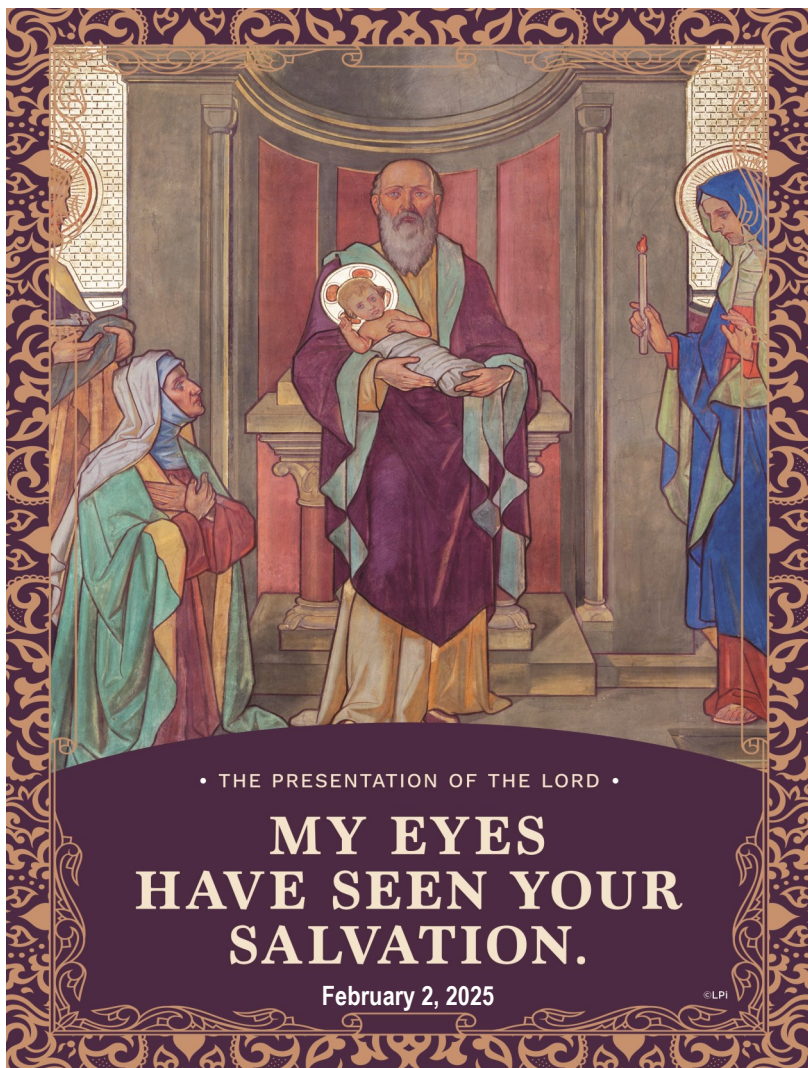


St. Nicholas Catholic Church

1152 Oak Road
Walnutport, PA 18088
www.stnicholaswalnutport.org

Pastor: Rev. Adam C. Sedar, M.A., M.Div.
Administrative Assistant: Gina Smith



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek. (Mal 3:1)

Psalms — Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord! (Ps 24)

Second Reading — Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God. (Heb 2:17)

Gospel — "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation." (Lk 2:29-30)

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

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,

I recently read an article by Eric Sammons, a Catholic Author and Editor in Chief of Crisis Magazine. Crisis is a pretty reliable source of both news and Catholic commentary and its online version is free. In this latest article Sammons writes about how good and faithful Catholics can sometimes be more Catholic than the Church herself in trying to defend the deposit of Faith. In other words, sometimes, in trying to remain faithful to our Faith we can find ourselves positing opinions that are not actually defined dogmas of the Faith.

One of the examples he gives is the debate over alien life. Did God create intelligent life, other than humans and angels? (And yes, human life actually is intelligent, though we do not always act it.) Some have tried to say that the existence of alien life is actually contrary to our faith. But the real answer is we really do not know for certain and despite the strong objections of some on theological grounds, the Church has never taught anything definitively one way or the other. And that makes perfect sense, since there is nothing in God's revelation that gives any sense of this one way or the other. God's revelation is directed to providing all we need to know for our eternal salvation and the existence of alien life does not at all affect that. And so we wait and we see.

There are good theological arguments on both sides, but none are "de fide", meaning none of these arguments are revealed truth. So, while it can be fun to speculate, we should realize that as yet there is no definitive answer and we are free to believe either way so long as we do not add or subtract from what we know is Divinely Revealed. The danger some who believe in alien life fall into is that UFO chasing becomes a false religion, which replaces belief in the One, True God.

One thing that seems certain and that Sammons points out, is that at least, given the spiritual nature of the encounters, some peoples' claimed alien encounters are actually encounters with demons posing as alien life. Why would demons do this? To deceive and cause fear for one. Also, it is not beyond the realm of possibility that demons would want to give us technology that would be destructive for us. We should be very careful to believe in an alien encounter without any real proof.

