



## *11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time June 12, 2016*

# 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 – [stpadm@ptd.net](mailto:stpadm@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

### **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

# 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 12, 2016

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
<b>Monday 6/13</b> <i>1 Kgs 21:1-16; Mt 5:38-42</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Donald Boyce (Rosemary Boyce)
<b>Tuesday 6/14</b> <i>1 Kgs 21:17-29; Mt 5:43-48</i>	7:30am	In Honor of Rummage Sale Workers (Mary Cleveland)
<b>Wednesday 6/15</b> <i>2 Kgs 2:1,6-14; Mt 6:1-6,16-18</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Michael McElroy (Bill Bauer)
<b>Thursday 6/16</b> <i>Sir 48:1-14; Mt 6:7-15</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Beth Patt (Frank Patt & Family)
<b>Friday 6/17</b> <i>2 Kgs 11:1-4,9-18,20; Mt 6:19-23</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Charles Griscavage (Ostapowicz Family)
<b>Saturday 6/18</b> <i>Acts 11:21-26,13:1-3; Mt 5:33-37</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions Our Father's Day Intentions
<b>Sunday 6/19</b> <i>Zec 12:10-11,13:1; Gal 3:26-29; Lk 9:18-24</i>	8:30am 11:00am	Our Father's Day Intentions Our Father's Day 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 honor of **Lawrence & Marie Stager (Children)**

## The Week Ahead

### TUESDAY, June 14, 2016

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm

Broad Acres Mass – 10:30am

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### WEDNESDAY, June 15, 2016

Pilgrimage Bus Departs – 6:15am, Parking Lot

Contemplative Spirituality Group – 9:00am, Parish Center

Strawberry Prep – 4:00-7:00pm, Parish Center

### THURSDAY, June 16, 2016

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center

Set up booth on the Green for Laurel Festival – 4:00pm

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

### FRIDAY, June 17, 2016

Strawberry Shortcake Stand – 7:30am-9:00pm, Green

### SATURDAY, June 18, 2016

Strawberry Shortcake Stand – 7:30am-7:00pm, Green

Youth Group Car Parking – 10:30am, Parking Lot

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### Weekend of June 19<sup>th</sup>

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

Servers: M.Mann, A.Banik, B.Levindoski

Lectors: L.Sampson, T.Sampson

E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, G.Brown, G.Vargas

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

Servers: G.Macensky, C.Callahan, D.Callahan

Lectors: R.Kramer, P.Kramer

E. Min.: D.deGuzman, N.Josten, K.Tellgren

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

Servers: K.Pacific, K.Swendrowski, A.Swendrowski

Lectors: B.Dalton, L.Nonnenmacher

E. Min.: V.Anthony, C.Hewitt, M.Stirnaman

## Banns of Marriage

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

First – Melissa Trenholm and Jason Greenfield – July 9<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

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

**FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13**

King David, after his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, is approached by Nathan the prophet with words of judgment from the Lord, whose punishment according to Jewish law was death. After Nathan recounts all that the Lord had done for David, he legitimately questions David as to why he spurned the Lord and committed such evil. David admits his sinfulness and is granted forgiveness, rescuing him from death. A man after God's heart is not a perfect person. When Samuel anointed David king, God told him not to judge from outward appearance, because "the Lord looks into the heart." We will see in today's Gospel passage that it's hearts God cares about most, not our number of sins or good deeds. David's was a repentant heart. David was honest enough to admit his guilt and ask for forgiveness. Are we?

**SECOND READING: Galatians 2:16, 19-21**

Paul understood Christ to be the total fulfillment and completion of all that the law intended. Therefore, no longer the law, but faith in Christ brought justification. God's Torah no longer holds its previous significance, for Christ now models the fullness of God's faithful covenant love by his willingness to live and die for us. Therefore, faith in and living like Christ now becomes the path to justification, clearly affirmed by God's raising Christ from death. The law can no longer function as the path to union with God. Faith in Christ brings the law to fulfillment, and we, like Paul, no longer live on our own, but Christ lives in us, bringing us ever closer to God.

