



The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe ~ November 22, 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 11/23 <i>Dn 1:1-6,8-20; Lk 21:1-4</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Leo Prechtl Family (Jean Dragovich)
Tuesday 11/24 <i>Dn 2:31-45; Lk 21:5-11</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Adam Wight (Norb & Nona Josten)
Wednesday 11/25 <i>Dn 5:1-5,13-14,16-17,23-28; Lk 21:12-19</i>	7:00pm	In Memory of Cecil & Mary Rogers (Family)
Thursday 11/26 <i>Dn 6:12-28; Lk 21:20-28</i>	No Mass	
Friday 11/27 <i>Dn 7:2-14; Lk 21:29-33</i>	No Mass	
Saturday 11/28 <i>Dn 7:15-27; Lk 21:34-36</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of the deGuzman & Schmitt Families (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)
Sunday 11/29 <i>Jer 33:1-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28,34-36</i>	8:30am 11:00am	In Memory of Deceased Members of Camp Irwin (Camp Irwin Members) All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Church



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 **Parishioners of St. Peter's Church**

Stewardship

Your Gift of Time, Talent & Treasure

Thanks for your continued support and generosity!

Sunday Collection for Nov. 15th: **\$5,087.75**

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: (\$902.25)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$5,162.61)

Religious Education Support: \$1,134.78

Attendance for weekend of November 15th

5:00pm – 130; 8:30am – 248; 11:00am – 131

Total number attending Mass – 509

Number of registered families – 478

Number of registered parishioners – 1003

Reflect on your gifts...and your giving!

Envelope usage statistics for the weekend of November 15th

Amount Given	Number of Contributors	Percentage of Contributors	Total Amount
\$0.00	317	67.30%	\$ 0.00
\$0.01 – \$1.00	2	0.42%	\$ 2.00
\$1.01 – \$5.00	19	4.03%	\$ 83.00
\$5.01 – \$10.00	27	5.73%	\$ 264.00
\$10.01 – \$15.00	10	2.12%	\$ 134.00
\$15.01 – \$20.00	28	5.94%	\$ 553.00
\$20.01 – \$25.00	18	3.82%	\$ 444.00
\$25.01 – \$50.00	34	7.22%	\$ 1,285.00
\$50.01 – \$75.00	7	1.49%	\$ 475.00
\$75.01 – \$100.00	4	0.85%	\$ 400.00
\$100.01 – \$500.00	5	1.06%	\$ 860.00
Totals	471		\$ 4,500.00

