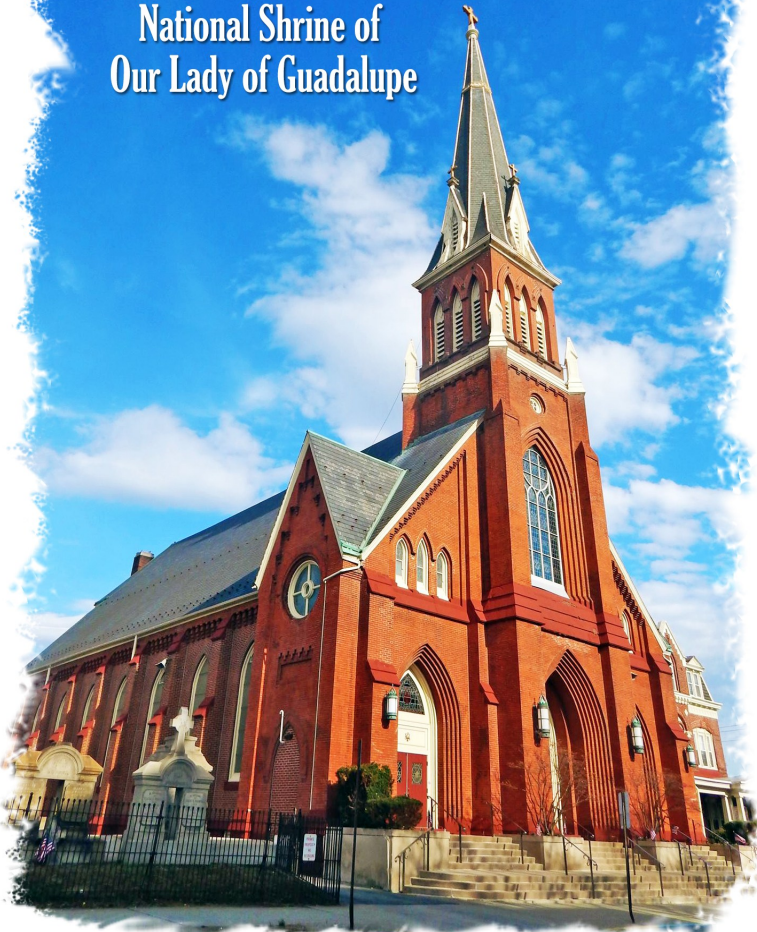


# Immaculate Conception BVM Church

ALL TO JESUS THROUGH MARY, THE PATRONESS OF OUR PARISH

National Shrine of  
Our Lady of Guadalupe



*The Baptism of the Lord*  
**JANUARY 11, 2025**

**501 Ridge Avenue, Allentown, PA 18102**

**Rectory:** (610) 433-4404 **Email:** icallentown@gmail.com

**Web:** immaculateconceptionallentown.org

**Social Media:** facebook.com/ICallentown

## BAPTISM

Sundays at 2:00 PM. Arrangements must be made well in advance at the rectory. Sponsors require their pastor's certification for eligibility as practicing Catholics. Parents and sponsors must attend one preparatory session prior to the Baptism.

## MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made **six months** in advance. Couples are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program.

## MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Urgent calls are accepted at **any time**. Arrangements for Communion calls should be made by calling the rectory. On being admitted to any area hospital, please give the parish code #111.

## SERVED BY

**Rev. John M. Gibbons**  
*Pastor*

**Rev. David J. Kozak**  
*Assistant*

**Mr. Richard Benkovic**  
*Permanent Deacon*

**SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**  
**Mass & Novena** *Mondays 8:00 AM*

**MUSIC MINISTRY**  
**Mr. Brian Rupnik**  
*Director*

## PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Ms. Eileen M. Caffrey**  
**Rectory Office Hours** *M-Th 8:30 AM to 2 PM*  
*Closed Fridays*  
*Call (484) 554-5626 for emergencies outside office hours.*

## BULLETIN DESIGN & COPY

**Mr. Jaime H. Gallagher**  
**tbax915@gmail.com**

## MASS SCHEDULE

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Saturdays</b>   | <b>4:00 PM</b>   |
| <b>Confessions</b> | <b>3:30 to 4:00 PM</b><br><b>or anytime by appointment</b> |
| <b>Sundays</b>     | <b>9:00 AM (English)</b><br><b>10:30 AM (Polish)</b>       |
| <b>Daily</b>       | <b>8:00 AM</b>   |
| <b>Holy Days</b>   | <b>8:00 AM, 5:30 PM</b>                                    |

## PARISH REGISTRATION

New parishioners are asked to register at the rectory. Only registered parishioners in good standing can be authorized to be sponsors at Baptism and Confirmation and witnesses at weddings.

*Young adults of working age should register independently of their parents.*

Please notify the rectory if you change your address or move to another parish.

## CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Both of the Diocesan cemeteries offer above-ground entombment.

Traditional in-ground burial provides single or double-depth interment in each lot throughout the acres of the cemeteries.

### To Arrange for Christian Burial **Resurrection Cemetery**

547 N. Krocks Rd., Allentown, PA 18106  
*Phone:* (610) 395-3819; *Fax:* (610) 366-3713

### **Holy Saviour Cemetery**

2575 Linden St., Bethlehem, PA 18017  
*Phone:* (610) 866-2372; *Fax:* (610) 866-9277



## *The Baptism of the Lord* *January 11, 2026*

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."



