

Divine Mercy Sunday April 23, 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 – stpored@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.



Congratulations to Jack and Agnes Worden as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary! May God continue to bless the love in your hearts and your life with one another with an ever deepening faith.

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 worshiping 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
Mary Beth Sampson 570-724-2953
Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360
Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591
Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529
Fundraising Dinners – Tara Gordon 570-439-0006
Paul Urner 570-723-9970
Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,
Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427
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 Shawl 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.

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 4/24 <i>Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 4/25 <i>1 Pt 5:5-14; Mk 16:15-20</i>	No Mass	
Wednesday 4/26 <i>Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21</i>	No Mass	Fr. Bechtel is away this week.
Thursday 4/27 <i>Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36</i>	No Mass	
Friday 4/28 <i>Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15</i>	No Mass	
Saturday 4/29 <i>Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Milt Becker (Frank & Ida Dziengowski)
Sunday 4/30 <i>Acts 2:14,22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35</i>	8:30am 11:00am	In Memory of Patti Radocaj (Bill & Yvette Finkle) In Memory of Eric Swendrowski (Ostapowicz Family)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in
Memory of **George & Helen Pryslak**
(Lynn & Kathy Broughton, Regina, Jacob, Olivia, & Archer Light)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, April 23, 2017

Religious Ed.– Pre-School: 8:30-9:30am; K-8th: 9:30-10:40am

Secular Carmelites – 12:30pm, Parish Center

MONDAY, April 24, 2017

Knights of Columbus – 7:00pm, Parish Center

TUESDAY, April 25, 2017

Adoration – 8:00am – 7:00pm

Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, April 27, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

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

SUNDAY, April 30, 2017

Religious Ed.– Pre-School: 8:30-9:30am; K-8th: 9:30-10:40am

Cemetery Clean up – 9:45am, Pearl Street Cemetery

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

April 29th/30th

5:00pm

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

Lectors: T. Sampson, L. Sampson

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

8:30am

Servers: M. Mann, L. Germino, X. Tellgren

Lectors: N. Kennedy, T. Reindl

E. Min.: L. Whitney, K. Tellgren, T. Gamble

11:00am

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

Lectors: M. Stirnaman, C. Wacławik

E. Min.: V. Anthony, C. Lannak, M. Stirnaman

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 (R.C.I.A.) - The R.C.I.A. 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: *Creamy Peanut Butter and Grape Jelly*. Please place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church.

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS

This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: *"To Go" Powdered Drink Straws, Beef Jerky/Slim Jims (no pork or ham), Cookies – Oreos, etc., Homemade cookies & Fudge, & Personal Notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.)* Please place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church.



Liturgical Reflection

Divine Mercy Sunday

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

Throughout Easter Time, our First Reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles, leading us to reflect upon the story of the first Christians and the community of believers. The brief passage we hear today provides a glimpse into the life of the early Christian community, a vision statement of the ideal community in which God is praised and the people are in communion with one another.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 118

Through the proclamation of Psalm 118, we are called together to sing the praise of God whose “mercy endures forever.” The psalmist acknowledges that we may falter and fall at times, yet the Lord is our strength. Particularly in Easter Time, our song of praise is appropriate. The rejected stone has become the cornerstone. “This is the day the Lord has made: let us be glad and rejoice in it.”

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

This reading begins with a great proclamation of praise, summarizing the reason for our rejoicing, namely the Resurrection of Jesus Christ which opens the doors to salvation for those who are “safeguarded through faith” by the power of God. While we may have to suffer through various trials, we are encouraged to remain steadfast in faith, insuring that we will attain the goal of our faith, salvation in Christ.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

Our reflection on this passage often focuses on Thomas, whom we label “doubting.” So much so, we may miss the other aspects of the story: Jesus’ proclamation of peace, the disciples being sent, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the life that is offered through belief in Christ. The familiar story of the disciples’ encounter with the Risen Christ encourages our focus on faith, even when we experience doubt, and the impact of this faith in our lives: peace, mission, and new life.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

