

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

WWW.STFRANCISALLENTOWN.ORG

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM: @STFRANCISALLENTOWN



November 30, 2025
First 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 November 30, 2025 is

*In Memory of
Deceased of Schwartz Family
By Phil and Marilyn Schwartz*

Floral Intentions

Floral intentions for in front of the Holy Family and the Sacred Heart can be offered in memory of a loved one or in honor of a living person(s), or an anniversary of marriage. It is our wish to beautify the altar with your spiritual intention(s).

A donation can be made for live flowers to be placed in front of one statue for \$30.00 or \$60.00 for both places of honor. Names of those whom flowers are for and who they are from will be announced in the bulletin. Please call the church office with your intention, date requested and name of donor (610)-433-6102.



Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will meet on Monday, December 1st at **5:30 PM (note new time)** in Heritage Hall. Enter through the Cedar Street ramp. For more info., call Michelle at 610-737-9469.

Choir Schedule

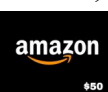
The choir will rehearse on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30 PM in the **DAILY MASS CHAPEL**, and they will sing on Sunday, December 7th at 8:30 AM Mass AND sing Christmas Carols at the Parish Breakfast!



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.



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 1, 2025

Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

7:00 PM Dorothy Najpauer

Tuesday, December 2nd

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

8:00 AM Samuel Anzalone

Wednesday, December 3rd

Saint Francis Xavier

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37

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

Thursday, December 4th

Saint John Damascene

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

8:00 AM Eleanor Bonkiewicz

Friday, December 5th

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

8:00 AM Edward Donahue

Saturday and Sunday, December 6th & 7th

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

4:30 PM Sanctuary Memorial Fund Members

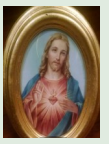
8:30 AM Ernie Schwab

10:30 AM Roger & Beatrice 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.



Recitation of the Rosary

The Rosary will be recited before all Masses the weekend of December 6 and 7, 2025. The Rosary begins about 25 minutes before each Mass.



St. Francis Senior Citizens Meeting

On Thursday, December 4th, the Senior Citizens will meet at 1:30 PM at The Parkland Restaurant for their Christmas luncheon. For info, call Madeline Klotz at 610-395-7386.



“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know which day your Lord will come.” (Matthew 24:42)
God calls us to be vigilant, ready to respond to His invitation. Could He be stirring your heart toward priesthood or consecrated life, to serve His Church with unwavering dedication? Stay awake to His call through prayer. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation office at 610-437-0755, or via email: jmaria@allentowndiocese.org.



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

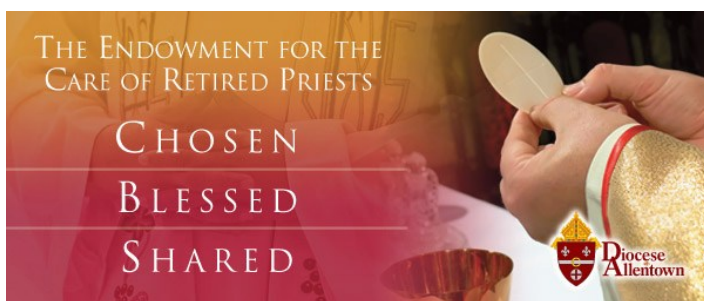
Stress-free Christmas shopping is here!

On Monday, December 1st, gift card orders to Raise Right Scrip Center will go in for Christmas gifts and shopping every two weeks until Christmas. Orders must be prepaid and in the parish office by Monday noon on December 1st and December 15th. Pick up by the following Friday or on the weekend after Mass. (Lists of available stores with order forms are in the Parish Office.)

Our church offers Online Giving as an additional option to support our ongoing mission, ministries and programs.



Your generosity and support make our church's work possible! Make donations, payments and pledges to our church via your mobile phone, smart device, or computer. Set up your gift today or consider an additional gift via our Online Giving link on your smart device. Go to our parish website at www.stfrancisallentown.org for information to sign up.



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 card 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.



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>.



Support College Students in Their Faith

NEWMAN MINISTRY

Studies show that over 80% of Catholic students disengage from their faith during these years. To address this, the Diocese has partnered with Newman Connection, a national nonprofit that connects graduating seniors with Catholic campus ministries—even at non-Catholic colleges and military bases. This ensures students have immediate access to the Sacraments and a Catholic community upon arrival. Participation is free and easy. Families, visit: [Newman Connection High School Outreach](http://NewmanConnection.org). Students register, Newman Connection notifies the appropriate campus minister, and then the campus minister will reach out to the student.

