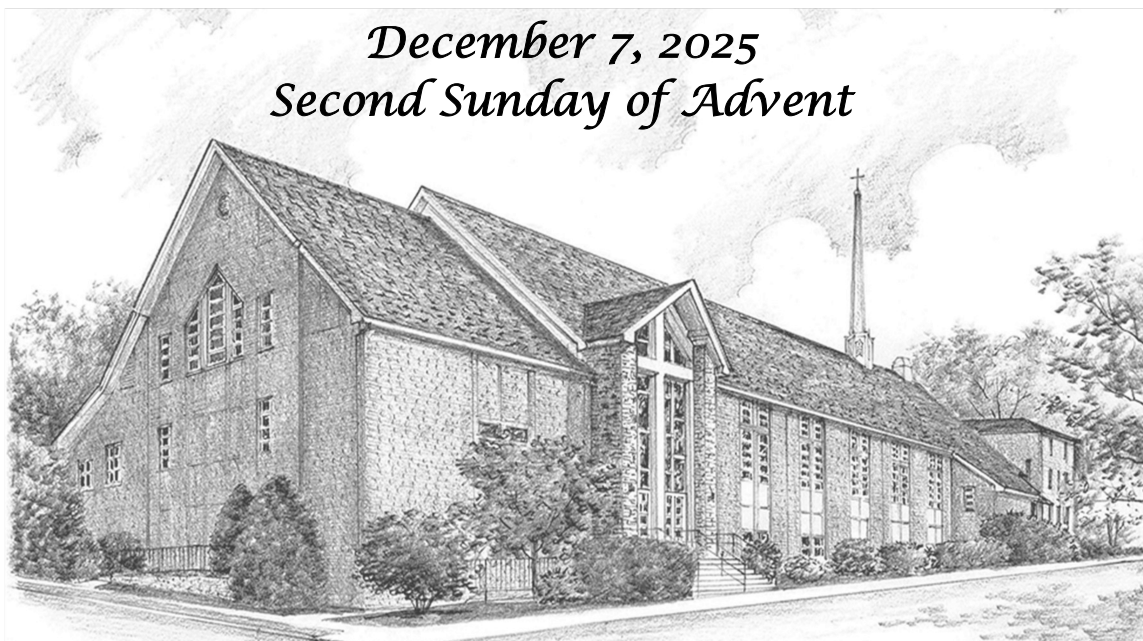


SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

1046 WEST CEDAR STREET - ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18102
(610) 433-6102

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

Pastor

Reverend Richard C. Brensinger, M. Div.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
Daily: see Mass Schedule
Holy Day: (Vigil 7:00 PM) 8:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:15-4:00 PM
Monday: 6:15 PM (before 7:00 PM Mass)
Anytime by appointment

Adoration Chapel

Please consider spending some time with
Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.
Our Adoration Chapel is located
between the Church and the school building.
Open Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM—7:00 PM
Saturday from 7:00 AM—3:00 PM
Sunday 12:00 Noon to 7:00 PM
Closed Holydays & Holidays

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the family of
Saint Francis of Assisi,
aim to inspire hearts of
compassion, kindness,
and love through
our worship of the
Holy Eucharist.



SACRAMENTAL AND PARISH INFORMATION

New Members

Welcome to Saint Francis Parish. Please call the Parish Center Office in order to register in our parish, or stop in during office hours or on the weekend after all Masses. One needs to be a member of our parish three months in order to receive a certificate of eligibility. Please notify the office if you change your address or move away.

Religious Education (PREP)

All children of the parish should be receiving religious instruction through our parish school or through our Parish Religious Education Program which has been combined with the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena. Please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education, Donna Sciacca at 610-432-7655 or by email at prep@cathedral-church.org

Marriage

We look forward to celebrating God's gift of love in the sacrament of marriage for any registered and practicing parishioner. Diocesan policy states that contact should be made one year, but no later than six months, prior to the proposed date of marriage in order to begin pre-nuptial instructions. Call the Parish Center Office for further information.

