

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

260 NORTH THIRD STREET • LEHIGHTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18235

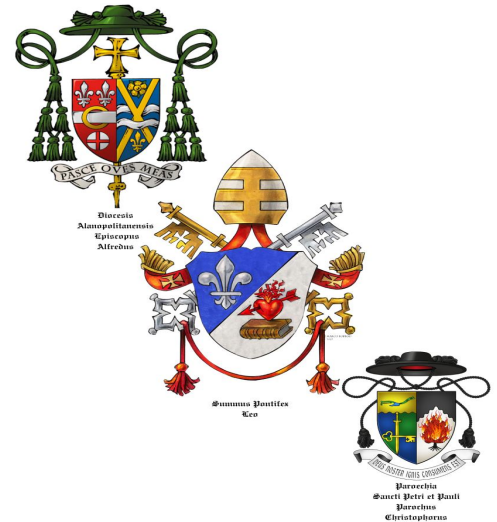
**Rectory:** 610-377-3690    **Rectory Fax:** 610-377-0721    **Email:** [sspp@ptd.net](mailto:sspp@ptd.net)    **Website:** [www.peterandpaulchurch.com](http://www.peterandpaulchurch.com)  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ssppleightonpa](http://www.facebook.com/ssppleightonpa)    **YouTube:** Search under "Saints Peter and Paul Parish Leighton"

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 February 2026

**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**----- *Webmaster*  
**Phil Liszka, 610-217-4768**----- *CYO 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 Leighton since 1850 + Established as a Parish in 1885*

### WORSHIP

Saturday Vigil-----4:00 pm  
Sunday----- 7:45 & 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 Friday-----6:00 - 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](mailto:jcwilhelm60@gmail.com)

### ST. JEROME

#### REGIONAL SCHOOL

Mrs. Amy Hannis-Miskar, *Principal*  
570-668-2757 / [sjrschool.com](http://sjrschool.com)

### ST. JOHN NEUMANN

#### REGIONAL SCHOOL

Dr. Christopher Heery, *Principal*  
610-826-2354 / [sjnrschool.org](http://sjnrschool.org)

### MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Fr. Robert T. Finlan, *Principal*  
570-467-3335 / [mariancatholichs.org](http://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](mailto: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. Changing tables available in both restrooms.**

**+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.**

**+ParishSoft Giving (PSG)** facilitates one-time and recurring donations thru checking acct, CC, PayPal Wallet, and Google Pay: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ssppplehighton>. 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 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](http://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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) / 800-276-1562.

**+Rachel's Vineyard** provides pastoral care & retreats for anyone who has experienced abortion & its effects. [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com) / 610-435-1541x373.

**+[adlumenchristi.org](http://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](http://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](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 + **FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday, January 31 – St. John Bosco, Pr (OblMem)

### **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

4:00 PM **Len Mikulski** (Harry & Bev Wynn)

Sunday, February 1

7:45 AM *pro populo*

10:00 AM **Josephine F. Noll** (Cindy & Richard Finney)

Monday, February 2 – **Presentation of the Lord (Fst)**

8:00 AM **Frank & Elsie Sander** (Family)

Tuesday, February 3 – *St. Blaise, Bp/Mar; St. Ansgar, Bp (OptMems)*

8:00 AM **Edward T. Marzen** (M/M Jim DeAngelo)

Wednesday, February 4 – *Weekday*

MVNR **George A. & Theresa A. Sander** (Estate)

Thursday, February 5 – *St. Agatha, Vir/Mar (OblMem)*

8:00 AM **Paul S. Mriss** (M/M Paul Mriss & Family)

Friday, February 6 – *St. Paul Miki et soc., Mars (OblMem)*

8:00 AM **Memorial & Renovation Fund Enrollees**

Saturday, February 7 – *Weekday*

8:00 AM **Fr. Ladislaus J. Dudek** (CMZ)

### **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

4:00 PM **Len Mikulski** (Harry & Bev Wynn)

Sunday, February 8

7:45 AM *pro populo*

10:00 AM *ad intentionem dantis* (Bob & Margaret Nothstein)

**Your Generosity** from 1/24-25: **\$5006.76**, including \$619.76 through PSG.



Thank you for continuing to support the parish when weather, health,



or circumstances are inclement! **Two consecutive weeks hampered by snow makes one nervous, or better said, it invites trust in the Lord's willingness to provide.**

*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 **IMO William & Josephine Noll**, r/b John & Hazel Christman. No flower donation this week.

