SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

260 NORTH THIRD STREET • LEHIGHTON. PENNSYLVANIA 18235

Rectory: 610-377-3690 **Rectory Fax:** 610-377-0721 Facebook: www.facebook.com/sspplehightonpa

Email: sspp@ptd.net Website: www.peterandpaulchurch.com

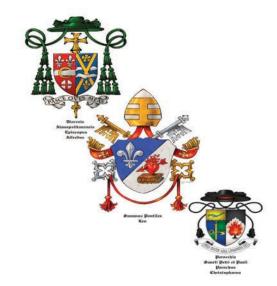
YouTube: Search under "Saints Peter and Paul Parish Lehighton"

Second Sunday of Advent 7 December 2025

Father Christopher M. Zelonis Pastor
Deacon Joseph C. Wilhelm, Jr Deacon
Joseph T. Curnew, 856-472-1293 Cemetery Supervisor
James G. Logue, Jr. , 570-413-3819 <i>Webmaster</i>
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 / sjrschool.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 **u\$ed printer ink cartridge\$** 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.
- +<u>adlumenchristi.org</u> 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 + SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 6 – St. Nicholas, Bp (OptMem)

8:00 AM Fr. Joseph A. Sheehan (CMZ)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 PM Lamont & Gregory Ebbert (Family)

Sunday, December 7

7:45 AM **Josephine "Bma" Noll** (Norine & Tony O.)

10:00 AM pro populo

Monday, December 8 – **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION BVM** (**SOL/HDO**)

8:00 AM Martha Mulligan (Ed)

6:30 PM Fr. Joseph D. Hulko (CMZ)

Tuesday, December 9 – St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (OptMem)

8:00 AM **Shirley Roos** (Family)

Wednesday, December 10 – Our Lady of Loreto (OptMem)

Thursday, December 11 – St. Damasus, Po (OptMem)

8:00 AM George A. & Theresa A. Sander (Estate)

Friday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (Fst)

<u>6:30 PM</u> Joe Bechtel (Robert Nechetsky)

Saturday, December 13 – St. Lucy, Vir/Mar (OblMem)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 PM **Rotha "Dot" Conarty** (M/M Paul Mriss & Family)

Sunday, December 14

7:45 AM Teresa & Michael Walck (Family)

10:00 AM pro populo

Collection from 11/22-23: **\$4,930** (includes



\$430 through PSG). From 11/29-30: **\$5,579.80** (includes \$379.01 through PSG, \$346 for Poverty Relief,

and \$621 at Thanksgiving).

Thank you for continuing to support the parish when weather, health, or circumstances are inclement!

Parish-Soft Giving (PSG) securely enables both recurring and one-time donations. For more info, visit: https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/sspplehighton

We have established a PayPal account for various possible uses; the parish QR code is above.

Sanctuary Candle this week For the Intentions of Leroy & Audrey Goldberg, r/b

HYMNS:					
	4PM	7:45AM	10AM		
Ent	41	46	41		
Off	464	427	75		
Com	591	375	464		
Rec	59	59	58		

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

Please clean up any wanted items from the parish cemetery by the post-Thanksgiving cleanup.

SSVDP Giving Tree: Starts Nov 15/16.

<u>Christmas Wreath Fundraiser</u>: \$28 each. Call Katya 570-527-0977.

<u>Christmas Festival</u>: Sat Dec 6 from 9 AM to 6 PM and Sun Dec 7 from 9 AM to Noon.

National Pastoral Feast and Obligatory Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception: Mon, Dec 8 at 8AM and 6:30PM

<u>Feast and Fiesta of Our Lady of</u> <u>Guadalupe</u>: Fri Dec 12 at 6:30 PM.

<u>Live Nativity</u> (sponsored by SSVDP): Sat Dec 20, 4 to 7 PM.

<u>Christmas Oplatki Wafers</u>: Soon available for purchase after Mass or at rectory. \$5 per pack of four.

Margaret Mooney & Family. **No Flower Donation** this week.