**GOSPEL: Luke 7:36-8:3**



Luke recounts a meal scene in the home of Simon the Pharisee in which Jesus teaches an important lesson in forgiveness, right relationship, and covenant love. An unnamed, sinful woman approaches Jesus at table and proceeds to shower him with care and tenderness, expressive of her sorrow

for sin. Simon self-righteously condemns the sinful woman and Jesus for allowing her to touch him. Jesus' parable of the two debtors, intended for Simon and us, teaches that all are in need of God's love and forgiveness, especially those who feel most distant from God. The one who is forgiven much, loves even more. Jesus calls all of us to acknowledge our sinfulness and, restored to God's love, to begin once again to live attuned always to that love. The disciples learned valuable lessons in the need we all have for forgiveness and reconciliation. Have we learned that lesson as well?

**ABOUT THIS SUNDAY**

In the Collect, we ask for God's grace, that we may follow God's commands and be pleasing to him "by our resolve and our deeds." The Prayer over the Offerings reminds us that the Eucharist is food for body and soul. The Prayer after Communion states that Holy Communion is a foretaste of the promise of our union with God. We pray that this sacrament may, "bring about unity in your Church."

## Parish Activities and Information

### DEANERY MASS CELEBRATED

The annual Deanery Mass held at the deGuzman residence, will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Bring a dish or snack to pass and a lawn chair. **All are welcome!** Questions? Call 376-5427. (Directions: 287 N, 249 N to Keeneyville, turn right to Osceola, 1 1/2 miles to Box 818)

### FATHERS' DAY ENVELOPS

Special Father's Day intention envelopes can be found in your packets to remember living and deceased fathers. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during the month of June. Please place your envelope in the collection basket.



### COORDINATOR NEEDED

**Volunteer Needed** A volunteer is needed 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.

### ADULT SUMMER FILM SERIES

Our adult summer film series returns Monday evening, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm in the Parish Center. Refreshments and discussion follow the films. First up will be *Shadowlands*. This winner of two British Academy Awards is based on the life of renowned Oxford scholar and Christian author, C.S. Lewis. American Joy Gresham travels to England to seek out Lewis, with whom she's had years of correspondence. Despite their culture clash, the two become an unlikely pair, with their greatest challenge ahead of them. Subsequent films to be screened and their dates are:

June 27<sup>th</sup> – *Entertaining Angels*

July 11<sup>th</sup> – *Risen*

July 25<sup>th</sup> – *G.K. Chesterton on St. Francis of Assisi*

Aug 1<sup>st</sup> – *Convinced*

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> – *Divine Mercy 101*

### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

**June's** Food Pantry items are: Chicken Noodle and Tomato Soup (10-11oz cans). A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for June 5<sup>th</sup>: \$6,479.20

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: \$489.20

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$1,529.26

Care & Education of Priests: \$760.24

Envelopes Mailed – 475; Envelopes Used – 159

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!



In my years as a priest I had occasion to be asked about many of the controversial moral teachings of the Church. I found that once I explained the logic behind Church teaching, many people will say "Well, the logic is water tight...but...it has no practical value." In other words,

when people realize they cannot refute the powerful logic at work behind Church teaching, they resort to appeal to emotion arguments. (They start tugging on heart strings.)

For example: "Well you are a man. You will never be faced with potentially life threatening pregnancy. It is easy for you to condemn abortion." "How would you feel if you were a woman and you felt called to be a priest but couldn't be a priest?" "What if the doctor told a woman her next pregnancy could be potentially fatal, and she needs to use Contraception?" "What if you were gay? How would you feel that the Church calls you 'fundamentally disordered?'" (The Church does not call gay people fundamentally disordered by the way. Remember: actions are morally good and morally evil. Desires do not define us unless we choose to allow them to define us.)

The above comments do not appeal to any logic, reason or rational. All they do is tug on a person's heart strings. By doing so they usually get most people to admit that Church teaching is impractical, impossible, or just plain stupid. They are designed to get the person to admit that if they were faced with a potentially life threatening pregnancy they would likely have an abortion. If they were a woman and wanted to be a priest but could not, they would feel as if the Church does not value them. If they were gay, they would feel judged by the Church and as if they were not welcome in the Church. Once a person admits the difficulty of the teaching and following the teaching, it is far more difficult to defend and justify Church teaching, however logical it may be. In any argument, emotion is the trump card. Logic, no matter how powerful and watertight, will always loose to emotion.

