



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 – Dbechtel100@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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 5, 2017



World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in parishes this weekend, February 4-5, 2017. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

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.

Pregnancy Support

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

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 _____

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.

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

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. To register, contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2017

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 2/6 <i>Gn 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 2/7 <i>Gn 1:20-2:4</i>	7:30am	For All Souls in Purgatory (Ostapowicz Family)
Wednesday 2/8 <i>Gn 2:4-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23</i>	11:45am – 12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Patrick Davis (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)
Thursday 2/9 <i>Gn 2:18-25; Mk 7:2-30</i>	11:45am – 12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Honor of Denison & Adele Young
Friday 2/10 <i>Gn 3:1-8; Mk 7:24-30</i>	11:45am – 12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Honor of Sean Mcumber
Saturday 2/11 <i>Gn 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37</i>	4:15pm – 4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Nazario Castro (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)
Sunday 2/12 <i>Gn 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10</i>	8:30am 11:00am	All Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Peter's Church In Memory of Stanley Myslinski (Tom & Linda Sampson)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory
of Arlyne Robinson (Paul & Marion Patt)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, February 5, 2017

Religious Ed. – Pre-School-8:30am; K-12th-9:30am
Youth Group Meeting – 10:45-11:30am, HS Classroom

MONDAY, February 6, 2017

Valentine Dinner Donations Drop Off – 7:00am -4:00pm

TUESDAY, February 7, 2017

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, February 8, 2017

Green Home Mass – 2:00pm

ChristLife – 6:30pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, February 9, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

R.C.I.A. – 6:00pm, Parish Center

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

FRIDAY, February 9, 2017

Valentine Dinner Baked Goods Drop Off – 7:00am-4:00pm

SATURDAY, February 11, 2017

ChristLife Retreat – 8:00am – 3:00pm, Parish Center

Valentine Dinner Delivered – 10:00am – 12:00pm

SUNDAY, February 12, 2017

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

First Holy Communion Parent Meeting – 9:30am, Church

Secular Carmelites – 12:30pm, Parish Center

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: 10-11 oz *Chicken Noodle*
or *Tomato soup*. Please place your donations in the box at the
entrance of the church.

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

Weekend of February 12th

5:00pm

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

Lectors: D.Gordon, C.Evert

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

8:30am

Servers: M.Mann, A.Banik, X.Tellgren

Lectors: N.Kennedy, K.Tellgren

E. Min.: L.Whitney, T.Gamble, N.Josten

11:00am

Servers: A.Swendrowski, K.Swendrowski, B.Levindoski

Lectors: M.Stirnman, C.Waclawik

E. Min.: C.Delong, V.Anthonv, M.Stirnman

Sacramental Information

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.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact the Rectory whenever a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized.

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



Liturgical Reflection

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:7-10

The expectations of the covenant were twofold: first the people were called to fidelity to God and second, they were called to care for their fellow members of the covenant community. Isaiah addresses some of those obligations. They deal with the most basic and obvious of human needs: having food, shelter, and clothing. Those who are in need are to be treated as your own, meaning they are family; together they share a common bond. When the faithful live in this way they are blessed by the Lord; they will be like a light that shines before others and the Lord will answer their every prayer.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 112

The Psalmist sings the praises of the just person. Echoing the image of light in the First Reading, the psalmist says that the just person is like a light in the darkness and his justice toward others will rebound on his own life. He will never need to fear adversity from others because the Lord remembers his good works. The just person lives from his heart, and in the end he will be exalted.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

In many of Paul's letters to the early Christians, he makes a point of being self-effacing in order to impress upon his readers that it is the power of the Spirit and the importance of the Word of God. This is the gist of today's text. Paul distances himself from the high wisdom teachings of other orators. He humbly admits to his own weakness and anxiousness in their presence, but he boldly affirms that that the message of Christ Jesus is what is really important.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-16