The Sunday of Divine Mercy, a day established by Pope John Paul II as “a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face with confidence in divine benevolence the difficulties and trials that humankind will experience in the years to come.” In a similar way to Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) or the 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday), the 2nd Sunday of Easter bears the additional title of Sunday of Divine Mercy. This is not a new solemnity or feast, nor does it celebrate a new or separate mystery of redemption, but rather, it leads into the continuing celebration of God’s mercy during Easter Time. As the Octave Day of Easter, the Lectionary readings and prayer texts highlight the mystery of divine compassion that underlies the Church’s Easter faith.

MY LORD and MY GOD



Parish Activities and Information

SECOND COLLECTION TO SUPPORT OUR CEMETERIES

There will be a second collection taking place **this weekend**, April 22nd/23rd to support our cemeteries – Pearl Street cemetery and Antrim cemetery. This collection had been scheduled for April 9th, but was inadvertently missed at 2 of the Masses that weekend. Please be as generous as you are able.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Immediately following the 8:30am Mass **this weekend**, Sunday, April 23rd, we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with a blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Praying the Diving Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are encouraged to participate in this special devotion.

ST. PETER’S SPRING CEMETERY CLEAN UP



Spring clean-up of Saint Peter’s Cemetery on Pearl Street will take place on Sunday, April 30th beginning at 9:45am (following 8:30am Mass). We can use all the help we can get to beautify these sacred grounds. Bring your rakes, shovels, gloves, etc. **Note:** Remove all winter decorations from the cemetery before April 30th. Please do not dispose of the decorations in the barrels on the cemetery ground, but instead take them with you to discard elsewhere.

BABY LAYETTE SETS

St. Peter’s Social Concerns Committee will be collecting and assembling layette sets for donation to women who deliver at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital and are unprepared for their baby’s arrival. Also, disposable diapers will be collected for donation to Seeds of Hope. Donations of new blankets and newborn infant clothing and disposable diapers in sizes 4, 5, and 6 should be placed in the box at the back of the church by **TUESDAY, MAY 9th**. No time to shop? Cash donations will be gratefully accepted to support this project. Kindly place your donation in an envelope marked “Layettes” and drop it in the weekly collection.

MOTHER’S DAY INTENTION ENVELOPES

Included in your monthly envelope packet is a Mother’s Day Intention envelope to remember our living and deceased mothers and grandmothers. The envelopes will be placed on the Altar during the Mother’s Day novena.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY TO MEET

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet again, Sunday, April 30th following 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 join us if you would like to know more about this ministry or if you would like to knit or crochet with us. If you know of anyone in need of a shawl, please call Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677.



GIFT BEARERS AND GREETERS

If you or your family would like to take up the gifts or greet those coming to Mass at the door, please let an usher know or call the rectory. Our goal is to have a greeter at each door for all Masses and many individuals/families taking up the gifts. All are welcome to participate.

SUGGESTION BOX

There is now a suggestion box hanging on the side wall of the Confessional where the literature is kept. If you have suggestions but prefer to remain anonymous, you may write suggestions on the index cards and place them in the box. We will empty the box from time to time and talk about the suggestions at the parish council meetings.



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! Please R.S.V.P. no later than Monday, April 24th.

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.



Community News

BBBS INVITES YOU TO BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) will host its annual *Bowl for Kids' Sake* fundraiser on Friday, April 28th, at Maple Lanes in Mansfield from 7:30-10:30pm. *Bowl for Kids' Sake* is a great way to have fun while supporting BBBS in Tioga County! The entry cost is \$20 per team of 4; then, teams are asked to raise pledges. Bowling, shoe rental, and refreshments will be provided for all bowlers; there will be great prizes for raising the most pledges, highest bowling score, and more. This year's *Bowl for Kids' Sake* will be a Rock-n-Bowl theme with lots of fun for the whole community. Please call 570-265-3009 or 1-866-344-2447 or visit www.bbbstwintiers.org to register as a team and receive a pledge sheet.

