



St. Peter's Church

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901

Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322

Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789

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

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am-12:00noon;

Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 26, 2017



March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

7:30am – Liturgy of the Word
with Distribution of Ashes

12:10pm – Mass

7:00pm – Mass

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 worshipping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us 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

MaryBeth 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

Samaritan House – Daria Guelig 570-724-3030

Youth Group – Maureen Poirier/ Melissa Mann 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.

To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371.

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 2017

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 2/27 <i>Sir 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 2/28 <i>Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Robert Kruger (Samaritan House Volunteers)
Wednesday 3/1 <i>Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6,16-18</i>	12:10pm 7:00pm	In Honor of Frank & Ida Dziengowski (Cindy Shingara) All Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Peter's Church
Thursday 3/2 <i>Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Sister M. Daniel Catherine (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)
Friday 3/3 <i>Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Patrick Davis (Paul Krystoff)
Saturday 3/4 <i>Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Robert Kruger (Black Family)
Sunday 3/5 <i>Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11</i>	8:30am 11:00am	In Honor of Harry & Janet Bodine (Ostapowicz Family) All Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Peter's Church

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of **Joanna Whitmer** (Mr. & Mrs. Harold Frey)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, February 26, 2017

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

MONDAY, February 27, 2017

Prayer Shaw Ministry Meeting – 6:00pm, Parish Center

Knights of Columbus Meeting – 7:00pm, Parish Center

TUESDAY, February 28, 2017

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm

Evening Prayer/Benediction Prayer – 6:45pm

Video Showing of *The 13th Day* - 9:00am, Parish Center

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, March 2, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

R.C.I.A. – 6:00pm, Parish Center

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

SUNDAY, March 5, 2017

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

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

Ash Wednesday March 1st

12:10pm

Servers: J. Gordon, L. Gordon

Lectors: C. Lannak

E. Min.: K. Wilcox, G. Brown, T. Straniere

7:00pm

Servers: C. Callahan, X. Tellgren, W. Feil

Lectors: T. Sampson, L. Sampson

E. Min.: D. Stager, L. Stager, V. Anthony

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 Religious Education program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the 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 needs of each person and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Please contact the rectory to register for the classes or for more information.

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

Weekend of March 4th/5th

5:00pm

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

Lectors: P. Walrath, D. Sherman

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

8:30am

Servers: A. Banik, X. Tellgren, J. Lubera

Lectors: M. Ostapowicz, K. Tellgren

E. Min.: L. Whitney, N. Josten, M. Bialas

11:00am

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

Lectors: M. Stirnaman, L. Nonnenmacher

E. Min.: E. Payne, C. Lannak, M. Stirnaman



Liturgical Reflection

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:14-15

This text from Isaiah is a brief but significant conversation between Israel and God. Zion is understood to be the whole people, though in fact it was the mount on which the Temple was constructed. The cry of the people comes from a feeling of being abandoned by God. The response of God is quite remarkable. God adopts a feminine persona and an image of motherhood to assure the people that they are deeply loved. Although it is very unlikely that a mother would forget her child, even so, God would never forget God's own people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 62

The notion of being at rest connotes a posture of comfort. At the same time it reflects a sense of security, of not having to fear anything or anyone. To be at rest is to be at peace with the world. This is the situation that the psalmist describes.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Paul continues his sermon on the need for unity within the Church of Corinth. This unity is based on all of them being stewards of the "mysteries of God." These mysteries are rooted in the one great mystery of Jesus Christ, and found in his teaching and mission. For Paul, to be a faithful disciple is to be a trustworthy servant of the Lord, spreading the Good News of the Gospel without standing in judgment of each other. He presents himself as an example of someone who does not compete with or judge others.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:24-34

Therefore

DO NOT WORRY
ABOUT TOMORROW,
FOR TOMORROW
WILL WORRY ABOUT ITSELF.
EACH DAY HAS ENOUGH
TROUBLE OF IT'S OWN.

Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount – Jesus' teaching that fulfills or brings to full growth the Law of Moses. The beginning and end of this section sound a repeated message about priorities. What lies between contains Jesus' further teaching about the conduct of those who

follow God wholeheartedly and so share in the Kingdom of Heaven. Too much concern for oneself and one's own life can distract from devotion to God. Jesus teaches the importance of two virtues for discipleship. The first is loyalty to God; the second is trust in God. At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks repeatedly of righteousness befitting those who live fully under God's final rule. The notion of righteousness, moral conduct according to divine teaching, embraces all relationships with God, others, and material things. While the importance of righteousness permeates the Old Testament, Jesus insists that the dawning Kingdom calls for something greater than righteous external behavior. It desires hearts purified by the God, whom one freely chooses to love before all else.

Parish Activities and Information

VIDEO SHOWING OF *THE 13th DAY*

Please join us on **March 7th** (date changed from **February 28th**) at 9:00am in the Parish Center to watch *The 13th Day: Fatima Messenger of Hope for Today* in honor of the 100th Anniversary of our Lady of Fatima. All are welcome!



CHANGE TO ADORATION SCHEDULE

On Tuesday, February 28th, Adoration will begin at 11:45am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and will close, as usual, with Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6:45pm.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY CANCELLED

There will be no Women's Bible study on Tuesday, February 28th.

LENTEN MATERIAL AVAILABLE

Lenten materials, for your spiritual enrichment, have been placed on the handout table at the back of the church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00pm in the church. Children's Stations of the Cross will also be held at 3:30pm. Students are invited to the parish center after school for a light snack before stations begin. The students will be chaperoned following the conclusion of stations, until parents are able to arrive. All parishioners are encouraged to attend Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season.



WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

The Wellsboro Ministerium will be offering Wednesday Lenten Services beginning March 1st. All services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church from 12:00-12:30pm, with a light lunch to follow. The theme for this year is *Repentance and Conversion*.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY FORMING

A Prayer Shawl Ministry is forming at St. Peter's. How it works, there will be skeins of yarn available for you to select to crochet or knit a shawl, along there with a very easy pattern to follow. The making of a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice and as the shawl is being made, prayers are woven into the yarn of the shawl. After the shawl is completed, they will be placed in a designated place in the church and available for anyone needing to get a shawl for someone in need or going through troubled times. The shawls are meant to be given away unconditionally, but donations both monetary and of yarn (chunky weight) and needles (size 13/14) and hooks (size P), are gratefully accepted. A basket for donations can be found in the carport entrance. **An information meeting will be held on Monday, February 27th at 6:00pm in the Parish Center** for anyone interested in joining this ministry. For more information contact Jan Bernethy, 307-267-0677.

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.

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!

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The pro-life connections to today's readings are brought out powerfully and poignantly by the declaration in the first reading that for a mother to forsake her own child is almost as unimaginable as God forsaking his own people. Almost – because God knows full well that mothers might and in fact do sometimes forsake their children. Yet he will never forsake us. Because abortion is a forsaking of one's own child, God is declaring in this passage that such an action reflects the most dramatic form of infidelity of which human beings are capable. The comparison of the mother-child bond to God's own care for us also reflects the fact that God, in giving us all life, has also entrusted our lives to the care of one another. This is, in fact, an aspect of being made "in the image and likeness of God."

The Gospel then gives us one of the causes of human infidelity, including abortion. We worry about how we will be provided for. Is this not at the core of many temptations to abort? The Lord tells us to stop worrying about such things. This does not mean that we are not to be prudent and plan. It means, however, that when a child already exists – whether in the womb or outside the womb – we are called to trust in God's care both for us and for that child. Worrying about tomorrow, anguishing about how to provide for someone, can never be a justification for killing that person. "Seek first his kingship over you." In other words, he alone has dominion over human life. Nobody can choose that another will live or die. Nobody can predict the future, or weigh and balance the value of a person's life. No person owns another, and no nation can negate the personhood of anyone, born or unborn. Seeking God's kingship means we both acknowledge his dominion and trust his Providence. That fills us with hope, which gives us the courage to say Yes to life.

Diocese of Scranton News

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.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for February 19th: \$ 5,588.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$ 5,990.00

Difference: (\$ 402.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$ 864.54)

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

"You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God."

