



I AM THE ALPHA & THE OMEGA CHRIST THE KING

Saint John Neumann Church

11/23/2025

601 East Delp Road * Lancaster, PA 17601

phone: (717) 569-8531 * www.sjnlancaster.org

Parish Office Hours

Mon. ~ Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Fridays

Sunday Masses

Sat. Vigil ~ 4 p.m.

Sun. ~ 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.

Reconciliation

Thurs. ~ 4:30-5:45 p.m.

Sat. ~ 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Or by appointment

Live Streamed Masses

Daily ~ 9 a.m.

Sat. ~ 4 p.m., Sun. ~ 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. ~ 9 a.m.

Thurs. ~ 9 a.m., 6 p.m.

Adoration

Wed. ~ 12-4 p.m.

Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:45 p.m.

Thurs. ~ 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Very Reverend Daniel F. X. Powell, V.F.

Pastor ~ frdan@sjnlancaster.org

Reverend Clark Stiteler

Parochial Vicar ~ frstiteler@sjnlancaster.org

Reverend Michael Culkin - Substitute Priest

Deacon Peter Jupin ~ Permanent Deacon

pjupin@sjnlancaster.org

Deacon Michael Oles ~ Permanent Deacon

moles5@comcast.net

Tom Conner ~ Parish Manager

tconner@sjnlancaster.org

Kim Mikulski ~ Parish Secretary

kmikulski@sjnlancaster.org

Linda Gowarty

Youth Protection, Administrative Staff

lgowarty@sjnlancaster.org

Tonianne Bertel ~ Parish Health Ministry

tbertel@sjnlancaster.org

Kurt Kehler

Music Coordinator ~ kmk@pa.net

Nate Gulya

Director of Religious Education (DRE)

ngulya@sjnlancaster.org

Erin Houser ~ Assistant to the DRE

ehouser@sjnlancaster.org

Udoka Ugoagwu - Youth Ministry

YouthMinistry@sjnlancaster.org

St. John Neumann Catholic School

(717) 844-6100

Karen Henry ~ Principal

henryka@sjnschoollancaster.org

Lancaster Catholic High School

(717) 509-0315

President ~ Kyla (Morrison) Hockley '96

khockley@lchsydes.org

Principal ~ Sean Van Eman

svaneman@lchsydes.org



download myParish app - select our Parish after opening

Sacrament of Baptism

Parishioners who would like to have their child baptized at SJN are asked to go to the "How Do I?" tab on our website to personally schedule a date.

Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1:00 pm and Saturdays by request. At least one sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, age 16 or older, Confirmed, and must present a sponsor certificate if from another parish. A Baptism class is required if you have not completed one already. More information available on the website.

Counseling Services Available

Counseling services are now available at St. John Neumann by Kathy Birmingham, L.C.S.W. for a free-will offering. If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity or would like to schedule a time, please call Kathy at (717) 397-8647.

Are you planning a trip? Check out FindAMass.org and masstimes.org. With these tools, you can easily locate the most up-to-date Mass and sacrament times, as well as Catholic Church locations across the United States.

Mass Intentions

Sat., November 22

- 4:00 p.m. - Ray & Lucina Landis

Sun., November 23

- 7:30 a.m. - In Thanksgiving
- 9:00 a.m. - People of the Parish
- 11:00 a.m. - All Souls
- 5:00 p.m. - Theresa Casey

Mon., November 24

- 9:00 a.m. - Steve Cassidy

Tues., November 25

- 9:00 a.m. - All Souls

Wed., November 26

- 9:00 a.m. - Anne Morrison
- Neffsville - Special Intention ~ Dr. Leopoldo Vocalan, Jr.