Baptisms

Baptisms are held for our registered (at least three months) and practicing parishioners normally the first Sunday of the month immediately after the 10:30 Mass. Parents are to register for a Baptismal Preparation Class held normally on the Wednesday before each baptism in the Parish Center. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic for the valid reception of baptism. That person must also be able to receive a certificate of eligibility from their Catholic parish. A Non-Catholic Christian is permitted to act as a witness. Parents should begin to make arrangements for a baptism during pregnancy.

Godparents & Confirmation Sponsors Info

You must be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, must be known to attend Mass regularly and, if married, the marriage must be recognized by the church. These requirements are the universal law of the church. All requests for 'Letters of Good Standing' are to be made well in advance to the Parish Office.

Ministry to the Sick

Please notify the Parish Center Office when a parishioner is in the hospital or home and would like to receive communion or the anointing of the sick. Visits can also be made to those parishioners who are homebound and would like to receive confession and communion.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We welcome and support all whose faith journey brings them to seek full communion with the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Center Office for further information.

Saint John Vianney Regional School

We encourage all our parents to consider sending their children to our parish school, Saint John Vianney Regional School. Our school is located at 210 North 18th Street in Allentown. Please contact our school principal at 610-435-8981 to register your child for a faith based, middle-states accredited, Catholic education.

Allentown Central Catholic High School

We encourage our high school students to consider attending our local Catholic high school - Allentown Central Catholic. Please contact the Director of Admissions, at (610) 437-4601 for more information.

Wills and Memorials

As a lasting remembrance or final gift to your parish, all parishioners are encouraged to include St. Francis of Assisi in their wills or as a beneficiary on an insurance policy. At the time of passing of a relative or friend, consider enrolling them in the Sanctuary Memorial Fund. Memorials are available in the Parish Center Office and are often used in lieu of flowers.

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204

Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC
Direct Telephone Number (800) 791-9209

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church. To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, and Code of Conduct, please visit www.allentowndiocese.org and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.



Sanctuary Lamp Memorials

If you would like to memorialize the red sanctuary lamp for the Tabernacle for a week, the cost is \$10 for the seven day candle. Please contact Stephanie Epler at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102, for information.

The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week
December 7, 2025 is

*In Memory of
Helen O'Hare*

By daughters, Grand & Great Grandchildren

Floral Intentions

If you would like to offer Floral Intentions in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call the Parish Office. Live flowers can be placed in front of The Holy Family or The Sacred Heart for \$30 each, or \$60 for both sides.




**The flowers in front of The Holy Family
for the week of December 7, 2025 are**

*In Memory of Rhonda Santilli
By Joe and Anita Santilli*

Men of St. Francis Christmas Breakfast

Will be held on **Sunday, December 7th**. Breakfast is served at your table by our volunteer waitresses from 9:30 AM to Noon. **Cost is \$10.00 for Adults, Ages 6 to 12 \$6.00, ages 5 and under Free.** Menu selections include: Eggs, Home Fries, Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Ham, Toast, Orange Juice, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate.

 This month your breakfast ticket will include a chance to win a \$50 Amazon card. One winner will be drawn after each Sunday Mass, and the choir will sing Christmas Carols.

Choir Schedule

The choir will rehearse on Tuesday, December 9th at 6:30 PM in the **DAILY MASS CHAPEL**, and they will sing on Sunday, December 14th at 10:30 AM Mass.



Attention All Women!

"Women Walking in Faith"

Our group of faith-filled women will meet on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 PM in Heritage Hall. All women 18 and over are invited to participate. Guests are welcome so don't hesitate to ask your friends and neighbors. Call Michelle Evans 610-737-9469 with questions.



