

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"

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 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



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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.

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Saturday, July 18

Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM

Andrew Depierro
(The Foster Family)

Sunday, July 19

7:45 AM

pro populo

10:00 AM

Michael Whitman
(Mom)

Monday, July 20

Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 AM

Irena Bezak
(Aleksandra & Zofia)

Tuesday, July 21

Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Martyr

8:00 AM

Edward Conarty, Sr.
(M/M Paul Mriss & Family)
Lamont & Gregory Ebbert
(The Family)

Wednesday, July 22

Saint Mary Magdalene, Feast

Kathryn M.M. Jennings

(Estate)

Thursday, July 23

Saint Bridget, Religious

8:00 AM

Marie D. Mriss
(M/M Paul Mriss & Family)

Friday, July 24

Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

8:00 AM

Al DeFilippis
(Wife Janet)

Saturday, July 25

Saint James, Apostle, Feast

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM

Andrew Depierro
(The Foster Family)

Sunday, July 26

7:45 AM

pro populo

10:00 AM

Michael Whitman
(Mom)

Sanctuary Candle

I/M of **Lamont & Gregory Ebbert**
(R/B The Family)

Flowers

None this week

Donations toward the weekly Sanctuary Candle \$10

Flowers, \$50

Father Maas' Corner



One of life's most pressing questions is, "Why does God allow bad things to happen?" Classically considered as *the problem of evil*, theologians, philosophers, indeed, almost everyone, have grappled with the coexistence of a good God

and a world full of many evils.

While much ink has been spilled over the question, with beautifully written arguments, words on a page only suffice so much to ease the pain of one whose experience of evil, loss, or suffering is so close and personal. Fortunately, Christianity offers the best answer this side of heaven: not words, but *the Word*. Christ crucified is the only good answer to evil's purpose, if it has a purpose at all. That is, God can take even the worst bad and turn it into the best good: Calvary in a nutshell. The most unjust death brought about the gift of eternal life.

A related question: why do some people seem to get away with evil? Fortunately, our Gospel this weekend sheds some light on the issue.

All persons are innately good, created in the *imago Dei*, or image of God. But we know all too well that even the best among us often find it easier to turn to vice rather than virtue. In the case of those who consistently injure others with their sinfulness, we instinctively want justice and want it now: "God, uproot the weeds so that the wheat can thrive!" But the Lord shows us another way.

In striving to be wheat, we may begin to see weeds everywhere, even where they aren't. And perhaps with some more tending from the Divine Gardener, even the most frightful plant might blossom into something beautiful. What of the actual weeds? Well, the Lord teaches us that suffering is never wasted when offered back to Him. Weeds provide the wheat extra suffering: challenging them to grow in even the harshest conditions and climates.

It's best that the wheat and weeds coexist. Whether it's a last chance at conversion or the opportunity to grow through patient endurance of others' faults, it's best to leave the sorting of the harvest to God.

In Christ,

Call or email the Rectory promptly with any information worth sharing. We'll do our best!

Collection totals for July 11-12: \$9123.15, which includes \$754.15 from ParishSoft.

Donations to the church may be made using ParishSoft Giving (PSG):

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/sspplehighton>



We have established a PayPal account for donations; the QR code is to the left.

Eucharistic Adoration 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 JGMLogue@gmail.com.

Church Cleaners for the upcoming weekend of July 25: Kathy, Zoe, and Peggy. To volunteer for a week either by yourself or with an established crew, call Raegan at 484-464-7131.

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

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. The initial recipient of the group is the parish pastor, but if subsequent groups are formed, they can be for a retired priest, or a priest serving in a non-parish

assignment, or a bishop. For information, contact Mary Marzen at 610-984-2023.

PREP Parents of public school students, don't forget to register your child(ren) for the 2026-27 year of PREP. See Deacon Joe for more details.

Safe and Sacred Space the Second (SSSS) is our campaign to raise money toward the replacement of the church HVAC, the Coal Street sidewalk, and the cemetery road. Donate through the QR code. The church HVAC for \$65,000, the Coal Street sidewalk for \$40,000, and the parish cemetery road, \$75,000**, come to a total of \$175,000. **We are most grateful for recent substantial donations that are helping things along.**



The Cemetery Road. Rough travel has necessitated the full replacement of the road around our lovely cemetery grounds. **Rising prices resulted in a modest increase in the estimate (from \$70 to \$75K), to which we have agreed. Livengood Excavators has put us on their busy schedule, with a start date to be determined. We are tapping the fund we had established with the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania (CFEP), while remaining open to your contributions to build it back up.** Visit this site to donate:

<https://www.catholicfoundationep.org/donations/st-peter-and-paul-parish-lehighton-cemetery-fund/>

The parish needs **Lectors** (especially the 4 PM Sat Anticipated Mass), **Altar Servers** (all Masses), and **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** (for Mass and/or to the homebound and hospitalized). Please call the Rectory. Training will be available.