St. Thomas/St. Catherine Mass Schedule

Saturday at St. Catherine (Westfield) - 7:00pm
Sunday at St. Thomas (Elkland) - 4:00pm

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

It is one thing to doubt the fact that Jesus is risen, as Thomas did. We, however, are more likely to doubt the power flowing from that Resurrection, -- a power that can keep us from sin. Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, but mercy is not to be confused with presumption or permission to sin. In fact, it is precisely in giving us commandments that, as the second reading tells us, "are not burdensome," that God shows his mercy. It is not simply our weakness that "God understands." He understands, first of all, our need of him, and the fact that we flourish only by living a life in union with his will. Therefore, his mercy provides us with every ounce of strength we need to actually fulfill the commandments, which is the same as to fulfill the demands of love.

Love has concrete demands, beginning with a reverence and absolute respect for one another's lives, and the lives of the weakest and most vulnerable in our midst. Actions that deliberately take innocent human life are always contrary to love. Yet "his commandments are not burdensome," because by our faith in his Resurrection, we have the power to love as he loves, even to the point of sacrificing ourselves as he sacrificed himself.

Thomas found the strength to believe when he returned to the unity of the Church. Perhaps when Thomas was missing on Easter night, he was out looking for Jesus on his own. After all, he was the kind of person who wanted to see for himself. But he actually found Jesus only when he returned to be with Peter and the other apostles. We too will find the strength to believe, to carry out the commandments, and to respect every human life, when we maintain close unity with the Church, the community of believers built on the apostles.

Diocese of Scranton News

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE MAY 6th

It's Not Too Late To Register!

The 2017 Third Annual Catholic Men's Conference "Be A Man: Mary's Call to BATTLE" will take place on May 6, 2017 at King's College, Wilkes-Barre. Experience a prayerful, spirit-filled, life-changing day featuring keynote presentations by Fr. Andrew Apostoli, Steve Ray, Matt Fradd. 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!



This week on the Second Sunday of Easter we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. After the 8:30AM Mass we will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and then have benediction.

The devotion is based on appearances of Jesus to Saint Faustina. Saint Faustina was a Catholic nun in 1938. She was proclaimed a saint by John Paul II in 2000. Saint Faustina claims in her diary to have seen Jesus appear in her cell. She claims that Jesus appeared dressed in white, his hand raised as if in blessing. From his heart were two rays: red and blue. Red stands for the blood of Christ which nourishes souls and is the life of souls. The blue ray stands for the waters of Baptism in which souls are justified. This image is known as the Divine Mercy image. We have this image in our church. It hangs in the back. If you are entering the Church from the front main entrance, the image hangs to the left of the Confessional. Saint Faustina claims that Jesus wanted to start in the Church a special devotion focusing on his mercy. This devotion was to coincide with the Second Sunday of Easter. That is why we pray this devotion every year on the Second Sunday of Easter.

The idea that Jesus is merciful, that his blood nourishes our souls, that water is the means by which we are justified is not new. The Church has always taught and believed this. What happened as a result of Saint Faustina's visions and revelations was that a special movement and devotion was spawned focusing on the mercy of Jesus.

One of the things I have often wondered about was the timing of the Divine Mercy Devotion. The prayer that is repeated throughout the devotion is "For the sake of his sorrowful passion have mercy on us and on the whole world." The whole point of Lent was to focus on the sorrowful passion of Christ, the cost of redemption and our own repentance from sin. The focus on the sorrowful passion seems inappropriate on the Second Sunday of Easter given that we just spent 40 days reflecting on the sorrowful passion! To aid in our reflection on the passion during the 40 days, Mass was celebrated in a more solemn manner. We used chant. If we used hymnody, we made sure to choose Lenten music that does not evoke a joyful tenor. How much more should we focus on the sorrowful passion before we can rejoice in the resurrection? It seemed in my mind that we are extending the season of Lent into Easter!