Loose Collection: \$ 587.75

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, November 22, 2015

Family Advent Celebration – 9:30am, Parish Center

Confirmation Prep Class – 5:00pm, Parish Center

MONDAY, November 23, 2015

Adult Education Series – 6:30pm, Parish Center

Knights of Columbus Meeting – 7:00pm, Parish Center

TUESDAY, November 24, 2015

Adoration – 7:30am – 7:00pm

Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center

Guardians of the Redeemer – 7:00pm, Parish Center

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, November 25, 2015

Rectory Closing at 12:00noon

THURSDAY, November 26, 2015

Rectory Closed

FRIDAY, November 27, 2015

Rectory Closed

SUNDAY, November 29, 2015

No Religious Education Classes

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

Weekend of November 25th – Thanksgiving

7:00pm

Servers: A. Banik, J. Gordon, L. Gordon

Lectors: D. Gordon, K. Pacific

E. Min.: C. Lannak, D. Stager, L. Stager

Weekend of November 29th

5:00pm

Servers: G. Macensky, A. Osborn, A. Osborn

Lectors: P. Walrath, C. Evert

E. Min.: E. Evert, G. Brown, M. Osborn

8:30am

Servers: X. Tellgren, A. Swendrowski, K. Swendrowski

Lectors: K. Tellgren, T. Reindl

E. Min.: N. Ostapowicz, L. Whitney, M. Bialas

11:00am

Servers: K. Pacific, A. Burge, L. Burge

Lectors: D. Sherman, B. Dalton

E. Min.: L. Makos, V. Anthony, C. Lannak



Liturgical Reflection

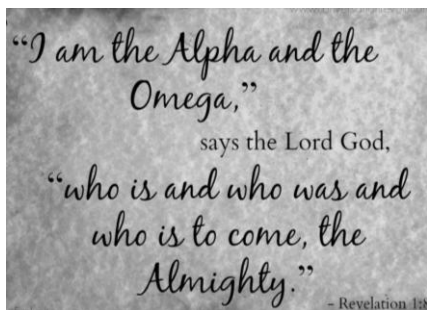
Christ the King

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:13-14

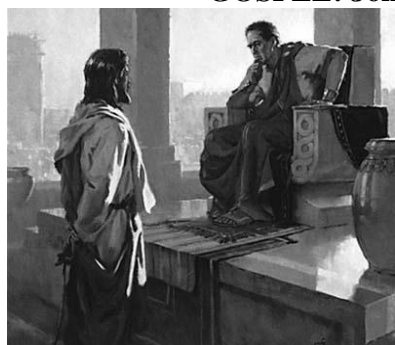
The Son of Man will come on the clouds of heaven. He will receive dominion over all. All nations shall serve him. His dominion shall never be taken away. This is the vision of Daniel in today's reading; having accomplished his task as the anointed one, the Son of Man is raised to the throne of God (the "ancient one") who begins his final, definitive reign through the exalted messiah.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:5-8

Continuing several apocalyptic themes of the First Reading, Revelation opens by introducing the book with a vision of the crucified, now resurrected Christ, the Messiah who has begun God's age of salvation. The focus on Jesus' passage through death to greater, everlasting life reveals the ultimate ruling power of God at work. It is this life-giving power now acting through Christ that holds sway over all things forever. In this one passage we meet prophecy and fulfillment as we are reminded of the words Jesus used to speak of himself – "I am the Alpha and Omega...."



GOSPEL: John 18:33-37



This passage helps us understand what we mean by the title "King" as applied to Jesus. To a contemporary society in which kings are held in low esteem, the word carries a sense of entitlement and social order. But the kingship of

Jesus is not of this world. We all yearn for a ruler who will take responsibility for society, whose own goodness will influence the goodness of others, who will contain evildoers and rescue the poor. Jesus Christ is the ideal ruler, and we have given to him the throne of our own hearts. Jesus has come from the Father to reveal God's truth, not to seize political power. John proclaimed to his hearers that grace and truth have entered the world in the divine word sent from God, made flesh in Jesus (1:14-17). Jesus, in his last instruction to disciples, described himself as the truth (14:6). For John, Jesus crucified and raised presents the full truth of a self-giving God who now rules forever through him. The power of Jesus' Kingdom is the strength of such love, far greater than the authority of one who sends him to execution. This truth stands unrecognized in the flesh before Pilate, but embraced by those who listen to Jesus' voice.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

Today is the 34th or Last Sunday in Ordinary Time. Its official name is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This solemnity was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, an observance celebrating an aspect of Jesus' identity rather than of his life. Rather than calling up images of Jesus dressed in kingly robes, the Gospel proclaims him as a king by the sign over his head on the throne of a wooden cross (I.N.R.I. - *Iesus nazarenus rex iudaeorum* - Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews). Paradoxically, it is the thief who recognized in Christ the Lord and Messiah. The Collect names God as the one whose will it is to restore all things in Christ, the king of the universe. The universal sovereignty of Christ the King is proclaimed. The Prayer over the Offerings defines the Eucharistic sacrifice we are offering as "the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled" to God; because of that, we can pray that the Son "may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace." The Prayer after Communion asks that "we may live with him eternally in his heavenly Kingdom," a fitting eschatological focus on this last Sunday of the liturgical year.



Parish Activities and Information

PARISH FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION

Today is 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. 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.

All parishioners are invited to bring a donation to the food bank to the Thanksgiving Mass and present their donation as the gifts are brought forward.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Wellsboro Ministerium Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held **TONIGHT** Sunday, November 22nd at 7:00pm at the United Methodist Church. All are invited to attend.



