

THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN
SACRED HEART CHURCH

243 LAFAYETTE AVENUE ~ PALMERTON PA 18071

Rectory Office: 610-826-2335

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."



Weekend Masses: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM

December 21, 2025

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
www.sjnrschool.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
Altar Servers
Bereavement Sharers
Bible Study/Prayer Group/
Prayer Chain

C.A.C.P.A.C.
Cemetery
Choir/Music Liaison
Disability Advocates
Funeral Luncheon Committee
High School Ministry
Knights of Columbus
Palmerton Festival

Pro Life Coordinator

Cass Chies
Father Mullins
Olivia Erickson

Peg Duell
Sue Steigerwalt / Lori Nemeth
Frank Hager
Joann Kercsmar
Marian Carty
Peg Duell
Tricia Matsko
Marty DeSousa
Dana Massey
Jerome Scarpati
Veronica Scarpati

**Sacred Heart Helping Hands
Safety Committee**

Rectory Office
Jim Matsko

Catholic Charities:

Tom Miller 610-435-1541 ext. 374

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC, LPC: 800-791-9209

Diocesan Office of Safe Environment Coordinator

Pamela Russo, M.S.W., M.S. 610-871-5200, ext. 2204

Secretary Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services

PO Box F, Allentown PA 18105-1538

prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Diocesan Youth Protection Programs

www.allentowndiocese.org/the-diocese/youth-protection/

Allegations of abuse against a Bishop, contact Catholic
Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at:

www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or call: 1-800-276-1562.

December 21 – Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Mass Intentions

Saturday	December 20
5:00 PM	Manuel R. Amorim by wife
Sunday	December 21
9:30 AM	Parishioners of Sacred Heart
Monday	December 22
8:30 AM	George Chupa by wife and family
Wednesday	December 24 Christmas Eve
4:00 PM	Frank and Helen Kurtz by children and families
6:30 PM	Parishioners of Sacred Heart
Thursday	December 25 Christmas Day
9:30 AM	Joe Koma by Jose and Charla Mendes
Friday	December 26 NO MASS
Saturday	December 27
5:00 PM	Stephen and Lillian Behun by daughter Sally and family
Sunday	December 28
9:30 AM	Parishioners of Sacred Heart

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.	

Sunday, December 21, 10:30 AM: Sacrament of 1st Penance for our students who will be making their 1st Holy Communion in the spring.



Please remember in your prayers our recently deceased, especially **Baby Tierney and Gary Shinsky**. 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.



Sanctuary Candle:

John "Jack" Porambo by wife and family.

Marian Altar:

Terry O'Neil by wife.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Reading I: Isaiah 7: 10-14

The name of the Savior to come, "Immanuel," is Hebrew for "God is with us."

Reading II: Romans 1: 1-7

These introductory verses of Paul's Letter finds him calling himself a "slave" for Christ. What this means is that he has made his whole life a gift to Christ. For Paul, the gospel bears a message long prefigured in the Hebrew Scriptures, The Old Testament.

The Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-24

The birth account of Jesus includes the betrothal period of Joseph and Mary, a time more meaningful than our modern engagement understanding, which could only be ended by divorce. We see Joseph as a man of sterling moral character, committed to the Law of Moses and to Mary.



Monday:	1 Sm 1:24-28 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday:	Vigil: Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25
Thursday:	Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Friday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Mt 10:17-22
Saturday:	1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Come Adore Him . . .

First Friday of the month
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
4:00-7:00 PM.

Confessions: 6:00-7:00 PM



Adult Faith Formation: There are no classes December 25 and January 1. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 7 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center for those who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith or desire to prepare to receive the sacraments of 1st Holy Communion or Confirmation.

12/27-12/28	Lector	EM	Altar Servers
5:00 PM	J. Kralik	Fr. Mullins/C. Chies	M/N Cuyer
9:30 AM	T. Matsko	Fr. Mullins/D. O'Neil/S. Miller (choir)	J/J Scarpati



People have different reasons for celebrating Christ's Mass. Because it's a holy day of obligation. Because someone forced them. Because everyone else is doing it. Because there was nothing better to do. To make someone happy. Because it's tradition. To worship our God and give thanks. Whatever the reason you come, welcome! In one of the reading options for today, we hear the reason why Christ came: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Beforehand, we were trapped by the darkness of death. Due to His Incarnation, death and Resurrection, Jesus won the victory over sin and death and opens the way for us to eternal life. God became flesh, that He may embrace us, nourish us, suffer for us, and raise us up in glory. Whatever pains, struggles, difficulties we may have, Christ Jesus always is our hope for He comes to save us.

