



# St. Peter's Church

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901  
 Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322  
 Website: [www.stpeterswellsboro.org](http://www.stpeterswellsboro.org) ~ Email: [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

## Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – [Dbechtel00@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbechtel00@yahoo.com)  
 Secretary: Connie Spang – [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)  
 Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – [spadm@ptd.net](mailto:spadm@ptd.net)  
 Director of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier – [stpreled@ptd.net](mailto: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

## *10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time* *June 5, 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 year to all 8<sup>th</sup> 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 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12<sup>th</sup> 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 – Rectory 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
<b>Monday 6/6</b> <i>1 Kgs 17:1-6; Mt 5:1-12</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Scott Waclawik (Ed & Loretta Nonnenmacher)
<b>Tuesday 6/7</b> <i>1 Kgs 17:7-16; Mt 5:13-16</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Jon Banik (Tim & Cathy Bogacyzk)
<b>Wednesday 6/8</b> <i>1 Kgs 18:20-39; Mt 5:17-19</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Johanna Whitmer (Gina Brown)
<b>Thursday 6/9</b> <i>1 Kgs 18:41-46; Mt 5:20-26</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Lewis Bowers (Joan Getgen)
<b>Friday 6/10</b> <i>1 Kgs 19-9,11-16; Mt 5:27-32</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Josephine Patt (Sister, Mary)
<b>Saturday 6/11</b> <i>Acts 11:21-26,13:1-3; Mt 5:33-37</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Joseph & Clara Patt (Family)
<b>Sunday 6/12</b> <i>2 Sm 12:7-10,13; Gal 2:16, 19-21; Lk 7:36-8:3</i>	8:30am 11:00am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish In Memory of Richard McElligott (Sharron Hummel)



## 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 honor of **Our Children & Grandchildren** (Tom & Linda Sampson)

## The Week Ahead

### TUESDAY, June 7, 2016

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

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### WEDNESDAY, June 8, 2016

Green Home Mass – 2:00pm

### THURSDAY, June 9, 2016

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center

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

### FRIDAY, June 10, 2016

Wedding Rehearsals – 5:00 & 6:30pm

### SATURDAY, June 11, 2016

Weddings – 11:00am & 1:30am

### SUNDAY, June 12, 2016

Secular Carmelites – 1:00pm, Parish Center

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### Weekend of June 12<sup>th</sup>

#### **5:00pm**

Servers: E.Cimino, L.Cimino, J.Grab

Lectors: P.Walrath, C.Evert

E. Min.: B.J. Butler, K.Wilcox, T.Straniere

#### **8:30am**

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

Lectors: N.Bickham, D.Bleggi

E. Min.: N.Ostapowicz, M.Osborn, T.Gamble

#### **11:00am**

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

Lectors: M.Stirnaman, C.Waclawik

E. Min.: L.Stager, D.Stager, E.Payne

## Banns of Marriage

Third - Jade Christman and Artie Holdren – June 11<sup>th</sup>

Third - Teaka Frank and Jason Wilcox – June 11<sup>th</sup>

First - Mary Katherine Sweeney and Erik Auffant – June 25<sup>th</sup>

## 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

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:17-24**

During a famine in the land and while escaping the wrath of Ahab and Jezebel, Elijah seeks aid from a Gentile widow of Zarephat who offers him hospitality, even though she and her son have nothing. In response for her generosity, God, through Elijah, provides for all of them. Soon after, her son is sick and dies. The widow, thinking that his death is due to God's punishment for her sinfulness, blames Elijah, the man of God. Elijah asks her to trust him and hand her son over to him. She does trust and God, through Elijah, restores her son to life. God is master over life and death, desiring life and not death for all who trust and call upon the Lord.

