



## 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



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher— "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." - Jn 1:38-39a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

January 14, 2024 ©LPI

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Sm 3:10)

**Psalm** — Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps 40)

**Second Reading** — Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. (1 Cor 6:15, 17)

**Gospel** — So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. (Jn 1:39)

### 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, Wednesday, & Thursday: 8:30AM  
Tuesday: 6:30 PM (Latin Mass)

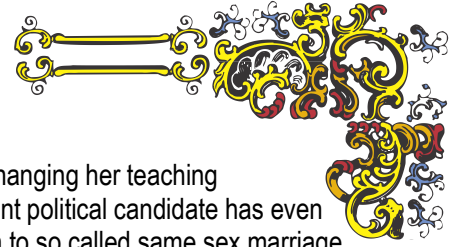
### Adoration of Most Blessed Sacrament:

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,

No doubt you have seen something in the news about the Church supposedly changing her teaching regarding "same sex couples" or being now more open to "same sex couples". A prominent political candidate has even stated that this change in the Church has been part of his rethinking his former opposition to so called same sex marriage. What are we to make of all this? Has the Church's teaching changed? What is going on? It is a somewhat complex situation and I would say one that will continue to see new developments. Let's take it one piece at a time and we will try to understand what has and has not happened.

This all started as quite a surprise to the Church and the world when a decree, called "Fiducia Supplicans", presented to and accepted by Pope Francis on December 18, by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, has stated that, in certain situations, a priest may give a blessing to couples in "irregular situations" or couples of "the same sex".

Let's start with this, what is the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith? In the Vatican the Pope is assisted in governing the Church by an apparatus called the Roman Curia. The various offices of the Curia are responsible for particular areas of Church life, and they include the Secretariate of State, Various Dicasteries, Councils and Commissions. Until recently the Dicasteries were called "Congregations". Each Dicastery is headed up by a prefect, who is an Archbishop or Cardinal. Currently the prefect for the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith is Cardinal Fernandez, who was recently appointed by Pope Francis. At times, these Dicasteries may release documents that explain or implement some aspect of Church policy, teaching or practice. A Decree would be the highest level of statement issued by a Dicastery. The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith is arguably the most prominent of the Roman Dicasteries. It is responsible for anything that has to do with the teaching of the Church, matters of faith and morals.

The controversy over the decree Fiducia Supplicans has to do both with what the decree actually says and also what some think it signals. While this decree states emphatically that the consistent teaching of the Church regarding the definition of marriage as between one man and one woman is not in question, the decree goes on to suggest that in certain non-liturgical situations a priest may bless a couple in an irregular union, even a couple of the same sex. An irregular union could be any number of situations, including a Catholic married outside the sacrament, that is married civilly, or even a man and woman who are not married but live together. The decree specifically mentions couples of the same sex. Prior to this decree, the Church has said that couples in these kinds of situations could not be blessed as couples, for to do so would signal an approval of their living in a state of sin. The obvious exception would be if they were seeking to right their situation. It should also be noted that the Church has never said individuals who are living in a sinful state, but seeking God's help in some way, could not receive a blessing asking God to help them. The question and controversy are really about blessing a couple living in an unrepentant sinful state, "as a couple". To give a blessing in that situation has been understood as acting in a manner that is contrary to what we believe, that is a practice that would be contrary to the faith we profess and a de facto approval of state of sin. We cannot bless sin. This new decree states that in certain situations, spontaneously and outside the Sacred Liturgy, that a priestly blessing is not an approval of a state of sin but rather it is simply asking God's help for those who seek it. There are those, both inside and outside the Church who view the acceptance of such blessings as a signal that the Church is beginning to change her teaching on marriage itself and that this is a first step in the acceptance of homosexual unions. Many, many bishops, from all over the world, including the whole continent of Africa, have publicly denounced this decree. In response Cardinal Fernandez, who issued this decree, has now offered a "clarification", one that in my opinion does not so much clarify as much as it simply and emphatically restates the decree.

That, I think, basically sums up the situation for you in as concise and clear a way as I can. I know it is a lot to follow and a lot to try to understand. I will now offer a few observations of my own. First and very importantly, this is not the first time, nor is it likely to be the last, that the Church has seen strident internal debate about Church practice and doctrine. In time, the Bishops, as successors of the Apostles, in union with the Pope, the successor of St. Peter, will settle this.

