



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

March 20, 2016

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.

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.

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 4:15 – 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 – Mary Cleveland 570-724-5286

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

Palm Sunday

March 20, 2016

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 3/21 <i>Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Ruby Radocaj (Don & Lucy Whitney)
Tuesday 3/22 <i>Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38</i>	7:30am	In Memory of John Echuk (Ostapowicz Family)
Wednesday 3/23 <i>Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Honor of Callie Cavanaugh (Poirier Family)
Thursday 3/24 <i>Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15</i>	7:00pm	In Memory of Charlie Griscavage (Zuchowski Family)
Friday 3/25 <i>Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42</i>	12:10pm 1:30pm	The Passion of the Lord Confessions
Saturday 3/26 <i>Gn 1:1-2:2; Gn 22:1-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Rom 6:3-11; Lk 24:1-12</i>	8:00pm	Our Easter Intentions
Sunday 3/27 <i>Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9</i>	9:00am 10:30am	Our Easter Intentions Our Easter Intentions



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 **Sam Davis & Mary Jane Davis** (Patrick & Paula Davis, Anionette & John Davis)

Stewardship

Gift of Time, Talent & Treasure

Thanks for your continued support and generosity!

Sunday Collection for March 13th: **\$6,229.10**

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: \$239.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$4,838.90

Attendance for weekend of March 13th

5:00pm – 161; 8:30am – 186; 11:00am – 121

Total number attending Mass – 469

Number of registered families – 479

Number of registered parishioners – 1007

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 20, 2016

Religious Ed. –K-12th, 9:30am (No Pre-School)

TUESDAY, March 22, 2016

Adoration – 8:00am – 7:00pm

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

Chrism Mass – 4:00pm, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, March 24, 2016

Rectory Closed

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center

Altar Server Practice – 6:00pm, Church

Adoration – 8:00-11:00pm, Parish Center

FRIDAY, March 25, 2016

Rectory Closed

Altar Server Practice – 11:00am, Church

Tenebrae –7:00pm

SATURDAY, March 26, 2016

R.C.I. A. Practice & Prayer Service – 10:00am, Church

Altar Server Practice – 11:00am, Church

Blessing of Easter Baskets – 12:00pm, Parish Center

SUNDAY, March 27, 2016

No Religious Ed. Classes

Reflect on your gifts...and your giving!

Envelope usage statistics for the weekend of Mar. 13th

Amount Given	Number of Contributors	Percentage of Contributors	Total Amount
\$0.00	315	66.60%	\$ 0.00
\$0.01 – \$1.00	1	0.21%	\$ 1.00
\$1.01 – \$5.00	16	3.38%	\$ 71.00
\$5.01 – \$10.00	35	7.40%	\$ 340.00
\$10.01 – \$15.00	7	1.48%	\$ 93.00
\$15.01 – \$20.00	29	6.13%	\$ 577.00
\$20.01 – \$25.00	23	4.86%	\$ 569.00
\$25.01 – \$50.00	28	5.92%	\$ 1,059.00
\$50.01 – \$75.00	7	1.48%	\$ 441.00
\$75.01 – \$100.00	4	0.85%	\$ 380.00
\$100.01 – \$500.00	8	1.69%	\$ 2,175.00
Totals	473		\$ 5,706.00

Loose Collection: \$ 523.15



Liturgical Reflection

Palm Sunday

GOSPEL AT THE PROCESSION: Luke 19:28-40

The triumphant entry into Jerusalem as presented in Luke underlines the kingship exercised by Jesus. The colt must be one upon which no one has sat, per Jewish ritual. Jesus is yet again put in a position to defend his disciples from criticism. Luke suggests that the true King and owner of all things will soon be revealed as the story of Jesus unfolds in Jerusalem. .

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-7

This reading offers us the third of the four oracles of Isaiah by the "Servant of the Lord," sometimes called the "Suffering Servant." This passage is deeply solemn. The entire passage is evocative of both the work and the spirit of the Messiah. God's servant will be cared for, with God's protection he can face the torment surrounding him, knowing he will ultimately enjoy divine vindication.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11

Paul's poetic hymn to Christ captures both heart and imagination. Jesus, in human form, did not seize status; rather, he entirely emptied himself (kenosis) and in doing so his divinity is revealed. His death was not any death, but a heroic and transformative death that reveals his true nature. Now, he is exalted by God and all can see him for who he really is – and believe.

