



## 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time September 11, 2016

### **Mission Statement**

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

### **Baptisms**

Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend baptismal instructions classes before the birth of their child, if possible. Please contact the Rectory to register. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed.

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation is administered every year to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in our Parish CCD program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the CCD program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

### **Marriages**

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

### **Reconciliation**

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

### **Anointing of the Sick**

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

### **Monthly Visitations**

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

### **Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (RCIA)**

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

# 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

### **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**

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 Nursing Home Communion – 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 9/12</b> <i>1 Cor 11:17-26,33; Lk 7:1-10</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Joseph & Anna Henneberger (Antoniw Family)
<b>Tuesday 9/13</b> <i>1 Cor 12:12-14,27-31; Lk 7:11-17</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Dennis Simonis (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)
<b>Wednesday 9/14</b> <i>Nm 21:4-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Honor of the Rummage Sale Workers (Mary Cleveland)
<b>Thursday 9/15</b> <i>1 Cor 15:1-11; Jn 19:25-27</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Matthew Ziemak (Robert & Susan Reardon)
<b>Friday 9/16</b> <i>1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Mary Ditchfield (Mike & Gloria Fermeric)
<b>Saturday 9/17</b> <i>1 Cor 15:35-37,42-49; Lk 8:4-15</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Paul Beuter (Children)
<b>Sunday 9/18</b> <i>Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13</i>	8:30am 11:00am	In Memory of Marie Franks (Ginny Pansero) Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Church



## 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 **Patti Radocaj** (Poirier Family).

## The Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, September 11, 2016

Altar Serve Training – 9:30am, Church  
Secular Carmelites – 10:00am, Parish Center  
Mandated Reporter Training – 6:00pm, Parish Center  
Rel. Ed Teacher Meeting – 7:00pm, Parish Center

### TUESDAY, September 13, 2016

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm  
Benediction/Evening Prayer – 6:45pm  
Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center  
Broad Acres Mass – 10:30am  
Worship Committee Meeting – 7:00pm, Rectory  
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### WEDNESDAY, September 14, 2016

Green Home Mass – 2:00pm  
Adult Education Program – 6:30pm, parish Center

### THURSDAY, September 15, 2016

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

### SUNDAY, September 18, 2016

Religious Ed. Classes – Pre-School, 8:30am; K-12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am  
Rel. Ed. Parent Meeting – 9:30am, Church

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### Weekend of September 18<sup>th</sup>

#### 5:00pm

Servers: J.Singer, L.Singer, Z.Singer  
Lectors: T.Sampson, L.Sampson  
E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, A.Singer, G.Vargas

#### 8:30am

Servers: C.Callahan, D.Callahan, A.Osborn  
Lectors: T.Reindl, M.Ostapowicz  
E. Min.: E.Payne, N.Ostapowicz, M.Osborn

#### 11:00am

Servers: K.Kramer, A.Swendrowski, K.Swendrowski  
Lectors: L.Nonnenmacher, C.Waclawik  
E. Min.: L.Makos, V.Anthony, C. Lannak



## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are:  
*Canned Tuna, Ham, or Chicken.*

Place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church anytime throughout the month

## 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

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

**FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14**

The narrator of Exodus reports a dramatic conversation between God and Moses. God is displeased with the infidelity of the “stiff-necked” people and intends to bring punishment upon them. God sends Moses to make such an announcement. But Moses implores God to remember that they are “your own people” and reminds God of the promise to make this people a great nation. God listens to Moses and relents.

**SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

Paul’s biographical account to Timothy recalls his time of persecution of the followers of Christ. But Paul gives thanks to the Lord for sending him the grace to change his life. He now believes that Christ came into the world to save sinners and he humbly counts himself as one of them. He then expresses gratitude that Christ Jesus considered him a trustworthy Apostle.

**GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-32**

Chapter 15 of Luke’s account recounts three of the most familiar parables of Jesus. The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the Prodigal Son attest to the mercy of God. Each notes the joy of the shepherd, the woman, and the father when the sheep, the coin, and the son have been found. The compassion of God is personified in the actions of the shepherd, the woman, and the father who seek out the lost. The story of the prodigal centers on the Father’s mercy and reminds us we can always return home. All are offered forgiveness, but not all embrace it.

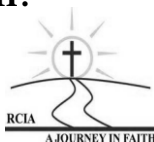
## Parish Activities and Information

### ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Training will take place **TODAY**, September 11<sup>th</sup>, following the 8:30am Mass (approximately 9:30am) for anyone in Grade 5 or above who is interested in becoming an Altar Server. Please meet in the Church.

### INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church. It begins with a period of inquiry in which you may ask questions before you make a commitment to become Catholic. *An informational meeting will take place on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, in the Rectory.* Please call the Rectory to register or for more information.



### REGISTER NOW FOR RELIGIOUS ED

Registration information has been mailed to all returning students. Please fill out the registration form and return by September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have a new student or did not receive the mailed information, please call or email the Religious Education office and information will be mailed to you.



## RELIGIOUS ED KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Mark your calendars. Catechetical Sunday is September 18<sup>th</sup> and will be the first class for students in grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Following the 8:30am Mass, students will report to their classrooms and a short parent meeting will be held in the church. At the conclusion of the parent meeting, we will be joined by the students to kick off the year with donuts and coffee/juice on the lawn for everyone.



## WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY



This year, the Women’s Bible Study group will be studying the Year of Mercy. Please join us on Tuesday mornings, 9:00–10:30am, in the Parish Center. Please come and sit in on a session and see what this group is all about. New members are always welcome.

## TIOGA COUNTY HOMELESS INITIATIVE NEED



Saint Teresa of Calcutta was called by God to love and care for the poor. She made this her life’s work and never stopped inviting people to step out of their comfort zone and do great things for God. In our own community there’s an organization doing God’s work to help the poor and vulnerable. Tioga County Homeless Initiative is in need of our help. The homeless shelter is open each day for guests to come to get a meal, access to washer & dryer, shower facility, a place to sleep and fellowship. The shelter is a cooperative project of local churches and groups, each taking a week staffing it from 5:00pm to 9:00 pm. Groups volunteer to cover up to one week every four months. The Shelter is located between Wellsboro and Mansfield on Charleston Road. David & Tara Gordon will be organizing a team to cover a week each quarter. An informational meeting to share more information and answer questions will be held on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in the Parish Center. If you’re willing to help serve the poor of our community by covering a shift or preparing a meal or need more information, please contact Tara at 570-439-0006 or David at 570-439-0005.

## ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Please join us on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, in the Parish Center for a video presentation on the life and influence of Catherine of Sienna, within the Catholic Church. Next week, September 21<sup>st</sup>, we look at the life of St. Thomas Aquinas. All our welcome!

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR 2016



We are now accepting Mass Intentions and Sanctuary Candle Memorials for 2017. Please stop by the rectory to request your Mass or Candle or place your intention, along with the \$10 stipend, in a marked envelope and drop in the collection basket.



## FALL SALE

This year's annual fall clothing, books and house October 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Center.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Donations accepted 12:00 – 3:00pm

October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Set up & Donations accepted 8:00am – 5:00pm

October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> – Sale Hours 8:00am – 5:00pm

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm

**Take what you want for a donation on Thursday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**

No Early Sales! Please, no donations of televisions.

**Bake Sale** – We will be selling homemade baked goods during the sale. **Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated** and can be dropped off at the Parish Center on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> or Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 5:00pm. The bake sale is very popular and sells out early, so we would appreciate as many baked goods as possible.

## Pro-Life News

### PRIESTS FOR LIFE

“There are just choices and there are unjust choices. Choices would be the preference for chocolate ice cream over vanilla ice cream or sherbet instead of ice cream. That is just a choice. A just choice would be to choose to pay a fair and living wage to employees as opposed to simply meeting the mandatory standard of minimum wage laws. An unjust choice would be to choose to terminate the life of another human being. This is not just a choice and it is not a just choice; it is an unjust choice. Furthermore it is an unjust choice which is diametrically opposed to the clear and consistent teaching of the Catholic Church as well as to the clear and consistent teaching of God Himself in the Ten Commandments. The direct, intentional taking of the life of an innocent human being is inhumane and unjust. It is not just a choice!” *Bishop Robert Vasa, March 1, 2007*



## 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.*

Mercy is the heart of God. It must also be the heart of the members of the one great family of his children; a heart which beats all the more strongly wherever human dignity – as a reflection of the face of God in his creatures – is the yardstick by which God will judge our actions. Our eternal destiny depends on this. It is not surprising that the Apostle Paul tells the Christians of Rome to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (Rom 12:15) or that he encourages the Corinthians to take up collections as a sign of solidarity with the suffering members of the Church (1 Cor 16:2-3). Saint John writes: “If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother or sister in need, yet refuses help, how does God's love abide in him? (1 Jn 3:17. Jas 2:15-16). *Pope Francis 12/2015*

## Diocese of Scranton News

### A CALL TO SUPPORT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN LOUISIANA

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has requested that a special collection be taken up in all parishes on the weekend of September 17-18, 2016 to support the victims of the 2016 Louisiana Floods, the worst domestic disaster since Hurricane Sandy. This emergency collection will be used both to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding support to impacted dioceses. Please be as generous as you are able.

