

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/ssppleightonpa **YouTube:** Search under "Saints Peter and Paul Parish Leighton"

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 13 September 2026

Rev. Philip J. Maas-----Parochial Administrator
pmaas@allentowndiocese.org

Deacon Joseph C. Wilhelm, Jr.-----Deacon
Joseph T. Curnew, 856-472-1293 -----Cemetery Supervisor
James G. Logue, Jr., 570-413-3819-----Communications
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 ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of ALLENTOWN
CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

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

WORSHIP

Holy Mass

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 -----12:00 Noon to 6:00 pm

First Friday-----6:00 - 9:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confession

Thursday: 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Friday: 7:30 AM to 7:55 AM

Saturday: 3:15 PM to 3:55 PM

Sunday: 7:15 to 7:40 AM and 9:30 to 9:55 AM

30 minutes before Sunday Masses

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: First Sundays. 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

jcwillhelm60@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 / sjnrschool.org

MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Fr. Robert T. Finlan, *Principal*

570-467-3335 / mariancatholichs.org

VOCATION 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

Mary Marzen/ 610-984-2023

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.

Welcome

Visitors

We are glad you're here! Please greet Father or Deacon after Mass.

Little Ones

We welcome little children and their families. There is a small cry room in the back of the church if you would like to make use of it.

Restrooms

Leave the church by the side exit and enter the parish hall by the door closest to the parking lot. Changing tables available in both restrooms.

Silence Phone

Please silence your devices out of respect for the Eucharist and Sacred Space. Restrict phone use to religious apps or emergencies.

Wi-Fi Network & Password

SSPP PARISH - GUEST
presenttense

Low-Gluten Hosts

Please approach for Communion via the priest's line and inform him. For daily Mass, please inform Father or Deacon beforehand.

Prayers at the End of Mass

After each Mass, we pray three Hail Marys and the Prayer to Saint Michael for peace and justice in the world and the Church. Please keep the church a place of prayer after Mass is over.

House Blessings

Gladly conducted by appointment.

Hospitalized or Homebound

Persons in need of pastoral care, please notify the rectory ASAP. (Holy Communion, Confession, or Anointing of the Sick)

Prayer

Treasury of Prayer

Please take a booklet from the pews. They are also available at the door of the rectory. Donations toward future printings are appreciated.

Seven Sisters & Fasting Brothers

Women of our parish who offer one hour of prayer each week for a particular priest. Men fast in conjunction. Contact Mary Marzen, anchoress. 610-984-2023

Family Rosary

Families of the parish pray the Rosary every third Friday of the month at 6:30 PM. Contact the rectory for more information. All are welcome!

Giving

ParishSoft Giving

One-time and recurring donations through checking accounts, credit cards, or other payment apps. Thanks for assisting with transaction fees!
tinyurl.com/SSPPgiving

Monetary Donations

May be placed in the collection basket or the box in the vestibule.

Used Ink Cartridges

Deposit your used printer cartridges in the box in the vestibule or bring them to the rectory during the week.

FreeWill

FreeWill is a free estate planning service: Create a legacy of giving: please remember our Diocese, parish, and schools in your will!
tinyurl.com/ADfreewill

Resources

Rachel's Vineyard

Pastoral care & retreats for anyone who has been affected by abortion.
www.HopeAfterAbortion.com
866-3RACHEL

Lumen Christi Commission

Resources for those struggling with pornography and their loved ones.
www.ADLumenChristi.org

Natural Family Planning

Information on scientific, natural, and moral methods of fertility awareness.
www.allentowndiocese.org/fertility-awareness-and-nfp

Retrouvaille

Helps heal troubled marriages.
www.HelpOurMarriage.org
800-470-2230

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Material assistance for the needy and suffering in the Lehighton area. Esther Meier, President. 570-657-6738

Catholic Charities

Variety of assistance for the needy throughout our diocese.
www.CatholicCharitiesAD.org

If you are making any changes in residence or parish affiliation, please contact the rectory.
Call or email the Rectory promptly with any information worth sharing. We'll do our best!

This Week at SSPP!