GOSPEL: Luke 22:14-23:56

Luke's Passion narrative takes us through the events of the final days of Jesus. Jesus is a righteous figure, ready to embrace his martyrdom. In many ways, this version of the Passion is a political drama: the priestly authorities succeed in getting their demands met, Pilate overplays his hand. Characters like Simon Cyrene and the two criminals add a vivid detail. Throughout, the message is that God's plan will accomplished and the Messiah will be glorified.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

Branches of palm, olive, or sometimes even budding willow, are ancient symbols of victory and hope, as well as of new life. The procession celebrating Jesus' entry into



Jerusalem overflowed with praise and excitement, as onlookers waved these triumphant branches and proclaimed their blessings. Yet, in a few days, they will cry "Crucify him!" The crowd's change of heart illustrates the problem of holding God to our expectations. The crowd expected a liberating leader, the Messiah, to free them from Roman oppression. Jesus instead takes up his Cross and invites us to do the same. Through his Death and Resurrection he is indeed a liberator, but from death and sin, not from Rome. But unable to see past their need, the crowd's disappointment turns into anger and a death order. As we enter Holy Week, Palm Sunday teaches us to let God be God, and to trust in God's wisdom not only to meet but shatter and exceed our expectations.

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

March 24th – Holy Thursday

7:00pm (Altar Server Practice – 6:00pm)

Servers: K.Pacific, A.Banik, L.Gordon, M.Mann

Lectors: M.Ostapowicz, D.Gordon

E. Min.: G.Brown, T.Gamble, N.Ostapowicz

March 25th – Good Friday

12:10pm (Altar Server Practice – 11:00am)

Servers: E.Poirier, W.Poirier, J.Poirier

Lectors: L.Nonnenmacher, G.Poirier

E. Min.: L.Whitney, K.Wilcox

March 26th – Easter Vigil

8:00pm (Altar Server Practice – 11:00am)

Servers: F.Kennedy, A.Osborn, A.Osborn, A.Banik, X.Tellgren,

G.Macensky

Lectors: P.Walrath, K.Tellgren, P.Kramer, R.Kramer

E. Min.: E.Evert, C.Lannak, M.Osborn

March 27th – Easter Sunday

9:00am

Servers: J.Singer, L.Singer, Z.Singer, L.Gordon

Lectors: D.Gordon, A.Singer

E. Min.: L.Stager, D.Stager, A.Singer

10:30am

Servers: E.Poirier, W.Poirier, A.Swendrowski, K.Swendrowski

Lectors: D.Sherman, B.Dalton

E. Min.: L.Makos, V.Anthony, M.Stirnaman

Parish Activities and Information

RECTORY CLOSED

The Rectory will be closed Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Monday. If you have an emergency, please call the emergency number found on the front of the bulletin.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION BEFORE EASTER

Fr. Bechtel will hear confessions on Good Friday at 1:30pm in the Church. There will be no Sacrament of Reconciliation on Holy Saturday.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED AT THE EASTER VIGIL

At the Easter Vigil, Timothy Christman, Paula Davis, Artie Holdren, JoAnn Osgood, Ryan Osgood, Shelby Osgood, Caitlin Tameris, and Timothy Trescott will become the newest members of our church family. Please keep them in your prayers as they take this next step in their faith journey and prepare to receive the sacraments of initiation.

RECEPTION AFTER EASTER VIGIL

Parishioners are invited to a reception in the Parish Center immediately following the Easter Vigil Mass in honor Timothy Christman, Paula Davis, Artie Holdren, JoAnn Osgood, Ryan Osgood, Shelby Osgood, Caitlin Tameris, and Timothy Trescott.

