SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

260 NORTH THIRD STREET • LEHIGHTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18235

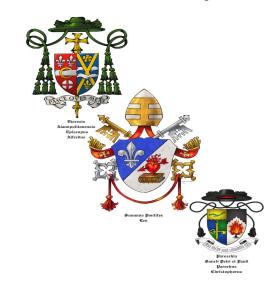
Rectory: 610-377-3690 **Rectory Fax:** 610-377-0721 **Email:** sspp@ptd.net **Website:** www.peterandpaulchurch.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/sspplehightonpa YouTube: Search under "Saints Peter and Paul Parish Lehighton"

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 October 2025

Father Christopher M. Zelonis Pastor
Deacon Joseph C. Wilhelm, Jr Deacon
Joseph T. Curnew, 856-472-1293 Cemetery Supervisor
James G. Logue, Jr., 570-413-3819Webmaster
Phil Liszka, 610-217-4768CYO President
Norine Onichimowski, 610-377-3690 Parish Secretary

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday from	9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Bulletin Deadline	Monday, 11:00 am



The Catholic Presence in Lehighton since 1850 + Established as a Parish in 1885

WORSHIP

Saturday Vigil4:00 pm
Sunday7:45 & 10:00 am
Daily Mass - M/T/Th/F 8:00 am
Holy Days As announced
Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 8:30 am—6:00 pm
First Friday6:00 - 9:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Thursday: 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm 30 minutes before Friday, Saturday and Sunday Masses.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: First Sunday of the month during the 10:00 am Mass. Call the rectory for registration and necessary preparations.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Call the rectory at least six months in advance of proposed wedding date for registration and any necessary preparations.

WILLS: Please consider designating SS. Peter & Paul Parish in your last will and testament so the blessings the Lord has given you can continue to build His Kingdom.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Will be issued to parishioners who are active & registered.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

SSPP Parish Religious Ed. Program Preschool through Grade 8 Sundays from 8:45 to 9:50 am Deacon Wilhelm, Director 610-377-3690 jcwilhelm60@gmail.com

ST. JEROME **REGIONAL SCHOOL**

Mrs. Amy Hannis-Miskar, Principal 570-668-2757 / sirschool.com

ST. JOHN NEUMANN **REGIONAL SCHOOL**

Dr. Christopher Heery, Principal 610-826-2354 / sinrschool.org

MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Fr. Robert T. Finlan, Principal 570-467-3335 / mariancatholichs.org

ST. MONICA MINISTRY

Mr. John Meier / 570-657-6966

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DAMIEN COUNCIL #598

Patrick Gallagher, Grand Knight 610-393-9470

MUSIC MINISTRY

Mrs. Josephine Noll (+2025) Mr. & Mrs. Carl J. Marzen Mr. James Logue

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Please call rectory for information or registration.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Mrs. Esther Meier, President 570-657-6738

SEVEN SISTERS / FASTING BROTHERS APOSTOLATE

Carol Tynan/ 570-249-0632

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. **DIRECT TELEPHONE**

800-791-9209

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

Pamela Russo, MSW, MS Secretary for Youth Protection prusso@allentowndiocese.org 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204

Saints Peter and Paul Parish of Lehighton is a welcoming Roman Catholic community that seeks to grow in love of God and neighbor through personal prayer, liturgical celebration, doctrinal formation, and merciful living.



- +Visitors: We're glad you're here! Please greet Father or Deacon after Mass.
- +We especially welcome little children and their families. Noise in church is a sign of hope and a motive for gratitude!
- +Please silence all noise-making devices out of respect for the Eucharist. Use your phone for religious apps and emergency communication. **WiFi: SSPP PARISH GUEST; password: presenttense**
- +Low-Gluten Hosts are available upon request; inform Father, Deacon, or an usher before Mass.
- +Restrooms: leave church by the side exit and enter the parish hall by the door closest to the school parking lot. <u>Changing tables available in both restrooms</u>. +Please take a Treasury of Prayer booklet from the pew. Donations toward future printings are appreciated.
- +Call or email the Rectory promptly with any information worth sharing. We'll do our best.
- +<u>ParishSoft Giving</u> (PSG) facilitates one-time and recurring donations thru checking acct, CC, PayPal Wallet, and Google Pay: https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/sspplehighton. Thanks also for assisting with the transaction fees.
- +Be alert to the possibility of monetary donations either by the traditional basket collection or in the box in our vestibule.
- +At the end of Mass, we pray three (3) Hail Marys and the Prayer to St. Michael, for peace & justice in the world & the Church.
- +Deposit your **used printer ink cartridges** in the designated box in the vestibule or bring them to the rectory during the week.
- +Families from the parish get together to pray the Rosary every third Friday of the month at 6:30 PM. Everyone welcome!
- **+Hospitalized or homebound persons** in need of pastoral care (Eucharist, Confession, Anointing), notify the rectory ASAP.
- +If you are **making any changes in residence or parish affiliation**, please contact the rectory with the relevant information.
- **+House blessings** gladly conducted by appointment.

+VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR, DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN:

Wendy S. Krisak-Kalamar + DIRECT #: 800-791-9209 + www.allentowndiocese.org/youth-protection The Diocese of Allentown extends the fullness of compassion to anyone who was sexually abused by a diocesan priest, deacon, or employee. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse: please contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information.

- +Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: To report that a bishop has abused: www.ReportBishopAbuse.org / 800-276-1562.
- +Rachel's Vineyard provides pastoral care & retreats for anyone who has experienced abortion & its effects. www.hopeafterabortion.com / 610-435-1541x373.
- +adlumenchristi.org promotes human dignity against the assault of pornography with resources and support for those who struggle with its use or those who love them.
- +Natural Family Planning information can be found at https://www.nfpoutreach.org/3.
- +Retrouvaille helps heal troubled marriages: www.HelpOurMarriage.org / 800-470-2230.
- +realtrue.org: The Catechism of the Catholic Church and other morsels of the Faith, presented for moderns.
- +www.CatholicCharitiesAD.org assists the needy throughout our diocese.
- +FreeWill is a free estate planning service: https://bit.ly/45vxydX. Remember our Diocese, parish, and schools.
- +Knights of Columbus Damien Council #598 & Msgr. Angelini 4th Degree Assembly #971 meet in our hall on first Tuesdays at 7 PM.
- +Seven Sisters Apostolate offers 1 hr of prayer each wk for a particular priest. Fasting Brothers fast 1 day/wk alongside a Sisters Holy Hour.

Holy Mass + TWENTY-NINTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, October 18 – St. Luke, Ev (Fst)

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6:30 PM Len Mikulski (Wife Sharon)

Sunday, October 19

7:45 AM pro populo

10:00 AM Madeline Marzen ((+)Bma & Grands Mary & Carl)

Monday, October 20 – Weekday

8:00 AM Len Mikulski (Wife Sharon)

Tuesday, October 21 – Weekday

8:00 AM **Timothy Griffaton** (Wife Christine)

Wednesday, October 22 – St. John Paul II, Po (OptMem)

Thursday, October 23 – St. John of Capistrano, Pr (OptMem)

8:00 AM **Joan E. Schlecht** (Joe & Diane Sheridan)

Friday, October 24 – St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bp (OptMem)

8:00 AM Leonard Mikulski (Paul & Margaret Carpenito)

Saturday, October 25 – BVM (OptMem)

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:00 PM George & Margaret Tkach (Ebbert Family)

Sunday, October 26

7:45 AM pro populo

10:00 AM **Stewart Alboucq** (Family)

Collection totals from 10/4-5: \$6937.42,



includes \$919.42 from PSG. From 10/11-12 \$5986.38 includes

\$192.38 from PSG.. Thank you for continuing to support the parish when weather, health, or circumstances are inclement!

<u>Sanctuary Candle</u> IMO Jan Nieradka, r/b the Family. <u>Flower Donation</u> IMO Miguel A. Gonzalez, Sr, r/b The Family. Donation toward the weekly Sanctuary Candle or toward sanctuary flowers may be made in person or via PSG. Requested candle offering is \$10; a flower arrangement usually costs around \$50.

Look for Jesus at <u>Eucharistic Adoration</u>, Thursdays from noon to 6 PM; Confession is offered from 5 to 6 PM.

HYMNS:							
	4PM	7:45AM	10AM				
Ent		576	410				
Off		559	687				
Com		696	342				
Rec		701	532				

Foundations of Faith: Ascension Press series on the Catechism: Twenty Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the hall. Come when you can.

World Mission Sunday: Oct 18/19

<u>Sat Vigil Mass on Oct 18</u> is at <u>6:30 PM</u> to accommodate the Halloween Parade.

Halloween Fish Fry: Fri, Oct 31 from 4 to 7 PM in the hall. Tickets \$15, available in rectory, or after Masses.

Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints (not obligatory this year): Sat Nov 1 at 8:00 AM

Father is hosting the Ascension series "Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church" on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Although the series has begun, please come whenever you can make it. We watch and discuss the 30-minute videos, hopefully ending by 8:30 PM.

To distribute Holy Communion to Catholics in local hospitals or nursing homes, or to donate rosaries or scapulars for their use, call Father or Nancy Berchtold (609-575-0599).

<u>Church Cleaners</u> for the upcoming weekend: <u>Raegan</u>. To volunteer for a week either by yourself or with an established crew, call Raegan at 484-464-7131.

On a date to be determined, we will be meeting to organize a parish <u>Safety and Security Committee</u>. Please let Deacon Joe know if you are interested in being part of this committee.

In connection with the annual Priests Convocation (Tuesday, Oct 28 – Friday Oct 31), the Diocese requests parishes to develop a <u>Parish Vocation Ministry</u> that will assist the pastor in promoting vocations to the ordained and consecrated life. Persons interested in this committee will be invited to a <u>workshop on November 22 at St. Mary's in Kutztown</u>. If you would like to become a part of this ministry, see Father Zelonis.

These two new committees (Safety & Security, Vocations) want our parishes to be "Safe and Sacred Spaces" where our young people can grow into the way of life God desires for them, with the support of their families and their parishes.

The 2026 Mass Book is now officially open for Masses and candle / flower requests; Several dozen Mass intentions have been slotted. Take heart of the following when you request a Mass for your loved one or desired intention:

More than one person can "have" the same Mass intention on the same day. As Canon and Diocesan Law stipulate, the priest will keep only one of the stipends (offerings) and send the other to the Diocese for the priest retirement fund and upkeep of Holy Family Villa, the Diocesan home for retired and infirm priests.

The standard Mass or sanctuary candle offering is \$10, but we refuse no request if unable to pay. Call the Rectory to reserve or use PSG.

We are grateful to all who turned out for the <u>Rosary Rally</u> last Saturday, and to Sheri Ann Hascin and the SSVDP who coordinated the luncheon. An event of this sort can grow, as can our devotion to the Blessed Mother!

Every third weekend of October (18/19), the universal Church observes <u>World Mission Sunday</u>. The associated collection supports places where the Church is young, vocations are growing, and missionaries are bringing Christ and His saving Gospel to the nations.

The Halloween Fish Fry is on Friday, Oct 31 from 4 to 7 PM in the hall. Your \$15 ticket gets you fresh haddock, French fries, stewed tomatoes, coleslaw, beverage, and dessert, to eat in or take out. Students who need any service hours, please call the rectory to volunteer at this parish event.

Fiscal Fancies: HIGHER PRIORITY **Grounds**: Replacement of sidewalk on Coal St. side (bid approved; next steps delayed); updates to the restrooms. Choir loft accessibility to be improved by railings. For the cemetery: resurfacing asphalt roads (bids continue). For the church: HVAC system (bidding underway). LOWER PRIORITY Parish Hall: drop ceiling with LED light fixtures. Grounds: LED Announcement Sign. Bidding underway: Replacement of Bilco doors and surrounding concrete on the church basement entrance; restoration of missing fascia on church façade; capping of soffit on rectory porch; realignment of downspout on convent front porch. Know anyone who'd want to bid on/contribute toward any of the above? Mention it to Father Zelonis, Deacon Joe, or Carl Marzen. You can help through our periodic fundraising events, with donations, and by remembering the parish and/or the Diocese in your will, investment distributions, etc.

SSVDP News



The Society of St. Vincent DePaul (SSVDP) is an international Catholic volunteer organization founded in Paris in 1833. The Holy Spirit was undoubtedly present in every founding member, with Blessed Frederic Ozanam a radiant source of inspiration. "Will we then remain motionless amidst a world that suffers and groans?" asks Frederic across the centuries. Members of SSVDP who are called "Vincentians" follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Vincentians serve in hope. All are welcome. For information call Esther at 570-657-6738. (From the "Rule" –capturing the heart of the Essential Elements of the Society: Spirituality, Service, and Friendship)

+SVDP Conferences exercise evangelical poverty in solidarity with those they serve, relying on the Providence of God through His people who are generous with what He gave them.

Conferences try not to hoard money by sending forth donations as they arrive.

The recent Clothing Drive netted \$1,267.40 from 6,337 pounds of clothing and other items. We are grateful for everyone's donations, especially the substantial amount of clothing left over from the Franklin Township Yard Sale.