Wisdom 11:24, 25, 27

That's The Way It Is!



I was at it again on YAHOO—reading articles that get my blood pressure up. They get my blood pressure up because they are often written by people who are critical of Catholic theology, practice and belief—who have absolutely no understanding of Catholic theology belief and practice. I get the impression that the people who write these articles think that their sincerely held belief and emotion about the subject somehow makes up for their total lack of knowledge about the theology, belief and practice.

The article was entitled “Jesus Didn’t Live in a Gated Community.” The article is high on emotion, diatribes and non-sequiturs, but light on logic and reason. The one thing that always confounds me when reading articles like this is that the authors always seem to presume that the Catholic Church got it right when it comes to social justice, but got it wrong on just about everything else. Moral teaching is always up for grabs—depending on whatever the whims, fashions and mood of pop-culture or Hollywood happen to be at that particular time, but social justice is absolute. Those teachings are not subject to the whims of politics, pop-culture or Hollywood for whatever reason.

One quote stood out to me as worthy of commentary: “I was really impressed.....as a Christian myself, a Catholic, working within a very complicated institution, one that would not give a woman the same kind of career opportunities that you’ve had.”

In other words the Catholic Church needs to ordain women to Holy Orders. Why? Because women deserve the same “career” “opportunities” as men are afforded in the Catholic Church. It is her use of the word “career” and “opportunities” that got my attention. Her use of the words “career” and “opportunities” suggest that she has no idea what the priesthood is. If one does not know what the priesthood is, how can we discuss who should exercise it? The priesthood is a lot of things. One of the things it is not is a career path in the Church. Talking about the priesthood as a career is like talking about marriage and parenting as a career.

The priesthood is not a career. It is not advancement from the lay state to something better or superior. It is not about opportunities, it is not about a special club of elites, power, prestige etc. It is not about getting to make decisions, bossing people around, being in charge, etc, any more than marriage or parenting is about those things. As soon as someone starts talking about the Sacrament of Holy Orders as a “career path” and “advancement opportunities” they have already missed the boat. We fully grant that men and women have different callings and functions within the Church. However, difference in calling and function does not indicate inferiority in nature.

The priesthood is about spiritual Fatherhood. Why Fatherhood? God is revealed as a Father. God’s relationship to creation is paternal. The priest makes

present the Fatherhood of God in the community he is called to serve. The priest is an icon of Christ. What a father is to his family, the priest is to his parish but on the spiritual order. Just because the relationship is on the spiritual level does not entail gender is irrelevant. Remember that God created the physical plane to mirror what goes on in the spiritual. This means that the priest must be a male because in the physical plane, fatherhood is exercised by males, not females. Females exercise motherhood. We do have a spiritual mother in Mary and by extension the Church. Females, then, symbolize the spiritual relationship Mary has with all Christians as their mother. Females also symbolize in their gender the relationship the Church has with all her members.

Gender ultimately matters in the physical realm because males and females symbolize different aspects of the covenant God made with humanity. The covenantal mystery is nuptial. We cannot dismiss the importance of gender, then, in our Faith life and worship. If the Church were to ordain women, the Church would ultimately be changing the nature of the priesthood and the Faith itself. As I have said before, we cannot even talk about whether women should be ordained until we first understand what the priesthood is.

Most people who call for women’s ordination have a protesantized notion of ministry. That is they think there is nothing to being a priest except being formally trained for ministry, formally educated in theology, a formal commission by the denomination to represent and act on behalf of the denomination and the people of the particular church they are assigned, coupled with counseling people, leading worship, helping the poor, community organizing, teaching, being an activist for justice issues, etc. In short—they think it is a career—not all that different from the other helping professions like social work, community organizing, etc.

Priesthood, like marriage and like parenting is a vocation. How is a vocation different from a career? A vocation is who you are. A career is what you do. One is not defined by their career. One is defined by their vocation.

That’s the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

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.

News from the Vatican



POPE FRANCIS WARNS AGAINST WORLDLINESS

Watch out for worldliness and ambition and ask God to give us childlike simplicity.