HANDICAP PARKING SPACES

Parishioners are asked to refrain from parking in those spots designated handicap parking. This includes when attending Mass or any other event occurring at the church. Please save these spots for those who need them.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA BEGINS THIS WEEK

The Novena in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday begins this Friday, March 25th, Good Friday, and continues through Saturday, April 2nd. Copies of the Novena have been placed on the table in the back of the church.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Immediately following the 8:30am Mass on Sunday, April 3rd, we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with a blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All members of the parish are invited and encouraged to participate in this special devotion. ***Religious Ed students are expected to participate and should plan on attending the 8:30am Mass on April 3rd.*** The chaplet is also prayed daily at 3:00pm on EWTN.

DIVINE MERCY VIDEO SHOWING

The video, *Divine Mercy 101*, will be shown **today**, Sunday, March 20th at 9:30am (following the 8:30am Mass) in the Parish Center. Newly updated, this popular presentation by Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, is better than ever: all the basics of Divine Mercy in a clear, one-hour presentation. All our welcome.



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Christians around the world are united in a special way during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Our hearts, minds, and prayers are also especially aware of the Holy Land. Our parish, once a year on Good Friday, is called on to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives. As a pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection offers a direct link for parishioners to be witnesses of peace and to help protect the Holy Places and the work of the Franciscans and others in the Holy Land. Please be as generous as you are able.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The 7-week *Following Christ* sequel to the *Discovering Christ* pilot series has changed its starting date from April 6th to April 13th at 6:00pm, due to a conflict with the Spring Sale. The parish wide introduction of the "Discovering Christ" series will begin on October 5th. Those interested in participating in the fall can pre-register with the Rectory anytime over the coming months.

CHRISM MASS

All the faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton, on Tuesday, March 22nd 4:00pm. At this Mass, priests throughout the Scranton Diocese will renew their priestly promises before Bishop Bambera and the oils to be used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders, will be blessed.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Easter, the flowers in the church during the season memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Easter flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket. A list of those we remember will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

EASTER MASS INTENTIONS

Parishioners are reminded that there are special Easter Mass Intentions envelopes in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Easter Masses to remember the donor's intentions. Please place your Easter Mass Intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

SAVE THE DATE



St. Peter's is planning a Year of Mercy pilgrimage to the Holy Door at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. The bus trip will take place on Wednesday, June 15th and will include Mass at the Basilica then on to Lancaster County with a stop at Kitchen Kettle followed a showing of "Sampson" at Sight and Sound. More details will be in upcoming bulletins.

Holy Week & Easter Sunday Schedules

Chrism Mass - March 22nd
4:00pm - St. Peter's Cathedral, Scrant

Holy Thursday - March 24th
6:00pm - Altar Server Practice
7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper
8:30-11:00pm - Adoration

Good Friday - March 25th
11:00am - Altar Server Practice
12:10pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion
1:30pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:00pm - Tenebrae

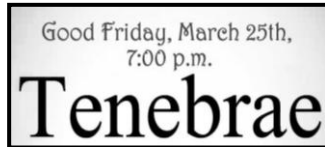
Holy Saturday - March 26th
8:30am - RCIA Practice & Retreat
11:00am - Altar Server Practice
12:00pm - Blessing of Baskets (In Parish Center)

8:00pm - Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday - March 27th
9:00am & 10:30am - Easter Sunday Masses



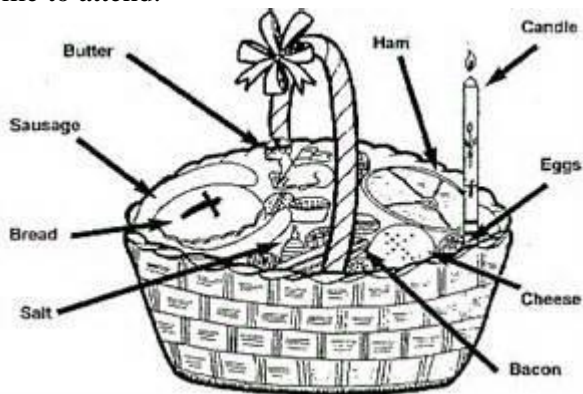
TENEBRAE SERVICE

What is a Tenebrae service? The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. A loud noise may also sound symbolizing the closing of Jesus' tomb. The worshipers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection. Join us on Good Friday at 7:00pm for this moving service.