**SECOND READING: Galatians 1:11-19**

Continuing the message of the Responsorial Psalm, we hear Paul praising and thanking God for having rescued him from a life of persecuting Jesus' followers to a life of great intimacy with Jesus, along with the gift of being able to proclaim Christ to all, especially the Gentiles. These rich blessings have their source in God, who turned Paul's life from mourning and death to joy and new life in Christ. Paul's preaching has its source not in anything he has done, but comes totally through the revelation of Jesus Christ. Praise and thanks are indeed fitting response to God's gift of new life.

**GOSPEL: Luke 7:11-17**

### Jesus' Great Compassion



Luke's Jesus manifests a special care and concern for all who are poor, oppressed, ostracized, or marginalized. In this passage, unique to Luke, we experience Jesus' concern for a widow whose only son has died. Moved with pity for the widow who

would be left without any social, economic, and political security, Jesus consoles her by raising up her son and restoring him to her. The audience is amazed and glorifies God by proclaiming that in Christ, a great prophet has arisen and God has come to be with us. The news of God's presence and care for all, especially for the poor and oppressed, spread throughout the region. God has rescued us by visiting us and manifesting covenant love and care beyond anything we could have imagined.

**ABOUT THIS SUNDAY**

The Collect praises God, the source of "all good things," and asks that with God's help we may "discern what is right," and, with God's guidance, do it. Prayer over the Offerings: We pray that we may grow in charity through the sacrifice we offer. The short and simple Prayer after Communion asks God to free us from evil, and "lead us to what is right."

## Parish Activities and Information

### CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Congratulations to all our seniors as they graduate from high school and embark on their next adventure! This year's seniors are:



**Samantha Bailey, Braden Bollock, Jordyn Coffee, Alex Esposito, Mikayla Feil, Lindsey Graver, Dylan Hunt, Sarah Ingerick, Anna Osborn, Katey Pacific, Byrnn Ripley, Alexa Singer, Mitchell Smith, and Nick Tremper.**

*"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope."*

Jeremiah 29:11

### COORDINATOR NEEDED

**Volunteer  
Needed**

A volunteer is need to coordinate the three annual fundraising dinners (Harvest, Polish, and Italian) held at St. Peter's Church. Those interested should call the rectory for more information.

### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

**June's** Food Pantry items are: Chicken Noodle and Tomato Soup (10-11oz cans). Place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church anytime throughout the month.

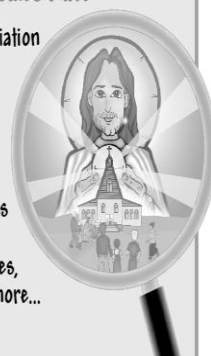
### SAVE THE DATE

#### Vacation Bible Camp

St. Peter's will be holding Vacation Bible Camp, in the evenings, starting on Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### MARVELOUS MYSTERY The Mass Comes Alive

Foster a new appreciation for the Mass and a deeper love for Jesus present in the Eucharist. Kids will discover more about the Mass through great faith lessons, music, games, crafts, snacks and more...



## Stewardship

Sunday Collection for May 29<sup>th</sup>: \$4,807.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: (\$1,183.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$1,040.06

Religious Education Support: \$1,027.00

*Envelopes Mailed – 475; Envelopes Used – 135*

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

## That's The Way It Is!



Pope Francis shocked some people in the Church when he announced that he is forming a commission to study the question of whether women can be ordained to the Diaconate. I was not surprised by this development. The Church has formally pronounced on the question of women's ordination to the Episcopacy and Presbyterate. Pope John Paul II formally pronounced on this issue in the document *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*. The pope said "I declare that the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church's faithful." The Church has not, however, formally pronounced on the question of admitting women to the diaconate. The question of women Deacons has always been an open question at least in theory.

While some theologians have defended the thesis that women could be admitted to the Diaconate, the trend of the Magisterium and the majority of theologians has been that the Diaconate is not open to women. The reason the question is theoretically open has to do with the fact that there were women in the Bible (Romans 16:1) and the early Church who were called "Deacon" or "Deaconess." What complicates matters is that the exact nature of the role is not clear. When the word is used, do they mean "Deacon" as in "ordination to Holy Orders" or do they mean something else?

