



# 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 – [Dbechtel100@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbechtel100@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Connie Spang – [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – [stpadm@ptd.net](mailto:stpadm@ptd.net)

Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann – [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

## *25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time September 18, 2016*

### **Mission Statement**

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

### **Baptisms**

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

### **Confirmation**

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

### **Marriages**

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

### **Reconciliation**

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

### **Anointing of the Sick**

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

### **Monthly Visitations**

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

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

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

### **Emergency Contact**

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

### **Religious Education and Formation**

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

### **Pregnancy Support**

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310

Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS

Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

### **Parish Contact Listing**

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

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

September 18, 2016

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
<b>Monday 9/19</b> <i>Prv 3:27-34; Lk 8:16-18</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Christine Janeski (Waclawik Family)
<b>Tuesday 9/20</b> <i>Prv 21:1-6,10-13; Lk 8:19-21</i>	7:30am	For All Souls in Purgatory (Ostapowicz Family)
<b>Wednesday 9/21</b> <i>Eph 4:1-7,11-13; Mt 9:9-13</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Victims of Violence (Grab Family)
<b>Thursday 9/22</b> <i>Eccl 1:2-11; Lk 9:7-9</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Sandra Salvadge (Wayne & Sue Singer)
<b>Friday 9/23</b> <i>Eccl 3:1-11; Lk 9:18-22</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Michael McElroy (Bill Bauer)
<b>Saturday 9/24</b> <i>Eccl 11:9-12:8; Lk 9:43-45</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Charles Griscavage & Medard Kowalski (Mike & Patti Knighton)
<b>Sunday 9/25</b> <i>Am 6:1,4-7; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31</i>	8:30am 11:00am	In Memory of Agnes Worden (Mercedes Burns) 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 **Sheila Graham** (Sister, Joan).

## The Week Ahead

### 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

### TUESDAY, September 20, 2016

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm  
Benediction/Evening Prayer – 6:45pm

Staff Meeting – 8:30am, Rectory

Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center

Parish Council Meeting – 7:00pm, Parish Center

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### WEDNESDAY, September 21, 2016

Adult Education Program – 6:30pm, parish Center

Homeless Initiative Meeting – 6:30pm, Parish Center

### THURSDAY, September 22, 2016

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center

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

### SUNDAY, September 25, 2016

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

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### Weekend of September 25<sup>th</sup>

#### 5:00pm

Servers: J.Grab, B.Rudy, M.Mann  
Lectors: P.Walrath, D.Sherman  
E. Min.: G.Poirier, E.Evert, B.Butler

#### 8:30am

Servers: N.Ingerick, M.Ingerick, X.Tellgren  
Lectors: K.Tellgren, N.Bickham  
E. Min.: K.Wilcox, D.deGuzman, C.Delong

#### 11:00am

Servers: K.Kramer, A.Burge, L.Burge  
Lectors: M.Stirnman, D.Bleggi  
E. Min.: B.Brown, M.Stirnman, 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

## 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

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

**FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7**

The prophet Amos strikes out at those who exploit the poor and take advantage of those he calls “the lowly” when they come to the marketplace. The prophet uses the very words of the dishonest merchants as his judgment against them. His condemnation lies in reminding them that the Lord will not forget their wrongdoing.

**SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-8**

Paul instructs Timothy to exhort the believers to pray. It seems that Paul expects these prayers of petitions and thanksgiving to be done by the community at their common worship. Another reason for prayer is that God desires such prayer. These prayers are for the salvation of others, for God desired everyone to be saved. The prayers of the community are to be offered “without anger or argument.”

**GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

The parable of the unjust steward presents a lesson about judging wisely worldly affairs in serving God instead of mammon. The commendation of the unjust steward makes the meaning of the parable difficult to grasp. The “children of this world” are contrasted with the “the children of light”; the former are good at worldly affairs, but the latter are charged with the “true wealth” that God will bestow on them. Worldly resources in themselves are not condemned, but should be used wisely, not clung to, with the understanding that all earthly goods will pass away, and if we have been able to see where our salvation ultimately lies and let go of the immediate and worldly, we will be “welcomed into eternal dwellings.” If “you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth” reminds us that our behavior here on earth influences our eternity. Finally, we must remember that money must be used with a view to our heavenly destiny and that destiny requires sharing with the less fortunate. Money cannot become an idol that has usurped God’s rightful place at the center of our lives.

