

## Good Shepherd Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter May 7, 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](http://www.stpeterswellsboro.org) ~ Email: [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

### Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

### Parish Staff

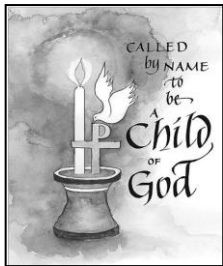
Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – [Dbechtel100@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbechtel100@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Connie Spang – [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)  
Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – [stpadm@ptd.net](mailto:stpadm@ptd.net)  
Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann –  
[stpreled@ptd.net](mailto:stpreled@ptd.net)  
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.



Today we welcome  
**Gabe Michael Simmons**, son of  
Joshua and Morgan Simmons,  
into the One Holy Catholic Church  
by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

### 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

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2017

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
<b>Monday 5/8</b> <i>Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:11-18</i>	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 5/9</b> <i>Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30</i>	7:30am	In Honor of the Bodine Family (Ostapowicz Family)
<b>Wednesday 5/10</b> <i>Acts 12:24-13:5; Jn 12:44-50</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Honor of Arletta King
<b>Thursday 5/11</b> <i>Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Gerald Matthews (Grab Family)
<b>Friday 5/12</b> <i>Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Anna Beuter (Family)
<b>Saturday 5/13</b> <i>Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:1-6</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions Our Mother's Day Intentions
<b>Sunday 5/14</b> <i>Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12</i>	8:30am 11:00am	Our Mother's Day Intentions Our Mother's Day Intentions

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of **George Prsyak** (Sticklin Family)

## The Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, May 7, 2017

First Holy Communion & May Crowning – 11:00am Mass

### MONDAY, May 8, 2017

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

### TUESDAY, May 9, 2017

Adoration – 8:00am – 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm

Evening Prayer/Benediction – 6:45pm

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

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### WEDNESDAY, May 10, 2017

Broad Acers Mass – 10:30am

Green Home Mass – 2:00pm

ChristLife – 6:30pm, Parish Center

### THURSDAY, May 11, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

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

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### April May 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>

#### **5:00pm**

Servers: L. Poirier, E. Poirier, J. Grab

Lectors: G. Poirier, C. Evert

E. Min.: D. Sherman, B. Butler, T. Straniere

#### **8:30am**

Servers: M. Mann, A. Banik, J. LuBera

Lectors: R. Kramer, P. Kramer

E. Min.: M. Bialas, D. deGuzman, T. Gamble

#### **11:00am**

Servers: A. Osborn, A. Osborn, K. Kramer

Lectors: M. Stirnaman, P. Walrath

E. Min.: M. Osborn, M. Stirnaman, V. Anthony

## Sacramental Information

**Baptisms** - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend baptismal instructions classes before the birth of their child, if possible. Please contact the Rectory to register. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed.

**Confirmation** - Confirmation is administered every year to all 8<sup>th</sup> 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: ***Canned tuna, ham, and chicken (5-6 ounce.)*** 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.

## St. Thomas/St. Catherine Mass Schedule

Saturday, St. Catherine, Westfield - 7:00pm

Sunday, St. Thomas, Elkland - 4:00pm



## Liturgical Reflection

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:14, 36-41**

Peter makes the astounding assertion that the man rejected by some Jewish leaders and executed by Rome has been made Lord and Messiah. Those who were gathered were cut to the heart. About three thousand persons hear Peter's call for repentance and were baptized.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 23**

As a response to the First Reading, this beloved psalm captures the longing for God's love and protection which we all experience. With the Lord as our shepherd, we want nothing: the overflowing cup of God's guidance, courage, goodness, and kindness provides all we need.

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:20-25**

Patience in suffering for doing what is good is not easy, yet Christ our shepherd has shown us that this is the way which we are to walk, and is a "grace before God." We are called to walk in the footsteps of the Lord who did not return suffering for suffering, but rather relied upon God's just judgment. Through Christ's suffering, we have been healed, freed to live for righteousness, called to return to the shepherd who guards and keeps us safe.

...AND HE HIMSELF  
BORE OUR SINS IN  
HIS BODY ON THE  
CROSS.

**GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

As he addresses the Pharisees, Jesus reveals himself as the gate for the sheep, leading them to good pasture, in contrast to those who have come before him who have led the sheep astray. While the Pharisees do not understand his figure of speech, we grasp his message: Christ is our way and salvation; we who hear the voice and enter through the gate who is Christ, know the abundant life which is found in God's love.

**ABOUT THIS SUNDAY**



The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. Hearing the Shepherd's voice, followers recognize and

know it is their God. Safe in the knowledge that they cannot be taken from the hand of the Shepherd, those who hear his voice follow as faithful believers willing to go where God calls and sends them. When all the clamor of false voices and seductive distractions threaten to overwhelm, we have only to listen carefully to be led to do the work of the Father.

## Parish Activities and Information

### 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.

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## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Today, at the 11:00am Mass, seven children from our parish will receive their First Holy Communion. They are:



**Bryan Ray Bergen**  
**Colin Matthew Fletcher**  
**Alivia Jean Lisowski**  
**Ethan Victor Pollaro**  
**Jordis Danielle Robson**  
**Anna May Tellgren**  
**Kieran Timothy Whitsell**

*Lord Jesus, bless all those who are receiving you in Holy Communion for the first time. May each of them know your love and mercy in a personal way and may their hearts be open to receive you and be transformed by your love. Amen*

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## BISHOP'S YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENTS

Four students from St. Peter's – **Jacob Singer**, (12th Grade) and **Alexis Banik**, **William Poirier**, and **Zachary Singer** (8th Grade), were recognized by Bishop Bambara on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at a Mass held at St. Peter's Cathedral, as this year's recipients of the Bishop's Youth Award. The Bishop's Youth Award recognizes young people for their exemplary practice of faith and their authentic commitment to service in their parishes and in their schools. Nominated by their pastors, parish life coordinators, principals, directors of religious education and/or youth ministers, the recipients are young people who serve their parishes and schools as altar servers, lectors, music ministers and cantors. Many are actively involved in parish youth groups. They are fundamental to the life of the parish, volunteering for missionary service, guiding younger students who are preparing for Confirmation, and assisting in such activities as Vacation Bible School and summer picnics. They serve the poor in many ways and touch the lives of those around them. Congratulations Jake, Alexis, Will, and Zach!



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## CEMETERY CLEAN UP

Thank you to all who came and helped with our cemetery clean up last weekend, especially our Youth Group members and Sue and Arnie Sticklin. A very special thank you to Howard Rutledge who tirelessly volunteers yearlong to oversee all aspects of our cemetery operations.

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## ITALIAN DINNER THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time or made a donation to this year's Italian dinner. The dinner was a great success. A special thank you to Paul Urner for chairing this event. A financial report will be in next week's bulletin.

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## 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.

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## SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

There will be a second collection taken up at all Masses next weekend, May 14<sup>th</sup>, in support of St. Peter's Religious Education Program. All money stays here in our parish. Please be as generous as you are able.

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## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl ministry is made up of individuals who like to knit or crochet. We make shawls for sick, homebound, and bereaved friends and family. As we make each shawl we pray for those who will receive the shawls that they will feel comfort and love. If you would like to know more information about this ministry, please join us, our next meeting is June 4<sup>th</sup>, following the 8:30am mass in front of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information or else you can call Jan Bernethy for more information 307-267-067. Also if you know of someone in need of a shawl, please let the ministry know.

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## 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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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## 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

### 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.



***"If you ever feel distressed during your day – call upon our Lady – just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit – this prayer has never failed me." Blessed Mother Teresa***

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations ~ May 7th

The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publically fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life, or secular institutes.



## Pro Life News

### PRIESTS FOR LIFE

"While there are many moral concerns that candidates need to address, concern for protecting the unborn needs to be at the top of the list. How indeed can we speak of other human rights if, as a nation, we are not prepared to protect the first and most basic human right - the right to life itself? ....As Catholics, we believe in the inherent dignity of all life, created as we are in God's image and likeness. That's not just a nice "idea," it is a powerful belief that has practical consequences in the way we treat one another in daily life." Archbishop John C. Nienstedt, *"Life: What we believe influences how we act"*

### May – Month of Mary

Gerald Hopkins wondered about this in a lovely poem called, "The May Magnificat." "May is Mary's month, and I/ Muse at that and wonder why...the Lady Month, May/ Why fasten that upon her,/ With a feasting in her honor?" he asked. Hopkins speculates that is it the springtime explosion of new life, in birds and flowers, that make May the right month for Mary. "This ecstasy all through mothering earth/ Tells Mary her mirth till Christ's birth."