BLESSING OF BASKETS

Baskets will be blessed on **Holy Saturday, March 26th at 12:00noon in the parish center.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.



Items often found in the Blessed Easter Basket

The Christian significance of Easter is symbolized in the foods used for the Holiday feast. Baskets are lined with a white cloth and decorated with ribbons and greenery to symbolize Spring, renewal, and the Resurrection. Traditionally, the baskets would include: decorated hardboiled eggs (representing Christ's Resurrection), lamb shaped butter or sugar (representing Christ as the "Lamb of God"), bread (symbolic of Jesus as the "Bread of Life"), ham (symbolic of great joy and abundance), sausage (symbolic of God's favor and generosity), smoked bacon (symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy), some prefer lamb (representing Christ as the "Lamb of God"), salt (symbolic of prosperity and justice and to remind us "You are the salt of the earth"), cheese (symbolizes the moderation Christians should have at all times), horseradish & pepper (symbolic of the Passion of Christ and the bitter herbs of the Passover). A white candle is often inserted into the basket to represent Christ as the "Light of the World." Lastly, the basket is cover with linen symbolizing the covering of Christ's shroud.

SPRING SALE

This year's annual spring clothing, books and house wares sale will be held from April 3rd – April 7th in the Parish Center. The schedule is as follows:

April 3rd – Donations accepted 12:00 – 3:00pm

April 4th – Donations accepted 8:00am – 5:00pm

April 5th & 6th – Sale Hours 8:00am – 5:00pm

April 7th – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm

No T.V.'s
No Early Sales

Take what you want for a donation

Bake Sale – We will again be selling homemade baked goods during the sale. Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the Parish Center on April 4th or April 5th from 8:00am – 5:00pm. The bake sale is very popular, so extra bake goods would be appreciated.

Diocese of Scranton News

2016 MEN'S CONFERENCE

The 2016 Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016. Registrations are now open on our new web site www.BeAManConference.com for an early bird rate of \$30.00 per adult. We have an exciting day planned with a great lineup of speakers, breakfast, lunch, confessions, adoration and concluding with Mass celebrated by Bishop Bambera. To register, visit www.BeaManConference.com. **St. Peter's will sponsor a bust at no cost to those attending. Please call the rectory to sign up.**

Pro Life News

WORD OF LIFE

"Let us treat others with the same passion and compassion with which we want to be treated. ...if we want life, let us give life... The Golden Rule also reminds us of our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development." *"Pope Francis, Visit to the Joint Session of U.S. Congress(9/14/15)*

Neighboring Parish News

SUPER BINGO BENEFITS ST. THOMAS CHURCH

Super Bingo will be held on Sunday, April 3rd at the Knoxville Community Center, Main Street, Knoxville, PA. The cost of the all paper bingo is \$25.00. Doors will open at 10:30am with bingo starting at 12:00noon. The kitchen will be open. Payouts: 100 or less players - \$2,000; 120 or less players - \$2,500; 121 plus players - \$3,000.

CASINO TRIP PLANNED BY ST. THOMAS CHURCH

A trip to the Seneca/Allegany Casino in Salamanca, NY is planned for Sunday, April 10, 2016. The cost is \$40.00 per person. Incentives: Casino - \$20.00 slot play + \$5.00 in food; First Timers Get Extra - \$10 Incentive. There will be prizes and refreshments on the bus. Bus departs: 9:00 am – Elkland (Fire Hall); 9:10 am – Knoxville; 9:20 am – Troupsburg (Fire Hall). Bus Return: Leave Casino – 5:00 pm. Contact: Carol Harkenrider, 814-258-5352 or St. Thomas Rectory 814-258-5121.

That's The Way It Is!



