



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time ***November 8, 2015***

Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

Baptisms

Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend baptismal instructions classes before the birth of their child, if possible. Please contact the Rectory to register. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed.

Confirmation

Confirmation is administered every three years to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in our Parish CCD program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the CCD program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages

In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the Rectory whenever a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized. Please note, because of the new government regulations regarding privacy, hospitals cannot release information without a patient's consent.

Reconciliation

The sacrament is celebrated each **Saturday from 4:00 – 4:45pm and Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11:45am – 12:00noon** in the church and also by appointment.

Monthly Visitations

Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA prepares interested adults for reception into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the each person's needs and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Please contact the rectory to register for the classes.

St. Peter's Church

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901

Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322

Religious Education Phone: 570-724-9789

Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com

Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net

Director of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier – stpreled@ptd.net

Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 – 4:45pm

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am-12:00noon

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. Confirmation Prep Class meets one Sunday a month from 5:00–6:30pm as scheduled.

Pregnancy Support

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310

Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS

Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

Parish Contact Listing

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – Patti Mitchell 570-724-3371

Guardians of the Redeemer – Rectory 570-724-3371

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

St. John Neumann's Prayer Group – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085

Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023

Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216

Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175

Parish Rummage Sale – Rectory 570-724-3371

Funeral Luncheon Group – Rectory 570-724-3371

Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591

Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529

Fundraising Dinners – Kathy Wilcox 570-724-3371

Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,

Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427, Marian Miller 570-724-5245

Samaritan House – Daria Guelig 570-724-3030

Youth Group – Maureen Poirier 570-724-9789

Eucharistic Adoration – Mary Cleveland 570-724-5286

Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056

Parish Council – Jon Banik 570-724-5968

Worship Committee – Rectory 570-724-3371

Sunday Communion at Nursing Homes – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470

Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Order of Secular Carmelite – Lori Makos 570-724-3371

Welcome to our Visitors

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for celebrating the Eucharist with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us in worship and invite you to become part of our church family by contacting the Rectory.

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 11/9 <i>Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12; 1 Cor 3:9-11, 16-17</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions All Souls Intentions
Tuesday 11/10 <i>Wis 2:23-3:9; Lk 17:7-10</i>	7:30am	All Souls Intentions
Wednesday 11/11 <i>Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Casey Patrick (Grab Family)
Thursday 11/12 <i>Wis 7:22-8:1; Lk 17:20-25</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Jesse Allen (Mosso Family)
Friday 11/13 <i>Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Joseph & Mary Harvan (Vernon & Mary Mast)
Saturday 11/14 <i>Wis 18:14-16, 19:6-9; LK 18:1-8</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Robert Brown (Daughter, Gina)
Sunday 11/15 <i>Dn 12:1-3; Heb 10:11-14,18; Mk 13:24-32</i>	8:30am 11:00am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Church In Memory of Stephen & Eloise Krystoff (Jon & Bonnie Locey)



This Week's Sanctuary Candle

The sanctuary candle is a reminder to us of the presence of Christ reserved in the Tabernacle.
This week's candle is offered in memory of **Paul Allison, Jr.** (Mom & Dad Zona)

Stewardship

Your Gift of Time, Talent & Treasure
Thanks for your continued support and generosity!

Sunday Collection for Nov. 1st: **\$7,255.00***
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00
Difference: \$1,265.00
Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$5,301.36)
Care & Education of Priests: \$886.00
**Includes All Saints Day Giving of \$1,873.00*

Attendance for weekend of November 1st

5:00pm – 115; 8:30am – 255; 11:00am – 124
Total number attending Mass – 494
Number of registered families – 480
Number of registered parishioners – 1000

Reflect on your gifts...and your giving!

