

First Sunday of Advent ~November 27, 2016

*Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming
of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and
dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.*

Mission Statement

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

Baptisms

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

Confirmation

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

Marriages

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

Reconciliation

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

Anointing of the Sick

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

Monthly Visitations

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

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (RCIA)

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

St. Peter's Church

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

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com
Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net
Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net
Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann –
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 – 12th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. Confirmation Prep Class meets one Sunday a month from 5:00–6:30pm as scheduled.

Pregnancy Support

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

Parish Contact Listing

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 Lasko 570-439-7706
Mary Beth Sampson 570-724-2953
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

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 11/28 <i>Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Marie Franks (Connie White)
Tuesday 11/29 <i>Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Patti Radocaj (Don & Lucy Whitney)
Wednesday 11/30 <i>Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Carlton Messenger III (Antoniw Family)
Thursday 12/1 <i>Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21,24-27</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Joseph & Angela Gargano (Ed & Loretta Nonnenmacher)
Friday 12/2 <i>Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Kathleen Mangilomini (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)
Saturday 12/3 <i>Is 30:19-21,23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1,5,6-8</i>	8:15-8:45am 9:00am 4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Cecil & Mary Rogers (Family) Confessions In Memory of Sampson Family & Friends (Tom & Linda Sampson)
Sunday 12/4 <i>Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-6; Mt 3:1-12</i>	8:30am 11:00am	In Memory of Michael Kubas (Marty Kubas) All Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Peter's Parish



This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in memory of
Scott Waclawik (Mother, Celeste)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, November 27, 2016

No Religious Education Classes

MONDAY, November 28, 2016

HG Practice – 3:00-5:30pm, Church

Knights of Columbus – 7:00pm, Parish Center

TUESDAY, November 29, 2016

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm

Benediction/Evening Prayer – 6:45pm

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

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, December 1, 2016

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

RCIA – 6:00pm, Parish Center

HG Practice – 3:00-5:30pm, Church

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

FRIDAY, December 2, 2016

HG Concert – 7:00pm, Church

SATURDAY, December 3 2016

Dickens of a Christmas Booth – 9:00am – 4:00pm

SUNDAY, December 4, 2016

Religious Ed. – Pre-School, 8:30am; K-12th, 9:30am

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

Weekend of December 4th

5:00pm

Servers: J.Grab, A.Banik, M.Mann

Lectors: L.Sampson, T.Sampson

E. Min.: T.Straniere, B.Butler, K.Wilcox

8:30am

Servers: N.Ingerick, M.Ingerick, W.Feil

Lectors: R.Kramer, P.Kramer

E. Min.: T.Gamble, C.Delong, L.Whitney

11:00am

Servers: A.Dunkel, A.Swendrowski, K.Swendrowski

Lectors: L.Nonnenmacher, B.Dalton

E. Min.: B.Brown, D.Stager, L.Stager

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: *Creamy Peanut Butter and Grape Jelly*. Please place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church.

CHANGE IN MASS TIME – Mass on Wednesday, November 30th will be held at 7:30am.

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

First Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

Mountains are sacred, mysterious places, where God is often found. "The mountains of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain." And "all nations shall stream toward it." Here, we see the initial move toward Jerusalem, a frequent theme in the Gospel accounts as well. We must climb to grow in our faith. When Israel and all the nations walk in the light of God's instruction, they will truly "cease doing evil" and "learn to do good."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 122

Psalm 122 follows the theme of climbing from the First Reading. It is the one of several Psalms of Ascent used by Jewish pilgrims on their journey to Jerusalem. "Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up." It sets our entire attitude for Advent as we sing "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

In his holy *Rule*, Benedict tell his monks to "Keep death daily, before your eyes" (*Rule of St. Benedict, 4:47*). That is what Paul is telling us. Sometimes, it is easy to fall asleep, to become complacent in our faith. The Romans were returning to some of their earlier ways, and Paul tried to shake them awake with this reminder to leave earthly things behind. Today's Second Reading provides the reason for Christians to live according to the Commandment to love ones' neighbor as oneself: the final fulfillment of God's plan for salvation is near at hand. Paul stresses that Christians must act in accord with the new life already begun in Christ and soon to be completed with his coming in glory. Those who continue to live in the spirit, the abiding presence of God's love freely given in Christ, will surely live by the divine command of love.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:37-44

*Stay awake!
For you do not know
on which day
your Lord will come.*

Today's Gospel stresses that the time of God's coming is unknown; therefore believers must always be prepared. As the great flood caught people unaware, the coming of the


Son of Man will also arrive in God's own time. For that coming, Christians must always be prepared. Our lives must reflect the Gospel. The best way to be ready for God's coming is to live it every moment.

