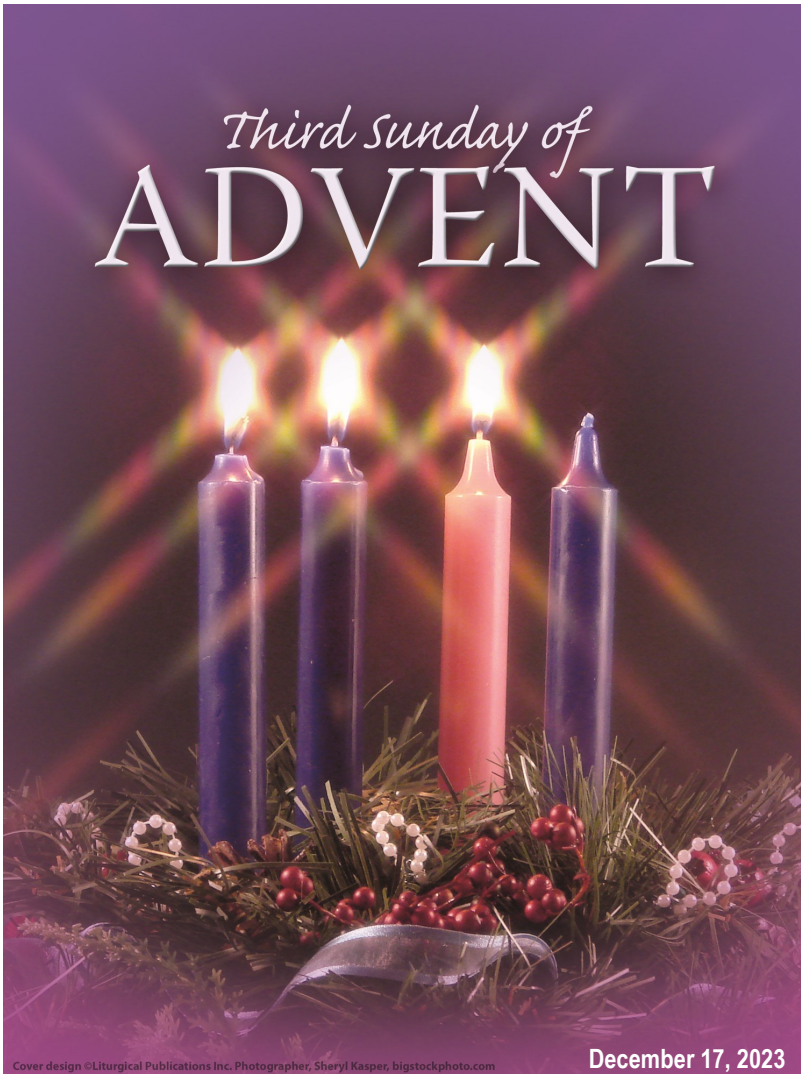




St. Nicholas Catholic Church

1152 Oak Road
Walnutport, PA 18088
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

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

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, 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)

TODAY'S READINGS

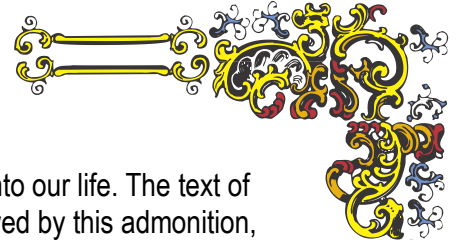
First Reading — I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

Psalms — My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

Second Reading — May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

Gospel — "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." (Jn 1:23)

A Message from our Pastor:



Dear Parishioners,

On this, the third Sunday of Advent, we consider the joy the Lord brings into our life. The text of today's sacred liturgy reminds us to "Rejoice in the Lord always!" and this is followed by this admonition, "Have no anxiety, but in everything, by prayer, let your petitions be known to God." How wonderfully these two thoughts, from Sacred Scripture, are linked together, namely rejoicing in the Lord and having no anxiety but rather with trust to turn to God in and for all things. Joy, which is very much a fruit of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, is calming, and the result of the trust that is necessary for the Spirit of God to make His home in us. The more we trust in Him the more we are able to receive Him into our minds and hearts. The joy of His presence is what dispels all anxiety. Did you know that, according to the website GoodRx, reports estimate that in 2022, at least 1 in 10 drug prescriptions were for the treatment of anxiety or depression in 46 of our 50 States. According to several sources, including the CDC and the NIH, the use of prescription drugs for anxiety and depression had been on a steady increase for several years but saw a sharp increase during the Covid Pandemic in most US States, an increase that has not subsided since. This increase in symptoms of anxiety and depression comes during a period when those who regularly practice any faith has been sharply declining. I would say it is not too much of a jump to say there is some correlation here. Please do not misunderstand, I am not saying that in every situation medications are not helpful or never needed. There are many factors that can lead to anxiety and depression, but in every case faith in God, a faith that is vibrant, alive and active, is a sure path, perhaps at times with the help of psychology and medicine, to healing and freedom. When we let God in our life, those other therapies, when warranted, can be so much more effective and often used more moderately and not needed forever if at all. We are made to live with God dwelling in us. His life within us brings a joy that completes us in ways nothing else can and a joy that dispels the anxieties that choke the life out of us. Today, on this day of joy, surrender everything to Him, to the Lord Who alone has the power to save us.

