



# 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)  
 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

## *28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time October 9, 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.

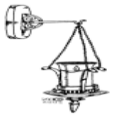
### **Pregnancy Support**

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  
 Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360  
 Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591  
 Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529  
 Fundraising Dinners – Tara Gordon 570-439-0006  
 Paul Urner 570-723-9970  
 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 10/10</b> <i>Gal 4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1; Lk 11:2-32</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Tecla Gubala (Family)
<b>Tuesday 10/11</b> <i>Gal 5:1-6; Lk 11:37-41</i>	7:30am	Living and Deceased Members of Patkos Family (Antoniw Family)
<b>Wednesday 10/12</b> <i>Gal 5:18-25; Lk 11:42-46</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Joseph Donovan, Jr. (Grab Family)
<b>Thursday 10/13</b> <i>Eph 1:1-10; Lk 11:47-54</i>	No Mass	
<b>Friday 10/14</b> <i>Eph 1:1-10; Lk 12:1-7</i>	No Mass	
<b>Saturday 10/15</b> <i>Eph 1:15-23; Lk 12:8-12</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Connie Brown (Daughter, Gina)
<b>Sunday 10/16</b> <i>Ex 17:8-13; 2 Tm 3:14-4:2; Lk 18:1-8</i>	8:30am 11:00am	In Honor of Shawn & Leah Lang All 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 **Members of St. Peter's Parish.**

## The Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, October 9, 2016

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

### MONDAY, October 10, 2016

Rectory Closed

### TUESDAY, October 11, 2016

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

### WEDNESDAY, October 12, 2016

ChristLife Discovering Christ – 6:30pm, Parish Center

### THURSDAY, October 13, 2016

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center  
R.C.I.A. – 6:00pm, Rectory  
St. John Neumann Prayer Group – 7:00pm, Parish Center

### SUNDAY, October 16 2016

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

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### Weekend of October 16<sup>th</sup>

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

Servers: E.Poirier, W.Poirier, B.Levindoski  
Lectors: L.Sampson, T.Sampson  
E. Min.: G.Poirier, B.Butler, K.Wilcox

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

Servers: N.Ingerick, M.Ingerick, L.Germino  
Lectors: N.Bickham, K.Tellgren  
E. Min.: L.Whitney, T.Gamble, N.Josten

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

Servers: K.Kramer, M.Mann, L.Burge  
Lectors: C.Waclawik, D.Bleggi  
E. Min.: V.Anthony, C.Delong, G.Brown



### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are:  
*Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup*

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

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

**FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:14-17**

This brief passage about the healing of Naaman is rich with images. He plunges into the water seven times, a number that denotes fulfillment. Although Naaman was an important figure, he travelled with a “whole retinue,” his leprosy would have placed him on the edge of the community. His healing brings conversion and thanksgiving, and a promise to worship the God of Israel. Elisha’s refusal of gifts for his service reflects no rancor, but his awareness that he did only what God required, so any reward will come from the Lord. Both men are bold exemplars of faith lived and spoken with conviction.

**SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-13**

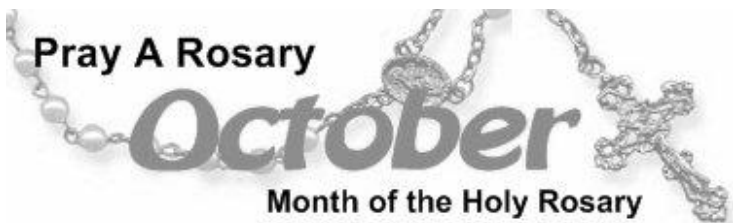
Paul writes to Timothy from prison and uses his situation to give a perspective on the power of the Word of God. He boldly proclaims that the “word of God is not chained.” This statement is intended to give courage to those who will proclaim their own testimony of the Risen Lord. Their salvation lies in believing that those who have died with the Lord will also reign with him in glory. Paul’s key word appears at the beginning: “remember.” That’s what the liturgy is – an act of ritual remembrance of the saving acts of God in Christ. Paul is not theorizing but speaking from the heart about his own lived experience of faith. He has preached this “gospel” and is now suffering for it, writing from a prison cell. Paul suffers willingly because he trusts that his suffering will be for the benefit of those who have come to know Christ.

**GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19**



The healing of the ten lepers is another story of Luke’s account that proclaims the interventions of God in the struggle of those who seek relief from human events. The narrative bears testimony to

the compassion of God for those unjustly left on the edges of society through no fault of their own. But there is a concluding teaching for all of us: giving thanks for God’s great love is also expected. The ten had demonstrated faith by calling out to Jesus and addressing him as “master.” That only one returns genuinely disappoints Jesus. The nine settled for too little for had they returned, they too would have received the far greater gift he gives the Samaritan: the promise of salvation.



## Parish Activities and Information

**RECTORY CLOSED MONDAY**

The Rectory will be closed on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> in observance of Columbus Day. In the event of an emergency, please call the contact information on the front of the bulletin and Fr. Bechtel will return your call as soon as he is able.

### FALL SALE UPDATE

Thank you to all who helped to make our annual fall sale a great success. A special thank you to Mary Cleveland for all the work she does to organize the sale. A profit of \$3,500 was earned to support the Parish.

### CALLING ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS

The 8:30am Music Ministry is desperately in need of guitars and other instruments and invites anyone interested to join them.

**Please see Christina Simonis after Mass or call her at 570-724-2085.**



### TIOGA COUNTY HOMELESS INITIATIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We’re still looking for volunteers willing to give of their time to help us staff the homeless shelter located on Charleston Road. 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 are organizing a team to cover a week each quarter. Volunteers who can help prepare meals for shelter guests are needed as well. If you are willing to help or need more information, please contact Tara at 570-439-0006 or David at 570-439-0005.

## St. Peter's Church

All You Can Eat!

### Harvest Dinner



Friday, October 21, 2016

4:00 – 7:00pm in the Parish Center

Adults – \$12.00

Children (under 12) – \$5.00; (under 3) – Free

#### Menu

Roasted Chicken and Pork

Mashed Potatoes, Gravy & Stuffing

Carrots & Coleslaw

Applesauce & Cranberry Sauce, Rolls

Homemade desserts

Coffee, soda, tea, lemonade

In order for this dinner to be a success, **we need volunteers** to work during & after the dinner and donations of some food items and baked goods.

**Signup sheets can be found on the handout table in the church.**

## Stewardship

Sunday Collection for October 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$6,765.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: \$ 775.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$1,499.20)

Diocesan Care & Education of Priests: \$ 814.00

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

## That's The Way It Is!



I have been ordained for eight years. Since being ordained I have been through two presidential election cycles. The next election constitutes the third election cycle since I have been ordained. Every time we face a

presidential election year, questions are raised and debates ensue about the relationship of the Catholic Faith to our political ideology. Questions are also raised and debates ensue about the relationship of the Church and state.

There are those who think they can divorce their political ideology from their Faith. They think their political ideology can take precedence over the Catholic Faith. Some even think that political ideology should inform the Catholic Faith, not the other way around. In other words---when faced with a conflict between the Church and state, the person believes the state should win out. The Catholic Faith must take a back seat to the demands of politics and the state.

Let me state at the outset that the early Christians did not share those views. When faced with a conflict between the demands of the state and or politics, the early Christians chose the Faith. For that, the government put them to death. This is pretty much the history of the Church until around the 300's when Constantine assumed the throne and legalized Christianity.

Whether "separation of church and state" means that government is to stay out of the Church, not that the Church must stay out of government, or visa-versa is not my concern here. What I want all Catholics to understand is that the Catholic Faith is not a private affair. By definition it is public and therefore going to enter the political sphere. This cannot be helped because of the very nature of Faith. A private Faith is no Faith at all. What good is the Catholic Faith if it is confined to the four walls of the Church, or the four walls of our homes?

The Bible says "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14.) The Bible also says "No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bushel basket. Instead the lamp is placed on a stand where all who enter the house can see it." (Luke 11:33) Those who claim "My Faith is private, between me and God" are akin to those who light lamps and hide them. Faith is not private. That is what must be understood.

If the Church does not have the right to speak to issues, even political issues facing us, what good is the Church?

Who would argue that priests and bishops should have not spoken out against Hitler in Nazi Germany—because of separation of Church and state and Faith is private? There are those who claim that the Church did not do enough when slavery was legal in this country to speak out against it. If I granted that, but argued that this was because the bishops didn't want to wade into the political arena and violate separation of Church and state, who would buy that as a justifiable reason for not speaking out against the evil of slavery?

I could go on and on with examples. I hope the above two are sufficient to prove why 1) Faith is not private, and 2) the Church must have the right to speak to political issues that are important to the Catholic Faith and offer guidance to Catholics regarding those issues and where the Church stands.