The question might seem to be splitting hairs, but it isn't. Many people do not realize that when reading historical documents, sometimes the authors are using certain words, but they mean different things by those words than we do today. A classic example is the word "gay." If one reads works written in the 20's or 30's that use the word "gay," the word meant "happy." Today, the word means "homosexual."

This same concept applies to historical documents. Just because a word is used, like "Deacon" or "Deaconess" it does not necessarily convey the modern notion of the word. The purpose of research is to uncover the definition of the word; the precise manner in which the word was used. I have several works that have studied this question and came to the conclusion that while women served as "Deacons" they were not ordained to the Order of Deacon. They were commissioned to perform certain roles, but not ordained to the Sacrament of Holy Orders as Deacons.

The International Theological Commission in 2002 studied the question of women Deacons and came to the conclusion that women Deacons in the Bible or early Church were not equivalent to the Order of Deacon. Pope Francis has instructed the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith to study the question further. It seems Pope Francis wants to bring some clarity to the question. Pope Francis noted that he discussed this very question with a professor

some years prior to this, and the professor said that what the women Deacons actually did was unclear and obscure.

Today, obviously, there are those who want to see women admitted to the Order of Deacon, and there are those who argue that the Church does not have the authority to admit women to the Order of Deacon. I think both sides can agree on this one fact: the historical evidence that women have been ordained to the Order of Deacon at best is unclear and obscure. More research is needed to bring clarity to the discussion.

I believe that the research is going to confirm the conclusions of the International Theological Commission. In other words, the research will lead to the conclusion that women Deacons did not hold an equivalent role to the Order of Deacon—that is they did not receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders, Order of Deacon, but rather were commissioned for a specific ministry. (Like Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are commissioned, not ordained, or Lay Pastoral Leaders are commissioned, but not ordained.) There are many offices and ministry in the Church that people can exercise. People can be formally commissioned to a certain office or ministry, but that does not entail they have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is likely the same with women Deacons. They were formally commissioned for a certain role within the Church community, but they were not ordained to the Order of Deacon.

The above being said, I admit I could be wrong. Perhaps the evidence will lead the other way. I doubt that, but I am open to hearing the conclusions of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith. If nothing else, perhaps the conclusions of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith will bring enough clarity to the issue that the pope can formally pronounce on the question and put the matter to rest.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David Bechtel

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## Diocese of Scranton News



### LIGHT THE FIRE SUMMER YOUTH RALLY

Wednesday, June 29 — Misericordia University Light the Fire 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](http://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](mailto:stpreled@ptd.net)) or call the Rectory no later than Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. The cost to St. Peter's members is \$10 and includes a t-shirt. Cost for all others is \$40.**

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# Pro Life News

## BE PROTECTORS OF GOD'S GIFTS!

At his installation as Pope on March 19, 2013, Pope Francis preached the following words, which show us why we as a Church reject abortion and euthanasia, which kill the vulnerable rather than protect them: "The vocation of being a "protector"... is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents."

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## 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.***

### CHANGE OUR HEARTS

The ultimate goal of the Year of Mercy is to help us change our hearts and our lives so we can become conduits of God's mercy in everything that we say and do.

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## 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 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](http://www.vatican.va).

### Chapter 6: Pastoral Perspective

♦ Pastoral care for families needs to make it clear that the Gospel of the family responds to the deepest expectations of the human person: a response to each one's dignity and fulfillment in reciprocity, communion, and fruitfulness.

♦ The main contribution to the pastoral care of families is offered by the parish, which is the family of families, where small communities' ecclesial movements and associations live in harmony. This shows the need for a more adequate formation...it became clear that ordained ministers often lack the training needed to deal with the complex problems currently facing families.

♦ The complexity of today's society and the challenges faced by the family require a greater effort on the part of the whole Christian community in preparing those who are about to be married.