Thurs., November 27

- 9:00 a.m. - Francesca Beatriz Castro
- 6:00 p.m. - **No Mass**

Fri., November 28

- 9:00 a.m. - **No Mass**

Sat., November 29

- 4:00 p.m. - Angela Ramig

Sun., November 30

- 7:30 a.m. - All Souls
- 9:00 a.m. - People of the Parish
- 11:00 a.m. - Fran Ryan
- 5:00 p.m. - Edward B. Steinmetz

Parish Events

Sun., November 23

- Following all morning Masses / Coffee & Donuts hosted by SJNCS / Social Hall
- Advent Candle Sales / Narthex
- Giving Tree Begins / Narthex
- Following Mass / Blood Pressure Screenings / Conference Room
- 10 a.m.~12 p.m. / OCIA / Library
- 6~8:30 p.m. / Youth Ministry / Youth Room

Mon., November 24

- 8:30 a.m. / Rosary / Church
- 9:30 a.m.~12 p.m. / Prayer Shawl Ministry / Conference Room
- 5:30~6:45 p.m. / Youth Choir / Church
- 7~8:30 p.m. / Choir Rehearsal / Church

Tues., November 25

- 8:30 a.m. / Rosary / Church
- 1~3 p.m. / St. Anne-Neumann Seniors / Social Hall
- 7~8:30 p.m. / K of C Officer's Meeting / Library

Wed., November 26

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- 8:30 a.m. / Rosary / Church
- NO Adoration

Thurs., November 27 ~ **Happy Thanksgiving**

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- 8:30 a.m. / Rosary / Church
- NO Confessions
- NO Adoration

Fri., November 28

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- NO Men's Bible Study
- NO Rosary
- NO Divine Mercy Chaplet

Sat., November 29

- Giving Tree Continues
- 2:00~3:30 p.m. / Confessions

Sun., November 30

- Giving Tree Continues
- NO Coffee & Donuts
- 6~8:30 p.m. / Youth Ministry / Youth Room



Last Week's Collection

November 16, 2025

Will be posted in a future bulletin.

Each parish in the diocese operates as an independent Charitable Trust. Contributions provided to our parish are used solely for the operation of our parish and its missions.

ParishSOFT
by Ministry Brands®

If you are interested in enrolling in ParishSoft Giving, please visit our webpage and click on the Donate Now Tab or scan this QR Code. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gowarty at 717-569-8531.



Thank you for your generosity!

2025 Diocesan Annual Campaign Pilgrims of Hope

Goal	\$ 223,042
Total Pledged to Date	\$ 187,917
Total Cash Received to Date	\$ 187,067
Outstanding Goal Balance	\$ 35,975



Our Christian Community Welcomes

Collins Elizabeth Dever

Mac James Dever

*For by one Spirit we were all baptized
into one body...*

“Love God with all your being, and love others as I have loved you.” His love is selfless, compassionate, forgiving, and unconditional. He is a King with a saving and liberating mission: freeing us from all types of bondage, enabling us to live peacefully and happily on earth, and promising us an inheritance in the eternal life of heaven.

Vocations Corner

Adoration for Vocations to the Priesthood
every Thursday 6:30~7:30pm

Solemnity of Christ the King



"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Luke 23:42)

On this Feast of Christ the King, reflect on His reign over your life. Is He calling you to serve His kingdom as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Joshua Weaver, Vocation Director, at (717) 657-4804 or email him at frjweaver@hbgdiocese.org.

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Be Thankful

Be thankful for home

Be thankful for food

Be thankful for birds that fly

Be thankful for sleep

Be thankful for flowers

Be thankful for clouds in the sky

Be thankful for friends

Be thankful for rain

And the rainbows that

follow close by



phillipmartin.info



SUNDAYKIDZ

By Aileen Fisher

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Advent Wreath

As Advent draws near, we are inviting families to assist in lighting the candles before each Mass. If your family is interested in participating, please scan the QR code below to sign up.



**Please remember our
neighbors in need.
Help us to help them.**



You can now use our new website for donations. Use the QR code or go to www.sjnconfsvdp.org and click on the **DONATE** button in the upper left corner.

Thank you.

