

St. Nicholas
50 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.
Deacon Mike Kudla
Administrative Assistant: Gina Smith

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

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service
 1-800-276-1562 www.ReportBishopAbuse.org



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me."
 - Jn 6:56-57

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

August 18, 2024 ©LPI

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — "Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed!" (Prv 9:5)

Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 34)

Second Reading — Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. (Eph 5:17)

Gospel — "For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink." (Jn 6:55)

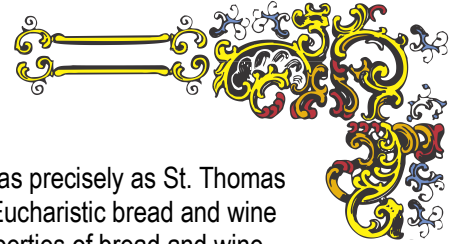
Mass Schedule:

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,

Few saints have written and taught about the Holy Eucharist as eloquently and as precisely as St. Thomas Aquinas. With a surgeon's precision he explains the doctrine of "*transubstantiation*", the Eucharistic bread and wine becoming the substance of Christ's true Body and Blood, while retaining the physical properties of bread and wine. With the heart of the greatest of poets, St. Thomas has given us the most beautiful Eucharistic Hymns, the *Pangae Linqua*, the *Tantum Ergo*, *Lauda Zion*, *Sacris Solemnis*, *Verbum Supernum*, and *Adoro Te Devote*. He has also composed the most beautiful prayers for before Mass and after, which the Church commends to both priests and laity alike. St. Thomas' commentaries on the Gospel of St. John, give us deep insight into the Bread of Life discourse in chapter 6, which we, and the whole church, have been reflecting on these past few weeks. Here is a little passage written by Dominican Father Bernhard Blankenhorn, who illustrates some of the thought of St. Thomas for us: - "*Christ's sacrifice on the cross fulfills all of the sacrifices of the Old Covenant, and this new offering has been given to the new people of God as a perpetual memorial. The gift of the Eucharist comes in the form of bread and wine, and for good reason: "Look! Upon the altar lies, hidden deep from human eyes, bread of angels from the skies, Made the food of mortal man." The manna that God gave to the Israelites wandering in the desert also foreshadows the Eucharist (see John 6). It is food for the true children of God, those who follow his way, not those who imitate the rebellious Israelites in the desert: "Children's food to dogs denied, in wondrous prophecy described: in the manna from the sky, in the binding of the boy, in the sacrificial lamb."* The Eucharist also fulfills the figure of the binding of Isaac, the only son that Abraham was willing to give up, as well as the sacrificial Passover lamb, the lamb consumed at the Last Supper.

Aquinas' Eucharistic theology turns out to be richly biblical. Now the summit of biblical revelation on the Eucharist comes in Jesus' bread of life discourse (John 6). Toward the end of this teaching, Christ's interlocutors murmur in response to his perplexing instruction to eat his flesh and drink his blood. At John 6:54, Jesus responds: "*He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.*" Following St. Augustine, Aquinas explains that a share in divine life is given to those who do not merely partake of the Eucharist, but who do so worthily: "*One eats and drinks sacramentally or in a sacramental way, if he receives the sacrament; and one eats and drinks spiritually or in a spiritual way, if he attains to the reality of the sacrament. This reality of the sacrament is twofold: one is contained and signified, and this is the whole Christ, who is contained under the species of bread and wine. The other reality is signified but not contained, and this is the mystical body of Christ, which is in the predestined, the called, and the justified. Thus, in reference to Christ as contained and signified, one eats his flesh and drinks his blood in a spiritual way if he is united to him [Christ] through faith and love, so that one is transformed into him and becomes his member: for this food is not changed into the one who eats it, but it turns the one who takes it into itself, as we see in Augustine, when he says: 'I am the food of the robust. Grow and you will eat me. Yet you will not change me into yourself, but you will be transformed into me.' And so this is a food capable of making man divine and inebriating him with divinity. The same is true in reference to the mystical body of Christ, which is only signified (and not contained), if one shares in the unity of the Church. Therefore, one who eats in these ways has eternal life ...the unity of the Church is brought about by the Holy Spirit: 'One body, one Spirit ...' (Ephesians 4:4)."* (Thomas Aquinas, Commentary on the Gospel of John, transl. James Weisheipl and Fabian A. Larcher, Magi Press, 1980, ch. 6, paragraph 972).