♦ Preparation of engaged couples by the parish community should also assist them to recognize eventual problems and risks. In this way they can come to realize the wisdom of breaking off a relationship whose failure and painful aftermath can be foreseen. They should be strongly encouraged to discuss what each expects from marriage, what they understand by love and commitment, what each wants from the other, and what kind of life they would like to build together. Sadly, many couples marry without really knowing one another.

♦ At times, the couple does not grasp the theological and spiritual import of the words of consent, which illuminate the meaning of all the signs that follow. It needs to be stressed that these words cannot be reduced to the present; they involve a totality that includes the future: "until death do us part."

♦ Each must set aside all illusions and accept the other as he or she actually is: an unfinished product, needing to grow, a work in progress. At each new stage of married life, there is a need to sit down and renegotiate agreements, so that there will be no winners or losers, but rather two winners.

♦ Among the causes of broken marriages are unduly high expectations about conjugal life. Once it becomes apparent that the reality is more limited and challenging than one imagined, the solution is not to think quickly and irresponsibly about separation, but to come to the sober realization that married life is a process of growth, in which one spouse is God's means of helping the other to mature.

♦ Might we say that the greatest mission of two people in love is to help one another become, respectively, more a man and more a woman? At every new stage, they keep forming one another. Love makes them wait for each other with the patience of a craftsman, a patience which comes from God.

♦ The pastoral care of newly married couples must also involve encouraging them to be generous in bestowing life. Decisions involving responsible parenthood presupposes the formation of conscience, which is the most secret core and sanctuary of a person. There each one is alone with God, whose voice echoes in the depths of the heart. Let them thoughtfully take into account both their own welfare and that of their children, those already born and those which the future may bring. For this accounting they need to reckon with both the material and the spiritual conditions of the times as well as of their state in life. The parents themselves and no one else should ultimately make this judgment in the sight of God.

**(Chapter 6 to be continued next week)**

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Pennsylvania State Laurel Festival

St. Peter's



Strawberry  Shortcake



Booth

Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

&

Saturday, June 18th

*In order for this fundraiser to be a success, volunteers are needed for food preparation, set-up, clean-up, manning the booth, and as couriers.*

*We are also in need of some donated items. Monetary donations to offset the cost of strawberries are always appreciated.*

**Volunteers Needed!**

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**Re: *Oppose Unfair Retroactive Statutes of Limitation Amendments***



The Catholic Church has learned hard lessons regarding child sexual abuse and has taken responsibility for the abuse that has occurred within its ranks. The dioceses across Pennsylvania have implemented changes that offer assistance to abuse survivors and affirm that they are not at fault for the crime committed against them.

The Church has also taken great strides to protect children and provide financial assistance for survivors and their families, no matter how long ago the crime was committed, and for as long as necessary. Children and adults are trained to recognize and report signs of abuse to ensure that the children in our care are safe and secure. In the Diocese of Scranton alone, over \$1.5 million has been expended on safe environment training. And to date, Pennsylvania's dioceses have collectively spent over \$16.6 million to provide compassionate and supportive victim assistance to individuals and families. To learn more about the Catholic Church's assistance for survivors please check the following website: <http://www.pacatholic.org/assistance-for-sexual-abuse-survivors/>.

Presently, a bill in the Pennsylvania State Legislature that has moved from the House of Representatives to the Senate addresses the statute of limitations in cases pertaining to the sexual abuse of minors. As Bishop of Scranton, I support the removal of statute of limitations in criminal cases and could support a prospective extension of the statute in civil cases, especially one that treats all survivors identically.

In the proposed bill, however, state lawmakers are considering legislation that would retroactively nullify the statute of limitations for filing a civil lawsuit alleging childhood sexual abuse. It would force parishes, dioceses, schools, and charities to defend cases that are 20, 30, or 40 years old, long after the perpetrator and possible witnesses have died or clear evidence is gone. It could lead to the closure of parishes, schools, and ministries of today's Catholics, who are in no way responsible for abuse that occurred decades ago.