Vincent's Closet makes available (only by appointment) the following donations we request from you: clothing for men, women, & children, especially as cooler weather approaches; personal hygiene items especially body wash, pump bottle soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, wipes, toilet paper, hairbrushes, hair ties, sunscreen, bug spray, dish soap, and sponges. We are especially in need of men's sneakers, all sizes. All these items can all go in the bin in the vestibule. As the cell phone has become a necessity for most of us, it is no different for the needy and homeless: we now welcome phone cards dropped off in appropriately marked envelopes. Please place all cash and card donations in the collection, at the parish office, or at the convent during current hours (M/W/F from 9 AM to 4 PM). Items such as dishes, glasses, pots and pans, cooking utensils, toys, small appliances, etc., we ask that you not place in the vestibule clothing bin but rather call Esther in advance (570-657-6738) to donate.

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS



SSPP CYO welcomes any elementary boys or girls from public, Catholic, charter, or home schools to take part in activities. We welcome volunteers and suggestions for events! For event information or registration, contact District 5 CYO Commissioner Phil Liszka

(**610-217-4768; phill@ptd.net**) or SSPP CYO Moderator Bill Keer (**484-560-4338; <u>bkeer@ptd.net</u>**)

The <u>Diocesan Spelling Bee</u> will take place on Sunday, Nov 9 at 1 PM in our parish hall.

New for this year is the <u>District 5</u>

<u>Spelling Bee</u> for <u>Grades 3-5</u> on

November 16 at 1 PM in our parish hall. Public, Catholic, and home school children all welcome;

please call Phil Liszka to register.

<u>PREP Families</u>: make sure to download the **Band** app and accept the invitation from Karen Paukovits to receive information and resources relevant to PREP.

<u>AscensionPress.com</u> once again serves as the source of our materials in Grades 1-8. Please take advantage of the online component to review and expand knowledge. Ascension has a wealth of video and printed resources for all ages.

Several of our parishioners attend – and several work for -our local Catholic schools (<u>mariancatholichs.org</u>, <u>sjrschool.com</u>, and <u>sjnrschool.org</u>). These people are the best "evangelizers" for the academic, artistic, and athletic excellence in our schools, all rooted in Catholic faith and mutual charity. Scholarship funds are available, especially for new transfers; you may be surprised at who qualifies. Consider donating such funds for a tax break (call the respective school FMI).

Boys Basketball grades 4 to 8: Sign up with Phil Liszka. Schedule comes out in October. We will play teams from Districts 1 & 2. Home games are Sundays at 1 PM at St. John Neumann Regional School Gym.

<u>Family Art Club:</u> First Fridays from 4:30 to 6 PM followed by <u>Eucharistic Adoration (Night Watch, First Fridays from 6 to 9 PM)</u>. You are God's work of art!

DIOCESAN NEWS



On Saturday, Nov 22 from 10 AM to 5 PM, the Diocese is holding a Youth Rally for Grades 9 through 12. Our parish Confirmandi are also welcome to this retreat to help them prepare for that great Sacrament. This day of inspiring presentations, heartfelt prayer, and uplifting music celebrates the One True Light, Jesus Christ, Whose love can reignite us. Bishop Schlert will offer the anticipated Sunday Mass at 4 PM.

The Commission for Men prays the "Monthly Rosary for Families" on their YouTube channel the third Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. Visit: www.menaliveinchrist.org/mens-rosary

BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC 2025 Getting closer to our goal!

	SSPP	Diocese
Goal	\$11,330	\$3,800,000
\$ Committed	\$9,855.88 (87.0%)	\$3,372,345,78 (88.7%)

\$ Collected	\$9,663.88 (85.3%)	\$3,262,158.05 (85.8%)
Donors/Regis.	52 /400 (13%)	9,051 /? (?%)
Average Gift	\$178.03	?

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown offers:

- Individual, marriage, and family counseling
- Pregnancy and parenting support (counseling, material assistance such as diapers, wipes, baby items)
- Supportive services (case management, material assistance, emergency rental assistance, referrals)

For info, contact **Jeremy Leidich at 610-435-1541 x5310.** *Services do not regard religious affiliation.



The new Marian Catholic site on LinkedIn facilitates alumni networking, learning about school events, career opportunity exploring, and support for school events. To access this resource with

your LinkedIn account, visit https://www.linkedin.com/company/marian-catholic-high-school-tamaqua-pa/posts?feedView=all and click "Follow."

Diocesan Employment Opportunities:

Www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment.

