



First Sunday of Lent March 5, 2017

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

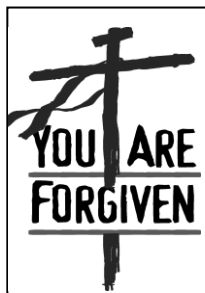
Schedule of Weekend Masses

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.



Lenten Penance Services

March 14th – 6:30pm

St. Peter's Church

March 16th – 7:00pm

Holy Child Parish

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

Prayer Shaw Ministry - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

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.

First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 3/6 <i>Lv 19:1-2,11-18; Mt 25:31-46</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 3/7 <i>Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Beth Patt (Frank Patt Family)
Wednesday 3/8 <i>Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32</i>	No Mass	
Thursday 3/9 <i>Est C:12,14-16,23-25; Mt 7:7-12</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Beverly Knapp (Singer Family)
Friday 3/10 <i>Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory Arletta King
Saturday 3/11 <i>Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Honor of Charles & Mary Fagg (Cindy Shingara)
Sunday 3/12 <i>Gn 12:1-4; 2 Tim 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9</i>	8:30am 11:00am	All Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Peter's Church Living and Deceased Members of Schaut/Singer Family (Wayne & Sue Singer)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Cindy Dalton (Connie Spang & Family)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 5, 2017

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

MONDAY, March 6, 2017

The Light is on For You (Confessions) – 5:30-7:00pm

TUESDAY, March 7, 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

WEDNESDAY, March 8, 2017

Green Home Mass – 2:00pm

THURSDAY, March 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

SUNDAY, March 12, 2017

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

Secular Carmelites – 12:30pm, Parish Center

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

Weekend of March 11th/12th

5:00pm

Servers: J.Singer, L.Singer, J.Grab

Lectors: T.Sampson, L.Sampson

E. Min.: A.Singer, B.Butler, G.Brown

8:30am

Servers: M.Mann, W.Feil, L.Germino

Lectors: M.Sampson, H.Sampson

E. Min.: N.Ostapowicz, T.Gamble, M.Sampson

11:00am

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

Lectors: P.Walrath, C.Waclawik

E. Min.: M.Stirnaman, D.Stager, L.Stager

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.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: *Pork & Beans and Canned Fruit (15oz)*. Please place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church.

Change to Mass Schedule

Please Note

Please note that there will be **no** Mass on Wednesday, March 8th. Fr. Bechtel will be away.



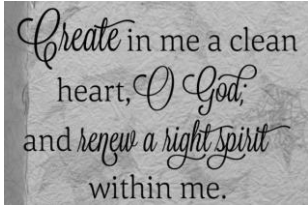
Liturgical Reflection

First Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

This passage from Genesis has three parts: the creation of man, the placing of the man and the woman in the garden, and the temptation and sin of the woman and the man. The focus of the account is on the last activity. Like all temptations the one presented by the snake is subtle. The “reward” for disobedience is supposedly greater than the opposite, namely being obedient to God. And, like all temptations, when one gives in, not only is the consequence unexpected, but it brings about a realization that the wrong choice has been made.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 51



This psalm is one of the penitential psalms. Each verse has its own focus: the first is a plea for the mercy of the Lord; the second is a confession of sin; the third is a petition for a

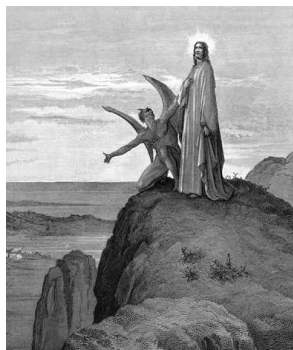
transformation of the heart and spirit of the psalmist; and the fourth is a petition by the psalmist to the Lord to “open my lips” so that he can praise the Lord. The prayer of the psalmist becomes our Lenten prayer: what we need to fuller enter the spirit of Lent is a “clean heart” and “a steadfast spirit.”

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

In Paul’s letter to the Romans he draws a comparison between Adam and Christ. Adam is regarded as the one responsible for how sin entered the world; Chris is the one who has brought redemption from sin through the grace of God five to him. Although we are inheritors of the consequence of Adam’s disobedience, we are made righteous by the obedience of Christ to the will of the Father. Paul’s theology gives us the foundation for our Lenten reflection; it is the grace of God that saves us.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The Gospel text for the First Sunday of Lent is always the story of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. Matthew places his account right after Jesus’ baptism. The significance of this arrangement is that the tempter mocks Jesus’ identity with the words, “If you are the Son of God...” The voice from the clouds at his baptism had said, “This is my Son, the beloved.” All temptations attack our sense of who we are, or who we think we are. Jesus response to each of the temptations was an affirmation of who he was and a rejection of the identity the tempter offered. Jesus steadfastly recognizes that there is no other god, nothing and no one to equal the God of Israel, the One who sent him and the One he serves.



