



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

*Serving the faith communities of Duquesne, Homestead, Munhall,  
West Homestead, West Mifflin and Whitaker*

ESTABLISHED JULY 1, 2020

## WORSHIP SITES

**Holy Name**

32 South First Street  
Duquesne

**Holy Trinity**

529 Grant Avenue Extension  
West Mifflin

**Resurrection**

1 Majka Drive  
West Mifflin

**St. Agnes**

St. Agnes Lane  
West Mifflin

**St. Hedwig**

105 South Fifth Street  
Duquesne

**St. Joseph**

817 Grant Avenue  
Duquesne

**St. Maximilian Kolbe**

363 West 11th Avenue Ext.  
Homestead

**St. Rita**

219 West Schwab Avenue  
Munhall

**St. Therese**

1 St. Therese Court  
Munhall

## Sunday, January 16, 2022



### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." - Jn 2:1-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

GLP

## CLERGY TEAM

**Pastor**

Rev. E. Daniel Sweeney

**Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Tony Gargotta

**In Residence**

Rev. Stan Gregorek

Rev. Nicholas Mastrangelo

Rev. Emmanuel Abbey-Quaye

Rev. Augustus Nweze

**Deacon**

Ron Demblowski

**Seminarian**

Daniel D'Antonio



## PARISH OFFICES

**Administrative Office**

363 West 11th Avenue Extension  
Homestead, PA 15120  
Phone: 412-461-1054  
Fax: 412-462-1744

**Business Office**

1 St. Therese Court  
Munhall, PA 15120  
Phone: 412-462-8161  
Fax: 412-462-4817

### *Office Staff*

Jon Cuniak, Principal, St. Therese School  
 Trish DiGiannurio, Central Office Coordinator  
 Lori Ellis, Pastoral Associate  
 Ray Fonos, Business Manager  
 Fran Magnuson, Administrative Assistant  
 Cindi Picciafoco, Parish Secretary

### *Maintenance*

Jason Bevan                      Rick Booker, Dir.

### *Music Ministry*

Thomas Coyne, LEM, Dir.  
 Greg Lesko  
 Nina Mascio  
 Debbie Walters, LEM

### *Faith Formation*

Lori Ellis, LEM, Religious Education

### *Baptism/Marriage*

Please contact Lori Ellis at 412-462-8161

### *Confession Schedule*

Mondays at St. Therese at 7:00 p.m.  
 Saturdays at Holy Trinity from 3:00-3:45 p.m.  
 Saturdays at St. Max from 3:00-3:45 p.m.

### *Hall Rentals*

Please call 412-461-1054

### *Website*

www.thomastheapostle.net

### *YouTube*

Steel Valley Catholic

### *Emergencies*

Please call 412-461-1054

### *St. Vincent de Paul Society*

Please call 412-461-2188

### *Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline*

1-888-808-1235

### *PA Childline*

1-800-932-0313

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Saturday, January 15</b>	4:00 PM	Holy Trinity (TG)	Albert Sklencar	Family
	4:00 PM	St. Max (NM)	Paul B. McKinney	Barbara McKinney
	4:00 PM	St. Therese(SG/DR)	Stephen Gerard Patterson	Cousins, Vince & Dolly Rodgers
	5:30 PM	Holy Name (TG)	Dolores Loop	Scott & Vicky Adams
<b>Sunday, January 16</b>  <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	7:30 AM	St. Therese (TG)	James W. Graham	Daughter, Cindy
	8:30 AM	St. Joseph (AN)	James Abraham	Wife & Family
	9:00 AM	Resurrection (NM)	Anthony DeMartino, Sr.	David & Diane Petarca
	10:00 AM	St. Agnes (SG/DR)	Sister Marita	Sisters Cynthia & Janelle
	10:30 AM	St. Max (AN)	Jim Wice	Carol Wice
	11:00 AM	St. Therese (NM)	Timothy Schwer	Robert Barrett
	11:30 AM	Holy Name (SG/DR)	Joseph Hlad	Children & Grandchildren
	11:45 AM	St. Rita (AN)	Marie Spirnak	Husband, Raymond

# MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

<b>Monday, January 17</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Trinity (TG)</b>	Michael Maloney	Mom & Dad
	<b>8:15 AM</b>	<b>St. Therese (NM)</b>	Ed Cerilli	Tom & Peg Smith
<b>Tuesday, January 18</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Holy Trinity (TG)</b>	Wasil & Patsy Karlovski	Sister
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>St. Rita (AN)</b>	Mary & Joe Fenner	Daughter, Therese Race
<b>Wednesday, January 19</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>St. Max (AN)</b>	Richard Donahoe	Becky Gray
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>St. Rita (TG)</b>	Michaelangelo Revilak	Family
<b>Thursday, January 20</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>St. Max (AN)</b>	Lenore Miller	Daughter, Renee
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>St. Therese (TG)</b>	Joseph Vitas	Dan & Jane Rodgers
<b>Friday, January 21</b> <i>Feast of St. Agnes</i>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>St. Agnes (TG)</b>	Sue Smiley Patrick Panebianco	Sally Smiley Judy Watts
<b>Saturday, January 22</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Holy Trinity (NM)</b>	Delphine Schaff	Rita Popojas
	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>St. Max (DS)</b>	Lesko Family	Kitty Lesko
	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>St. Therese(SG/DR)</b>	Dorothy Stein	Cindy Imbrogno
	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Holy Name (TG)</b>	Joseph Kunak	Kunak Family
<b>Sunday, January 23</b> <i>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>St. Therese (TG)</b>	Raymond Butko	Joan Dietzen & Family
	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>St. Joseph (DS)</b>	Tim Beal, Jr.	Sharon Beal
	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Resurrection(SG/DR)</b>	John Pinkovsky	Pinkovsky & Popa Family
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>St. Agnes (DS)</b>	William J. Popojas	Jeff & Mary Bedont
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>St. Max (NM)</b>	George & Edna Hanus	Children
	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>St. Therese (TG)</b>	Arthur Barrera	Alice Maddigan
	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Holy Name (DS)</b>	Jean Capozzoli	Ray & Maryann Jarusinski
	<b>11:45 AM</b>	<b>St. Rita (SG/DR)</b>	Marie Langan	Family

Mass Intentions for 2022 are now being accepted. Forms can be found in the back of the church.



**Covid Update-** With Covid numbers on the rise, the bishop is concerned about the spread of Covid. He is strongly urging people to wear masks. Also, the sign of peace and presentation of gifts have been temporarily suspended. If you are ill, stay home. If you are elderly, there is no obligation to attend Mass.

**Reminder - Candle Price Increase** - As you are aware, everywhere is experiencing a shortage or price increase. The church is experiencing the same thing. Effective immediately, we no longer can hold the candle price at \$3.00. So, the price is going up to \$4.00. If you wish to have candles lit at the altar, they are no longer \$5.00 but are now \$6.00. At this time, the price of the Sanctuary Candle will remain \$25 for two weeks.

**Town Hall Meetings** - We have completed all nine town hall informal listening sessions. We heard a lot of great things from people. The people who did attend realize that we must do something. We know that at least four more buildings will have to close. The Task Force will be making recommendations to the pastoral and finance councils in the near future.

**Superbowl Pool** - All blocks are sold. Full payment is due no later than **January 16th**. Blocks that are not paid by this date will be sold to the next person on the waiting list.

**Adoration** - The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on Friday at St. Max from noon until 4:00 p.m. Please stop by and make a visit.

**Fish Fry** - Our Fish Fry at St. Max will be open on Friday from 11:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. We offer fried or baked fish, jumbo or popcorn shrimp, potato pancakes, macaroni and cheese, haluski, pizza and more. Our special this week is beef tips over noodles with salad and roll. Eat in or take out. To reach our kitchen, please call 412-462-1743.

**Bible Study** - There will be a Bible Study beginning **January 20**, and continuing every Thursday until May 26. Bible Study will take place beginning at 11:00 a.m. in Holy Trinity Hall, and 7:00 p.m. in St. Agnes Hall. Since we are in year C for most Sundays, which centers on Luke's Gospel, we will be studying the Gospel of Luke. We will cover 1-2 chapters an evening. Come bring a Bible and a friend!

**Feast of St. Agnes** - The Feast of St. Agnes is **January 21st**. There will only be one Mass that day, at 8:00 a.m. at St. Agnes. Please come and join us for a free parish breakfast following Mass. All are welcome!

**Tax Statements** - Contribution statements for 2021 are available by request. Please call Cindi at 412-462-8161 if you would like your statement.

**January is When We Remember the Right to Life, the Unborn Child** - On **January 22nd**, the Rosary will be prayed at noon at Holy Trinity and at noon at St. Therese. We hope you can join us.

