

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

300 West Pine Street
Palmyra, PA 17078
Phone: 717-838-3369



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Fr. Dijo Thomas, Pastor

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 2, 2025

Mass Schedule

(Also live streamed on YouTube at Holy Spirit Palmyra)

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm

Sunday Mass: 8:30am inside & 11:00am

Daily Mass:

Monday, Thursday: 9:00am

Wednesday: 6:00pm (Rosary 5:30pm)

Friday: 7:00am

Confessions: Sat 5—5:30pm; Wed 6:40—7:10pm

Adoration Chapel:

Monday: 10am—5pm

Tuesday: 6am—10pm

Wed & Fri: 12noon—5pm

Thursday: 10am—9pm

Saturday: 2am—9am & 7pm—9pm

Sunday: 12 noon—1pm & 6pm—10pm

For more information call 717-838-3369 x 111 or email adorers@hspalmyra.com.

Baptism: To schedule a baptism, contact our Parish office at 717-838-3369 or email church@hspalmyra.com.

Sponsor Forms: Certificates to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation can only be given to those who are registered and practicing members of the Parish.

Bulletin Deadline: Three weeks prior to publication. Please use the forms on our website for bulletin inserts, blurbs, or facility requests.

Benevolence: For financial assistance, please call 717-838-3369, x 112, and leave a message to set up an interview.

Staff

Clergy: Father Dijo Thomas, Pastor
pastor@hspalmyra.com; Ext 107

Deacon Jorge Reyes
deacon@hspalmyra.com; Ext 105

Financial Secretary: Brenda Poland
manager@hspalmyra.com; Ext 106

Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor: Becky Messimer
church@hspalmyra.com; Ext 109

Maintenance & Facilities: Joe Cesari
facilities@hspalmyra.com; Ext 103

Choir Director/Organist: Richard Druby
choir@hspalmyra.com; Ext 108

PREP:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Brenda Poland,
cgs@hspalmyra.com

Gr 1-6: Dr. Ann Marie Licata, prep@hspalmyra.com

Gr 7-8: Logan Zugay, confirmation@hspalmyra.com

Parish Council: parishcouncil@hspalmyra.com

Office Hours:

Monday: 9:30am—4pm

Tuesday: remote only for phone calls & emails

Wednesday: 12noon—6pm

Thursday: 8:30am—3:30pm

Friday: closed

OUR MISSION

To seek to know the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ; to celebrate together as a Catholic family of faith; and to share our gifts and talents in loving service to others.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day in the Catholic Church, marking the beginning of Lent, a season of repentance, fasting, and preparation for Easter. It is not a holy day of obligation, but Catholics are strongly encouraged to attend Mass and receive ashes as a sign of their commitment to conversion.

1. Importance of Ash Wednesday in Catholic Teaching:

A. Call to Repentance and Conversion: The ashes symbolize human mortality and the need for repentance (Genesis 3:19: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”). The Church calls the faithful to turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel (Mark 1:15). Lent is a journey of spiritual renewal, leading to the celebration of Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

B. Reminder of Mortality and Humility: The ashes serve as a visible reminder of the temporary nature of earthly life and the importance of preparing for eternal life. The Church encourages a spirit of humility, recognizing dependence on God’s mercy.

C. Spiritual Discipline and Self-Denial: Ash Wednesday begins a 40 day period of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, mirroring Christ’s 40 days of fasting in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11). We are called to detach from worldly distractions and focus on deepening our relationship with God.

2. Fasting and Abstinence (Canon Law 1251-1252)

Fasting (for ages 18-59): One full meal and two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal. Abstinence from Meat (ages 14 and older): No meat consumption, including beef, pork, and poultry. Exceptions: Those with medical conditions, pregnant women, and the elderly are exempt, but should practice other forms of penance.

3. Increased Prayer: We are encouraged to attend Mass, pray the Rosary, or meditate on Scripture.

4. Almsgiving: Acts of charity, such as helping the poor, are emphasized as part of Lenten discipline.

CALENDAR & INTENTIONS

The **Sanctuary Candle** will burn in loving memory of Paul Blantz, Jr. (From Carol Evans)

The **Chapel Candle** will burn in loving memory of Art Amelio, Sr. (From Art & Renee Amelio)

MONDAY, MARCH 3

Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27

9:00am Mass

† Robert Sikora

6:00pm Awaken Lenten Study

7:00pm Threads of Hope

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

3:15pm Cenacle

7:00pm Folk Group; Migrant Justice Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

6:30am Mass & Ashes

† John Russell

9:30am Awaken Lenten Study

3:45pm Mass & Ashes

For the Living Intentions of the Parks Family

5:00pm Legion of Mary

5:30pm Rosary

6:00pm Mass & Ashes

For the People of the Parish

6:40pm Confessions

6:45pm Women at the Well

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

9:00am Mass

† John Lubelski

10:30am Londonderry Village

† Jeanne Thompson

6:00pm Respect Life

7:00pm Sunday Choir

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15

7:00am Mass

† Joe Spear

3:00pm-7:00pm Fish Fry

7:15pm Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32

12noon Rosary at the Square

4:00pm Mass

† Arthur Amelio, Sr.

