

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



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

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

April 28, 2024 ©LPI

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him. (Acts 9:27)

Psalm — I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (Ps 22)

Second Reading — And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. (1 Jn 3:23)

Gospel — "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:5)

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

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)

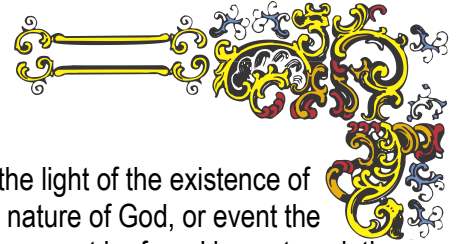
Adoration of Most Blessed Sacrament:

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,

One of the great mysteries of life is question of how suffering can exist in the light of the existence of a God Who is all good and all powerful. So often this can lead to doubts about the nature of God, or event the existence of God or to an anger that leads one to try to live without God. The answer must be found in contemplating the Cross of Our Lord Jesus. One of the lessons of the Cross is that God does not permit suffering for its own sake. He never allows anyone to suffer just to suffer. There is, in His wisdom and providence, His infinite goodness and power, the possibility of a greater good. One of those possible greater good is the recognition of our need for God and our need to call upon Him in praise and with hope. Here is a lengthy passage from a reflection on this by Dr. Jeff Mirus:

“The deeper reality is that without having suffered, it is very difficult to learn to praise God, for it is suffering that teaches us we are not self-sufficient. It is suffering that forces us to reflect on the the ultimate meaning of human existence. And it is suffering that makes us realize how much we need help. Psalm 88 closes, quite literally, on a dark note, though it cannot be totally dark to the Christian who applies the words to Christ:

*Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me.
They surround me like a flood all day long; they close on me together.
You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me;
my companions have become darkness.* [vv. 16-18]

Nonetheless, the key to understanding had already been given at the very beginning of the psalm:

*O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out day and night before you.
Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry!* [vv. 1-2]

It is this opening context that makes the desolation of the closing lines perfectly acceptable, for the psalmist expresses misery not in despair but in prayer to the God of salvation. In Hebrew, the name Jesus means “God saves”, and so we might expect a fuller grasp of these realities in the gospels of the New Testament than in the psalms of the Old. But if we read Scripture the way we are supposed to—by which I mean reading the Old Testament forward in light of the New, and reading the New Testament backward in the light of the Old—then we will find the Psalms resonant with Christian experience precisely because they are resonant with human experience—experience in the care and service of one and the same God.”

While at times it may not seem like it to us, our sufferings can be very useful in drawing closer to God, for they teach us to cry out to Him, Who alone can save us and Who alone is our life, our resurrection and our relief in every moment. Our sufferings can help us to realize our littleness and to depend upon His greatness. The Lord will never abandon us in our distress, but He may allow it for a time to teach us lessons we would otherwise never learn. Stay hopeful and call upon The Lord at all times!

Peace- Father Adam

Father McElduff Scholarship

The Father McElduff Scholarship is available to all students in Grades 2-8 who will be attending a Catholic School in 2024-25. Preference is given to St. John Neumann School applicants and requires regular Mass attendance. To apply for the scholarship, stop by the church office for an application or download it from the website. You may also call Deacon Mike @ 610-767-3107. Scholarship applications are due May 10, 2024. Good luck!



Counting Our Blessings

4/14

Weekly Budgeted Operational Expenses

	\$7,352.00
Collection	\$3,009.00
Cemetery Care	\$37.00
Donations	\$746.24
School	\$141.00
Other Envelopes	\$130.00
Renovation & Preservation	\$209.00


Thank You!




Mass Intentions:

- Sat 4/27 4:30 PM People of the Parish
- Sun 4/28 8:30 AM Leo & Mary McCloskey (Thomas McCloskey)
- 10:30 AM Edward Tanczos (Wife Mary and Family)
- Mon 4/29 8:30 AM John & Mary Hock (Daughter Diane)
- Tues 4/30 6:30 PM William Laky (Michelle & Bill Laky)
- Wed 5/1 8:30 AM Health of Catherine Niedzwiecki (Carl Niedzwiecki)
- Thu 5/2 8:30 AM Health of Roy & Kinda Barnakovich (Catherine & Carl Niedzwiecki)
- Fri 5/3 No Mass
- Sat 5/4 4:30 PM Janet & Lew Kern (Kate Holland)
- Sun 5/5 8:30 AM People of the Parish
- 10:30 AM Agnes Lancsak (Sue Hankee)


<i>Lector Ministry Schedule</i>		
	May 4-5	May 11-12
Sat 4:30 PM	Michael Semler	Bill Caserta
Sun 8:30 AM	Brian Keefe	Barbara Schmidt
Sun 10:30 AM	Carl Litwin	Brianna Pereira



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 April 28 to May 4

Tabernacle Candles will be lit in Memory of Catherine & John Gerkovich (John Gerkovich) Virginia & Alfred Rabe (John Gerkovich)

Altar Hosts and Wine Offered in Memory of Wednesday Adorers

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)



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, Officers' Meeting 4th Wed @ 7:30PM.

