

**St. Nicholas**  
**50** Years as a Parish  
**1974 - 2024**



## 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:** Gina Smith

**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 - 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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:**  
 Wendy Krisak, M.A., NCC  
 Direct Telephone 800-791-9209

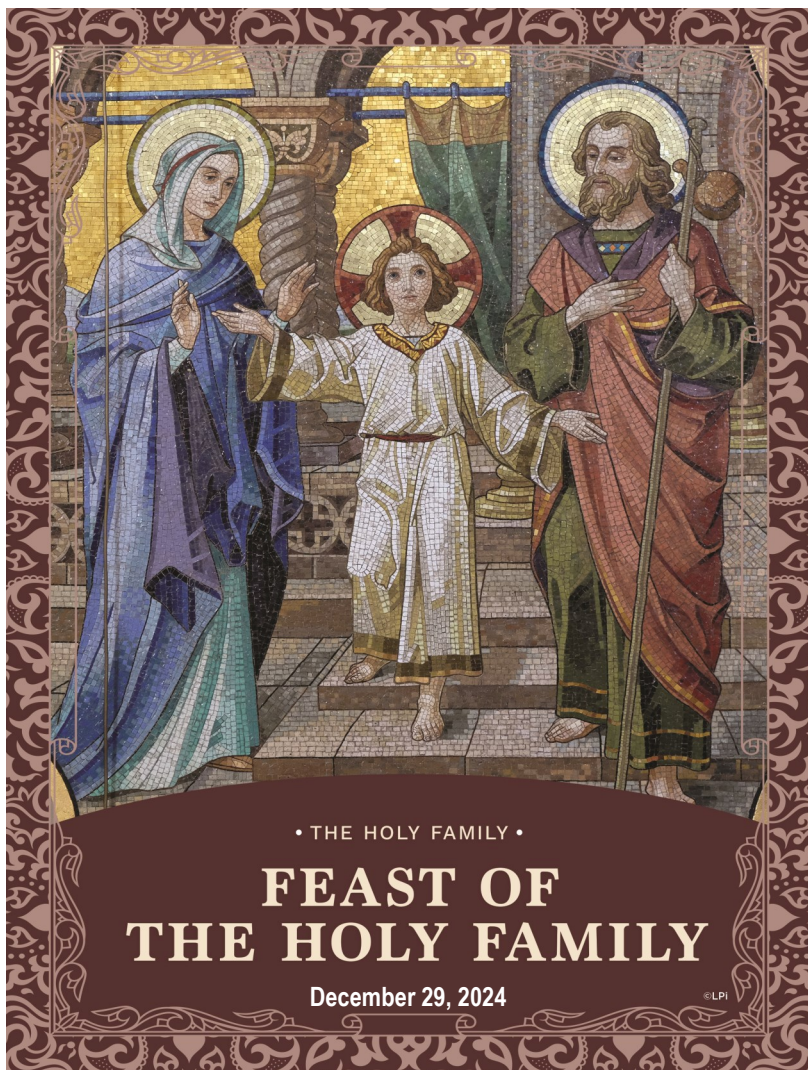
**Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service**  
 1-800-276-1562 [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org)

## Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM  
 Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30 AM  
 Monday: 8:30 AM  
 Tuesday & Wednesday: *See Special Times in the Bulletin for New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary Holy Day Masses*

**Adoration of Most Blessed Sacrament:**  
 There will not be any adoration on New Year's Day

**Confessions:**  
 Saturday: 3:45 PM - 4:20 PM  
 (other times by appointment)



## TODAY'S READINGS

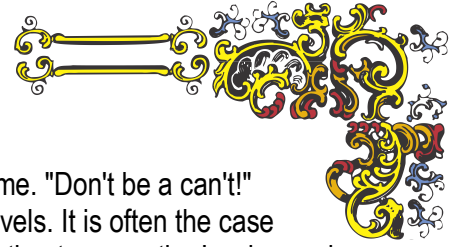
**First Reading** — "I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

**Psalm** — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

**Second Reading** — Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. (1 Jn 3:2)

**Gospel** — After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers. (Lk 2:46)

# *A Message from Our Pastor:*



Dear Parishioners,

I am not much for catchy phrases, but recently there is one that "caught" me. "Don't be a can't!" I heard it and thought that phrase is a good one for many reasons and on many levels. It is often the case whether we are trying to improve ourselves in some way, improve our work or wanting to serve the Lord more by advancing the Gospel in some way, we can all too often think "I can't". The "I can't" is often followed by a "because" and that is followed by some reason or other, like "its too hard" or "I am not (fill in the blank) enough." Most of the time these reasons are just excuses we make because we are not willing to do what it takes to accomplish more. We also easily forget that when something is part of our vocation, God, if we let Him, will make it possible. Possible, but not easy. We still have to put in the effort. But that effort will not be futile, with God "I can". So as we prepare to begin a New Year, let's look for ways to serve God more zealously and more cheerfully and remember this year "Don't be a can't!"

My prayer and best wishes for a truly blessed New Year!

Peace- Father Adam

## **On the Holy Family**

***From a homily by Pope St. Paul VI***

Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's life was like and even to understand his Gospel. Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning. And gradually we may even learn to imitate him.

Here we can learn to realize who Christ really is. And here we can sense and take account of the conditions and circumstances that surrounded and affected his life on earth: the places, the tenor of the times, the culture, the language, religious customs, in brief everything which Jesus used to make himself known to the world. Here everything speaks to us, everything has meaning. Here we can learn the importance of spiritual discipline for all who wish to follow Christ and to live by the teachings of his Gospel.

