

THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN

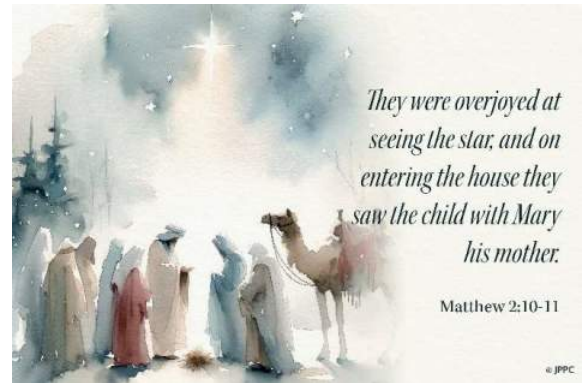
# SACRED HEART CHURCH

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



## 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 5, 2025**

### 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

Steven Uhnak, Coordinator

St. John Neumann Regional School

Dr. Christopher Heery, Principal 610-826-2354  
[www.sjnschool.org](http://www.sjnschool.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 Kercsmar	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@allentowndioocese.org">prusso@allentowndioocese.org</a>	
Knights of Columbus	Joe Koma	Diocesan Youth Protection Programs	
Palmerton Festival	Dana Massey	<a href="http://www.allentowndioocese.org/the-diocese/youth-protection/">www.allentowndioocese.org/the-diocese/youth-protection/</a>	
Pastoral Council	Jerome Scarpati	Allegations of abuse against a Bishop, contact Catholic	
Pro Life Coordinator	Lisa Kistler	Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at:	
	Veronica Scarpati	<a href="http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org">www.ReportBishopAbuse.org</a> or call: 1-800-276-1562.	

# January 5 –The Epiphany Of The Lord



**Saturday (January 4): First Saturday**  
**8:30 AM** Pauline Desko by daughter  
**5:00 PM** Parishioners of Sacred Heart

**Sunday (January 5):**  
**9:30 AM** Ed and Evelyn Vollmer by Debbie O'Neil

**Monday (January 6):**  
**8:30 AM** Paul Krepicz by Marianne Smelas

**Wednesday (January 8):**  
**8:30 AM** Robinson and McCarthy families by Ed and Eileen Robinson


**Thursday: (January 9):**  
**8:30 AM** Manuel R. Amorim by wife Amelia


**Friday (January 10):**  
**8:30 AM** Edgardo and Erlinda Salazar by family

**Saturday (January 11):**  
**5:00 PM** Anna and Anton Derkach by granddaughter

**Sunday (January 12):**  
**9:30 AM** Parishioners of Sacred Heart

Sacrament of Penance Schedule	
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>4:00-4:45 PM</b>
<b>Before weekday Mass:</b>	<b>7:00-8:00 AM</b>
<b>First Friday of the Month:</b>	<b>6:00-7:00 PM</b>
<b>By appointment, please call the Rectory Office.</b>	

 *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.

 Altar Flowers on the main altar this weekend are in memory of **Margaret Swanger** by daughter.

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

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

All parts of the world will process to Jerusalem. There they will rebuild the city in prosperous times.

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

The author recounts Paul's role in announcing the divine plan. Its main point is the new inclusion of the Gentile world.

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

Jesus' birth is inserted into the political and social context. The wise men represent the Gentile world coming to Christ.



**Monday:** 1 Jn 3:22; 4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a  
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8  
Mk 6:34-44

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13  
Mk 6:45-52

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 4:19; 5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc,  
17 Lk 4:14-22

**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-13, 14-15,  
19-20 Lk 5:12-16

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and  
9b Jn 3:22-30


**Sunday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11  
Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10



*Join us for First Friday Eucharistic Adoration.* Every First Friday of the month from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the Church.

Confessions 6:00 to 7:00 PM. Consider spending some quiet, quality time with Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament on the First Fridays of the month.

**Into The Breach: Men's Group.** Meet in Parish Center on Saturdays at 8:00 AM starting January 25. Contact Aaron Sebelin at [seb32@ptd.net](mailto:seb32@ptd.net).