However, I have since done some reading on the Divine Mercy devotion. First, I learned that the Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. In other words---it is not a question of an option between either the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday. The Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. The Gospel on Divine Mercy Sunday is the classic Doubting Thomas Gospel. The Divine Mercy image is based on this Gospel; that is the appearance of Christ to the disciples and then Thomas.

The whole point of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ was so that God could flood the world with His mercy. The whole point of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ was so that the world did not have to fall under the judgment of God, but so that God could offer forgiveness for sin. John 1:12, "to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

Those who face condemnation in the end are not condemned by God. They stand condemned of their own accord by their own sin and their refusal to repent and seek God's mercy. God desires only mercy. He does not desire wrath or judgment. That always has to be kept in mind. Jesus came to save us from Hell. Jesus did not come to send us to Hell. God is love and God is mercy. The Church is a haven for sinners, not a museum of saints. Pope Francis has made mercy a theme and hallmark of his papacy. In order to experience the mercy of God we must first seek it in Confession. The Sacrament of Confession is where the mercy of God floods our souls.

May we all seek the mercy of God this Easter so that we can experience a more perfect joy in the Resurrection.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

April – Month of the Holy Eucharist

During the month of April, we give special honor to the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharist, the Second Vatican Council taught us, is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (*Lumen Gentium*, 11). What does that mean? It means that our participation in the Eucharist is the source from which we draw our strength to live as Jesus taught, and to serve in his name. It is also the summit, the high point of our communal life. We use the same word when we speak of the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

In this month of the Holy Eucharist, let us participate more fully and actively in the Church's liturgy, our celebration of the Eucharist. And let us take time, too, for quiet adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and become more aware of the wondrous way Christ comes to us in the Eucharist.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for April 16th: \$4,740.70

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: (\$1,249.30)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$ 998.64)

Easter Collection (deposited in Savings Account): \$5,631

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

News from the Vatican



RISEN CHRIST, OUR HOPE

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

We meet today in the light of Easter, which we celebrated and continue to celebrate with the Liturgy. In our itinerary of catechesis on Christian hope, today I wish to speak to you

of the Risen Christ, our hope, as Saint Paul presents Him in the First Letter to the Corinthians (cf. chapter 15).

The Apostle wishes to settle a problem that surely was at the center of the discussions of the community of Corinth. The Resurrection is the last argument addressed in the letter but, probably, in the order of importance, it is the first: everything in fact rests on this presupposition.

Speaking to his Christians, Paul starts from an incontestable event, which is not the success of a reflection of a wise man, but a fact, a simple fact that intervened in the life of some persons. Christianity is born from here. It is not an ideology; it is not a philosophical system, but a journey of faith that begins from an event, witnessed by Jesus' first disciples. Paul summarizes it thus: Jesus died for our sins, was buried and on the third day He rose and appeared to Peter and to the Twelve (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:3-5). This is a fact: He died, was buried, is risen and appeared, namely, Jesus is alive! This is the heart of the Christian message.

Announcing this event, which is the central nucleus of the faith, Paul insists above all on the last element of the paschal mystery, namely, on the fact that Jesus is resurrected. If in fact everything was finished with the death, we would have in Him an example of supreme dedication, but this could not generate our faith. He was a hero. No! He died but is risen because faith is born from the Resurrection. To accept that Christ died and that He died crucified, is not an act of faith; it is a historical fact. Instead, to believe that He is Resurrected, is [an act of faith]. Our faith was born on Easter morning. Paul makes a list of the persons to whom Jesus appeared (cf. cc. 5-7). We have here a little synthesis of all the paschal accounts and of all the people who entered into contact with the Risen One. At the top of the list are Cephas, namely Peter, and the group of the Twelve, then "five hundred brothers" many of whom could again give their testimony, then James is mentioned. The last one of the list – as the least worthy of all – is he, himself. Paul says of himself "as one untimely born" (cf. v. 8).

