



Second Sunday of Advent ~December 4, 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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 12/5 <i>Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Lewis 'Chuck' Getgen (Joan Getgen)
Tuesday 12/6 <i>Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Patti Radocaj (Cousin, Rosemarie Ritter)
Wednesday 12/7 <i>Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30</i>	5:00pm	In Memory of Mary Ruth Mann (Grab Family)
Thursday 12/8 <i>Gn 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm 7:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Patti Radocaj (Brian & Debbie Carroll) All Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Peter's Parish
Friday 12/9 <i>Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Joseph Donovan, Sr. (Grab Family)
Saturday 12/10 <i>Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Mt 17:9-13</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Honor of the Rummage Sale Workers (Mary Cleveland)
Sunday 12/11 <i>Is 35:1-6,10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11</i>	8:30am 11:00am	All Living and Deceased Parishioners of Saint Peter's Parish In Memory of Joseph Borocho (Banik, Straight, Britton Families)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in honor of **Sampson Family & Friends** (Tom & Linda Sampson)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 4, 2016

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

TUESDAY, December 6, 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

WEDNESDAY, December 7, 2016

Adult Ed Movie Series – 7:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, December 8, 2016

Rectory Closed

FRIDAY, December 9, 2016

Rectory Closed

SUNDAY, December 11, 2016

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

Secular Carmelites – 1:00pm, Parish Center

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.



On December 6th, Paul Krystoff will celebrate his 99th birthday. Happy Birthday and God's blessings, Paul!

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

Immaculate Conception – December 7th/8th

5:00pm Vigil

Servers: J.Gordon, J.Gordon, L.Gordon

Lectors: C.Evert, D.Gordon

E. Min.: T.Straniere, I.Dziengowski

12:10pm

Servers: J.Singer, L.Singer

Lectors: L.Nonnenmacher, C.Waclawik

E. Min.: C.Lannak, N.Josten, L.Whitney

7:00pm

Servers: J.Grab, A.Banik, W.Feil

Lectors: P.Walrath, T.Reindl

E. Min.: L.Makos, V.Anthony, E.Payne

Weekend of December 11th

5:00pm

Servers: J.Singer, L.Singer, Z.Singer

Lectors: G.Poirier, D.Sherman

E. Min.: K.Wilcox, A.Singer, I.Dziengowski

8:30am

Servers: C.Callahan, D.Callahan, L.Germino

Lectors: M.Ostapowicz, N.Bickham

E. Min.: C.Delong, D.deGuzman, N.Ostapowicz

11:00am

Servers: K.Kramer, A.Burge, B.Burge

Lectors: C.Waclawik, M.Stirnman

E. Min.: M.Stirnman, B.Brown, L.Makos

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

Second Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

The Root of Jesse is described in an allegorical sense. Here, a little shoot comes out of a barren stump and will reach out to the Gentiles. The wolf and the lamb, the child and the adder (a snake), are examples of this extreme contrast between what was possible and what will be. Centuries after Isaiah, Christians understood his vision of God's ultimate reign over all things through a chosen ruler to be fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah, who proclaimed the Kingdom of God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 72

Psalm 72 speaks of endowing the king with judgment and the king's son with justice. This is a reference to King David and his son Jesse, the youngest and the chosen one. The Root of Jesse is Jesus, who will "rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him."

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-9

Endurance and encouragement is a curious description of God. It contrasts with the sometimes angry and brooding images of God we hear in the Old Testament. Paul called for harmony among the early Church followers. This is not that much different than the Christian communities and various theologies of God that exist today. Jesus led us to look beyond our differences and ministered to people in many walks of life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12



John the Baptist preached a difficult message, and challenged the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" One is not baptized out of fear, nor is it about pedigree or education, background or position.

Baptism is a response to the call to "produce good fruit as evidence of ...repentance." John makes clear that he himself is not the Messiah, but rather, his messenger; he baptizes with water, but God's Anointed One will baptize with divine Spirit. In Greek, *baptizo* means to wash or immerse; thus the Messiah will immerse the baptized in God's own life-giving presence.



December 12th – 7:00pm, St. Peter's
December 19th – 7:00pm, Holy Child

Parish Activities and Information

RECTORY CLOSED

The Rectory will be closed on Thursday, December 8th for Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation and also on Friday, December 9th. In the event of an emergency, please refer to the emergency contact information on the front of the bulletin and Fr. Bechtel return your call as soon as possible.

YEAR END DONATIONS

2016 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31st to be included on your 2016 statement. If you would like a 2016 statement, please call the rectory or write "send statement" on your weekly offering envelope.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

A second collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend in support of the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift to this collection provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be as generous as you are able.