### TODAY'S READINGS

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7**

This reading is a brief passage from the Songs of the Suffering Servant. The Servant will establish justice on the earth and open the eyes of those who live in darkness.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord will bless his people with peace.

#### **Second Reading: Acts 10: 34-38**

In this reading, Peter gives his first sermon to pagans. Asked by a Roman centurion to preach the Gospel to his household, Peter is initially astounded by the request, but after a dream, Peter preaches and baptizes the entire household.

#### **Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17**

After initially protesting his unworthiness, John baptizes Jesus. After the baptism, the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus and a voice said, "This is my beloved Son. My favor rests on him."

### READINGS for the WEEK

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Monday:    | 1 Samuel 1: 1-8; Psalm 116: 12-13, 14-17, 18-19; Mark 1: 14-20.            |
| Tuesday:   | 1 Samuel 1: 9-20; 1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mark 1: 21-28.           |
| Wednesday: | 1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20; Psalm 40: 2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mark 1: 29-39. |
| Thursday:  | 1 Samuel 4: 1-11; Psalm 44: 10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mark 1: 40-45.            |
| Friday:    | 1 Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22a; Psalm 89: 16-17, 18-19; Mark 2: 1-12.             |
| Saturday:  | 1 Samuel 9: 1-4, 17-19, 10: 1a; Psalm 21: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mark 2: 13-17.    |

### SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Wednesday: | Saint Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church |
| Saturday:  | Saint Anthony, Abbot                        |

#### **"Vatican For All" News App**

The Dicastery for Communication has released a free App entitled "Vatican for All" to provide information on the activities of the Pope and the Church in the world for people with sensory disabilities, as part of the "No One Left Out" project. It is available for free on the App Store and Google Play. Once the app is downloaded, click "impostazioni" then "seleziona lingua" then choose preferred language. The app otherwise defaults to Italian.

#### **2026 National March for Life**

Please consider attending the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Friday, Jan. 23. To learn more about this initiative, visit <https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/>. A bus from St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, departs at 7:30 AM. You may attend 6:30 a.m. Mass before departure. Cost is \$20 per rider. Please pay in advance to hold your seat. Checks should be made out to Sacred Heart Church and mailed to Andrew Azan 3rd, PO Box 3278, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Include your name, email, and mobile number.

#### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA & Our Lady of Martyrs in Fultonville, NY**

Join Bishop Schlert and Fr. Hoffa on Wednesday, April 15 to Thursday, April 16. Double occupancy \$249/pp which includes hotel & tax, round trip motor coach transfers, breakfast at hotel, boxed lunch on both travel days, Mass at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy and Mass at Our Lady of Martyrs. Call (570) 342-5790 today to secure your spot.

### HIS WORD TODAY

#### A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

*by Rev. William J. Reilly*

*Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ*

#### **The Baptism of the Lord** **January 11, 2026**

**"I the Lord have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand, I formed you and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring prisoners out of confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness... 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"**

The description from Isaiah, the words of Peter, describing Jesus "going about doing good," help us appreciate the scene of Jesus' meeting John the Baptist at the Jordan. They help us appreciate Jesus as He initiates His public ministry. He would quote Isaiah later in Nazareth describing more clearly His pending mission. We who live as children of the covenant, whose eyes were opened through our baptism, who have been freed from original sin and are pleasing to the Father, are now sent on our mission, the singular task the Lord has reserved and entrusted personally to me.

### PLEASE PRAY for the SICK

*of our Parish—for their health & spiritual consolation—and for their caregivers:*  
**Catherine Ball, Michael Begany, Matthew Behum, Margaret Boyle, John Canzano, Eileen Kelly, Freida Mercado, Mary Ellen O'Donnell, James Orlando, Christine Piripavel, Maddie Rivera, Fran Sniscak, Esther Van Billiard, and Evelyn Wichie.**  
*Please contact the parish office to add your loved ones to the Sick List.*  
*Our parish code is #111.*



## LETTER from the BISHOP

### ***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.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Saturday, January 10**

4:00 PM Catherine Gallagher

### **Sunday, January 11**

9:00 AM Immaculate Conception Memorial Society

10:30 AM Wladyslawa Dabrowska

### **Monday, January 12**

8:00 AM Beatrice & Michael Turczyn

8:30 AM Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena (English)

### **Tuesday, January 13**

8:00 AM Flavie Edouard

### **Wednesday, January 14**

8:00 AM Helen M. Shupp

### **Thursday, January 15**

8:00 AM Tori Case

### **Friday, January 16**

8:00 AM Deceased Priests of the Diocese of Allentown

### **Saturday, January 17**

4:00 PM Spiritual well-being of Cassandra Perez

### **Sunday, January 18**

9:00 AM Jay Radio; Kathleen & Edward Roxberry

10:30 AM Wladyslawa Dabrowska

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

### **Saturday, January 17**

4:00 PM Mary Ann Leone

### **Sunday, January 18**

9:00 AM Youssef Ibrahim

## SACRIFICIAL GIVING

***Christmas Collection: \$4,875.00***

***Week of 12/28: \$1,396.00***

***Week of 01/04: \$4,926.00***

## CELEBRATIONS

*Happy birthday to*  
**FATHER GIBBONS**  
(01/12)  
*and CINDY JANNY*  
(01/16)!



## The HUMOR CORNER

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(See Matthew 14:24-33)

YOU'VE PROVEN YOU WON'T DROWN, JESUS,  
BUT YOU STILL NEED TO SUIT UP AND  
COMPLETE THE REQUESTED DRILLS BEFORE I  
CAN PASS YOU