Our task is to come to Him, to unite ourselves to Him, to grow deeper in love with Him through prayer, the sacraments, and through acts of charity. Just as the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, Saint Joseph and the Blessed Mother pondered on this sacred mystery and shared the message with others, so too may you share the joy and peace of Christ so that we may all participate as members of the Holy Family this day and always. On behalf of our parish staff, we pray you have a Holy and Merry Christmas!

Prayer To The Holy Family by St. Francis:
"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you, confident, we turn. Holy Family of Nazareth, also make our families a place of communion and a cenacle of prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth may there never again be episodes of violence, closure and division in families; that whoever has been hurt or scandalized may soon be comforted and healed. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, listen, accept our plea."

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



Christmas Eve, December 24: 4:00 and 6:30 PM
Christmas Day December 25: 9:30 AM
Solemnity of Mary Vigil, December 31: 5:00 PM
Day January 1, 2026: 9:30 AM

Learn and Live the Faith (Compendium of CCC)
#594 "Why do we say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"? By asking God the Father to pardon us, we acknowledge before him that we are sinners. At the same time, we proclaim his mercy because in his Son and through the sacraments "we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14). Still our petition will be answered only if we for our part have forgiven first."

#595 "How is forgiveness possible? Mercy can penetrate our hearts only if we ourselves learn how to forgive – even our enemies. Now even if it seems impossible for us to satisfy this requirement, the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit can, like Christ, love even to love's extreme; it can turn injury into compassion and transform hurt into intercession. Forgiveness participates in the divine mercy and is a high-point of Christian prayer."

Word of the Week: Carthusians - the strictly contemplative order founded by St. Bruno in 1084 at the Grande Chartreuse in Dauphiné. At first there was no special rule except that the monks were expected to practice perfect mortification and renunciation of the world. Essentially hermits, the Carthusians were vowed to silence, with conventual Mass. In 1133, a form of life called the Carthusian Customs was approved by Pope Innocent II, and this has remained to the present day substantially unchanged. The Carthusian way of life is a combination of Benedictine monasticism and eremitical asceticism. The order also includes a number of monasteries of nuns who live under a similar rule, but they have separate cells instead of cottages and are under the direction of the Carthusian monks.

Saint of the Week: Blessed Jacopone da Todi (1230-1306AD) was born into a noble family in Italy. He became a successful lawyer and married a pious, generous lady named Vanna. His young wife took it upon herself to do penance for the worldly excesses of her husband. One day Vanna, at the insistence of Giacomo, attended a public tournament. She was sitting in the stands with the other noble ladies when the stands collapsed. Vanna was killed. Her shaken husband was even more disturbed when he realized that the penitential girdle she wore was for his sinfulness. On the spot, he vowed to radically change his life. Giacomo divided his possessions among the poor and entered the Secular Franciscan Order. Often dressed in penitential rags, he was mocked as a fool and called Jacopone, or "Crazy Jim," by his former associates. The name became dear to him. After 10 years of such humiliation, Jacopone asked to be received into the Order of Friars Minor. Because of his reputation, his request was initially refused. He composed a beautiful poem on the vanities of the world, an act that eventually led to his admission into the Order in 1278. He continued to lead a life of strict penance, declining to be ordained a priest. Meanwhile, he was writing popular hymns in the vernacular. Jacopone suddenly found himself a leader in a disturbing religious movement among the Franciscans. The Spirituals, as they were called, wanted a return to the strict poverty of Francis. They had on their side two cardinals of the Church and Pope Celestine V. These two cardinals, though, opposed Celestine's successor, Boniface VIII. At the age of 68, Jacopone was excommunicated and imprisoned. Although he acknowledged his mistake, Jacopone was not absolved and released until Benedict XI became pope five years later. He had accepted his imprisonment as penance. He spent the final three years of his life more spiritual than ever, weeping "because Love is not loved." During this time, he wrote the famous Latin hymn, Stabat Mater. On Christmas Eve in 1306, Jacopone felt that his end was near. He was in a convent of the Poor Clares with his friend, Blessed John of La Verna. Like Francis, Jacopone welcomed "Sister Death" with one of his favorite songs. It is said that he finished the song and died as the priest intoned the "Gloria" from the midnight Mass at Christmas. From the time of his death Brother Jacopone has been venerated as a saint. Feast Day: 22 December.

