



## *13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time* *June 26, 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

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
<b>Monday 6/27</b> <i>Am 2:6-10,13-19; Mt 8:18-22</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of David Grab (Grab Family)
<b>Tuesday 6/28</b> <i>Am 3:1-8, 4:11-12; Mt 8:23-27</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Delores Reichardt (Friend)
<b>Wednesday 6/29</b> <i>Acts 12:1-11; 2 tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Honor of Edward Nonnenmacher (Loretta Nonnenmacher)
<b>Thursday 6/30</b> <i>Am 7:10-17; Mt 9:1-8</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Jon Banik (Don & Kay Hayden)
<b>Friday 7/1</b> <i>Am 8:4-6,9-12; Mt 9:9-13</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Aleas & Bertha Simonis (Simonis Family)
<b>Saturday 7/2</b> <i>Am 9:11-15; Mt 9:14-17</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Lewis "Chuck" Getgen (Ostapowicz Family)
<b>Sunday 7/3</b> <i>Is 66:10-14; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-2,17-20</i>	8:30am 11:00am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Church In Memory of Scott Waclawik (Ostapowicz Family)



## 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 **Deceased Members of St. Peter's Church**

## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY, June 27, 2016

Adult Summer Movie Series – 7:00pm, Parish Center  
Knights of Columbus – 7:00pm, Parish Center

### TUESDAY, June 28, 2016

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm  
Benediction/Evening Prayer – 6:45pm  
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### WEDNESDAY, June 29, 2016

Deanery Mass – 6:30pm, deGuzman Residence

### THURSDAY, June 30, 2016

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center  
St. John Neumann Prayer Group – 7:00pm, Parish Center

### SUNDAY, July 3, 2016

Blue Mass – 11:00am

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### Weekend of July 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

Servers: E.Poirier, W.Poirier, J.Poirier  
Lectors: T.Sampson, L.Sampson  
E. Min.: D.Sherman, G.Poirier, T.Straniere

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

Servers: F.Kennedy, X.Tellgren, A.Banik  
Lectors: R.Kramer, P.Kramer  
E. Min.: K.Tellgren, M.Bialas, N.Josten

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

Servers: A.Dunkel, J.Gordon, L.Gordon  
Lectors: L.Nonnenmacher, C.Waclawik  
E. Min.: C.Hewitt, V.Anthony, D.deGuzman

## Banns of Marriage

Third – 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

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

**FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21**

The Lord chooses Elisha as a successor to Elijah's prophetic ministry. Elijah symbolically carries out the Lord's command by throwing his cloak over Elisha, indicating both God's choice and Elijah's spirit now handed over to Elisha. Elijah's somewhat harsh response to Elisha's desire to say farewell to his family touches upon the tension existing between total commitment to the Lord's work and familial and social responsibilities. Elisha manifests his total commitment to God's call by sacrificing the oxen used for farming and feeding the people with it. Severing all ties and leaving all behind, Elisha manifests total commitment to God by becoming Elijah's attendant and future successor.

**SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-18**

Paul reminds us that in Christ we were set free from slavery to our own selfish ways and desires in order to "serve one another through love." Paul echoes Christ's words in summing up the whole law in the command to *love your neighbor as yourself*. Not following up on this freedom turns us into slaves to sin once again, engendering violence and destruction of one another. Paul's distinction between Spirit and flesh deals with our decision either to accept the freedom to love given to us in Christ, or to reject it and live immersed in our slavish, selfish desires. How will you choose?

**GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62**

What does it  
mean to follow  
Jesus of  
Nazareth

Luke's Jesus is resolved to journey to Jerusalem where his mission and ministry will be accomplished. Being rejected by Samaritans along the way is an indication of the kind of reception that he will receive in Jerusalem. However, that does not stop Jesus from continuing his journey, nor does it prevent him from inviting others to follow him. Jesus' harsh words toward those desiring to follow him are not intended to be taken literally, but are a way of expressing the importance of committing everything to the Lord, as did Elisha in the first reading. Jesus is saying that nothing must stand in the way of one's commitment to God's path. One needs to pay attention to family and social responsibilities, but they cannot become obstacles to or prevent one from committing oneself to building and establishing God's Kingdom.

**ABOUT THIS SUNDAY**

The Collect contrasts light and darkness. God has chosen us as children of light. We pray that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error, but remain in the bright light of truth. In the Prayer over the Offerings, we pray that that our deeds may be worthy of the sacred gifts we receive in this sacrifice. In the Prayer after Communion, we pray that the divine sacrifice we have received may so fill us with life that we may bear fruits that last forever.

## Parish Activities and Information

### LAUREL FESTIVAL UPDATE

A profit of \$2,684.98 was realized from the sale of strawberry shortcake at this year's Laurel Festival celebration. This money will be used to support the operations of the parish.

