



## St. Nicholas Catholic Church

1152 Oak Road  
Walnutport, PA 18088  
[www.stnicholaswalnutport.org](http://www.stnicholaswalnutport.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Adam C. Sedar, M.A., M.Div.  
**Administrative Assistant:** Deacon Mike Kudla

### Parish Office and Religious Education:

610-767-3107  
E-mail: [stnick11@ptd.net](mailto:stnick11@ptd.net)

### Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 9 AM - 3 PM

### St. John Newman Regional School: (K-8)

610-826-2354

### PREP:

Grades K, 1, 2 Sun 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
Grades 3 - 8 Mon 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM

### BVMSN Credit Union:

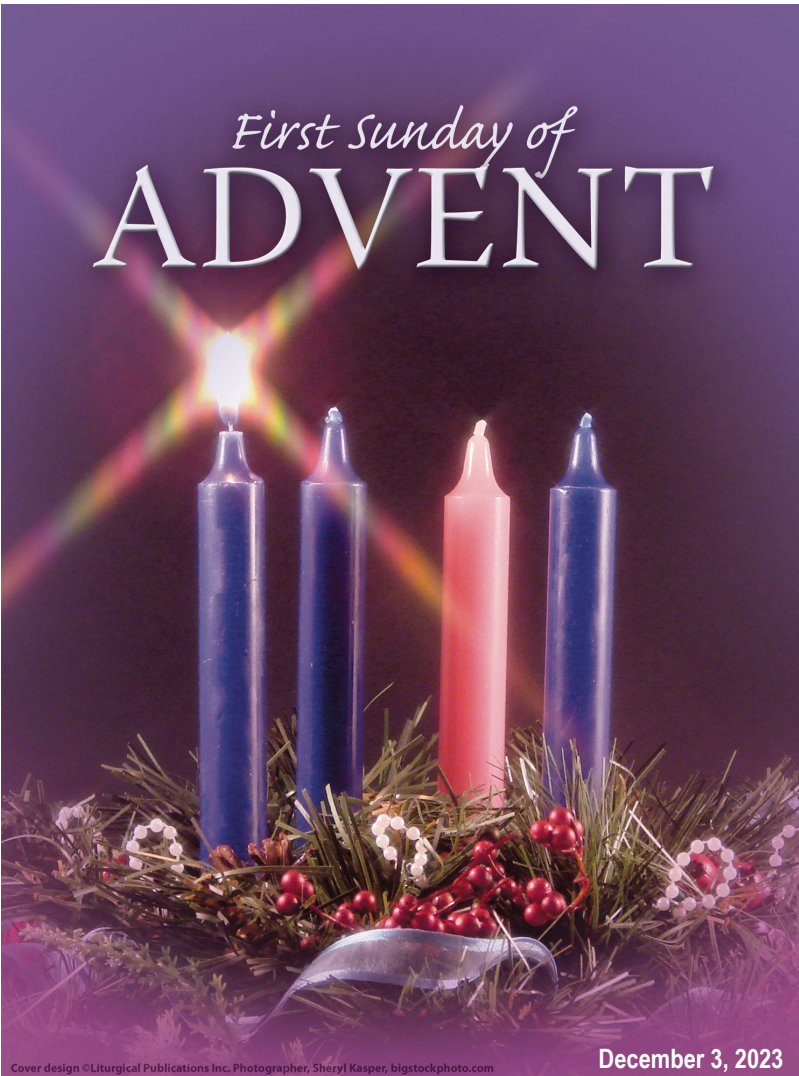
484-272-2858

### Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:

Pamela Russo, MSW, MA  
Secretary for Youth Protection  
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204  
[prusso@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

### Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Wendy Krisak, M.A., NCC  
Direct Telephone 800-791-9209



## Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM

Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 AM

Monday: 8:30 AM

**Tuesday: 6:30 PM (Latin Mass) Church  
Dedication Anniversary**

**Wednesday: 7:00 PM Feast of St. Nicholas**

**Thursday: 7:00 PM for the Holy Day**

**Friday: 7:00 AM for the Holy Day**

### Adoration of Most Blessed Sacrament:

Wednesday: 9 AM - 6:30 PM

Benediction: 6:30 PM

### Confessions:

Saturday: 3:45 PM - 4:20 PM

Tuesday: 5:45 PM - 6:15 PM

(other times by appointment)

## TODAY'S READINGS

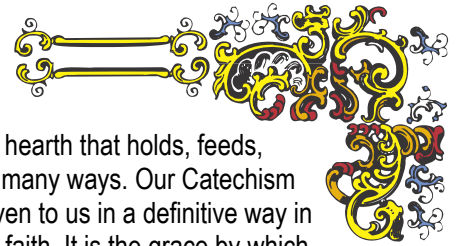
**First Reading** — Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19)