Whatever the reason, May is a special time of prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is also Easter Time, so we join with Mary in rejoicing in Christ's Resurrection from the dead. We can honor Mary in this month by praying the Rosary or another Marian devotion and by participating in Mass on the Feast of the Visitation, which concludes the month on May 31<sup>st</sup>. It's also a good time for quiet reflection on the seven joys of Mary, the traditional counterpart to her seven sorrows. The joys of Mary are the Annunciation, the birth of Jesus, the adoration of the Magi, the Resurrection, the Ascension of Jesus, the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and Mary's coronation as Queen of Heaven.

## That's The Way It Is!



In September, 2014, Eric Frein assassinated two state police officers: Cpl Bryon Dickson II and Trooper Alex Douglas. On April 26, 2017, he learned his fate: the jury sentenced him to death. The jury sent a strong message to would be police assassins:

assassinating police will not be tolerated. The sentence is largely symbolic because it is unlikely Frein will actually face the death penalty. The current governor of PA, Tom Wolf has placed a moratorium on the death penalty. The PA Supreme Court has upheld that moratorium. Even if Tom Wolf did not issue such a moratorium, there will be, I am sure, many court appeals by Frein and his attorneys as there often is when someone is sentenced to death. At the very least, I expect that Frein will be spending the rest of his life in prison. Attacks on police are treated as more serious than attacks on civilians because the police represent the community and the values of the community. To attack the police, then, is to attack all of us and our values.

There are two times a year that I emphasize pro-life issues: January and May. In January we remember that the SCOTUS issued one of the worst decisions in the history of our country in *Roe v. Wade*. This notorious decision legalized abortion. In May, we honor mothers on Mother's Day. Motherhood is sacred. Abortion is so heinous because it attacks one of the most sacred gifts God has given women: the gift of motherhood.

One of the things I have never understood about abortion supporters is that they tend to be against the death penalty. That, to me, makes not one lick of sense. Those who support abortion, but are against the use of the death penalty, want us to believe that a person who assassinates two of the state's finest must not be put to death. We cannot punish violence with violence, murder with murder. One the other hand, they tell us, with a straight face, that it is the fundamental right of a woman to have an abortion. Is it me? Am I not seeing something here? How does this make a lick of sense? If a guilty person has an absolute right to life, why doesn't an innocent person? If the state cannot execute a cold blooded assassin, why does a woman get to have an abortion? If a police assassin does not deserve death, why does an unborn child?

I have asked this question of people who are against the death penalty but support abortion. Some have replied that their position is more about preventing the death of an innocent person than it is sympathy for the criminal. Because there is a risk that an innocent person might be put to death, we must not have the death penalty. This position is fine—but what is an unborn

child if not innocent? What is an unborn child if not a human life worthy of protection? Somehow the irony of wanting to prevent the death of the innocent yet supporting abortion is lost on them.

Others have told me that the right to life is absolute. They feel that it is logically inconsistent to teach that all life is sacred yet support the death penalty. Life is life. If this is their position, fine. Once again, however, the irony of supporting abortion seems to be lost on the person. If they believe that all human life is sacred, no one should be put to death, regardless of their crime or danger to society, how can they possible justify abortion? The only rational I can think of is that these people think abortion is just a surgical procedure on a par with other surgical procedures. By that logic the death penalty is just a surgical procedure among other surgical procedure and therefore morally justifiable. As a whole, the Catholic bishops in union with the pope have taken the position that the death penalty in modern times ought not to be used. This teaching, however, is on the level of prudential judgment. It does not carry the same weight that Church teaching on abortion does. What this means is that it is possible to be a Catholic in good standing and support the death penalty. It is not possible to be a Catholic in good standing and support abortion. For further information on this point, consult "Worthiness to Receive Holy Communion" by Pope Benedict, then Cardinal Ratzinger. You can Google the document.