This week begins one of the most prayerful, holy and glorious times of the year. This week is also a first for me. This will be the first time I will be celebrating the Easter Triduum. Over the next week and a half I will be working hard, reading up on how to celebrate these special rituals and practicing with Francis (who will serve as the MC) to make sure they are prayerful for everyone. These are some of the most complicated rituals the Church has in her worship. Because of this, I am a little stressed. I will feel relieved once I get this “first” out of the way and see how everything comes together.

Holy Week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday. In the past Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday were distinct. The fifth Sunday of Lent was “Passion Sunday” because the Passion was read. The week before Easter was Palm Sunday because the Gospel of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem was read. At some point in the reform of the Mass, Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday were combined. Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the Passion of Christ.

On Tuesday our Diocese will celebrate the Chrism Mass and the priests will renew their vows. This is the Mass where the Holy Oils are blessed: the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of the Catechumen, and the Chrism. This Mass was traditionally celebrated on Maundy Thursday morning, but may be celebrated at any point during the week.

Wednesday is traditionally held to be the day Judas betrayed the Lord. Wednesday is called “Spy Wednesday” because of this.

On Maundy Thursday the Church begins Easter Tide with the celebration of the Lord’s Supper Mass. Bells ring for the Gloria then are silent. The Mass, however, isn’t just about celebrating the institution of the Priesthood and the Eucharist. The Mass is also about remembering the Lord’s mandate of service. Jesus gave a mandate to the Apostles. He taught them that true authority and leadership are about service. Jesus did this by washing the feet of the Apostles. This action, performed by Jesus was the task of the slave. This is why the Apostles were scandalized by it. The word “Maundy” is a shortened form of the word “Mandate.” The word “Maundy” therefore, calls to mind that mandate of service.

The Mass ends with a procession to the place of repose and people pray before the Blessed Sacrament. This calls to mind the Agony in the Garden, and the beginning of the Passion. After the Mass, altar is stripped and the decorations are taken out of the sanctuary. The Church is bare for Good Friday.

The only day in the entire year in the life and worship of the Church when Mass is not celebrated is Good Friday. Not only is mass not celebrated on this day, Mass is forbidden to be celebrated on this day. We have a commemoration of the Lord’s Passion with communion, but no Mass. The tabernacle is empty, the door open, the sanctuary lamp out. This is one of two days when a person comes into the Church and they do not genuflect, because there is nothing to genuflect to!

Holy Saturday is the other day when you come into Church and do not genuflect. The Sacrament is not reserved in the tabernacle until after communion on Holy Saturday. On Holy Saturday we celebrate the Resurrection. Bells ring out once again at the singing of the Gloria, and we also sing Alleluia - something that has not been heard since Ash Wednesday. On this night those who have been seeking entrance into the Church or full communion with the Church receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The Mass of Holy Saturday brings to completion the Easter Triduum that began on Maundy Thursday. We leave Mass as a people filled with Easter Joy. The Easter Season has begun. I will leave feeling relief that I made it through the Triduum, and everything came together! Pentecost, 50 days later will close one of the most beautiful and triumphant seasons of the entire year.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David Bechtel

Questions About the Paschal Triduum

Q. When does the Triduum begin and end?

A. The Easter Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

Q. Is the *Mandatum*, the washing of feet at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, required?

A. The *Roman Missal* only indicates, “After the Homily, where a pastoral reason suggests it, the Washing of Feet follows.”

Q. When should the Good Friday Celebration of the Lord’s Passion take place?

A. Normally it should take place in the afternoon, at about 3:00pm, to enable people to assemble more easily. However, pastoral discretion may indicate a time shortly after midday, or in the late evening, though never later than 9:00pm.

Q. How is the cross venerated by members of the congregation on Good Friday?

A. After the showing of the Cross, the priest or deacon may carry the Cross to the entrance of the sanctuary or another suitable place. The first person to adore the Cross is the priest celebrant. If circumstances suggest, he takes off his chasuble and his shoes. The clergy, lay ministers and the faithful then approach the Cross. The personal adoration of the Cross is an important feature in this celebration and every effort should be made to achieve it.

