

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 24, 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 8th grade students in our Parish CCD program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the CCD program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages

In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Reconciliation

The sacrament is celebrated each Saturday from 4:00 - 4:45pm and Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 11:45am - 12:00noon in the church and also by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the Rectory whenever a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized. Please note, because of the new government regulations regarding privacy, hospitals cannot release information without a patient's consent.

Monthly Visitations

Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA prepares interested adults for reception into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the each person's needs and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Please contact the rectory to register for the classes.

St. Peter's Church

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901 Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371~ Fax: 570-724-6322 Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

> <u>Rectory Office Hours</u> Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

nday unough Friday 9.00–2.00p

<u>Parish Staff</u>

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net Director of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier – stpreled@ptd.net Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~~ Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am-12:00noon

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for $Pre-K - 12^{th}$ grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. Confirmation Prep Class meets one Sunday a month from 5:00–6:30pm as scheduled.

Pregnancy Support

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310 Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

Parish Contact Listing

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - Patti Mitchell 570-724-3371 Women's Bible Study - Sue Singer 570-724-2360 St. John Neumann's Prayer Group - Christina Simonis 570-724-2085 Contemplative Spirituality Group - Kate Black 570-724-3047 Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023 Knights of Columbus - George Gamble 570-724-5216 Social Concerns - Karen Plumley 570-439-0175 Parish Rummage Sale - Mary Cleveland 570-724-5286 Funeral Luncheon Group - Rectory 570-724-3371 Church Linens & Decorations - Sue Singer 570-724-2360 Buildings & Grounds - Rick Joachim 570-439-2591 Cemetery Committee - Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529 Fundraising Dinners - 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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 7/25	11:45am-12:00pm	Confessions
2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28	12:10pm	In Memory of Stanley Baker (Daughter and Grandchildren)
Tuesday 7/26 Jer 14:17-22; Mt 13:36-43	7:30am	In Honor of Norb & Nona Josten
Wednesday 7/27	11:45am-12:00pm	Confessions
Jer 15:10,16-21; Mt 13:44-46	12:10pm	In Memory of Edward & Walter Gubala (Family)
Thursday 7/28	11:45am-12:00pm	Confessions
Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53	12:10pm	In Memory of Jon Banik (Ed & Loretta Nonnenmacher)
Friday 7/29	11:45am-12:00pm	Confessions
Jer 26:1-9; Jn 11:19-27	12:10pm	In Memory of Loretta V. Nonnenmacher (Ed & Loretta Nonnenmacher)
Saturday 7/30	4:15-4:45pm	Confessions
Jer 26:11-16,24; Mt 14:1-12	5:00pm	In Memory of Michelle Predmore (Suzanne Niles & Family)
Sunday 7/31 Eccl 1:2,2:21-23; Col 3:1-5,9-11; Lk 12:13-21	8:30am 11:00am	Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Church In Memory of Craig Huck (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 Parish**

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, July 25, 2016 Adult Summer Film Series – 7:00pm, Parish Center Knights of Columbus Meeting – 7:00pm, Parish Center TUESDAY, July 26, 2016 Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm Benediction/Evening Prayer – 6:45pm AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center THURSDAY, July 28, 2016 Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center St. John Neumann Prayer Group – 7:00pm, Parish Center

Ministers of the Altar Schedule Weekend of July 31st

5:00pm Servers: A.Banik, X.Tellgren, K.Pacific Lectors: T.Sampson, C.Evert E. Min.: K.Tellgren, E.Evert, G.Brown 8:30am Servers: F.Kennedy, A.Osborn, A.Dunkel Lectors: D.Bleggi, N.Bickham E. Min.: M.Osborn, L.Whitney, N.Ostapowicz 11:00am Servers: K.Kramer, J.Gordon, L.Gordon Lectors: D.Gordon, B.Dalton E. Min.: D.Sherman, C.Lannak, L.Makos

The summertime offers many people an occasion for rest. It's also a favorable time to take care of our human relationships.