Advent Prayer

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ
with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become
one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever. Amen.

Parish Activities and Information

ADVENT MATERIAL

There is a wide selection of free Advent material on the handout table on the side of the church to enrich your Advent season. Please feel free to take a few for your family. 

ADULT EDUCATION –MOVIE SERIES

The St Peter's Adult Education programs will continue during Advent. Please join us for a video presentation from Bishop Robert Barron on the Pivotal Players in Catholic history and culture with the following schedule:

On December 7th we will explore the life of **Francis of Assisi** and draw closer to Jesus.

On December 14th we will observe the artist **Michelangelo** express the beauty of the faith in painting and sculpture.

On December 22nd we will learn the exuberant joy of the Catholic Christian life in the writings and life of **G. K. Chesterton**.

Programs are free, open to everyone and will commence at 7:00pm each evening.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Share Christmas joy with a child, nursing home resident,



or families involved with Seeds of Hope.

Select a tag from our Giving Tree – red tag for a child, green tag for a nursing home resident, or white tag to donate an item to

Seeds of Hope. **Reminder: Deliver the gifts for the nursing home residents in person, by December 24th.**

Please place the gifts for the children, in a gift bag UNWRAPPED, back under the tree, by Monday, Dec.

5th. The donations for Seeds of Hope can be put in a plastic bag and should be placed in the provided box by Dec. 5th. Questions? Call Karen Plumley 570-439-0175.

PARISHIONERS WANTED TO LIGHT THE CANDLES DURING ADVENT

Sign your Family up to Light the Advent Candles Would your family like to light the Advent Wreath candles at one of the Masses during the season of Advent?

A sign-up sheet can be found on the handout table on the side of the church. Those lighting the candles should wait for Fr. Bechtel in the back of the church prior to the Mass and will then process in behind the Altar Servers and Lector, light the appropriate candle(s), and then proceed to their pew as the opening hymn continues.

COLLECTION COUNTERS NEEDED

We are in need of additional volunteers to count the weekly collection on Sunday mornings. Teams of 3 or more rotate on a schedule based on the number of counting teams. Currently, teams count every 5 weeks. We would like at least 3 more teams, so that each team would only count every 8 weeks. If you are interested, please call or email the rectory. A new schedule will begin in January.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

United Christian Ministries is holding a Christmas Community Outreach on Wednesday, December 7th. The event will be held from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the United Christian Ministries – Mission Center, 7534 Rt. 49 (Corner of Rt. 49 and Locey Creek Road) Osceola. Parents can obtain free clothing, toys for the children, miscellaneous items, and other goodies. A Christmas party for the children will be held on December 10th from 1:00-4:00pm. This is a free event. Come and have your photo taken with Santa Claus enjoy cookies, punch, and lots of fun!

SUGGESTION BOX

There is now a suggestion box hanging on the side wall of the Confessional where the literature is kept. If you have suggestions but prefer to remain anonymous, you may write suggestions on the index cards and place them in the box. We will empty the box from time to time and talk about the suggestions at the parish council meetings.

QUESTION?
COMMENT?
CONCERN?

That's The Way It Is!



We have begun a new liturgical year with the start of this weekend. The First Sunday of Advent is analogous to New Year's Day in liturgy. We begin a new cycle of readings; in this case we move from year C to year A. Advent is to Christmas what Lent is to Easter. It is a time of preparation for a special event in the life of Christ. The tenor of the season is penitential, though not so much as Lent. The Mass is more somber. The musical tone changes from joyful and celebratory to more somber and meditative.