**Psalm** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

**Second Reading** — The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:6-7)

**Gospel** — "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming." (Mk 13:35)

# *A Message from our Pastor:*



Dear Parishioners,

Last week we reflected on religion, comparing the practice of right religion to the hearth that holds, feeds, protects, and makes useful the fire that is faith. So what is faith? It has been described in many ways. Our Catechism teaches us that faith is first a gift and then also a human act. Faith as a gift, a grace, is given to us in a definitive way in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We refer to this as the infusing of the theological virtue of faith. It is the grace by which, when we accept it, we are able to believe in God. "When St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus declared to him that this revelation did not come "from flesh and blood", but from "my Father who is in heaven". Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by him. "Before this faith can be exercised, man must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and 'makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth.'" (CCC 153)

This gift of God is active in us by the our own free choice. "Believing is possible only by grace and the interior helps of the Holy Spirit. But it is no less true that believing is an authentically human act. Trusting in God and cleaving to the truths He has revealed is contrary neither to human freedom nor to human reason. Even in human relations it is not contrary to our dignity to believe what other persons tell us about themselves and their intentions, or to trust their promises (for example, when a man and a woman marry) to share a communion of life with one another. If this is so, still less is it contrary to our dignity to "yield by faith the full submission of... intellect and will to God who reveals", and to share in an interior communion with him." (CCC 154) St. Thomas Aquinas says "Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace." God does not force us to believe but makes it possible for us, for left on our own we could not decisively command our will to believe in Him.

Believing in God by faith encompasses more than accepting an intellectual understanding that God exists. It is our response to God that must become our whole way of living, of benign relationship with God, self and others and in fact all creation. Sometimes when we refer to "our Catholic Faith", we mean both the content of what we believe, the content of Divine Revelation, as well as the good practice of our religion, including our whole way of worshiping and serving God. As the holy apostle St. James says in his letter, faith without works is not faith at all. When faith is really alive in us, it is the beginning of eternal life.

Once the gift of faith is accepted it also requires an obedience of us. "By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God. With his whole being man gives his assent to God the revealer. Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, "the obedience of faith" (CCC 143)

Just as we have the duty to obey in faith, we also have the duty to protect our faith. Faith can diminish and be lost altogether if we do not actively seek to guard against error and doubt, which abound in our society today. "The first commandment requires us to nourish and protect our faith with prudence and vigilance, and to reject everything that is opposed to it. There are various ways of sinning against faith: Voluntary doubt about the faith disregards or refuses to hold as true what God has revealed and the Church proposes for belief. Involuntary doubt refers to hesitation in believing, difficulty in overcoming objections connected with the faith, or also anxiety aroused by its obscurity. If deliberately cultivated doubt can lead to spiritual blindness. Incredulity is the neglect of revealed truth or the willful refusal to assent to it. Heresy is the obstinate post-baptismal denial of some truth which must be believed with divine and catholic faith, or it is likewise an obstinate doubt concerning the same; apostasy is the total repudiation of the Christian faith; schism is the refusal of submission to the Roman Pontiff or of communion with the members of the Church subject to him." (CCC 2088 & 2089) Deliberate doubt, incredulity and heresy are serious sins that should be confessed, lest they fester into apostasy. Struggling to understand some truth of faith that seems obscure to us is not to be confused with deliberate doubt or heresy. When we struggle to understand we are assenting to the fact that the revealed truth is just that- true! And we submit the lack is in our ability to understand. These things we may best describe as difficulties and as St John Henry Newman said, "Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt."

Faith both grows and is protected by the regular and robust practice of our Catholic religion. By frequenting the sacraments, developing a habit of daily prayer, taking advantage of the opportunities our parish and diocese provide to learn and understand our faith, and in serving God in our neighbor, our faith will grow and we will know God in an ever deepening and most personal way.

This week we have some special liturgies to celebrate. On Tuesday we celebrate the anniversary of the dedication of our parish church. Mass (in Latin with guest Latin choir) will be at 6:30 PM. On Wednesday we have our patronal feast of St. Nicholas. Adoration will begin at 9AM, Benediction at 6:30PM, the veneration of the relic of St. Nicholas and then Mass at 7PM with light refreshments to follow. On Thursday our Mass will be at 7PM for the Vigil of the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception and Friday, our Holy Day Mass is at 7AM. Please be aware of these special times and very special occasions this week! Hope to see you as we celebrate our parish patron saint!