### BLUE MASS TO BE CELEBRATED

A Blue Mass is often celebrated in Catholic Churches around the nation to honor those who have fallen in the line of duty to protect our citizens and to offer prayers for the safety of police officers. St. Peter's will celebrate a Blue Mass on **Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 11:00am Mass**. All police officers are invited to attend.

### 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)

### PARISH SUMMER GATHERING

Our parish council has planned a summer gathering for our parishioners. This will take place on August 14<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 11:00am Mass, in the parish center. The parish will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and ice cream. Parishioners who can do so are asked to bring a dish to pass. If you are going to attend, please place your name on the sign up sheet in the back of the Church. This is so we know how much food to order. In the past we held this picnic at different locations. This year our parish council thought it would make it easier on our parishioners if we held it immediately following the 11:00am Mass in the parish center. As the date gets closer, more details will follow.

### ADULT SUMMER FILM SERIES

Our adult summer film series is held on Monday evenings beginning at 7:00pm in the Parish Center. Refreshments and discussion follow the films. This week's film will be *Entertaining Angels*. During the Great Depression, Dorothy Day (Moiria Kelly) vows to house the homeless, feed the hungry and tend the sick. Problem is her total savings amount to 97 cents. Yet Dorothy persists via her unshakable faith, eventually launching the activist newspaper *The Catholic Worker* in her crusade for social justice. Martin Sheen and Melinda Dillon co-star in this **true story of a woman who's been called "the American Mother Teresa."** Subsequent films to be screened and their dates are:

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*

## COORDINATOR 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.

### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for June 19<sup>th</sup>: \$5,779.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: (\$211.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$1,363.51

*Envelopes Mailed – 474; Envelopes Used – 133*

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!



Many people like to criticize the Church for her teachings. How many of us have heard the tired and worn caricatures like the following: “The reason women had to veil their heads was because the Church is misogynist.” “The reason for the Communion Rail was to keep lay people out of the sanctuary and in their place, but Vatican II changed that.” “The reason girls weren’t allowed to serve as an altar server is because the Church does not think women are worthy enough to serve on the altar.”

People who make these comments have no idea what they are talking about. That, however, does not stop them from making these statements. I thought I would write an article this week to explain why these practices were done. It is my belief that once you understand the reasons behind them, you will say “Of course! That makes perfect sense.”

The purpose for the head veil had nothing to do with the Church being misogynist and everything to do with sign and symbolism. God created men and women as complimentary. Men and women bear the image of God, but they do so in distinct and complimentary ways. Men represent Christ and as such the incarnation. In that capacity men are the glory of God. Women represent the Church which is the bride of Christ. In this capacity they are the glory of humanity. This is why women were traditionally called the fairer gender. This is also the reason for chivalry. Men were naturally inclined to defend the honor of women because of who they were and what they represented. The veil was a sign of humility in the presence of God. Women were the glory of humanity, but the head veil was recognition that God is the source of their glory. Men did not veil their heads because they represent the glory of Christ.

The sanctuary of the Church is set apart from the rest of the Church. It is like a church within a church. Its purpose

was to clearly delimit the sanctuary from the nave (the rest of the Church.) The sanctuary today would be analogous to the Holy of Holies in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, the Holy of Holies was separated from the rest of the Temple by a veil. This veil was torn when Christ died signifying God and earth were no longer separated but united. All people now have access to the throne of Grace.

The Holy of Holies has passed into the Church, the Body of Christ. The Baptized are the presence of God. However, the work of redemption is not complete. While God and earth, God and humanity are united, this unity is not yet perfect or complete. The Communion Rail signified this reality. It marks out the place where heaven and earth meet, but its presence also indicates that this unity between heaven and earth is not yet perfect or complete. Vatican II nowhere mandated the removal of communion rails or high altars. Sadly this did not stop many priests from jack hammering out the high altars and jack hammering out the communion rails—in the name of Vatican II.

The reason for male only altar servers has to do once again with correct signs and symbolism regarding the liturgical actions. The priest when celebrating the Mass stands in the person of Christ. As such the priest is functioning as the bridegroom, while the Church is the bride. The symbolism of the Mass is nuptial. While the priest represents the bridegroom, the altar servers represent the groomsmen. Just as groomsmen attend to the needs of the groom in a wedding, so too the altar servers attend to the needs of the groom in the celebration of the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. The more practical aspects of alter serving were to recruit men for the priesthood. The idea was that you allow young men to perform some of the liturgical actions related to the Mass and assist the priest. This would, perhaps, plant a seed and spark interest in a priestly vocation. Women cannot be priests. While we allow females to serve on the altar now, there is a sense in which this is unfair. We may spark a desire in a girl that has no potential to be fulfilled.

