

St. Nicholas

50
Roman Catholic Church
Years
as a Parish
1974 - 2024



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 - 8: 2nd Monday of the month
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



EASTER SUNDAY

He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7

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

March 31, 2024 ©LPI

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. (Acts 10:40-41)

Psalms — This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Ps 118)

Second Reading — If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (Col 3:1)

Gospel — For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. (Jn 20:9)

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,

A very happy and blessed Easter to all of you and your loved ones! May the joy of the Risen Christ fill your hearts and minds this day and throughout this holy season.

I want to take this day to offer my thanks to each and every one of you who volunteer your time and talents in any way. The many and varied ways you contribute are too many to enumerate here, but be assured none of it goes unnoticed and all is greatly appreciated. St. Nicholas is a wonderful parish because of all the ways so many of you contribute and are committed to your parish. I pray the Lord to keep blessing you as you serve Him and do so much for His honor and glory!

Next Sunday, on the octave day of Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We will have exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 2:30PM, with quiet prayer and confessions available until 3PM, when we will begin our prayers of the Divine Mercy devotion and Benediction. Please come and pray together. This devotion is a great means to let the Easter Mystery unfold for you, in the realization of the Mercy Our Lord wants to generously and lavishly pour out upon us.

Peace- Father Adam

Divine Mercy Sunday - 7 April 2024

Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. As Pope Saint John Paul II stated, "Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified." On the Second Sunday of Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, at the Mass for the Canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter be called "Divine Mercy Sunday."

St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus, including one of Jesus wearing a white garment with beams of red and white coming from His heart, which came to be known as the image of Divine Mercy. She wrote in her diary that He said: "I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it... *My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.*"

Pope Saint John Paul II discussed the significance of the image of Divine Mercy in his homily for the canonization of St. Faustina:

From that Heart [of Christ], Sr. Faustina Kowalska, the blessed whom from now on we will call a saint, will see two rays of light shining from that heart and illuminating the world. "The two rays", Jesus Himself explained to her one day, "represent blood and water" (Diary, entry 299). Blood and water! We immediately think of the testimony given by the Evangelist John, who, when a soldier on Calvary pierced Christ's side with his spear, sees blood and water flowing from it (see Jn 19:34). Moreover, if the blood recalls the sacrifice of the Cross and the gift of the Eucharist, the water, in Johannine symbolism, represents not only Baptism but also the gift of the Holy Spirit (see Jn 3:5; 4:14; 7:37-39).

In short, the main reason that Jesus wanted this feast to be established is that He wanted to "throw a lifeline," so to speak, to souls who are perishing, souls who are drowning in sin and despair. What Jesus is offering to us here is a complete renewal of baptismal grace, a complete cleansing of the soul and washing it clean, renewing within us all the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit that we received at our baptism.

Of course, it is certainly true that whenever we make a good Confession out of perfect contrition for sin and pure love for God, we can receive the same complete renewal of baptismal grace, the same complete cleansing of our souls that Jesus promised we could receive from Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy. The problem is: How many of us make our Confessions as an act of perfect contrition and pure love of God? Unless we are well on the road to sanctity, it is very rare that we are able to do this. Nevertheless, Jesus is so generous and merciful toward us that on Mercy Sunday, He has given us another way to attain the complete refreshment of our souls in grace. If only we make a sincere confession in preparation for the Feast, which can be done the week before, on the day or even a few days after the

PLEASE SEE MESSAGE continued in this bulletin



Mass Intentions:

- Sat 3/30 8:00 PM Christine Paar (Josephine Paar)
- Sun 3/31 8:30 AM People of the Parish
10:30 AM Tommy Pignataro (Tom & Lisa Pignataro)
- Mon 4/1 8:30 AM George Woytko (Mary Woytko and Susanne Amici)
- Tues 4/2 6:30 PM Barbara Caserta (Bill Caserta)
- Wed 4/3 8:30 AM St Nicholas Memorial Society
- Thu 4/4 8:30 AM Joseph Taddeo (Theresa Taddeo)
- Fri 4/5 No Mass
- Sat 4/6 4:30 PM John Gallagher (Lorraine Gallagher and Family)
- Sun 4/7 8:30 AM Frank Pecs (Gay Pecs)
10:30 AM People of the Parish

St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour

Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month
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.

Paschal Candle

In Loving Memory of Tommy Pignataro (Donated by The Pignataro Family)



Lector Ministry Schedule

	April 6-7	April 13-14
Sat 4:30 PM	Bill Caserta	Kate Holland
Sun 8:30 AM	Jeanette Noakes	Barbara Schmidt
Sun 10:30 AM	Carl Niedzwiecki	Sue Hankee

Tabernacle Candle Intentions

To reserve one of the Lamps for a we 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 March 31 to April 6

Tabernacle Candles will be lit in Memory of Wednesday Adorers

St. Nicholas Memorial Society

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

MESSAGE *continued*

Feast, and then receive Holy Communion on that day with trust in His divine mercy, we can receive the same complete spiritual renewal. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive."

Trust is a combination of "faith" (the acceptance of all that God has revealed through Christ and His Church), "hope" (confidence in His promises of forgiveness, the help of His grace, and eternal life), "humility" (relying on God rather than ourselves for strength, guidance, and salvation) and merely imperfect "love" (clinging to Christ because of His promised benefits).

The renewal of baptismal grace that we receive from the Holy Communion on Mercy Sunday serves to strengthen us in all these virtues, but especially in our love for Jesus Christ, so that we begin to love Him for His own sake - for the glory of His name, the spread of His kingdom, and for the consolation of His Heart - and not just for ourselves, for our own benefit. In short, by trust we open the door to Christ so that He can pour out upon us a whole ocean of graces on Mercy Sunday! Jesus asked that the Image of The Divine Mercy be publicly venerated on this Feast day. In *Diary* entry 341, for example, Jesus said to St. Faustina: "... I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it."