Parish Activities and Information

RITE OF ELECTION



The Rite of Election celebrates the Lord’s choosing of men, women, and children who, with the help of the Church, acknowledge God’s election of them for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist,

and marks the beginning of the final period of preparation. Please keep Rebecca Mahosky in your prayers as she continues toward full initiation into the Catholic faith. Also please keep Chad Owlett in your prayers as he prepares to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil.

VIDEO SHOWING OF THE 13th DAY

Please join us on **March 7th** 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!



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 (4:00pm), until parents are able to arrive. All parishioners are encouraged to attend Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is meeting March 19th after the 8:30am Mass in front of the Blessed Sacrament. We will knit and crochet and share our shawls that we are working on. Please feel free to join us if you are interested.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

The Wellsboro Ministerium will be offering Wednesday Lenten Services. 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*. St. Peter’s will host on March 15th, with Fr. Bechtel leading the service.

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!

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.

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Each of today's readings, in the powerful context of the beginning of Lent, reinforce the fact that God is Lord of our choices, and that freedom is found in obedience. This strikes at the heart of the culture of death, which puts choice above life and holds that a choice is validated not so much by what is chosen as by the fact that it is being chosen.

This original temptation, outlined in the first reading, was a promise that what was right and what was wrong would be up to us; that we could write our own moral law. That's what the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" meant, and why Adam and Eve couldn't eat from it. We are all called to know good from evil, but not to decide it. To think we decide it is the error of the "pro-choice" mindset. "It's all up to me and my choice, even if it means killing a baby."

The obedience of Jesus Christ, exemplified in the Gospel passage and identified in the second reading as the source of our redemption, is the foundation for the culture of life and the pattern for each believer to live that culture. Obedience does not mean a slavish following of rules. It means a free embrace of what is true and good – free because one is no longer swayed to do what is wrong despite one's best intentions.

In that sense, the Church, and the pro-life movement, are the true promoters and defenders of "freedom of choice," because they provide the grace and the tools to do what is right. The majority of the efforts of the pro-life movement are directed to providing alternatives to abortion, concrete help to enable people to choose what is right.

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 hope of your mercy. Amen

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. 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. Please call the Rectorry no later than March 13th to register.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for February 26th: \$ 6,946.00*

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$ 5,990.00

Difference: \$ 956.25

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$ 91.71

* Includes Ash Wednesday Collection of \$1,145.00

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

POLISH DINNER FINANCIAL REPORT

Income: Dinner Sales & Donations \$3,546.00

Expenses: Food Supplies (1,488.66)

Total Profit: **\$2,057.34**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the polish dinner a success. A special thanks to Paul Urner for chairing the event and to the tireless work of those who help prepare and set up.

March – Month of St. Joseph

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster father of the Lord. St. Joseph was the favorite saint of St. Teresa of Avila, and of many popes, including St. Pius 10 and St. John 23, who wrote:

"O glorious Joseph! Who concealed your incomparable and regal dignity of custodian of Jesus and of the Virgin Mary under the humble appearance of a craftsman and provide for them with your work, protect with loving power your sons and daughters, especially entrusted to you. You know their anxieties and sufferings, because you yourself experienced them at the side of Jesus and of His Mother. Do not allow them, oppressed by so many worries, to forget the purpose for which they were created by God."

Joseph is the patron saint of fathers, of workers, and of the universal Church. St. Joseph, pray for us!

That's The Way It Is!



My dear parishioners, I have been the acting pastor of Saint Thomas parish in Elkland PA. Saint Thomas parish also includes an additional worship site in Westfield PA called Saint Catherine's. Saint Catherine's is not a parish; it is a mission of Saint

Thomas. When I speak about Saint Thomas, then, the term includes Saint Catherine's. I am anticipating that Saint Thomas and Saint Peter's will be linked; i.e. I will be the pastor of both parishes. Things will not change that drastically for Saint Peter's.

The linkage, however, will be a more drastic change for Saint Thomas. The people of Saint Thomas will no longer have a resident priest, nor will they have Mass offered every day in their parish. Their weekend Mass schedule has also been reduced and changed. I am unable to provide Holy Week services (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) for the people of Saint Thomas necessitating that they travel to Saint Peter's if they want to participate in the Holy Week liturgies.

My sense is that the people of Saint Thomas are willing to accept a linkage. They are also willing to work with the situation as it is, recognizing that it is less than ideal. They have expressed thanks that there is a priest assigned who will minister to their needs. The people have been more than gracious during this time and more than accommodating. I am working hard to see to it that the people of Saint Thomas parish have the pastoral care that they need. While they do not have a resident priest I am also working hard to ensure that they do not feel isolated; i.e. I am working to ensure that while my residence is not in Elkland, that I am present to the community. I would also like the people of Saint Thomas to know that the people of Saint Peter's are with them and support them. We will remain two distinct parishes with our own distinct identities, but we are all family.