Envelope usage statistics for the weekend of November 1st

Amount Given	Number of Contributors	Percentage of Contributors	Total Amount
\$0.00	343	68.46%	\$ 0.00
\$0.01 – \$1.00	0	0.00%	\$ 0.00
\$1.01 – \$5.00	13	2.59%	\$ 53.00
\$5.01 – \$10.00	23	4.59%	\$ 217.00
\$10.01 – \$15.00	13	2.59%	\$ 184.00
\$15.01 – \$20.00	21	4.19%	\$ 413.00
\$20.01 – \$25.00	15	2.99%	\$ 372.00
\$25.01 – \$50.00	48	9.58%	\$ 1,791.00
\$50.01 – \$75.00	8	1.60%	\$ 526.00
\$75.01 – \$100.00	6	1.20%	\$ 580.00
\$100.01 – \$500.00	11	2.20%	\$ 2,445.00
Totals	501		\$ 6,581.00

Loose Collection: \$ 674.00

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, November 8, 2015

Religious Education – Preschool: 8:30am; K-12th: 9:30am

MONDAY, November 9, 2015

Buildings and Grounds Meeting – 9:00am, Rectory
Adult Education Series – 6:30pm, Parish Center
Worship Committee Meeting – 7:00pm, Rectory

TUESDAY, November 10, 2015

Adoration – 7:30am – 7:00pm
Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center
Broad Acres Mass – 10:30am
Parish Council Meeting – 7:00pm, Rectory
Guardians of the Redeemer – 7:00pm, Parish Center
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, November 11, 2015

Green Home Mass – 2:00pm
Social Concerns Meeting – 3:00pm, Parish Center
Christmas Choir Practice – 5:00-7:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, November 12, 2015

Contemplative Spirituality Group – 8:30am, Parish Center
Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center
R.C.I.A. – 6:00pm, Parish Center
St. John Neumann Prayer Group – 7:00pm, Parish Center

SUNDAY, November 15, 2015

Religious Education – Preschool: 8:30am; K-12th: 9:30am
Displaced Carmelites Meeting – 1:00pm, Parish Center

On November 16th, Cecelia Gamble will turn 101 years old. Cecelia is the oldest, living parishioner of St. Peter's Church. Happy Birthday and God's blessings, Cecelia!!





Liturgical Reflection

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:10-16

Today's First Reading underscores the tremendous trust of both Elijah and the widow of Zarepath. God speaks through the prophet and brings his words to fulfillment, bestowing blessings. The prophet is the spokesman, but it is God who acts. We see the dawning of a universalism in which God extends a hand of compassion and mercy to all people, demonstrating the love of the one who is Creator of all.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28

This passage in Hebrews tells us that Jesus, our perfect and blameless High Priest, has now taken his own blood and entered the heavenly sanctuary to bring about our forgiveness and reconciliation. Another important allusion to the Old Testament is found in the final verse of this passage where it reads, "offered once to take away the sins of many." In the fourth song of the servant in Second Isaiah (read on Good Friday), we find reference to the redemptive death of the servant, which brings about the forgiveness of sins (Is 53:11-12). The author of Hebrews saw Jesus as the fulfillment of both these Old Testament images (the High Priest and the Servant). The author makes the point that this one perfect sacrifice of Jesus need never be repeated, for it has surpassed and completed what the Old Law never envisioned could be accomplished. When Christ appears again, this time it will be to bestow salvation at the end of time.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44

Throughout the Scriptures, the biblical authors portray God as caring for the poor. The widow, the orphan, the foreigner, and all who are in need are the concern of God and his people. The Gospel shows Jesus in this same light. Jesus taught that real giving must come from the heart. A gift that is given with a grudge or for display loses most of its value. But a gift given out of love, with a spirit of generosity and sacrifice, is invaluable. The amount or size of the gift doesn't matter as much as the cost to the giver. The poor widow could have kept one of her coins, but instead she recklessly gave away all she had! Jesus praised someone who gave barely a penny because it was everything she had, her whole living. What we have to offer may look very small and not worth much, but if we put all we have at the Lord's disposal, no matter how insignificant it may seem, then God can do with it and with us what is beyond our reckoning.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

In the Collect we ask God to "keep from us all adversity," not so that we may carry out our own plans, but so that "we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are" God's. In the Mass we celebrate "in mystery" the Passion of Christ. In the Prayer over the Offerings, we pray that we may always honor this great mystery with "loving devotion." The Prayer after Communion asks for "the grace of integrity" for all those who have received God's "heavenly power" through sharing in the "sacred gift" of the Eucharist.