BREAD PUDDING FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you to all who helped to make the Dickens bread pudding fundraiser a success! A special thank you to Sue Sticklin for chairing this event and also to Joe Mercuri for all his help making the bread pudding. A financial report will be included in next week's bulletin.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



Please join us on Sunday, December 18th at 6:00pm for The Festival of Lessons and Carols. This festival is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Christmas, the flowers in the church during the season, memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket.

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 21st 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



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.

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

Special Christmas Mass Intention envelopes can be found in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Christmas Masses to remember your intentions. Please place your Christmas Mass intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. PETER'S



Are you going to be by yourself this Christmas? Are you not feeling up to cooking a big dinner? Would your family enjoy being with others this Christmas?

Everyone is invited to share a meal and fellowship on Christmas Day. Dinner will be served at 12:00pm in the Parish Center. Meat and beverage will be provided. Kindly bring a dish to share. If you do not cook, bring an item that can be served cold. Reservations are requested by Monday, December 19th by calling Betsy and Dan Gordon at 570-439-5790 or email danbg77@gmail.com. Reservations should include name, # attending, and the dish you are bringing.

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.

ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to those who have already made a pledge to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Each gift truly matters. If you have not yet made your gift, and need a pledge envelope, envelopes can be found at each entrance to the church. St. Peter's Annual Appeal Parish Goal: \$ 46,500. Current Pledged Amount: \$ 42,981. We are \$3,519 under our goal.

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.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the saving work of God in preserving the Blessed Virgin Mary from the stain of original sin. Because of His foreknowledge that Mary would consent to bear Christ, God kept Mary free from original sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. Unlike certain other Holy Days of Obligation, where the requirement to attend Mass is abrogated when the date of the feast falls on a Saturday or a Monday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is so important that the obligation is not waived.

The Mass schedule at St. Peter's is as follows:

5:00pm Wednesday, December 7th (Vigil Mass)

12:10pm & 7:00pm Thursday, December 8th



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #38: As early as the ninth century, monks and nuns sang seven Advent antiphons at Vespers the week before Christmas. Each began with "O" followed by a biblical name for the Messiah. The tune we use comes from an ancient processional funeral hymn sung by French Franciscan nuns. A newer version of "O" antiphons is "Christ, Circle Round Us", #55 in our hymnal. Perhaps you can write your own "O" antiphons, using other names for Jesus, Emmanuel.

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve ~ 4:00pm & 6:00pm

Christmas Day ~ 10:00am

That's The Way It Is!



Pope Francis was elected to the papacy in 2013. In the three years since his election he has certainly proven to be very different from his predecessors in his style. The pastoral style of Pope Francis especially seems to resonate with progressive Catholics given his emphasis on the poor and Catholic social teaching. Some Catholics, while praising his progressive style have nevertheless been disappointed that he has not done more. Many were hoping that he would reverse Church teaching on a whole host of issues. They were hoping that he might open the door to women priests, gay marriage, artificial birth control, abortion, divorce and remarriage, etc. They were disappointed when the pope reaffirmed church teaching on all those issues.

The idea that a pope could undo Church teaching with the stroke of a pen is based on a fundamental misapprehension of the nature of the papacy. The papacy is not like the US presidency or the US Supreme Court. When it comes to the US presidency or Supreme Court, ideology and politics matter. Depending on the ideological make up of the Supreme Court laws and doctrine can be overturned or changed. An incoming US president of a differing political ideology than their predecessor can overturn or undo some of the policies of his or her predecessor. US laws are not static. They will change and evolve based on the current political climate. Even the US Constitution itself can be amended—though doing so is difficult.

The papacy does not work like that. The pope's authority, contrary to what many believe is also not absolute. The pope does not have the authority to do whatever he wants, whenever he wants—even if his personal ideology might propel him in certain directions. Certain teachings of the Church cannot change—not now, not ever. It does not matter what the current political climate is, or whether the majority of Catholics want the teachings to change. This is because the Catholic Faith is based on the Word of God. The Church, with the pope as the visible center of unity and visible expression of Christ's invisible headship is the servant of the Word of God. The role of the Church is to pass on the Word of God. The Church informs herself by the Word of God.

The Word of God is not informed by the Church. The pope does not have the authority to change what God has revealed.

What this means is that it is not a matter of “getting the right person” into the office of the papacy. If only we could get someone who is more liberal into the papacy—then we would get women's ordination, gay marriage, artificial contraception, divorce and remarriage, etc. If only we could get someone who is super conservative into the office of the papacy. Then we could get rid of Vatican II and all will be right with the Church. Whether the pope is liberal, conservative or moderate, whether the pope wants the teachings to change or not, certain teachings will never change.