Daily Readings for Nov 24-29, 2025

Monday

Dn 1:1-6, 8-20
Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56
Lk 21:1-4

Thursday

Dn 6:12-28
Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74
Lk 21:20-28

Tuesday

Dn 2: 31-45
Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61
Lk 21:5-11

Friday

Dn 7:2-14
Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81
Lk 21:29-33

Wednesday

Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67
Lk 21:12-19

Saturday

Dn 7:15-27
Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87
Lk 21:34-36

Readings for Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Hymns for Sunday, November 23, 2025

Entrance: Crown Him With Many Crowns

Prep of the Gifts: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Communion: Unless a Grain of Wheat

Recessional: Rejoice The Lord Is King

Extraordinary Minister Training

Deacon Peter Jupin will hold two sessions for Mandate Training of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. He will hold a morning session on Tuesday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to Noon in the Social Hall. There will also be an evening session on Wednesday, December 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please call the Parish Office.



St. John Neumann Conference

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Happy Thanksgiving

O, heavenly Father,
I thank you for food and drink,
and remember those that are hungry and thirsty.
I thank you for my health,
and remember those with no healthcare.
I thank you for my friends,
and remember those who are lonely.
I thank you for my home,
and remember those who are homeless.
I thank you for heat and lights,
and remember those living in cold and darkness.
May these remembrances stir me to service,
that your gifts to me may be used for others.

Welcome

New Parishioners

Tim & Gina Tran

Chris Richards

Ibrahim & Prudence Ouedraogo and Children

Joe Miller

Rachel Houser

Lisa & Joshua Hoffman and Children

Barbara Gerz

Alyssa Carte

Nino & Suzanne Bennici

Lauren & Alex Krug



Gift Giving tags are now available in the Narthex. The program is coordinated by the SJN Knights of Columbus and helps to bring Christmas to those who otherwise might not receive anything during this special time of year. Help to bring joy to those less fortunate by taking a tag and purchasing the suggested gift or gift card on the tag. Wrap the gift and attach the tag and return it to the table in the Narthex on or before

December 7th. The gifts will then be distributed to the appropriate agency. Please do not take a tag unless you intend to return it with a gift or gift card! Gift cards should be placed in an envelope with the tag attached to it and then placed in the offertory box. The \$25 gift cards for Target, Walmart, Giant and Weis Markets can be purchased in the church office. Buying them through the church office benefits the church school. Thank you

Parish Health Ministry (PHM)

Psalm 107:1

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever!”

We began November with All Saints and All Souls Days, honoring those who have gone before us in faith. Their lives remind us that gratitude is not just for what we have, but for who we’ve loved, learned from, and continue to carry in our hearts. Gratitude is more than a feeling; it’s spiritual practice. Whether we’re celebrating abundance or navigating uncertainty, giving thanks helps us recognize God’s presence in every moment. It softens anxiety, strengthens community, and opens our hearts to His grace.

Simple ways to practice gratitude this month:

- Light a candle and name one blessing each evening.
- Write a note of thanks to someone who’s supported you.
- Keep a “gratitude journal” with daily reflections.
- Offer a prayer of thanksgiving before meals, even simple ones.

As we prepare and gather for Thanksgiving, let’s remember that gratitude isn’t confined to one day. It needs to be a way of life. A lens through which we see the sacred in the ordinary. Whether around a full table or in quiet solitude, we are invited to give thanks.

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1Thessalonians 5:18

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MEAL MINISTRY

Our Meal Ministry is looking for additional volunteers to prepare a simple, nutritious meal for families managing an immediate health issue, recovering from surgery, or a new addition to the family. As a volunteer, you have the flexibility to choose when you can assist and what you would like to prepare. The ministry will send out a meal train sign-up link with details on the days meals are needed, of the family’s likes and dislikes as well as allergies. Please prayerfully consider assisting in this ministry. We presently have a couple of individuals who would benefit from extended meals and we would like to meet their need. If interested or have questions, call Tonianne at 717-569-8531.

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THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

As we begin to plan for our own family gatherings this Thanksgiving, let’s remember those who are alone or in need of food. PHM has prepared 20 Food baskets. If you or someone you know would benefit from a food basket, please notify PHM immediately so we can offer a food basket at 717-569-8531. Thank you to all for your donations of Turkey Breasts and Turkeys.