RECTORY CLOSED

The Rectory will be closed at 12:00noon, Wednesday November 25th and will not reopen until Monday, November 30th at 9:00am. In the event of an emergency, please refer to the emergency contact information on the front page of the bulletin. Fr. Bechtel will return your call as soon as he is able.

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.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



The Social Concerns committee is once again organizing the Christmas Giving Tree project. **Reminder: Deliver the gifts for the nursing home residents in person, by December 24th.**

Please place the gifts for the children, in a gift bag **UNWRAPPED**, back under the tree, by Sunday, December 6th. The donations of bedding can be put in a plastic bag and should be placed under the tree by December 6th. If you, as a member of our parish are in need, or know of a family in our parish in need, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible. Questions? Contact Jackie Murphy 570-724-7334.

PARISHIONERS WANTED TO LIGHT THE CANDLES DURING ADVENT

Would your family like to light the Advent Wreath candles at one of the Masses during the season of Advent? A Sign-up sheet can be found on the handout table on the side of the church. Those lighting the candles should wait for Fr. Bechtel in the back of the church prior to the Mass and will then process in behind the Altar Servers and Lector, light the appropriate candle(s), and then proceed to their pew as the opening hymn continues.



Light the Advent
Candles at Mass!

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

United Christian Ministries is holding a Christmas Community Outreach on Wednesday, December 2nd. The event will be held from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the United Christian Ministries – Mission Center, 7534 Rt. 49 (Corner of Rt. 49 and Locey Creek Road) Osceola. Parents can obtain free clothing, toys for the children, and miscellaneous items and other goodies. A Christmas party for the children will be held on December 5th from 1:00-4:00pm. Come and have your photo taken with MR. and Mrs. Santa Claus and enjoy cookies, punch, and lots of fun!

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Make a difference in someone's life! Come to the 6th annual Alternative Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5th from 10:00am-2:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church, where shoppers will have the opportunity to buy a "Bible," a "sheep," "school supplies," or other such items for needy persons and communities that can be given on behalf of themselves or another. Each organization represented will have a table with pictures, brochures, posters, etc. that will explain their mission and goals and have representatives available to answer your questions. They will also have a "price list" of items to "purchase." Seeds of Hope Partners, Wellsboro Food Pantry, **The Samaritan House**, Haven, Salvation Army, Tioga County Homeless Initiative, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, His Thousand Hills, and Child Evangelism Fellowship, Medical Benevolence Foundation, National Alliance on Mental Health, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are the supported organizations.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION

Our Monday night Adult Faith formation series will conclude for this calendar year with the showing of the beautiful and inspiring 2014 film *Mary of Nazareth* in its entirety from 6:30-9:00pm in the Parish Center. Admission is free with refreshments and discussion to follow.

Parish members interested in learning about our upcoming New Evangelization series "**Discovering Christ**" are encouraged to register to attend a complimentary dinner and information session on Wednesday, December 9th, 6:30pm in the Parish Center. Attendees should be willing to commit to an 8-week process of spiritual enrichment beginning January 20th. The pilot series itself (limited to the first 24 registrants) begins on January 20th and will run for 7-sessions plus a mini-retreat. "Discovering Christ" will repeat in the fall of 2016 with expanded registration available. Contact the Rectory to register for the December 9th information session. More info on this series is available by visiting Christlife.org.

Pro Life News

WORD OF LIFE

"A critical part of end-of-life care is a trusting doctor-patient relationship in which a patient knows their doctor has their best interests at heart and will not abandon them; it is one which assures patients of the truth that their lives have meaning and are worth living." — *USCCB 2015-16 Respect Life Program, "Maggie's Story: Living like Dad"*

Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty.

Visit www.usccb.org/pray.

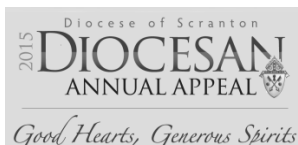
Join the Movement

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.

ANNUAL APPEAL



“Make my heart open to goodness. Make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.”

