



The Most Holy Trinity May 22, 2016

St. Peter's Church

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
 Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322
 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

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 year to all 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.

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.

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.

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.

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
 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 – Rectory 570-724-3371
 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

| Date | Time | Confession Time and Mass Intention |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| Monday 5/23 <i>1 Pt 1:3-9; Mk 10:17-27</i> | 11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm | Confessions In Memory of Helen Pietrowicz (Tascione Family) |
| Tuesday 5/24 <i>1 Pt 1:10-16; Mk 10:28-31</i> | 7:30am | In Honor of Gary & Linda Inch (Tina Janeski) |
| Wednesday 5/25 <i>1 Pt 1:18-25; Mk 10:32-45</i> | No Mass | |
| Thursday 5/26 <i>1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12; Mk 10:46-52</i> | 11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm | Confessions In Memory of Beth Patt (Paul & Marion Patt) |
| Friday 5/27 <i>1 Pt 4:7-13; Mk 11:11-26</i> | 11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm | Confessions In Memory of Scott Wacławik (Linda Sampson) |
| Saturday 5/28 <i>Jude 17,20-25; Mk 11:17-33</i> | 4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm | Confessions In Memory of Deceased Members of Joseph & Clara Patt Family (Family) |
| Sunday 5/29 <i>Gn 14:18-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Lk 9:11-17</i> | 8:30am 11:00am | In Honor of Steve & Jen Kamarek All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish |



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 **Jack Koch** (Family)

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, May 23, 2016

Knights of Columbus – 7:00pm, Parish Center

TUESDAY, May 24, 2016

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am – 7:00pm

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

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, May 25, 2016

ChristLife Series – 6:30pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, May 26, 2016

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center

St. John Neumann Prayer Group – 7:00pm, Parish Center

FRIDAY, May 27, 2016

Rectory Closed

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

Weekend of May 29th

5:00pm

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

Lectors: A.Singer, P.Walrath

E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, G.Brown, A.Singer

8:30am

Servers: A.Dunkel, C.Callahan, D.Callahan

Lectors: P.Kramer, R.Kramer

E. Min.: D.deGuzman, C.Delong, N.Josten

11:00am

Servers: A.Bleggi, A.Osborn, A.Osborn

Lectors: Senior Class

E. Min.: M.Osborn, V.Anthony, M.Stirnaman

Banns of Marriage

Last - Christina Berbyla and Randy Stephens – May 28th

Second - Lynn Knudsen and Anthony Nespola – June 4th

First - Jade Christman and Artie Holdren – June 11th

First - Teaka Frank and Jason Wilcox – June 11th

Welcome to St. Peter's Church!

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. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____



Liturgical Reflection

Trinity Sunday

FIRST READING: Proverbs 8:22-31

Wisdom, personified as a woman present with God before the creation of the world, plays a great part in helping to establish the order and beauty of all creation. God's wisdom suffuses the universe with order and beauty. God's wisdom is present in and manifested through all creation, establishing both the extent and the limits that God desired for all creation. Wisdom existed before all things and was present at the creation. Ultimately, Proverbs affirms that God's wisdom found great delight in the company of all creation, most especially the human race. The Spirit, understood as the wisdom of God, is the fullness and presence of God dwelling with all creation, delighting especially in the intimate relationship with all humanity.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-5

Paul speaks of the Trinitarian presence of God in our lives by focusing first on God justifying and restoring us to intimate covenant relationship in Christ. Our response in faith enables us to access God's peace and grace, leading us to boast only in God's glory. We boast both in good times and in bad, for, through faith, all things draw us near to God's love, which has been poured out into our hearts in and through the gift of the Spirit which has been giving to us. Such Trinitarian love is beyond our imagining and yet, is God's gift to all humanity freely, intimately, and completely. Jesus restored peace between God and humanity. Faith in Jesus gives us access to that peace and also to grace, that is, God's own life surging within us. So faith leads to peace and grace and they open the door to hope. United in Christ in faith we can hope to share in the glory of God.