Giving Tree

Our annual Giving Tree is up and decorated in the vestibule. We will be helping Turning Point, Valor, Catholic Charities (these gifts UNWRAPPED) and Allentown Head Start (these gifts WRAPPED). All gifts should have tree tag attached, and be returned by Sunday, December 14th.



Mass Schedule

Monday, December 8, 2025 The Immaculate Conception
Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

7:00 PM Joseph Saboe

Tuesday, December 9th Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
Is 140:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

8:00 AM Lorraine Novakowski

Wednesday, December 10th

Our Lady of Loreto

Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

8:00 AM Robert Woroniak

Thursday, December 11th

Saint Damasus I, Pope

Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

8:00 AM William Todora

Friday, December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Saturday and Sunday, December 13th & 14th

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

4:30 PM Intentions of Terry & Antoinette Tranter

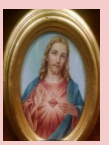
8:30 AM Alma & Joseph Philipavage

10:30 AM Roger & Donald Tracey

Sacred Heart and Miraculous Medal Novenas



The Miraculous Medal Novena is recited every Monday after the 7:00 PM evening Mass. The Novena to the Sacred Heart is recited on the First Friday each month at the 8:00 AM daily



Mass. Each novena comes with special benefits. All are invited. Father Rich will hear confessions prior to the Monday 7:00 PM Mass, in addition to the Saturday confessions at 3:15 PM.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Monday, December 8th marks the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Because it falls on a Monday this year, it is not a holyday of obligation. We will observe this holyday regardless of the obligation, at 7:00 PM Mass on Monday, December 8th in the main Church.

*Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on
Monday, December 8th for the holyday.*

*This Sunday, December 7th, is the last date to
submit your Sweet Indulgence Fudge order forms.
There is a form on the last page of this bulletin
for your convenience.*

**Saint Francis of Assisi
sweet fudge
INDULGENCE SALE**

Recently Deceased



Please pray for the soul of Shirley Schaffer, who recently passed away. Grant her eternal rest, O Lord, and may her family know your peace and comfort.



St. John Vianney Regional School
210 N. 18th St., Allentown, PA 18104

- Preschool Programs, Full Day
 - Kindergarten through 8th Grade
 - Safe Environment, Faith-Filled Curriculum
 - Outstanding Academics
 - Free Tour and Shadow Days
- SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind, and spirit!
Phone: 610-435-8981

Email: principal@stjohnvianneyschool.org
Call us today to schedule a tour at your convenience!
SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind and spirit!

School Mission Statement

St. John Vianney Regional School is a Catholic community dedicated to living our faith in Jesus Christ from Preschool through 8th Grade. Our school and families partner together to encourage an appreciation for our diverse world. In a caring and respectful environment, we develop independent thinkers through spiritual values and strong academics. St. John Vianney students celebrate each day through prayer, education, and service; and embrace tomorrow committed to faith, leadership, and community.



Monthly Food Drive

Sponsored by the Outreach Committee

Our monthly food drive will be on December 6th & 7th. This month, we need PB and J, canned or cupped fruit, canned vegetables (corn, peas, mixed, potatoes, etc.), canned or plastic jars of pasta sauce, tomato sauce, tomatoes, snacks, beans (all types), pork and beans, tuna, spam, chicken, condiments: mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, pickles, relish. Breakfast items: pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal, granola bars, snacks and crackers. Our Outreach Team is also collecting for VALOR (Veterans Assisted Living Outreach) and we are in need of pop top easy open proteins, vegetables and fruits. **No glass jars, please. Also, please, no XL containers or outdated foods.** Collection carts will be available in the vestibule of the church for your donations.



Feed Your Faith Holiday Orders

Stress-free Christmas shopping is here! On Monday, December 15th, the last gift card order before Christmas will go in to Raise Right Scrip Center. Orders must be prepaid and in the parish office by Monday noon on December 15th. Pick up on the weekend of December 20th & 21st. (Lists of available stores with order forms are in the Parish Office.)