I have no intention to install a Communion Rail, to ask women to veil their heads, or to disallow female altar servers. Today I am just grateful anytime children or teens express interest in religion and want to be a part of their Faith. I wanted to explain the reasoning behind the disciplines of the Church in the past. I wanted to show that there were very good reasons for these disciplines. The changes do not bother me. What bothers me are the caricatures. If people are going to criticize Catholic Theology and practice, they should, at least, know what they are talking about! Sadly many priests are just as ignorant on some of these issues and have actually helped to spread some of the misinformation!

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David Bechtel



## Jubilee Year of Mercy

*This Holy Year will conclude on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.***

### **The Church of Mercy**

“Have the courage to go against the tide of this culture of efficiency, this culture of waste. Encountering and welcoming everyone, [building] solidarity—a word that is being hidden by this culture, as if it were a bad word—solidarity and fraternity: these are what make our society truly human.” — Pope Francis

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## Diocese of Scranton News

### **STATEMENT BY BISHOP BAMBERA REGARDING TRAGIC SHOOTINGS IN ORLANDO**

The senseless violence that has invaded our world all too often in recent years yet again confronted us in the early hours of Sunday morning, June 12th, with the slaughter of scores of innocent people in Orlando, Florida. I first heard of the tragic news shortly after my airplane landed in southern California, where I was about to begin a week of meetings of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Needless to say, as with so many of you, I have been consumed with this tragedy. It is beyond imagining and well beyond what should be expected in a civilized nation like our own.

As an act of terrorism, the Orlando shootings have created for us as Americans an uneasy solidarity with suffering souls in our own land and in far too many places around the world. This act, like so many others, defies logic, generates fear and causes us to question if there can ever be a place of true security and peace for ourselves and the entire global community.

As an act of hatred, the massacre in Orlando sadly reminds us of the worst consequences of discrimination and prejudice, even while the precise motives of the perpetrator of these shootings are still being analyzed and may never be fully known. Every human life unequivocally deserves to be treated with respect and dignity, including those members of the LGBT community who were so barbarically killed. Our faith demands that we denounce hatred and never single out an individual or group as in any way less deserving than others of human respect, regardless of whom they are, what they believe or how they choose to live their lives.

This tragedy has brought us to a new moment of awareness in our lives. Most immediately, it calls every person to combat more vigorously than ever the anti-gay prejudice that exists within our country and even, sadly, among some people of faith and members of our own Church. And in this era fraught with division and anger, the sad events that unfolded in Orlando challenge us as a nation to resolve to treat every woman and man — regardless of sexual

orientation or identity, religion, race or country of origin — with equal dignity and respect.

In his remarks on the tragedy, Pope Francis said, “We all hope that ways may be found, as soon as possible, to effectively identify and contrast the causes of such terrible and absurd violence which so deeply upsets the desire for peace of the American people and of the whole of humanity.” There is no doubt in my mind that this hope of Pope Francis reflects the prayers that flow from my heart and yours.

As a nation, may we finally begin to set aside our differences and work together to eradicate violence, doing all that we can to create a culture of peace. ... As a people of good will, may we tear down walls that divide us and truly recognize one another as brothers and sisters. ... And as Christians, may we join our prayers with those of countless numbers of faith-filled people from around our world for the sake of the victims, their families and friends, first responders and all those affected by this senseless tragedy.

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### **MASS IN REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT OR TRAGIC DEATH**

The Diocese of Scranton is offering the annual Mass in remembrance of victims of violent or tragic death. This Mass is offered for the families and friends of those who have died in tragedy, especially through murder, suicide, and accident. The Mass is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Peter's Cathedral, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. All persons who have lost a loved one through tragic and traumatic death are invited to this liturgy. We ask that the names of deceased loved ones are registered on registration forms which are available in the parish office or accessed on the Service and Social Concerns webpage on the Diocese of Scranton's website, [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org). Questions concerning this Mass may be directed to the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

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### **DAY OF REFLECTION**

The Scranton Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will conduct a Day of Reflection on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at The Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, 245 Meadowside Road, Mount Pocono, PA. Monsignor Vincent Grimalia, Chaplain of St. Luke's Villa will conduct the retreat. The topic is “Jubilee Year of Mercy.” The retreat will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will end by 2:00 p.m. A continental breakfast and luncheon will be served. The cost is \$35. All Catholic women are invited to attend. Please send your reservation with payment to Helen Oravec, 814 Theresa Street, Peckville, PA 18452. The reservation deadline is July 25th. Contact Mary Lloyd at 570-578-6720 or Nancy Addley at 570-536-4436 if additional information is required.