GOSPEL: John 16:12-15

Taken from the Last Supper discourse, this text presents Jesus, as ever, trying to care for his disciples with careful explanations. Jesus, before departing from his disciples, comforts them by promising the gift of the Spirit of truth who will enlighten them on all that Jesus said and did while he was with them. The Spirit will guide and enlighten them on those things they currently find difficult to bear. All that the Father has given to Jesus will be made clear and understandable through the Spirit that will be given to them. We are a community intimately united to God through Christ by the work of the Spirit gifted to us. Today we celebrate this rich love relationship which is ours in our Trinitarian God.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY



"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Christians who use this phrase repeatedly could easily lose sight of the powerful mystery it expresses.

Today, Trinity Sunday, the Scriptures call for reflection on this central belief of Christianity: the Trinity. One of the greatest gifts of the Christian faith is the dogma of the triune God: God is three (tri) in one (une). Christians name God as a Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit, but only in light of Jesus Christ does such language and insight fully emerge.

Parish Activities and Information

ITALIAN DINNER UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Italian Dinner a success. A special thank you to Kathy Wilcox and Joan Getgen for chairing the event. A financial report will appear in next week's bulletin.

CHANGE TO MASS SCHEDULE

There will be no daily Mass or confession on Wednesday, May 25th.

Fr. Bechtel will be in Scranton for a meeting.



RECTORY CLOSED



The Rectory will be closed Friday, May 27th and Monday, May 30th in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. Please see the front of the bulletin for emergency contact information.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

There will be a second collection taken up at all Masses next weekend in support of St. Peter's Religious Education program. Please be as generous as you are able.



YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE

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. Registration brochures, with complete details of the pilgrimage, can be found near the handout table on the side of the church.

Join Us!

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

May's Food Pantry items are: canned tuna, ham and chicken. Place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church anytime throughout the month.

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

St. Peter's will be holding Vacation Bible School, in the evenings, starting on Sunday, July 17th through Wednesday, July 20th. The theme of this year is *The Marvelous Mystery – The Mass Comes Alive*. More information will be in upcoming bulletins as we get closer to the date.



That's The Way It Is!



The first two weekends of Ordinary Time, as with every year, focus on two special doctrines of the Faith: the Trinity and Eucharist. This weekend is Trinity Sunday, next weekend is Corpus Christi. For Trinity Sunday I will reflect on the doctrine of the Trinity.

The doctrine of the Trinity states that God is three persons in one nature. God's unity is in His nature, God's multiplicity is in His personhood. In order to understand what we mean by this, we have to explain the terms nature and person. The terms nature and person answer different questions about God.

When one speaks about one's "personhood" they are answering a specific question about WHO they are. When one speaks about one's nature, they are answering a specific question about WHAT they are. If I say to someone "Who are you?" they will give me their name. If I say to someone "WHAT are you?" they will tell me that they are human. When I ask "WHO is God?" the answer is "God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit." When I ask "What is the Father, what is the Son, what is the Holy Spirit?" the answer is "God."

Some people prefer to refer to God as "Creator, redeemer and sanctifier." They believe the masculine terms are outdated and sexist. The problem with this is that the terms "Creator, redeemer and sanctifier," are adjectives. They describe God; they do not tell us who God IS. God IS Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Father God creates, the Son redeems, and the Spirit sanctifies. Creator, redeemer and sanctifier describe the functions of the persons, but not who they are. That is why the Catholic Church has not adopted this language in her worship. God is relationship before He is a function.

When we say that God is a Father, we do not mean that God is a man. Fatherhood obviously transcends gender, BUT in the created sphere, it is the masculine gender that embodies and reveals Fatherhood. Without getting too technical the Fatherhood of God asserts two things: 1) That God is the source and origin of all that exists, and 2) that God is the source and origin of all headship and authority. We call God Father also because God is revealed as a Father. God's relationship to His creation is paternal, not maternal. This is not to say there are no maternal qualities in God, however. Also, it is not to say we don't have a mother. We do have a mother and that is Mary, and by extension the Church. Our Father is God.

God the Father begets a Son, the eternal Word of God. The Son of God is equal to the Father in divinity. The Son is distinct from the Father by way of relationship. The Son, then, is distinct from the Father in WHO he is (personhood) but not WHAT he is (nature.) Redemption is appropriated to the Son, because God the Father creates

and orders the universe through the Son. Since the Son orders the universe, when the universe fell into disorder because of sin, it fell to the Son to restore order, i.e. set it right—redemption.

