

Church of Saints Peter and Paul

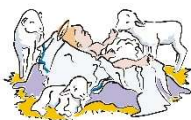
13 Hudson Road
Plains, PA 18705-2015

Phone 570-825-6663

Fax 570-823-4556

Father Jack's cell 570-656-2031

www.sspeterandpaulplains.com



The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2016

Welcome

*To all who are tired and need rest; to all who mourn and need comfort;
to all who are friendless and need friendship;
to all who are discouraged and need hope;
to all who are homeless and need sheltering love;
and to all who sin and need a Savior;
and to whomsoever will,
the Parish of Saints Peter and Paul opens wide its doors
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!*

Mission Statement

As members of Saints Peter and Paul,
we have as our mission the sharing of our faith and our talents.

We proclaim the Word of God through
compassion for our community and sharing of our treasures as Disciples of Christ.

Office Hours

Monday 10AM – 4pm
Tuesday through Friday 8am – 4pm
Office closed daily Noon – 12:30pm
Saturday by appointment

Mass Schedule

Monday – Communion Service – 7am
Tuesday through Friday – 7am
Saturday 4pm
Sunday 8am & 11am

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of every month – noon till 3pm

Confession

Daily 6:30AM – 6:45am
Saturday 3PM – 3:30pm
By appointment anytime

Working Together to Build the Kingdom of God

M 12-26 7am **Communion Service**
T 12-27 7am **Mary Matzel** by Children
W 12-28 7am **George Wojcik** by Paula & Sharon Wojcik
Th 12-29 7am **Evelyn Krzywicki**
 by Mr. & Mrs. William Phillips & Daughter
F 12-30 7am **Josephine Regielski** by Lynn Mancini
S 12-31 4pm **Ernest Nutaitis Sr.** by Leonard Borowski
S 1-1 10am **Joseph Canterini**
 by Dean & Debbie Raudenbush

THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

Psalms — All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



*This week the
Sanctuary
Candle
burns in memory of ...
Paul Hession*

*Our Lady of Lourdes Votive Candle
George Wojcik*

*The Holy Family
Joseph Canterini*

December 18, 2016

Contribution	\$5,188
Dues	\$2,450
Immaculate Conception	\$73
Utility	\$28
Maintenance	\$114
Christmas	\$698
Christmas Flowers	\$76
Care/Education of Priests	\$15
St. Vincent de Paul	\$16
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$64

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
 Monday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins
 Tuesday: St. John
 Wednesday: The Holy Innocents
 Thursday: St. Thomas Becket;
 Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
 Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 Saturday: St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve
 Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Pastor Rev. John C. Lambert	Pastor Emeritus Rev. Joseph Greskiewicz
Liturgical/Musical Consultant and Choir Director Joan Turel	
Faith Formation Sande Holena	Custodians Michael Lambert Michael Levandowski
Extraordinary Ministers/Readers David Loiacono	
Organists Christine Katsock & Charles Unice	Ushers Paul Muczynski
Altar Servers Gloria Flynn	
Food Pantry Pauline Makowski	Youth Group MaryAnn and Michael Quinn

Weekly Activities
December 25 – January 1

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Building</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sun.	<i>Merry Christmas</i>			
Mon.	Office Closed			
Tues.	9am	Quilting	Parish Center	2 nd Floor
	6:30pm	Chess Club	Parish Center	Prayer Room
Thurs.	9am	Quilting	Parish Center	2 nd Floor
Sun.	<i>Happy New Year</i>			

Memorial Donations

The following donations and memorials have recently been given to our Parish:

Bernardine Hall

\$2000 Women's Society of Saints Peter and Paul
 \$540 In Memory of Mary Jo Paciga
 by Family and Friends
 \$45 In Memory of Michael Soller by Quilters

Divine Mercy

\$100 In Memory of Joseph J. Canterini
 by Family

Saints Peter and Paul Food Pantry

\$535 Anonymous
 \$500 Lions Club
 \$100 Mariann & Joseph McGroarty
 \$100 Joseph & Margaret Wilk
 \$50 Viola & Anita Rubbico
 \$35 John & Maryann Corcoran
 \$25 Paul Fazio
 \$25 Geri Langdon
 \$25 Leona Nesterak
 \$25 In Memory of Joseph Niezgoda
 by Michael & Maryann Lambert
 \$25 In Memory of Bernice Urban
 by Ann Yevich
 \$15 Elmer Kresge

We thank all who have made memorial and free-will donations. May God bless you for your generosity. We will keep your intentions and love ones in our prayers

Mass Times Changes will be Postponed.

Mass Times for Sundays will remain 8am and 11am and Faith Formation will be held at 9:30am to 10:30am. Thank you.

Attention all ADULT...

Liturgical Ministers... Music, Ushers, Servers, Lectors, and Children's Liturgy of the Word. Parish Employees.

Volunteers at ...Food Pantry, Faith Formation Teachers/Aids, Youth Group, Fundraisers, Collection Counters, Members of theParish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance, Liturgy Committee, Quilters, Prayer Shawl, Women's Group, Holy Name Society, Bereavement and Grief Support.

You and your spouse are invited to our 2016 Parish Appreciation Dinner to be held on Sunday, January 22nd at the Touch of Class. Cocktail Hour will begin at 4pm and dinner will begin at 5pm. This is one means to show appreciation to all the Volunteers and Ministers who give so freely to help the Parish meet the challenges of Parish Life during the course of the year.