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PHM has several Wheelchairs, Rollators and Transport chairs to lend out should you need any of these items to make the holiday more accessible for family and friends. Please call Tonianne at 717-569-8531 to coordinate a pick up time.

Let Us Give Thanks

What a blessing to be able to share a few thoughts with you on Thanksgiving Day!

Our Gospel begins with Jesus walking to Jerusalem, minding His own business, when ten lepers approach Him as he enters a village. They shout from a safe distance, “Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!” Jesus is touched by the encounter and proceeds to grant their request.

But He did not heal them in that instant. Instead He told them to go show themselves to the priests. Why would He say that? Because Mosaic law indicated that if someone was healed they had to go show the priest. The lepers did as they were told and while they were on the way, discovered that they were healed. Nine of them continued on their way but one went back to thank Jesus, falling at His feet. And there He remained until Jesus said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”

Can you put yourself in this story? Have you asked Jesus for a favor and He didn’t grant it right away, but “as [you] were going” you noticed He had granted it to you in His time and in His way? When will we realize and fully trust that He sends us these graces at exactly the right time? Do we get distracted and forget to thank Him? It happens all the time. The enemy does not want us to be grateful.

Have you ever experienced a time when you didn’t even ask for help (and perhaps didn’t realize you needed it) and God sent it to you anyway? Perhaps on this day we have set apart especially to give thanks, we can reflect about all the ways God has surprised us with His gifts over the years. And then we can offer up a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for His generous and merciful love.

Serving with joy!

By Deacon Dan Schneider



Remember the Sick of our Parish ~ Especially

Hans Deatruck, Jeanette DiCostanzo, Dennis Downey, Michael Jurasinski, Jeff Lamp, John Perozich,



PRAY

Linda Philbin, Dick Savicky, Bob Sugra, John Viscardi, Bill White, Dennis White, and all those in the Prayer Circle/Chain.



As an authentically Catholic community, we welcome and value each person's giftedness while inspiring growth in Truth, Wisdom, Faith & Virtue. We exemplify Christ's love in service to others.

This Week at SJNCS

Happy Discover Catholic Schools Week! Stop by "Coffee & Donuts" where SJNCS will be celebrating Discover Catholic Schools Week. Then, pick up your coffee & donut and head over to the school to see the new Office Space & STEM/ART room - celebrating the completion of the first phase of the Further in Faith Campaign! And, be sure to make a stop at the "construction beam" and sign your name! You'll be leaving your mark on the future and will be a permanent part of the new gym!

Thank you to all of our alumni, parents, past parents, parishioners and everyone who supported SJNCS in this year's ExtraGive! You are remembered daily in our school prayers!

Tuesday is an 11:30 am Early Dismissal for SJNCS as we begin our Thanksgiving break. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday afternoon & Wednesday morning.

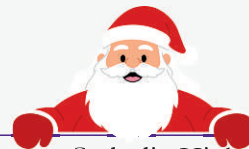
Classes resume on Monday, Dec. 1.

The faculty and staff of SJNCS wish all students, parents and parishioners a very happy, relaxing and peaceful Thanksgiving.



Lancaster Catholic High School

Breakfast with Santa at
Lancaster Catholic High School!



Join the Lancaster Catholic High School Fine & Performing Arts Department for a festive morning of fun at Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 6, from 8:30–10:30 AM in the Sursum Corda Student Commons. Enjoy a delicious breakfast plus activities, crafts, games, and pictures with Santa.

Tickets:

- Adults & children over 2: \$12
- Children under 2: Free

Purchase tickets online at www.lchsyes.org/fpa.

Questions? Email madams@lchsyes.org.

FORMED

Who is Jesus Christ? w/ Sr. Bethany Madonna | SEEK23
Sr. Bethany Madonna from the Sisters of Life dives into the truth about who Jesus Christ is. Discover the love of Jesus for yourself and listen to Sr. Bethany Madonna!

Our St. John
Neumann
Parish

Further in Faith

Please join us for an

Open House

celebrating the completion of the
St. John Neumann Catholic School addition.