Monday, 14 September

Vincent de Paul at 7:00 PM in Hall

Tuesday, 15 September

Women's Bible Study at 6:30 PM in Hall

Friday, 18 September

Women's Bible Study at 10:30 AM in Hall

Friday, 18 September

Family Rosary at 9:30 AM in Hall

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Saturday, September 12

The Most Holy Name of Mary, Memorial

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM **In Honor of Dr. John & Kay DeMatte's 60th Wedding Anniversary**
(The Family)

Sunday, September 13

7:45 AM

10:00 AM

pro populo
Irena Bezak
(Paul Schlecht)

Monday, September 14

Exaltation of the Cross, Feast

8:00 AM

Ron Beers
(Kathy Beers)

Tuesday, September 15

Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial

8:00 AM

Teresa Walck
(The Family)

Wednesday, September 16

Saints Cornelius, Pope; and Cyprian, Bishop; Martyrs Memorial

Thursday, September 17

St Robert Belarmine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church; St Hildegard of Bengen, Virgin & Doctor of the Church.

8:00 AM **Catherine Steigerwalt Flounders**
(Husband Ed)

Friday, September 18

8:00 AM

Edward J. & Agnes B. McGrail
(Estate)

Saturday, September 19

Saint Januarius, Bishop & Martyr

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM

Nancy Bachman
(MCCHS- Class of 1960)

Sunday, September 20

7:45 AM

10:00 AM

pro populo
The Drazek Family
(The Family)

Sanctuary Candle

For Colson Tkach & Special Intention

R/B The Tkach Family

Flowers

None

Sanctuary Candle Donation, \$10; Flowers, \$50

Father Maas' Corner



When I was in college, there was a small room located off the vestibule of our college chapel labeled "70x7." Had I been more biblically literate (or had they actually used it for what it was intended), I would have known it was a

clever way of labeling the Confessional! In our Gospel, Christ responds to Peter's question on forgiveness. Peter offers seven times as a generous number—once our brother or sister wrongs us an eighth time, tell them to take a hike! Using typical semitic exaggeration, our Lord responds, "Not seven, but seventy-seven times." In some translations, we are told "seventy times seven." The lesson? *We must never tire of forgiving others, because God never tires of forgiving us.*

Unforgiveness is, I'd wager, one of the most common spiritual ailments we encounter in the life of our parishioners as priests. It is not picky—it affects the young and the old, men and women alike. The closer one is to the other who hurts, insults, betrays, or wrongs us, the deeper the emotional and spiritual wound it leaves on our hearts. Recall the words of Psalm 55: "...for it is not an enemy that reviled me—that I could bear... But it was you, my other self, my comrade and friend, you, whose company I enjoyed, at whose side I walked in the house of God."

Must we forgive, even the most painful hurts? Absolutely. If not only because the Lord commands it, but more so because it frees us from the shackles of unforgiveness and opens us up to the Lord's forgiveness. Augustine tells us forgiveness is the surrendering of one's right to revenge. In short, it's loving someone *despite* what they have done to us. Forgiveness *is not*, however, approving of poor behavior, minimizing our hurt, ignoring our emotions, or the immediate reestablishment of trust. It is simply choosing to love as God loves, i.e., despite what our loved ones have done to us. Is it easy? No. But it is worth it. And the only way to go about it is to chip away at the unforgiveness in our hearts little by little, day by day, inasmuch as we are able to, given our human frailty. One day we will wake up and realize, "Thank God! I have forgiven."

In Christ,

Father Maas

Collection totals

for September 5 & 6: \$7174.92. This includes the ParishSoft amount of \$965.92. Last week's ParishSoft collection was \$648.54.

Donations to the Church

may be made using ParishSoft Giving:
tinyurl.com/SSPPgiving

We have also established a PayPal account for donations. Scan the QR code!



Eucharistic Adoration

is held every Thursday from Noon to 6:00 PM.

News

for the bulletin, website, and/or Facebook page can be directed to the parish office at sspp@ptd.net or to Jim Logue at JGMLogue@gmail.com.

Church Cleaners

for next weekend of September 19: Ed and Cathy Marzen. To volunteer for a week either by yourself or with an established crew, call Raegan at 484-464-7131.

Women's Daytime Bible Study

is held every **Friday** beginning at 10:30 am in the parish hall. We are studying the Gospel of Matthew. Come for one session or all, bring a Bible or borrow one of ours. For info call Nancy at 609-575-0599 or Charlotte at 570-413-3777.