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.

Seek the Lord while (and where) He may be found, at <u>Eucharistic Adoration</u>, Thursdays from noon to 6 PM; Confession is offered from 5 to 6 PM.



"Am I not here, who am your Mother?" Give thanks to God for Mary's intercession for the Americas and the Unborn at the **Bilingual Mass for the**

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on Friday, December 12 at 6:30 PM, with fiesta to follow in the parish hall.

After all Masses this weekend, come over to SSPP's Christmas Festival!

Bid on dozens of baskets and enjoy some delicious food on Sat, Dec 6 from 9 AM to 6 PM and Sun, Dec 7 from 9 AM to Noon.

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.

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

<u>Christmas</u> <u>Oplatki</u> <u>wafers</u> are available for purchase for \$5 (packs of four) after Masses or at the rectory.

Remember to pick up your Christmas Wreaths at Foothill Farm in Lehighton (937 Mill Rd). Thank you for your support!

Our Winter Weather
Mass Policy: If
Lehighton Area School
** District delays or
cancels school, Mass is
not offered at 8 AM. We already
have employed the policy this
year, so stay tuned for snow and
ice, and stay safe!

Remember to fill out a <u>Parishioner Information Form</u> and a <u>Skills and Abilities Questionnaire</u>, copies of which are available in the vestibule or on the parish website. Even if you have belonged here all or half your life, we appreciate updated information; you'd

be surprised how many disconnected landlines we still have on file! Also share these documents with the young adults who have belonged here since they were children, as often they have not registered formally as adults.

The parish <u>Safety and Security Committee</u> has had its inaugural meeting, but new members are still welcome! Please let Deacon Joe know if you are interested in being part of this committee.

SSPP is developing a <u>Parish Vocation Ministry</u> that will assist the pastor in promoting vocations to the ordained and consecrated life. We are grateful to Jennifer Griffin for being the present "point person" for the ministry.

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.

<u>The 2026 Mass Book is open</u> 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.

Super Bowl Bingo LX is Sunday, February 8 at 1 PM in our hall. Doors open at 11 AM. Packages are available for \$25. Call Phil at 610-217-4768 or the rectory.

Fiscal Fancies: HIGHER PRIORITY Grounds: Replacement of sidewalk on Coal St. side (Proposal accepted; awaiting next steps); updates to the restrooms. Choir loft accessibility to be improved by railings. For the cemetery: resurfacing asphalt roads (proposal accepted; awaiting next steps, hopefully for spring 2026). For the church: HVAC system (bidding underway).

LOWER PRIORITY Parish Hall: drop ceiling with LED light fixtures. Grounds: LED Announcement Sign. Work awaiting completion: restoration of missing fascia on church façade; capping of soffit on rectory porch; realignment of convent front porch downspout. replacement of Bilco doors and surrounding concrete on the church basement entrance.

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.

SSPP Parishioners continue to make and serve bagged lunches for veterans every 4th Wednesday from 8:30 AM to Noon at the American Legion building along Bridge St. Your assistance with money or labor is most welcome: Call the Rectory.

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.



SSVDP once again is sponsoring the <u>Giving Tree</u> that has enjoyed success thanks

to your generosity. The tree is in the vestibule, so remember to take an ornament with Christmas gift ideas for the less fortunate children and families in our community. Please bring the gift, with ornament attached and wrapped if possible, by Dec 7.

SSVDP is planning a <u>Live Nativity</u> this year at the town amphitheater on <u>Dec 20</u> <u>from 4 to 7 PM</u>. In addition to the need for young people for roles, we also need baked goods, both entire (e.g. a pumpkin loaf or cake) and single serving (e.g. cupcakes, cookies, Krispie treats). Call: Esther Meier (570-657-6738) or Karen Paukovits (570-985-4073).

The Cold Weather Station also warmly invites volunteer chaperones, food donors, etc., at their new location. Please call Esther, Nancy Berchtold (609-575-0599), or Jess Jones (570-952-4244).