As we near the end of the calendar year, I also want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued generosity to our parish, through the gift of yourselves and your efforts in the various activities of our parish and your monetary gifts that keep all the good things we do going. I thank you for your personal kindness to me and to each other and for making St. Nicholas a wonderful parish. Some of you asked if I could reiterate a few of the financial stats I presented on the First Sunday of Advent. Specifically our "break even" amount each week and our current Sunday collection amounts. So, again, based on our annual budget, for our regular operations, we need about \$7,237 each week. Our Sunday collections each week since July average about \$3,769. That weekly difference must be made up by other gifts and fundraising. In the new year, we will work on keeping you updated more in our bulletin on our financial figures. I am sure you, like I, have received many solicitations for charitable giving as we near Christmas. I trust in your continued generosity in keeping St. Nicholas at the top of your priorities for that special Christmas giving and I thank you again for all you do!

Peace- Father Adam

Advent Confessions

At St. Nicholas

- 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

Can One Mass Satisfy Both Sunday and Christmas Obligation in 2023?

You might be wondering, since Christmas is on Monday, can you go to a Christmas vigil Mass on Sunday and have it fulfill your Sunday and Christmas obligations? Because there are two days of obligation – i.e., Sunday and Christmas – this means that there are two distinct obligations.

Each separate obligation needs to be fulfilled by attending a separate Mass. That is, you cannot "double dip" by attending a Christmas Eve Mass that happens to be on Sunday and have this one Mass fulfill both obligations.



Mass Intentions:

- 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)
- Mon 12/18 8:30 AM Mary and Leo McCloskey (Family)
- Tues 12/19 6:30 PM Special Intention (Cindy Saab)
- Wed 12/20 8:30 AM Deceased members of the Hanzl Family (Kay Hanzl)
- Thu 12/21 8:30 AM Richard Havin (Family)
- Fri 12/22 No Mass
- Sat 12/23 4:30 PM Barbara Caserta (William Caserta)
- Sun 12/24 8:30 AM People of the Parish
10:30 AM Tommy Pignataro (Lisa & Tom Pignataro)
4:30 PM All the People of the Parish
6:30 PM All the People of the Parish
10:00 PM All the People of the Parish

Lector Ministry Schedule

	December 23-24	December 30-31
Sat 4:30 PM	Bill Caserta	Michael Semler
Sun 8:30 AM	Carl Litwin	Jeanette Noakes
Sun 10:30 AM	John McRoberts	Brianna Pereira



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 17 to 23

Tabernacle Candles will be lit in Memory of John Gallagher (Lorraine Gallagher and Family)

St. Nicholas Memorial Society

Altar Hosts and Wine Offered in Memory of Wednesday Adorers

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!

Observances for the week of December 17, 2023

- Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

Area Church & School Holiday Events

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, 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 Hands Knit-Crochet Group

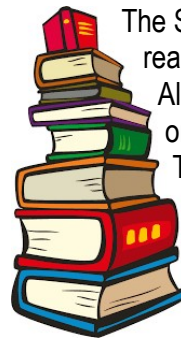
We create comforting items to be donated to those in need within our area. For example: prayer shawls, lap robes, cancer hats, preemie & newborn hats and blankets...etc.



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 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.

Boy Scouts

Boys Scouts meet Thursdays at 7 PM in the social hall. For more information, please call Mike, 610-824-6556.

Counting Our Blessings

12/3	Sunday Collection	\$4,048.00
	Donation	\$479.00
	School	\$237.00
	Christmas Flowers	\$553.00
	Preservation & Restoration	\$875.00
	Other	\$108.00
	Total	\$6,300.00

Thank You!

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** (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
Fri. 12/22	5:30pm	Mike & Donna Unger, Giovanna Noto
Thurs. 12/28	9:30am	Terry Rice, Lisa Pignataro, Diane Turner