Sunday, November 23
after the morning Masses

Pick up your coffee & donut in the Social Hall where SJNCS will be celebrating Discover Catholic Schools Week. Then head over to the school to see the new Office Space & STEM/ART room and celebrate the completion of the first phase of the Further in Faith Campaign!

On your way over, be sure to make a stop at the "construction beam" and sign your name! You'll be leaving your mark on the future of SJN & will be a permanent part of the new gym!

SJN & SJNCS

FOLLOW US DURING CONSTRUCTION

Watch the walls go up, the windows go in and the doors get set to open!

Pictures updated on the school website (sjnschoollancaster.org) or follow us on Facebook & Instagram

Happening Soon...



Fr. Dan is planning a mission trip to St. Francis of Assisi, our sister parish, in El Factor, Dominican Republic. April 6-13, 2026

If you are interested, or would like more information, please email

Fr. Dan at frdan@sjnlancaster.org.

THE EPIPHANY ITALIAN MASS SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 AT 12:15 PM SAINT PATRICK CATHEDRAL

212 State Street, Harrisburg
Reverend Joshua Brommer, Celebrant
Please join us for the Holy Mass

Italian reception after Mass
For information please contact:
Maria DiSanto at 717-554-5698,
disanto1@comcast.net

or Mariella Amato at 717-278-9420

Sensory-friendly Mass - December 7

Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Hershey, will offer its next Sensory-friendly Mass on Sunday, December 7 at 2:00 pm in the Main Church (359 W. Areba Ave., Hershey). The Mass will include dimmer lighting, no music, and a shorter homily among other adaptations to promote a fully inclusive environment. Every effort will be made to accommodate all in attendance, and all behaviors are welcome. For more information please contact the Parish Office at 717-533-7168 or Office@stjoanhershey.org. Thank you.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's solemnity, the final feast of the Church year, is a youngster as feasts go. In 1925, Pope Pius XI was distressed by global political upheaval and the de-Christianizing of society. That year was a "Holy Year," keyed to the sixteen hundredth anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, when the words "and of his kingdom there will be no end" were added to the Creed. The Pope explained that although most feasts had developed over many centuries, the Church sometimes provided a new feast to address new needs. He pointed to the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, showing Christ's love and compassion in a time when many people embraced a cold and gloomy spirituality. Originally on the last Sunday of October, in the late 1960s the solemnity of Christ the King was moved to the last Sunday of the year. Fresh from baptism's waters, we are anointed with chrism "as Christ was anointed priest, prophet, and king." This feast is a key to our identity. On this feast, we recognize Christ as a king who breaks the usual mold of kingship, and who shapes his kingdom with our hands, our words, our deeds of love and service.

—James Field

Faith Formation Spotlights

Meet Our Catechist: Jennifer Steranko

We're excited to welcome Jennifer Steranko to our kindergarten classroom this year! Jennifer is a proud mom of two girls, ages 3 and 5, and works as a program director for a therapy company, where she draws on her experience as a physical therapist assistant.

She loves to stay active—biking, walking, and working out—and enjoys relaxing with a good book. We're so glad to have her warmth and enthusiasm as part of our parish community!

If you would like to register your family for Faith Formation, email ngulya@sjnlancaster.org.

Lancaster Catholic High School is aiming to expand the educational opportunities for our students in the Multimedia Learning Center. We are asking for alumni authors, graphic designers or broadcasters who would be willing to provide examples of their work for display or come in and speak with our students about careers in those fields. Email Jordan Fritsch '19 at jfritsch@lchsyehs.org or call 717-509-0313.

St. Anne-Neumann Seniors

Please join us on Tuesday, November 25th for St. John Neumann Seniors general meeting and travel update.

Sign in the Narthex 12:30-1 p.m. Meeting starts in the Social Hall at 1 p.m. Finishes at 3 p.m. There will be a \$3 admission donation.

Our guest speaker will be Elaine Carrigan, RN, BSN, a graduate of LCHS, Class of '78, and a member of St. John Neumann. Elaine will be talking about "Navigating the Healthcare Maze." Her talk should help you understand your options as seniors and give you peace of mind as you are aging.

