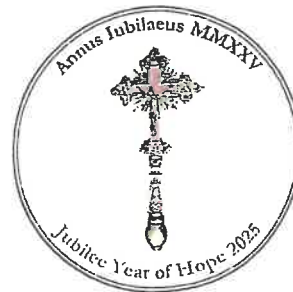




OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Mailing Address
POST OFFICE BOX F
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
18105-1538



11 August 2025

Memorial of Saint Clare

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are pleased to announce that, for the second consecutive year, we are partnering with Miller-Keystone Blood Center - the only community blood center in our region - to help strengthen and sustain a reliable blood supply, both now and for the future.

This year's program will once again honor Saint Januarius (Gennaro), the Patron Saint of Blood Banks. Our Diocese-wide blood drive will begin on his Feast Day, September 19, 2025, and run through December 16, 2025, one of the miracle dates of his blood liquification.

Last year's blood drive was a tremendous success, with many parishes stepping forward in faith and service. 571 units of blood were collected thanks to the generous participation of 43 parishes. We especially commend Saint Joseph the Worker, Saint Thomas More, and Saint Catharine of Siena for their outstanding success. The impact of this initiative was deeply felt across our communities, and we are truly grateful for the heartfelt response.

This year, we aim to build on that momentum and do even more.

- The critical need for blood donors cannot be overstated, especially as we continue to face a severe national and local blood shortage.
- Only 3% of the population donates blood - not enough to meet the demand. If just 1% more donated blood, shortages would be alleviated.
- 86% of current donors are aged 55 or older. We must inspire younger generations to adopt this life-saving habit.
- 25% of the blood supply is used by patients battling cancer. Blood is also used to help trauma patients, burn victims, and premature infants.

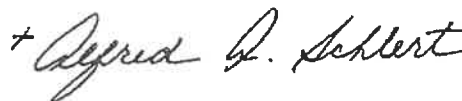
- Blood is perishable and irreplaceable—there is no substitute. The only source is from generous donors. Individuals can donate Whole Blood once every 8 weeks.

I urge each parish and school to embrace this initiative once again and to encourage full participation among your eligible parishioners and students. Together, we can support a vital community partner that serves 22 counties, including the five counties within our Diocese. Notably, Catholics are the largest denomination in these counties, yet remain underrepresented as blood donors. If more Catholics stepped forward, the impact on our community's blood supply would be profound. Let us approach this opportunity with enthusiasm and purpose.

Miller-Keystone Blood Center has provided detailed instructions and materials to help you successfully launch and manage this important initiative. They will track both individual parish or school contributions, as well as our cumulative impact as a Diocese.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to this life-saving mission. May God bless your efforts abundantly.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alfred A. Schlert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

✠ Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown



SAVING LIVES WITH

Saint Januarius
Patron Saint of Blood Banks

Donate blood September 19th - December 16th
and receive a St. Januarius medallion.



Miller-Keystone Blood Center and the Diocese of Allentown are teaming up to host a **diocese-wide blood drive in honor of Saint Januarius, the patron saint of blood banks.**

Parishioners are encouraged to donate blood at one of **MKBC's donor centers** **beginning on the Feast Day of Saint Januarius, September 19th, through December 16th**, one of the miracle dates of his blood liquification.

In addition to saving lives, all donors who provide their parish's Sponsor Code at the time of their appointment will **receive a Saint Januarius medallion, blessed by Bishop Schlert.** We will also have prayer cards available for those donors who already have a medallion from last year and would prefer a prayer card instead.

To schedule an appointment, scan the QR code or call 800-223-6667 ext. 2.

MKBC and the Diocese of Allentown are looking forward to working together to save lives in our community!

MKBC DONOR CENTERS

Bethlehem

1465 Valley Center Parkway

Allentown

1255 S. Cedar Crest Blvd, Suite 1300

Hamilton

Five City Center, 740 Hamilton St, Suite 120

Easton

3765 Nicholas St, Suite B

Reading

2745A Leicz's Bridge Road

Ewing/Trenton

400 Main Boulevard East, Suite 601



Holy Family Church

SPONSOR CODE #3310



800-B-A-DONOR

GIVEaPINT.org