To "venerate" a sacred image or statue simply means to perform some act, or make some gesture of deep religious respect toward it because of the person whom it represents.

It should come as no surprise that Jesus wanted this image to be venerated on Divine Mercy Sunday. After all, the Image of The Divine Mercy sums up the whole devotion to God's mercy in one picture. It depicts His merciful love for us both in His Passion (in the Blood and Water flowing from His breast, as it did on Calvary) and in the Resurrection - the whole Paschal mystery. Also, in the inscription at the bottom of the image, we find a summary of the basic response that Jesus asks of each of us to His merciful love: "Jesus, I trust in You."

Our Lord not only wants His priests to proclaim the message of Divine Mercy in words on that day; He also wants the message to be proclaimed through a sacred image - a visual aid, so to speak - because He knows well the truth of what we commonly say: "A picture is worth a thousand words."

By coming to Eucharistic Adoration on Divine Mercy Sunday, we will not only venerate the picture of Our Lord, the Image of Divine Mercy, we will also venerate Mercy itself on the Altar, the true and real presence of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus, Our Lord.

Finally, Jesus made it very clear to St. Faustina that in preparation for the Feast of Mercy we need to be merciful to others, through our actions, words, and prayers. If we are not practicing the works of mercy in our lives, then our celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday would be a kind of blasphemy, rather than an offering pleasing to the Lord.

Let us celebrate the great gift of God's mercy and proclaim it in word and deed!



Knights of Columbus Council #16656

All You Can Eat Breakfast

\$10 - Age 11 and up ■ \$6 Age 6-10 ■

Under 6 Free

Pancakes	Made to order Omelets
Sausage	Creamed Chip Beef
Home Fries	Ham
Coffee/Tea/Juice	Toast

April 7, 2024
8am - 12:00pm

In the St. Nicholas Social Hall

St. Nicholas



1974 - 2024

50th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

The 50th Anniversary Committee met again Saturday, March 16.

The finalization of the event ticket cost was the main topic of discussion.

Watch for news coming shortly about this and how you can make your reservation.

All families and children of the parish are invited to this **business casual event** at Woodstone on **November 17, 2024.**

The next planning meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 20 at 9:30am in the social hall.**

Anyone interested in volunteering, please come to the next meeting or sign up in the porticos or email: community@stnicholaswalnutport.org

Calling All Talents and Passions. Join Us in Sharing Your Gifts...

We believe our congregation is a treasure trove of diverse skills and passions waiting to be unveiled. Whether you're a seasoned musician, a budding artist, a culinary enthusiast, a skilled gardener, or someone with any other passion or hobby, we invite you to share it with others to create moments of joy, learning, and connection. Let's ignite passions, inspire others, and make a difference through demonstrating your craft, leading a workshop, or sharing your expertise. To learn more sign up today in the porticos or email community@stnicholaswalnutport.org to embark on this journey of sharing, learning, and growing together!

Page Turners to Begin New Book



Why not join the Page Turners as we set sail into the depths of existential exploration with our next read: "The Stranger in the Lifeboat" by Mitch Albom? In this gripping tale, Albom

masterfully weaves together elements of mystery, morality, and human connection. Set adrift in a lifeboat after a tragic shipwreck, a diverse group of strangers is faced with profound questions about life, fate, and the essence of humanity. What would we do if God or someone claiming to be God answered our call? Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 2 at 7:15pm. Contact community@stnicholaswalnutport.org for more details.

Mother Daughter Tea

Mothers and their daughters (ages 9-13) are invited to attend a **Mother Daughter Tea** on Sunday, April 28 from 1-4 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall, 1046 W. Cedar St., Allentown!



Speakers will present on the beauty of God's gift of fertility, explain the physical and emotional changes girls experience, and share empowering tips on modesty, virtue, and personal style. The afternoon will feature lunch, games, and prizes. The cost is \$25.00 per family.

This event is being sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown's *NFP Task Force* in partnership with the *Bishop's Commission for Women*.

Registration is required by April 7. To register visit <https://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/152407> or contact Kristin Osenbach at kosenbach@allentowndiocese.org for more information.

3rd Annual Designer Purse Bingo

Our 3rd Annual Designer Purse Bingo will be held Sunday, April 21st. Doors open at 11:30 am; bingo begins at 1 pm.

This event will be held at Diamond Fire Hall 101 Main St. Walnutport, PA.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by going to the Events page of the St. Nicholas website.



In support of this event, we are offering Sponsorship opportunities. You can advertise your Business Logo, In memory or donation. We have several sponsorship levels. For more information call or email the contact information below. We

look forward to your support and attendance at this big fundraising event which benefits the St Nick's Parish.

The fundraising team needs your help in making the Purse Bingo a great success. **Please consider helping for a few hours at the Diamond Fire hall, baking a delicious goody, or simple hanging a flyer around the town to spread the word about this great event.** Sign up sheet are in the porticos or email us at fundraising@stnicholaswalnutport.org.

For questions, please contact Marianne at 610-703-4943 or e: fundraising@stnicholaswalnutport.org.

CYBERSECURITY PRESENTATION

Learn how to avoid computer scams and hacking, including ways to resolve these types of computer issues. The event will take place on **Sunday, April 14, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm** in the Social Hall of St. Nicholas Church.



Speakers will include a member of the Lehigh Township Police Force. This is a free event, and to register, you can look for the sign-up sheet in the portico or email community@stnicholaswalnutport.org.