Q. When should the Easter Vigil take place?

A. The Vigil, by its very nature, must take place at night. It is not begun before nightfall and should end before daybreak on Easter Sunday. The celebration of the Easter Vigil takes the place of the Office of Readings of Easter Sunday. The Easter Vigil begins and ends in darkness. Fire is blessed and the paschal candle is lighted to illumine the night so that all may hear the Easter proclamation and listen to the word of God proclaimed in the Scriptures. .

News From the Vatican



GET THEE TO A CONFESSIONAL: POPE GOES AND WANTS YOU TO AS WELL

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Go to confession. Soon. For Pope Francis, the Year of Mercy is all about sharing the experience of God's mercy with others. But first, he wants people to experience it themselves, in the

confessional.

Lent is the perfect time for that kind of spring cleaning and at the Vatican, in Rome and in many dioceses around the world, Catholic churches were to have extended hours for confessions March 4-5 in a project called "24 Hours for the Lord." Afterward, for those who did not make it to a local church, there were still three weeks left before Easter.

The pope has said he goes to confession every two weeks, and he has done so very publicly, most noticeably in 2014 during a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica. He also went Feb. 11, on the eve of his trip to Cuba and Mexico, when he stopped by the Basilica of St. John Lateran where the priests of the Diocese of Rome were holding their Lenten meeting. Pope Francis heard the confessions of several priests, then went to confession.

At St. John Lateran, as in almost every speech he has given to priests in the three years since his election March 13, 2013, Pope Francis gave the priests advice, exhortations and pleas that they dedicate time to hearing confessions and that they do so with warmth, care and a father's love. He wants them to acknowledge the reality of the penitent's sin, but pay even more attention to the penitent's desire for forgiveness and a fresh start.

He spends less time telling Catholics to get to a confessional than he does telling priests they have a serious obligation to ensure the experience is not so horrible that the faithful never come back. A lot of that probably has to do with the fact that a turning point in his own life -- and the beginning of his discernment about becoming a priest -- began with an unplanned confession on the way to a school picnic when he was 17. He said he felt that the priest, whom he'd never seen before, was waiting there to show him God's mercy.

Rather than trying to convince people that they are sinners who need to go to confession, Pope Francis tries to take seriously the reasons people say they do not go and gives them another point of view.

"Some say, 'I confess only to God.' Yes, you can say, 'God forgive me,' but our sins are also against our brothers and sisters, against the church," he said at a general audience in February 2014. "This is why it is necessary to ask forgiveness from our brothers and sisters and from the church in the person of the priest."

Embarrassment or shame is another reason people stay away from the confessional, which the pope sees as a normal feeling, but one that should be overcome.

"Sometimes when you're in line for confession, you feel all sorts of things, especially shame, but when your confession is over, you'll leave free, great, beautiful, forgiven, clean, happy -- this is what's beautiful about confession," he said. In the recent book-length interview, "The Name of God Is Mercy," Pope Francis also spoke about confession as an important means of helping people be truly honest before God. "It's a way to be real and authentic," he said. "We face the facts by looking at another person and not in the mirror."

The pope repeatedly has told priests that in the confessional they should ask only questions that help penitents recognize their sins rather than conducting "a heavy, finicky and invasive interrogation."

But that does not mean penitents should approach the sacrament without doing their own examination of conscience and even a detailed one.

In "The Name of God Is Mercy," the pope was asked how one should prepare for confession. His answer: "He ought to reflect on the truth of his life, of what he feels and what he thinks before God. He ought to be able to look earnestly at himself and his sin. He ought to feel like a sinner, so that he can be amazed by God."

As he said in December 2014, "Go to confession to clean up a bit. This is good for you."

Jubilee Year of 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.

How can we show others the mercy of God? Our actions need to authentically reflect God's mercy.

Meditations on Mercy

During Lent, we worked to renew our lives through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines helped prepare us to celebrate the memorial of the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ at Easter. While these practices strengthen our spiritual lives, it is important that we are doing this with the right intention. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the Pharisees that God desires mercy (Mt 9:13). This is in opposition to the practice of empty sacrifices in which a person is merely going through the motions. Those who make empty sacrifices are not making a real commitment to reestablishing their relationship with God by changing their lifestyle to reflect God's love and mercy.