As proposed, a retroactive nullification of these statutes would open a floodgate for lawsuits against private and nonprofit organizations, but it would not apply to public schools or government agencies. Public entities would still be able to claim sovereign immunity from lawsuits, even though the vast majority of Pennsylvania students -- 83 percent -- attend public school. Survivors abused in public schools, juvenile detention facilities, or county foster care programs could not bring suits under the legislation. In this regard, it is worth noting that while the abuse of minors by members of the clergy is particularly abhorrent, the percentage of abusers among members of the clergy is no different than the percentage that exists in the population at large.

Measures that nullified the civil statute of limitations in other states drained billions of dollars from current ministries, parishes, schools, and dioceses. Bankruptcy and severe debt was the only option for most dioceses in the states with retroactive windows. In Delaware, where a retroactive law was adopted, more than half of the individual parishes in the state were sued. One parish in Delaware was hit with a verdict of over \$3 million. Very few could afford to go to court; none were able to defend themselves on their own. Financially, they had no choice but to join a group settlement without establishing the facts of individual cases.

Sexual abuse is a serious crime that affects every institution and community in Pennsylvania, public and private. Concerning HB 1947, along with the other bishops of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, I do not oppose the elimination of the criminal statute of limitations. We can all agree that anyone who sexually abuses a child should be severely punished by the law. Sexual predators should be locked behind bars and removed from society so they cannot hurt anyone else. Criminal cases require a burden of proof that is beyond a reasonable doubt and fairness is built into the system with many checks and balances. Because of its gravity, it needs to be dealt with comprehensively and fairly. Any discussion of a legislative remedy must protect all children, not simply penalize some institutions.

Everyone who values our parishes, schools, and charitable organizations should urge their state lawmakers to oppose unfair changes to the civil statute of limitations. To use the Pennsylvania Catholic Advocacy Network to send this strong message to your legislators, please use the following website: <http://www.pacatholic.org/resources/voter-voice/?vvsrsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f45765%2fRespond>.

Thank you,

Faithfully yours in Christ,

†*Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D.

J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton



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<p><i>Akiko's Floral Arts</i></p>  <p>31 East Avenue Wellsboro</p> <p>(570) 724-1509</p> <p>"If Akiko's Not Your Florist, She Should Be" Shop 24/7 at <a href="http://www.akikogs.com">www.akikogs.com</a> Akiko, Clark &amp; Joe Hewitt</p>	<p><b>OVER 125 YEARS OF SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>TUSSEY-MOSHER FUNERAL HOME, LTD.</b></p> <p>Calvin T. Mosher, Supervisor</p> <p>139 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-4637   <a href="http://TusseyMosher.com">TusseyMosher.com</a></p>	 <p><b>D.T. YOUNG APPRAISAL SERVICES</b></p> <p>Diane T. Young, Residential Appraiser 10 Patt Road Wellsboro, PA 16901 570-662-5089</p>
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 <p><b>Ken Mitchell</b> Mitchell's Carquest Auto Parts</p> <p>688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933</p>  <p>Business (570) 862-2534 <a href="http://www.mitchellcarquest.com">www.mitchellcarquest.com</a></p>	<p><b>St Peter's Website</b> <a href="http://www.stpeterswellsbor.org">www.stpeterswellsbor.org</a></p> <p><b>Diocese of Scranton Website</b> <a href="http://www.dioceseofscranton.org">www.dioceseofscranton.org</a></p> <p><b>Follow the Diocese on Facebook.</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/DioceseOfScranton">www.facebook.com/DioceseOfScranton</a></p> <p><b>Thank you for connecting with us!</b></p>	<p><b>A Gift in Your Will</b></p> <p>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:</p> <p>"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."</p>



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, Connie Kenderdine, Darleen Kohler, Mary Lou Bonk, Callie Cavanaugh, 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.

*Christine Janeski, Joseph Vincent Daly*

*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.*