Thank you to those who have already joined “Good Hearts, Generous Spirits,” by making a pledge to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. On behalf of all benefit from your gifts, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera extends his sincere gratitude to everyone who has already made a pledge to the 2015 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your gifts support major ministries made possible by the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

- Catholic Social Services and Parish Outreach
- Catholic Education in Schools and Parishes
- Clergy Formation, Education and Support
- Parish Life and Ministry Formation
- Catholic Media and Communication

Each gift truly matters. If you have not yet made your gift, and need a pledge envelope, envelopes can be found at each entrance to the church. St. Peter's Annual Appeal Parish Goal: \$ 46,500. Current Pledged Amount: \$ 33,792 (*Does not include all in pew commitment weekend pledges*)

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



How can we show others the mercy of God? We say that God is compassionate, but we ignore the poor. We say that God loves us and has mercy on us, but we hold grudges against our friends. Our actions need to authentically reflect God's mercy.

This Holy Year will commence on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will conclude on Sunday, November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy.

“I am confident that the whole Church, which is in such need of mercy for we are sinners, will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time. Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness. Let us henceforth entrust this Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey: our penitential journey, our year-long journey with an open heart, to receive the indulgence of God, to receive the mercy of God.” Pope Francis

Visit www.usccb.org for ways you can participate in the Jubilee of Mercy.

News From the Vatican



DOOR TO GOD'S MERCY NEVER CLOSED

Dear Brothers and Sisters: As the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy approaches, today we consider the great open door of God's mercy, symbolized by the Holy Doors which will open in Churches throughout the world. The recent Synod of Bishops on the Family encouraged families in a particular way to enter this door of mercy and to open the doors of their hearts to others. Jesus tells us that he stands knocking at our door, asking that we open it to him (Rev 3:20). How important it is for us to be good doorkeepers, capable of opening our doors and making our homes places of encounter and welcome, especially to our brothers and sisters in need! Jesus also tells us that he himself is the door (Jn 10:9) which leads to salvation; if we pass through him, we will find lasting security and freedom. As guardians of that door, we are called to be welcoming to all who seek to enter the fold of the Good Shepherd. May the doors of our Christian homes be signs and symbols of the door of God's mercy, a door ever open to all who knock and desire to meet Jesus.

THE LORD WEEPS FOR THE SINS OF A WORLD AT WAR

“The whole world is at war,” and the rejection of the “path of peace” means that God Himself, that Jesus Himself, weeps.” Jesus approaches Jerusalem, and seeing the city on a hill from a distance, weeps, and says, “If this day you only knew what makes for peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.” Pope Francis repeated the words of Our Lord to the Holy City, and then added: “Today Jesus weeps as well: because we have chosen the way of war, the way of hatred, the way of enmities. We are close to Christmas: there will be lights, there will be parties, bright trees, even Nativity scenes – all decked out – while the world continues to wage war. The world has not understood the way of peace.”

“Everywhere there is war today, there is hatred,” he said. “What shall remain in the wake of this war, in the midst of which we are living now? Ruins, thousands of children without education, so many innocent victims: and lots of money in the pockets of arms dealers. Jesus once said: ‘You cannot serve two masters: either God or riches.’ War is the right choice for him who would serve wealth: ‘Let us build weapons, so that the economy will right itself somewhat, and let us go forward in pursuit of our interests.’ There is an ugly word the Lord spoke: ‘Cursed!’ He said: ‘Blessed are the peacemakers!’ The men who work war, who make war, are cursed, they are criminals. A war can be justified, but when all the world as it is today, piecemeal though that war may be, there is no justification and God weeps. Jesus weeps.”

“It will do us well to ask the grace of tears for ourselves, for this world that does not recognize the path of peace, this world that lives for war, and cynically says not to make it. Let us pray for conversion of heart. Here before the door of this Jubilee of Mercy, let us ask that our joy, our jubilation, be this grace: that the world discover the ability to weep for its crimes, for what the world does with war.”



That's The Way It Is!

By Fr. Dave Bechtel

To conclude the series on the priesthood I wanted to answer some common objections to Church teaching on the priesthood and women. I am not going to treat every

objection that could be made, only the more common ones.

