

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 28, 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	Cass Chies
Altar Servers	Father Mullins
Bereavement Sharers	Olivia Erickson
Bible Study/Prayer Group/ Prayer Chain	Peg Duell
C.A.C.P.A.C.	Sue Steigerwalt / Lori Nemeth
Cemetery	Frank Hager
Choir/Music Liaison	Joann Kercsmar
Disability Advocates	Marian Carty
Funeral Luncheon Committee	Peg Duell
High School Ministry	Tricia Matsko
Knights of Columbus	Marty DeSousa
Palmerton Festival	Dana Massey
Pro Life Coordinator	Jerome Scarpati Veronica Scarpati

Sacred Heart Helping Hands	Rectory Office
Safety Committee	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 28 – The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Mass Intentions

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
Monday	December 29
8:30 AM	Gail, Mary and Harold Sander by Hal Sander

Solemnity of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation):

Wednesday	December 31 Vigil of Holy Day
5:00 PM	Andy Krawchuk by Suzie Berger and Tom McCabe
Thursday	January 1 Holy Day
9:30 AM	Parishioners of Sacred Heart
Friday	January 2 First Friday
8:30 AM	Margaret Swanger by daughter Mary
Saturday	January 3 First Saturday
8:30 AM	Victims of Willow Street fire by Cook family
5:00 PM	Charlie Kirk, Turning Point by Michael and Marian Carty
Sunday	January 4
9:30 AM	Pauline Desko by daughter

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.	



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:

Tyler Kravetz by grandmother

The Rectory Office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31 and reopen on Friday, January 2.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Reading I: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

The author teaches a filial respect for one's parents, and then the text shifts to the concrete help that children should extend to them "in old age and in times of illness, loneliness, or distress."

Reading II: Colossians 3: 12-21, or 3: 12-17

Paul gives his pastoral instruction on family life. He challenges every household to be transformed with "the peace of Christ." This peace is far more than the absence of hostility. It is a deep-rooted sense of connection to Christ through love and obedience to His way of understanding each other.

The Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23

God works within the family structures. For example, St. Joseph is instructed by the angel because he is the head of the Holy Family, and the one most responsible for their well-being. We should also note his obedience in a very difficult time for the Family.



Monday:	1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday	1 Jn 2:18-21 Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 Jn 1:1-18
Thursday:	Nm 6:22-27 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
Friday:	1 Jn 2:22-28 Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Jn 1:19-28
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:29-3:6 Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 Jn 1:29-34
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday, January 2, 2026
4:00-7:00 PM.

Confessions: 6:00-7:00 PM.

Adoration for Vocations

Thursday, January 8, 9:00-10:00 AM

Adult Faith Formation: There are no classes December 25 and January 1. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center for those who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith.

1/3-1/4	Lector	EM	Altar Servers
5:00 PM	J. Uhnak	Fr. Mullins/C. Chies	M/N Cuyer
9:30 AM	C. Sebelin	Fr. Mullins/T. Gades/C. Wehr (choir)	G. Buck/C. Davis/C. Sebelin



As we approach the new year, we ask our heavenly Father to bring peace to our world. May conflicts cease and wounds of the past be healed. May the earth produce in abundance for all. May each person recognize the dignity and blessing of each other. Children learn to live in peace from their parents; how to live in stability, how to work through struggles, how to appreciate and respect one another, and what are the boundaries for living a virtuous life. Our Heavenly Father sent the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ into our world. The Virgin Mary welcomed that Peace and shared that Peace with all she encountered. May we seek the intercession of Mary, the mother of our God, and our spiritual mother, that she may help us to welcome Christ our Peace in all our relationships.

Masses for the Holy Day of Obligation,

celebrating Mary, Mother of God:

Wednesday, 31 December @ 5:00pm

Thursday, 1 January 2026 @ 9:30am

Happy New Year! May this new calendar year be one of much health, happiness and holiness for you all. On behalf of our parish staff, we want to thank everyone who sent Christmas cards, food, gifts, and well wishes. Special thanks to those who decorated our Church for Christmas. They prepared a beautiful space to welcome the baby Jesus. We are blessed to have such a wonderful parish family.

2026 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.

Learn and Live the Faith (Compendium of CCC)

#596 "What does "Lead us not into temptation" mean?

We ask God our Father not to leave us alone and in the power of temptation. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us know how to discern, on the one hand, between a *trial* that makes us grow in goodness and a *temptation* that leads to sin and death and, on the other hand, between *being tempted* and *consenting* to temptation. This petition unites us to Jesus who overcame temptation by his prayer. It requests the grace of vigilance and of final perseverance."

#597 "Why do we conclude by asking "But deliver us from evil"?"

