



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Mailing Address

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THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of ALLENTOWN

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

29 December 2025

The Fifth Day of the Octave of Christmas

Letter of the Fifth Bishop of Allentown

Announcing the 65th Jubilee Anniversary Year of
the Diocese of Allentown

A Eucharistic and Marian Year of Grace

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we approach the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of the establishment of our beloved Diocese of Allentown, I invite you to join me in celebrating this milestone as a Jubilee Year of Grace, beginning 28 January 2026, and ending 28 January 2027. This sacred time will be a Eucharistic and Marian

Year dedicated to giving thanks for the blessings we have received and imploring new graces for the future of our local Church, especially for vocations to the Priesthood and the Consecrated Religious Life.

Our Diocese was established by Pope Saint John XXIII on 28 January 1961, carved from the territory of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to serve the faithful of Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill Counties. Since that day, generations of clergy, religious, and laity have worked together to build up a vibrant Catholic community rooted in faith, education, and service.

From our first Bishop, Most Reverend Joseph McShea, who laid the foundations of diocesan life and Catholic education; to his successors—Bishops Welsh, Cullen, and Barres—each shepherd has guided our Church through the joys and challenges of the times, ever striving to proclaim Christ in our region of Pennsylvania. Today, we continue to stand on that legacy, grateful for all who have handed on the Faith with courage and love. The 65th Jubilee coincides beautifully with the Church's renewed call to deepen our love for the Most Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist is the heart of our Diocese. Christ is truly present among us and is the source and summit of our Catholic life.

Throughout this Jubilee Year, I invite every parish, school, and household to rekindle devotion to the Holy Eucharist through increased opportunities for Adoration, Eucharistic processions, catechesis, and an intentional commitment to the reverent celebration of Holy Mass. Let us return to the Altar with renewed awe and gratitude, that our parishes may be truly Eucharistic communities where faith is alive and charity overflows.

The Diocese has always been placed under the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Mary, Mother of the Church. During this Jubilee, we turn again to her as our Mother and Model of Faith. Just as she carried Jesus to the world, may she lead us to a deeper love of her Son

and to a spirit of joyful discipleship and evangelization.

Therefore, I am also designating this year as a Marian Year, asking every parish to promote the Holy Rosary, Marian devotions, and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In a world often marked by division and discouragement, Mary shows us the way to peace, humility, and trust in God's providence.

In a special way, I ask all the faithful to join me in praying for two great intentions during this Jubilee Year:

- An abundance of holy vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Consecrated Religious Life.

- The return of those who have drifted from the practice of the faith, that they may rediscover the salvation, mercy, and joy of Christ in His Church.

The Lord continues to call, and His mercy never tires. May our parishes become welcoming homes for all who seek spiritual comfort, forgiveness, and belonging.

As we celebrate sixty-five years of grace, we look back with gratitude and forward with hope. The same Holy Spirit who inspired the founding of our Diocese continues to guide us today. Let us walk together—clergy, religious, and laity—as a Roman Catholic family of faith, united in the Holy Eucharist, devoted to Mary, and steadfast in our mission of bringing the Light of Christ to every soul.

Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and Saint Catharine of Siena, Patroness of our Cathedral, may this Jubilee Year be a time of renewal, healing, and joy for all of us.

With heartfelt gratitude and every prayerful good wish, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

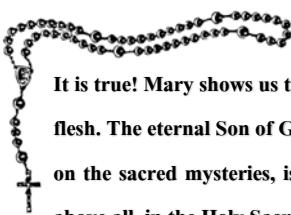
Alfred A. Schlert

Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown

Adoration with Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Holy Family Chapel Thursday 6-8:00 pm

Eucharistic adoration daily 8:30 am-3:00 pm



PRAY THE ROSARY

It is true! Mary shows us the most amazing way to adore the Lord Jesus and to receive him. With her consent and in her womb, the Word was made flesh. The eternal Son of God became her Son for our salvation. Saint Louis de Montfort affirms: "The Holy Rosary, recited together with meditation on the sacred mysteries, is a sacrifice of praise to God to thank him for the great grace of our redemption." It is this redemption that we receive, above all, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Daily recitation in the Holy Family Chapel -Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri 7:30 am Tue, 5:30 pm. First SaturdaySunday following 9:30 Mass

A Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection – February 28, 2026 – 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

Are you hungry, thirsty, or lonely? The season of lent invites us to encounter God in the quiet desert places of our hearts and find refreshment and deeper connection with God. Come and join us for a quiet day of prayer and reflection as we delve into two profound biblical narratives of encounter and transformation: the Samaritan Woman at the Well (*John 4:1-42*), and the Prodigal Son (*Luke 15:1-32*). Through these powerful stories, we will explore our deepest longings and need for God who meets us in our desert places. Sr. Jacinta Kioko, a Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood, will guide us on this day.

To Register call Mariawald Renewal Center at 610-777-0135 or email mariawaldcenter@gmail.com

Register before February 25, 2026

Cost for the day [Lunch included]: \$40.00

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD

AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. MAY THE SOUL OF OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED
THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE

CHRISTINE PETREE December 3, 2025

LINDA LOOMIS December 25, 2025

GERALD LOEPER January 1, 2026

SACRED HEART MEMORIAL SOCIETY ENROLLMENT

STACIE BATDORF by Eileen Jones

JEREMY WRABLE by MaryAnn Razzano & Family

GERALD LOEPER by Kathy & Ralph Nevel

February 2026 Lector & Server Schedule

Jan. Feb. 31/1	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday
5:00 pm	Dean Reber—Amelia & Charlotte Bell	7:00 am	Lou Sutherland
7:30 am	Mike Gallagher—Shaun Marquez	8:30 am	
9:30 am	Karen Piraino—Amelia Kozak, Noah Vu	12:10 pm	Regina Doyle—Christian Gonzalez, Victoria Schaeffer
11:15 am	Patricia Ann Kos—Jianna Sanchez-Lopez, Jayden Paulino	7:00 pm	Mike Gallagher—Amelia & Charlotte Bell
Feb. 7/8	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Feb. 21/22	First Sunday of Lent
5:00 pm	Mary Ann Kelly-Christian & Israel Gonzalez	5:00 pm	Sandie Wrable—Gemma Brunner, Ivann Gonzalez
7:30 am	Steve Bell	7:30 am	Chuck Barbera
9:30 am	Lou Sutherland—Cisco Anewalt, Hope Varish	9:30 am	Lori Anewalt—Jianna Sanchez-Lopez, Hope Varish
11:15 am	Bill Wellock—Victoria Schaeffer, Sam Smith	11:15 am	Margaret Hueske—Sam Smith, Amelia Kozak
Feb. 14/15	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Feb. 28/1	Second Sunday of Lent
5:00 pm	Vince Moffitt—Gemma Brunner, Ivann Gonzalez	5:00 pm	Dean Reber—Amelia & Charlotte Bell
7:30 am	Mike Gallagher—Shaun Marquez	7:30 am	Regina Doyle—Shaun Marquez
9:30 am	John Sylvester—Noah Vu, Jayden Paulino	9:30 am	Mary Ann Kase—Amelia Kozak, Noah Vu
11:15 am	Kathy Nevel—Victoria Schaeffer,	11:15 am	Patricia Ann Kos—Jianna Sanchez-Lopez, Jayden Paulino



WE ARE ALL HELD HOSTAGE...

...by sin.

A life lived separated from God is a life of slavery, bound by the chains of habitual vice. It then becomes harder and harder to choose the good—and easy to forget the glory for which we are created. So...

...Why not unlock a new chapter in your life this Lent?

Confession is the key to breaking free. Repentance isn't about beating ourselves up for falling short. It's about confronting the truth of this battle head-on, throwing off those chains, and claiming our freedom in Christ. Lent begins soon February 18. This year, make it a season of hope and renewal.

The Presentation of the Lord (February 2)

By Candlemas, forty days after Christmas, February 2, the season of Christ's coming has depleted our candle supply. Soon, the parish will order a new paschal candle from a catalogue or candlemaker, or in some communities, wax will be collected to be melted and molded. Last year's paschal candle shows the wear and tear of summer heat, or many funerals or baptisms.