Ministers of the Altar Schedule

Weekend of November 15th

5:00pm

Servers: L.Cimino, E.Cimino, B.Rudy

Lectors: C.Evert, T.Sampson

E. Min.: E.Evert, G.Brown, A.Singer

8:30am

Servers: A.Bleggi, N.Ingerick, A.Banik

Lectors: D.Bleggi, S.Ingerick

E. Min.: M.Cunningham, L.Whitney, C.Delong

11:00am

Servers: K.Kramer, K.Swendrowski, A.Swendrowski

Lectors: M.Stirnman, L.Nonnenmacher

E. Min.: D.Stager, L.Stager, V.Anthony

Parish Activities and Information

PARISH FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 22nd is the date of our annual parish Family Advent Celebration. This celebration is **for all members of our Parish** and includes Advent crafts to make with your children, Advent handouts, door prizes, guessing jars, coffee and donuts. Please come and share in this time of fellowship with member of our Parish family.

The middle school youth group will host this event and will also have a **bake sale**, with proceeds going to support upcoming youth group activities. *Donations of baked goods* are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off before 9:30am.

We will also be selling **Advent Wreath candles**. The set includes 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle and costs \$4.00 per set.

THANKSGIVING MASS SCHEDULE



THANKSGIVING
MASS

St. Peter's Thanksgiving Mass will be held on Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00pm. There will be no 12:10pm Mass on Wednesday, November 25th, Thursday, November 26th, or Friday, November 27th.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

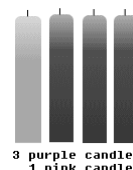
The Social Concerns Committee is organizing the Christmas Giving Tree again this year. If you, as a member of our parish are in need, or know of a family in our parish that is in need, please contact the rectory by November 11th.

ATTENTION LECTORS

Your 2016 Lector Workbook is here and can be picked up after any Mass. The books are on the counter in the Sacristy and begin with the readings for November 29th, the First Sunday of Advent.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

There will be a second collection taken up at all Masses next weekend in support of our parish religious education program. Please be as generous as you are able.



SOCIAL CONCERNS FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The Social Concerns Committee is accepting specific donations for the local food pantry on a monthly rotation. **November's food items are Pork & Beans and canned fruit (15oz).** Please place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church anytime throughout the month.

ALL SOULS INTENTIONS

Parishioners are reminded that there are special All Souls Intention envelopes in your monthly packets to remember deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during the month of November to remember your intentions. Please place your envelopes in the collection basket this month.

BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD

The Church has a long tradition of remembering those who have died, to the love and mercy of God. We do this in a special way on the Feast of All Souls Day, and throughout November. During the month of November, a Book of the Names of the Dead will be located near the front entrance of the church. All Parishioners are welcome to write the names of those they wish to remember in this special book.

ADULT EDUCATION

Our Adult Education Series will continue Monday, Nov. 2nd with part 3 of Bishop Robert Barron's new series, *The Mystery of God*. Discussion and refreshments follow each viewing. All are welcome and there is no charge.

CHOIR LOOKING FOR MEMBERS



The choir has a great need for more voices and singers. Please consider joining. They also are looking for more instrumentalists. Guitars in particular are needed, but there is always room for someone who plays other instruments. Please contact Christina Simonis, if interested.

Neighboring Parish News

VETERANS DAY MASS AT HOLY CHILD

To honor our veterans and those in military service, there will be a special Mass at 6:00pm on Thursday, Nov. 12th at Holy Child Church, 252 S. Main St., Mansfield, Pa followed by a potluck supper. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Dotty Welsh at 570-662-2057.

Pro Life News

WORD OF LIFE

Within the family each member is accepted, respected and honored precisely because he or she is a person; and if any family member is in greater need, the care which he or she receives is all the more intense and attentive." — Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 92

Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty.

Visit www.usccb.org/pray.