Pope Francis @Pontifex

Wel	come to St. Peter's Church!
If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, w	velcome 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	b it in the offertory basket.
Reque	est for Parishioner Registration Form
Name	Phone
Address	



Liturgical Reflection

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

God's determination to punish Sodom and Gomorra for their sinfulness has Abraham pleading with God not to sweep away the innocent with the guilty. Secure in his covenant relationship with God, the crux of Abraham's prayer is summarized in a rhetorical question asked of God: "Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?" Since doing justice is the essence of covenant relationship, the answer is an obvious yes. But how far does justice go in this context? Through prayer, Abraham is able to come to know and understand God's way of doing things, and in asking God for justice, he is able to attune his will God's will. Prayer is not a matter of changing God's mind to our way of thinking, but rather an attunement to God's ways of acting and thinking, as we strive to align ourselves with god's will.

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:12-14

In Baptism we are buried with Christ and through God's power we are raised with him. God raises us up with Christ even while we are slaves to sin and legally bonded to evil powers. In Christ, God brings us to life, forgiving all our transgressions and eliminating any legal bonds against us from evil powers by nailing all to the cross. Colossians asserts that we have been justified and made righteous before God through Christ's Cross, symbolic of that total gift of selfemptying love. As disciples, we are called to model ourselves on Christ, and manifest that same love towards one another, even when not deserved or accepted.

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13



Luke's Jesus is a person of prayer whose personal relationship to God sustains his life and ministry. His disciples, very much aware of this, ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus responds with what we now call the Our Father or the Lord's Prayer. We are taught to call upon God as we would a loving parent, bless, and praise God for life's may blessings, and ask God for those things that we need in life to be faithful partners in a covenant love

relationship. A parable follows the prayer reminding us that we should be bold and persistent in our prayers to God, not to get our own way, but to ask God for justice and right relationship in all things so that we might live as God desires. The final sayings stress the reality that just as parents desire nothing but he best for their children, so too God desires nothing but the best for us and will provide what God deems best whenever we are bold enough to ask.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

The Collect speaks eloquently of God as the firm foundation of our lives; with that foundation, we can "use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure." The Prayer over the Offerings continues to acknowledge the need to progress in the life of the Kingdom, which is both here and yet-to-come. The Prayer after Communion highlights the nature of every Eucharistic celebration as anamnesis – the "perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son."

Parish Activities and Information BACKPACK PROJECT



The Social Concerns Committee will again be sponsoring the Back-to-School Backpack project. Thanks to parishioners' past generosity we have provided backpacks, shoes, first day of school outfits, underwear

and socks for students in need in our area. Please consider taking a tag from the giving tree to help a child return to school with dignity and confidence. Please return all items, with the giving tree tag attached, to the collection box, by Tuesday, August 9th. The Giving Tree will be available in the church the weekends of July 24th, 31st, and August 7th.

PARISH SUMMER GATHERING

Our parish council has planned a summer gathering for our parishioners. This will take place on August 14th, 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 sigh 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 Movie is *G. K. Chesterton on St Francis*. Actor and professor John Chalberg, who has been performing as G.K. Chesterton on stage and TV for over twenty years, gives the best of Chesteron's superb biography of St. Francis of Asissi. A fun, inspiring and insightful presentation of one the most popular saints in history The remaining schedule is as follows: Aug 1st – *Convinced*, Aug 8th – *Divine Mercy 101*

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

July's Food Pantry items are: Pork and Beans and Canned Fruit. Place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church anytime throughout the month.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people. Next week, please give generously to The Catholic Relief Services Collection and help Jesus in disguise.