I admit if I were faced with any of the above scenarios I could possibly cave to temptation. However, consider: if we excuse sin based on the fact that we would likely commit the same sins in the same set of circumstances, you could excuse and justify almost anything. We do not define sin by asking ourselves whether we would commit the sin given the same set of circumstances. What we would do or not do in the same set of circumstances is not relevant to whether something is sinful. I think the most we could say is that if we would commit the sin in the same set of circumstances, we are not in a position to judge. It does not follow that the action is morality justifiable.

Abortion is sinful. That does not mean I condemn women who have had an abortion. I will condemn the

action/behavior, not the person. Dissent from the Catholic Faith is sinful. I will condemn the action/behavior of dissent, not the dissenter. Contraception is sinful. I will condemn the action/behavior, not the person. Homosexuality is sinful. I will condemn the action/behavior, not the person. It is God who judges people. The Church does not judge people, the Church judges actions.

Something we must realize is that there are some teachings of the Church that are very difficult. But, Jesus says "What profit does a man have to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul in the process?" (Matthew 18:36, Mark 8:36) In other words, better to suffer, even die in this life and enter into life eternal, than to live a long life, acquire great wealth and power, then die and go to Hell.

Let me restate the above examples in the following ways: "It is easy to be pro-life when it does not cost you anything. What about when your life is on the line? Do you really believe that an unborn child has value and the right to life?" "It is easy to submit to Church teaching when it does not affect you personally. What about when it does affect you personally? How strong is your Faith then?" "It is easy to defend Church teaching on Contraception when it does not affect you personally. What about when it does affect you personally? Do you really believe Contraception is sinful?" "It is easy to condemn homosexuality when you aren't homosexual. What if you were homosexual? Do you really believe the behavior is sinful?"

In our temptations, especially those that are difficult, the choices we make reveal our true character and our true Faith. God uses those temptations to purify us and reveal our true character. God also uses the difficulties to break down our Faith so that it will become stronger. This is why Grace is so very important to the spiritual life. God enables us to make the right choices, even when those choices may lead to suffering or death. The Catholic Christian Faith we believe is not a joke and it is anything but easy. That must be kept in mind as we journey through this life. Being a Christian is not free. Real Christianity in the end is going to cost us everything. Are we willing to pay the price?

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David Bechtel

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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.***

### LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

To become more merciful we must listen to the Word of God in Scripture and meditate on the message of God's mercy. As we grow in our understanding of mercy, we can better incorporate mercy into our lives.

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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

### JUBILEE OF TEARS

One of the special events of this Year of Mercy was the "Jubilee of Tears," dedicated to all who mourn. Pope Francis spoke on that occasion of the bitter grief of losing a loved one. He said, "The bitterest tears...of those who have seen a loved one violently torn from them; the tears of grandparents, mothers and fathers, children; eyes that keep staring at the sunset and find it hard to see the dawn of a new day." This brings to mind the suffering of those who have participated in some way in the death of an unborn child; parents, grandparents, friends and others. Let's remember especially those mothers who have experienced the horror of having their unborn child "violently torn from them" by abortion. Find resources for healing after abortion at [www.AbortionForgiveness.com](http://www.AbortionForgiveness.com).

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## St. Peter's Church Vacation Bible Camp

# Marvelous Mystery ~ The Mass Comes Alive

## Bible Stories Crafts Games Snacks

**Date:** Sunday - Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 5:30-7:30pm ~ **Place:** Parish Center

Ages preschool (4 year olds) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

For more information contact Maureen Poirier ~ 570-439-1479 or [stpreled@ptd.net](mailto:stpreled@ptd.net)

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### Registration Form

**Please register no later than July 7<sup>th</sup>**

Name and grade of each child: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Special Concerns we should know about: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to donate a food item for dinner or snack? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be able to volunteer to help? \_\_\_\_\_

(Students 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older are welcome to help out!)

# 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 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 (Continued)

♦ Young couples need to be encouraged to be essentially open to the great gift of children. Emphasis should also be given to the importance of family spirituality, prayer and participation in the Sunday Eucharist.

♦ Love needs time and space; everything else is secondary. Time is needed to talk things over, to embrace leisurely, to share plans, to listen to one other and gaze in each other's eyes, to appreciate one another and build a stronger relationship. Once a couple no longer know how to spend time together, one or both of them will end up taking refuge in gadgets, finding other commitments, seeking the embrace of another, or simply looking for ways to flee what has become an uncomfortable closeness.

♦ Pastors have to encourage families to grow in faith.