Join the Movement

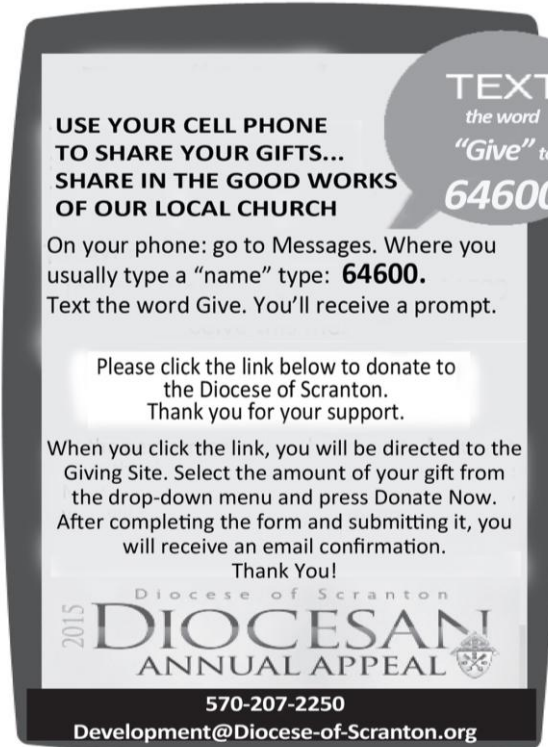
EMPCC JOB OPENING

Endless Mountain Pregnancy Center is seeking to fill the position of Executive Director. Interviewing will begin in December, with the new director in place by January 1st. For a complete job description, visit www.empccfree.com.

Diocese of Scranton News

MEN'S CONFERENCE – SAVE THE DATE

The 2nd Annual Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The speakers will be Dr. Schott Hahn and Msgr. Charles Pope.



Prayer after an election

God of all nations, Father of the human family, we give you thanks for the freedom we exercise and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy in these United States of America. We ask for your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the common good, working for justice and peace at home and around the world. We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants, those who will serve us as president, as legislators and judges, those in the military and law enforcement. Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst. Amen

That's The Way It Is!

By Fr. Dave Bechtel



Sunday October 25 was Priesthood Sunday. Due to the fact that the Sunday also coincided with the Diocesan Appeal I did not reference it or give a homily highlighting the Priesthood. Perhaps that

was a mistake, but there will be plenty of time for me to preach on the Priesthood.

In my article this week I wanted to provoke some thought as to the nature of the Priesthood. Understanding the nature of the Priesthood will help us understand why the priesthood is restricted to men. This article is not going to be exhaustive in that it will answer every question one might have on why the Priesthood is restricted to men, but I hope it will at least provoke thought.

When I taught the Sacrament of Holy Orders I would always begin with this question: "Who here thinks the Church should ordain women?" Inevitably hands would go up. I would then follow up with this question "Fine. What is a priest?" I would then get blank looks. I would then say "So let me get this straight: you think women should be ordained to the priesthood but you can't tell me what the priesthood is? How can you support women's ordination without knowing what ordination is?"

This brings me to my first point: We can't talk about who should be ordained priests until we first understand what the priesthood is. As I continued with my students, asking them what a priest is, they would tell me things you would expect anyone to say: the priest is a teacher, the priest helps people, the priest councils people, the priest helps the poor, the priest advocates for the poor, the priest runs a parish, the priest visits the sick, The priest prays with people and for people, etc.

To these responses I would follow up with "So the priest is nothing more than a glorified psychologist, social worker, teacher, community organizer, comptroller, chaplain, etc?"

Again I would get blank looks.

This brings me to my second point: While a priest is all those things, and I do not mean to demean those important careers, none of that actually speaks to the essence of what a priest is. If the above mentioned careers captured the essence of the priesthood, there is no good reason why women should not be ordained and I would be first in line protesting Church teaching as outdated and unjust.

Prior to Vatican II the emphasis on priestly ministry was Sacramental in nature. In other words the idea that the priest celebrates the Mass and other Sacraments was how priests identified their ministry and how people understood priests. To be sure helping the poor, etc was always a part of what a priest did, I am just talking about the emphasis in theology and priestly identity. To give a hint to next week's installment priestly identity as Sacramental is closer to the essence of the priesthood. To give another hint: priests are called "Father" for a reason.

After Vatican II there was a shift in emphasis in priestly identity. Priests began to identify more as community organizers, social workers, psychologists, councilors, advocates and activists than they did with their Sacramental Ministry. In other words priestly identity became more secularized and priests identified with the more practical aspects of priesthood than the spiritual. It should not be surprising then, that Catholic Social Teaching as opposed to Catholic Moral doctrine began to be emphasized. Catholic Social Teaching more deeply resonated with the priests in the generation immediately following the council for that was the emphasis they gave to their priestly identity.

Again, priests certainly help the poor, they are advocates, they council people, they are even activists from time to time, they pray with people, etc. None of those things however really get at the nature of the priesthood itself.