Neighboring Parish News ST. THOMAS' PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY DOOR

St. Thomas is organizing a pilgrimage to the holy door at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. The trip will take place on September 24th. The bus will pick up in Wellsboro at 5:55am. The tentative schedule is as follows:

9:00am – Arrival 9:30am – Morning Prayer 9:45am – Welcome & Presentation of the Jubilee of Mercy 10:30-11:45am – Free time with opportunity for confession 11:45am – Recitation of the Rosary 12:10pm – Mass 1:00pm – Lunch 1:30pm – Tour of the Cathedral 2:00pm – Depart

The Cost is \$40 per person and includes lunch. A stop at Steamtown Mall and Cracker Barrel in Binghamton, NY, on the way home, is on your own. Pleas register no later than August 15th by calling St. Thomas at 570-258-5121. Brochures can be found on the handout table.

That's The Way It Is!



"A Bishop in the Exam Room: When Faith Dictates Health Instead of 'Science."" (Quotations mine) was an article on YAHOO. The author laments the merger of a secular hospital with a Catholic health system. You see, now women will not be able to receive

the "full scope of reproductive care." The author defines "full scope of reproductive health care" as "abortion on demand" and "contraception on demand." The fact that a Catholic health system wants to be, well, Catholic is offensive to the author. The ACLU is protesting this merger. (Big surprise.)

In other news, California is considering legislation that would essentially strip the Catholic identity from Catholic colleges. Catholic colleges could no longer require all students to take theology or philosophy classes, attend worship, or have corporate prayer at convocations. The Catholic colleges would also no longer be permitted to have separate dorms and living spaces for males and females. At this time the bill is only under consideration. If it passes, and upheld by the courts when challenged, the ramifications for religious freedom are huge.

Who can forget a few years back when President Obama sought to force Catholic institutions to offer sacrifice to the liberal, secular, humanist, atheistic gods of government and provide for medical practices Catholics find morally objectionable? When I was at SJNRA I had to warn the parents that such legislation, if not overturned by the courts could put the existence of SJNRA and other Catholic institutions in jeopardy. I told them we would not comply no matter what, but that would likely mean hefty fines, etc, which, in the end, would force the school's closure. Yes, we realized non-compliance would potentially mean the end of the school. If you don't believe bishops would really consider such drastic measures, they would. Just do a Google search and see how many dioceses have closed their adoption agencies after the courts or laws tried to force them to facilitate adoptions for gay couples.

To many people the above kind of talk is absurd. Catholic hospitals, colleges and secondary schools, orphanages, shelters and other charities run by the Catholic Church are good. Many people believe it is better to compromise Catholic values and continue the charitable works than discontinue the charitable works and not compromise Catholic values.

It must be understood at the outset that the goal of Satan is to get people to worship him and get people to acknowledge him as God. Satan is clever, crafty and brilliant. Satan knows that if he were to reveal himself as he is, no one would have anything to do with him. He knows that he has to present himself as an angel of light and make evil look good while making good look evil. One of the ways Satan tries to get us to worship him is by getting us to compromise our values in order to achieve something good. The ends justify the means. As long as something good happens, it does not matter what means are used to achieve that good—even if those means are evil.

Make no mistake: it does matter and it matters greatly. When we have to compromise our values in order to achieve something good, we lose. The ends do not justify the means. In the Christian life, the means are as important, if not more so than the end achieved. When we use evil means to achieve a good, when we compromise with Satan in order to achieve something good we become Satan, we make Satan our god. We cannot break the commandments in order to achieve something good. Satan is the enemy, not the Catholic Church. Satan is the enemy, not Catholic teaching. Satan has done a very good job convincing people that the Catholic Church is the enemy. This allows him to continue to lie to people and distort the truth.

Our freedom to operate our own institutions according to the teachings of the Church is increasing coming under attack. I only see this getting worse in the future. I cannot promise that we will be victorious, but I can promise that we will not compromise our values no matter the price we have to pay. I have often joked with the chaplain at Allenwood. I said to him "One day I will be an inmate here." He said "Why? What crime do you plan on committing?" I said "Being Catholic."

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David Bechtel

Stewardship

No financial report is available for this week's bulletin. The weekend of July 17th will be reported in next week's bulletin.