Pope Francis gave this warning and encouragement to faithful. Recognizing

temptation affects all people, Francis prayed that before the temptation of ambition, God gives us the grace of 'holy shame.' Even Jesus, he added, suffered this temptation. The disciples argue along the way about who among them was the greatest, but remain silent when Jesus asks them what they are discussing. The Holy Father said they do not respond because they are ashamed of their words. "These were good people, who wanted to follow and serve the Lord. But they did not realize that the path of service to the Lord was not an easy one. It wasn't like becoming part of a group, some charitable group doing good: No, it was something else. They were afraid of this. It happened, happens, and will happen." "Let us think about infighting in a parish: 'I want to be the president of this association, in order to climb the ladder. Who is the greatest here? Who is the greatest in this parish? No, I am the most important here; not that person there because he did something...' This, Francis said, is the chain of sin.

Pope Francis concluded, praying for three things: for "the grace to be ashamed when we find ourselves in these situations"; to defend us "from ambitions and from the worldliness of wishing to be greater than others"; and to give us the grace of the simplicity of a child.

NO DOUBLE LIVES, CONVERT

No more double lives. Convert now...Pope Francis gave this advice to faithful, as he reflected on how converting shouldn't be on our list of procrastinated items, because scandal destroys. "But what is scandal?" the Pontiff asked, noting scandal is saying one thing and doing another. "It is a double life, a double life. A totally double life: 'I am very Catholic, I always go to Mass, I belong to this association and that one; but my life is not Christian, I don't pay my workers a just wage, I exploit people, I am dirty in my business, I launder money...' A double life. And so many Christians are like this, and these people scandalize others." "How many times have we heard – all of us, around the neighborhood and elsewhere – 'but to be a Catholic like that, it's better to be an atheist.' It is that, scandal. You destroy. You beat down."

This, Francis lamented, happens every day, and is seen all the time on TV or in the papers. "In the papers, there are so many scandals, and there is also the great publicity of the scandals. And with the scandals there is destruction." Francis then gave the example of a company that was on the brink of failure. While the workers were wishing to avoid a just strike, the company had not done well, and they wished to talk with the company's authorities. The people didn't have money for their daily needs because

they had not received their wages. Yet, the head of the company, a Catholic, was taking his winter vacation on a beach in the Middle East, and the people knew it. "These are scandals," Francis said.

"Jesus talks, in the Gospel, about those who commit scandal, without saying the word 'scandal,' but it's understood: But you will arrive in heaven and you will knock at the gate: 'Here I am, Lord!' – 'But don't you remember? I went to Church, I was close to you, I belong to this association, I did this... Don't you remember all the offerings I made?' 'Yes, I remember. The offerings, I remember them: All dirty. All stolen from the poor. I don't know you.' That, Francis warned, will be Jesus' response to these scandalous people who live a double life. "The double life comes from following the passions of the heart, the capital sins that are the wounds of original sin," hiding the passions, but following them, the Pope explained.

And so Pope Francis calls us to not put off conversion. He then encouraged all faithful to consider if there is something of a double life within us, and if as we seem to be good believers, good Catholics, underneath, we are doing something else. 'But, sure, the Lord will eventually forgive everything, but I'll keep going as I have been...' If there is something saying, "Sure, this is not going well, I will convert, but not today: tomorrow.' Let's think about that. And let us profit from the Word of the Lord. Pope Francis concluded, reminded those present that scandal destroys.

Pope Francis' Message for Lent

Dear friends, Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need. I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organizations in different parts of the world, and thus to favor the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

Lenten Information

Why Do We Do That?

In Lent, why do we fast?