5:00pm Confessions

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

8:30am Mass

For the People of the Parish

9:30am CGS—6th Grade PREP

11:00am Mass

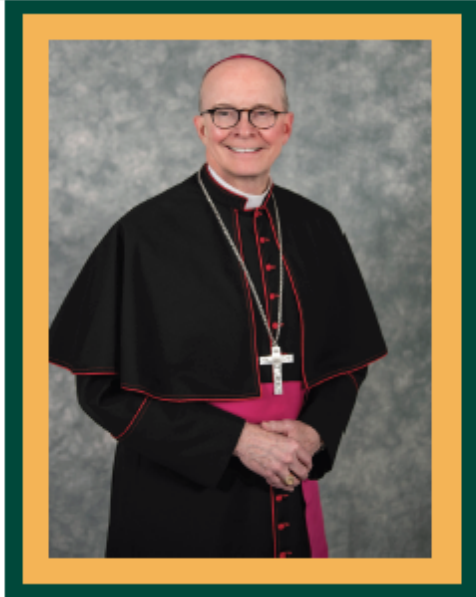
† Anna Fahnestock

TITHING: GOD’S PLAN FOR GIVING

Sunday Offering 2/16/2025 \$ 12,637
 Poor Missions \$ 205



Last week’s offerings will be reported in the next week’s bulletin due to an early submission deadline to our publisher.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we reflect on the accomplishments showcased in our annual Impact Report, I am grateful for each of you -- our dedicated parishioners, volunteers, and benefactors. Your support and generous donations to the Diocesan Annual Campaign sustains and enriches the Catholic Community in the Diocese of Harrisburg in profound ways.

This year's report is a testament to what we can achieve together. As Pope Francis stated: "The Christian cannot be satisfied with having hope; he or she must also radiate hope, be a sower of hope. It is the most beautiful gift that the Church can give to all of humanity..." (General Audience, December 11, 2024) Through your contributions, we are giving hope by providing a nurturing environment where our children can grow in faith, knowledge, and character; where college students can find peace and strength to face the cultural challenges found in our society; where a young man or woman discerning a call to religious life can find the resources and support needed to fully hear God's voice; where a homeless family can find shelter, hot meals, and support to get back on track. These, and so many other stories, highlight the impact your gifts make for the people in our Diocese.

Throughout the pages of this Impact Report, you will see more details of how your gifts are used by the Ministries, Programs, and Offices throughout our Diocese. Your support allows us to continue meeting our mission to "proclaim the goodness of God and to make truly present and active the one, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ." We accomplish this through our ministries and programs, working side by side with our parishes, Catholic schools, and Catholic Charities.

As we look forward to the new year, I invite you to continue this journey with us. There are still many challenges ahead, yet with faith and unity, we can overcome them. Together, may we strive to expand our outreach, deepen our engagement, and strengthen our ministries. Together, we can ensure that the light of Christ shines brightly in our community and beyond.

May God bless you abundantly, and may we continue to work together, united in faith, hope, and charity, to create a vibrant and welcoming Church for all in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior
Bishop of Harrisburg