*Donation toward the weekly Sanctuary Candle or toward sanctuary flowers may be made in person or*

#### **HYMNS:**

	4PM	7:45AM	10AM
<b>Ent</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>321</b>
<b>Off</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>466</b>
<b>Com</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>Rec</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>576</b>

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

**Super Bowl Sweepstakes:** Tickets available \$10 each, 3 for \$20.

Winners drawn at the **Super Bowl Bingo** on Sun Feb 8 at 1 PM in the hall. \$25 package. Call Phil Liszka

**Pastoral Council Meeting with the St. Vincent de Paul Society: Thursday, Feb 5** at 6:30 PM in the hall.

**National Marriage Week on "Man and Woman He Created Them: Together with Purpose": Feb 7-14**

We commend to the Lord our parishioner **Arlen W. Troxell**, husband of Ellen, father of Alec and Bridget. God rest him and console them, all in His mercy.

*via PSG. Requested candle offering is \$10; a flower arrangement usually costs around \$50.*

*We pray for everyone plagued by the pernicious illnesses going around, and for those facing difficult diagnoses and treatments.*

Please **take home a 2026 calendar**, courtesy of Andrew P. Ovsak Funeral Home, by which Todd Kriner and several other parishioners provide compassionate care to families of departed loved ones.

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

**Tax Statements for 2025** are available by contacting the rectory either by phone or email.





(Image for illustration purposes only)

Periodically throughout the year we must replace the **American** and **Papal** flags that fly on the Coal Street side. If anyone is interested in donating one or both 4'x6' flags, please drop in an envelope in the collection basket \$50 for one or \$100 for both.

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.

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



Our Winter Weather Mass Policy: **If Lehigh Area School District delays or cancels school, weekday**

**Mass is not offered at 8 AM**. Stay tuned for snow and ice and stay safe! If you want in on a phone list notifying you of a cancelled Mass, please inform Father.

Remember to fill out a Parishioner Information Form and a Skills and Abilities Questionnaire, 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.

New members are still welcome to the Parish **Safety and Security Committee**. Please let Deacon Joe know if you are interested in participating.

More than one person can schedule their Mass intentions 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.*

As part of the new **Diocesan Vocations Ministry**, Bishop Schlert has asked parents, catechists, etc. to recommend

names of parishioners who might be suitable candidates for ordained or consecrated life. Fill out the form on this page and put it in the collection basket.

**Super Bowl Bingo LX** is **Sunday, Feb 8 at 1 PM** in our hall. Doors open at 11 AM. If you would like one or more \$25 packages or would like to add to the growing list of sponsors for the event, call Phil at 610-217-4768.

**Super Bowl Sweepstakes** tickets are for sale. The winners will be drawn at the Super Bowl Bingo. Proceeds benefit the annual Backyard Bash, a vital parish fun(d)raiser. **\$10/ticket, 3 for \$20. Prizes \$500 / 250 / 125 / 75 / 50.**

**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 in progress:** 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 Zeloni, Deacon Joe, or Carl Marzen. You can help through our periodic fundraising events, with regular donations, and by remembering the parish and/or the Diocese in your will, investment distributions, etc.*

**Two imminent major parish projects face us: replacing the Church HVAC system (approx. \$60K) and the Cemetery Road (approx. \$70K).** While we could pay for them with existing funds, we'd rather not do that with more than half the total cost. With the cemetery in particular, the Diocese and good sense suggest saving for the proverbial rainy

**CALLLED BY NAME**

Thank you so much for nominating a person whom you think Jesus might be calling to be a priest or religious sister or brother. Those you nominate will receive a letter from our bishop, congratulating them on living the Christian life in an exemplary way and gently inviting them to begin formally discerning their calling, as well as much helpful information and resources. There are no requirements or commitments on their part - only a loving invitation from the Lord.