When I have explained this in the past, some people have said “Well, the church changed her teaching on a whole host of things: slavery, meat on Friday in Lent, the Mass, etc.” First: even if I grant this, just because the Church changed teaching on some things does not entail all things are up for grabs. Second: the church tolerated slavery for a time. Eventually the institution was rightly condemned. However—would anyone assert that church teaching on slavery could change now? Would anyone assert that a pope could overturn the condemnation on slavery and allow it again?

As for meat in Friday in Lent, that is a discipline. Nowhere in Scripture did God say “Thou shall not eat meat in Friday's in Lent.” That law is an ecclesial law, not a divine law. Hence the Church can adapt as needed. The form the celebration of the Mass takes has changed throughout the centuries, as has the form the Sacramental celebrations take. However, the essence of the Mass and the essence of the Sacraments has not changed. The Church has the authority to determine the form our worship will take, but the Church does not have the authority to change the essence of worship or the essence of the Sacraments.

In summary: regardless of who the pope is, what his ideology or personal opinions, women are never going to be admitted to Holy Orders. Church teaching on human sexuality is never going to change. Church teaching on marriage and what constitutes marriage is never going to change. Anyone who believes otherwise is deluding themselves.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for November 27th: \$4,549.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,222.00

Difference: (\$ 768.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$4,839.84)

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

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The Divine Child's Birth - Advent leads the Church to the Silent Night when God Himself is revealed as one of us. This season leads us to the joy of His birth. If God has joined His nature to ours, how can we ever allow our nature to be despised? If He has come to bring us Divine Life, and will return to take us to the skies, how can it be all right to throw people in the garbage? May His birth shed protection on all about to be born, and as we work to end abortion, may we "wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Savior, Jesus Christ."

WORD OF LIFE

"Pope Francis invites us to understand more deeply our relationships with God, one another, and the rest of creation, and to live accordingly. 'Everything is connected,' he reminds us. (LS 91)." — *"Serene Attentiveness to God's Creation," USCCB*

Diocese of Scranton News

RETRouvaille PROGRAM

Marriage Help: If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, then the Retrouvaille Program can help you. Retrouvaille is helping couples put the pieces back together and to rediscover a more loving relationship. The next local program will be Feb. 24-26, 2017 at The Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit, PA. Registration Required. All calls confidential. Cost is by donation. For more information call 1-800-470-2230 or visit helpourmarriage.org.

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 at 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).

News From the Vatican



ADVENT CALLS US TO ENLARGE OUR HORIZONS

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis marked the beginning of the new liturgical year at the Angelus for the First Sunday of Advent. On this Sunday, he said, the Gospel intro-

duces us to one of the most "evocative" themes of the Advent season: the visit of the Lord to humanity. Pope Francis pointed out three visits of the Lord: the first, in the past, with the Incarnation, and Birth of Jesus at Christmas; the second, in the present, as Jesus visits us continually, every day; and the final visit, in the future, when Jesus "will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." Advent encourages us to reflect on the contrast between our daily routine and the unexpected coming of the Lord. The Gospel, the Pope said, is not trying to frighten us, but "to open our horizons" to further dimensions, giving meaning even to everyday occurrences.

This perspective, he continued, is also an invitation to "sobriety, to not be dominated by the things of this world" but rather to keep them in their proper place. If, on the other hand, we allow ourselves to be overpowered by a concern for material things, we will not be able to perceive what is much more important: our final encounter with the Lord. And so, the Pope said, Advent is "an invitation to vigilance, because, not knowing when He will come, we must always be ready to depart."

During Advent, Pope Francis concluded, "we are called to enlarge the horizons of our hearts, to be surprised by the life that is presented each day with its newness. In order to do this we need to learn to not depend on our own securities, our own established plans, because the Lord comes in the hour which we don't imagine."

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.

Pope Francis @Pontifex

November 29th - Jesus calls us to be bearers of joy and consolation as his merciful witnesses.

November 28th - Mercy is not a parenthesis in the life of the Church; it constitutes her very existence, making tangible the profound truths of the Gospel.

November 27th - Advent is a time when we journey towards Jesus and his Kingdom of justice and peace.



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 Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A).



Advent Traditions for Families

Advent Wreath: The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. It is a wreath made of evergreens that is bound to a circle of wire. It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its Redeemer; it also represents the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones lit on the penitential Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent.

The Empty Manger: Each child may have his own individual manger, or there may be one manger for the whole family. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, Baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus bed as comfortable as possible through their good deeds. In the process, explain Christ's incomparable self-gift at Christmas and Easter that enables us to be part of God's family.

The Jesse Tree: The Jesse tree tells about Christ's ancestry through symbols and relates Scripture to salvation history, progressing from creation to the birth of Christ. The tree can be made on a poster board with the symbols glued on, or on an actual tree.