LIGHT A  
CANDLE  
FOR YOUR  
SPECIAL  
INTENTIONS

**Sanctuary Candle:**  
*Father Mullins intentions.*

**Marian Altar (2)**  
*Andrew and Irene Homyak by Mary Ellen and Alice.*

1/11-1/12	Lector	EM	Altar Servers
5:00 PM	P. Duell	Fr. Mullins/J. Kralik	L. Matsko
9:30 AM	A. Goodbred	Fr. Mullins/D. O'Neil/S. Miller(choir)	S/B Goodbred

Epiphany means "manifestation; an event, action, or object that clearly shows or embodies something." The feast of the Epiphany identifies three events of the life of Christ



which reveals His divinity: Visit by the Wise Men, Baptism of our Lord, Wedding at Cana. The wise men were foreigners who followed a moving star that rested over the child Jesus; they worshiped Him and offered gifts which reveal who Christ is: gold, the king of metals for the King of Kings; frankincense, which lifts prayers up to heaven for the Son of God; myrrh, an embalming perfume to reveal He will sacrifice His life. In the Baptism of the Lord, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus and the voice of the Father was heard saying, "This is my Beloved Son, listen to Him." Finally, during the Wedding at Cana, Jesus performs His first public miracle, the transformation of water into the best of wine.

May our words and actions be the shining light that clearly reveals that we belong to Christ. Use your time, talent and treasures and offer them as gifts in adoration and gratitude to our Lord. Consider making a resolution to read the Bible each day that you may hear the voice of the Father. Recognize that when we invite Jesus into our life, miracles will happen and He can transform us to be the best we can be. May this new year be happy and holy for you and your family.

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

**#438 "What importance does the Church give to the Decalogue?"**

The Church, in fidelity to Scripture and to the example of Christ, acknowledges the primordial importance and significance of the Decalogue. Christians are obliged to keep it."

**#439 "Why does the Decalogue constitute an organic unity?"**

The Ten Commandments form an organic and indivisible whole because each commandment refers to the other commandments and to the entire Decalogue. To break one commandment, therefore, is to violate the entire law."

**#440 "Why does the Decalogue enjoin serious obligations?"**

It does so because the Decalogue expresses the fundamental duties of man towards God and towards his neighbor."

**#441 "Is it possible to keep the Decalogue?"**

Yes, because Christ without whom we can do nothing enables us to keep it with the gift of his Spirit and his grace."



**Saint of the Week: John Neumann (1811-1860)**

was born in 1811 in Bohemia (today, the Czech Republic). John entered the seminary and

was nearing ordination when he left for the United States. He joined the Redemptorists and served as a priest in New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania. John worked tirelessly to provide sacraments to Catholic immigrants and to care for their educational and medical needs. At this time in American history, anti-Catholicism was rampant. John Neumann ensured that Catholics were educated in their faith, and he also won many converts to the faith. Known for his piety, learning, and work ethic, in 1851 John Neumann was asked by Archbishop Kenrick to be his confessor and recommended that he become Bishop of Philadelphia. Pope Pius IX agreed and ordained him Bishop in 1852. John sought to visit all the parishes in the diocese as well as hospitals, orphanages, and religious communities. Because he spoke eight languages, he was able to hear confessions from many immigrants. He established the first parochial school system in America founding 40 new schools. He even published catechisms that remained in use until the publication of the Baltimore Catechism thirty-five years later. His pastoral zeal was evident until his final moments of life. After bringing Holy Communion to the sick, he collapsed and died in the street at age 48. He was buried at St. Peter's Redemptorist Church in Philadelphia. Visitors can view his incorrupt body lying beneath the main altar. Feast day: 5 January.

**Saint Quote of the Week:** *"Everyone who breathes, high and low, educated and ignorant, young and old, man and woman, has a mission, has a work. We are not sent into this world for nothing; we are not born at random; we are not here, that we may go to bed at night, and get up in the morning, toil for our bread, eat and drink, laugh and joke, sin when we have a mind, and reform when we are tired of sinning, rear a family and die. God sees every one of us; He creates every soul, . . . for a purpose. He needs, He deigns to need, every one of us. He has an end for each of us; we are all equal in His sight, and we are placed in our different ranks and stations, not to get what we can out of them for ourselves, but to labor in them for Him. As Christ has His work, we too have ours; as He rejoiced to do His work, we must rejoice in ours also."* - (St. John Neumann, from the sermon: "God's Will the End of Life".)