Weekly brief of events sponsored by the Diocese: https://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/DiocesanEvents

IN OUR COMMUNITY→



The Damien Council #598 (1st-3rd degrees) and Msgr. Angelini Assembly #971 (4th degree) meet every first Tuesday in SSPP parish hall at 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM

respectively. Next meeting: Nov 4.

<u>Men</u>: "Into the Breach" discusses the confrontations facing us, how to recognize the enemy and fight back to protect our souls and our families. <u>We normally meet in the SSPP Hall every Saturday morning at 8 AM</u> (first Saturday sessions will begin in church with the regular Mass). While the K of C are hosting the program, men need not belong to participate.

On Sunday, October 26 at 6 PM, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church (222 Church St.) will host comedian, singer, and motivational speaker **Jeff Steinberg**. By God's power, he has transformed various physical limitations into a platform for inspiration. A free-

will offering will be taken at the event to assist Jeff's ministry. FMI visit www.tinygiant.com.



"But when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" (Lk 18:8). This question has always sounded rhetorical to me, as if we must answer it for ourselves and only for ourselves. I might therefore rephrase it: "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith in me?"

Nobody inhabits our interior space like we do. True, we all have blind spots, characteristics good and ill that others might more easily spot. It would be risky to go around asking people what they see in us, if you don't mind them being honest. At the same time, it also might be quite consoling.

To the extent that I am honest with myself, I enjoy the process of self-searching. The examination of conscience before sacramental confession generally doesn't bother me. What will it harm me to know the sins and imperfections that are already in me? Only that such knowledge would burden me if I didn't want to part with those sins and imperfections.

What will the Lord find in me? What might I find, if I looked close enough? Let's not make a beeline for the sin without considering our positives. To that end, I found a good "Spiritual Gifts Inventory" that the Diocese of Cleveland adapted from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Spiritual-Gifts-Inventory-Assessment-Diocese-of-Cleveland-ICSC.pdf

The inventory begins with a brief description of the gifts, together with their Scriptural foundations. Then follows a series of 60 questions. Your answers yield a decent idea of where your spiritual gifts lie. Take note, however, that several factors are at play, including the feedback of others, willingness, prayer, and practice.

Finally, the document lists various areas of service that correspond to the spiritual gifts being considered. Remember, God invest us with these gifts for the good of Church, society, and family--not merely for our own enjoyment (although that could be a welcome byproduct of their use).

SSPP doesn't currently have all these ministries, but what's to keep you from speaking up about them? Just know that you might be asked to spearhead the efforts. One good example is the "Coffee and Donuts" hour that several folks have mentioned. It won't materialize if you don't coordinate it. Plus, your presence might be just what a current parish service needs for revitalization.



Gospel Today

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time / Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells the Apostles to pray constantly, and never lose faith. Our loving God, who hears the prayers of His people day and night, will answer speedily.

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Never Lose FAITH

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.

Faith Parable	F	S	Р	Ε	Ε	D	I	L	Υ	Ε	G	D	U	J	Ε
Necessity Pray Always	Е	Α	L	W	Α	Y	S	Т	S	U	J	Р	R	Α	Y
Without Becoming Weary	L	I	I	Р	U	N	0	I	S	I	С	Ε	D	Α	Α
Widow Persistently	R	D	Α	T	В	T	S	Ε	U	Q	Ε	R	S	N	D
Asked Judge	E	Α	С	Т	Н	G	I	N	Υ	I	Ε	S	Н	U	Α
Render Just Decision	N	В	Y	R	Α	Ε	W	Т	W	0	D	I	W	V	S
Against Adversary	D	Ε	L	I	V	Ε	R	Ε	D	Ε	Α	S	K	Ε	D
Request Finally Delivered	Е	С	L	L	I	W	J	Т	U	0	Н	T	I	W	В
Jesus Said	R	0	Α	Р	R	N	Y	R	Α	S	R	Ε	V	D	Α
God Hears	K	M	Ν	G	0	D	L	R	Ε	W	S	N	Α	R	Α
Will Answer People	Е	I	I	D	N	Ε	С	Ε	S	S	I	T	Y	R	K
Prayer Speedily	L	N	F	R	Ε	Н	Р	Α	R	Α	В	L	Ε	W	S
Day Night	Α	G	Α	I	N	S	Т	٧	Р	R	Α	Υ	Ε	R	Ν

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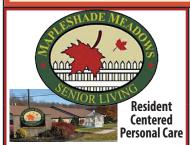
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