### CATECHETICAL SUNDAY



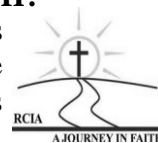
Today is Catechetical Sunday, which is celebrated annually on the third Sunday of September in parishes across the United States. This year’s theme - “*Prayer: The Faith Prayed*” - invites all the baptized--especially catechists and Catholic school teachers--

to devote themselves to a deeper study and practice of prayer, for their own spiritual good and for the good of those they serve. Our Lord’s disciples frequently observed him interrupting his journeys in order to spend long hours alone in prayer to his heavenly Father. They were moved to ask him to teach them how to pray. May we be moved this year to do the same as an essential element of our discipleship. May we all draw closer to the Lord and to one another through a deeper and more faithful commitment to prayer, in private and with others, in communion with the sacramental life of the Church.

## Parish Activities and Information

### 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 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, in the Rectory. Please call the Rectory to register for more information.*



### RELIGIOUS ED KICK-OFF SUNDAY

**Today** is Catechetical Sunday and will be the first class for students in grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

**VIDEO PRESENTATION** - Please join us on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30pm, in the Parish Center for a video presentation on the life and influence of St. Thomas Aquinas within the Catholic Church. Refreshments and discussion to follow. All are welcome!

**TEAM TRAINING** - Team training for the upcoming “Discovering Christ” series will be held Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Center from 8:30am – 3:30pm. Alumni from the ChristLife pilots who have offered to help with this Fall’s introduction of the “Discovering Christ” series to the Parish, are encouraged to attend. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

### 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.

### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for September 11<sup>th</sup>: \$5,684.50

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: (\$ 305.50)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$1,149.70)

*Envelopes Mailed – 466; Envelopes Used – 143*

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

## 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 5:00-9:00pm. 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. A meeting to share 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 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.

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### 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.

## Diocese of Scranton News

### DIOCESAN CONGRESS 2016

The Diocesan Congress, October 7-8, 2016, offers to all parishioners, parish leaders, and ministers a joy-filled celebration of our Catholic faith journey, with events designed to inspire hope and enthusiasm for the work of profound parish renewal. The Congress begins on Friday night with a concert featuring Dan Schutte. Saturday registration starts at 8:00am followed by a keynote speaker, lunch, and afternoons workshops to choose from on all aspects of parish life. The Congress concludes with Mass at 4:00pm, with the Most Reverend Joseph Bambera, Bishop of Scranton as celebrant. For more information or to register – [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) or 570-207-2213.

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## 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 this weekend, September 17-18, 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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### RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

The Diocese of Scranton will observe Respect Life Sunday with the celebration of the Mass on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:00am in the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton. Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera will serve as the principal celebrant for this special liturgy which highlights the Catholic Church's respect for the sanctity and dignity of life spanning all stages and conditions, from conception to natural death. This year's theme is "Moved by Mercy." The faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend this special liturgy in celebration of Life!

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### DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

#### CATHOLIC Social Services & Parish Outreach

"We knew Stanyal was motivated to make a better life for herself...She's done a wonderful job with her daughter."

JESSICA DOBINSON, DIRECTOR  
SHEPHERD'S MATERNITY HOUSE



Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal enable us to serve the poorest, the weakest and the most vulnerable among us through Catholic Social Services. Many individuals also receive assistance through parish-based Social Justice programs funded by the Appeal. The 33 grants awarded last year included food and clothing pantries, and monthly dinners for families in need.

Shepherd's Maternity House in Stroudsburg assisted Stanyal Shay by providing care and support and a family atmosphere for this homeless young woman and her unborn child. Like other residents, Stanyal was given the opportunity to learn parenting skills, and receive counseling and job training. Whether women place their infants for adoption or keep their babies, they also receive assistance in finding permanent housing. "This is a blessing," said Stanyal. "I've started life over. The staff helped me through a lot...I plan to do everything right for my daughter and this program lifted me up to be able to do that."

*Support social justice and show mercy to those in need.  
Give to the Diocesan Annual Appeal*

2016 Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

LIVING FAITH  
*Serving with Mercy*

# Pro Life News

## LIFE CHAIN SUNDAY

Life Chain's 29<sup>th</sup> Year - October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2:30–3:30pm along Main Street, Wellsboro. Meet on The Green at 2:15pm to pick up a sign! LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 60 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Bring the whole family! Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome!

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## PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Cain vs. Abel - "Brother kills brother. Like the first fratricide, every murder is a violation of the "spiritual" kinship uniting mankind in one great family, in which all share the same fundamental good: equal personal dignity. Not infrequently the kinship "of flesh and blood" is also violated; for example when threats to life arise within the relationship between parents and children, such as happens in abortion or when, in the wider context of family or kinship, euthanasia is encouraged or practiced" *John Paul II*

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## That's The Way It Is!