The Advent wreath has three purple candles and one pink candle to mark the weeks of Advent and countdown to Christmas. Some Advent wreaths have a white candle in the center called the Christ candle. This candle marks the birth of Christ. The Advent wreath has been described as lighting the candles to symbolize our journey from night into day. As the birth of Christ draws ever nearer the light gets brighter until the dawn of Christmas.

The pink candle lit on the third Sunday of Advent marks a change in tone in the season of Advent. In the first two weeks of Advent the readings focused on the coming of Christ in glory and the final judgment. The last two weeks focus on the birth of Christ. The lighting of the pink candle signifies a shift in focus from the coming of Christ in glory to the birth of Christ.

The lighting of the pink candle also signifies Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday. The third Sunday of Advent is special: the penitential nature of the season is lighter in tone. The music and Mass strike a more joyful tone. On this day, the priest also has the option of wearing a special pink vestment to highlight the day. There is only one other day of the year where a priest may wear pink and that is in Lent to mark Laetare Sunday. Laetare Sunday is the Lenten counterpart to Gaudete Sunday in Advent.

The secular "Holiday Season" has begun with Thanksgiving. Stores will open on Thanksgiving night. People will complain about how capitalism is intruding on holidays and how awful that is. Of course those same people don't seem to stop and think about one fact: market drives business. Stores are open on Thanksgiving because people shop on Thanksgiving. If people didn't shop on Thanksgiving, stores would not be open. The market demands that business open on the holiday, so business are, as expected, open. Think about it: if you owned a business, and you had all these people who wanted to come and spend money at your business on Thanksgiving, you are going to open your store. People that remain closed on days when a whole slew of people want to spend money at their business—don't make money and don't remain in business for long.

My point is this: people are going to spend the next four weeks worried more about whether they are prepared for Santa Clause than they are the coming of Christ. People are going to spend the next four weeks worried more about whether they are prepared for the coming of their family for Christmas dinner than they are the coming of Christ. People are going to spend the next four weeks worried more about getting special holiday "deals" than they are the coming of Christ.

Black Friday will be a mob scene at many places. Don't get me wrong, I am no prude. I like material things as much as anyone else. But I am not about to stand in some stupid line for six hours so that I can get a 1000 dollar widget for 200. What I find rather ironic is that the same people who will stake out a place in line for six or more hours can't seem to find an hour a week to get to Mass. The same people who will get up at 3:00AM Black Friday, are too tired to get out of bed for the 8:30AM Mass on Sunday.

My point: people are putting too much energy into things that do not matter and not enough energy into the things that do. By all means, have fun, shop, enjoy the secular parts of the holiday season. Just make sure you remember to put energy into preparing your hearts and minds for the things that matter. If you are going to stand in line on Black Friday for a holiday deal, make sure you are also willing to stand in line for Confession. If you are going to get up at 3:00AM on Black Friday, make sure you also find time to attend Mass. If you are worried about preparing your children for the coming of Santa, make sure they are also prepared for the coming of Christ. Make sure that they understand that even Santa recognizes that Jesus is what matters.

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

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for November 20th: \$4,549.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: (\$1,441.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$4,071.84)

Collection for Religious Education: \$1,046.00

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



Bread Pudding Stand

**Saturday, December 3rd
9:00am - 4:00pm**

This parish fundraiser helps support the operation of the church. In order for this parish fundraiser to be a success, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, working the booth, and as couriers. Some non-food items are also needed and monetary donations are welcome to help offset the cost of food supplies. Victorian style costumes are required for booth workers, but can be as simple as a long skirt, shawl, pants tucked into knee socks, or boots and a heavy sweater.

**Sign-up sheets can be found
in the back of the church.**

News From the Vatican



**IF YOU GIVE GOD A CHANCE...HE IS
READY TO START YOUR LIFE ANEW'**

"As soon as we give God the chance, He remembers us. He is ready to completely and forever cancel our sin, because his memory –

unlike our own – does not record evil that has been done or keep score of injustices experienced. God has no memory of sin, but only of us, of each of us, we who are his beloved children. And He believes that it is always possible to start anew, to raise ourselves up. It would mean very little, however, if we believed Jesus was King of the universe, but did not make Him Lord of our lives: all this is empty if we do not personally accept Jesus and if we do not also accept his way of being King"

The Jesuit Pontiff then went on to present three figures in last Sunday's Gospel that appear, along with Jesus: the people who are looking on, those near the Cross, and the criminal crucified next to Jesus.