Women's Evening Bible Study

We are offering an evening session of our joyful bible study to reach those who are busy in the mornings. **Begins Tuesday September 15th** at 6:30 pm til 8 pm. Join us for a sneak preview of the readings for Sunday, Old Testament and the Gospel of Matthew. For info call or text Nancy at 609-575-0599

Seven Sisters Apostolate

Their mission is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop. It is a group of seven women who pray one Holy Hour for one priest each week, forming one heart of prayer. The commitment is for one year but this can remain open-ended as each individual discerns her call to continue. For information, contact Mary Marzen at 610-984-2023.

Blessing of Pets

There will be a blessing of pets in the small parking lot on **Saturday, 10 October at 9:00 AM**. Bring your furry friends to be blessed during the week of Saint Francis of Assisi's Feast Day!

Morning of Reflection for EMHCs

All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) are asked to attend a **Morning of Reflection on Saturday, 3 Oct from 9:00 AM to Noon**. Includes reflection, Adoration, Confessions, training, and Lunch. This is for those who serve at Mass, in hospitals, visit parishioners, or those looking to become new EMHCs are welcome! **Attendance is needed to stay current on the roster of EMHCs for our Parish! RSVP at: tinyurl.com/EMHC26**

Campus Updates

Demolition of the Modular Classroom took place the week of 31 August. After comparing quotes, and upon the recommendation of our Finance Council, the contract was awarded to Hartman Contracting, LLC at a cost of roughly \$7500. Demolishing the Modular, long discussed, was accelerated by the strong storm on 3 July which damaged all our buildings on campus besides the church—the Modular suffered most, with half the roof being torn off, revealing the rotting framing beneath.

PREP

This first day of PREP will be Sunday, 20 September—Catechetical Sunday! Parents of public school students, please register your child(ren) for the 2026-27 year of PREP. See Deacon Joe for more details or call the Rectory (610-377-3690).

Ministries

Our parish is in need of **Lectors** (especially the 4:00 PM Saturday Mass), **Altar Servers**, and **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** (for Mass and/or to the homebound and hospitalized). Please call the Rectory. Training will be available.

Safety & Security

Please let Deacon Joe know if you want to participate in the Parish **Safety and Security Committee** or call the parish office (610-377-3690).

Vocations Ministry

Join us in offering a **Prayer Bouquet for Deacon Joe Wilhelm** as he recovers from knee surgery. Pick up envelopes, cards, and instructions in the back of the church.

Bishop Schlert has asked parents, catechists, etc. to recommend names of parishioners who might be suitable candidates for ordained or consecrated life. Mention their names to Father, John Meier, or Jennifer Griffin. While only the older candidates may be invited to diocesan vocation events, a child is never too young to think about God's plan for his or her life.

SSPP CYO

CYO welcomes any boys or girls from public, Catholic, charter, or homeschooling 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).**



CYO Cross Country:

All meets start at 2:00 pm.

Sept. 13- St. Joseph the Worker-Orefield, PA

Sept. 20-Laury's Station-ACCHS

Sept. 27-Becahi Meet- Bethlehem, PA

Oct. 4- Notre Dame Invitational, St. Jane's Church Complex, Easton, PA

Oct. 11- CYO CC Championship- St. Jane's Church Complex, Easton, PA

District 5 Spelling Bee

Wed., October 21, 2026

Grades 6, 7, and 8

St. Jerome's School gym

Doors open 5:45 pm

Bee starts at 6:15 pm

Diocese Spelling Bee

Sun., November 15, 2026

Ss Peter & Paul Parish Hall

Doors open at 12:00 noon

Bee begins at 1:00 pm

All winners from Oct 21 advances to the diocese spelling bee

District 5 CYO Bowling Tournament

Sat., November 21, 2026

Fritz Lanes, Lehighton

Grades K to 8

\$7 for each bowler that signs up

includes lane assignments, ball, shoes, and choice of pizza or hot dogs.

Deadline to register: November 14th

Catholic Education

Several of our parishioners attend—and several work for—our local Catholic schools. These include Marian HS, St. Jerome, and St. John Neumann. **Financial Help is available, especially for new transfers; you may be surprised at who qualifies. Consider donating such funds for a tax break (call the respective school for more information).**



Lumen Christi

The Diocesan *Lumen Christi* Commission offers hope and help for everyone affected by the scourge of pornography. The LCC promotes *Covenant Eyes* (covenanteyes.com), a monitoring and accountability software; *Strive* (strive21.com), a recovery app for men; *Arise* (ariseforwomen.com), a recovery app for women; and *Restored Vows*, a guide for recovering couples.

