



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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28 May 2023

*The Solemnity of Pentecost*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank you for supporting one of the great treasures of the Diocese of Allentown, Holy Ghost Parish, which has been home to Bethlehem's German community since 1871.

I am pleased to announce that the Parish, with its beautiful Romanesque architecture, will continue to serve the Catholics of Southside Bethlehem, including the German community for whom it was originally established. However, the number of current parishioners and the financial situation of the parish require an adjustment in order to insure the long-term viability of Holy Ghost Parish.

As of Tuesday, 20 June 2023, Reverend Gregory Pendergraft, F.S.S.P., will become Pastor of Holy Ghost Parish, Bethlehem.

Father Pendergraft is a member of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter, a community of Priests founded by Pope Saint John Paul II. They have the unique ministry and charism of celebrating the Mass in Latin, in what is called the Extraordinary Form.

Father Pendergraft and Father David Lopez, F.S.S.P., who will become Parochial Vicar of Holy Ghost, will celebrate all Masses at the Parish in Latin in the Extraordinary Form. A third priest, who was just ordained this past week, is anticipated to arrive in September. While Mass and the Sacraments in the Extraordinary Form are celebrated in Latin, the Homily and Confessions are in English.


Fittingly, this is the same Mass attended by the German immigrants who built Holy Ghost and were its first parishioners. The approximately 700 parishioners of Saint Stephen of Hungary Parish, Allentown, who worship in the Extraordinary Form, will be joining you at Holy Ghost. They are primarily young families and young adults.

The many cultural and social events that have enlivened the community at Holy Ghost and provided a joyful Catholic witness on Bethlehem's Southside will continue, and the Lehigh University Newman Center will remain on this property.

Please join me in thanking Reverend David J. Kozak for his years of faithful service to Holy Ghost Parish. Father Kozak will become the Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Allentown, and of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Allentown, where he will be meeting a great need in the Spanish-speaking community.

Again, I thank you, the parishioners of Holy Ghost, for your faithfulness and for your prayers. May you continue to shine the light of Christ in Bethlehem as you begin a new and vibrant chapter in the Parish's rich history.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alfred A. Schlert". The signature is written in black ink and is preceded by a small cross symbol.

✠ Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert  
Bishop of Allentown