God the Father and the Son share a love between them that is perfect. God the Son lives for God the Father, and God the Father lives for God the Son. Their love is indescribably perfect, full, complete and mature. This love is also divine because it is shared between two persons who are divine. This perfect and divine love between the Father and the Son is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not a "force" or "energy," but a person. The Holy Spirit is the fire of God's love personified; the fire of love between the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is distinct from the Father and Son in terms of WHO He is (personhood), but equal to them in terms of WHAT He is (nature.)

The early church fathers gave analogies to help understanding the Trinity. God the Father is like the Sun, God the Son is like the radiance emanating from the Sun, and God the Holy Spirit is like the heat from the Sun. Another analogy used is Fire (God the Father), the light of the Fire (God the Son), and the heat of the Fire (God the Holy Spirit.) Another analogy used the root of a tree (God the Father), the trunk of a tree (God the Son), and the fruit of the tree (God the Holy Spirit); Another analogy used three candles to each represent the three persons, but they all shine with the same light and that light represents nature.

In the end, all analogies limp and no analogy is perfect. We do the best we can believing what is revealed and ever trying to penetrate the mystery in a deeper way through prayer.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David Bechtel

Diocese of Scranton News



**LIGHT THE FIRE
SUMMER YOUTH
RALLY**

Wednesday, June 29 — Misericordia University Light the Fire, now in its tenth year, provides high school students with a high-energy day filled with Catholic speakers, a variety of workshops, awesome music, friends, Eucharistic adoration, the sacrament of reconciliation and Closing Mass. This year features Chris Padgett, Full Armor Band, Sean Patrick Malloy and Closing Mass with Most Rev. James C. Timlin, Bishop Emeritus of Scranton. Visit www.light-the-fire.org for more information. Any students from St. Peter's who are interested in attending are asked to email the Religious Ed Office (stpreled@ptd.net) or call the Rectory no later than Monday, June 20th. The cost to St. Peter's members is \$10 and includes a t-shirt. Cost for all others is \$40.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

ENTER THE HOLY DOORS, CELEBRATE
THE JUBILEE, AND RECEIVE JUBILEE
PLENARY INDULGENCE!



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY – Enter the Holy Door

Since the year 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII declared the first Holy Year, the Catholic Church has regularly celebrated “Holy Years.” A very important symbolic act performed by each pilgrim has been to pass through the Holy Door. Christ identified Himself as “the door.” Jesus said, ‘I am the door’ (John 10:7) in order to make it clear that no one can come to the Father except through Him. This designation which Jesus applies to Himself testifies to the fact that He alone is the Savior sent by the Father. There is only one way that opens wide the entrance into this life of communion with God: This is Jesus, the one and absolute way to salvation. To Him alone can the words of the psalmist be applied in full truth: ‘This is the door of the Lord where the just may enter’ (Psalm 118:20).” Therefore to pass through the door from the outside into the basilica is to pass from this world into the presence of God.

Moreover, to pass through the door is to confess with firm conviction that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Lord, and the Savior who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation. With great courage, a person freely decides to cross the threshold leaving behind the kingdom of this world so as to enter the new life of grace of the Kingdom of God. When the door opens, the obstacles of passage to our Lord are removed. During the Holy Year, we hope and pray that the obstacles of personal weakness, temptation, and sin will be removed so that we will have a holy union with our Lord. As we consider the holy door and particularly the recent Holy Year, our Lord stands at the door of our hearts knocking. We must open our hearts to Him and cross the threshold of hope and mercy.

Plenary indulgences

Like all previous Jubilees, the Jubilee Year of Mercy features a very special plenary indulgence (the complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sin). Pope Francis is seeking to make the indulgence as widely available as possible. In the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, a Holy Door is to be opened in every cathedral around the world, as well as particular shrines, where large numbers of pilgrims come to honor the mercy of God.

To receive the Jubilee Year indulgence, you must fulfill the usual conditions, (specified below) and perform the indulgenced act: passing through a designated Holy Door during the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (between Dec. 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and Nov. 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King) or performing one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy.

As for the sick and the elderly, the Holy Father says, “For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence.”

You may receive the plenary indulgence yourself, or offer it for a person in purgatory.