Men's Conference

Diocesan Men's Commission "Monthly Rosary for Families": YouTube, 3rd Weds, 7PM

www.menaliveinchrist.org/mens-rosary

Catholic Charities

- 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 website:

www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment.

Weekly email of events sponsored by the Diocese:

<https://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/DiocesanEvents>

Bereavement Support Group

"Blessed are they who mourn, they shall be comforted" Matt. 5:4

Announcing our Fall “Bereavement Support Group” of Immaculate Conception Parish, Jim Thorpe. If you have lost a loved one through death and feel you need some support on your grief journey, please call to register. While participation in all five sessions is highly recommended to fully benefit from the program’s continuity, we understand individual circumstances may vary. Trained Grief Ministers are available. Registration is Required. No Charge.

The dates are: Mondays, September 14, 21, 28, October 5 & 12

We will meet from 6:30 – 8 pm in the Brogan Room at St. Joseph Rectory, 526 North St., Jim Thorpe. Light Refreshments will be served. SPACE IS LIMITED. Please register by Sept. 9th! To register, please call Catholic Churches of Jim Thorpe at 570-325-2791.

Knights of Columbus

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. **The next meeting is October 6, 2026.**



The Holy Father’s Intentions for September, 2026:

For the care of water: Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

For Sale!

We have 12 qty **4 foot T12 fixtures** for sale! \$10 each. We also have an electrical panel with a 150 Amp main breaker for \$50. Please email Father at pmaas@allentowndiocese.org if you are interested or call the rectory.



Does the Church still use indulgences?

Yes, the Church does still promote the use of indulgences, when they are used correctly. Many years ago, the practice was abused by some trying to sell indulgences. They lost some favor after that. But, when used correctly, they are a devout and beneficial part of our faith.

An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment for sins, whose guilt is forgiven, which a properly disposed member of the Christian faithful obtains under certain and clearly defined conditions through the intervention of the Church, which, as the minister of Redemption, dispenses and applies authoritatively the treasury of the expiatory works of Christ and the saints.

An indulgence is partial or plenary according to whether it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due sin.

The faithful can obtain partial or plenary indulgences for themselves, or they can apply them to the dead by way of suffrage.

There is a wonderful resource called "Manual of Indulgences", published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which explains in detail what indulgences are, and offers the many ways to obtain them, featuring many prayers and devotions we can offer.

For example:

A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who devoutly recite the **Marian Rosary** in a church or oratory, or in a family, a religious community, or an association of the faithful, and in general when several of the faithful gather for some honest purpose.

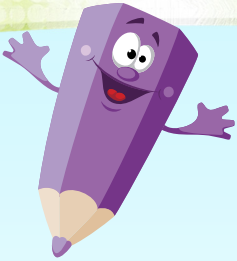
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Gospel Today

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus says there should be no limit to the times we forgive, from our hearts, those who treat us unfairly.

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JESUS REMINDS US TO BE FORGIVING

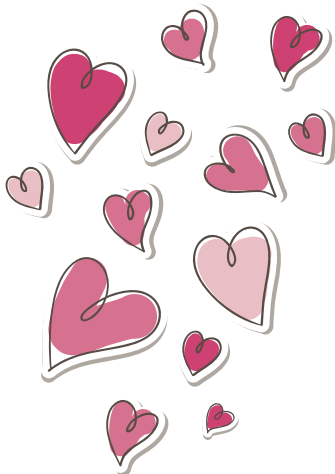
Think of
someone you
need to forgive.

What symbol
would best show
what you are feeling?

Love, peace, hugs &
kisses or prayer; or are
you just proud to be in
America.

Design and color your own
FORGIVENESS FLAG.

With the symbols below, or
your own ideas, design a
larger flag on a separate
piece of paper and
hang it in a
window.



*Forgive from
the heart flag*



American flag

SAMPLE FLAGS



Peace flag



Praying hands flag

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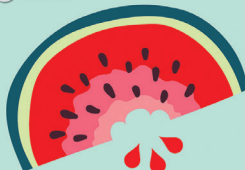
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Pat Gallagher.....(610) 393-9470
Paul Schlecht.....(610) 393-4581