



Second Sunday of Lent March 12, 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 – 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

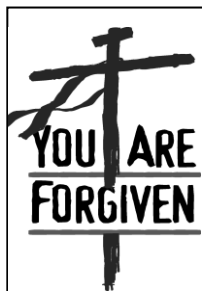
Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am

Reconciliation

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

ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095

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.

Second Sunday of Lent

March 12, 2017

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 3/13 <i>Dn 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 3/14 <i>Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Jeanette Neidhoefer (Nona & Norb Josten)
Wednesday 3/15 <i>Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28</i>	8:00am	In Memory of Kasey Wandell (Ostapowicz Family)
Thursday 3/16 <i>Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Edward M. O'Connell (John & Janet Bober)
Friday 3/17 <i>Gn 37:3-4,12-13,17-28; Mt 21:33-43,45-46</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Jean Getgen (Mother, Joan Getgen)
Saturday 3/18 <i>Mt 7:14-15,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-12</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of David Howey (Frank & Ida Dziengowski)
Sunday 3/19 <i>Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2,5-8; Jn 4:5-42</i>	8:30am 11:00am	In Honor of Martin Ostapowicz, Jr. (Ostapowicz Family) All Living and Deceased Parishioners of St. Peter's Church

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory
of George Pryslak (Gina Brown)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 12, 2017

Religious Ed. – Pre-School-8:30am; K-12th-9:30am
Secular Carmelites – 12:30pm, Parish Center

MONDAY, March 13, 2017

Samaritan House Book Club – 6:30pm, Parish Center

TUESDAY, March 14, 2017

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-6:30pm
Women's Bible Study – 9:00am
Penance Service – 7:00pm
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, March 15, 2017

Rectory Closes at 10:00am for Lenten Luncheon

THURSDAY, March 16, 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 19, 2017

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

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.

Please Note

Change to Mass Schedule – The Mass time for Wednesday, March 15th has been changed to 8:00am, due to St. Peter's hosting the Wednesday Lenten Luncheon.

Rectory Closing Early – The Rectory will close for the day, at 10:00am, on Wednesday, March 15th to prepare for the luncheon.

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

Weekend of March 18th/19th

5:00pm

Servers: B.Rudy, W.Poirier, J.Poirier
Lectors: C.Evert, D.Sherman
E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, G.Poirier, T.Straniere

8:30am

Servers: J.Gordon, J.Gordon, L.Gordon
Lectors: N.Kennedy, D.Gordon
E. Min.: M.Bialas, L.Whitney, D.deGuzman

11:00am

Servers: A.Osborn, A.Osborn, A.Dunkel
Lectors: L.Nonnenmacher, C.Waclawik
E. Min.: M.Osborn, V.Anthony, E.Payne

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.



Liturgical Reflection

Second Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:14

The First Readings for the remaining Sundays of Lent are accounts of the blessing that God bestows on the chosen people. Today God directs Abram to leave his homeland and journey to a new land. God promises that great blessings will accompany Abram and his family. These blessings are many. Abram's offspring will be a great nation; and he will be a source of blessing for others for "all the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you." In trusting faith, relying on God's blessing alone, "Abram went as the Lord directed him." Abram's response was an act of unconditional faith.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 33

The psalmist sings with great praise of the attributes of Lord who is trustworthy, just, and kind. He looks with favor upon those who fear him. The praise of the psalmist is on behalf of the whole people. Just as the providence of the Lord embraces the whole people, so it is the soul of the people that waits for the Lord. This sense of the people being as one and the Lord as their God is a mark of the covenant; it is not a personal relationship between God and the individual, but between God and the community.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

The Second Readings for the Sundays of Lent include various instructions and exhortations for the early Christians. The central thread of these passages is the grace that has come from God through Jesus Christ. Paul reminds the "beloved" that their salvation has been won by Christ Jesus and not by any works that they have done. While it is good for us to engage in good works during Lent, these works, however laudable, are not guarantors of our salvation. They are expressions of our gratitude for what the Lord has done for us.