Paschal candles have been around since at least the fourth century, when Constantine's biographer Eusebius reported that the night of the sacred vigil was "transformed into the brilliancy of day, by lighting throughout the city pillars of wax, while burning lamps in every place so that the splendor of this night was brighter than the brightest daylight."

Light was a precious commodity in the ancient world, and this lavish use of precious beeswax was a sign of the Christian's call to bear Christ's light into the world's darkness. In a pre-electric age, a whole city aglow from the paschal flame must have been a glorious sight, and a reminder to every baptized Christian of our vocation to "be the light of the world."

—Rev. James Field



Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines Lourdes, France Fatima, Portugal plus the Way of St. James in Spain w/ Fr. Brian Miller

Visit 3 countries on a Pilgrimage to Toulouse, Lourdes, Zaragoza, Burgos, Leon, Santiago de Compostela, Fatima and Lisbon in April 2027 under the spiritual direction of Fr. Brian Miller, Pastor of St. Catharine of Siena, Reading. We are going with EF Go Ahead Tours and the trip is limited to 38 travelers. Contact Lisa Siciliano at wdy561@yahoo.com or call her at 610-781-4064 for the itinerary, pricing information.

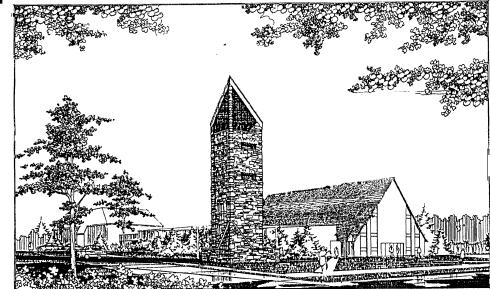


COFFEE & DONUTS



Please join us on the 1st & 3rd Sunday: From September- May

Next date February 1st in the Wachter Room for fellowship, coffee, juice, and donuts: following the 9:30 & 11:15 AM Masses. (no 3rd Sunday in Feb)



Sacred Heart Church

UPCOMING EVENTS

~KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS~

Membership Meeting,
Thursday February 5th & 19th
6:30 P.M. I.H.M Room (school)

~FIRST SATURDAY FELLOWSHIP ~

Saturday, February 7th
Rosary 7:30 am Chapel
Coffee, Tea, & light fare 8:30 A.M.
(following 8:00 am Mass)
Wachter Room

~ASH WEDNESDAY ~

February 18th
Mass Times 7:00 am, 8:30 am,
12:10 pm & 7:00 pm
Church

~SACRED HEART FRIENDS OF

VINCENT DE PAUL~
Monday, February 23rd
Members Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Wachter Room

~STATIONS OF THE CROSS~

Begin February 20
Wednesdays 1:15 pm, Sacred Heart
Fridays noon, Holy Rosary
Fridays 7:00 pm, Sacred Heart

~FIRST RECONCILIATION~

February 25
Wednesdays 6:00 pm, Sacred Heart

**"THEREFORE WELCOME ONE ANOTHER
AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD." (ROM 15:7)**

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Edward Miller & daughter Alexa Miller

Mrs. Suzanne Erickson

Miss Nicole Rivieccio



Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.



St. Monica Ministry™ is both a dedicated community and prayer network offering hope and support to the families and friends of fallen-away Catholics. Like St. Monica, its members pray, fast, and care unconditionally for loved ones who have left the Church. Animated by hope and grounded in faith, we rest secure in the knowledge that, in the words of St. Monica, "Nothing is far from God."

The ministry was formed in November 2022 at the behest of the Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown.

A chapter will be forming here at Sacred Heart. Check the bulletin for information.



The process by which adults can become members of the Catholic Church. If someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic then please invite them to our meetings on **Wednesday at 7 pm** in the Sacred Heart parish center. Or if you are a Catholic adult who has never made your First Communion, or who was never confirmed, you are welcome too.

You can contact us SacredHeartOCIA@gmail.com or at 610-372-4010

**February 22 Second Collection:
Black and Indian Mission, Catholic Home Mission Appeal**