Food Pantry

The Outreach Committee's Food Pantry will be open to the public on Wednesday, December 10th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, in the Franciscan Center (former Convent.)

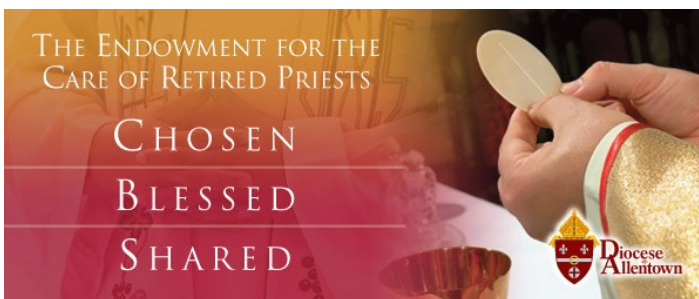
Oplatki Available

Oplatki is available in the Parish Office for \$3 per pack of 3 wafers. A Christmas tradition from the Polish-Slovak-Lithuanian cultures, Oplatki is a wafer shared by the family around the dinner table, often at the Christmas Eve Wigilia (Vi-geel-ya). Each family member breaks off a piece and wishes each other good luck and blessings in the coming year.



Women's Advent Retreat

The Bishop's Commission for Women invites all women of the Diocese to a peaceful day of community, prayer, and reflection this Advent season. Join us on Saturday, December 13th at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Allentown from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM. As Advent Women, we are called, like Mary Our Mother, to be bearers of Hope to our families and communities. Come, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, and rediscover your identity as a bearer of light in a world of darkness. Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible. Learn more and register at <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-life/resources-women/womens-advent-retreat-2025>.



Chosen, Blessed, Shared

The Diocese of Allentown is conducting an annual fund called, "Chosen, Blessed, Shared," to support the Endowment for the Care of Retired Priests. All gifts received will be used to support the rising costs of retirement care for those priests in good standing who have faithfully served, and the many who, though retired continue to serve, in our Diocese. Please consider making a donation as part of your yearly giving. This is not to be confused with our yearly collection for the "National Appeal for Retired Religious" to be held December 13 & 14, 2025.

Wee Worship Bags Will be Available Soon for Our Parish Children



Our Wee Worship Ministry will soon have quiet activity bags for toddlers and preschool aged children to borrow and use during Masses. These bags are designed to serve as tools to help them learn about their faith while keeping them occupied as your family participates in the liturgy. We kindly ask that you return the bag and it's contents to the designated space after Mass so others can enjoy for the next Mass.

Bulletin Deadlines

There will be early bulletin deadlines from now through the New Year. If you have any bulletin articles or announcements for the bulletin for the next month, please email them to Stephanie at the Parish Office as early as possible.

Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena

Closing Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope, on Sunday, December 28th, the Feast of the Holy Family, same feast on which we began the Jubilee Year of Hope one year ago, at 2:00 PM. Choral presentation of Vivaldi's Gloria by the Cathedral Choir; 2-3:00 PM. Sacrament of Penance, available in English and Spanish; 3:00 PM. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass closing the Jubilee Year, celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert.

Winter Weekend Raffle

Parishioners received a mailing in the last couple of weeks containing a letter from Father Rich, the Parish Financial Report and 5 raffle tickets for our annual Winter Weekend Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each, but if you buy all 5, it costs only \$40. There are over \$3,000 in prizes and 26 chances to win! If you need additional tickets, they are available in the Parish Office. Thanks for participating!

Attention All Parish Organizations

Please call Donna Gerancher at 610-433-6102, x15 to schedule all of your organization's activities to ensure the availability of the room or hall of your choice.



Our Weekly Stewardship

Weekend of November 22 & 23, 2025

Sunday in Pew	\$ 4,413.00
Sunday Online	\$ 2,140.00
Second Collection in Pew	\$ 1,213.00
Second Collection Online	\$ 65.00

Thank you for your continued contributions to our parish. We appreciate all that you do, financially and other ways, to make our parish great. Please consider online giving. It's safe, easy and secure. Visit our website for more info.