**Task Force** - Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 24th** at 6:30 p.m. at St. Max.

**Pastoral & Finance Council** - A meeting is set for **Thursday, January 27th** at 6:30 p.m. at St. Max.

**Blessing of Throats** - We will have the blessing of throats at all Masses on **January 29-30th**.

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Sunday, January 30th** from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at St. Max Hall. If you are a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Cantor, Choir Member, CCD Teacher, Usher, Bereavement Minister, Server, Fish Fry Worker, Catering Worker, Festival Worker or volunteer in other ways at St. Thomas the Apostle, we invite you to join us. Please RSVP by January 26th. Please be sure to let us know how many are in your party.

**Bereavement Support Sessions:** We invite you to be part of a circle where we hope you find space to grieve, to search, to listen and to reach out to other parishioners. These sessions are an opportunity to share with people who also struggle and hurt. You are not alone. Let us find comfort and healing in what we believe and in our ability to care one another. *Bereavement Support Sessions will be held on Thursday evenings: January 27, February 10 & 24, March 10 & 24, April 7 & 21.* The sessions take place from 6:00-7:30PM in St. Therese Rectory meeting Room. A light dinner will be served. Please call the rectory at 412-462-8161 or e-mail [lellis@st-therese.net](mailto:lellis@st-therese.net) to RSVP. These sessions are independent of each other so you can join us as often as your schedule allows.

**Candles at St. Therese** - The Candle Room at St. Therese will be temporarily closed for renovations.

**Please Pray** - For the repose of the soul of Elenora Rohan, Mildred June Ritchie, Sean Richard Zera, Donald Collins and Rita Novak who were recently buried from St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

**DO YOU KNIT OR CROCHET?** The Senior Social Group sponsors a collection of knitted or crocheted 7x7 squares each year that are donated to various charities and used to make blankets. This collection will take place in March, 2022 with drop off time & place to be determined. Over the next several months, please consider taking up this hobby for this worthwhile charity. All skill levels are welcome. Spread the word to family & friends. Donations will be greatly appreciated. For information, call Mary Bittner, 412-651-0720.

**Enjoy Books** - St. Therese School is once again selling Enjoy Books. The cost is \$30. Books can be purchased in the school office. For more information, please call 412-462-8163.

**Youth Ministry opportunities:**

Sunday, January 30 – Serve the Appreciation Dinner at St. Max for the volunteers of St. Thomas.

Saturday-Sunday - February 5-6 – Donut Weekend

Sunday, February 6 – Meeting with Sem. Dan.

Saturday-Sunday - February 12-13 – Superbowl weekend & Hoagie Weekend!

Sunday, February 27 – Serve the “February Affair” at St. Max.

**SOS – for all youth in grades 6-7-8 – Opportunities to serve others:**

Sunday, January 23 – Session at St. Therese Cafeteria from 5-7:00 PM.

Sunday, January 30 – Serve the Appreciation Dinner at St. Max for the volunteers of St. Thomas.

Sunday, February 20 – Session at St. Therese Cafeteria from 5-7:00 PM.

Sunday, February 27 – Serve the “February Affair” at St. Max.

**Religious Education for grades K- 7 will be held:**

Sundays; January 23; February 13, 27; March 13, 27; April 10 & 24 from 10:15 AM then attendance at 11:45 AM Mass at St. Rita’s. For information, please call or e-mail [lellis@thomastheapostle.net](mailto:lellis@thomastheapostle.net). Thank you for making Religious Education a priority.

**Confirmation Preparation:**

Grade 8 CCD will meet on Tuesday, January 25 from 6-7:00 PM in the Rectory Meeting Room.

**All youth wishing to be confirmed will attend the Confirmation Sessions on: Tuesdays; February 1, 8, 15, 22 from 5:30-7:00 PM in St. Therese Cafeteria.** We do not know the date for Confirmation yet, as soon as we do you will be notified. Thank you for your patience and making this preparation a priority.



**Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

**St. Agnes Hall**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. - Early Birds begin at 6:45 p.m.

All Paper Bingo

Admission is \$10 and covers 9 boards for 20 regular games

Specials and Jackpot are extra

Specials pay \$100  
\$500 Jackpot must go!!!

Our kitchen will be open serving our usual menu items.

All are welcome!

Proceeds benefit St. Therese School



**Join us for a Superbowl Party**

**Sunday, February 13, 2022**

**St. Max Hall**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. If you have a block on our \$100 pool, you and a guest can come in at no charge. If you do not have a block but would still like to come, the cost is \$15. Admission includes buffet, snacks and drinks.

For more information, please call 412-461-1054.