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### DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

**LIVING FAITH, SERVING WITH MERCY** - *“The great gift of mercy lies at the heart of all we do as a Church, and it also lies at the heart of the support we received for the Diocesan Annual Appeal.” - Bishop Joseph C. Bambera*  
You are invited to join with parishioners across the Diocese as they practice Living Faith, Serving with Mercy by supporting the 2016 Annual Appeal. Pope Francis called this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to direct our actions “on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's actions in our lives . “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8,16). This love has now been made visible and tangible in Jesus' entire life. The signs he works, especially in favor of sinners, the poor, the marginalized, the sick, and the suffering, are all meant to teach mercy. Everything in him speaks of mercy.” As presented by Bishop Bambera, Pope Francis offered his hope for the Church: that every man and woman, every child would find in the Church a place of welcome, would experience in the Church the love, the Mercy, the forgiveness, and the grace of a welcoming God. The great gift of Mercy that is available to all of us during this wonderful Jubilee Year also calls us as faithful souls to be merciful as our Father in Heaven is merciful. It reflects the heart and substance of who we are as a local Church as we seek to reflect, in our own lives, the leadership of Jesus in service to his brothers and sisters. “When we work together in the unity of the Holy Spirit, sharing the gifts our heavenly Father has given us, and “serve with Mercy,” we are truly “living faith.” None of us can do this alone, but across the 120 parishes of our Diocese, however, we have enormous power to be the presence of Christ in the world.” This is the mission and purpose of the vital ministries made possible by the Diocesan Appeal throughout the counties of our Diocese.

## Stewardship

Sunday Collection for September 4<sup>th</sup>: \$7,789.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: \$1,799.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$ 844.20)

Collection for Care & Education of Priests: \$1,063.00

*Envelopes Mailed – 479; Envelopes Used – 135*

We are grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries!

## That's The Way It Is!



Dear parishioners,

I will pick back up with the "That's the way it is" next week. Since we are putting out a financial report this week I felt I should address that.

This week's bulletin contains a financial report for the fiscal year 2015-2016. We have tried our best to take loads of data and details and give you a general picture of the finances here in the parish. We have also tried to present the report in such a way as a person does not need a background in accounting or business to understand it.

Overall I am happy to tell you that the parish is fiscally healthy. We have a budget that matches income with expenses. We are not deficit spending. As long as the giving and generosity of the parish at large remains as it is, I project that we will remain fiscally healthy. As you know, our parish needs \$5,900 each week to maintain its fiscal health. While the totals are sometimes below that amount, they appear to even out in the course of the year because some totals (like those at the beginning of the month) are larger.

I, along with the business manager and finance council worked hard to ensure that the yearly budget does not require us to ask for an increase in offering. All we ask is that you continue to contribute to the parish at your current level. Much of the budget involves fixed expenses. These fixed expenses involve things like salaries, insurance premiums, assessments, utilities, taxes, etc. Where possible we did trim expenses in the parts of the budget that are not fixed.

I want to thank you for your consistent generosity to the parish and also the Diocesan annual appeal. Our parish is one of the few in the diocese that not only reaches its goal but surpasses its goal. This year we received approximately \$5000 dollars back from the appeal. This often helps us during the summer when our offering totals are lower because people are away.

I realize you have a limited amount of money. The way I handle my own personal contributions to Saint Peter's is this: Saint Peter's always gets first priority. The second priority is the Diocesan Annual Appeal. The third priority is the other diocesan "second collections." After that comes everything else.

When it comes to your contributions, I cannot tell you what you should or should not offer. That is a personal decision. My only request is that when you decide what your contributions are going to be that those contributions reflect your state in life.

We have some projects coming up that I am going to have to tackle. Our parish church is in need of a new roof. The HVAC in the parish center is nearing the end of its lifespan. For this reason I project that we will need to replace the HVAC units. (I will give more information when the time comes to replace the roof and the HVAC)

When those projects are completed, I would like to explore the possibility of replacing our organ.