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 10 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; bkeer@ptd.net)

Several of our parishioners attend – and several work for -our local Catholic schools (<u>mariancatholichs.org</u>, sirschool.com, and sinrschool.org). 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).

<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



In this Jubilee Year of Hope, Advent women—mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends—wait in joyful trust. Like Mary, we are called to carry hope into our families, parishes, and beyond. On Sat, Dec 13 from 8:30AM to 1PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church (1046 W. Cedar St, Allentown), join Bishop Schlert and Fr. John Hutta for a day of fellowship and prayer called "Rejoice and Be Glad: Radiant Hope; Women of Advent; Bearers of Light." Contact Mary Ann Guman at allentowndiocesecfw@gmail.com.

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 All we need is a "tush push" over our goal!

	SSPP	Diocese
Goal	\$11,330	\$3,800,000
\$ Committed	\$10,236.39 (90.3%)	\$3,493,306.74 (91.9%)
\$ Collected	\$10,108.39 (89.2%)	\$3,420,086.32 (90.0%)
Donors/Regis.	57/400 (14%)	9,339 /? (?%)
Average Gift	\$179.59	?

<u>Catholic Charities</u> 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.

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: Jan 6.

Stations of the Crib: Journey with Franciscan Sister Barbara Brown through the story of Christ's birth, from the Annunciation to Bethlehem and beyond. Experience the mystery of God's humility and love in the Incarnation. Song and reflection provide a perfect way to enter the heart of Advent. Sun Dec 14 at 7 PM at the White House Chapel at Monocacy Manor, 395 Bridle Path Rd, Bethlehem.



Celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation often feature today's first reading from the eleventh chapter of Isaiah. The prophet paints a truly charismatic leader (Gr *charisma*, "gift," > *charis*: cf. Eucharist, rizz); He is anointed with the "spirit of the Lord," Whom the prophet does not yet understand in personal, trinitarian terms.

As the most human and Godlike powers are the will and intellect, the Spirit's infusion influences them the most: wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge perfect the intellect, while the others augment the will. Isaiah mentions "fear of the Lord" twice, but the catechetical tradition teased out "piety," filial devotion, to make it a perfect seven.

Consider these gifts fully operative in Jesus, effortlessly able to draw the apostles from their families and livelihoods, to confer health upon the sick, calmness to storms, and above all forgiveness to sinners.

The "offshoot of Jesse" signals another David, another ideal King, known for justice, advocacy, fidelity, and peacefulness. His charismata will extend unto earth's bounds, such that nations and their citizens no longer will inflict their insecurities upon their neighbors across continents, rivers, streets, or pews.

Anything unworthy of this King deserves to burn. Our attachments must be separated from us like the Baptist's head. Jesus wants us entirely unto Himself. His call to "repentance" means attitude and value changes befitting a sovereign God coming to claim His own.



Gospel Today Second Sunday of Advent / Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. He taught them to repent, be sorry for their sins and reform their lives to be good and helpful to others.

©2025 Bon Venture Services, LLC SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Different Directions angles of completed [1] Color the tree green, write your good deeds on tree. the ornaments and color them in. [2] Cut out and fold at right angle to stand up by itself. [3] Each week of Advent complete the tree and repeat steps 1-2. [4] After you have 4 weeks of trees colored, filled in and cut out, attach week 1 to week 2 by matching the corner letters and gluing or taping halves together up to the fold line. Do the same for week 3 All of God's children are blessed with a and week 4, which will then attach variety of time, talents and treasures. to week 1 and 2 to complete. This Advent, make a "gift to others" of your abilities, then write what you do on the ornaments on your "Share Me" tree. Color tree and fill in There will be a tree for each good deeds, week of Advent, and the 4 then color stand alone pieces will be ornaments joined together into a 3-D tree; and cut out. just in time for Christmas! Your finished tree is a wonderful gift to baby Jesus on Christmas! (Jesus loves when we help everyone around us.) Weeks 1 & 2 together.

Week 2

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