This beautiful yet dense passage offers many theological insights. Those who partake of the Eucharist in faith and charity eat both sacramentally and spiritually, for this is the sacrament of charity and friendship, a sacred banquet shared by the friends of Christ. His friends receive his bodily substance, which has been signified by the consecration ("*This is my body ...*"), and they also receive the spiritual power that flows through his sacred body, which power grants a share in God's own life. That is, the hearts of Christ's friends are transformed even more into a likeness of his heart, a heart burning with charity. Thomas draws these conclusions on the foundation of Scripture, but also from his firm conviction in the bodily, substantial presence of Christ on the altar. Yet this intense focus on the mystery of transubstantiation does not lead to an individualistic spirituality, for Aquinas also insists on integrating the ecclesial mystery into his theological account. The many grains in one host and many grapes in one cup signify the unity of Christ's members, and so, the act of partaking of this sacramental sign deepens the spiritual unity of the faithful with one another. We cannot separate our personal union with the Eucharistic Lord from our fraternal bond with our fellow Christians. Finally, Aquinas hints at his mystical understanding of the Eucharist by the language of inebriation. The *Summa* connects this spirituality with the bridal mysticism of the Song of Songs, chapter 5: "*Eat, O friends, and drink: drink deeply, O lovers!*" (*Summa theologiae* III, question 79, article 1, answer to objection 2).

By his Eucharistic writings, Aquinas thus invites us to deepen our understanding of this great mystery, and above all, to live it more intensely, as spouses of Christ. - And that is of course the whole point. That we are invited by the Lord to a union with Him that brings us new life, a life to be lived by His grace.

Peace- Father Adam



Mass Intentions:

Sat 8/17	4:30 PM	Constatine & Irene Gerkovich
Sun 8/18	8:30 AM	Phil Ditalia (Joe Ditalia)
	10:30 AM	People of the Parish
Mon 8/19	8:30 AM	Arlene Beginnes (Mary Woytko)
Tues 8/20	6:30 PM	Diocesan Purgatorial Society
Wed 8/21	7:00 PM	Kent Solomon (Elaine Jenkins)
Thu 8/22	7:00 AM	Jean & Fred Barlow
		(Kate Adams)
Fri 8/23	No mass	
Sat 8/24	4:30 PM	Donald Bugusky
		(Tony & Laura Scarselletti)
Sun 8/25	8:30 AM	Anne & Stan Zwolenik
		(Anne & Dave Orsulak)
	10:30 AM	Jill Prandstatter
		(Janice & Bob Bauer)

Counting Our Blessings

8/4	Collection Envelopes	\$3,593.00
	Weekly Budgeted Operational Expenses	\$7,352.00
	School Support	\$183.00
	Preservation & Restoration	\$679.00

Thank You!



Miraculous Medal Novena

The prayers of the Miraculous Medal Novena are prayed publicly in our parish every Wednesday after the evening Benediction at 6:30PM. We offer public praying of the Miraculous Medal Novena as a perpetual novena of prayer as a part of the spiritual life of our parish. Please come and join together each Wednesday as we pray this beautiful prayer as a weekly devotion.

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.



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 August 18 to 24

*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*

We Need Your Help!

If you or you know a parishioner that is homebound or is in or going into in a nursing home or personal care facility, please let us know by calling the Parish Office.

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!

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.



Palmerton Day

Palmerton Day will take place on Saturday, September 7 and Sunday, September 8.

Our church will be manning a stand where we will make and sell delicious potato pancakes.



We invite everyone to volunteer for this great event. To sign-up, email Marion at kitchen@stnicholaswalnutport.org

Knights of Columbus



St. Nicholas Council #16656 A Star Award Council has been recognized for their church and community service and outreach programs.

Men that are practicing Catholics and 18 years old are eligible to join.

Call the Parish Office for more information. **To make your registration** easier, you can join the K of C online at kofc.org/JoinUs.

K of C General Business Meeting 2nd Wed @ 6:45PM.