I can grant that the Church should not speak to political party or candidate in any direct way under normal circumstances. I do not see that as an absolute, however. For example, Hitler went after churches that spoke out against him and his persecution of the Jewish people. Would any person suggest that churches should have not criticized Hitler because they would have been directly speaking to a party or political figure?

Remember: Faith is public, and by definition it is going to have to enter the political arena at some point. Sometimes conflicts are inevitable between our Faith politics. I can't tell you what to do if your Faith conflicts with your politics. I can tell you that by God's grace my loyalty lies with Christ. By God's grace, Christ will win out every time, even if it means jail, persecution or death at the hands of the state. By God's grace is always the key word. On my own, I would be like Sergeant Shultz from the popular TV series Hogan's Heroes: "I know nothing, I see nothing!"

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

### ***Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor***

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis).

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Joseph DeVizia at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

## Pro Life News

### WORD OF LIFE BULLETIN BRIEFS

"If you know someone...who has had an abortion, express your sympathy for her loss. Assure her of God's unconditional love, and encourage her to seek healing and forgiveness." [www.HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://www.HopeAfterAbortion.org)

### PRIESTS FOR LIFE

*Miscalculation* - "The terrible miscalculation of young women is that abortion can make them 'un-pregnant,' that it will restore them to who they were before their crisis. But a woman is never the same once she is pregnant, whether the child is kept, adopted, or killed. Abortion may be a kind of resolution, but it is not the one the woman most deeply longs for, nor will it even preserve her sense of self" *Paul Swope, "Abortion: A Failure to Communicate"*

## Diocese of Scranton News

### DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

2016  
Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

LIVING FAITH  
*Serving with Mercy*

*The Holy Father reminds us that "Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life...As members of the Body of Christ, our lives should reflect this witness of mercy to those we meet on a daily basis."*

**NEXT WEEK IS APPEAL COMMITMENT WEEKEND**

The Lord calls on each one of us to be his faithful servants and ministers of God's Mercy. Your donations to the Diocesan Annual Appeal support our ministries and services for so many in need in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

- Catholic Social Services & Parish Outreach
- Clergy Formation, Education & Support
- Parish Life and Ministry Formation
- Catholic Education in Schools and Parishes
- Catholic Media & Communications

**Open your heart to the work of your local Church. Give to the Annual Appeal.**



## 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.*

"Human weaknesses exist, sins exist, and weakness never has the last word, sin does not have the last word. Mercy has the last word. But there is sin, there is a break, but there is also mercy, redemption and care." *Pope Francis*

## News From the Vatican



### POPE FRANCIS' IN-FLIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE

*John Jeremiah Sullivan, New York Times Magazine:* Holy Father, as you know the United States is nearing the end of a long presidential campaign

that has been very ugly and has received much attention in the world. Many American Catholics and people of conscience are struggling with how to choose between two candidates, one of whom diverts from some aspects of the Church's teaching and the other of whom has made statements vilifying immigrants and religious minorities. How would you counsel the faithful in America and what wisdom would you have them keep in mind next month when the election occurs?

*Pope Francis:* You pose me a question where you describe a difficult choice, because, according to you, you have difficulty in one and you have difficulty in the other. In electoral campaigns, I never say a word. The people are sovereign. I'll just say a word: Study the proposals well, pray and choose in conscience. Then, I'll leave the issue and I speak of a fiction, because I don't want to speak to this concrete issue. When it happens that in whatever country here are 2, 3, 4 candidates that no one likes, that means that the political life of the nation perhaps is too politicized but perhaps it doesn't have that much politics. And, one of the jobs of the church, also in the teaching in the (university) faculties, is teaching to have political culture. There are nations, and I'm thinking of Latin America, which are too politicized. But, they don't have political culture. They are from this party, or this one or this one. Effectively, (they are) without a clear thought on the foundations, the proposals.

### REMEMBER OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF MISSIONS

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis drew attention to the fact October is the Month of Missions. He invoked the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Missions, in his traditional special blessing to young people, the sick, and new spouses; "Dear young people, be missionaries of the Gospel in your circles with the mercy and tenderness of Jesus; Dear sick and infirm people, offer your suffering for the conversion of those faraway, and of the indifferent; and you, dear newlyweds, be missionaries in your family by announcing with Word and example the Gospel of salvation."

### POPE FRANCIS' OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTIONS

*Universal:* Journalists - That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.

*Evangelization:* World Mission Day - That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.



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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."



## 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, Mark Kilmer, Richard Kramer, and Margaret Barnett.



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.