Peace- Father Adam




# Mass Intentions:

- Sat 12/2 4:30 PM Rodger Ladue (Kay Hanzl)
- Sun 12/3 8:30 AM Helen Edwards  
(Theresa Taddeo)
- 10:30 AM People of the Parish
- Mon 12/4 8:30 AM St Nicholas Society
- Tues 12/5 6:30 PM Eric Canlas (Cindy Saab)
- Wed 12/6 7:00 PM Carmen Feola  
(Theresa Taddeo)
- Thu 12/7 7:00 PM St Nicholas Wednesday  
Adoration Group
- Fri 12/8 7:00 AM William Kudla (Kudla Family)
- Sat 12/9 4:30 PM People of the Parish
- Sun 12/10 8:30 AM Gene & Loretta Ballas (Friends)
- 10:30 AM Bernie Epser  
(Brad FeKula and Steph Colten)

**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day Masses**

**Thursday, December 7:** 7:00 PM Vigil  
(There will be NO morning mass on Thursday)

**Friday, December 8:** 7:00 AM  
(Note mass time change)



## Parish Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

**Holy Rosary:** Saturday & Sunday: 30 minutes before Mass. Monday & Thursday: 9AM. Tuesday: 6PM. Wednesday & Fridays: 3PM (*immediately after the Chaplet of Divine Mercy*).

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** Every Wednesday & Friday at 3PM.

## Eucharist Adoration



Jesus still waits for us in the tabernacle.

Please spend time with our Lord, in Eucharistic Adoration.

Eucharistic Adoration is every Wednesday between 8:30AM and 6:30PM.

Adoration is powerful! Thank you to everyone who reaffirmed their commitment to spend at least 30 minutes with the Lord per month! Indeed, we are still seeking new (30-minute) commitments to our monthly Adoration schedule on any given Wednesday of the month (*between the hours of 09:30 to 6:30PM*) by signing the clipboards on the table in the vestibule.

## Lector Ministry Schedule

	December 9-10	December 16-17
<b>Sat 4:30 PM</b>	Kate Holland	Steven Bertalan
<b>Sun 8:30 AM</b>	Tony Fixl	Brian Keefe
<b>Sun 10:30 AM</b>	Sue Hankee	Carl Niedzwiecki

### Tabernacle Candle Intentions

To reserve one of the Lamps for a weekly intention, donation is \$10.



### Altar Wine and Bread

You are able to reserve in your name the Altar Wine and Bread used throughout the week for all the Masses. Donation is \$20.



### Blessed Mother or St. Joseph Flowers

Each arrangement is a donation of \$35. Stop by or call the parish office.



## Week of December 3 to 9

*Tabernacle Candles will be lit in Memory of Edward and Margaret Kochie (Peter and Joanne Kilpatrick)*

*Wednesday Adorers*

*Altar Hosts and Wine Offered in Memory of St. Nicholas Memorial Society*

## Prayer is Powerful!

Call Dolores 610-767-2013 or e-mail dkine224@gmail.com with your prayer requests or join our Prayer Chain; feel the power and grace of prayer.

We are pleased to announce that our prayer list is now connected with Sacred Heart Church in Palmerton and is on a **Universal Prayer Chain**. This is a HUGE step for us because those on our prayer list will be having prayers said for them all over the world...Praise God!



**If you know of someone in the hospital or homebound** Please call the parish office, 610-767-3107, so someone can visit them.

Please keep in your prayers our Parishioners who are sick, and those who are waiting for or recovering from surgery.

Also, please pray for our military Men and Women and their families; they give so much so we can enjoy our Freedom!

## Great Thanksgiving

A heartfelt thanks to anyone who donated food or funds to our One Family for Thanksgiving. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide a complete Thanksgiving dinner plus additional food to 8 families, consisting of 21 children and adults, making their holiday season brighter.



## Happy Feet for the Holiday

Once again, we have been asked to be part of the local churches in getting gifts for local group homes. This year they are asking us to purchase footwear. If you are able to help, contact Deacon Mike in the Parish office. We have 4 women and 4 men to shop for.



## Jingle and Mingle RESCHEDULE

The St. Nicholas North of 50 Group will be hosting a Christmas Charcuterie on Thursday, December 7 at 2pm in the Social Hall.



Bring your best finger foods. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater. Join us for some fellowship before the craziness starts! Sign up sheets on the tables at the doors

**Contact:** Ann Orsulak 610 392 1092  
Lisa Pignataro. 610 737 4716

## Caring Hands Knit-Crochet Group

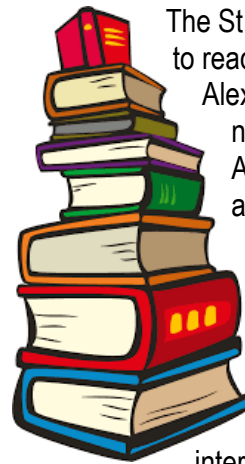
We create comforting items to be donated to those in need within our area. For example: prayer shawls, lap robes, cancer hats, preemie & newborn hats and blankets...etc.