How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God's truths. But here we are only on pilgrimage. Time presses and I must set aside my desire to stay and carry on my education in the Gospel, for that education is never finished. But I cannot leave without recalling, briefly and in passing, some thoughts I take with me from Nazareth.

First, we learn from its silence. If only we could once again appreciate its great value. We need this wonderful state of mind, beset as we are by the cacophony of strident protests and conflicting claims so characteristic of these turbulent times. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner wisdom and the counsel of his true teachers. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.

Second, we learn about family life. May Nazareth serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family's holy and enduring character and exemplifying its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings; in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children—and for this there is no substitute.

Finally, in Nazareth, the home of a craftsman's son, we learn about work and the discipline it entails. I would especially like to recognize its value—demanding yet redeeming—and to give it proper respect. I would remind everyone that work has its own dignity. On the other hand, it is not an end in itself. Its value and free character, however, derive not only from its place in the economic system, as they say, but rather from the purpose it serves.

In closing, may I express my deep regard for people everywhere who work for a living. To them I would point out their great model, Christ their brother, our Lord and God, who is their prophet in every cause that promotes their well being.







## Mass Intentions:

Sat 12/28	4:30 PM	Royann Houck (John & Darlene Madura)
Sun 12/29	8:30 AM	Peter Kilpatrick (Joann Kilpatrick)
	10:30 AM	Thomas Papay Sr. (JoAnne Kochmaruk)
Mon 12/30	8:30 AM	Hilda Steirer (Carl Niedzwiecki)
Tues 12/31	4:30 PM	Marian & Mary Alderman (Cindy Saab)
Wed 1/1	9:00 AM	People of the Parish
Thu 1/2	No Mass	
Fri 1/3	No Mass	
Sat 1/4	4:30 PM	The Poor Souls in Purgatory (The Semler Family)
Sun 1/5	8:30 AM	Hilda Steirer (Jeanette Noakes)
	10:30 AM	Catherine Niedzwiecki (Carl J. Niedzwiecki)

## Counting Our Blessings-Thank You!

12/15	Collection Envelopes	\$5,874.00
	<b>Weekly Budgeted Operational Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,352.00</b>
	Christmas Flowers	\$216.00
	All Souls	\$242.00



## New Year's Mass Schedule Solemnity of Mary Holy Day

- \* Tuesday, **December 31st** Mass: 4:30pm
- \* Wednesday, **January 1st** Mass: 9:00am -  
**No Adoration today**

No Mass will be held on  
Thursday, January 2nd.

## 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 December 29 to January 4

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

*Wednesday Adorers*

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

## Caring Hands Knit-Crochet Group

We create comforting items to be donated to those in need within our area, such as 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.



## 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!

## BVMSN Federal Credit Union

Serving the parishioners and families of Assumption BVM and St. Nicholas Churches. We offer lower interest rate loans and financial counseling if you want to help clean up your credit. Your money is insured up to \$250,000. For more information, call the credit union at 484-272-2858 or stop by the St. Nicholas Rectory on Monday nights from 7pm-9pm. We are here for you.



## Boy Scouts

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

## 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](http://kofc.org/JoinUs).

**K of C** General Business Meeting 2nd Wed @ 6:30 PM, Officers' Meeting 4th Wed @ 7:30PM.

## Ink Cartridges & Redner's Tapes

Save us \$\$\$! Place your used cartridges in the box in the portico and drop Redners Tapes in the box in the portico or in the collection basket. We will turn them in for credit!

## St. Nicholas Food Pantry Is Open

Collections are on the third weekend of the month. If you know of a family or person that can use a hand at this time, let the parish office know.

## 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.



## Alcoholics Anonymous

**Alcoholics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. Membership is open to anyone who has the desire to do stop drinking.

AA Group meets 6:30 PM Sunday in the social hall.

## National March for Life, Washington, D.C.

Friday, Jan. 24 – St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, Mass 6:30 a.m. before departure. Cost is \$20.

Call 484-259-7740 or email [andrewazan3rd@rcn.com](mailto:andrewazan3rd@rcn.com)

Why We March: <https://marchforlife.org/theme2025>

## Office Hours for the Christmas Season

Please note that the Parish Office will be CLOSED from December 24<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. We will reopen for normal business on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

## Readings the week of December 29, 2024

Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Friday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

## Observances for week of December 29, 2024

Sunday: The Holy Family

Tuesday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

Wednesday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Thursday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Friday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Saturday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | January 4

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."

©LPi

## Memoirs, history, or science: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot!



Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa.

A poor Southern tobacco farmer whose cells are taken without her knowledge. The first "immortal"

human cells grown in culture. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping. Join the Page Turners on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:15 pm in the Parish Center to deliberate this memoir. For more information, please contact:

[community@stnicholaswalnutport.org](mailto:community@stnicholaswalnutport.org).

## Women of Hope Retreat Malvern Retreat House March 14-16, 2025

### "The Eucharist - Food for the Journey"

Ladies, join us for an inspiring weekend and renew your faith and relationship with the Lord. The retreat will be led by four dynamic and faithful women! You will be led in prayer, hear great talks, attend Mass & Adoration and much more.

**Cost:** \$275 includes overnight accommodations and meals. \* \$75.00 deposit to secure your spot

\*Virtual Option Available if 5 people register for Zoom  
Cost is \$75 per person

Register at: [malvernretreat.com](http://malvernretreat.com) or call 610-644-0400



**We Wish You and Your Loved Ones Great Health and Happiness in the New Year.**