Movie Club is Back!

Saint Nick of Bethlehem - from our homegrown, Daniel Roebuck.

Based on a true story about Allen Smith's life, this story follows a man who, after the loss of his son, transforms his grief into a beacon of hope for others by embodying the spirit of Santa Claus. As he brings joy to countless lives, he not only reunites with his true love but also discovers profound healing through the act of giving.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21st - HERITAGE HALL - USE THE CEDAR STREET ENTRANCE. We will open the doors at 3:00 PM, movie at 3:30 PM. I am hopeful everyone can find time to stop and enjoy fellowship, friendship, film and of course POPCORN with us. Running time is 1 hour 33 minutes. We of course will have snacks but feel free to bring your own Christmas Cookies or Candy to share!!!

MOVIE CLUB - ALWAYS FUN, ALWAYS FAITHFUL, ALWAYS FREE.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule Saturday and Sunday, December 13th & 14th

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	J. Fittipaldi	T. McGinley	D. Colom
Eucharistic Ministers	H. Moyer, L. Eberly,	A. Drovich, P. Baker,	J. Colom, B. Ocasio,
	E. Wascavage	T. Racek	L. Moser, L. Unger (ch)
Cantor	G. Rodriguez	P. Rollins	Choir
Organist	D. Badesso	D. Badesso	R. Venditto
Altar Servers	F. & S. Koerbler	R. Rollins	V. Huynh
Sacristan	J. DeLeo	P. McFadden	P. McFadden

PARISH PHONE DIRECTORY

BUSINESS MANAGER

Dennis Reichard 610-433-6102 ext 34
dreichard@stfrancisallentown.org

BULLETIN

Stephanie Epler 610-433-6102 ext 10
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST

Rosanne Venditto 484-225-2080

EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

Paula Rollins 484-241-1986

"FEED YOUR FAITH" GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Stephanie Epler 610-433-6102
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Fr. Richard Brensinger 610-433-6102
rbrensinger@allentowndiocese.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Donna Gerancher 610-433-6102 ext 15
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org

MEN OF ST. FRANCIS

Chuck Epler 484-809-1275

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Helen Moyer 610-439-0922

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Michelle Evans 610-737-9469

PARISH OFFICE

610-433-6102

PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR

Donna Gerancher 610-433-6102 ext 15
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org

PARISH NURSES

Barbara Puzzella, RN 610-433-6102

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Helen Moyer 610-439-0922
sfaPPC18@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY

Stephanie Epler 610-433-6102 ext 10
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org

PASTOR

Fr. Richard Brensinger 610-433-6102

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Donna Sciacca (Cathedral) 610-432-7655
prep@cathedral-church.org

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL FUND

Anne Palmisano 610-433-6102

SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

Madeline Klotz 610-395-7386

ST. JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SCHOOL

Matthew Carlin, Principal 610-435-8981

WEBSITE

Camille Stockdale 610-433-6102
stockp8792@gmail.com

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Theresa Racek 610-428-0708

WOMEN WALKING IN FAITH

Michelle Evans 610-737-9469

"Feed Your Faith" Gift Card Program

"Feed Your Faith" is the Parish's easiest fund-raising program. It costs you nothing extra, but it benefits the Parish immensely! Each gift card you buy has a return of 1% to 14% profit to the parish. **The number in parenthesis represents the percentage of profit the Parish makes.** Please consider buying the gift cards to do your grocery shopping, give as gifts, or just to purchase instead of using cash at the retailers. Please see the list below for our participating retailers. *These gift cards are usually available every day in the Parish Office!*