As a summary of previous articles: I was talking about differences between Protestants and Catholics. In particular, I talked about the twin pillars upon which Protestantism was founded: Fide Sola and Scriptura Sola. (Justification by Faith alone and Scripture alone.)

This week I wanted to talk about the Catholic position on justification. Understand that this is a superficial explanation. I am oversimplifying because of the need to be brief. Catholics believe they can merit salvation through their Faith and their works.

To understand the Catholic position on justification, it is important to note that the real disagreement between Catholics and Protestants is not on Faith vs. works but on infused vs. imputed righteousness. For Protestants, when a sinner is justified i.e. put in right relationship with God, the righteousness of Christ is forensically imputed. (It is a legal declaration) The sinner is declared righteous. This righteousness, however, is an alien righteousness—it is not something inherent in the sinner or part of the nature of the sinner. God looks at the sinner through the lens of Christ and He imputes (ascribes/projects/assigns/regards) that righteousness to the sinner.

Catholics on the other hand believe that when the sinner is justified (though the Sacrament of Baptism) the righteousness of Christ is infused into the nature of the sinner thus effecting a real change in the nature of the sinner. Think of a cup of coffee. When you pour cream into the coffee it changes the coffee. It adds something to the coffee that wasn't there before and it effects a fundamental change in the state of the coffee. We are a human person with a human nature. When we are justified,

we take on the divine nature of God. God's divinity is joined and united to our humanity. Hence, our ability to save ourselves (and others) through our human works comes through the fact God's divinity has been joined to our humanity. We are, in essence, saving ourselves through the power of God which is alive and active within us. We are meriting salvation—with the merits of Christ, not our own merits.

In order to understand Catholic teaching on human merit before God, it is important to draw some distinctions between concepts of merit. (This very point was made in the famous debate between Luther and the Catholic theologian Eck.) First, there is Condign Merit. This is the kind of relationship an employee has with their employer. An employee works for a certain amount of hours for an agreed upon wage. The employee at the end of the time period has a right to payment. The employer would violate the principle of justice if the employer did not pay the employee. The basis, then of Condign Merit is justice.

Congruous Merit on the other hand is merit that is grounded in promise, not justice. This type of merit is analogous to the relationship a child has with their parent. If a child performs certain chores and the parent chooses to reward their child with an allowance that is the parent's free choice. If however the parent chooses not to reward their child with an allowance the principle of justice is not violated. The parent has no obligation to reward their child with an allowance for doing what they are supposed to do. The claim the child has on the allowance is based on the good graces and promise of their parent. The child cannot say to their parent "Pay what you owe me" because the child is not strictly entitled to the allowance. The child could, however claim a debt of promise and say to the parent "Pay what you promised."

It is this kind of merit Catholics are talking about when they claim that human works are saving. God has chosen in his sovereign and gracious will to associate the graces of salvation with good human works. God has chosen to reward good works with blessings and graces of salvation. Thus, our merit before God is one of promise, not justice. God has no obligation to reward our good works. God could choose not to associate the graces of salvation with our human works and no principle of justice would be violated. God does not owe us anything and God is not in our debt. Hence, Catholics do not say to God "You owe me, pay what you owe" but rather "Pay what you promised." We recognize there is absolutely no equality between our good human works and the work Christ. God's work on the cross is infinite in value.

Catholics believe that when they perform good works that they are uniting their good works to that of the work of Christ. Thus they are offering it to God with the offering of Christ. Because our good works are offered in union with the work of Christ, God associates the graces of salvation with our human works and thus rewards them.

That's the way it is! The Reverend David W. Bechtel

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## 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.*

Reflecting on the Gospel passage by Matthew in which Jesus says: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest", Pope Francis said, "we hear the Lord calling the discouraged, the poor and the little ones to himself, and telling them they can always rely on God." And he invited all believers – especially those who feel most powerless - to trust in God's mercy, to open their hearts to Him, even if they feel unworthy, and they will be filled with the joy of forgiveness. "When we are tired or despondent, let us not be afraid, let us come to Christ, trust in him, rest in him and joyously serve him."

## News From the Vatican



**OVERCOME INDIFFERENCE,  
BUILD A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER**  
(Vatican Radio) 9/13/2016 - Pope Francis says "an encounter with Jesus overcomes our indifference" and warned against bad habits that, even within a family, prevent us from

truly listening to others and empathizing with them. The Pope's comments came during his homily at Mass celebrated at the Santa Marta residence.