In addition to Elaine Carrigan, we will have a special guest speaker - Maureen Fitzgerald.

Maureen will give her presentation titled, "Journey of Hope," her spiritual experience of thanksgiving honoring her apparition of the Virgin Mary in Medjugorje.

Refreshments / desserts will be served. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

If you have any questions, feel free to call Gina White at 717-569-9364.



Pray with us on Hallow this Advent

A note from CEO Alex Jones

Advent is just 1 week away, and by the time it starts, many of us might feel like we're already out of breath. Full calendars, shopping lists, limited resources, not enough time. And beneath it all, there might be an even deeper suffering we're carrying in our hearts, whether it's complex family dynamics, financial struggles, unfulfilled desires, or even the loss of a loved one.

That's why this year, I'm absolutely thrilled to announce the theme for this Advent Pray25 challenge as Be Still. This Advent, we invite you to discover deeper stillness amidst the chaos of the holiday season, just as Mary did that first Christmas. Join millions around the world as we dive into the story of the Nativity through reflections on the infancy narratives, powerful excerpts from **The Reed of God** by Caryll Houselander and **The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry** by John Mark Comer, and moments of silence and contemplative prayer. Join us in this 25-day journey, starting December 1!

Finding Fiat

Kids Advent Challenge Announcement!

If you're hoping to spend more time in prayer with your family this Advent, you don't want to miss our incredible Kids Advent 2025 challenge: Finding Fiat. We'll journey with young Grace Brumley, who some of you may know from our popular kids' series Saints Alive, while she prepares for the role of Mary in her school's nativity play!

Did Your \$1 Hallow Trial Expire?

If you currently have a Hallow premium subscription (or \$1 trial) and would like to renew, our Hallow Parish Partnership is offering a 25% discount on a premium subscription annually for the duration of our Hallow Parish Partnership. To redeem this, follow these instructions:

1. Cancel your current Hallow subscription.
 - a. Open your Hallow app. Go to the "Me" tab > Settings > Subscription > Cancel my Subscription.
2. Go to [Hallow.com/redeem](https://hallow.com/redeem).
3. Enter code: **GrowthSub25**
4. Follow the steps to get your discount.
5. Enjoy your Hallow premium subscription, and don't forget to join our parish page on Hallow!
 - a. Open the Hallow app
 - b. Go to the community (church) tab at the bottom of your screen
 - c. Select "Join a Church" and search for our parish by **typing exactly "Saint John Neumann Parish."**
 - d. Start praying with the parish!

Ministry Team Members

Are you a member of a ministry team at SJN and interested in a premium Hallow account? Please reach out to Erin Houser at the parish office or email ehouser@sjnlancaster.org to ask for access. Premium accounts are available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Faith Formation (Religious Education) Students and Families

If you are a registered parent or student in our Faith Formation Program and would like to obtain a premium Hallow subscription, please email ehouser@sjnlancaster.org to get your account started.

Customer Support

If you have any issues getting someone set up on the app, please reach out to parishsupport@hallow.app. Hallow has an incredibly talented support team that responds to parish partners with super high priority. You may also direct inquiries to Erin Houser at the parish office, ehouser@sjnlancaster.org.

Sacred Silence

Have you ever been falsely accused and felt you did nothing to deserve the blame? In today's Gospel, one criminal rebuked another, saying, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly...but this man has done nothing criminal." What reaction do you have when faced with false accusations? Anger? Denial? Frustration? Hopelessness? Acceptance? In this Gospel, Jesus and the redeemed criminal provide a great example of how to handle adversity when a situation hits you hard.

Jesus was nearing the end of His time here on earth, yet He focused on saving one more soul before reuniting with the Father. This selfless act shows us that regardless of life's circumstances, there will always be someone there to help us through. That Someone is Jesus Christ. The redeemed criminal knew he would be together with Jesus in heaven because of His words. Then he spent time in sacred silence, letting the love and mercy of God wash over him.