Paul uses this expression because his personal history is dramatic: he was not an altar boy, but a persecutor of the Church, proud of his convictions; he felt himself as a man who had arrived, with a very limpid idea of what life is about with its duties. However, in this perfect picture — everything was perfect in Paul, he knew everything — in this perfect picture of life, one day something happened that was absolutely unpredictable: the encounter with the Risen Jesus, on the road to Damascus. Not only was he a man who fell to the ground there: he was a person gripped

by an event, which would have turned upside down the meaning of life. And the persecutor became an Apostle, why? Because I saw Jesus alive! I have seen Jesus Christ risen! This is the foundation of Paul's faith, as it is of the faith of the other Apostles, of the faith of the Church, of our faith.

How lovely it is to think that Christianity is, essentially, this! It is not so much our search in our relations with God — a search, in truth, so vacillating —, but rather God's search of us in our relations with Him. Jesus has seized us, He has gripped us; He has won us, never to leave us again. Christianity is grace, it is surprise, and for this reason it presupposes a heart capable of amazement. A closed heart, a rationalistic heart is incapable of amazement, and cannot understand what Christianity is. Because Christianity is grace, and grace is only perceived and what is more it is found in the astonishment of the encounter.

And then, even if we are sinners — all of us are sinners —, if our good resolutions remain on paper, or if, looking at our life, we realize we have added many failures . . . On the morning of Easter we can do as those people that Gospel talks about: to go to Jesus' sepulcher, see the large stone overturned and think that God is bringing about for me, for all of us, an unexpected future. To go to our sepulcher: we all have a little of it inside. To go there, and to see how God is capable of rising from there. There is happiness, joy and life here, where all thought there was sadness, defeat and darkness. God makes his most beautiful flowers grow amid the most arid stones.

To be Christians means not to begin from death, but from God's love for us, who has defeated our severest enemy. God is greater than anything, and only one lit candle is enough to overcome the darkest of nights. Paul cries out, echoing the prophets: "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" (v. 55). During these days of Easter, let us bear this cry in our heart. And if we were asked the reason for our given smile and our patient sharing, then we can answer that Jesus is still here, that He continues to be alive among us, that Jesus is here, in the Square, with us: alive and risen.

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

Pope's Prayer Intention for April - That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

"Even though we are sinners and might look at our lives realizing how many times we have failed to live out our good intentions, we can follow the example of the men and women in the Gospel on Easter morning. We can go to the tomb of Christ, see the large upturned stone and reflect that God is building for me, for all of us, an unforeseen future. And more, we can all go into the tomb of our hearts and see how God is able to transform death into life. Here is happiness, here is joy and life where everyone thought there was only sadness, defeat and darkness. God raises his most beautiful flowers in the midst of the most arid stones." Pope Francis

St. Peter's Church
Italian Dinner

Basket Raffle

**Friday, May 5, 2017
4:00 – 7:00pm**



Adults - \$10.00
Children (under 12) - \$5.00

Menu:

Chicken Cacciatore,
Pasta with Marinara Sauce,
Pasta with Alfredo Sauce, Meatballs,
Italian Wedding Soup, Salad, Bread
Homemade Desserts
Coffee, Soda, Tea, Lemonade

**All You
Can Eat!**

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

*In order for this dinner to be a success, we need
volunteers to work during and after the dinner,
donations of some food items and baked goods,
and donations of filled baskets for the raffle.*












Signup sheets can be found in the back of the church.

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).

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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, 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, 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, Gus Vargas, Helene Carpenter, Barb Sobotik, and Michele Bush, Clark Hewitt, Colleen Rose, Larry Mommicco, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Gloria Fermenic, and Everett Dean Brown.



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

Louis LuBera

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.