One need not be a priest to do the above things. Understanding the nature of the priesthood is important for it explains why women are not ordained to the priesthood.

That's the way it is!

Father Dave Bechtel

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Tomorrow, November 9th, the Church celebrates the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of Rome and one of the four major basilicas in Rome. It



is unique among the four, since it, not St. Peter's, is the Pope's cathedral. Also called the Church of Holy Savior or the Church of St. John Baptist, it was the baptism church of ancient Rome. It was built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324. This feast became a universal celebration in honor of the basilica called "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world" (*omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput*) as a sign of love for and union with the See of Peter and a reminder that we are one family, one flock, and are led by one shepherd, the successor of St. Peter.

Dear friends, today's feast celebrates a mystery that is always relevant: God's desire to build a spiritual temple in the world, a community that worships him in spirit and truth (cf. John 4:23-24). But this observance also reminds us of the importance of the material buildings in which the community gathers to celebrate the praises of God. Every community therefore has the duty to take special care of its own sacred buildings, which are a precious religious and historical patrimony. For this we call upon the intercession of Mary Most Holy, that she help us to become, like her, the "house of God," living temple of his love. — Benedict XVI, 2008

News From the Vatican



LOVE AND COMPASSION ARE STRONGER THAN DEATH

Vatican City, 1 November 2015 (VIS) – The Holy Father appeared at the window of his study in the Vatican Apostolic Palace to pray the Angelus with the faithful gathered in St. Peter's

Square on the solemnity of All Saints. “Today, we feel the reality of the communion of saints to be particularly alive – our great family, made up of all the members of the Church, both those of us who are still pilgrims on earth, and those – far more in number – who have already left and gone on to Heaven”.

Francis recalled the characteristics of the saints, as they are presented in the Book of Revelation. “They are people who belong totally to God, ... a multitude of the 'chosen' clothed in white and marked with the 'seal of God'”, and explained the meaning of bearing this seal – that “in Jesus Christ we have truly become children of God”. He asked, “Are we aware of this great gift? We are all children of God! Do we remember that in Baptism we have received the 'seal' of our Heavenly Father and became His children? ... Here is the root of the vocation to holiness. The saints we remember today are indeed those who lived in the grace of their Baptism, who kept the 'seal' intact, behaving as children of God, seeking to imitate Jesus; and now they have reached their goal because they finally 'see God as he really is”.

Their second characteristic is that they are “examples to imitate. ... Not only those who are canonized, but, so to speak, the saints 'next door' who, with the grace of God, made the effort to practice the Gospel in the ordinariness of their life. ... To imitate their gestures of love and mercy is rather like perpetuating their presence in this world. Indeed, those evangelical gestures are the only ones that resist the destruction of death: an act of tenderness, a generous help, time spent listening, a visit, a good word, a smile. ... To our eyes these gestures might seem insignificant, but in God's eyes they are eternal, because love and compassion are stronger than death”.

IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS IN THE FAMILY

Vatican City, 4 November 2015 (VIS) – Giving and mutual forgiveness, without which no love can be lasting, was the theme of the Pope's catechesis during his general audience. Before examining this issue in depth, the Holy Father recalled that the recently concluded assembly of the Synod of Bishops had reflected at length on the vocation and mission of the family in the life of the Church and in contemporary society. “It was an event of grace. At the end the Synod Fathers submitted to me the text containing their conclusions. I wanted this text to be published, so that everyone could participate in the work we have been devoted to together for two years. This is not the moment to examine the conclusions, on which I myself have to reflect.

“In the meantime, however, life does not come to a halt, and in particular the live of families does not stop! You, dear

families, are always journeying. And you already continually write in the pages of concrete life the beauty of the Gospel of the family. In a world that at times becomes arid of life and love, every day you speak of the great gift that is marriage and the family.”

The Pope went on to introduce the central theme of his catechesis, reciting the words of the Lord's Prayer: “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” “It is not possible to live without forgiveness, or at least you cannot live well, especially in the family. Every day we wrong each other. We must take account of these errors that we make due to our fragility and our selfishness. However, what is required of us is to heal the wounds we make straight away, to immediately weave again the threads we have broken. If we wait too long, it all becomes more difficult. And there is a simple secret for healing wounds and undoing accusations: never let the day finish without apologizing. If we learn to say we are sorry immediately and to offer mutual forgiveness, the wounds are healed, the marriage is strengthened, and the family becomes an increasingly solid home that resists the shocks of our evils, great and small.

