	
Pro Life Coordinator	Veronica Scarpati	www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or call: 1-800-276-1562.	

December 15– Third Sunday Of Advent



- Saturday (December 14):**
5:00 PM John "Jack" Porambo by wife and family
- Sunday (December 15):**
9:30 AM Andrew Homyak by Mary Ellen and Alice
- Monday (December 16):**
8:30 AM Stephen Nemecek by James and Barbara Nemecek
- Wednesday (December 18):**
8:30 AM Parishioners of Sacred Heart
- Thursday (December 19):**
8:30 AM George Duell by Diane Dear
7:00 PM Tony Massey by Amelia Amorim
- Friday (December 20):**
8:30 AM Jane Cervenak by Patricia Johannes
- Saturday (December 21):**
5:00 PM Manuel R. Amorim by wife Amelia, son Jason and family
- Sunday (December 22):**
9:30 AM Adelino Mendes by mother

During Advent, Father will celebrate *an extra Mass on Thursday at 7:00 PM* in the Parish Center. Join him this Thursday, December 18.

Sacrament of Penance Schedule

Saturday:	4:00-4:45 PM
Before weekday Mass:	7:00-8:00 AM
Thursday:	6:00-6:45 PM
First Friday of the Month:	6:00-7:00 PM
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, especially *Anne Silfies and 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.

Last Sunday at our 9:30 AM Mass, we formally welcome our R.C.I.A. Candidates as we celebrated The Rite of Acceptance. Please keep in your prayers: *Tori Beth Heffelfinger and Ashleigh Godbout*.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Reading I: Zephaniah 3: 14-18a

Here we have a summons for people to begin rejoicing, through the intervention of Yahweh, genuine victory is coming to end their present defeat.

Reading II: Philippians 4: 4-7

God's peace "surpasses all understanding," and so it is always cause for us to rejoice.

The Gospel: Luke 3: 10-18

John the Baptist preaches that the way to salvation is through service of others. He also insists that he is not the Messiah, but only his spokesperson.



- Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17
- Wednesday:** Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25
- Thursday:** jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25
- Friday:** Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Lk 1:26-38
- Saturday:** Sgs 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45
- Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45



The Parish family of Sacred Heart extends a warm welcome to our newest parishioners, *Louis Pinola and Janet Pipciack*. May you continue to be spiritually enriched and your membership in the Church be long, happy and fruitful.



Sacred Heart Parish Family welcomes *Carter Heberling* who was recently welcomed into the Church through Baptism. May you always stay close to God and His Holy Catholic Church.

Sanctuary Candle:

Donald Hazzard by daughter Mary

Marian Altar (2):

Manuel R. Amorim by Orlando and Sameira Amorim



12/21-22	Lector	EM	Altar Servers
5:00 PM	C. Chies	Fr. Mullins/S. Berger	M/N Cuyler
9:30 AM	HSM	Fr. Mullins/D. O'Neil/S. Miller (choir)	C. Davis/C. Sebelin



Bishop Alfred A. Schlert has asked the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Allentown to celebrate the Ember Days for the Season.

Ember Days are quarterly observances with three days set aside (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) to pray in gratitude for the blessings of the season and human labor, to thank God publicly. There are twelve Ember Days in all. Traditionally Embertide was also decided as a time to pray for priests. Ember Days are no longer included in the Universal Roman Calendar but they are not abolished. On these days, Bishop Schlert is asking for abstinence from all meat products, fasting, and a Holy Hour by the clergy. The People of God of the Diocese of Allentown are encouraged to join in this practice as a sign of healing. Enter into prayer and fasting so that we may hunger for our Lord and rejoice at the banquet of Christmas. The Advent Ember Days this year are as follows:

Wednesday, December 18, 2024,
Friday, December 20, 2024, and
Saturday, December 21, 2024.

Learn and Live the Faith (Compendium of CCC) #430 "Why does the Magisterium of the Church act in the field of morality?"

It is the duty of the Magisterium of the Church to preach the faith that is to be believed and put into practice in life. This duty extends even to the specific precepts of the natural law because their observance is necessary for salvation."

#431 "What purpose do the precepts of the Church have?" The five precepts of the Church are meant to guarantee for the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer, the sacramental life, moral commitment and growth in love of God and neighbor."

Please note: There will not be Catechesis for Adults this Tuesday, December 17. Anyone who wants to learn more about our faith or desiring to grow deeper in our faith should plan to join *Father Mullins in the New Year beginning Tuesday, January 7, at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center.* All are welcome.



Saint of the Week: Peter Canisius (1521-1597) This doctor of the church was born in Holland and studied canon law in Belgium before turning to the study of theology in Germany. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1543 and was soon a well-known preacher.