**Word of the Week: Bells** - hollow metal cups that make a ringing sound when struck or rung. When blessed, they are sacramentals of the Church. The Mass bell is a small handbell rung at the elevation of the Sacred Host and Chalice to direct the attention of the congregation to this most solemn part of the Mass. In many churches the tower bells are rung at dawn, noon and night to mark the Angelus prayer to remind people to sanctify each part of the day.

**This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany, also 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.

If you want to learn more about our faith or desiring to grow deeper in our faith, you should plan to join **Father Mullins on Tuesday, January 7, at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center.** All are welcome.



**Blessed with 90 years or more we offer our prayers and best wishes to**  
**Nancy Rezeli.**  
**Have a blessed birthday!**



Are you a new parishioner or visiting for the first time? ***If you have moved to the area, please register in the parish office.*** Please call 610 826-2335 or stop by the Rectory Office during the week between 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM to Register. Father Mullins and your parish welcomes you!

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *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.
- If living together, married through Catholic Church.
- Supporting your Church to the best of your ability.

### Weekly Collection

**1/4-1/5/2025:** In Support of the Parish  
**1/11-1/12/2025:** In Support of the Parish  
 Attendance weekly goal: 450  
 Actual: 12/21-22: 305



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.**



**Sign-up sheets for your 2024 Contribution Statement** are on the writing desks at the Church exits. Please fill out sheet completely with name, address, phone number and email. Statements will be sent electronically if an email address is provided. All other Statements will be placed in the Parish Center for pick up. Watch Bulletin for date they will be available.

Have you taken your RMD (required minimum distribution)? Consider donating directly to the Parish. Call Rectory Office for details.



**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.**



**\$25 BINGO gift certificates are available at the Rectory Office.** Call 610-826-2335 or stop by the Rectory Office (9:30 AM to 2:30 PM).



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. SJNRS is accepting students for the current school year 2024-25 and new enrollments (Grades pre-K-8) for the 2025-2026 school year. Please contact Dr. Chris Heery, Principal for details at: 610-826-2354.

SJNRS will be sponsoring a **Designer Bag Bingo** at the School Gymnasium, 259 Lafayette Avenue Palmerton on Sunday, January 26 1:00 PM. Doors Open at Noon. \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. For more info or to purchase tickets, contact Pam Keer at: 610-657-7850.

**Mother's Support Group** will meet this Saturday, January 11 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.

**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.

**Pilgrimage from Paris to Lourdes.** Join Holy Family Parish of Minersville in a Pilgrimage from Paris to Lourdes, France, April 27-May 6, 2025. Please contact Fr. Stokes for details at Holy Family Parish of Minersville: 570-544-4741.

**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](http://www.weloveourpriests.org). Thank you in advance for your generous support!

### **Divorce Recovery Support Group**

If you are suffering a divorce or separation, or perhaps grieving a past divorce, join us for prayers, donuts and encouraging conversation. BYOC - bring your own coffee. St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, second floor of the parish office on the first Saturday of each month, 9:00 to 10:00 AM (after the 8:30 AM Mass). The next meetup is February 1. For information call 505 688-8663.

### **Date Night at Folino Estate for Engaged and Married Couples**

Catholic engaged and married couples are invited to an evening of romance and reflection at Folino Estate Winery in Kutztown, PA on Friday, January 24, 2025. The evening will feature a cocktail hour with live music and optional couples' portraits by [Vargas Photography](http://VargasPhotography). A dinner buffet will follow with a New Year's reflection by guest speakers Greg and Heather Maigur. Each couple will get to take home a 375 ml wine bottle favor at the end of the evening! Tickets are \$100 per couple. Space is limited, Register at <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/date-night>. or contact Rhady Tulloch, Director of Marriage & Family Life, at: [rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org) with any questions.

**2025 Calendars** are available at all Church exits. Please take a calendar as you leave Mass today. Thank you to Campton Funeral Home for generously sponsoring the calendars for our Parish each year.

**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.



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