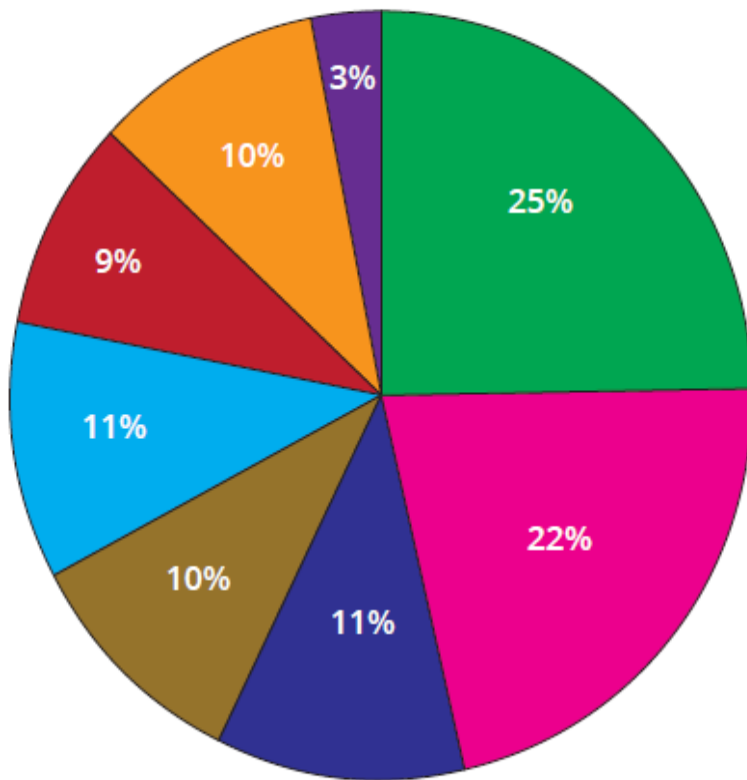
2024 Diocesan Annual Campaign

The Diocesan Annual Campaign (DAC) provides the vast majority of the financial resources needed to operate Diocesan ministries and programs, which in turn provide support for many parish level programs.

The DAC partners with our parishes and the faithful, working

together to strengthen the ministries and outreach, and further the mission of Jesus Christ in our Diocese.

In 2024, our goal was to raise \$7,442,245 to support these ministries. Below is a breakdown of how DAC gifts were distributed to these programs.



Clergy & Religious Life (25%) includes support for our seminarians and those in formation as Permanent Deacons, continuing formation for clergy and religious, the Priests Retirement Center and supplemental medical for our clergy.

Catholic Life & Evangelization (22%) includes support for our Multicultural, Campus, Youth and Young Adult, and Family and Respect Life Ministries, along with Parish ministry support.

General Secretariat (11%) provides for the Offices of the Bishop, Vicar General, and Divine Worship.

Communications (10%), including *The Catholic Witness*.

Educational programming (11%) supports the work of our Parish based Catholic schools and Catholic high schools, our Parish Religious Education programs, catechist formation, and the Principal's Academy.

DAC funding provides a portion of the financial resources needed for Catholic Charities (9%) to operate their more than 20 programs.

Canonical Services (10%) supports the Tribunal and Diocesan Archives.

Administrative Services (3%) Includes Youth Protection and other expenses.



Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Harrisburg provides help and creates hope for thousands of men, women, children and families in our communities. As the human services arm of the local Church, Catholic Charities is fighting poverty, impacting communities and improving the quality of life for our brothers and sisters through their core program areas: counseling support, immigration and refugee services, Evergreen House for Women, Lourdeshouse Maternity Home, Interfaith Shelter, adoption and foster care services, intensive family services, Paradise School and Lancaster Intensive Day Treatment.

Through the work of Catholic Charities, we understand the challenges that many are facing, whether these challenges are physical, emotional, or economic. When a family is homeless, Catholic Charities helps them find shelter. When someone is struggling to make ends meet, basic necessities are provided so they can live with dignity. When a client confronts a mental health crisis due to years of trauma, services are in place to help them recover. When a pregnant mom is scared and homeless, Catholic Charities gives security to her and her baby. When someone is dealing with addiction, Catholic Charities is there, walking with them on the road to recovery. All of this is done because Christ calls us to do so.

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Harrisburg helped over 2,000 clients encounter Jesus Christ by providing over 103,000 services, including:

- Opening a first-of-its-kind walk-in mental health clinic to serve the homeless
- Aiding 44 adoption clients and 39 foster care clients
- Assisting 370 women transitioning to the United States through the Empowering Women for Success
- Providing outpatient counseling services to 477 individuals
- Supporting 154 family members at the Interfaith Shelter, including over 2,590 meals
- Serving 112 students and family members at the Lancaster Intensive Day Treatment School
- Assisting mothers by providing diapers, clothing, and other baby supplies over 337 visits to the Lourdeshouse Maternity Home pantry
- Providing 280 hours of drug and alcohol counseling, 75 hours of group counseling, and transported clients to 365 12-step meetings through the Evergreen House for Recovering Women
- Conducting 11,340 hours of life skills training to students at Paradise School
- Counseling 99 children and their families for over 5,080 hours at York Intensive Family Services



Life & Dignity



The Office for Life and Dignity provides direction and support for Respect Life initiatives, ministries to Persons with Disabilities as well as health and pastoral care ministries. This office had a number of accomplishments in 2024, including:

Disabilities Ministry

- Hosted the annual Diocesan Camp at Kirchenwald, attended by 24 campers and 31 volunteers
- Coordinated the Diocesan Life & Dignity Mass, celebrated by Bishop Senior, and attended by 300 people
- Began a two-year mentorship program with the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities

Healthcare

- Made eight pastoral visits & supplied resources, including Bibles, for the hospitals & healthcare locations, residential programs, & nursing homes in the Diocese
- Launched the Saint John Paul II Prayer Community, designed to unite the prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of the homebound to Christ for the Church and one another
- Hosted two gatherings of hospital chaplains focusing on the topics "Pastoral Care of the Sick" and "Sacraments in the Hospital Setting"
- Supported development and renewal of Pastoral Care Agreements with healthcare providers in the Diocese
- Renegotiated and renewed contract agreements with state healthcare facilities to provide Sacraments and pastoral care to residents/patients

Care for Creation Ministry

- Hosted the annual Care for Creation Mass, attended by 250 people
- Hosted a *Laudato Si* retreat for 35 people at the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine



Respect Life Ministry

- Coordinated an overnight Eucharistic Adoration prayer vigil for the PA March for Life
- Hosted 70 Respect Life Ministry leaders to present the USCCB's *Walking with Moms in Need* Program
- More than doubled the financial support for Pennies for Life. 100% of the funds collected (\$4,227.66) were sent to five pregnancy resource centers

Mental Health Ministry

- Hosted a Mental Health First Aid workshop for 30 people
- Held "Be Not Afraid: Mental Health is a Pro-Life Issue" workshop for 25 people
- Helped establish five new mental health ministries, as well as a Diocesan Mental Health Ministry Committee



Faithful Citizenship

- Hosted "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" presentation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREP Registration 2025—26

Registration for the 2025—26 PREP year begins today. Registration forms and information will be sent home with the students attending in-person and are available near the bulletin board in the east end entrance hallway. If your child is currently not registered in our program, please come by the office to complete a registration form, or pick up a form near the PREP bulletin board.

Rosary Recitation during Lent

The rosary will be recited, during Lent, before all daily and weekend Masses beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 5. If you would like to lead the rosary, please contact Kathie at jimkathieb@comcast.net.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Please join us in the main church during Lent on Fridays, March 7—April 11, at 7:15pm as we walk through each station, recognizing the beauty and love that our Savior has for us.

Italian Mass at St. Joan of Arc Parish

St. Joan of Arc in Hershey will be hosting the Italian Mass with Reverend Joshua Brommer on Sunday, March 23, at 1:30pm. Through the generosity of the Collura and Manzella families they will have a traditional Saint Joseph Altar created in the social hall where the Italian Apostolate Ministry Committee will provide a dinner reception after the Mass. For information, please contact Maria DiSanto at 717-554-5698, or email her at disanto1@comcast.net. Or contact Mariella Amato at 717-278-9420.

Hersheypark Discount Ticket Offer!

Discount tickets to Hersheypark are available. Gate admission for Regular is \$90.80; our price is \$44.95 (ALL ages 3+) valid until January 4, 2026. You can add-on: Hersheypark Single Use Meal Deal Tickets for \$19.06 each, and/or a Parking Pass for \$26.00 pre-ordered or pay \$35.00 onsite. Tickets purchased in 2025 are valid for any 1 public operating day throughout the 2025 calendar year, but will not be valid past their expiration date. Refunds, extensions, or upgrades will not be offered. Orders must be received at the parish by Friday, April 25, 2025. Parishes will receive tickets on or before the week of May 19, 2025. Forms available on our parish website and on the narthex table.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR PARISH MISSION!

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Wedding Congratulations!

To **Becky Messimer** and **Brett Montefour**,
who were married
February 22, 2025.
May God bless them as they
begin their lives together!

Fish Fry 2025

Our annual Lenten Fish Fry starts this Friday, March 7. Dine-in, to go, and online curbside to go is available. Fridays: March 7, 14, 21, & 28 and April 4 & 11, from 3pm—7pm. Featuring N. Atlantic Haddock (Baked or Fried), crab cakes, shrimp, clam strips, pierogi, soup, & mac-n-cheese. To volunteer, please sign-up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60BOC4EADA629A3FA749225444-fish>, or send an email to fishfry@hspalmyra.com. We will need soda and water donations. Please drop off any donations at the church.

2025 DAC GOAL: \$118,700.55

You can send your donation directly to the diocese or make an online donation at <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/diocesan-annual-campaign/ways-to-give/>. Select Church of the Holy Spirit. Or visit our parish website for more information and links. Envelopes are available on the narthex table.

Lost and Found

Please take a moment to check the Lost and Found bin, located above the coat rack across from the restrooms. The last day to check the lost and found bin is March 9, 2025. We will donate the items after that weekend.

FROM OUR DISCIPLE MAKER SURVEY

Question: Scripture is the word of God?
Responses: 154

- ✘ 73% Strongly Agree
- ✘ 16% Agree
- ✘ 4% Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ✘ 4% I Don't Know

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 Saturday & Sunday
 March 8-9, 2025

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