



## 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:

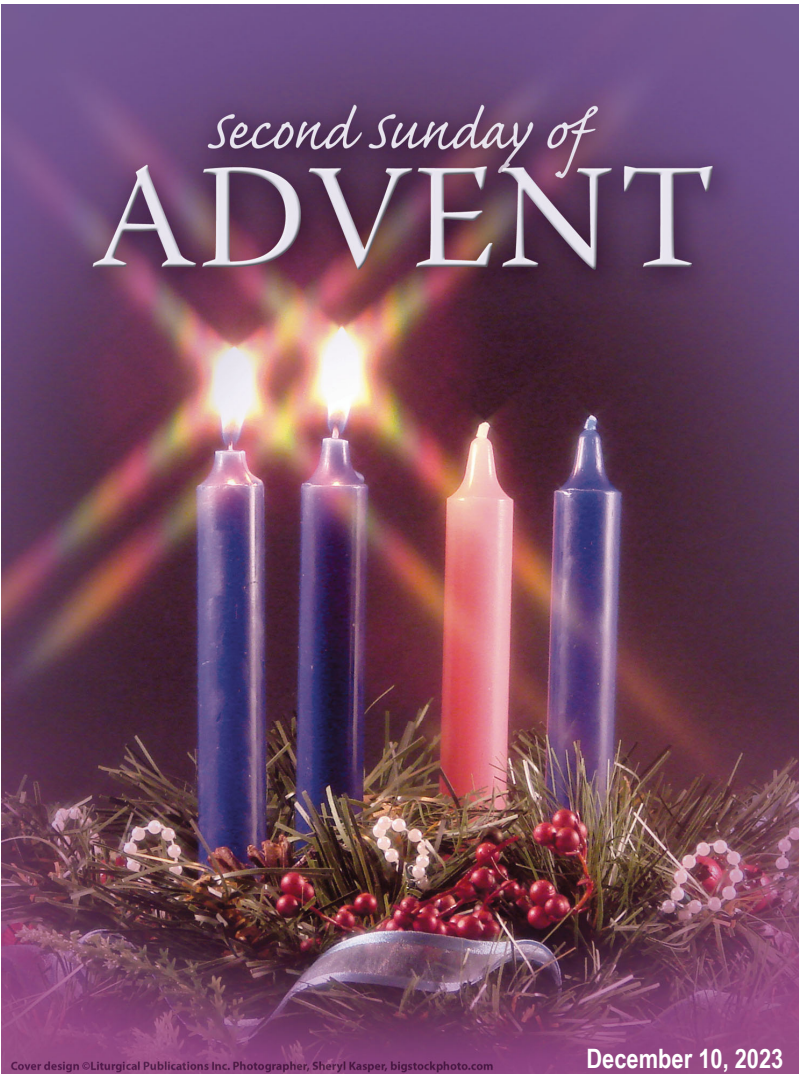
484-272-2858

### 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



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! (Is 40:3)

**Psalm** — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

**Second Reading** — We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (1 Pt 1:13)

**Gospel** — John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mk 16:4)

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM  
Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 AM  
Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday: 8:30 AM  
Tuesday: 6:30 PM (Latin Mass)

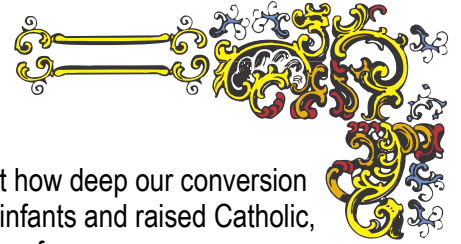
### Adoration of Most Blessed Sacrament:

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)

# A Message from our Pastor:



Dear Parishioners,

As we continue through the Advent season, we are invited to consider just how deep our conversion to Christ really is. For those of us, I would think most of us, who were baptized as infants and raised Catholic, we may not even really think of having had a conversion to Christ. I can remember a few years ago, a young Franciscan novice asking me, quite without guile, when I had "my conversion" experience. I was surprised by the question and answered, somewhat tongue in cheek, that I suppose when I was baptized. Though it is true, as someone raised Catholic, I have not had a unique or special moment of conversion to Christ, a St Paul or St. Augustine type of moment, I do recognize that it is an ongoing, day in and day out effort to continue what was begun for me on the day of my baptism, namely the rejection of sin and the acceptance of Christ and His grace. But perhaps it is right to think of a kind of "second conversion", perhaps after many years series of a daily ongoing conversions to Christ. A very insightful contemporary author on the spiritual life, Father Donald Haggerty, writes about this in his book *Conversion: Spiritual Insights into an Essential Encounter with God*. He writes:

*"The explicit idea of a "second conversion" in the spiritual life was first broached by a Jesuit in the 1600s, Father Louis Lallemant, a novice master in France to one of the future North American martyrs, Saint John de Brébeuf. It is likely that he taught his young Jesuit novices the need to cross the threshold of a "second conversion" if serious holiness was to be attained.*

*His view was that a man must come to a point in life, sometime after a commitment to God is already firmly in place, in which he realizes that he has not yet fully offered his life to God. Despite what may be years of faithfulness in a vocation, a deeper offering still awaits the soul. A life may be committed and devout and externally dutiful, but it still awaits a deeper realization of an entire offering of itself as an utterly personal act before God. A man has to arrive at a decisive reckoning in which he sees now with fresh eyes what it means to give himself unreservedly to God. Until that time, a life still lacks one thing, as Jesus says to the rich young man in Saint Matthew's Gospel. A man has not surrendered himself as yet in a complete offering to God. An utterly personal prayer of absolute oblation before God is still needed, which from the day it is made changes forever a soul's relationship with Jesus Christ. The act is a deep interior release of the soul to be from then onward at the complete disposal of God's purposes.*

*In the setting of the 1600s and Jesuit missionary endeavors, Father Lallemant may have pointed to a readiness to face martyrdom as a test for crossing this threshold of the second conversion. And, in fact, the Jesuit martyrs of North America as a group did offer themselves to martyrdom prior to their deaths in upstate New York and Canada."*

Advent is very good time to consider our own conversion to Christ. How deep does it go? Are we holding something back or are we giving ourselves unreservedly to the Lord? Complete conversions is a matter of complete trust and must be based on an ever deepening love and knowledge of Christ. Since we are preparing to celebrate the Lord's birth in Bethlehem, it may be helpful to consider devotion to the Infant Jesus. We contemplate Him born as baby.

It is easy to welcome a baby, to be disarmed by a baby and to be won over by a baby's sweetness and innocence. This image of Our Lord invites us to trust and to love Him, to welcome Him in a new way, a deeper way, into our hearts and our lives and so to make the commitment to a new and unreserved conversion to Him.

Peace- Father Adam

## Advent Confessions

### At St. Nicholas

- Tuesday Dec. 12 at 5:30 PM
- Sunday Dec. 17 - After the 8:30 AM Mass and Before the 10:30 AM Mass
- Tuesday Dec. 19- at 7 PM (3 priests available)
- Wednesday Dec. 20 5:30 PM

### In our Neighboring Parishes:

- Sunday Dec. 17 - at Assumption in Slatington 3 PM
- Monday Dec. 18 - at Sacred Heart in Palmerton 7 PM





# Mass Intentions:

- 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 Stef Colten)
- Mon 12/11 8:30 AM Kelly Andrews  
(Fred & Mikie Seiler)
- Tues 12/12 6:30 PM Abberni Sebastiano  
(Noto Family)
- Wed 12/13 8:30 AM Edward Hanzl (Kay Hanzl)
- Thu 12/14 8:30 AM Jennie Moncavage (Family)
- Fri 12/15 No Mass
- Sat 12/16 4:30 PM Gale Seiler (Don & Nancy Hirst)
  
- Sun 12/17 8:30 AM People of the Parish  
10:30 AM Dennis Kuronya  
(Kuronya family)

<i>Lector Ministry Schedule</i>		
	<b>December 16-17</b>	<b>December 23-24</b>
<b>Sat 4:30 PM</b>	Steven Bertalan	Bill Caserta
<b>Sun 8:30 AM</b>	Brian Keefe	Carl Litwin
<b>Sun 10:30 AM</b>	Carl Niedzwiecki	John McRoberts



## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve:

Sunday 24th at 4:30PM, 6:30PM and 10PM

### Christmas Morning:

Monday 25th at 9:30AM

## 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.

### 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 10 to 16

*Tabernacle Candles will be lit in Memory of St. Nicholas Memorial Society Wednesday Adorers*

*Altar Hosts and Wine Offered in Memory of Edward and Margaret Kochie (Peter and Joanne Kilpatrick)*

## Prayer is Powerful!

Call Dolores 610-767-2013 or e-mail [dkine224@gmail.com](mailto: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!