Whatever happens to Eric Frein, I pray that he will repent of the evil he has done and seek forgiveness from God. I also pray that light, happiness and peace will forever be upon the souls of Cpl Bryon Dickson II and Trooper Alex Douglas. May they be richly rewarded for the sacrifices they made for others as two of our state's finest. Finally, may God be with their families and may the hope of the resurrection be on their hearts. May God's promises and love fill the hole in their lives that opened up with the death of their beloved.

Pray for our police and support our police! Pray for their families! Pray for an end to the scourge of abortion. That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for April 30<sup>th</sup>: \$5,608.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference:(\$ 382.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance:(\$1,719.64)

Catholic Home Missions Collection: \$1,082.00

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

## 100th ANNIVERSARY OF FATIMA

May 13<sup>th</sup> is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She appeared six times to Lucia, 9, and her cousins Francisco, 8, and his sister Jacinta, 6, between May 13, 1917 and October 13, 1917.

The story of Fatima begins in 1916, when, against the backdrop of the First World War which had introduced Europe to the most horrific and powerful forms of warfare yet seen, and a year before the Communist revolution would plunge Russia and later Eastern Europe into six decades of oppression under militant atheistic governments, a resplendent figure appeared to the three children who were in the field tending the family sheep. “I am the Angel of Peace,” said the figure, Please don’t be afraid of me, I’m not going to harm you.” Lucia asked her where she came from and she responded, “I come from Heaven.” The woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. The woman asked them to pray and devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to “say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.” She also revealed that the children would suffer, especially from the unbelief of their friends and families, and that the two younger children, Francisco and Jacinta would be taken to Heaven very soon but Lucia would live longer in order to spread her message and devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

In the last apparition the woman revealed her name in response to Lucia’s question: “I am the Lady of the Rosary.” That same day, 70,000 people had turned out to witness the apparition, following a promise by the woman that she would show the people that the apparitions were true. They saw the sun make three circles and move around the sky in an incredible zigzag movement in a manner which left no doubt in their minds about the veracity of the apparitions. By 1930 the Bishop had approved of the apparitions and they have been approved by the Church as authentic.

The messages Our Lady imparted during the apparitions to the children concerned the violent trials that would afflict the world by means of war, starvation, and the persecution of the Church and the Holy Father in the twentieth century if the world did not make reparation for sins. She exhorted the Church to pray and offer sacrifices to God in order that peace may come upon the world, and that the trials may be averted. Our Lady of Fatima revealed three prophetic “secrets,” the first two of which were revealed earlier and refer to the vision of hell and the souls languishing there, the request for an ardent devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the prediction of the Second World War, and finally the

prediction of the immense damage that Russia would do to humanity by abandoning the Christian faith and embracing Communist totalitarianism. The third “secret” was not revealed until the year 2000, and referred to the persecutions that humanity would undergo in the last century: “The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated.” The suffering of the popes of the 20th century has been interpreted to include the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II in 1981, which took place on May 13<sup>th</sup>, the 64th anniversary of the apparitions. The Holy Father attributed his escape from certain death to the intervention of Our Lady: “... it was a

mother's hand that guided the bullet's path and in his throes the Pope halted at the threshold of death.”

**What is the central meaning of the message of Fatima?** Nothing different from what the Church has always taught: it is, as Cardinal Ratzinger, now Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, has put it, “the exhortation to prayer as the path of salvation for souls and, likewise, the summons to penance and conversion.” The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Savior into the world—because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards

what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: “In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise.

### Fatima Centennial Plenary Indulgence

2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. In honor of this, Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence opportunity throughout the entire anniversary year:

**To obtain the indulgence:** visit with devotion and pray before any statue of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory, or proper place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of each month from May to October 2017, and there devoutly participate in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary, pray the “Our Father,” recite the “Creed,” and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.