The familiar images and ordinary use of salt and light become metaphors of a spiritual identity for Jesus' disciples. Both salt and light cause other things to happen. Salt adds flavor to food; light gets rid of

darkness so others can see and move about safely. The task of the disciple is to be an agent of the Kingdom of God, so that others will be enriched. Jesus' statement is emphatic: "you are," not you might be or someday you will be. This identity and accompanying mission has a present purpose: to declare the Kingdom of God now.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for January 29th: \$ 4,795.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$ 5,990.00

Difference: (\$ 1,195.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$ 589.54)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: \$979.00

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

Parish Activities and Information

BRING IN YOUR OLD PALMS

Please bring your old palms to church and place in the basket found near the front entrance. The palms will be burned and used on Ash Wednesday.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REMINDER

Please note that religious education classes **begin at 9:30am**. Students who are not attending the 8:30am Mass should arrive at the church no later than 9:25am, as classes will start on time. Classes end at 10:40am.

SAVE THE DATE



St. Peter's annual Spring Rummage Sale will be held April 2nd to April 6th. When you are spring cleaning, please consider donating household items, books and clothing. Donations can be dropped off April 2nd from 12:00-3:00pm and April 3rd from 8:00am-5:00pm. If you have any questions regarding donations, please call Mary Lasko 570-439-7706 or MaryBeth Sampson 570-724-2953. NO TVS PLEASE! We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and tear down the sale. If you are willing to donate ANY time; please call Mary or Marybeth.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE/PICTURE

In the year 1917, in a mountainous region at the center of Portugal, the Mother of God appeared six times to three young children. This year marks the 100th anniversary of that appearance. We are in need of a statue or large picture of Our Lady of Fatima to display in the church. If you have something that could be loaned to us, please contact Sue Singer, 570-724-2360.

ST. THOMAS CABIN FEVER EVENT

Are you tired of this weather? We have the answer! Join us for "Cabin Fever Event" on Saturday, March 4th, from 1:00-5:00pm at the Knoxville Community Center. We will have a picnic smorgasbord with hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, baked beans, chips, drinks, and desserts. Free activities for everyone to enjoy. All is free will donation will be taken for the smorgasbord. Please join us!

February - Month of the Passion of Our Lord

For Catholics, the month of February is especially dedicated to the Passion of Our Lord, probably because Lent usually begins in this month. Through the centuries, many devotions have developed to help us focus on the Passion of Christ. Whether we pray the Stations of the Cross, walk in the procession of the Nazarene, pray before the crucified Christ, or reflect on the Passion narratives in the Gospel, our reflection on the Passion of Our Lord should lead us from sorrow to wonder; sorrow for our sins, wonder at the unbounded love of Christ for us.

That's The Way It Is!



On most Wednesday I attend a prayer breakfast at the Presbyterian Church in town. This is an ecumenical prayer breakfast and several of our parishioners attend it. It is not for those who don't like getting up early because it starts at 7:00AM! It usually goes from 7:00-7:45AM. In addition to me, The Rev. Rich Hanlon (Methodist) and The Rev. Mike Birbeck (Presbyterian) attend. Each of the clergy take turns and lead prayers and devotion. Those who attend are provided with a light breakfast.

Two weeks ago it was my turn to lead the devotion. I lead all present in a Rosary. However, because the prayer breakfast is ecumenical, our devotions have to be devotions that those of any Christian denomination can participate. They cannot be unique to a denomination. This begs the question: given that the primary prayer of a Rosary is the "Hail Mary" and given that Protestant Christians do not have prayers or devotions to Mary, not to mention that most Protestants find prayers to anyone other than God offensive, how could I lead all present in a Rosary?

If one understands what the Rosary truly is, one already has the answer. The Rosary is not about the Hail Mary's—in fact the Rosary isn't even about Mary. The Rosary is associated with Mary, but Mary is not the point of the Rosary. In essence, the Rosary is a meditation on the mysteries of Faith, in particular the Incarnation. The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary are a meditation on the events surrounding the birth of Christ and his early childhood. (Christmas) The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary are highlights from the general ministry of Christ. (Ordinary Time) The Sorrowful Mysteries are a meditation on the Passion of Christ. (Holy Week) The Glorious Mysteries are a meditation on the Easter mysteries and the final end of the Church. We meditate on the final end of the Church when we meditate on the Assumption of Mary (Resurrection of the body) and the Crowning of Mary as Queen (life everlasting, reigning with God.)