When do we experience sacred silence? We see several examples within the Mass. During the Penitential Act, we silently acknowledge our sins. Immediately after that, the Priest says, "Let us pray," and the momentary silence serves as a doorway for us to speak to the Lord and for Him to fill us with His love and mercy. After the homily, we also take a moment of silence. I always ask the Lord to fill my heart and soul with the wisdom from the Gospel and the priest's words.

Do you experience sacred silence in your daily life? How does it feel within you, and how do you accept it? Another example that comes to mind is sitting with Jesus in Adoration. When I spend an hour in silence it fills me with love, understanding, and a genuine connection with Him. I realize, though, that many times I miss the opportunity for silence and quickly move on to the next action I need to take.

Sacred silence is there when I realize that Jesus is always present, no matter what. He wants to tell me it will be alright, and to rely on Him and His will. It is when our hearts are united with His in a moment of pure love and there's a peace that fills us. We cannot go wrong when we choose to spend time in sacred silence.

By Marti Garcia

This Week on FORMED

Sacred Art: Christ the King

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they explore Catholic theology through the lens of Sacred Art. In this episode, they discuss the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.





Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, December 6

8:00am-2:00pm

The Women's Auxiliary of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church will host its annual Craft Show from 8:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday, December 6. The Church is at the intersection of Rt. 741 & 999. The Show will feature handmade craft items by over 50 Vendors, baked goods, food and drinks. Admission is free.



LOURDESHOUSE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Urgent Need:
Due to possible WIC and SNAP benefit disruptions, many of our moms may not have access to formula or food this month.

We are in immediate need of:

- Baby Wipes
- Baby Formula: Similac Advance, Similac 360, Similac Sensitive, Enfamil Nutramigen

Additional Needs:

- Nonperishable food items
- Prepared meals for mothers and babies

Drop off:
120 Willow Rd, Hbg 17109
717-412-4865
jdobinson@cchbg.org

Together, we can ensure every mother and baby is cared for during this difficult time.

Local Advent Penance Services

Throughout Advent	Our Lady of Lourdes, New Holland	Saturdays 4-4:45 p.m. & Sundays 9:15-10:15 a.m.
Mon., December 1st	Sacred Heart, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Sun., December 7th	Holy Trinity & St. Peter's (Combined at St. Peter's, Columbia)	4:30 p.m.
Thurs., December 11th	Our Mother of Perpetual Help	7 p.m.
Fri., December 12th	St. Peter's, E-Town	7 p.m.
Sun., December 14th	St. Philip the Apostle	2 p.m.
Sun., December 14th	St. Mary's, Lancaster	6 p.m.
Mon., December 15th	Mary, Mother of the Church	7 p.m.
Tues., December 16th	St. Catherine of Siena, Quarryville	7 p.m.
Tues., December 16th	St. Leo the Great, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Wed., December 17th	St. Joseph, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Thurs., December 18th	St. John Neumann, Lancaster	7 p.m.
Mon., December 22nd	St. James, Lititz	7 p.m.

Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro (1891-1927)

November 23

Graham Greene's classic *The Power and the Glory* immortalized Mexico's persecuted Church of the 1920s. But photographs of Father Pro—arms outstretched to image Christ Crucified, kneeling in prayer before the firing squad, crumpled dead on the ground—vividly, visually remind us that not long ago, not far away, the faith we take for granted cost everything! Born to a mining family, Miguel became a Jesuit and was sent to study Catholic labor movements in Belgium in preparation for evangelizing Mexico's workers. But he returned to find a Mexico determined to annihilate Catholicism, and, like priests before him during Roman persecutions, England's Reformation, and in China today, ministered secretly to an "underground Church" until apprehended and sentenced to the firing squad. In his final moments, Father Pro blessed his executioners, forgave his enemies, and shouted: "Viva el Cristo Rey!—Long Live Christ the King!" his defiant, dying proclamation of ultimate, transcendent loyalty. Father Pro's martyrdom reinvigorated that beleaguered Church, whose countless faithful, never again afraid, would throng John Paul II when he visited Pro's beloved Mexico fifty-two years later.

—Peter Scagnelli



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