**To obtain any plenary indulgence one must also:** Go to confession, Receive Holy Communion, Be interiorly detached from all sin, and Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

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## News from the Vatican



### POPE REMINDS CHURCH OF THREE RESPONSIBILITIES

Pope Francis has highlighted three needed characteristics of the Church: to be on her feet, listen to the 'restlessness' of the people, and be joyful. According to Vatican Radio,

Pope Francis underscored this today, May 4, 2017, during his daily morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta.

The Pope's homily noted how in the first eight chapters of the Acts of the Apostles, the Pope said, "there is a summary of the whole history of the Church," including preaching, baptism, conversion, miracles, persecution, joy, but also the "ugly sin of those who join themselves to the Church for their own ends.

Drawing inspiration from today's readings, Francis first emphasized that from the beginning, the Lord accompanied His disciples. With miraculous signs, He confirmed the Word, Francis said, pointing out that even in the worst of moments, He never left them alone.

*"Get up and go," "Listen to the Restlessness"*

Pope Francis then focused on three phrases taken from the reading, the first being the angel's words to Philip: "Get up and go."

Noting that this is a sign of evangelization, Francis reminded that the "vocation" and "great consolation of the Church" is to evangelize.

"But in order to evangelize: 'Get up and go!' One doesn't say: 'Stay seated, calm, in your house': No! In order to be faithful to the Lord, the Church should always be on its feet and on the journey: 'Get up and go.' A Church that does not rise up, that is not on the journey, is sick."

Noting that this can cause the Church to be closed in on itself, even into "a little world of gossiping, of things... closed, without horizons," he stressed, the Church must "get up and go."

*"Go up and join with that chariot,"*

The next expression Pope Francis noted was the second message Philip received from the Spirit: "Go up and join with that chariot."

In the chariot was an Ethiopian, a proselyte of the Jewish religion, a eunuch who had come to Jerusalem to worship God. As he travelled, he was reading the prophet Isaiah, a passage concerned with the conversion of a "finance minister." Philip was called by the Spirit called to join

himself to that man, Francis highlighted, to emphasize how important it was for the Church to know she must listen to the restlessness in the heart of every man.

"All men, all women have a restlessness in their hearts – they may be good or bad, but there is a restlessness. Listen to that restlessness," Francis observed. "It's not saying: 'Go out and proselytise.' No, no! 'Go and listen.' Listening is the second step. The first: 'Get up and go'; the second: 'Listen.'"

"That ability to listen: What do people feel? What does the heart of the people feel? What does it think? But do they think mistaken things? But I want to hear these mistaken things, in order to understand where the restlessness is. We all have this restlessness within."

Therefore, the second step for the Church, Francis reiterated, "is to find the restlessness of the people."

It is, then, the Ethiopian himself who, seeing Philip approach, asks who the prophet is speaking about, and asks him to join him in the chariot. And so, the Pope said, Philip began to preach "with meekness." The restlessness in the heart of that man found an explanation that responded to the hope in his heart.

This was possible, Pope Francis continued, "because Philip joined him and listened to him."

*Joy of the Christian*

This "joy of the Christian," Pope Francis said, is the third "word" or "expression" from the reading.

While the Ethiopian listened, the Jesuit Pope explained, the Lord was working within him. In this way, the man understood that the Prophet Isaiah was speaking of Jesus.

His faith in Jesus then grew to such a point that when they arrived at a place where there was water, he asked to be baptized. "He asked for Baptism because the Lord had worked in his heart," the Pope said. After he had been baptized, when the Spirit took Philip and bore him away, the eunuch continued on his way, filled with joy, the Pope noted.

Pope Francis concluded his homily, praying, "May the Lord give to all of us the grace to live the Church in this way: on our feet and going out, listening to the restlessness of the people, and always in joy."

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### POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION

*Pope's Prayer Intention for May*

*Christians in Africa* - That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

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It is not easy to entrust oneself to God's mercy, because it is an abyss beyond our comprehension. But we must! ... "Oh, I am a great sinner!" "All the better! Go to Jesus: He likes you to tell him these things!" He forgets, He has a very special capacity for forgetting. He forgets, He kisses you, He embraces you and He simply says to you: "Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more". Pope Francis

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

## Parish Prayer List



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, 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 Fermeic, Everett Dean Brown, Marlene Olin, and Roberta Mahar.



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

Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.