## *St. Hedwig Church*

As you all know, this time of transition has been challenging for all of us. Change is always difficult, but it's a necessary part of growing and meeting the needs of the future. Related to those changes, I've recently received some news that I wanted to share with all of you. During this past week, I received the bishop's acceptance of our petitions to close St. Hedwig church building. Copies of the decrees will be posted in the back of the churches and they will also be available for you to see in the parish offices and parish website. All of those persons and families who helped lay the foundations of our faith here in Duquesne have our prayers and gratitude. They are not forgotten as we move on with our process of becoming a new, unified parish. Please pray for them and for all our fellow parishioners.

Due to the financial difficulties that we are facing, we have to make some difficult decisions concerning which buildings we can afford to operate as we move forward. While there are difficult decisions, I know that Christ will enliven our hearts and minds to share God's love and joy going forward. We are a pilgrim people and are not yet home.

## *St. Hedwig Parish History*

St. Hedwig Parish was founded by Pope Leo XII in 1895 with services held in a newly constructed wooden church on Polish Hill, October 13, 1895. The original church was built at a cost of \$2,000. A walkway of 160 wooden steps led from Oliver Ave to the church on Polish Hill where the original 40 families worshipped in their native language.

The first pastor was Rev. Anthony Smelsz.

The first Baptism was performed October 19, 1895.

First funeral was held November 15, 1895 for a 1 ½ year old.

The first marriage took place on July 11, 1896.

The parish cemetery was purchased in 1915 at a cost of \$3,000.

The original church was destroyed by fire on January 13, 1928. The insurance settlement yielded \$44,190.27. After the fire parishioners rented space for services until 1930 when land was purchased and a new church built at the current location of 5<sup>th</sup> and Kennedy Ave in Duquesne. The cost of the new church was \$48,230.00. Subsequently, the rectory was built in 1931 at a cost of \$10,760. By 1934 the parish grew to 320 families. In 1942 Rev. Stanislaus Kupiec was appointed pastor where he served for almost 25 years. Rev. Kupiec died in 1966 and was succeeded by Rev. Daniel Szczygiel. Fr. Szczygiel served as pastor and maintained the parish ethnic customs until he passed away suddenly in 1988.

In 1994 St. Hedwig Parish merged with Holy Name of Jesus Parish to form Christ the Light of the World where it remained a worship site until 2018. In 2020, as part of the Diocese of Pittsburgh On Mission for the Church Alive program, St. Hedwig became part of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

## *Closing Mass for St. Hedwig*

The Closing Mass for St. Hedwig will take place on **Saturday, January 29th** at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome! Please note that there will NOT be a 5:30 p.m. Mass at Holy Name that day. Remember, St. Hedwig and Holy Name were combined and became Christ the Light of the World Parish for years.

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE LADIES GUILD  
'SOUP'ER BOWL SATURDAY**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022**

**ST. MAXIMILIAN CHURCH HALL**

**11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**



**ATTENTION SOUP MAKERS OF THE PARISH:** It is that time of year - The Ladies Guild Annual Soup Sale. If you enjoy making soup, join us in the fun by making your favorite soup. Fill out the form below and let us know what kind of soup you would like to make. The soup form can be placed in the collection basket or turned in at St. Max parish office by Sunday, January 23rd. Quart plastic containers are available if there aren't soup jars available.

**Thank you!**

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**YES, I'LL MAKE SOUP!**

---

**NAME**

**PHONE NUMBER**

---

**SOUP**

**NUMBER OF QUARTS**

**PLEASE CHECK HERE IF YOU NEED QUART PLASTIC CONTAINERS \_\_\_\_\_**

**DUE BY SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022**



# Win \$50,000

Benefit of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

Drawing based on the PA Daily Lottery

First three-digit number drawn at 7:00 p.m.

## Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022

If there is NO winner that day,  
then the Monday, April 18th drawing, the prize will be \$25,000.

Donation - \$100

Tickets are on sale in the St. Max and St. Therese parish offices  
Sell some tickets!

The seller of the winning ticket will win \$2,000.  
(You cannot be the seller of your own ticket!)