“If we learn to live this way within the family, we will also do so outside, wherever we find ourselves. It is easy to be skeptical about this. Many – Christians included – think it is an exaggeration. But thanks to God this is not the case. Indeed, it is precisely by receiving God's forgiveness that, in turn, we are able to forgive others. And it is essential that, in an at times pitiless society, there be places such as the family where we can learn to forgive each other.”

“The Synod also revived our hope in this regard: the capacity to forgive others and oneself forms part of the vocation and mission of the family. The Church, dear families, is always beside you to help you build your home on the rock Jesus spoke of. And I assure you that if you are capable of journeying ever more decisively along the path of the Beatitudes, learning and teaching to forgive each other, then in all the great family of the Church the capacity to bear witness to the renewing power of God's forgiveness will grow. Otherwise, we will give beautiful sermons and perhaps even cast out the odd demon, but in the end the Lord will not recognize us as His disciples, as we have not been able to forgive or to allow ourselves to be forgiven. Christian families can truly do much for today's society, and also for the Church. Let us pray that families may be increasingly able to live and build concrete roads to reconciliation, where no-one feels abandoned to the burden of his own trespasses.”

Finally the Pope, accompanied by the thousands of faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square, repeated the phrase from the Lord's Prayer: “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us”.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Universal: That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.

Evangelization: That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER IS DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SOULS.

As the weather grows colder and the leaves fall, and Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, it is natural that our thoughts turn to those whom we have loved who are no longer with us. How appropriate, then, that the Church offers us November, which begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day, as the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory—those who have died in grace, yet who failed in this life to make satisfaction for all of their sins.

In recent years, perhaps no Catholic doctrine has been more misunderstood by Catholics themselves than the doctrine of Purgatory. Consequently, we tend to downplay it, even seem a little embarrassed by it, and it is the Holy Souls who suffer because of our discomfort with the doctrine. Purgatory is not, as many people think, one last trial; all of those who make it to Purgatory will one day be in Heaven. Purgatory is where those who have died in grace, but who have not fully atoned for the temporal punishments resulting from their sins, go to finish their atonement before entering Heaven. A soul in Purgatory may suffer, but he has the assurance that he will ultimately enter Heaven when his punishment is complete. Catholics believe Purgatory is an expression of God's love, His desire to cleanse our souls of all that might keep us from experiencing the fullness of joy in Heaven.

As Christians, we don't travel through this world alone. Our salvation is wrapped up with the salvation of others, and charity requires us to come to their aid. The same is true of the Holy Souls. In their time in Purgatory, they can pray for us, and we should pray for the faithful departed that they may be freed from the punishment for their sins and enter into Heaven. We should pray for the dead throughout the year, especially on the anniversary of their death, but in this Month of the Holy Souls, we should devote some time every day to prayer for the dead. We should start with those closest to us—our mother and father, for instance—but we should also offer prayers for all the souls, and especially for those most forsaken. We believe that those Holy Souls for whom we pray will continue to pray for us after they have been released from Purgatory. If we live Christian lives, we too will likely find ourselves in Purgatory someday, and our acts of charity toward the Holy Souls there now will ensure that they remember us before the throne of God when we are most in need of prayers. It's a comforting thought, and one that should encourage us, especially in this month of November, to offer our prayers for the Holy Souls.

Tender God of Mercy, You so loved us that You sent Your only Son, Jesus, to be our Redeemer. In Him we have come to know You and love You. As we draw closer to You, we seek to share the Good News of Your powerful life-giving Love. In this month of the Holy Souls, we pray for all the faithful departed, and especially for the relatives, friends, and neighbors who brightened our lives.

(Here pause to mention those you wish to remember)

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, and of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, I commend them to Your Divine Mercy. May they welcome these souls into Your heavenly garden. Tender God of Mercy, may these souls, all who sleep in Christ, and all who seek You with a sincere heart, find in Your Presence light, happiness, and peace. Lead them into the fullness of the resurrection and gladden them with the light of Your Face. Amen.

WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE HOLY SOULS

- 1) Pray the Novena to the Holy Souls.
- 2) Offer up your Holy Communion for the souls in purgatory.
- 3) Have Masses said for your departed loved ones, especially on the anniversary of his or her death.
- 4) Pray *The Way Of The Cross* for Souls in Purgatory.
- 5) Pray the special Holy Souls Rosary. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Holy Rosary is the most powerful prayer.
- 6) Obtain indulgences: Indulgences reduce or cancel the temporal punishment that we incur through sin. There are many ways to obtain indulgences through pious actions, and we can apply their merits to the dead.
- 7) Give alms: The giving of material assistance to the poor has always been considered a penance that can be offered for the Holy Souls. "For almsgiving saves from death and purges away every sin" (Tobit 12:9).
- 8) Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- 9) Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great: tradition holds that St. Gertrude was told that piously reciting this prayer releases 1,000 souls from purgatory.
- 10) When passing by a cemetery, pray the short *Eternal Rest* prayer: "*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*"
- 11) Visit a cemetery: Pray over the graves of your departed loved ones, or visit a random graveyard and pray for those who may have no one to pray for them. Simply doing this gains a partial indulgence for those in purgatory.
- 12) Eucharistic Adoration: make reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for those in purgatory.
- 13) Sacrifices: practice acts of self-denial and offer these penances up for the poor souls.
- 14) Ask for the intercession of saints who were known to be great friends of the Holy Souls during their lifetime: St. Nicholas of Tolentino, St. Gertrude the Great, St. Catherine of Genoa, St. Padre Pio, St. Philip Neri, St. John Macías, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Joseph, Our Lady, and others.
- 15) Special prayers: Throughout your day, offer up short and spontaneous prayers for the holy souls. Consider buying purgatory books with more prayers and special devotions for the Holy Souls.
- 16) Repent go to confession: Confessing your own sins makes your prayers for souls more effective.

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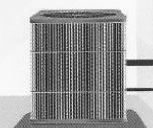
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A Gift in Your Will

We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attorney:

"I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to St. Peter's Church, Wellsboro [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."



PRAYERS
Needed For...

Parish Prayer List

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Rebecca Kreider, Bill Jacobson, Trish Knowlton, Sheldon Moon, Helene Carpenter, Angela Shirley, Joe Heminhaus, Jr., Jasmine Williams, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Allisa Abrams, Logan Williams, Valerie Tobin, Michael Farrington, Debbie Adleman, Darlene Brennan, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Cynthia Gordon, Tim Christman, Michelle Lawrence, Ann Porter, Tucker Gromosiak, Meghan Henneman, Joyce Bowe, Donna Brennan, Sandy Reynolds, Peggy Zona, Natasha Rymarczuk, Bob Erway, Mary Mekos, Mary Cramner, Bob Black, Maci Lynn Perry, Martha Desch, Pam Robbins, Leon Herb, Deb Finestone, Nick Cavagnaro, Patricia Jaworowicz, Sunny Fernandez, Maxwell Foox, Antoinette Davis, Kay Evans, Anna Marie Mimplitsch, Sean Rice, Jonathan Hardman, Sylvia Darrow, Lola Moore, Edwin Rosa, Courtney Wagner, Carol Johns, Joan Kilmer, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighauf, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Kathy O. Barnes, James Tester, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Michele Bush, Ashley Johns, Syler Sullivan, Ellen Costello, Carter Goodwin, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Richard Wheeler, Carolyn Antoniow, Sylvia Smith, Jean Thurman, Robbie Butler, Susan Cleveland, Lynn Bower, Brian Abbott, Dominic Bianco, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Jerry Pierce, Deb Locey, Gabriel, Melissa & Daniel Espinoza, Joann Black, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Grace Bickham, Edward Collins, Floyd Williammee, Bella Gryczko, Barbara Gaugler, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Elsa DiBernardo, Paul Kramer, Fran Rose, Christine Palmer, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Maureen Bailey, Beverly Heck, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Virginia Shaefer, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Pat Rooney, Tony Dooley, David Naugle, Connie Kenderdine, Darleen Kohler, and Mary Lou Bonk.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Ted Buss, Geraldine Coolidge

Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.