

Saint Peter Church

4 South 5th Street • Coplay, Pennsylvania 18037



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

FEAST OF *The Holy Family*



The Holy Family
by Joseph Paelinck © Diocesan
circa 1820



PARISH STAFF

PASTOR: Rev. Msgr. David L. James V.G., J.C.L.

PASTORS EMERITI: Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin

Rev. Msgr. William E. Handges

PERMANENT DEACON: Mr. Thomas Reimer

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Mrs. Lina Abi-Samra

FINANCE MANAGER: Mr. Cyrus Doyle

DIRECTOR OF REL. ED.: Mrs. Linda Johnson

MASS SCHEDULE: DAILY: 8 A.M. ~ Chapel (*except Monday & Saturday*)

Saturday Evening: 4:00 P.M. Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Holy Days: 8:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

PENANCE: Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 P.M. and by appointment

During Advent and Lent, Communal Penance Services are celebrated.

BAPTISM: Contact the rectory for an appointment.

Baptism is scheduled on Sunday following the 10:30 A.M. Mass

Parents may be required to attend a preparatory instruction in the rectory.

MARRIAGE: Couples should contact the parish priest at least 1 year but no later than 6 months prior to the intended wedding date. Weddings are on Saturday between 10A.M. and 1P.M.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Notify the rectory when someone becomes seriously ill, or weak due to old age, so that the person might receive this Sacrament.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: The priest & Deacons perform this service monthly. Notify us when someone wishes to be visited.

HOSPITALIZED: Alert us whenever someone has to be hospitalized, especially when their admission is an emergency. The parish identification number is #171.

PARISH REGISTRATION: New members should make an appointment with the pastor.

HIGH SCHOOL: Allentown Central Catholic, 4th & Chew Sts., Allentown 18102; Phone 610-437-4601

ELEMENTARY: Good Shepherd Catholic School, 1300 Newport Ave., Northampton, PA 18067

phone: 610-262-9171 Mrs. Susan Parker, M.Ed. Principal

CCD PROGRAM: Classes conducted at the Holy Apostles Catholic Education Center,
3008 Ruch St., Whitehall, PA 18052

The program is from September to the end of April.

These classes are necessary for eligibility to receive the

Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Contact Mrs. Linda Johnson at 610-261-0144

BEQUESTS: Please remember St. Peter Church in your Last Will & Testament.

IN MEMORIAM FUND: After the death of a family member you are invited to have that person's name commemorated on the Church Plaque by suggesting that memorial offerings be donated to the Church in memory of the deceased person.

DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE Wendy Krisak, Direct Telephone 1-800-791-9209 Email: victimassistance@allentowndiocese.org

DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT Pamela Russo, MSW, MS 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204 Email: pruso@allentowndiocese.org

CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.



Mission Statement

We, as a Catholic parish under the patronage of Saint Peter, are a Eucharistic family, centered in prayer and worship, dedicated to self-sacrificing stewardship, and journeying together, Spirit-inspired, to the heavenly Kingdom.



Sunday December 31st The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Gn 15: 1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;
Lk 2:22-40

8:00 AM John Kropf
10:30 AM Anette Velekei

New Year's Eve

4:00 PM Joseph and Caroline Wandler

Monday January 1st The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27; Lk 2:16-21

9:30 AM Stefan and Mary Pultz

Tuesday January 2nd Saint Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors

1Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

8:00 AM Parishioners of Saint Peter

Wednesday January 3rd Christmas Weekday

1Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

8:00AM Clare Provaznik

Thursday January 4th St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

8:00 AM Rose and Rianna Glass

Friday January 5th St. John Neumann, Bishop First Friday

1Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51

8:00AM Andrew Lipko, Jr.

Saturday January 6th Christmas Weekday

1Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11

Vigil Mass

4:00 PM William Weiner

Sunday January 7th The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM Charles Brensinger
10:30AM Anna Bankos

Stewardship Corner

Sunday Collection Week of Sunday 12/17

Basket collection \$4757.00 plus online \$287.00

Please continue your weekly or monthly giving to our parish. Your contributions are vital in order for us to meet our obligations. If unable to attend Mass, kindly send your envelopes through the mail or drop them in the rectory mail slot.

Your **support** to your parish is critical.

I thank you for your kind and generous response.

Please be assured that you and your family are always in my prayers

Monsignor James



Online Giving

****Start giving online today!****

Visit our parish website at

<https://www.stpeterchurchcoplay.com>

Click on the online giving link

Create an account.

Schedule your recurring gifts



Flame of Love

We will not have Flame of Love on

Tuesday, January 2, 2024



Holy Hour

Wednesday 01/3/2024

6pm



Devotional Lamps

Sanctuary Light

Will burn this week in memory of

William and Anna Spaits

Offered by Bridget Gollatz

Blessed Mother Vigil Lights

Will burn in memory of

Anna and Al Edelman, Sr.

Offered by Roxanne Hoops

MASSES SAID BY RETIRED PRIESTS

Deceased: Karen Voorhees, Anita Lang, Alvera Sommers, Richard Kropf, William Weiner



Prayer Group

If you would like your name or the name of a family member to be added to the list please call the office at 610.262.2417

Office Closing
The office will be closed on
Monday, January 1
Happy and Blessed New Year!



PIEROGIES



We will be making pierogies on the 15th and 16th of January. Volunteers are needed both days. Please consider donating some of your time and talent to help out with this fundraiser.