Saint Quote of the Week: "A wise and courteous choice he'd make, Who'd be a fool for the dear Lord's sake." - Blessed Jacopone da Todi.



Parish Registration: New to our Parish? To register, please call the Rectory Office at: 610-826-2335.

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, must be married through the Catholic Church.
- Supporting your Church to the best of your ability.



Continue to pray for all Priests, Deacons and Seminarians. *"God our Father, we pray that You will raise up from among us, and from among our children, numerous and holy vocations to the priesthood, who will, in their ministry, proclaim the truth of the Gospel, administer the sacraments, and offer faithful service to the Church." Amen.*

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

This Weekend Events:

Movie Night: Saturday, December 20 in the Parish Center at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to enjoy some snacks, make some friends and enjoy a classic movie, **"The Nativity Story"** (1 hour 20 minutes).



Sunday, December 21, 10:30 AM: The Knights of Columbus invite seniors of our parish who may not have many chances to get out or socialize to a warm and welcoming late morning of company and lighthearted fun following our 9:30 AM Mass in the gym. Join us for friendly conversation, fun games, door-prize raffles, and a complimentary lunch. This event is designed especially for seniors who might enjoy a bit of companionship and community.

Bible Study will not meet during the Christmas Holiday. We will resume on Wednesday, January 7th in the Parish Center at 10:00 AM.

Weekly Collection

12/20-12/21: In Support of the Parish

12/27-12/28: In Support of the Parish



Have you considered **On-line Giving?**
Visit: www.shcpalmerton.org and click on the online giving icon to sign-up.

"Thank you very much for your donations, last weekend for the Retired and Elderly Religious. Your gift directly impacts thousands of senior religious, providing the support they need in their later years," says Sister Olivia Bellegante, 93. Learn more at: retiredreligious.org.

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

Offer your support to the retired priests of our Diocese by helping provide for their care in retirement! Your donation will help serve those who have faithfully served us. You may return your gift in the mail or drop it in the collection basket at Mass. Visit www.weloveourpriests.org for details. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

A Knight before Christmas: This Advent have you been thinking about how to better impact our church, community and those in need? YOU can do so by joining the Knights of Columbus before Christmas. There will be an exemplification of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree on Monday, Dec. 22nd at 7pm at Sacred Heart in Palmerton. All men, 18 years of age and older are invited to attend. Families of candidates are most welcome to attend. Please email District Deputy Jordan Cook if you plan to attend at: jordancook53170@gmail.com.

Fun Corner:

C	B	O	J	H	J	E	M	B
S	Y	O	E	O	O	S	F	K
Y	R	A	M	S	S	F	C	L
M	B	X	S	L	E	G	N	A
S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S
X	R	A	T	S	H	D	O	B
M	O	J	H	P	Z	E	V	V
W	V	R	Y	B	R	B	X	F
H	N	X	O	S	U	S	E	J

Word Search:

Angels
Jesus

Joseph
Mary

Shepherds
Star



St. John Neumann Regional School

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

Marian Catholic High School Open House:

Sunday, January 25th, 1:00-3:00 PM

Come meet our staff, explore our classrooms, and discover the programs that make our school so special. RSVP to Mary Milosh, Director of Enrollment, at: mmilosh@mariancatholic.org or 570-467-3335 ext. 116.



Second Sunday of the Month!

Doors and kitchen open 12 Noon.
Bingo starts 1:00 PM. Cost: \$25.

Sacred Heart Social Hall, 259 Lafayette Avenue.
\$25 Gift Certificates are available to purchase.

High School Ministry is currently selling Sacred Heart Logo Apparel. Place order form and check made payable to Sacred Heart in the collection basket or drop off at the Rectory Office. Items are on display in the front entrance to the Church.



SACRED HEART APPAREL ORDER FORM

Contact Tricia Matsko for order info:
484-633-6510.

HOODIE SWEATSHIRTS	\$35
Colors: Camel or Charcoal	Sizes: M – XL
Color _____	Size _____
Color _____	Size _____

YOUTH HOODIE SWEATSHIRTS	\$35
Color: Navy Blue	Size: YXL only
Quantity: _____	

SHORT-SLEEVE POLO SHIRT	\$20
Color: Black only	Sizes: M – XL
Quantity: _____	Size _____

SHORT-SLEEVE T-SHIRTS	\$15
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