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

Each year on the Second Sunday of Lent, the Church presents a narrative of Jesus' Transfiguration. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all include this account, though with subtle differences, because each addresses a particular community in specific circumstance. Matthew, most likely a Jew who came to faith in Jesus as Messiah, writes for a Christian community with similar background, though it probably began to include Gentiles. Consequently, Matthew's hearers seemed to be struggling with various questions about the continuity or discontinuity between Jesus and the Judaism of their birth. This evangelist strives to show that Jesus "fulfills" or bring to completion the Old Testament Scriptures. His treatment of the Transfiguration emphasizes the revelation of God in Jesus, who transcends all previous disclosure of God in Israel's history and Scripture. Today Jesus' mission and identity are affirmed; he will continue to Jerusalem and to his Death and Resurrection. We will walk with him in these Lenten days.



Parish Activities and Information

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 will meet 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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Continuing our journey, "Sharing Christ", the 3rd series in the ChristLife New Evangelization program, will be offered on six consecutive Wednesday evenings, from May 3rd-June 7th, with a concluding full-day retreat on Saturday, June 10th. All who have participated in either the 2015/16 pilot or 2016/17 "Discovering Christ" and "Following Christ" series, are encouraged to join! Space is limited so please confirm your intent by calling Norb Josten at 570-724-9095. Registration closes Monday, April 17th.

COLLECTING FOR GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS

We have begun collecting supplies for Goodies for Our Troops, a local organization that sends monthly care packages to our service men and women.



This month's items are Eye Drops, Foot Aids (foam insoles, cream, powder), Homemade Fudge, and Personal Notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.) A donation basket can be found in the entrance way of the church.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Easter, the flowers in the church during the season memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Easter flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket. A list of those we remember will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for March 5th: \$ 6,265.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$ 5,990.00

Difference: \$ 275.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$ 367.21

Care and Education of Priests: \$ 822.50

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

EASTER MASS INTENTIONS

Parishioners are reminded that there are special Easter Mass Intentions envelopes in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Easter Masses to remember the donor's intentions. Please place your Easter Mass Intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

This year's annual Spring clothing, books and household sale schedule is as follows:

April 2 – 12:00pm - 3:00pm – Donations accepted – set up

April 3 – 8:00am - 5:00pm – Donations accepted – set up

April 4 – 8:00am - 5:00pm – Sale

April 5 – 8:00am - 3:00pm – Sale

April 6 – 8:00am - 3:00pm – Take what you want for donation

PLEASE NO DONATION OF TV'S - NO EARLY SALES!

BAKE SALE - We will have a bake sale during the Rummage Sale. Please consider donating to the bake sale!

Bake Sale donations accepted April 2nd & April 3rd.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! - We are in need of volunteers for the sale. Can you give an hour, half a day or a full day? Great way to meet new people! Call Mary Lasko 570-439-7706 or MaryBeth Sampson 570-724-2953 for more information.

Religious Education and Youth Group News

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP LUAU



All 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students are invited to join the fun at the Middle School Youth Group Luau. The event will be held on Fri., April 28th

from 3:15-5:15pm in the Parish Center. Come after school and enjoy fun games and crafts, snacks, and fellowship!

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS

Vacation Bible School will be held July 16-19, 2017. More information will be provided as the date gets closer.

"A gesture of tenderness, a gesture of compassion. ... If evil is contagious, so is good. Therefore, good must increasingly abound in us. Let us be 'infected' by good, and spread good to others!" *Pope Francis*

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The exodus was not easy for God's people, nor was the passion easy for Christ. Yet these were the paths to the destruction of death and the revelation of life. So it is for us, who – as individuals and as a society – are called to make the transition from a culture of death to a culture of life. When we talk about ending abortion in our society, we encounter resistance. The idea of abolishing this practice arises not so much from the conviction that abortion is acceptable, as from the conviction that it's too late to change things. The Supreme Court said as much when it came close to reversing Roe vs. Wade in 1992, but ended up concluding in Planned Parenthood v. Casey that women have come to rely for too long on the availability of abortion. Just on a popular level, people wonder what changes will occur in society when so many children, now being aborted, are born instead. "Will society be able to handle the change?" is the question they ask. Incidentally, the same kind of question was asked when society was faced with the question of whether slavery should be abolished. How will society handle the slaves who will now roam free? And, of course, the question of how to handle the change is also asked on a very personal and individual level by the pregnant mother who is not sure she can continue the pregnancy. The message for God's people today is that we are to move forward into the frightening and unfamiliar changes that are required for those committed to doing what is right.

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 or by **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.**

That's The Way It Is!