♦ Fidelity has to do with patience and expectation. Its joys and sacrifices bear fruit as the years go by and the couple rejoices to see their children's children. The love present from the beginning becomes more conscious, settled and mature as the couple discover each other anew day after day, year after year.

♦ Couples should be helped to realize that surmounting a crisis need not weaken their relationship. Life together should not diminish but increase their contentment; every new step along the way can help couples find new ways to happiness. Each crisis becomes an apprenticeship in growing closer together or learning a little more about what it means to be married.

♦ It has become more and more common to think that, when one or both partners no longer feel fulfilled, or things have not turned out the way they wanted, sufficient reason exists to end the marriage. Were this the case, no marriage would last. Some have the maturity needed to reaffirm their choice of the other as their partner on life's journey, despite the limitations of the relationship. They make the most of whatever possibilities family life gives them and they work patiently at strengthening the marriage bond. They realize that every crisis can be a new "yes" enabling love to be renewed, deepened, and inwardly strengthened.

♦ While realizing that reconciliation is a possibility, we also see that what is urgently needed today is a ministry to care for those whose marital relationship has broken down.

♦ In some cases, respect for one's own dignity and the good of the children requires not giving in to excessive demands or preventing a grave injustice, violence or

chronic ill-treatment. In such cases, separation becomes inevitable. At times it even becomes morally necessary, precisely when it is a matter of removing the more vulnerable spouse or young children from serious injury due to abuse and violence, from humiliation and exploitation, and from disregard and indifference. Even so, separation must be considered as a last resort, after all other reasonable attempts at reconciliation have proved vain.

♦ Special discernment is indispensable for the pastoral care of those who are separated, divorced, or abandoned. Respect needs to be shown especially for the sufferings of those who have unjustly endured separation, divorce or abandonment. or those who have been forced by maltreatment from a husband or a wife to interrupt their life together.

♦ Divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life. The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty.

♦ It is important that the divorced who have entered a new union should be made to feel part of the Church. They are not excommunicated and they should not be treated as such, since they remain part of the ecclesial community. The Christian community's care of such persons is not be considered a weakening of its faith and testimony to the indissolubility of marriage; rather, such care is a particular expression of its charity.

♦ [The] Synod Fathers also emphasized the need to make the procedure in cases of nullity more accessible and less time consuming, and if possible, free of charge. The slowness of the process causes distress and strain on the parties.

♦ The good of the children should be the primary concern and not overshadowed by any ulterior interest or objective. I make this appeal to parents who are separated: "Never ever, take your child hostage! You separated for many problems and reasons. Life gave you this trial, but your children should not have to bear the burden of this separation or be used as hostages against the other spouse. They should grow up hearing their mother speak well of their father, even though they are not together, and their father speak well of their mother."

♦ Divorce is an evil and the increasing number of divorces is very troubling. Hence, our most important pastoral task with regard to families is to strengthen their love, helping to heal wounds and working to prevent the spread of this drama of our times.

♦ Issues involving mixed marriages require particular attention. For this purpose, an effort should be made to establish cordial cooperation between Catholic and non-

Catholic ministers from the time that preparation begin for the marriage and the wedding ceremony.

♦Marriages involving disparity of cult represent a privileged place for interreligious dialogue in everyday life. They involve special difficulties regarding both the Christian identity of the family and the religious upbringing of the children.

♦The situation of families whose members include persons who experience same-sex attraction, a situation not easy either for parents or for children. We would like to reaffirm that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration, while every sign of unjust discrimination is to be carefully avoided, particularly any form of aggression and violence. Such families should be given respectful pastoral guidance, so that those who manifest a homosexual orientation can receive the assistance they need to understand and fully carry out God's will in their lives.

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♦As for proposals to place unions between homosexual persons on the same level as marriage; there are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family.

♦Single-parent families often result from the unwillingness of biological mothers or fathers to be part of a family; situations of violence, where one parent is forced to flee with the children; the death of one of the parents; the abandonment of the family by one parent, and other situations. Whatever the cause, single parents must receive encouragement and support from other families in the Christian community and from the parish's pastoral outreach.

♦At times family life is challenged by the death of a loved one. We cannot fail to offer the light of faith as a support to families going through this experience.

## Pennsylvania State Laurel Festival

# St. Peter's Strawberry Shortcake Stand

**Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

*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.**



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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 Mimplitsch, 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.

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.