St. Nicholas Day: The feast of St. Nicholas is on Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season. Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop with his miter, staff, and bag of gifts will pay a visit. Many families give gifts on both Dec. 6 and Christmas.

The Christ Candle: Any large white candle can be used for the Christ candle. The idea is to decorate it with symbols for Christ. Use old Christmas cards, sequins, holly, etc. The candle can be lit on Christmas Eve to show that the Light of the World has arrived. Then continue to light the Christ candle throughout the year at Sunday dinner to remind your family of our waiting for Christ, as well as celebrating His birth and Resurrection.

The Mary Candle: Some families have the custom of decorating the Christ candle with a blue veil on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On this great feast, others place a candle with a blue ribbon before a statue or picture of the Blessed Virgin, whose yes to God enabled our Lords coming at Christmas. The candle is lit during meal times to serve as a delightful reminder of Mary's eager expectation of the Light of the World. It can also serve as a reminder to each family member to keep their own light of grace burning as a preparation for Christ's coming.

St. Lucy Cakes: The feast of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, is on December 13th. This marks the opening of the Christmas season in Sweden. Her life story can be found in most saints books, as can the recipe for the traditional cakes. The symbolism is rich and her life story worthwhile reading.

The Nativity Scene: This is the event in which the entire family shares setting up the Christmas manger. Mary and Joseph should be far off traveling and their approach to Bethlehem can be adjusted daily. Older children can make life-size Nativity models, carve them, cut them out from cardboard, or set up pre-made figurines. The creative ideas are without limit. Make sure to place the Nativity scene where many can admire the children's efforts to give God glory.

Christmas Baking: There are many recipe books available to find great traditional Christmas baking ideas. The baking usually starts around December 20th. As Christmas approaches, the house will smell of baking and fresh wreaths. The glory of Christmas is at hand! Move the manger to a focal point, add lights to the Nativity to be lighted on Christmas Eve, and anticipate together.

Blessing of the Tree: More and more frequently families are blessing their Christmas trees. It is good to remind children that the tree relates to many aspects of our faith. For example, we are reminded that our first parents were not allowed to eat from one tree, and that Christ paid the great price for our redemption by hanging on a tree (cf. Acts 5:29-32).

Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint.

The Lord never lets us down. Pope Francis @pontifex

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

Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for their support. Their advertising helps to make our bulletin possible.



UNITED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, INC. SOCIAL MINISTRY

V.E. Boley, Ph.D. **E.D. Clemens**
Executive Director Director of Operations

7534 Route 49
PO Box 25
Elkland, PA 16920

Ph: (570) 827-3171
Fax: (570) 827-3063
Email: ucminc@epix.net
Website: ucministries.org

WALRATH & COOLIDGE

Probate &
Estate Administration
Real Estate
Personal Injury



Wills • Corporate
Adoptions
Family Law

570-724-3801

R. Lowell Coolidge, Esq. • Priscilla Walrath, Esq.
Fax: 570-724-7239 126 Main St • Wellsboro, PA



BAKER TILLY

Accountants and Advisors

Connect with us: bakertilly.com

Two Waln Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570 724 5000

Akiko's Floral Arts



31 East Avenue
Wellsboro

(570) 724-1509

"If Akiko's Not Your Florist, She Should Be"
Shop 24/7 at www.akikos.com
Akiko, Clark & Joe Hewitt

OVER 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

TUSSEY-MOSHER FUNERAL HOME, LTD.

Calvin T. Mosher, Supervisor

139 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901

(570) 724-4637 | TusseyMosher.com



D.T. YOUNG APPRAISAL SERVICES

Diane T. Young, Residential Appraiser
10 Patt Road
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-662-5089



25 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-723-4263

www.popscltureshoppe.com

Games * Imagination * Fun

Your proprietors Julian and Anja Stam
Consider it all joy! James 1:2

Please refer your friends and family.
Happy patients are our best referrals.

Oral & Facial Surgery
15 Meade Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
(570) 724-2141



Dr. Richard F. Black

Get your mortgage or home equity from the
#1 Mortgage Lender in the Northern Tier!

Apply online at firstcitizensbank.com, or
stop by our 1 Pearl Street location today!



Ken Mitchell
Mitchell's Carquest
Auto Parts

688 South Main Street
Mansfield, PA 16933



Business (570) 662-2534
www.mitchellcarquest.com



PETER FLISOCK
Sales & Leasing Consultant
570-662-2141 x109 Direct

Ford

Ready to purchase a new, used, or
certified pre-owned vehicle? Please Call or Visit

Peter Flisock

570-662-2141 Ext. 109 ~ www.coleandburdford.com

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, 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.

Stephen Worthington

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.