Caring Hands Knit-Crochet Group



We create comforting items to be donated to those in need within our area. For example: 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.



High School Musical Jr

The Holy Family School Players will proudly present Disney's **High School Musical Jr.** May 3rd at 7PM, May 4th at 3PM & 7PM,

May 5 at 3PM. Holy Family School Gymnasium, 508 W. Center Street, Nazareth. \$12 General Admission - Handicap Accessible. Online Tickets & Donations: https://buy.ticketstothecity.com/venue.php?org_id=715. Hope to see you there!

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.

You can contact Pat Hunsicker at (610) 824-4017 or you can text or call cell phone (484) 474-7265. We don't want to miss anyone so please help if you can. Thank you.

School Sisters of St. Francis Spring Food Drive

School Sisters of St. Francis Spring Drive-Thru Drop Off: All non-perishable food, toiletries, paper products, grocery gift cards and cash donations will benefit West Bethlehem Food Bank's Emergency Food Pantry.

Drop off at Monocacy Manor, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017 Saturday, April 27 9:00am-1:00pm

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.

Boy Scouts

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



50th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

The 50th Anniversary Committee met Saturday, April 20 to discuss topics including the Gala menu, letters to go out to sponsors, and 50th Anniversary items such as T-shirts that will be available for sale to all.

All families and children of the parish are invited to the 50th Anniversary Gala. The event is **business casual** at Woodstone on **November 17, 2024**. Information on tickets will be available in June.

The next planning meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 18 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



Knights of Columbus Council # 4050 Corn Hole Tournament

Save the Date: Saturday, May 18, 2024
1st Annual K of C Corn Hole Tournament
Egypt Memorial Park

Check-in/practice begins at 11 am
Tournament Play: 12 noon – 7 pm
Prizes for top three teams

\$60 per team of 2 (max 48 teams)
– includes lunch & 2 drink tickets per team
– must be 16 yrs. or older to compete

Food, snacks and beverages available for purchase, Kids Corn Hole area, 50/50 and basket raffles.

Fun for the entire family!

For more information contact: John Fitzpatrick, (484) 201-9188 or jlfitzpatrick83@gmail.com
Page Turners and



Iron Pigs Game

Event Date: June 21, 2024
Event Time: 7:05 game start
Cost: \$12 with \$2 ballpark credit for food or merchandise.



Join your fellow parishioners for a fun and relaxing evening at the Iron Pigs Game. Stay and enjoy the Fireworks after the game. 40 seats have been reserved in section 104.

Sign up sheets are available after masses from April 6 to May 19. Last day to sign up is May 19.

contact Carl Litwin 610-767-2624
e-mail clitwin1@gmail.com



Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bath Knights of Columbus Council Annual Trip to Yankee Stadium

Sacred Heart of Jesus Annual Bus Trip to Yankee Stadium scheduled for Thursday August 22. The game against the Cleveland Guardians has a 1:05 pm start. Our Easton Coach bus departs from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Bath, PA at 9:00am, with a direct return immediately following the game. Cost per person is \$117.00 which includes the bus, ticket to the game and refreshments provided by Knights of Columbus Council. Reservations are available by contacting Bud Schuster at bud328@msn.com or (610) 390-8429.

Keeping God's House Clean

Have a couple of hours each month to help keep the Lord's house clean? St Nicholas cleaning crew is looking for volunteers. You will work a team of dedicated parishioners on a pre-determined day.

Consider joining us!
Contact: Lisa Pignataro 610 737 4716



May		
Date	Time	Cleaning Volunteers
Fri. 5/3	5:30 PM	Mike & Donna Unger, Giovanna Noto
Thu. 5/9	9:30 AM	Tim Gregory, Carl Litwin, Bill Caserta
Thu. 5/16	5:30 PM	Meg Schell, Jim Boyle, Marie Brunst

Page Turners to Begin New Book

The Beautiful Mystery by Louise Penny

Hidden deep in the wilderness of Quebec, Canada, sets a monastery where the monks are world famous for their Gregorian voices. But when the renowned choir director is found murdered in the monastery's garden, Inspector Armand Gamache and his colleague are called in to investigate the murder. Here they encounter a closed-off world filled with secrets, rivalries, and tensions among

the monks. Join us on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:15pm in the Parish Center when we unravel this whodunit. Contact

community@stnicholaswalnutport.org for more details.