Next, with regards to blessings. Every time someone asks me, as a priest, to bless them or to bless something, I must make a judgement call as to whether I can impart the blessing. Most of the time this requires no real thought at all, as in almost every situation, it is a legitimate request. There are, however, objects I could not bless. I could not bless objects knowing they were to be used for evil. For example, if I knew someone was a thief and he wanted me to bless his tools, I could not, unless he was repenting of his thievery, and wanted now to put the tools to good use. I could not bless objects of the occult, unless the blessing was to remove a demonic attachment to the object before it was destroyed. When it comes to people, if I knew someone was on his way to commit sin, and asked for blessing to help him on the way, I could not, for the blessing would be a de facto approval of the sin he was about to commit. That is of course different than someone living in a sinful state who is seeking

*(Please see A Message from our Pastor continued in this bulletin)*



# Mass Intentions:

|           |          |  |
|-----------|----------|--|
| Sat 1/13  | 4:30 PM  | People of the Parish                                   |
| Sun 1/14  | 8:30 AM  | Helen Kluscarits<br>(Theresa Taddeo)                   |
|           | 10:30 AM | Richard Hoffman and Martha<br>Papay (Joanne Kochmaruk) |
| Mon 1/15  | 8:30 AM  | Carol Ann and Tony Mcarthy<br>(Carl & Kay Niedzwiecki) |
| Tues 1/16 | 6:30 PM  | Wednesday Adorers                                      |
| Wed 1/17  | 8:30 AM  | Patricia Huber (Sue Hankee)                            |
| Thu 1/18  | 8:30 AM  | Prep Students  |
| Fri 1/19  | No Mass  |  |
| Sat 1/20  | 4:30 PM  | People of the Parish                                   |
| Sun 1/21  | 8:30 AM  | Helen Anthony<br>(BVMSN Credit Union)                  |
|           | 10:30 AM | Steven Poliquin<br>(Dave & Mary FeKula)                |

## Lector Ministry Schedule

|              | January 20-21  | January 27-28    |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| Sat 4:30 PM  | Bill Caserta   | Paul Sparling    |
| Sun 8:30 AM  | Brian Keefe    | Jeanette Noakes  |
| Sun 10:30 AM | John McRoberts | 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 January 14 to 20

Tabernacle Candles will be lit in Memory of  
**Wednesday Adorers**

**St. Nicholas Memorial Society**

Altar Hosts and Wine Offered in Memory of  
**Wednesday Adorers**



## St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour

Wednesday 17 January 6-7PM

We come together to pray for those who have fallen away from the Faith!



## 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.

## Counting Our Blessings

|       |                            |                   |
|-------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 12/31 | Collection                 | \$3,159.00        |
|       | Christmas                  | \$437.00          |
|       | Solemnity of Mary          | \$1,539.00        |
|       | Donation                   | \$367.00          |
|       | School                     | \$9.00            |
|       | Preservation & Restoration | \$250.00          |
|       | Other                      | \$16.00           |
|       | <b>Total</b>               | <b>\$5,777.00</b> |
| 1/7   | Collection                 | \$2,066.00        |
|       | Christmas                  | \$370.00          |
|       | Solemnity of Mary          | \$348.00          |
|       | Donation                   | \$388.00          |
|       | School                     | \$140.00          |
|       | Preservation & Restoration | \$573.60          |
|       | <b>Total</b>               | <b>\$3,885.60</b> |

Thank You!

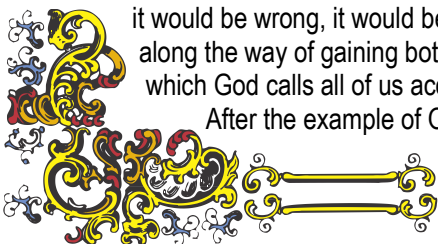


## *A Message from our Pastor (continued)*

God's mercy, trying to repent or even just seeking a blessing for health or protection from further evil, all of which would be most appropriate circumstances for a blessing to be imparted. When it comes to couples presenting themselves for a blessing, it is presumed that the blessing has to do with blessing the bond or union between them. It is certainly legitimate to bless two people in their holy friendship, and most certainly to bless engaged and married couples. But when it comes to a couple living in sin, same sex or not, to bless them "as a couple" would not, in my understanding, be possible. Of course if such a couple asked for the blessing because they were seeking to live a chaste life or seeking God's grace to help them understand His will and plan, that could be different, but to simply bless them "as a couple", and I think that distinction is at the heart of this, would simply be wrong and would indicate to them a false approval of a sinful way of life, and I, in good conscience, could not impart such a blessing.