For the devotion, I lead a meditation on the Joyful Mysteries since we had just celebrated Christmas. I read from the Bible verses that specifically spoke of each of the Joyful Mysteries. Instead of praying Hail Mary's we prayed three Our Father's for each mystery. I explained that the purpose of saying the repetitive prayers (normally the Hail Mary, in this case the Our Father) was to help keep the mind from wandering. It helps keep the mind focused on the mystery. When or if the mind wanders, saying the prayer aloud helps to gently bring the mind back to the meditation and the specific mystery.

I adapted the Rosary to the setting. I think the Non-Catholics were surprised to find out that the Rosary is nothing more than a meditation on the Incarnation of Christ. I think both Catholics and Non-Catholics were even more surprised to find out that the Hail Mary's

weren't the point. They were also surprised to find out that one could pray an entire Rosary without uttering one Hail Mary. Finally, I think both Catholics and Non-Catholics were surprised when they learned that the real point behind the repetitive prayer is something that helps prevent the mind from wandering and keeping the mind focused.

It has been said of the Rosary that next to the Mass it is the most powerful prayer the Church has. This makes perfect sense. The power of a prayer is not in how it moves or affects God, but in what it does to us. The Mass is the most powerful prayer in the Church because the Mass is a sacrifice. All true worship involves the offering of a sacrifice. In the case of the Mass, the sacrifice offered is that of Christ. The Mass is offered to God the Father on behalf of God the Son through the working of the Holy Spirit. The Mass, being the sacrifice of Christ is reserved only for God the Father. No saint, not even Mary has a Mass offered to them. The Mass, then, is true worship. The Mass is the unfolding of the full implications of the Incarnation, culminating in the offering of Christ.

If the Mass is the unfolding of the full implications of the Incarnation culminating with the offering of Christ, the Rosary is a meditation on that reality. That is why it is the second most powerful prayer in the Church. We are saved by the Incarnation. All heresy has at its roots a denial of the Incarnation in some fashion. The more we attend Mass, the more we participate in the reality of the Incarnation. The more we pray the Rosary, the more we meditate on the reality of the Incarnation. This leads to our transformation and glorification. If we keep the Incarnation in our hearts, the devil cannot overcome us and we will not be lost.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

For those who have been inquiring about Fr. Paul Mullen who had a stroke in December, the following is from St. Vincent de Paul Parish's Facebook Page:

Update: As of today, Father Paul continues to recover in Geisinger Hospital. He is receiving good care and resting well.

His speech is already improving and his spirits remain good!

In the near future he will likely be moved to Allied Rehab in Scranton to continue his therapy and healing.

At this time he is not receiving visitors.

However, please feel free to send cards and notes to the parish office here at St. Vincent's or to:

St. John Neumann Rectory
633 Orchard St.
Scranton, PA 18505

Thank you so very much for your continued prayers -- it is the most important thing that we can all do for Father Paul!

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The readings today focus on how the children of the King are to show to the world who their Father is by acting like him. This, in fact, is the best way to accomplish the "New Evangelization," the re-announcement of the Gospel in places where, though it was once accepted, it has been eclipsed by secularism. When that happens we lose a proper understanding of the meaning of the most basic human experiences, like birth and death. That is why it is so hard for some to perceive that abortion is always wrong. We can convince them through many arguments. But even more powerful, as Paul declares in the second reading, is "the convincing power of the Spirit." That power convinces people when they see the Spirit's effects in our own lives. We become the light of the world, as Jesus indicated. We are called to let people see that in our own lives, we not only choose life, but we sacrifice our own convenience, plans, and resources that others may live. Not only do we accept the gift of new life when God gives it, but we eradicate injustice from our midst. Isaiah speaks about sheltering the oppressed and providing for the afflicted. Children in the womb are more oppressed in our day than any other segment of the population. The prophet's words, applied in our day, call us to pro-life action. Isaiah also points out that this must begin with our own flesh and blood. "Do not turn your back on your own." These are powerful words for our culture: parents, do not turn your back on the child you have conceived! Grandparents, do not turn your back on your daughter's unborn child. Speak up for that life, and intervene to help both your daughter and her child! Some mistakenly think that the fact that the child in the womb is "their own" is precisely what gives them the "right to choose" to kill the child by abortion. But Isaiah's words declare the opposite: when one is your own flesh and blood, your obligations to that person increase and you are all the more obliged to do them good. Only when God's people are actively and generously living as the "People of Life" can the words of today's readings be fulfilled.