Speaking first on the people who "stood by, watching," without drawing closer, Francis reflected: "Given the circumstances of our lives and our unfulfilled expectations, we too can be tempted to keep our distance from Jesus' kingship, to not accept completely the scandal of his humble love, which unsettles and disturbs us." Even if at times we feel tempted to keep our distance, Francis pointed out: "A people who are holy, however, who have Jesus as their King, are called to follow his way of tangible love. They are called to ask themselves, each one each day: "What does love ask of me, where is it urging me to go? What answer am I giving Jesus with my life?"

Turning to the second group, including various individuals, the leaders of the people, the soldiers and a criminal, who mock Jesus and tell Him 'Save yourself.' Francis noted that in saying 'Save Yourself, they are committing a terrible

temptation, in trying to tempt Jesus, just as the devil did at the beginning of the Gospel. "This temptation," the Pope said, "is a direct attack on love: "save yourself," not others, but yourself. He continues rather to love; he forgives, he lives this moment of trial according to the Father's will, certain that love will bear fruit." In order to receive the kingship of Jesus, the Holy Father explained, we are called to struggle against this temptation, fix our gaze ever closer to Him and become always more faithful. "How many times, even among ourselves, do we seek out the comforts and certainties offered by the world," Francis said. "How many times are we tempted to come down from the Cross. The lure of power and success seem an easy, quick way to spread the Gospel; we soon forget how the Kingdom of God works."

Turning to the thief, the Gospel's third figure, who begged Jesus to be remembered in His Kingdom, Francis applauded his faith. "He was not closed in on himself, but rather – with his errors, his sins and his troubles – he turned to Jesus, and experienced God's mercy: "Today you will be with me in paradise" and we are called to do the same. Pope Francis called on us to pray for the graces of "never closing the doors of reconciliation and pardon, to know how to go beyond evil and differences, opening every possible pathway of hope," and to realize that, "as God believes in us, infinitely beyond any merits we have, so too we are called to instill hope and provide opportunities to others. The true door of mercy, which is the heart of Christ, always remains open wide for us; from the lacerated side of the Risen One until the very end of time flow mercy, consolation and hope."

POPE FRANCIS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

Universal: End to Child-Soldiers -That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Evangelization: Europe -That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Active Waiting...The Second Vatican Council reflects upon the relationship between the coming of Christ and our activity to prepare for it. In the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, we read, "Far from diminishing our concern to develop this earth, the expectancy of a new earth should spur us on, for it is here that the body of a new human family grows, foreshadowing in some way the age which is to come....When we have spread on earth the fruits of our nature and our enterprise -- human dignity, brotherly communion and freedom -- according to the command of the Lord and in his Spirit, we will find them once again, cleansed this time from the stain of sin, illuminated and transfigured, when Christ presents to his Father an eternal and universal kingdom...." (#39). In other words, the spirit of Advent should naturally bolster our pro-life efforts, and the progress we make in promoting human dignity becomes the "building blocks" for the eternal kingdom.



Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C).

The Advent Wreath –

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.



Blessing Of An Advent Wreath -- The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent.

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev'ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

From "Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers"

Saint Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.



While a novena is normally a nine-day prayer, the term is sometimes used for any prayer that is repeated over a series of days. The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is often called simply the "Christmas Novena" or the "Christmas Anticipation Prayer," because it is prayed 15 times every day from the November 30th - Feast of St. Andrew – until Christmas. The novena is not actually addressed to St. Andrew but to God Himself, asking Him to grant our request in the honor of the birth of His Son at Christmas. You can say the prayer all 15 times, all at once; or divide up the recitation (perhaps five times at each meal). Prayed as a family, the St. Andrew Christmas Novena is a very good way to help focus the attention of your children on the Advent season. It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas prayer 15 times each day from the feast of St. Andrew until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested.

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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, 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, 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, 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 Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Richard Kramer, Margaret Barnett, Bob Brostrom, Richard Nowak, Nolan Frederick, Tess Dooley, and Patty Perry.



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.