Amazon.com (2%): \$25, \$50, \$100

Applebees (8%): \$10, \$25

Banana Republic (14%): \$25

Barnes and Nobles (8%): \$10, \$25

Bath and Body Works (12%): \$10, \$25

Bonefish Grill (10%): \$25

Boscov's (8%): \$25

Carrabbas (10%): \$25

Cheesecake Factory (5%): \$25

Dunkin Donuts (3%): \$10

Gap (14%): \$25

Giant (10%): \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100

Home Depot (4%): \$25, \$100

Kohl's (4%): \$10, \$25

Longhorn Steakhouse (8%): \$25

Lowe's (4%): \$25, \$100

Macy's (10%): \$25

McDonald's (2%): \$25, \$10

Old Navy (14%): \$25

Olive Garden (8%): \$25

Outback Steakhouse (10%): \$25

Panera Bread (8%): \$10

Red Robin (8%): \$25

Red Lobster (8%): \$25

Redner's Warehouse (5%): \$25, \$50, \$100

Sam's Club (2.5%): \$25, \$100

Starbucks (4.5%): \$10

Target (2.5%): \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100

Texas Roadhouse (8%): \$25

Visa (1.25%): \$25, \$50, \$100 (no activation fee!)

Wal-Mart (2.5%): \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100

Wawa (1%): \$25

Wegman's (5%): \$25, \$50, \$100

Weis (5%): \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100



Saint Francis of Assisi

sweet fudge

INDULGENCE SALE

ITEM	PRICE	x	QTY	=	COST
CHOCOLATE FUDGE (11 OZ.)	\$ 12.00	x		=	
CHOCOLATE FUDGE WITH WALNUTS (11 OZ.)	13.00	x		=	
PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE (11 OZ.)	12.00	x		=	
CHRISTMAS PRETZEL RODS (3 PACK)	5.00	x		=	
			TOTAL	=	

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

RETURN ENTIRE COMPLETED FORM & PAYMENT IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED "FUDGE" VIA COLLECTION BASKET, OFFICE MAIL SLOT OR PARISH OFFICE. CASH OR CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

ORDERS MUST BE IN BY DECEMBER 7, 2025.

PICKUP AT THE PARISH BEGINNING DECEMBER 20.

DELICIOUS
CHRISTMAS
GIFT IDEA!



2025 Contribution Statements

2025 Contribution Statements will be automatically mailed to all who donated \$250 or more, or less than \$250, by request.



"The kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2)
John's call to prepare for Christ echoes in every family. In holy matrimony, love and faith creates the foundation where God's kingdom flourishes. Is God calling you to build a holy family? Ask Him to show you His way by praying for your (future) spouse and children.

John Patrick Publishing Company prints our weekly bulletin. To place ads on the back of our bulletin, contact Michele Barron, Account Representative, John Patrick Publishing Company, Cell 484-300-2062, www.jpccadvertising.com

Stewardship Forms



Thank you to all who returned their Stewardship Forms. We ask that those who have not yet returned their forms to do so as soon as possible. There are more forms available in the Parish Office. Contacts will begin to be made in the New Year.

Surviving Divorce Program

Give yourself the gift of encouragement for the new year. Register for the Divorce Recovery class, a national program created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. Whether you are newly separated/divorced or still experiencing painful issues years later this program can help. Participants receive expert Catholic guidance to work through practical and emotional troubles brought on by the family breakdown. Topics covered include custody, court hearings and finances as well as the emotional ups and downs of anger, regret, and unforgiveness. Past participants have said they appreciate the program's deep insights of God's personal love for us and desire to heal us. This program has been running twice and three times per year since January 2023. Participants have consistently given it high marks on the end-of-class surveys.

Start date is January 12, 2026, and end date is March 16, 2026. Meetings are Mondays, 6:15 – 7:15 PM for ten weeks. Location is St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 618 Fullerton Ave. Whitehall 18052 in the large Meeting room on the second floor of the parish office. The cost is free. To register, contact Jane Zingelman: jtzing@gmail.com.