Taking his inspiration from the gospel reading where Jesus brought back from the dead the only son of a widow, Pope Francis lamented that often when people meet each other, "each of them is thinking of themselves, they can see the other person but are not looking at him or her, they can hear that person but are not listening to him or her."

"An encounter is something different. It is what today's Gospel proclaims to us: an encounter; an encounter between a man and a woman, between an only living son and an only son who had died; among a joyful crowd because they had encountered Jesus and were following him and a group of people, weeping, accompanying that woman, who had come out from the gate of the city; an encounter between the exit gate and the entry gate. The sheep fold. An encounter that makes us reflect on our way of interacting with each other."

In the Gospel, the Pope continued, we read that Jesus "was moved with pity." He pointed out that the pity felt by Christ is not the same as we have when going out in the streets, we see something sad (and say) 'what a shame!' Jesus doesn't pass by, he is moved with pity. He goes up to the woman for a real encounter and then performs the miracle.

An encounter with Jesus overcomes indifference and restores dignity. In this gospel encounter, explained the Pope, we not only see his tenderness but also the fruitfulness of that encounter that restores people and things to their proper place.

"We are accustomed to a culture of indifference and we must strive and ask for the grace to create a culture of encounter, of a fruitful encounter, of an encounter that restores to each person his or her own dignity as a child of God, the dignity of a living person. We are accustomed to this indifference, when we see the disasters of this world or small things: 'What a shame, poor people, look how they are suffering,' and then we carry on. An encounter. And if I don't look, it's not enough to see, no, (we must) look – if I don't stop, if I don't look, if I don't touch, if I don't speak, I cannot have an encounter and I cannot help to build a culture of encounter."

Within the family we must live a true encounter and at the table we must listen to each other

The message from today's reading, said Pope Francis, stems from that encounter between Jesus and his people and we all are in need of his Word and need that encounter with Him.

"In our families, at the dinner table, how many times while eating, do people watch the TV or write messages on their cell phones. Each one is indifferent to that encounter. Even within the heart of society, which is the family, there is no encounter. May this help us to strive for this culture of encounter, just as simply as Jesus did so. Not just see but look. Not just hear but listen. Not just meet and pass by but stop. And don't just say 'what a shame, poor people,' but allow ourselves to be moved by pity. And then draw near, touch and say in the language that comes to each one of us in that moment, the language of the heart: 'Do not weep,' and donate at the very least a drop of life."

## POPE FRANCIS' SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS

*Universal: Centrality of the Human Person* ~ That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the center.

*Evangelization: Mission to Evangelize* ~ That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.

## Pope Francis @Pontifex

*September 15<sup>th</sup>* - The Church is called to walk with Jesus on the roads of the world, in order to meet the humanity of today.

*September 13<sup>th</sup>* - Let us ask for a faith that allows us to have trust in God no matter what the circumstances of life.

*September 6<sup>th</sup>* -What a great gift the Lord has given us in teaching us to forgive and in this way to touch the Father's mercy!

*September 5<sup>th</sup>* - The one who builds on God builds on rock, because he is always faithful, even if we sometimes lack faith.



# Tired?

Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden  
*and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28

## COME AND GET REFRESHED!

### DISCOVERING CHRIST

Wednesdays from 6:30-9:00pm

October 12<sup>th</sup> – November 16<sup>th</sup> with concluding session on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>

Please join us in the St. Peter's Parish Center for "Discovering Christ". Enjoy a free dinner, listen to a dynamic teaching and join in a small group discussion about the meaning of life in Jesus Christ. Discovering Christ is a seven-week series that will begin Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, and includes a life-changing retreat on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

We invite you to watch a Discovering Christ YouTube video to learn more about the course:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-QPh2\\_3n2k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-QPh2_3n2k)

This course is designed for you to revitalize your faith or to bring your friends and family who have been away from the church and are open to exploring the meaning of life in Jesus Christ.

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REGISTRATION FORM (REGISTRATION LIMITED TO THE FIRST 50 PARISHIONERS TO REGISTER.)

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions? (vegetarian, gluten allergy, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

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Return this form to the St. Peter's Parish Office: 47 Central Ave, Wellsboro, Pa 16901  
or email to [stpadmin@ptd.net](mailto:stpadmin@ptd.net). Registration closes October 5<sup>th</sup>.



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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, Richard Kramer, and Florence Preston.



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.