## Counting Our Blessings

11/26	Sunday Collection	\$2,633.00
	Donation	\$700.00
	School	\$27.00
	Fuel	\$80.00
	Poverty Relief	\$35.00
	Preservation & Restoration	\$225.00
	Other	\$30.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,760.00</b>

*Thank You!*

## Caring Hands Knit-Crochet Group

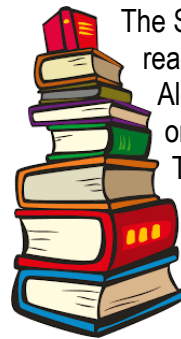
We create comforting items to be donated to those in need within our area. For example: prayer shawls, lap robes, cancer hats, preemie & newborn hats and blankets...etc.



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.

## Area Church & School Holiday Events

### Friday, Dec. 15

Christmas Concert, **Bethlehem Catholic High School**, 7 p.m., snow date Dec. 16.

"Make Your Heart a New Bethlehem," **Monocacy Manor**, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, 6:30 p.m., remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with a live re-enactment on the 800th Centenary of Greccio; 800 years ago St. Francis of Assisi invited the people of the town of Greccio "to enact the memory of the Babe born in Bethlehem; from this event came the tradition of the Christmas creche; bring your favorite Nativity figure for a special blessing.

### Sunday, Dec. 17

"A Rose in Winter: Music for Advent Reflection," **St. Anne**, Bethlehem, 4 p.m., Princeton Singers, free will offering, [www.princetonsingers.org](http://www.princetonsingers.org), 610-867-5039.

Multicultural Christmas Concert, **Holy Infancy**, Bethlehem, 5-7 p.m., Holy Infancy students please dress in Christmas attire.

An Afternoon in Santa's Workshop, **Allentown Central Catholic High School**, 4 p.m., Christmas music, sing-along, activities.

### Sunday, Dec. 24

Christmas Pageant and Concert, **St. Ursula**, Fountain Hill, CCD Christmas pageant 3:15 p.m., Choir Christmas concert 3:45 p.m.

### Friday, Dec. 29

Christmas Concert, **St. Thomas More**, Allentown, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Angelorum Choir from Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena, Allentown.

## Caring at Christmas



### Care Net of Carbon County

531 Mahoning Street, Lehighton, PA 18235  
 250 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240  
 610-379-0411

Would you consider doing a "Giving Tree" this year- or maybe for the first time? (If you're not sure how to do a Giving Tree, please call us at 610-379-0411.)

Clients (Moms & Dads) earn Mommy Money and Daddy Dollars for keeping their appointments and doing their homework. The homework helps them learn about parenting and how to have positive relationships and other skills. And most of them are also learning more about God and how to have a relationship with Him... He is the only one who can bring lasting and eternal change!

These "dollars" can be spent in our Material Resource Room, filled with baby supplies all donated by generous people like you!!

As you begin to celebrate Christmas and the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, please pray for the ministry here. We are now offering free limited obstetrical ultrasounds to save more babies. Please pray with us!

Below is a list of items that are needed and ways you can participate if you'd like to do a Giving Tree for us this year.

- \* Winter sleepers 3 months through 5T
- \* Girls winter clothes 3T through 5T
- \* Grocery Gift Cards
- \* Gas Cards
- \* Diapers Size 5 & 6
- \* Hand Soap
- \* Tooth brushes, tooth paste- adult and children's. Hygiene products.
- \* Laundry Soap
- \* Lysol all-purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner
- \* Tissues
- \* Paper Towels
- \* Garbage bags
- \* Postage Stamps
- \* Copy Paper



### Please NOTE!

The St. Nicholas parish office will be closed the week of Christmas December 25 thru January 2.



## 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.

## 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.



DECEMBER		
Date	Time	Cleaning Volunteers
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