On Ash Wednesday we began the season of Lent. You have heard me joke about the season. To be sure it isn't my favorite season. Lent is not a pleasant season. The season is penitential in nature. Advent is also penitential but less so than Lent. To

highlight the penitential nature of the season we are chanting the acclamations rather than singing them. We will also have more chant in terms of the musical selections. We will not have flowers in the Church except at funerals. The color purple will be worn as a sign of sin and our desire to repent. The Gloria is omitted during Lent and we will not sing the Alleluia before the Gospel. The hallmark of the season, of course, is abstinence from meat on Friday.

As much as I joke about the season, it is a good practice that the Church has developed in her tradition. Jesus went into the desert prior his public ministry. Lent is based loosely on the 40 days and 40 nights that Jesus spent in the desert. Jesus went into the desert to pray and fast. During that time he also faced temptations from the devil.

We begin, then, a time of fasting, prayer, almsgiving and abstinence in imitation of Jesus. Jesus has conquered sin and death, but we should still mourn our sins. We should still seek to repent. The season of Lent is the perfect time for us to take stock of the direction of our lives, the choices we have made, and how God fits in to our life. The reason for Lenten practices is to foster within our hearts a spirit of sorrow for our sin and a desire to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. The Lenten practices also help our joy during the Easter season to be more complete and full.

The reason for fasting and abstinence is to foster self control and mastery of our passions. If we can exert self control over things that are not sinful; things we are legitimately allowed to have, it becomes easier to resist temptation to sin. Abstinence from meat is also about public witness to the sacrifice of Christ. Christ offered his flesh for the life of the world on a Friday. In honor of the sacrifice of Christ and to give witness to this sacrifice we abstain from flesh on the day that flesh was offered for the life of the world.

Lent will last for five weeks. We will then enter Holy Week. Holy Week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday. On this Sunday we read from the Gospel that recounts Jesus entry into Jerusalem while people waved Palm branches before him and we read from the Passion. Tuesday of Holy Week most of the priests will journey to Scranton for the Chrism Mass. At this Mass the priests who attend renew their priestly vows and the bishop blesses the oils the parish will use in the celebration of the Sacraments for the next year. Wednesday of Holy Week is known as "Spy Wednesday." This day is held to be the day that Judas betrayed Jesus.

On Maundy Thursday with the celebration of the Lord's Supper Mass, Lent ends and Easter Tide begins. On Maundy Thursday Jesus instituted the Priesthood and the Eucharist. He also gave the Mandatum. The Latin term "Mandatum" which translates to English as "mandate" is where Maundy Thursday gets its name. Jesus gave the apostles a mandate of service when he took upon himself the role of a slave and washed the feet of the apostles. Good Friday is the darkest day in the Church year: Christ died on the cross and shed blood for our sins. This is the only day of the year where Mass is not celebrated in any Church in the world. Outside of an emergency the other Sacraments are also not celebrated, save perhaps Confession. Holy Saturday is the brightest day in the Church, for on the night of Holy Saturday we journey with Jesus from death to life. We keep vigil at the tomb of Christ and await his resurrection. This is also the night that converts are baptized, confirmed, or otherwise brought into full communion with the Church. The converts will receive communion for the first time on this night as well. Holy Saturday paves the way for Easter Sunday and the Easter season that lasts 50 days and closes with Pentecost.

Lent, then, is a time to mourn for sin, especially our sins. Lent is a time to repent, confess our sins and believe the Gospel. Lent is beautiful, but we are now entering the most solemn time of the year liturgically. May our lives and prayer reflect this.

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

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!

Prayer for Lent

God, you love me as your own child.

May I bend my life and will toward you so that I might
accept your teaching and guidance.

I am so grateful for your support in my life, now and in
the eternal life you are preparing for me.

I beg for your help and Spirit in my life today.

News from the Vatican



WHAT IF WE TURNED TO BIBLE AS WE DO OUR CELL PHONE?

‘What if we turned to our Bible as we do our smart phone?’ Pope Francis asked those in St. Peter’s Square this question during his Angelus address, as he reflected on

yesterday’s Gospel showing Jesus, while fasting forty days in the desert, being subjected to the devil’s temptations.

