

# STATES OF THE ST

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

March 16, 2025

CONTACTOR AND CONTACTOR OF CONT

**First Reading** — It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give the land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates." (Gn 15:18)

**Psalm** — The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps 27)

**Second Reading** — He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. (Phil 3:21)

**Gospel** — Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. (Lk 9:28b-29)

### 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

### 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,

It goes underreported by almost all major news agencies, yet the violence against Christians continues to rise in many parts of the world. Did you know that last month, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 70 Christians, men, women and children, were forced from the homes in the middle of the night, bound and taken to a church where they were beheaded? It went largely unreported. While this was one of the most recent and brutal attacks on Christians it was by no means the only one.

Open Doors UK declared in a recent statement that Christians in the DRC "face severe persecution and violence frequently from Islamist militants, the ADF, especially in the eastern region. Allied with the Islamic State group, the ADF abduct and kill Christians and attack churches, leading to widespread terror, insecurity and displacement."

Worldwide, Christians face increasing persecution. In a January 2025 report, Open Doors US stated that "over 380 million Christians worldwide experienced at least a "high level" of persecution and discrimination because of their faith."

Just last week, the Patriarch of the Melkite Catholic Church, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch, and the Syriac Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch issued a joint statement denouncing the "dangerous escalation of violence, brutality, and killings" in Syria, "resulting in attacks on innocent civilians, including women and children." This statement was in response to the hundreds of Christians who have been murdered, tortured and/or raped in Syria, all in the span of just a few days.

While the most danger is in Africa and the Middle East, the violence is not limited to those places, as incidents of violence against Christians happen in the West as well. Remember the killing of Father Jacques Hamel in France. Most of the violence in these places is perpetrated by militant Islamicists, and yet we must not forget the Christians still suffering atheistic regimes in China, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, who are bent on stamping out the Christian Faith.

While much of this persecution goes under-reported in the media and while too many political leaders seem to turn a blind eye, we must not forget our brothers and sisters who are suffering and who live under the threat of violence each and every day. They need our prayers and whatever support we can offer them. Perhaps this Lent we can pray for them each day, keeping their needs in our hearts and imploring our Blessed Mother to intercede on their behalf.

Peace- Father Adam

### Readings for the week of March 16, 2025

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/

Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and

23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27

and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21,

24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17,

18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-

12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### Men's Morning Mini-Retreat

Sat. March 22,

St. Nicholas Church, 8:30A - 12:00P.

All the men of the parish are welcome. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 16656

Light lunch to follow: drinks, pizza, vegetable tray

 Mass, 2x talks w/Q&A, confessions, adoration, short breaks

Since I need a count of attendees for lunch, please RSVP by text or email to: Anthony (Tony) Scarselletti,

610-393-4671, <u>ascarsel@ptd.net</u>



# Mass Intentions

Sat 3/15	4:30 PM	Bruce Trexler (Janice & Bill Tanzola)
Sun 3/16	8:30 AM	People of the Parish
	10:30 AM	Brian Kresge & Thomas Papay III (JoAnne Kochmaruk)
Mon 3/17	8:30 AM	People of the Parish
Tue 3/18	6:30 PM	Joe & Anna Semler (The Semler Family)
Wed 3/19	8:30 AM	Charles & Gloria Wagner Anniversary (Andrea & Kids)
Thu 3/20	8:30 AM	Susan Johnson (Kate Adams)
Fri 3/21	No Mass	
Sat 3/22	4:30 PM	Janice King (Janice & Bill Tanzola)
Sun 3/23	8:30 AM	People of the Parish
	10:30 AM	Pete Kilpatrick (Elaine Jenkins)



### 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 March 16 to 22

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.

NOTE: The BVMSN Federal Credit Union will hold their Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 15th after the 4:30pm Mass in St. Nicholas Social Hall. All Credit Union Members are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

### **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

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.

# 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.

### **Boy Scouts**

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

### Observances the week of March 16, 2025

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Monday: St. Patrick, Bishop [OM]; St. Patrick's Day

(See Saint Biography)

Tuesday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of

the Church

Wednesday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin

Mary

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent

### Saint Biography: St. Patrick | March 17

Whether you know him as the man who brought Christianity to Ireland or simply as a reason you eat corned beef and cabbage in March, St. Patrick (415 – 493) is a well-known saint around the world.

St. Patrick was born in Britain of a Romanized family. At the age of 16, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders from the villa of his father, a deacon and local official, and brought into slavery in Ireland. He spent six long years there as a herdsman, during which he turned to his faith for strength. He later escaped back to Britain on a ship, where he was eventually reunited with his family.

His years of captivity changed him and brought out a zeal for God and a yearning to spread the message of Jesus Christ. Despite the constant danger of martyrdom, he continued to travel throughout Ireland where he baptized and confirmed in the name of Christ. ©LPi

### **Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross will take place every Wednesday of Lent after 6:30 Benediction beginning March 12.

### **Rosary Leaders Wanted**

Would you prayerfully consider joining our ministry to lead the rosary 1x per month before Saturday 4:30 Mass or Sunday 8:30 or 10:30 Masses?

Call or text Michele at 484-695-8407

# Counting Our Blessings

2/23 Collection Envelopes \$5,421.00

Weekly Budgeted Operational

Expenses \$7,352.00

Preservation & Restoration \$280.00 Black & Indian \$299.00

Thank You!

Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother

Our Bible Study began February 27th and continues every other Thursday until June 5, 2025. This is 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 places 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 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

### **Lucky Lottery Winners!**

The results of St Nick's bi-annual lottery sale (Jan and June) are in. Two parishioners were blessed with winning tickets of \$1k each. Several other winning tickets realized lesser amounts. The funds collected will be used toward maintenance up keep of the Church. Many thanks to those

who participated. We will begin sending tickets out for the next lottery on April 1st for the June drawing.