A common argument for the existence of life on other worlds is that this great and vast universe could not have been created just for us. That argument fails to remember that God gave us only Son. Compared to His Son, the universe does not seem like so much to give just to us.

Many good scientists believe that if intelligent life exists on other worlds, it is highly unlikely that this life has visited us. They say this because of just how big the universe is and how difficult it is to travel these great distances. Still I wonder, if such life exists, and if an alien race, unlike us, did not sin, did not suffer a fall from original grace, how advanced this race might be. They would also, in that case, have a combination of great wisdom and of great benevolence.

There are many more arguments on both sides of this, but what we need to know is that whether there is life on other worlds or not and whether such life is intelligent or not, it does not change our Faith at all. If there is other life "out there", or even if "they" are right here among us on earth, then the God we know, Who has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, has created this life and all of this is part of His great plan, a plan for our good!

Peace -- Father Adam

Observances week of February 2, 2025

- Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life
- Monday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
- Wednesday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
- Thursday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
- Saturday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin; BVM

Winter Meetings for Page Turners



Page Turners will be meeting during the winter months, January through March in the Social Hall.

For more information, please contact:

community@stnicholaswalnutport.org.



Mass Intentions:

Sat 2/1	4:30 PM	Catherine Niedzwiecki (Mary Louise Trexler)
Sun 2/2	8:30 AM	James Kinane (Ann Marie Kinane & Chris Kinane)
	10:30 AM	Catherine Niedzwiecki (Henry & Nancy Niedzwiecki)
Mon 2/3	8:30 AM	Arlene Beginnes (Mary Woytko)
Tues 2/4	6:30 PM	People of the Parish
Wed 2.5	8:30 AM	Louis Martarano (Elaine Jenkins)
Thu 2/6	8:30 AM	Joseph Mordawski (Daughter, Lorraine Stefanoski)
Fri 2/7	No Mass	
Sat 2/8	4:30 PM	Elizabeth Stemetzki (Janice & Bill Tanzola)
Sun 2/9	8:30 AM	John Eisenreich (Mary Eisenreich)
	10:30 AM	Edward Tanczos Jr. (Mary & children)

Counting Our Blessings-Thank You!

1/12	Collection Envelopes	\$9,223.00
	Weekly Budgeted Operational Expenses	\$7,352.00
	Solemnity of Mary	\$40.00
	Preservation & Renovation	\$380.00

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 February 2 to 8

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

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

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.

K of C General Business Meeting 2nd Wed @ 6:30 PM.

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!

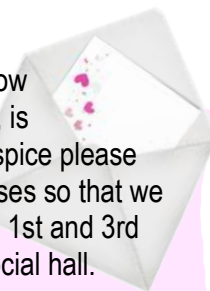
St. Nicholas Food Pantry Is Open

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 stop drinking.

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

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.



Warm Winter Gathering



North of 50 will have a winter get together on **February 25, 1 PM** in the social hall. It will be a "soup" get together. Sign up sheets are in the vestibules.

Bring your favorite soup or soup fixings.

For more information contact:
Ann Orsulak 610 392 1092
Lisa Pignataro 610 737 4716

St. Nicholas Church Soup Sale

Warm up on a cold day with some delicious soup homemade in the St. Nicholas kitchen!

Friday, February 7

10:00am-1:00pm & 4:00pm-6:00pm

Pint \$6 / Quart \$11

- * Broccoli Cheddar
- * Clam Chowder (white)
- * Chicken Noodle
- * Chili (beef w/beans)
- * Sausage Tortellini
- * Shrimp Bisque
- * Split Pea (w/ham and potatoes)
- * & More!



Pre-orders due Feb. 2 and are highly recommended.

Email pre-order to kitchen@stnicholaswalnutport.org.
A confirmation email will be sent once received.

Limited quantities available for walk-ins.

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 or call 610-644-0400

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother

Our next Bible Study will begin February 27th and continue every other Thursday until June 5, 2025. This will be an extraordinary pilgrimage that reveals Mary's unique role in God's kingdom and in our lives. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this Bible Study will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking you through her joys ... and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her Son, Jesus. Seeing Mary in this way will change you forever. Mary will become a part of your daily life, and in your daily life, you will become more like Christ.



Join us for this 8-week video study program. We will meet every other week from 6:30PM to 8:15PM for an engaging video presentation by Edward Sri, followed by a lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information or to register, call or text Gene Ballas at 610-533-1617 and/or geneballas@msn.com. We hope you will join us!



Sing Unto the Lord

The music ministry of St. Nick's would like to invite those who would like to be a part of enhancing the gospel with song to join one of our various choirs.

Please speak to any of the musicians for information.

"Those who sing pray twice" - St. Augustine

Readings the week of February 2, 2025

- Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
- Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20
- Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43
- Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6
- Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11/Mk 6:7-13
- Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29
- Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34