Mass of Remembrance at St. Ann's, Emmaus

The 15th Annual Holiday Mass of Remembrance will be held on Saturday, December 6th at St. Ann Church, Emmaus. Join us to celebrate the lives of your departed loved ones in the midst of the busy holiday season. All are invited to honor your deceased beloved in prayer, with their name/s read beginning at 12:45 p.m., followed by the mass. A light reception and fellowship will follow the mass in the school cafeteria. Enrollment of names may be done through the "Mass of Remembrance" link on the parish website: www.churchstann.org. For further information, please contact Mary Helen at 610-462-4551.

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!

Sanctuary Memorial Fund

We acknowledge this contribution in memory of:

Leann Bernini

by: Phil & Marilyn Schwartz

Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord

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 its 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 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.

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.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule Saturday and Sunday, December 6th & 7th

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	M. Fiorentino	M. K. McMahon	C. Stockdale
Eucharistic Ministers	F. & S. Koerbler, J. Fittipaldi	D. Issermoyer, S. & D. Gerancher, M. Issermoyer (ch)	E. Frankenfield, J. Young, D. Ruiz
Cantor	M. Maramag	Choir	G. Rodriguez
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	V. Herman, M. Joliffe	C. Piersza	J. & J. Burgos
Sacristan	J. Johnson	T. Jacob	T. Jacob
Rosary	M. Fiorentino	M. Issermoyer	Deacon B. Young

Monday, December 8th (The Immaculate Conception)

Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server	Cantor	Organist	Sacristan
L. Bauer	M. P. Tran	T. Bauer	A. Huynh	D. Badesso	L. Moser

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!



St. Monica Ministry Soup, Sip, Fellowship, and Holy Hour

A St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour of Petition and Hope will take place at St. Theresa Church (1408 Easton Road, Hellertown) on Tuesday, December 9th at 6:00 PM. Presiding will be Deacon Maurice Kelly, who serves at Assumption B.V.M. Parish, Bethlehem. Please come join in prayer for the return to the Church of Catholics who are no longer practicing the Faith. An informal supper will precede the Holy Hour. Enjoy soup, bread, and beverages in St. Theresa Parish's Friendship Hall, beginning at 4:45pm. There is no cost for the supper, but donations are accepted. For more information, please email Celeste Behe at StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com, or call/text 484-554-2022.

2025 Contribution Statements

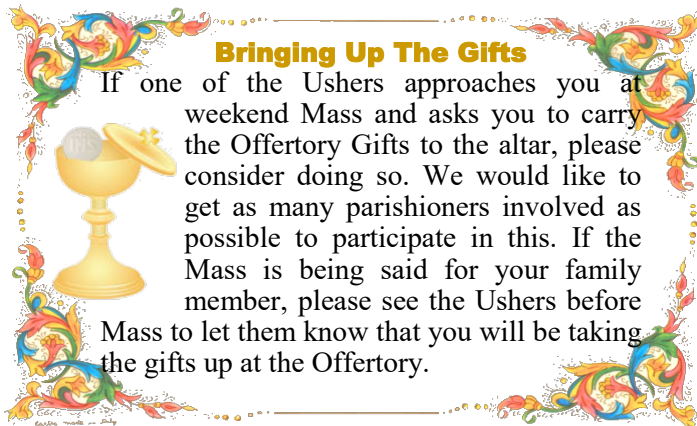
2025 Contribution Statements will be automatically mailed to all who donated \$250 or more, or less than \$250, by request.

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.

Bringing Up The Gifts



If one of the Ushers approaches you at weekend Mass and asks you to carry the Offertory Gifts to the altar, please consider doing so. We would like to get as many parishioners involved as possible to participate in this. If the Mass is being said for your family member, please see the Ushers before Mass to let them know that you will be taking the gifts up at the Offertory.

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

Snow Closings



Please note that our usual policy will be in place this winter for snow closings. If the Allentown School District is closed for snow, the Parish Office will also be closed for snow. If there is an hour or two hour delay for the school district, the Parish Office will also open an hour or two late. If the school district closes schools early due to snow, the Parish Office will also close early due to snow.