For the Christian, fasting is the only means by which man recovers his true spiritual nature. In order for fasting to be effective, the spirit must be a part of it. Christian fasting is not concerned with losing weight. It is a matter of prayer and the spirit. Christian tradition can name at least seven reasons for fasting:

1. From the beginning, God commanded some fasting, and sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve broke the fast.
2. For the Christian, fasting is ultimately about fasting from sin.
3. Fasting reveals our dependence on God and not the resources of this world.
4. Fasting is an ancient way of preparing for the Eucharist — the truest of foods.
5. Fasting is preparation for baptism, and all the sacraments — for the reception of grace.
6. Fasting is a means of saving resources to give to the poor.
7. Fasting is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU



As we begin this season of Lenten preparation, each of us is invited to reflect on those choices which will bring about the new life we celebrate in Easter. For this reason, the Church invites us to experience Lent

as a time for deepened prayer, personal sacrifice, and self-giving — all so that we can be raised to new life in Christ! The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera is helping to make this experience possible by arranging for a Lenten initiative called *The Light Is On for You*. **Every Monday evening during Lent**, each parish throughout the Diocese of Scranton will have their “lights on” from **5:30-7:00pm** for confession so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God’s grace, mercy and healing. **Due to Fr. Bechtel responsibility for St. Thomas Parish, the schedule for St. Peter’s will be March 6th, 20th, and April 3rd.**

Please make plans to come on a Lenten Monday, and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Christ and his Church. **“The Light Is On for You!”**

Lenten Reminders

Days of Fast and Abstinence — Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. All Catholics, 18-59 years of age, are bound by Church law to fast, which means only one large meal and two smaller meals may be eaten. Catholics 14 years of age and older are required to abstain, which means no meat may be eaten.

Lenten Reflection Material - A selection of Lenten materials for your spiritual enrichment has been placed on the table at the back of the church.

Stations of the Cross — Stations of the Cross will be celebrated each Friday of Lent at 3:30pm and 7:00pm. The 3:30pm stations will be led by the youth of our parish, but are open to all parishioners.

Operation Rice Bowl - Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. "The program's new message, *For Lent, For Life: What you give up for Lent changes lives* captures the essence of the sacred call to love thy neighbor. In this Year of Faith, as declared by Pope Benedict XVI, CRS Rice Bowl is ready made to help individuals and faith communities embark on a season of spiritual renewal," said Joan Rosenhauer, CRS' executive vice president of U.S. Operations. Proceeds benefit the poor in our own diocese and throughout the developing world. You are asked to eat one sacrificial meal each week during Lent and to give the money you saved to the Rice Bowl program. An envelope can be found in your monthly offering packet boxes can be found on the table in the back of the church.

Easter Duty — All parishioners are reminded of their obligation to fulfill their Easter Duty. A person's Easter Duty consists of receiving Holy Communion at least once between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday as well as going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to confess any mortal sins.

Traditional Pillars of the Church — We are provided with 3 personal challenges associated with our individual observance of Lent:

- Almsgiving — generously giving to those in need
- Fasting — practicing self-discipline and self-denial
- Prayer — reading, hearing, and reflecting on the Word of God

Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. During this Lent, lead us by your Holy Spirit to live more faithfully in Christian freedom. Through prayer, increased charity, and the disciplines of this sacred season, draw us closer to you. Purify the intentions of our hearts so all our Lenten observances give you praise and glory. Grant that through our words and actions, we may be faithful messengers of the gospel message to a world in need of the hops of your mercy. Amen.

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A Gift in Your Will

We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attorney:

"I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to St. Peter's Church, Wellsboro [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."



PRAYERS
Needed For...

Parish Prayer List

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Michael Farrington, Debbie Adleman, Darlene Brennan, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Michelle Lawrence, Ann Porter, Tucker Gromosiak, Joyce Bowe, Donna Brennan, Peggy Zona, Natasha Rymarczuk, Bob Erway, Mary Mekos, Mary Cramner, Bob Black, Maci Lynn Perry, Martha Desch, Leon Herb, Deb Finestone, Nick Cavagnaro, Antoinette Davis, Kay Evans, Anna Marie Mimplitsch, Sean Rice, Jonathan Hardman, Edwin Rosa, Carol Johns, Joan Kilmer, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighauf, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Kathy Barnes, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Robbie Butler, Susan Cleveland, 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, 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, Margaret Barnett, Bob Brostrom, Richard Nowak, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Callie Cavanaugh, Eileen Evert, Fr. Paul Mullen, Jane Johnson, David Quimby, and Gus Vargas.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Cindy Dalton, Lynn Schoonover

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.