Please call the Parish Office (570) 825-6663 extension 5 and leave your name and the number of people attending. Please RSVP by Monday, January 16th.

Christmas Party for All Altar Servers will take place on Saturday, January 21st at noon in the Parish Center. New albs will also be distributed at this time so please plan to attend. Anyone UNABLE to come are asked to contact the Parish Office (Diana).

The Nativity of the Lord

By comparison to the celebration of Easter which dates back to the second century, the celebration of Christmas is of late origin, dating back to only to the fourth century.

No claim is made for December 25 being the actual date of Jesus' birth, but it is probably no accident that this celebration of the coming of the True Light falls at a time of increasing daylight.

Expanding that symbolism, four separate, carefully chosen and crafted sets of readings and prayers are prescribed for the various times of celebration of this solemnity: vigil, midnight, dawn and day. The images contained in these readings and prayers advance from early hope to radiant fulfillment.

Marriage Moments

"In the beginning was the Word." (John 1:1) And the Word was made flesh. Words count. They structure our relationship with each other. They are a promise, a sign of love. What is the first (or best) word you will say to your beloved today?

-Susan Vogt

Children Envelopes for 2017 are located in the Vestibule of the Church. Anyone who would like their child/ren to receive envelopes for 2017 should call the office.

Christmas Flowers

In Memory /Honor of

Joseph Rowker Sr.	Joseph Rowker Jr.
John Shivell Sr.	Catherine Shivell
John Shivell Jr.	Josephine Falkowsky
Thaddeus Falkowski	Nellie Yansheck
Florence Yansheck	Zigmund Pachucki

Looking for something new to do in the New Year? Our Faith Formation Program can use your help! Both our Faith Formation Classes and Children's Liturgy of the Word can always use the energy of a few new people. These rewarding ministries can change your life! For more details contact the Faith Formation Office at 570-825-6663 ext 3 then 1.



An Olde Fashion Christmas

The Women's Society would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to all women of the parish. Please join us in savoring a dinner based on the spirit of generosity and goodwill of this Blessed Christmas Season. The dinner will be held at 1pm on January 8th, at the Irem Clubhouse in Dallas, Pa. The cost of the dinner is \$40. It will include punch and cheese/fruit display and choice of turkey, fish, or pork and entertainment and fun to be had by all. Those women who are interested in attending may contact: Joanne Melman (570-824-6735), Joanne Nixon (570-823-8968) or Martha Yanaitis (570-829-2870) for more information. Deadline for reservations is December 29th.



Preparation for Confirmation 2017

will begin on Sunday, January 8th. All students currently in Grade 8 or older who are not currently attending Faith Formation classes and wishing to receive Confirmation this coming fall is asked to contact the Faith Formation Office at 570-825-6663 ext 3 then 1.



The Four Pillars of the Church are Word, Worship, Service and Community.

Word

The Ministry of Word includes education, formation and lifelong catechesis. It encompasses evangelization, Catholic School ministry, youth and young adult ministry as well as forms of religious education for all ages.

Fall Lottery Winners

12-12	#316	Phyllis Carey
12-13	#764	Jill & Joe Robastello
12-14	#000	Michael Katsak
12-15	#489	Eleanore Pientka
12-16	#905	Jennie Lavix
12-17	#335	Al Oeller
12-18	#653	Ann Delasandro

Congratulations to all!!!

Marriage Help

If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, then the Retrouvaille Program can help you. Retrouvaille is helping couples put the pieces back together and to rediscover a more loving relationship. The next local program will be Feb. 24-26, 2017 at the Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit, PA. Registration required. All calls confidential. Cost is by donation. For more information or to register call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.helpourmarriage.org.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

His Excellency, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Banbera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office of Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2017 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 11. The event includes a 2:30pm Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation, with a mailing address, should be made through your pastor before March 13. (Call the Office 570-825-6663 2 then 1 to be placed on the list)

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (Childline) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at

www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Joseph DeVozza at 570-862-7551 or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at 570-207-2269

Parenting Pointers

"Thus the total number of generations was..." (Mt: 1:17) Christmas is almost here. How many generations of your family will be present during the holidays? Listen to each other's stories. Learn about the past and future.

- Susan Vogt

The Order of Alhambra, an organization of Catholic men and women, dedicated to providing activities and support for special needs children and adults and assisting persons with intellectual disabilities is seeking donations. The local chapter, known as Alhambra Caravan No 4, hosts an annual picnic for developmentally disabled in August and provides assistance to St. Joseph's Center in Scranton and the White Haven Center. Adults 18 years old or older are welcome to become members. Donations can be made to: Alhambra Caravan No 4 & sent to: Kathy Kennedy, Grand Commander 17 Belles Ave, Ashley, PA 18706. For more information please contact Kathy at 570-825-3272 or Chaplain: Rev. James E. McGahagan at 570-823-1948. Your generosity benefits God's Special People.

*Heavenly Father,
thank you for sending your Son
to earth as a baby
so many years ago.
Thank you
that He paid the punishment
for my sins by dying on the cross.
And thank you
that He rose again to prove that death
was truly defeated.
I place my trust in You to be my Savior.
Guide me through the dark times
of my life and give me courage
to live for You.
Amen*



Merry Christmas
From Father Jack
and Parish Staff