*New Year, New Man!*

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*May 10-11, 2022*

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Kitchen Kettle Village ~ Wilbur's Chocolate ~ Lititz ~ Amish Dinner  
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- \$409.00 per person single

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK OPEN HOUSE

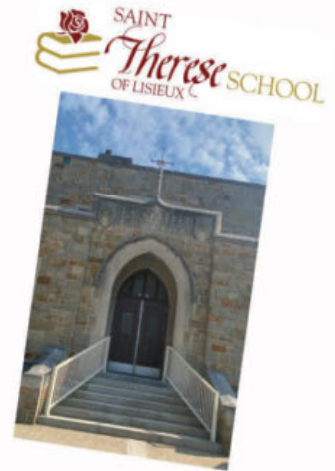
ST. THERESE SCHOOL  
MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022

6PM-8PM

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AND SEE EVERYTHING OUR  
SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER!

REGISTRATION FOR GRADES 3 YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL THROUGH 8TH  
GRADE WILL BE AVAILABLE AND ACCEPTED THAT EVENING.

CALL THE OFFICE AT 412-462-8163 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Save the Date

St. Therese School Presents:

February Affair



Featuring over 80 Chinese Auction Baskets,  
100 Mystery Bags and The Grand Raffle

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Beginning at Noon

St. Maximilian Kolbe Hall

Tickets - \$35

For more information, please Call 412-462-8163

# Pot of Gold

**Saturday, March 5, 2022**

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish Hall  
363 West 11th Avenue, Homestead

Doors open at 5:00 pm.  
Hors d'oeuvres  
Dinner  
Dessert  
Full Bar

- First number drawn wins \$100
  - Every 10th number wins \$100
  - The 90th number wins \$200
- Then
- Every 5th number wins \$100
  - The last five get to decide if they want \$1000 or gamble with it.

We will also have 50/50,  
Instant Bingo, 5 Horse Races and  
Chinese Auction  
Only 180 tickets will be sold!

Tickets \$100  
Admits you and a guest

Tickets available by calling  
412-461-1054 or at the  
St. Max and St. Therese  
Parish Offices

Benefits Appalachia Work Camp





**Prayer to St. Thomas the Apostle**

Glorious Saint Thomas, Your love for Jesus and faith in him as Lord and God are an inspiration for all who seek Jesus. You encourage us to be courageous in giving witness to faith and in proclaiming the gospel. You lead us to be missionary in our endeavors.

As our patron, pray for us as we build our new parish. We ask your intercession that we may spend ourselves in the service of Jesus and his Mission.

Under your watchful care may we grow in faith and generously use our talents, gifts and vision in the service of Christ Jesus and in love for our neighbor.

**Pope Francis Prayer  
for Protection from Coronavirus**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We hope entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

**Religious Exemption from Covid-19 Vaccine**

Recently there has been an increase of requests from many of you and at the Bishop's Office. The Holy Father himself has strongly encouraged vaccines and has held vaccination clinics at the Vatican. Pope Francis has gone as far as to say that being vaccinated is an act of love. An individual may have an objection based on his or her personal conscience. This is not a matter of religious belief but rather of one's own conscience. Once again, neither the diocese nor any of its parishes is in a position to provide any written or verbal support for anyone seeking an exemption for the vaccine based on religious grounds.

**Collection Report  
St. Thomas the Apostle**

January 9, 2022

\$34,867

Totals include all offertory, parish share, energy needs and other collections. Our parish needs \$34,663 each week in order to maintain the buildings, utilities, staff, etc.

**Candles**

**The Sanctuary Candle at Holy Trinity** is lit this week for Frank & Mary Jakubcak requested by Paul & Stephanie Schuster.

**The Sanctuary Candle at Resurrection** is lit this week in memory of Pauline, Andy & Tom Elko req. by Ron & Mary Ann Venturella.

**The Sanctuary Candle at St. Agnes** is lit this week in memory of Delphine Schaff requested by Rita Popojas.

**The Sanctuary Candle at St. Max** is lit this week for Father Dan and the Task Force Members requested by Grateful Parishioners. **Altar Candles at St. Max** - Zachary Mrazik (2 candles) req. by Mrazik Family ~ Eugene Grzyb req. by Wife, Irene & Family ~ Bob Rochford req. by Cathy Rochford

**The Sanctuary Candle at St. Rita** is lit this week in memory of Vincent DiRocco requested by The Imhoff Family.

**The Sanctuary Candle at St. Therese** is lit this week in memory of the Deceased Members of the Murzyn Family requested by Betty Varadi Murzyn.

**Sanctuary Candle** - We are now booking our Sanctuary Candle for all of our churches for January 2022 through Easter of 2022. The sanctuary candle is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one. The cost is \$25 for two weeks. To reserve your spot, please contact Trish at 412-461-1054.

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[www.4lpi.com/careers](http://www.4lpi.com/careers)

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