CONTRIBUTIONS CREDIT TO 2023

the final date to receive credit and verifications for any back contributions dated 2023 that you wish to return is Sunday, January 14, 2024. Contribution letters for tax purposes will be mailed by

REQUEST ONLY

LUCKY CALENDARS

Thank you to all the sellers for all your hard work and good luck to all those who purchased tickets in support of this great fundraiser!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE COLLECTION

This weekend your last chance to donate to the Diocesan Pregnancy and Parenting Support sponsored by Catholic Charities.

Thank you to all who donated to this great cause.

WHITEHALL-COPLAY FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

We will be hosting the free Community Meal on January 7, 2024. We are asking our parishioners for monetary donations in lieu of food items to help defray some of the costs of the meal. If you are able to help, please put your donation in an envelope labeled Community Meal. You may drop off your donation in the Sunday Collection Basket or at the rectory.

Whitehall - Coplay Hunger Initiative



Free Community Meal

Will take place on
Sunday, January 7

At Saint Peter Church
4 South Fifth Street
from 4-6pm

Any questions please call 610.262.2417

Good Shepherd Catholic School
is accepting enrollment for students entering grades K-8 in 2024-2025, Preschool (3 years old) and Pre-K (4 years old). For more information, please call the Advancement Director at 610-262-9171



Holy Apostles RE

610.261.0144 or holyapostlesre@holyapostlesre.org

Office Fall Hours : M-Th 3-8PM; closed Fridays

Regular Classes begin on January 8, 10

January 15, 17 No Classes

Confirmation tests, 2/19, 21 6-8pm

Confirmation Interviews 2/22 6-8pm

Confirmation practice 3/3

Confirmation 3/5 4:30pm at St. Peter Church



Cash Bingo

When: Sunday, January 14, 2024

Where: St. Peter Church Social Hall
4 South 5th Street, Coplay

Time: Doors open at 1PM, Bingo starts at 2PM
Food is available for purchase.

Cost: \$15 admission gets 2 boards (4 faces)
\$5 book purchase

Proceeds to benefit Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative

Chips and daubers are available for purchase
Items for the food pantry are greatly appreciated.

List can be found at

<https://tinyurl.com/WCHIPantrylist>

If it snows, bingo will be canceled

If you have any questions, please call Liz at
484.274.6687

MAKE STEWARDSHIP YOUR RESOLUTION

Making an estate plan is an act of care for yourself, your loved ones, and your community. By creating your plans, you can outline important financial and healthcare decisions for the future, provide for your loved ones, and ultimately, act as a steward of everything God has placed in your care.

Through our new partnership with **FreeWill**, you can complete this important act of care. Free Will is a secure online platform that can walk you through the process of creating your estate plan 100% free of cost. visit our website [Giving/Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown \(allentowndiocese.org\)](https://www.giving-roman-catholic-diocese.org) to begin.



THE HOLY FAMILY OF

Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Dear Parishioners,

It is my hope that all of you had a blessed Christmas with your families and friends.

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all those who helped prepared the church and the parish grounds for Christmas. Many thanks to Mike and Bev Sobchak for heading up the church decorating crew and Jim Semler for heading up the outdoor decorating crew. Thanks to Kathy Alonzo and the choir and cantors for their preparations for the Masses for Christmas. It is the efforts of all that make everything go so well and look so beautiful.

As we bring this year to a close, I also want to thank the parishioners of Saint Peter's for your support of me and the parish throughout the last year. Many things have been accomplished because of your generosity and devotion. On the spiritual side, we reinstated the Corpus Christi Procession and moved the tabernacle back to the center of the church. On the physical side, we repaired the sewer system in the Heritage Center, had a record-breaking year for the parish festival, and have had the parish hall painted, with a new floor to be installed in late January-early February.

Earlier this month we announced that our convent will reopen in late Spring-early Summer 2024, to receive three sisters from the Evangelizing Congregation of the Sisters of Mary from Africa. Again, because of your generosity and the good stewardship of the parish finance council, the convent has been maintained in a good condition and is able to be rehabilitated for use without any significant problems. It will be a blessing to have the Sisters join our community and create a powerhouse of prayer in our midst as they take up their pastoral work in the area.

Next weekend we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Epiphany was celebrated as a feast before Christmas. In the ancient liturgies of the Epiphany the Church commemorated Christ's birth in Bethlehem, the Adoration of the Magi, and His Baptism by St. John the Baptist.

From this three-fold celebration arose the blessing of water, which was originally used for the celebration of Baptism that day, the blessing of salt, used to bless homes and added to the baptismal water, and chalk to bless homes to commemorate the visit of the Magi.

Holy water, salt, and chalk will be blessed before the vigil Mass next weekend, Saturday, January 6, beginning at 3:15pm. These blessings are quite long and involved and take about a half hour to perform. You are invited to join me for these blessings. You may take the blessed chalk and holy water home with you to bless your homes. Bottles for holy water will be provided but feel free to bring your own bottles or containers if you would like to take a larger amount of water. Because of the length of this ceremony, **confessions will not be heard on Saturday, January 6.**

Good has been good to Saint Peter this year. We give thanks to Him and ask Him to continue to shed His blessings and graces upon us, so that we can be a holy people who will share the light of Christ with those around us in 2024.

May God bless you and your families.

*The child
grew and
became strong,
filled with
wisdom; and
the favor
of God
was upon him.*

Luke 2:40