The money to pay for these and other projects will come from the building fund. I have written to Bishop Bambera to request permission that the building fund continues to not be assessed. The bishop has granted permission. This is why it is important for you to continue to contribute to the building fund.

Our parish maintains two parish cemeteries. We have a cemetery in Antrim and we also have Saint Peter's cemetery. Please continue to use your cemetery envelopes and contribute to these accounts. This enables us to maintain our cemeteries without being burdensome on the general parish funds.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our parish outreach Samaritan House. We receive many donations from all over that support the work of Samaritan House. Our community at large is extremely supportive of this important work. Our work in Samaritan House does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Thank you all for your generosity to your parish and the diocese. May God allow the blessings you contribute to return to you one hundredfold. If you have any questions about the financial report simply stop by the office.

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

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### ST. PETER'S CHURCH INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

#### General Fund Revenue

COLLECTIONS	\$347,477.33
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM	\$ 6,193.28
FUND RAISING/DEVELOPMENT	\$ 30,429.17
OTHER INCOME	<u>\$ 25,027.45</u>
<b>Total General Fund Revenue</b>	\$409,127.23
NON-OPERATING INCOME	\$ 90,855.74

#### **Total General Fund & Non-Operating Income**

\$499,982.97

#### General Fund Expenditures

ADMINISTRATION	\$163,066.15
RECTORY EXPENSE	\$ 5,795.84
LITURGY	\$ 27,559.96
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM	\$ 42,186.97
SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM	\$ 8,194.36
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF PLANT	\$ 75,258.07
FIXED EXPENSE	\$ 18,317.20
CAPITAL OUTLAYS	<u>\$ 32,980.65</u>
<b>Total General Fund Expenditures</b>	\$373,359.20
NON OPERATING EXPENSE	\$100,126.82

#### **Total General Fund & Non-Operating Expense**

\$473,486.02

**Transfer of Building Fund Account** \$ 20,361.81

**Excess of Income over Expenses** **\$ 6,135.14**

*For a more information concerning this financial report,  
please feel free to stop in the Rectory and a more  
detailed report can be examined.*

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## **Diocesan Appeal Kick-Off Video Transcript**

### **Bishop Joseph C. Bambera**

In announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis reminded us of words that come from St. Luke's gospel, "Be merciful, as your Heavenly Father is merciful." Jesus' invitation to all of us to live the gospel of mercy, through our care for the poor, through feeding the hungry, through providing shelter for the homeless is most vividly seen in the great ministry of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton and in many of our parish social justice opportunities and activities. This past winter, Catholic Social Services teamed up with parishes throughout the greater Hazleton area to open a shelter for people who are on the streets. Not too long ago, I was privileged to dedicate St. Michael's on the Hill, (Jessup, PA) a wonderful housing project for senior citizens.

### **Stanyal Shay: Resident at Shepherd Maternity House**

I had lost my mom when I was 11. I was bouncing around from then—seventeen friend's houses just to finish high school. When I got into the car accident it took everything I made, and then I found out I was two months pregnant. At twenty-eight weeks they told me I was diagnosed—she was diagnosed with Heterotaxy, which is a heart defect, so they sent me to Philadelphia, the children's hospital. The first time I went they did open me with a lot of decision-making and as much as I had to do it in my life, this was a decision making thing that I was like, "which way do I go?" A bunch of the family and friends that has helped me throughout the years definitely told me I could do it. They were like, this would be my biggest challenge, but they know I could do it. So, I went through it and I did it.

### **Jessica Dobinson: Director Shepherd Maternity House**

Stanyal came to us around Christmas-time of last year. She moved in. Right from the beginning, we knew that Stanyal was motivated to change her situation and make a better life for herself and her child. We found Stanyal a permanent supportive housing program that's going to be taking over the care after she leaves us, and we're just really excited to see her kind of dive into the next chapter of her life and have her own apartment and kind of make a life for herself and her child.

### **Bishop Joseph C. Bambera**

Our Catholic schools and our parish religious education programs have been spreading the good news of the gospel of mercy and educating young people in the faith since the very beginning of our Diocese, almost one hundred fifty years ago. The support of so many of you, faithful parishioners, alumni, and countless others who have been touched by our schools keep them strong and keep them vibrant as we move into the future.

### **Dennis Hamm, Catholic School Grandparent**

Our family has had four generations of students in catholic schools.