Name ☐ Male ☐ Female

Parent Name (if under 18) ☐ Age

Email Address  Phone Number

Home Parish

Your Name  Relationship to this person

Tell us about this person



day, which makes sense because grass keeps growing, snow keeps falling, cars keep driving, and people (thankfully) keep choosing to entrust mortal remains to our cemetery until the Day of Resurrection.

*Living and dead members of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, need spiritual and temporal care. As you, the faithful and long-time friends of SSPP, came through five or six years ago for the roof and other needful projects, we trust in your willingness for our present needs.*

**Parish Pastoral Council special meeting: Weather and other factors have prompted a rescheduling of this meeting to this Thursday at 6:30 PM in the hall.** Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be present to share Society goings-on and to answer any questions. **We will be joined by representatives from the Diocese and will discuss, among other topics, our proposed physical plant projects. All parishioners are welcome to attend.**

SSPP Parishioners prepare 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)*

*+SSVDP 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 Cold Weather Station warmly invites volunteer chaperones, food donors, etc., at their new location. Every Sunday afternoon in January



from 12:30 to 2 PM, the CWS will hold an Open House at its current location: 560 Country Club Rd, Mahoning Twp. Visitors are welcome to step inside, ask questions, and open your heart to service. **Please call Esther (570-657-6738) or Cathy (570-952-5359) for info or registration.** The needs of our parish do not "compete with" care for our needy brothers and sisters.

**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, dish soap, and sponges. **Items of special seasonal need include gloves, mittens, and warmer socks.** 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 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](mailto:phill@ptd.net)) or SSPP CYO Moderator Bill Keer (484-560-4338; [bkeer@ptd.net](mailto:bkeer@ptd.net))

Several of our parishioners attend – and several work for -- our local Catholic schools ([mariancatholic.org](http://mariancatholic.org), [sjrschool.com](http://sjrschool.com), and [sjrschool.org](http://sjrschool.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).**

**Upcoming CYO Events Feb 28: Diocesan Basketball Tournament, Allentown Central Catholic HS. Apr 11-12: Art/Craft/Photo Contest Grades K-8 (Photos 7-8 gr only) in SSPP hall. Drop projects off on the 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to noon. Judging at 12:30 PM. Pictures of winners on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 AM. Apr 19<sup>th</sup> District 5 Spelling Bee for grades 3-5 at 1 PM in SSPP Hall. May 3: Declamation contest grades 7-8 at Notre Dame HS at 1 PM. May 16: Chess Tournament at St. Elizabeth, Whitehall at 1 PM. May 24<sup>th</sup> D5**

**CYO Mass at SSPP at 10 AM with Brunch to follow in hall. Call Phil Liszka or Bill Keer for more information.**

**Rescheduled Open Houses Marian Catholic HS: this Sunday from 1:00-2:30 PM. St. John Neumann Regional: this Sunday from 10:30 AM to noon at their Palmerton campus and 11:30 AM to 1 PM at the Slatington campus. St. Jerome Regional instead will offer individual tours as families request (contact Advancement Dir. Laurie Daukshus [ldaukshus@sjrschool.com](mailto:ldaukshus@sjrschool.com)).**

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

## DIOCESAN NEWS



Pursue "Love, Hope, Holiness" at the **Diocesan Women's Lenten Conference**. Hear from Noelle Mering, Dr. Ray Guarendi, and Bishop Schlert about the "Antidote for the Attack on our Family and Faith" on **Sat, Mar 7 from 8 AM to 3 PM at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena (1875 W. Turner St, Allentown)**. Contact Mary Ann Guman: [allentowndiocesecfw@gmail.com](mailto:allentowndiocesecfw@gmail.com)

**Men's Morning of Reflection on Authentic Masculinity: Saturday, March 14 from 8 AM to Noon at Marian Catholic HS. Exploring Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body, offering Mass, presenters including Fr. Nikolai Brelinsky (Asst. Pastor, St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield), coffee & donuts. Registration is free and required: <https://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/241012>**

Men's Commission "Monthly Rosary for Families": YouTube, 3rd Weds, 7PM [www.menaliveinchrist.org/mens-rosary](http://www.menaliveinchrist.org/mens-rosary)

## BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC 2025 Parishes and Dioceses rely on each other

	SSPP	Diocese
Goal	\$11,330	\$3,800,000
\$ Committed	<b>\$10,699.50</b> (94.4%)	<b>\$3,843,314.13</b> (101.1%)
\$ Collected	<b>\$10,699.50</b> (94.4%)	<b>\$3,860,615.83</b> (100%)
Donors/Regis.	<b>61/400</b> (15.3%)	<b>9,836</b> /? (%)
Average Gift	<b>\$175.40</b>	<b>\$392.50</b>

**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.

## Diocesan Employment Opportunities:

[www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment](http://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 (4<sup>th</sup> degree) meet every first Tuesday in SSPP parish hall at 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM respectively. **Next meeting: Feb 3.**

## The Shipwreck-Harvest

*Christopher M. Zelmer*

Diversely iterated inspiration, information, and entertainment since 2003



While humility underlies each of the Scripture readings for this weekend, Jesus definitively spells it out in the eight Beatitudes: poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, mercy, cleanness of heart, peacemaking, and persecution for the sake of righteousness/Him.

Humility also can be called "littleness," which one priest describes as "lovable limitation." We tend to consider it natural and unfeigned, and so it presents in some fortunate souls. The prophet Zephaniah, however, exhorted us to "seek" it, so intentionality ends up necessary for most of us. But if we think we have humility, do we have it? Better to focus on faith working through love and sustained by hope.

Another helpful synonym is "willingness to live in reality." The ancients defined truth as "the conformity of the mind to the object." Modernity has it backwards. Our Creator strangely invested us with freedom that we can misuse to unmake or destroy ourselves, especially when our passions dominate us and muck up our perception of reality.

The baptismal call to holiness requires roots in the truth, where we regularly rediscover and reaffirm our limits. Here we identify with God-the-Son-made-man, Jesus, Who exceeded the limits of His humanity only for the benefit of others, as when He healed them, taught them, or forgave their sins.

"[We] have centered ourselves on political figures and movements rather than on Jesus Christ. No problem of this world will be solved without the foundation of a profound friendship with Jesus Christ, prophetic teaching of Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins, and above all seeking Him first, Who is the Way and the Truth and the Life. We do not worship the donkey. We do not worship the elephant. We worship the Lamb." (Fr. Paul Hedman, priest of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul and Minnesota National Guard chaplain.)

# The Good News

FREE

FREE

***Jesus wants us to be happy. Jesus teaches happiness to all in His Sermon on the Mount.***

**In His sermon today Jesus teaches us a good way to live.**

***This is what Jesus says:***

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.



Blessed are they who hunger  
and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.



Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.



Blessed are they who are persecuted  
for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.


Draw a picture of yourself in the newspaper, then share and talk to someone about what you drew.

This is \_\_\_\_\_, happily living The Beatitudes.

***Living the message in The Beatitudes, gives happiness to everyone - ourselves, those around us and especially Jesus!***



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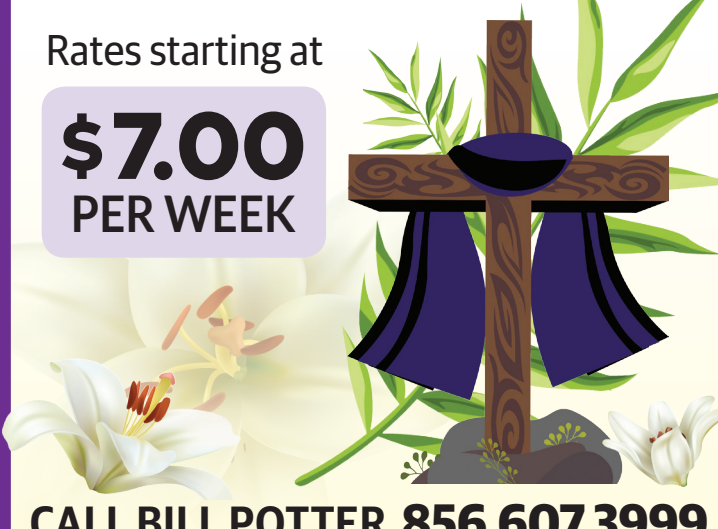
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