He attended two sessions of the Council of Trent and was a major figure in the post-conciliar Catholic revival in Europe. As provincial of the Jesuits in southern Germany, Austria, and Bohemia, he started schools, colleges, and seminaries, and is credited with keeping the towns of southern Germany Catholic. Feast day: 21 December.

Saint Quote of the Week: *"If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all."* - St. Peter Canisius.

"If the princes and rulers of this world are privileged to make merry over the sons of their flesh, what a mountain of reasons we have for exulting over the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior!" - St. Peter Canisius.

Word of the Week: Beatific Vision - the intuitive knowledge of God which produces heavenly beatitude. As defined by the Church, the souls of the just "see the divine essence by an intuitive vision and face to face, so that the divine essence is known immediately, showing itself plainly, clearly and openly, and not immediately through any creature" (Denzinger 1000-2). Moreover, the souls of the saints "clearly behold God, one and triune, as He is" (Denzinger 1304-6). It is called vision in the mind by analogy with bodily sight, which is the most comprehensive of human sense faculties; it is called beatific because it produces happiness in the will and the whole being. As a result of this immediate vision of God, the blessed share in the divine happiness, where the beatitude of the Trinity is (humanly speaking) the consequence of God's perfect knowledge of his infinite goodness. The beatific vision is also enjoyed by the angels, and was possessed by Christ in his human nature even while he was in his mortal life on earth.

Bambinelli Sunday "Bless the Baby Jesus"

This weekend (December 14/15) we celebrate "Bambinelli Sunday". Please place your Baby Jesus figure from your Manger on the Altar rail when you arrive. At the conclusion of Mass, Father Mullins will bless each Baby Jesus figure. Display your family Christmas Manger in a place where all can view it during the Christmas season.

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

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

Advent Confessions in the Area (Prepare the way for the Lord.)
Sunday, December 15 @ 3:00 PM Assumption BVM, Slatington 649 Washington Street
Monday, December 16 @ 7:00 PM Sacred Heart Church
Tuesday, December 17 @ 7:00 PM St. Nicholas, Walnutport 4412 Mountain View Drive

A Reminder: If you missed Mass for the Holy Day, December 9, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception please be sure to go to confession before receiving Holy Communion again.

Mass Schedule	
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 1/1/25	8:30 AM and 7:00 PM

Please invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us on Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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.

Weekly Collection

12/14-12/15: In Support of the Parish
12/21-12/22: In Support of the Parish

Attendance weekly goal: 450
Actual 12/7-8 310



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

Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious, our second collection last weekend. I hope we meet, if not in this world, than in the next," says Sister Korycka, age 81, of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, please visit: retiredreligious.org.

Please Note: Parish financial records for 2024 tax reporting purposes will close December 31, 2024. 2024 Contribution Statements will include donations received by December 31. We ask those who have back envelopes to place them in an upcoming Collection to be included in your 2024 Statement. Your stewardship is important and appreciated.



Giving Tree Gifts are due this Sunday, December 15. Please return your gift(s) with the tag on the package and place it under the tree. Thank you to all who participated. These gifts bring light and hope to those in need.

Mother's Support Group will meet on the Second Saturday of every month at 10:00 AM in our Parish Center. Come relax and connect with other young mothers on January 11, 2025. Questions contact Father Mullins at 610-826-2335.



After the 5:00 PM Saturday Mass today, plan to join us in the Parish Social Hall/Gym. 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. Light refreshments will be served.



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Congratulations to Christina Flynn the winner of the Indoor/Outdoor Nativity Set.
 Also, thank you to Tammy Bubser for donating this item. Our profit amounted to \$260.00.



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 certificate (\$25 value). Skip the crowded malls and give us a call at 610-826-2335 or stop by the Rectory Office today!



Mark your calendars for the Second Sunday of every month!

Parish Social Hall. Cost: \$25.
 Doors and Kitchen open at 12:00

Noon. Bingo starts 1:00 PM. Proceeds benefit Sacred Heart Church. Plan to join us January 12, 2025.

Please Note: Help is needed next Sunday, December 22 after the 9:30 AM Mass to help bring in the Christmas trees and decorations from the shed to prepare our Church for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Questions call Cass Chies at: 414-515-7319.

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

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

There are still some books left! 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.

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.

Please remember to Support the Annual Fund for Retired and Infirm Priests of the Diocese of Allentown. 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. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Christmas and New Year are often times when people become engaged. If you are planning an engagement, please call Father Mullins at: 610-826-2335 to learn what is expected of engaged couples to prepare for marriage and to set a tentative date on the Church calendar.

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.

The Rectory Office will be closed beginning Tuesday, December 24 and will reopen on Friday, December 27.

Fun Corner: Word Scramble from Luke 3:10-18

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