Objection: "If Christ is male, and the priest must be male because Christ was male, it follows that priests must have a beard and be Jewish because Christ had a beard and was Jewish."

Reply: The above argument misunderstands the basis of Christ's maleness. Christ is not male because he was Jewish and had a beard. Christ is male because the relationship Christ has within the Trinity is only begotten Son. Note that Sonship is the nature of his relationship to the Father. It is the Sonship of Christ that is the basis of his maleness, not his religion or decision to have facial hair. The priest likewise must have the capacity to relate to God in the manner of Son, in order to be the Icon of the Son. It is the relationship of Christ to the Father, and Christ to the Church, that the priest is an icon, not the external trappings of maleness such as long hair vs. short hair, facial hair, vs. clean shaven, etc.

Objection: The reason the Trinity in Scripture is described in masculine terms is because those terms reflect the patriarchal, misogynist and bigoted society of those who wrote Scripture. Had God revealed Himself today God would not have limited Himself to such terms. This is also the reason Jesus did not call women to be Apostles. The cultural times prevented him from doing so. No one would have taken female Apostles seriously.

Reply: If we take the nature of Scripture seriously and we see Scripture as God Breathed and more than just a history book, we would know that Scripture cannot lie for God cannot lie. If God revealed himself as a Father when in fact He is not a Father, God is a liar and thus not worthy of our worship. We also should note that there are many places in the Scriptures where God's feminine qualities are described—yet God is still revealed as a Father. Scripture calls God "Father" because God in fact, is, a Father.

As for Jesus not calling women due to cultural constraints, I never understood why this argument has gained so much leverage. Jesus never hesitated to break with cultural expectations and norms and he never hesitated to break even with religious norms when he wanted. If Jesus had wanted to call women Apostles he would have called women Apostles, cultural norms and expectations notwithstanding. The idea that women as priests or Apostles would not have been respected due to cultural constraints is also false. There were women priests in the pagan religions, and some Jewish culture even allowed for women leaders. The idea of women who function in priestly roles would not have been as radical as some lead people to believe.

Objection: Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This verse makes it clear that God does not see male or female, we are all one, thus women can be ordained.

Reply: Those who try to take this verse and use it to support women's ordination fail to recognize the context of the verse. The context of the verse is not roles, leadership and ministry in the Church but the order of redemption. Paul is saying that all the baptized have equal access to salvation and Grace and that one's lot in life, one's gender, etc has no bearing in the order of Redemption. All are equal.

It does not follow, however, that equality means sameness. While all are equal in the order of redemption, it does not follow the Church becomes an androgynous and undifferentiated body in the order of redemption. Gender continues to exist. In the Resurrection of the dead our bodies will continue to reflect our gender. There will be male and female bodies in the resurrection. Mary who has been assumed into heaven remains a female in spirit and in body. There are many gifts and roles in the Church, but the same Spirit. The fact that we have the same God and Father of us all is the basis of our equality, not our gender and not the roles we exercise in the Church.

That's the way it is!

Father Dave Bechtel

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, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, 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 child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

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 victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Joseph DeVizia at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Reverend Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

St. Peter's Parish is committed to ensuring a safe environment for children and to upholding the *National Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* as established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All adults who work with our children are trained in the *VIRTUS, Protecting God's Children* Program, are screened by law enforcement, and acknowledge and accept the *Diocese of Scranton Volunteer Code of Conduct*.

Bread Pudding Stand



When: Saturday, December 5th

Where: Main Street, Wellsboro

When: 9:00am - 4:00pm

This parish fundraiser helps support the operation of the church. In order for this parish fundraiser to be a success, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, working the booth, and as couriers. Some non-food items are also needed and monetary donations are welcome to help offset the cost of food supplies. Victorian style costumes are required for booth workers, but can be as simple as a long skirt, shawl, pants tucked into knee socks, or boots and a heavy sweater.



**Sign-up sheets can be found in the
back of the church.**

Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for their support. Their advertising helps to make our bulletin possible.



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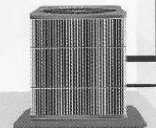
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A Gift in Your Will

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."



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 Antoni, 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.

Dean Hall

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.