Join us the second and fourth Friday of each month from 10am-12pm in the social hall. If you are interested or have any questions please contact: Krista Ambrosino @ 484.597.3685

Please call the parish center office at 610-767-3107 if you would like to suggest the name of someone who would benefit from one of our items.

## St. Nicholas Page Turners



The St. Nicholas Page Turners have chosen to read *Hail Thee God and King* by Father Alexander Brown, a local author and newly ordained priest in the Diocese of Allentown. This fantasy novel is set in a magical world where the Marshal of the land faces his own temptations, failings, and the difficulty of serving a King. It explores themes of magic, philosophy, warfare and mystery, asking the question, "What is the price of Faith?" All

interested readers are asked to register at [community@stnicholaswalnutport.org](mailto:community@stnicholaswalnutport.org) by December 17. The book is new on the market and will be ordered in bulk at a reduced price of \$20.00 per book. Money will be requested in advance of placing the book order. The Page Turners will resume meetings in the New Year sometime in January or February.

## Counting Our Blessings

11/19	Sunday Collection	\$3,108.00
	Donation	\$418.00
	School	\$40.00
	Fuel	\$70.00
	Poverty/Rel.	\$113.00
	Preservation & Restoration	\$236.00
	Other	\$71.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,056.00</b>



**thank you  
very much**



## Feast of St. Nicholas

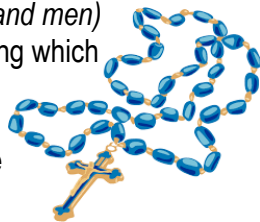
The Feast of St. Nicholas will be held on **Wednesday, December 6.**

- ◆ Mass will be at 7pm.
- ◆ A gathering for the children and their family will be held immediately after Mass in the social hall. In lieu of stuffing of the shoes, there will be a goody bag provided for each child.

Those interested in attending, please RSVP to [community@stnicholaswalnutport.org](mailto:community@stnicholaswalnutport.org) or sign up in the portico **by December 3rd.**

## The Rosary Society of St. Nicholas Parish

All adult parishioners (*both women and men*) are welcomed to join our next meeting which will be held on **Wednesday December 06, 2023 at 6:30PM beginning with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.**



DECEMBER		
Date	Time	Cleaning Volunteers
Thurs. 12/7	5:30pm	Meg Schell, Maribeth Ward, Jim Boyle
Thurs. 12/14	9:30am	Bill Caserta, Tim Gregory, Carl Litwin
Fri. 12/22	5:30pm	Mike & Donna Unger, Giovanna Noto
Thurs. 12/28	9:30am	Terry Rice, Lisa Pignataro, Diane Turner

## Bible Study Thursdays

John's vision of the Ark of the Covenant (*Revelation 11:19*) is immediately followed by a "sign": a woman who personifies the Ark (*Revelation 12:01*). Within her womb, Mary holds the contents of the Ark earlier foreshadowed: (1) The Word of God (*the Ten Commandments*); (2) The Living Bread (*manna*); and (3) the Great High Priest (*Aaron's rod*). Importantly, just as the Ark was a sign of God's actual presence within Israel, Immanuel (*God with us*) is a sign of God's presence on earth. Mary, **now assumed and glorified in heaven**, is an image of the Church (*a sign of hope and comfort to Christians of all that awaits them in their final union with Jesus*). **To learn more, please join our upcoming Bible Studies on Thursdays at 6:30PM** (12/14, 01/04, 01/18, and 02/01/2024).



## Caring Cardmaking ♥ ♥ ♥

Our card making team at St. Nicks (Caring Cards) is in full swing. If you know of someone who is having surgery, is ill, is homebound or in a nursing home or hospice please contact us with their names and addresses so that we can get a card off to them. We meet the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month at 10:30 in the social hall.



You can contact Pat Hunsicker at (610) 824-4017 or you can text or call cell phone (484) 464-7265. We don't want to miss anyone so please help if you can. Thank you.

## Stations of the Cross

**In support of Victims of Sexual Abuse and their Families**

**WHEN?** 3 pm Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023

**WHERE?** Queenship of Mary Church  
1324 Newport Ave.  
Northampton, PA

## Basket Palooza By the Numbers

- 77 Baskets donated by Parishioners
- 72 Basket donated by Fundraising team
- \$1,315 in donated in cash and gift cards
- **\$12,300** raised for St. Nicholas Church general fund

Thank you everyone for your generous donations of baskets and your time in helping make this event a HUGE success.