### **Connie Hamm, Catholic School Grandparent**

Because of going to school here, I really feel that our children were able to go on and make very wise choices.

### **Jen Matz, Catholic School Parent**

The education is high quality. The teachers do take an active interest in the children.

### **Adali Matz, Catholic School Student**

I've been going to school at St. John Neumann since kindergarten. The small class sizes do allow the teachers to take more interest in students individually and notice where they're struggling or where they can help them.

### **Bishop Joseph C. Bambera**

Our Office of Parish Life supports virtually every element of parish life and ministry that we have. More than anything else, it invites every Christian to a deeper awareness of who we are as baptized followers of Jesus.

**Shannon Kowalski: St. Catherine of Siena Youth Group Coordinator**

The youth group at St. Catherine's really benefits in immense ways from the programs that are put forth through the Diocese and the Office of Parish Life. It was important for our kids to get to know other kids from other parishes from other parts of the Diocese, but not only that, to get them out of familiar territory to kind of stretch their faith, to give them a new look at what it is we do as Catholics.

**Billy Walsh - St. Catherine of Siena Youth Group Member**

Weekly, we come to St. Catherine's youth group to meet and basically talk about our faith and really make it more of a personal experience for ourselves. Going to church, it wasn't really that much of a big deal for me, but then coming here—it made it more of a personal experience for me and something that I could really take from it.

**Gina Beviglia - St. Catherine of Siena Youth Group Member**

Among the things we've done, we've made care packages for the residents of St. Mary's Villa, we've fundraised and collected school supplies for poorer and more unfortunate schools in Philadelphia. After coming to youth group, the biggest thing that it teaches is, your faith is something that has to be lived every single day of your life, not just on Sundays or in Mass or where it's accepted. It teaches you to stand up for your faith and what you believe and what you know to be true in your communities, and in your schools and every single day.

**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera**

Your gifts to the Appeal support the vital role that continues to be served by our retired bishops and priests.

**Monsignor John Esseff**

You know, when you get this age, you really need people to assist you and help you. It's not that we're helpless, we're men who have tremendous amount of experience, but we're more—we're elderly right now. I'm just so happy that I'm able to be interviewed for this, to ask some help from my Diocese. What a magnificent Diocese we have.

**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera**

Your gifts to the appeal help us provide for the formation of our young men, and some older, to serve the church as deacons and ultimately as priests.

**Father Jerry Shantillo**

As one of the assistant vocation directors for the Diocese of Scranton, my role is to help the vocation director assist young men who are thinking about becoming priests. Also to explain to them why being a Catholic priest is a life full of joy and blessings.

**Ryan Glenn: Seminarian**

It's from the parish community that I first began to discern the possibility that God was calling me to the priesthood. My journey into seminary really began when I was in high school. I was very private in my initial discernment of the possibility that God was calling me to priesthood. I met with Father Jerry, who was the assistant pastor at St. Jude's, my home parish, and we established the relationship together where I felt that I could trust him, that I could share what was on my heart, and he in turn was able to share with me some of the joys, and the struggles, and the realities of priestly ministry. And now, this year, I have the opportunity to spend a pastoral year at St. Matthew's Parish in East Stroudsburg.

**Father Jerry Shantillo**

One of the many things I admire about Ryan is when he got here the first weekend and he spoke at all the masses—we have seven of them, so he worked hard that weekend—was that he just said, 'I'm here for a year, I want to get to know you, I want to know what it means to be a priest, and I want to answer any questions you have about the faith.'

**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera**

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful, wonderful reality that we know as the Church of Scranton, proclaiming the gospel and giving hope to so many. Through your generous support of past appeals, we've been able to touch lives in ways that you can only imagine, and through your continued support, we will indeed be instruments of God's mercy as we bring hope to all.



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## A Gift in Your Will

We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attorney:

"I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to St. Peter's Church, Wellsboro [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."



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, Valerie Tobin, Michael Farrington, Debbie Adleman, Darlene Brennan, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Cynthia Gordon, 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 Antoniow, Sylvia Smith, Jean Thurman, Robbie Butler, Susan Cleveland, Lynn Bower, 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, 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, Victoria Salerno, Wanda Trynovich, Tim Cunningham, Tony Pranses, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Kathy Macensky, Paul Beuter, Avery Trescott, Jerry Eckert, Michael Liebner, Cole Selerno, Margaret Miller, Peg Padden, Mark Kilmer, and Richard Kramer.



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.