Through a threefold temptation, the Jesuit Pope reminded, Satan wants to divert Jesus from the way of obedience and humiliation – “because he knows that, through this way, evil will thus be defeated – and lead Him on the false shortcut of success and glory.” “However, the devil’s poisonous arrows are all ‘stopped’ with the shield of the Word of God,” Francis observed, noting that in this way, Jesus comes out of the desert victoriously. “As Christians, we are invited, during the forty days of Lent,” Francis said, “to follow in Jesus steps and face the spiritual combat against the Evil One with the strength of the Word of God.” “Not with our ‘word,’ which is useless,” he added, but with “the Word of God: that has the strength to defeat Satan.”

Therefore, he said, it is necessary to draw confidence from the Bible: to read it often, meditate on it and assimilate it.

Francis then pointed out that containing the Word of God, the Bible is always timely and effective. “Someone said: what would happen if we treated the Bible as we treat our mobile phone? If we always carried it with us, or at least a small pocket Bible, what would happen? If we went back when we forgot it: you forgot your mobile phone – ‘O, I don’t have it, I’ll go back to find it’; if we opened it several times a day; what would happen if we read God’s messages contained in the Bible, as we read our phone messages?”

The paragon is clearly paradoxical, he admitted, but pointed out that it still makes us reflect. “In fact, if we had the Word of God always in the heart, no temptation would be able to estrange us from God and no obstacle would be able to make us deviate from the path of goodness; we would be able to overcome the daily suggestions of evil that are in us and outside of us; we would be more capable of living a resurrected life according to the Spirit, receiving and loving our brothers, especially the weakest and neediest, and also our enemies.”

Before reciting the Angelus, the Pope prayed that the Virgin Mary, “perfect icon of obedience to God and of unconditional trust in His will, sustain us on our Lenten journey, so that we place ourselves in docile listening to the Word of God, to undertake a true conversion of the heart.” “And please, don’t forget – don’t forget! – what would happen if we treated the Bible as we treat our mobile phone. Think about it — the Bible always with us, close to us!”

POPE FRANCIS’ MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

Pope’s Prayer Intention - Support for Persecuted Christians: That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.

Urgent Intention - For the Pope: “I ask, please, for your prayers for me and my collaborators, who will be on retreat.” -Pope Francis

Pope Francis @Pontifex

March 5 - Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return.

March 4 - Lent urgently calls us to conversion. We are called to return to God with all our heart.

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.

Looking for something to give up for Lent?

Give up resentment and become more forgiving.
Give up hatred and return good for evil.
Give up complaining and be more grateful.
Give up pessimism and become more hopeful.
Give up worry and become more trusting.
Give up anger and become more patient.
Give up pettiness and become more noble.
Give up gloom and become more joyful.
Give up doubt and turn to God

Lenten Information

Why Do We Do That?

Q. Why do we say that there are forty days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are 46.

A. It might be more accurate to say that there is the "forty day fast within Lent." Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of 46 days. The forty day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the Time of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.

Q. So does that mean that when we give something up for Lent, such as candy, we can have it on Sundays?

A. Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole Time of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church, but by individual conscience.

Rediscovering The Faith

Do you know someone who wants to come home to the Catholic Church, but is struggling with their faith? Maybe you or someone you know has experienced one of these thoughts:



I grew up Catholic, but for some reason I just sort of stopped going to Church...

I just moved to a new city, I tried going to a couple different parishes, but I never really felt welcomed...

After my marriage ended, I felt uncomfortable around my family, friends and parish...

I just don't understand why the Church teaches what it does! Some teachings seem so outdated...

I tried to contact my parish about getting married but no one got back to me...

If you or someone you know has experienced one of these situations or thoughts you are not alone. The Church wants you to know that you are a child of God, called by name, precious in his eyes and loved by him (Is. 43:1,4). The Church also wants you to know that you are missed. When one member of the Body of Christ suffers, the entire Body of the Church suffers. Resources to help you rediscover the faith and answer questions about the Church and Church teachings can be found at these websites, www.usscb.org and catholicscomehome.org. We invite you to explore these sites or contact the rectory to talk and learn more about coming home.

Let your Lenten lapses and failures – whatever they may be – serve only to increase your dependence upon God. None of us will do all we want to do during Lent. That's the human condition. The point is not to get a good grade; the point is to increase your capacity to love God and your neighbor.

After all, Lent is a time to learn how to love – God's way – once again. That's the whole point of the season!

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.

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

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



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A Gift in Your Will

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

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

Parish Prayer List



PRAYERS
Needed For...

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, 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, 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, Helene Carpenter, Barb Sobotik, and Michele Bush.



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

Michael Hars

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.