Here are the normal conditions for receiving a plenary indulgence: It is necessary that the faithful be in the state of grace at least at the time the indulgenced work is completed; have sacramentally confessed their sins; receive the Holy Eucharist; and pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for May 15th: \$5,765.14*

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: (\$224.86)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$3,124.06

Envelopes Mailed – 475; Envelopes Used – 150

With gratitude for your Weekly Sacrifice!!! We are grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries!

Pro Life News

WORD OF LIFE

“A reflection of God's own reality shines out in the human person, in every person, whatever the stage or condition of his life.” — *Pope Benedict XVI, Address of February 27, 2006*

PRAISE THE HOLY TRINITY

Some truths, like the very existence of God, can be known by human reason alone. Other truths, like the fact that God is One in Three Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – can only be known if God reveals them to us. We could never conclude on our own that God is a Trinity. Today's Feast is not only an opportunity for thanking God for telling us more about himself, it is an occasion to take courage as we strive for deeper unity within the human family. God reveals himself to us in order to make us more like himself – not just as individuals, but as families, nations, and an international community. We grow in unity as we give ourselves away to one another, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit give themselves to each other completely.



Jubilee Year of Mercy

This Holy Year 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.

PRAY FOR MERCY

Pray to become more merciful. Pray also for family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and people you know who are in need of mercy. Pray for people who have hurt you. Pray for people around the world who are suffering. Pray that everyone in the world will respond to God's mercy and, in turn, be merciful to one another. *How will you pray for mercy, and for whom will you pray?*

News From the Vatican

AMORIS LETITIA – THE JOY OF LOVE



Pope Francis released his apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Letitia* (the Joy of Love) on April 8, 2016. An apostolic exhortation is a particular kind of papal teaching that communicates the mind of the pope on a certain topic – in this case the topic of family and marriage. Over the next weeks, this column will give short excerpts from each chapter. The complete document can be read on the Vatican website at www.vatican.va.

Chapter 4: Love in Marriage (continued)

- ♦ Growing in conjugal love – the love between husband and wife, a love sanctified, enriched and illuminated by the grace of the sacrament of marriage. It is an affective union, spiritual and sacrificial, which combines the warmth of friendship and erotic passion, and endures long after emotions and passion subside.
- ♦ Marriage is a precious thing, for “when a man and a woman celebrate the sacrament of marriage, God is, as it were, ‘mirrored’ in them; he impresses in them his own features and the indelible character of his love. Marriage is the icon of God’s love for us. God is also communion: the three Persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit live eternally in perfect unity. And this is precisely the mystery of marriage: God makes of the two spouses one single existence.
- ♦ After the love that unites us to God, conjugal love is the greatest form of friendship. It is a union possessing all the traits of a good friendship: concern for the good of the other, reciprocity, intimacy, warmth, stability and the resemblance born of a shared life. Marriage joins to all this an indissoluble exclusivity expressed in the stable commitment to share and shape together the whole of life.
- ♦ Children not only want their parents to love one another, but also to be faithful and remain together.
- ♦ The lasting union expressed by the marriage vows is more than a formality or a traditional formula; it is root of friendship in the natural inclinations of the human person.

- ♦ A love that is weak or infirm, incapable of accepting marriage as a challenge to be taken up and fought for, reborn, renewed and reinvented until death, cannot sustain a great commitment.
- ♦ In marriage, the joy of love needs to be cultivated. Marital joy can be experienced even amid sorrow; it involves accepting that marriage is an inevitable mixture of enjoyment and struggles, tensions and repose, pain and relief, satisfactions and longing, annoyances and pleasures, but always on the path of friendship, which inspires married couples to care for one another.
- ♦ Loving another person involves the joy of contemplating and appreciating their innate beauty and sacredness, which is greater than my needs. This enables me to seek their good even when they cannot belong to me, or when they are no longer physically appealing but intrusive and annoying.
- ♦ A look of appreciation has enormous importance...much hurt and many problems result when we stop looking at one another.
- ♦ Joy also grows through pain and sorrow. After suffering and struggling together, spouses are able to experience that it was worth it, because they achieved some good, learned something as a couple, or come to appreciate what they have.
- ♦ Choosing to give marriage a visible form in society by undertaking certain commitments shows how important it is. Marriage is a means of expressing that we have truly left the security of the home in which we grew up in order to build other strong ties and to take on a new responsibility for another person. As a social institution, marriage protects and shapes a shared commitment to deeper growth in love and commitment to one another, for the good of society as a whole. That is **why** marriage is more than a fleeting fashion; it is of enduring importance.
- ♦ This love must be freely and generously expressed in words and acts. In the family, three words need to be used. I want to repeat this! Three words: Please, thank you, sorry. Three essential words! The right words, spoken at the right time, daily protect and nurture love.
- ♦ It is not helpful to dream of an idyllic and perfect love needing no stimulus to grow. It is much healthier to be realistic about our limits, defects and imperfections, and to respond to the call to grow together, to bring love to maturity and to strengthen the union, come what may.
- ♦ Dialogue is essential for experiencing, expressing, and fostering love in marriage and family life. Yet it can only be the fruit of a long and demanding apprenticeship. Men and women, young people and adults, communicate differently. Our way of asking and responding to questions, the tone we use, our timing and any number of other factors condition how well we communicate. We need to develop certain attitudes that express love and encourage authentic dialogue.