WORD OF LIFE

Our relationships on earth are meant to help us and others grow in perfect love. We are meant to depend on one another, serve each other in humility, and walk together in times of suffering. *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities*

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 put the pieces back together and rediscover a more loving relationship. The next program will be Feb. 24-26, 2017 at The Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit, PA. Cost is by donation. For information call 1-800-470-2230 or visit helpourmarriage.org.

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE MAY 6TH

The 2017 Third Annual Catholic Men's Conference "Be A Man: Mary's Call to BATTLE" will take place on May 6th at King's College, Wilkes-Barre. Experience a prayerful, spirit-filled, life-changing day featuring keynote presentations by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, C.F.R., EWTN host, a founding member of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, and one of the world's foremost experts on the apparitions at Fatima, along with well-known writer, speaker, Catholic film maker, and pilgrimage leader to Biblical Lands, Steve Ray. Our third speaker will be inspirational speaker Matt Fradd, Catholic apologist and author, as well as executive director of The Porn Effect. The Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Bambera will celebrate the closing Mass. Eucharistic Adoration 6:00am, Registration/Continental Breakfast 7:00am, with main Conference and Mass from 8:00am to 2:45pm. Cost: \$35, \$30 early bird, \$15 for students, Priests and Deacons free. Register online at: www.dioceseofscranton.org (From the top menu choose "Parish Life and Mass Times" and then "Catholic Men's Conference") or mail the completed conference brochure application with your check to Attn: Men's Conference, Office for Parish Life, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA. 18503. **St. Peter's will provide transportation through Benedicts Bus Company and will pay half of the registration fee for those interested in attending. Registration forms can be found on the hand out table on the side of the church.**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2017 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 11, 2017. The event includes a 2:30pm Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral, followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation should be made through your pastor before March 13, 2017.

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.

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



GOD FORGETS OUR SINS. SO IT'S TIME TO TRUST AND START OVER

God is ready to forgive and forget our sins. So let's welcome His invitation to renew us.... Pope Francis stressed this to faithful during his daily morning Mass, as he reflected on the Letter to the Hebrews. In his

homily, Pope Francis underscored that the new covenant which God makes with us in Jesus Christ, renews our heart. God renews all things "from the roots, not only in appearance," he said.

This new covenant, Francis explained, has its own characteristics. "The law of the Lord," he noted, "is not an external way of acting," but rather, enters hearts and changes our mindset, leading to "a change of heart, a change of feeling, of way of acting, and a different way of looking at things." To demonstrate this, the Pope offered the example of a work of art, which an architect can behold either with cold envy or with joy and goodness. "The new covenant changes our heart," Francis said.

The Pope invited those present to consider the doctors of the law who persecuted Jesus, who did everything prescribed by the law. Stressing that their mindset was distanced from God, Francis lamented it was an egotistical mindset, focused on themselves, and condemning others. On the other hand, the Pontiff stressed, the new covenant changes our hearts and minds. "There is a change in mindset." "At times, I like to think about joking with the Lord: 'You don't have a good memory!' This is the weakness of God: when God forgives, He forgets," Francis shared. "He forgets, because he forgives. Before a penitent heart, He forgives and forgets: 'I will forget, I will not remember their sins'. But this too is an invitation not to remind the Lord of our sins, that is, to not sin any more: 'You have forgiven me, you forgot.' "A change of life, a new covenant renews me and changes my life, not only the mindset and heart, but my life. To live without sin, far from sin: this is to recreate. This is how the Lord recreates us." Speaking about the 'change of appearance'. He said, "We belong to God, other gods do not exist... A change of mindset changes the heart, life, and appearance." He reiterated that this "is the re-creation, which the Lord makes even more glorious than the first Creation."