The biggest impact that the linkage will have on Saint Peter's has to do with the Sunday Mass schedule. At

present I am offering Mass at Saint Thomas church in Elkland at 4:00PM on Sunday. While this has worked at present, I do not believe this is viable in the long term. I want to be able to offer the people of Saint Thomas a Mass on Sunday morning.

What I have decided to do, after discussing this with the St. Peter's parish council at the last meeting, is to eliminate the 11:00AM Mass at Saint Peter's. Of all the Masses, this Mass has the lightest attendance. This will permit me to schedule a Sunday morning Mass in Elkland at 11:30AM, while still allowing me to be available to Saint Peter's religious education when needed. I am not going to change the times of the other Masses. Those will remain as they are. We have approximately 500 people attending Mass each weekend. Saint Peter's seats 300 comfortably. This means we should have no problem accommodating all of our parishioners at two Masses. This is a change, I realize. However, due to present realities I am asking all people to cooperate with this change and work with it.

We will begin this new Mass schedule on Memorial Day Weekend. That weekend is May 27-28. The Holy Day Mass schedule will remain as it is. The Diocese suggested at my last meeting that there may be a priest available to assist with Mass on occasion. While this would be welcome, at the same time I want to ensure I have a Mass schedule that does not rely on help from another priest. In short, I want a Mass schedule that I can handle myself.

I thank you for your cooperation, your understanding and your support. Originally when I expressed an interest in coming to Saint Peter's, I was forward looking. I told the diocese that I realized Saint Peter's and Saint Thomas may need to link at some point. I told the diocese that I was willing to accept a linkage if necessary. While I expected this might happen, I did not expect it would happen as quickly as it did, nor under the circumstances that it did. Happen, it did, though. I will rise to meet the calling that God has given me. I know that we can do this and make it work and work well!

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

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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

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 Mary Beth Pacuska 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



WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR LENT?

POPE FRANCIS' 10 TIPS

Every year Catholics try to answer the age old question: What should I do for Lent? Well, who better to pick for as your Lenten spiritual director than Pope Francis? He has

some great ideas for you!

1. **Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil**

"[Lent] is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us." – General Audience, March 5, 2014

2. **Do something that hurts**

"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt." – Lenten Message, 2014

3. **Don't remain indifferent**

"Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation." – Lenten Message, 2015

4. **Pray: Make our hearts like yours!**

"During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum': Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference." – Lenten Message, 2015

5. **Take part in the sacraments**

"Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ." – Lenten Message, 2015

6. **Prayer**

"In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren; intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering." – Homily, March 5, 2014

7. **Fasting**

"We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth 'satisfies' us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him."

– Homily, March 5, 2014

8. **Almsgiving**

"Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others." – Homily, March 5, 2014

9. **Help the Poor**

"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing." – Lenten Message, 2014

10. **Evangelize**

"The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness."

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

LENT – Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and culminates in the celebration of Christ's resurrection. The world Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Lencten' which means spring or lengthening. The Latin word for Lent was 'quadragesima' which simply means 'forty' and referred to the fact that the prayer, fasting, and penance associated with Lent went on for forty days. In the Old Testament Jesus spent forty days fasting and resisting temptations in the wilderness in preparation for the beginning of his public ministry. For Christians today, Lent is the time personal reflection as we struggle with the bad habits we have acquired and practiced during the past year. It gives us the chance to break such habits and find new opportunities to turn back to the ways of God. We are encouraged to make peace, look for God's forgiveness, and to have compassion on all who suffer or are in need. One of the major themes that mark the season's readings is Baptism. Lent offers a wonderful opportunity to spring clean our lives and start afresh.

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. 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

“Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart.” Joel 2:12

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.**

Haven't been to confession in a while?

Here's how to make a good confession:

Preparation: Before going to confession, take some time to examine your conscience by reviewing your life in comparison to the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the example of Christ's life. Pray to God for forgiveness.

Going to Confession:

1. The priest will welcome you, and you both make the sign of the cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. You continue with these traditional words: *Bless me Father, for I have sinned. It has been (how long) since my last confession.*
3. The priest will encourage you to have trust in God, and invite you to confess your sins. Speak freely and honestly – nothing you say in confession will ever be repeated by the priest. The priest may talk with you about how to make up for the sins you confess. He will then assign an act of penance corresponding to the nature of the sins – this may take the form of prayer, self-denial, and especially service to one's neighbor.
4. Act of Contrition – you offer a prayer expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving not to sin again. You may say this in your own words, or use this traditional prayer:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

5. Following this prayer, the priest extends his hands over your head and says the words of absolution:

God the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

As the priest concludes this prayer, he will make the sign of the cross over your head – you bless yourself and respond, Amen.

6. The priest will invite you to go in peace.

After Confession: When you leave the confession room, take a few minutes of private prayer and thanksgiving. Plan how you will complete the assigned act of penance. Make a firm resolve to continue your conversion by a life renewed according to the Gospel and the love of God.



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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 Mimlitsch, 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, Gus Vargas, and Helene Carpenter.



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

George Pryslak, John Antonio

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.