## Pro Life News

### WORD OF LIFE

“Miscarriage includes emotional, relational and spiritual suffering that requires assistance from family, friends and church leaders. ...Although we may feel unsure how best to comfort those who mourn, we must stand with them in their time of suffering.” — “Solace and Strength in the Sorrow of Miscarriage” 2014-15 Respect Life Program USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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### PREEMINENT THREATS

The United States Catholic Bishops wrote to us as follows in their document on Faithful Citizenship (2015) about the preeminent moral issues we face in society today. They explain, “In our nation, abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental human good and the condition for all others. It is a mistake with grave moral consequences to treat the destruction of innocent human life merely as a matter of individual choice. A legal system that violates the basic right to life on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed.”

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](http://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, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

## 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)

### 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 papal teaching that communicates the mind of the pope on a certain topic—in this case family and marriage.

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 8: Accompanying, Discerning, and Integrating Weakness

- ◆ Although the Church realizes that any breach of the marriage bond is against the will of God, she is also conscious of the frailty of many of her children.
- ◆ The Church does not disregard the constructive elements in those situations which do not yet or no longer correspond to her teaching on marriage.
- ◆ The Fathers considered the specific situation of a merely civil marriage or cohabitation, noting that when such unions attain a particular stability, legally recognized, are characterized by deep affection and responsibility for their offspring, and demonstrate an ability to overcome trials, they can provide occasions for pastoral care with a view to the eventual celebration of the sacrament of marriage.
- ◆ It is a source of concern that many young people today distrust marriage and live together, putting off indefinitely the commitment of marriage, while yet others break a commitment already made and immediately assume a new one. As members of the Church, they too need pastoral care that is merciful and helpful.
- ◆ The choice of a civil marriage or of simple cohabitation is often not motivated by prejudice or resistance to a sacramental union, but by cultural or contingent situations. We know that there is a continual increase in the number of those who, after having lived together for a long period, request the celebration of marriage in Church. Simply to live together is often a choice based on a general attitude opposed to anything institutional or definitive. These couples need to be welcomed and guided patiently and discreetly.
- ◆ There is a need to avoid judgments which do not take into account the complexity of various situations. It is a matter of reaching out to everyone, of needing to help each person find his or her proper way of participating in the ecclesial community and thus to experience being touched by an unmerited, unconditional and gratuitous mercy. No one can be condemned for ever, because that is not the logic of the Gospel! Naturally, if someone flaunts an objective sin as if it were part of the Christian ideal, or wants to impose something other than what the Church teaches, he or she can in no way presume to teach or preach to others; this is a case of something which separates from the community.
- ◆ As for the way of dealing with different “irregular” situations, the Synod Fathers reached a general consensus, which I support: In considering a pastoral approach towards people who have contracted a civil marriage, who are

divorced and remarried, or simply living together, the Church has the responsibility of helping them understand the divine pedagogy of grace in their lives and offering them assistance so they can reach the fullness of God’s plan for them, something which is always possible by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ The divorced who have entered a new union, can find themselves in a variety of situations, which should not be pigeonholed or fit into overly rigid classifications leaving no room for a suitable personal and pastoral discernment. They need to be more fully integrated into Christian communities in the variety of ways possible, while avoiding any occasion of scandal. The logic of integration is the key to their pastoral care, a care which would allow them not only to realize that they belong to the Church as the body of Christ, but also to know that they can have a joyful and fruitful experience in it.
  - ◆ Such persons need to feel not as excommunicated members, but as living members, able to live and grow in the Church and experience her as a mother who welcomes them always, who takes care of them with affection and encourages them along the path of life and the Gospel.
  - ◆ The Church possesses a solid body of reflection concerning mitigating factors and situations. Hence it is can no longer simply be said that all those in any “irregular” situation are living in a state of mortal sin and are deprived of sanctifying grace. A subject may know full well the rule, yet have great difficulty in understanding its inherent values or be in a concrete situation which does not allow to act differently without further sin. Factors may exist which limit the ability to make a decision.
  - ◆ In order to avoid all misunderstanding, I would point out that in no way must the Church desist from proposing the full ideal of marriage, God’s plan in all its grandeur: Young people who are baptized should be encouraged to understand that the sacrament of marriage can enrich their prospects of love and that they can be sustained by the grace of Christ in the sacrament and by the possibility of participating fully in the life of the Church.
  - ◆ I sincerely believe that Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness which the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness. The Church’s pastors, in proposing to the faithful the full ideal of the Gospel and Church teaching, must also help them to treat the weak with compassion, avoiding aggravation or unduly harsh or hasty judgments.
  - ◆ I encourage the faithful who find themselves in complicated situations to speak confidently with their pastors or other lay people whose lives are committed to the Lord. They may not always encounter in them a confirmation of their own ideas or desires, but they will surely receive some light to help them better understand their situation and discover a path to personal growth. I also encourage the Church’s pastors to listen to them with sensitivity and serenity, with a sincere desire to understand their plight and their point of view, in order to help them live better lives and to recognize their proper place in the Church.
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Needed For...

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

Erma Hotchkiss

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.