Diocese of Scranton News DAY OF REFLECTION

The Scranton Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will conduct a Day of Reflection on August 3rd at The Villa of Our Lady Retreat House, 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 8:30am. 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 by July 25th.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE

Our Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal is sponsoring its 34th annual conference at the University of Scranton July 31-August 1. This year's theme is: "Go and Make Disciples" and will focus on Jesus as the face of Mercy and will feature a variety of inspiring speakers and uplifting music. Mass is celebrated each afternoon. Separate tracks for Children and Youth are also available. Full-weekend registration fee is \$50 up to July 18th and \$65 after. Single-day registration is also available. For registration information call 570-344-2214, or email ccrenewal@comcast.net.

RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND PLANNED

Know a Marriage That Needs Help: Throw them a lifeline and tell them about Retrouvaille, an international program that helps couples who are experiencing marital difficulties. This program is for all couples, at any stage of marriage that needs help to communicate with each other in a more attentive and loving manner. The next program begins August. 26-28, at The Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit. Call 800-470-2230 for more information or to register or visit THE WEBSITE at www.helpourmarriage.org.

Pro Life

WORD OF LIFE

"Through the loving care of my family and friends, they affirm what I also know—that my life is, always has been, and always will be, worth living."" — "Maggie's Story: Living like Dad," USCCB



Jubilee Year of Mercy

This Holy Year will conclude on Sunday, November 20th, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy.

The Church of Mercy

"Let us be renewed by God's mercy ... and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish." – Pope Francis

News From the Vatican LOOK IN THE MIRROR



BEFORE JUDGING OTHERS Judgment belongs to God alone, so if we do not want to be judged, we should not judge others says Pope Francis. Focusing on the day's Gospel, the Pope said "all of us want

the Lord to look upon us with kindness" on Judgment Day and that He "will forget the many bad things we have done in life. Jesus calls us hypocrites when we are judgmental. Therefore, if you judge others constantly with the same measure you shall be judged.

The Lord, he said, therefore asks us to look in the mirror: look in the mirror, but not to put on makeup to hide the wrinkles. No, no, no, that's not the advice! Look in the mirror to look at yourself as you are. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye and do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or, how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck out of your eye, while the log is still in your eye? And how does the Lord look at us then, when we do this? One word: hypocrite. First take the log out of your eye, and then you shall see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Pray for others instead of judging them. We see that the Lord gets a little angry here. He calls us hypocrites when we put ourselves in God's place. This is what the serpent persuaded Adam and Eve to do: If you eat this, you'll be like Him. They wanted to take the place of God. For this, being judgmental is very ugly. Judgment belongs only to God, to Him alone! It is for us to love, to understand, to pray for others when we see things that are not good, inviting us to talk kindly to others so that they may learn from their mistakes. But never judge. Never. And this is hypocrisy, if we judge. Our judgment lacks mercy; only God can judge. When we judge others, he continued, we put ourselves in the place of God, but our judgment is poor judgment; it can never be true judgment.

But can't our judgment be like the Lord's? Because God is Almighty and we are not? No, because our judgment is lacking mercy. And when God judges, He judges with mercy."

"Let us think today about what the Lord says to us: Do not judge, lest you be judged; the measure by which we judge will be the same that will be used for us; and, let us look in the mirror before judging. 'But this fellow does this ... that fellow does that... But, wait a minute ... I look in the mirror and then think. On the contrary, I'll be a hypocrite if I put myself in the place of God and, also, my judgment is poor judgment. Human judgment lacks the mercy of the Lord's judgment. Pope Francis concluded, "May the Lord make us understand these things."

"Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation!" Pope Francis

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Parish Praver 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, 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 Antoniw, 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, Callie Cavanaugh, Dean Gilkey, Victoria Salerno, Wanda Trynovich, Tim Cunningham, Tony Pranses, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Kathy Macensky, Paul Beuter, Craig West, Avery Trescott, Jerry Eckert, Frankie Dziengowski, Michael Liebner, and Patti Radocaj.

> Fternal Rest Grant (Into Them, O) ord and Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Needed For

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.