Our sacrifices must involve the proper attitude and action because God's mercy is not just an idea. It is a concrete reality through which he reveals his love as that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. God inspires his people to care for those who are suffering hardship. Because God first loves us and shows us his compassion, we in turn are able to show compassion to our brothers and sisters.

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

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



UNITED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, INC. SOCIAL MINISTRY

V.E. Boley, Ph.D. **E.D. Clemens**
Executive Director Director of Operations

7534 Route 49
PO Box 25
Elkland, PA 16920

Ph: (570) 827-3171
Fax: (570) 827-3063
Email: ucminc@epix.net
Website: ucministries.org

WALRATH & COOLIDGE

Probate &
Estate Administration
Real Estate
Personal Injury



Wills • Corporate
Adoptions
Family Law

570-724-3801

R. Lowell Coolidge, Esq. • Priscilla Walrath, Esq.
Fax: 570-724-7239 126 Main St • Wellsboro, PA



BAKER TILLY

Accountants and Advisors

Connect with us: bakertilly.com

Two Waln Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570 724 5000

Akiko's Floral Arts



31 East Avenue
Wellsboro

(570) 724-1509

"If Akiko's Not Your Florist, She Should Be"

Shop 24/7 at www.akikos.com

Akiko, Clark & Joe Hewitt

OVER 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

TUSSEY-MOSHER FUNERAL HOME, LTD.

Calvin T. Mosher, Supervisor

139 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901

(570) 724-4637 | TusseyMosher.com



D.T. YOUNG APPRAISAL SERVICES

Diane T. Young, Residential Appraiser

10 Patt Road

Wellsboro, PA 16901

570-662-5089



25 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-723-4263

www.popscultureshoppe.com

Games * Imagination * Fun

Your proprietors Julian and Anja Stam

Consider it all joy! James 1:2

Please refer your friends and family.
Happy patients are our best referrals.

Oral & Facial Surgery
15 Meade Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
(570) 724-2141



Dr. Richard F. Black



"Help me, Lord,
to walk this Lent
with you wherever
you lead."



Ken Mitchell
Mitchell's Carquest
Auto Parts

688 South Main Street
Mansfield, PA 16933



Business (570) 662-2534

www.mitchellcarquest.com

St Peter's Website - www.stpeterswellsbor.org
Diocese of Scranton Website - www.dioceseofscranton.org
Follow the Diocese on Facebook.

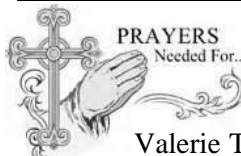
- Go to our page at: www.facebook.com/DioceseOfScranton
- Click on the "Like" button
- Go to the drop down menu, choose "Add to interest list." You will automatically get updates from the Diocese on your News Feed. Visit the Facebook pages of other Diocesan departments listed www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/social-media/

Thank you for connecting with us!

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, 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, 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, Antoinette Davis, Kay Evans, Anna Marie Mimlitsch, Sean Rice, Jonathan Hardman, Sylvia Darrow, Lola Moore, Edwin Rosa, Carol Johns, Joan Kilmer, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighauf, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Kathy Barnes, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Michele Bush, Ashley Johns, Syler Sullivan, 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, Joann Black, Gabriel, Melissa & Daniel Espinoza, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Grace Bickham, Edward Collins, Floyd Williammee, Barbara Gaugler, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Elsa DiBernardo, Fran Rose, Christine Palmer, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Beverly Heck, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Virginia Shaefer, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Tony Dooley, David Naugle, Connie Kenderdine, Darleen Kohler, Mary Lou Bonk, Kaydence Burger, Callie Cavanaugh, Tina Janeski, Jonathan Boyce, Dean Gilkey, Victoria Salerno, Wanda Trynovich, Tim Cunningham, Maureen Bailey, Tony Pranses, Rudy & Patti Radocaj, bob Snyder, Don Brooks, and Laura Williams.



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

Jerry Jay Stager, Jon Banik,
Frank Kewitt

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.