Finally I think it is important for us to understand that the teaching of the Church in regards to marriage and in regards to those who have a same sex attraction has not in any way changed. These teachings are deeply rooted in the Natural Law, given by God at the dawn of creation itself and the Church has the duty to always uphold the Natural Law and does not have the power to change the Natural Law. With regard to those with a same sex attraction, the Church at one and same time acknowledges the suffering and struggle that it is for those with this attraction to live a life of chastity as well as the great degree of holiness these children of God are called to and capable of attaining. That holiness requires an acceptance of the Natural Law and it would be wrong, it would be unloving, for the Church to not seek to accompany those with a same sex attraction along the way of gaining both the clarity of mind to know God's will and the courage of will to live in the chaste love to which God calls all of us according to our state in life. True love neither condemns the sinner nor condones the sin.

After the example of Our Lord Himself, our true love for all our brothers and sisters must move us to help them to know His forgiveness and to experience His grace which empowers us to go and sin no more.



Peace- Father Adam

## **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!

## **Winter Weather and Wednesday Adoration**

In the case of winter storms, if Northampton School district is delayed, Adoration will begin at Noon, if school is canceled, Adoration will also be cancelled for the day. A Flock-note message will also be sent out.

Daily Mass will always be offered at the usual times regardless of weather.



## **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.

## **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 AM 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.

| JANUARY     |         |  |
|-------------|---------|--|
| Date        | Time    | Cleaning Volunteers                      |
| Thurs. 1/18 | 5:30 PM | Meg Schell, Jim Boyle, Marie Brunst      |
| Thurs. 1/25 | 9:30 AM | Diane Turner, Terry Rice, Lisa Pignataro |



### Match the Daily Number!

The Marian Catholic High School Blue & Gold Club is selling Lottery Calendars for the 2024 year.

Match the daily number on the 7 pm drawing. The cost is \$25.00.

To purchase a calendar please contact a school volunteer: Janis Dvorak at 570-929-2921; Kathy Goff at 610-704-8037; Maria McGinley at 484-629-4997; or Erin Marek at Marian 570-467-3335; or even visit the facebook page; Blue and Gold Club.

The Blue & Gold Club raises funds for the school throughout the year and every child that attends Marian Catholic benefits from the work of the Blue & Gold Club.

Thank you for your support!

**Please Note Date Change**

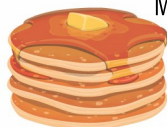


Knights of Columbus Council #16656

## All You Can Eat Breakfast

\$10 - Age 11 and up ■ \$6 Age 6-10 ■  
5 and Under Free

Pancakes  
Sausage  
Home Fries  
Coffee/Tea/Juice



Made to order Omelets  
Creamed Chip Beef  
Ham  
Toast

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**  
8am - 12:00pm

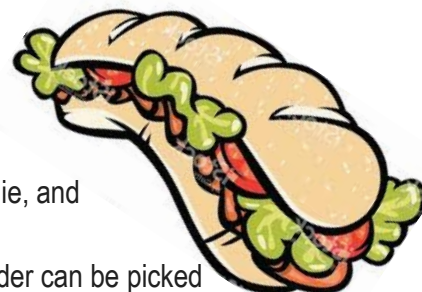
**In the St. Nicholas Social Hall**

### Bible Study Thursdays



The Bible begins with a wedding (Genesis 2:23-24) and ends with a wedding (Revelation 19:9; 21:9 22:17). Just as the number '7' represents "complete perfection", the number '666' represents a "complete falling short of perfection". Our Bible Study of the Book of Revelation is entering its final chapters: (1) the 7 letters of warning have been delivered to the 7 churches; (2) the judgments to come have been revealed through the 7 seals, the 7 trumpets, and the 7 bowls; and (3) the great cosmic struggle between good and evil has been revealed. But how will this all play out? Please join us as Jesus Christ ushers in the three (3) pivotal events that occur in Chapter 19: **Thursdays at 6:30PM (01/18 and 02/01/2024).**

### BOY SCOUT TROUP 62 HOAGIE SALE IS BACK!!!



Italian, Tuna and Veggie, and Ham Hoagies

If you ordered, your order can be picked up Wednesday evening 1/17/2024 around 7-7:30pm at the Church Social Hall.

**Questions:** via email to Andreas Hassold, Leader:

e: andreas.hassold@web.de or

andreas.hassold@boschrexroth-us.com or

call Mobile +1 484 619-1053.



Thank you for your Support!

### St. Nicholas Church Soup Sale

January 20, 2024

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

QUART \$10

PINT \$5

Pre-orders Recommended

Walk-ins Welcome

**Choose from:**

- \* Broccoli Cheddar
- \* Clam Chowder (white)
- \* Chicken Noodle
- \* Chili (beef)
- \* Creamy Potato
- \* Sausage Tortellini
- \* Stuffed Pepper



Other Soups Available but Limited

To pre-order email: kitchen@stnicholaswalnutport.org