Please let Deacon Joe know if you want to participate in the Parish **Safety and Security Committee**.

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. 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 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 is collecting 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 need include deodorant, soap, shampoo / conditioner, laundry detergent, dish soap, and toilet paper. All these donations can be placed in the bins in the back of the church.

They are also collecting phone cards, which can be dropped off in marked envelopes. Please place all cash and card donations in the collection or take them to the parish office. Call Esther (570-657-6738) to inquire about any other kinds of donations. Anyone in need of these items can call Esther or the rectory (option 4).

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) or SSPP CYO Moderator Bill Keer (484-560-4338; bkeer@ptd.net).**



Catholic Education: Several of our parishioners attend — and several work for — our local Catholic schools (mariancatholichs.org, sjrschool.com, and 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. **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 FMI).**



Come enjoy an evening **Hymn Sing** at the Cathedral of St Catherine of Siena, 1825 W Turner St, Allentown. The Hymn Sing will be held Tuesday, July 21, 2026 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Come sing your favorite hymns, request your own favorites. No musical talent required, just an enjoyable hour of singing for Our Lord and His Mother.

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.

Diocesan Men's Commission “**Monthly Rosary for Families**”: **YouTube, 3rd Weds, 7PM**
www.menaliveinchrist.org/mens-rosary

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 website:

www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment.

Weekly email of events sponsored by the Diocese:

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

In our Community

The **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 **Damien Council 598 of the Knights of Columbus** is turning 125 this year. To celebrate they will be having a banquet in the evening on **August 22nd** at the Franklin Fire Company. There will be dinner, music featuring Robbie Lawrence and the Steelworkers, dancing, as well as a fireworks display. For tickets please send payment of \$50/person to them at PO Box 535 Jim Thorpe PA 18229. Checks should be made payable to **Damien Council 598 K of C**.

KofC Damien Council #598 & Msgr. Angelini 4th Degree Assembly #971 meet in our hall on each first Tuesday at 7 PM.

Knight of Columbus 14464 of Sacred Heart Church, Bath is sponsoring a **Bus trip to the Yankees game** on **Aug. 13, 2026**. This is an afternoon game, leaving the Church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$146.00 per person. Seats are under cover. Includes bus, ticket and non-alcoholic refreshments. Contact Brother Bud Schuster at bud328@msn.com or 610-390-8429



Ss Peter & Paul Parish, 1940's.

What are Sacramentals?

While they are similar in name, sacraments and sacramentals have a unique and distinct role in the life of the Catholic Church.

Sacraments are outward signs that give grace to those who receive them in a worthy manner.

Sacramentals, on the other hand, “are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church. By them, men are disposed to receive the chief effect of the sacraments, and various occasions in life are rendered holy” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1667*).

Examples of Catholic Sacramentals:

Holy Water
The Rosary
The Crucifix
St. Benedict Medal
Beautiful Churches
Miraculous Medal
Liturgical Vestments
Blessed Candles
Brown Scapular
Blessed salt
the Missal
Blessings
Statues of Saints and Religious Art
Palms
Ashes
Stations of the Cross

4 Timeless Bits of Wisdom from the Amazing Saint John Bosco, Patron Saint of Youth

- 1) “Your mortification should be your diligence in doing your duties and in putting up with the annoyances of others.”
- 2) “Carry your cross on your back and take it as it comes, small or large, whether from friends or enemies and of whatever wood it be made.”
- 3) “Do not put off till tomorrow the good you can do today. You may not have a tomorrow.”
- 4) “Guard your eyes since they are the windows through which sin enters the soul.”

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today | 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mt 13:24-43

Jesus tells us the Good Word grows within us, as the yeast grows within the dough – quietly and unseen, with great results!

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JESUS' PARABLES SHOW Small beginnings become marvelous expansions

Draw a line from Column A to Column B to match the "Seeds of Faith" to the "Expanded Kingdom."

Column A

The
Good
Word



Mustard
Seeds



Yeast
Cells



Column B

Risen
Breads



Mustard
Tree



Many
Believers



Parent / Child Activity

Watch a seed sprout - Take a clear cup and line it with a wet paper towel. Put a dried, uncooked seed between the paper and cup. Keep wet and in the sun. **Watch what happens!** (try watermelon seeds dried for one week)

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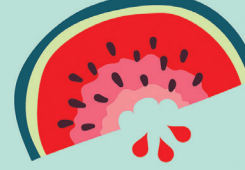
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