Caring Hands Knit-Crochet Group

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



Join us the second and fourth Friday of each month from 10am-12pm in the social hall. 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.

Men's and Women's Malvern Retreats

A retreat. A period of refreshment, support, reassurance, learning, and concentration on the most important gift in your life: YOUR_LIFE, the gift from God. We have experienced this at Malvern



Retreat House, 'St. Joseph in The Hills', Malvern, PA. Our Lehigh Valley men's retreat group, dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, would like to invite men and women to experience the same excitement and awe that we feel on our yearly weekend. Learn, reflect, "dump your stuff", fortify yourself, increase your personal communion with the Lord. Come join the men's weekend, Sep 6, 7, and 8; or the women's weekend, Sep 13, 14, and 15; Fri night to Sun morning. Welcome!

Anthony Scarselletti, Our Lady of Perpetual Help group, 610-393-4671, OLPH.ascarselletti@gmail.com

August		
Date	Time	Cleaning Volunteers
Thu. 8/22	9:30 AM	Diane Turner, Terry Rice, Faith Andrejak
Thu. 8/29	9:30 AM	Tom & Lisa Pignataro

Parish Directories Have Arrived!

If you and your family were photographed by Universal Church Directories we have good news. The directories have finally arrived! The next weekend we will distribute after the masses will be August 24-25.

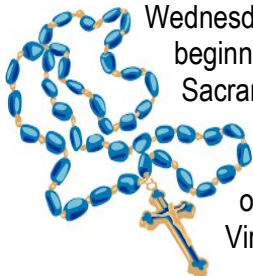
Additional pick-up dates will be forthcoming. You can also make special arrangements by text/call Meg at c: 610-533-0673 or

e: publicrelations@stnicholaswalnutport.org.

Thank you all for participating.

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 September 04, 2024 at 6:30PM beginning with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed by the praying of the Patriotic Rosary (which is a prayer for divine protection and mercy for our Nation inspired by our Blessed Virgin Mother).



PREP News:

St. Nicholas Parish Religious Education Program begins promptly on Monday September 09, 2024 at 6:30-7:45PM with a Monthly Presentation to Parents followed by "Family Time with the Children".

The Adult Presentations will continue every 2nd Monday of each Month (*Monday September 9th through Monday May 12, 2025*). **Importantly, these Presentations are open to all parishioners who are interested to learn more about the Catholic Faith and/or build community.** Fr. Adam will be in attendance.

If you need to register a child for the 2024-2025 school year, registration forms and calendars will be in the Social Hall after Masses on three Sundays:

August 25, September 01, and September 08, 2024 at 9:30-9:45AM and 11:30-11:45AM.

Also, we are always in need of additional teachers and aides, so if you are interested in helping, please also stop by the Social Hall at one of these times.



50th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

50th Anniversary Mass Celebration
at St Nicholas Catholic Church
Sunday, November 17 at 10:30 am

Presider Bishop Alfred A. Schlert and Father Adam Sedar

Followed in the afternoon by the Gala Event

Time/Location: 1 pm Woodstone Country Club, 3777 Dogwood Rd, Danielsville PA.

Gala Cost: \$60 per Adult - \$30 for Children (5 - 12 years old) - Under 5 is free.

For ticket payments, event details, and Sponsorship/ Donation/Advertising in our program book opportunities:
<https://www.stnicholaswalnutport.org/Anniversary.htm>
Or email: event@stnicholaswalnutport.org

Opportunities to Help Make the Celebration a Success

The 50th Anniversary Gala Committee is seeking **photos of the Church/Congregation** and volunteers for **desserts for the event**.

For photos please contact Robert Stettner at 610-554-4099

For desserts, please sign-up on the clipboards by the church doors or contact Lisa Pignataro at 610-737-4716

or email: event@stnicholaswalnutport.org

The next meeting of the Committee will be Monday, August 26 at 7pm in the Social Hall.

Gala Reservation Form for those not reserving your place on-line (Please Print)

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children: _____

Names of Adults: _____

Names and ages of Children: _____

Please place me at the table with: _____

Payment Amount

Enclosed: _____

I am paying in installments: ☐

I paid extra to help someone who could not afford a ticket: ☐