"Evil" indicates the person of Satan who opposes God and is "the deceiver of the whole world" (*Revelation* 12:9). Victory over the devil has already been won by Christ. We pray, however, that the human family be freed from Satan and his works. We also ask for the precious gift of peace and the grace of perseverance as we wait for the coming of Christ who will free us definitively from the Evil One."

#598 "What is the meaning of the final Amen?"

"At the end of the prayer, you say 'Amen' and thus you ratify by this word that means 'so be it' all that is contained in this prayer that God has taught us." (Saint Cyril of Jerusalem)"

Word of the Week: Cassock – an ecclesiastical garb worn for various liturgies by priests and bishops. It is an ankle-length, close-fitting garment usually with 33 buttons and is sometimes belted. For ordinary use it is usually black in color. Cardinals may wear one of red color or with red piping, cincture and buttons; a bishop may wear purple. The Pope's is always white. (Etym. Italian *casacca*, greatcoat.)



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.

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.

Saint of the Week: King David (c. 1000 BC). Prophet and king. His life and work are recounted in the Old Testament, in the books of Samuel; 1 Kings 1-2 and Chronicles 11-29. He was born in Bethlehem in Judah. He was the youngest son of Jesse and worked as a shepherd in his childhood. At that time, Samuel, the last of the judges, anointed Saul as king of Israel. David arrived at this court, and his skill at playing the lyre attracted attention, and he befriended Jonathan, the king's son. Another passage in Scripture indicates that Saul summoned David because he had bravely defeated and killed the Philistine giant Goliath (1 Samuel 17:55-58). Because of this, the king became jealous and considered David a rival. This situation prompted the young man to flee to the desert, where he organized an army in the service of the Philistines, who then granted him the city of Ziklag. When Saul died, David was anointed by Samuel in the Hebron region as king of Judah (2 Samuel 2). After numerous battles, he became monarch of all Israel, conquered Jerusalem, and transformed it into a magnificent religious center. He married Michal, Saul's daughter, but, as was customary, had several wives. His greatest transgression was committing adultery with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, whom he ordered to be murdered. However, he repented of his sins and performed intense penance to be forgiven by the Lord. His religious work is recognized within the genre of poetry; he is credited with composing more than seventy Psalms included in the Old Testament. David's descendants gave rise to the birth of the Messiah (Matthew 1:1-17). He is venerated as a saint according to paragraph 61 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which states: "The patriarchs, prophets and other figures of the Old Testament have always been and will always be venerated as saints in all the liturgical traditions of the Church." Feast Day: 29 December.

Saint Quote of the Week: *Psalm 23 "A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul. He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me. You set a table before me in front of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days."* – St. David, King.



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.

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

All are invited to attend the closing celebration for the Jubilee Year of Hope this Sunday, December 28 at the Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. 2:00 PM will be a choral presentation, The Sacrament of Penance will be available from 2-3pm. The closing Mass will begin at 3pm, celebrated by Bishop Schlert.



St. John Neumann Regional School

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



Dr. Christopher Heery, Principal of St. John Neumann Regional School, has announced the students who have attained honors for the 1st Trimester 2025-26 from Sacred Heart Parish:

First Honors:

Gr. 6: *Jackson Amorim* and Gr. 8: *Garrett Buck.*

Second Honors:

Gr. 3: *Carter Buck.*

SJNRS Neumann's Nicest Award:

Gr. 6: *Mason Cuyler.*

SJNRS is selling Lottery calendars for the month of January, 2026. The cost for the calendar is \$10. The prizes range from \$25 to \$100. Call the school for details at: 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.

Weekly Collection

12/27-12/28: In Support of the Parish
1/3-1/4: In Support of the Parish
Attendance Goal: 450
Actual 12/13-12/14: 229



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

Parish financial records for 2025 tax reporting purposes will close December 31, 2025. Contribution Statements for 2025 will include donations deposited by December 31, 2025.

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

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 to view.

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!

Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas Raffle:

1st prize: Alice Berger, 20 piece Nativity Set.
2nd prize: Christine Meckes, Bakeware Set.
3rd prize: Rosa Sander, \$25 Gift Card One Ten Tavern.
4th prize: Mabelyn Acevedo, \$25 Gift Card One Ten Tavern.

*A sincere thank you to the sponsors for donating the prizes and a thank you to all who participated in this raffle!
 May God Bless all of you!*

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 _____
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Color: Navy Blue **Size:** YXL only
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Color: Black only **Sizes:** M – XL
 Quantity: _____ Size _____

SHORT-SLEEVE T-SHIRTS \$15
Colors: Blue or Gray **Sizes:** M – XL
 Color _____ Size _____
 Color _____ Size _____

NAME: _____
PHONE: _____
AMOUNT DUE: _____



Second Sunday of the Month! Cash

Prizes, Cost: \$25. Bingo starts 1:00 PM.
 Sacred Heart Social Hall, 259 Lafayette Avenue.

Fun Corner: Things we learn from Family

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