He then exhorted Christians to follow through with this covenant and to be ever true to it. "The seal of this covenant is faithfulness, to be faithful to this work which the Lord has completed to change our mindset, to change our hearts. The prophets said, 'But the Lord will change your heart of stone into a heart of flesh': To change one's heart and life and to sin no more."

Pope Francis concluded, praying: "May the Lord give us the grace to know how to discern what is going on in our hearts and to choose the right path upon which the Father draws us to Jesus."

YOU CAN'T FOLLOW JESUS STANDING STILL

Francis highlighted how people follow Jesus out of self interest or because they are looking for comfort, conceding

that even if no intention is totally pure or perfect, the important thing is to follow Jesus. People were drawn to Him because of the "things He said and the way he said them. They understood Him. He healed them and many people followed Him to be healed". There were times, said Pope Francis, when Jesus admonished people who were more interested in their own well-being than in the Word of God. There were other times when people wanted to make Jesus 'King,' thinking He was "the perfect politician!" "But they were wrong and Jesus went away and hid. Even so, the Lord let anyone follow Him because He knew that we are all sinners." The bigger problem, Francis lamented, "was not with those who followed Jesus," but with those who stayed where they were. Francis reiterated how to follow Jesus, we cannot stay still and must be ready to take risks. "Women risk more than men do!" Francis said, noting, "It's true: they are better at it! We have to admit that."

Following Jesus, the Pope went on, "isn't easy, but it's wonderful! And it's always a risk. There are times when we risk being ridiculous. But we achieve what counts: our sins are forgiven. Beneath whatever request we are making, whether it be for good health or for a solution to a problem, there's the desire to be healed in spirit, to be forgiven. All of us know we are sinners, and that's why we follow Jesus: to meet Him. So we take risks."

The Holy Father then asked those present ask themselves some questions: "Do I take risks, or do I follow Jesus according to the rules of my insurance company? If this is your style, it's not a way to follow Him, because you don't end up moving, just like those who judge. Do we follow Jesus because we need something, or do we follow Him because we are ready to risk? This is faith, namely trusting in Jesus, having faith in Jesus. And with this faith in Him, men cut a hole in the roof and lowered the stretcher down in front of Jesus so he could cure the sick man. Do I put my faith in Jesus? Do I entrust my life to Jesus? Am I walking behind Jesus even if sometimes I seem ridiculous? Or am I sitting still, watching what others are doing? Am I watching life with a soul that is static, with a soul that is closed with bitterness and lack of hope?"

Pope Francis concluded, saying "we should each be asking ourselves these questions today."

FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTIONS



Comfort for the Afflicted. -

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

Welcome the Needy - We live in cities that throw up skyscrapers and shopping centers and strike big real estate deals ... but they abandon a part of themselves to marginal settlements on the periphery. The result of this situation is that great sections of the population are excluded and marginalized: without a job, without options, without a way out. Don't abandon them. Pray with me for all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, that they may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

St. Peter's Church

Polish Dinner

Friday, February 24, 2017
4:00 – 7:00pm in the Parish Center

Adults: \$10:00

Children (Under 12): \$ 5.00
(Children 3 & Under are free)

Bring
Your
Own
Bottle!

**All You
Can Eat!**

- ❖ Homemade Pierogies
- ❖ Homemade Kielbasa
- ❖ Stuffed Cabbage
- ❖ Baked Haddock
- ❖ Sauerkraut
- ❖ Applesauce & Veggie Tray
- ❖ Homemade Desserts
- ❖ Coffee, Soda, Iced 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 on the side of the church.

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A Gift in Your Will

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"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, 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, 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, Victoria Salerno, Wanda Trynovich, Tim Cunningham, Tony Pranses, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Kathy Macensky, Paul Beuter, Jerry Eckert, Michael Liebner, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Richard Kramer, Margaret Barnett, Bob Brostrom, Richard Nowak, Tess Dooley, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Callie Cavanaugh, Eileen Evert, and Fr. Paul Mullen.



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.