- ◆ Take time, quality time. This means being ready to listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say. It requires the self-discipline of not speaking until the time is right. Do not be rushed, put aside all of your own needs and worries, and make space. Often the spouse does not need a solution to his or her problems, but simply to be heard, to feel that someone has acknowledged their pain, their disappointment, their fear, their anger, their hopes and their dreams.
- ◆ Develop the habit of giving real importance to the other person. Never downplay what they say or think, even if you need to express your own point of view. We ought to be able to acknowledge the other person's truth, the value of his or her deepest concerns, and what it is that they are trying to communicate, however aggressively.
- ◆ Finally, let us acknowledge that for a worthwhile dialogue we have to have something to say. Otherwise, conversations become boring and trivial. When neither of the spouses works at this...family life becomes stifling and dialogue impoverished.
- ◆ The Second Vatican Council teaches that this conjugal love embraces the good of the whole person. For this reason, a love lacking either pleasure or passion is insufficient to symbolize the union of the human heart with God.
- ◆ Desires, feelings, emotions ...all have important place in married life. They are awakened whenever another becomes present and part of a person's life.
- ◆ Experiencing an emotion is not, in itself, morally good or evil. What is morally good or evil is what we do on the basis of, or under the influence of, a given passion. But when passions are aroused or sought, and as a result we perform evil acts, the evil lies in the decision to fuel them and in the evil acts that result. Along the same lines, my being attracted to someone is not automatically good. If my attraction to that person makes me try to dominate him or her, then my feeling only serves my selfishness. To believe that we are good simply because "we feel good" is a tremendous illusion.
- ◆ Marital loves strives to ensure that one's entire emotional life benefits the family as a whole and stands at the service of communion. A family is mature when the emotional life of its members becomes a form of sensitivity that neither stifles nor obscures great decisions and values, but rather follows each one's freedom, springs from it, enriches, perfects and harmonizes it in the service of all.
- ◆ Longer life spans means that close and exclusive relationships must last...decades; consequently, the initial decision has to be frequently renewed. There is no guarantee that we will feel the same way all through life. Yet, if a couple can come up with a shared and lasting life project, they can love one another and live as one until death do them part, enjoying an enriching intimacy. Even amid unresolved conflicts and confused emotional

situations, they daily reaffirm their decision to love, to belong to one another, to share their lives and to continue loving and forgiving. The marriage bond finds new forms of expression and constantly seeks new ways to grow in strength.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY

Universal: *Respect for Women*

That in every country of the world, women may be honored and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.

Evangelization: *Holy Rosary*

That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace.

Pope Francis @Pontifex

- ❖ *Loving and forgiving are tangible and visible signs that faith has transformed our hearts.*
- ❖ *The Jubilee is the party to which Jesus invites us all, without excluding anyone.*
- ❖ *The world needs the courage, hope, faith and perseverance of Christ's followers.*

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. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis.

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, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

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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, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Richard Wheeler, Carolyn Antoniwi, 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, Callie Cavanaugh, Tina Janeski, Dean Gilkey, Victoria Salerno, Wanda Trynovich, Tim Cunningham, Tony Pranses, Rudy & Patti Radocaj, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Laura Williams, Kathy Macensky, Paul Beuter, Craig West, Avery Trescott, Jerry Eckert, and Frankie Dziengowski.



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

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.