



Pentecost Sunday ***June 4, 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

Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am-12:00noon;
 Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

Congratulations Seniors!



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
 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 6/5 <i>Tb 1:3, 2:1-8; Mk 12:1-12</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 6/6 <i>Tb 2:9-14; Mk 12:13-17</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Harold Reindl (Tom & Ginny Reindl)
Wednesday 6/7 <i>Tb 3:1-11,16-17; Mk 12:18-27</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Honor of Children & Grandchildren (Tom & Linda Sampson)
Thursday 6/8 <i>Tb 6:10-11,7:1,9-17,8:4-9; Mk 12:28-34</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Elizabeth Bucheit (Wayne & Sue Singer)
Friday 6/9 <i>Tb 11:5-17; Mk 12:35-37</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Honor of Stephen Horvach (Stephen & Celia Finestone)
Saturday 6/10 <i>Tb 12:1, 5-15,20; Mk 12:38-44</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Josephine Patt (Sister, Mary)
Sunday 6/11 <i>Ex 34:4-6,8-9; 2 Cor 13:11-16; Jn 3:16-18</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Jeanette Niedhoefer (Tony & Pat Straniere)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Honor of Children & Grandchildren (Tom & Linda Sampson)

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, June 5, 2017

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

TUESDAY, June 6, 2017

Adoration – 8:00am – 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm

Evening Prayer/Benediction – 6:45pm

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, June 7, 2017

ChristLife – 6:30pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, June 8, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

St. John Neumann Group – 7:00pm

SATURDAY, June 10, 2017

ChristLife Retreat, 8:30am-3:00pm, Parish Center

SATURDAY, June 11, 2017

ChristLife Retreat, 8:30am-3:00pm, Parish Center

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. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed. Contact the Rectory to schedule.

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 unbaptized 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. Contact the Rectory for more information.

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

June 10th/11th

5:00pm

Servers: J. Grab, L. Burge, B. Burge

Lectors: P. Walrath, D. Bleggi

E. Min.: K. Wilcox, G. Brown, I. Dziengowski, C. Lannak

8:30am

Servers: B. Rudy, N. Ingerick, M. Ingerick, J. Lubera

Lectors: R. Kramer, P. Kramer

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

June 17th/18th

5:00pm

Servers: X. Tellgren, W. Poirier, J. Poirier

Lectors: G. Poirier, K. Tellgren

E. Min.: G. Brown, E. Payne, V. Anthony, T. Straniere

8:30am

Servers: A. Osborn, A. Osborn, B. Levindoski, L. Germino

Lectors: H. Sampson, M. Sampson

E. Min.: M. Stirnaman, N. Ostapowicz, M. Osborn, M. Sampson

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: **Chicken Noodle and Tomato Soup**. 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

Pentecost Sunday

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-11

Jesus had promised to send his Spirit, and that promise is fulfilled at Pentecost. The Spirit comes upon them like a great wind, and enables them to speak in tongues. When they go forth, they are able to address the people of all the world who have gathered for the festival in their own languages, underscoring the universality of the message they carry. The barrier between them and God's Word is removed. The Spirit now allows God's Word to penetrate deep into each human heart.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 104

As a response to the first reading, we place ourselves with the disciples on the day of Pentecost, praying for an outpouring of the same Spirit which was given to those gathered. Like them, we have been waiting, recalling God's mighty deeds from creation through salvation history, culminating in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. "Alleluia! Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!"

**Lord, send out
your Spirit,
and renew the
face of the Earth.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13



Paul writes to the community about the disturbance that is being caused by a disproportionate liturgical emphasis on speaking in tongues. The gifts are in everyone, but they are different. And these gifts have an intent: they are to be a source of service. God's Spirit takes possession of us, not for our own benefit,

but for the benefit of all. The body has many parts, but must remain one. Each part of the Body of Christ is essential; all are drawn toward unity in Christ through the Spirit. This metaphor of Paul's is a powerful metaphor for the Church today.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

John's account of the appearance of Jesus has a strong point of emphasis: peace. Although they are fearful (and it appears doubting: he mentions that Jesus must show his hands and side) they are restored when they encounter him. The final verses of this passage are central to the theology of John. The gift of the Spirit is the source of the power to forgive sins. The image of the breath is evocative of the gift of the life given to humanity in Genesis 2:7. The Risen Lord has not only wished them peace, he has also shared the surest way to sustain it. The disciples are given the Holy Spirit and charged with continuation of Christ's life of mercy and forgiveness.

June – Month of the Sacred Heart

On the Friday following the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Because this solemnity usually falls in June, this month is also known as the "Month of the Sacred Heart." Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is all about pondering Christ's love and meditation on Christ's suffering.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY



The Greek word for Pentecost (*pentekoste*) means "fiftieth," and in early Christianity it referred to the entire fifty days of Easter. The roots of Pentecost can be found in the Jewish festival of Weeks (Shavu'ot), the fifty-day celebration following Passover (Exodus 23:16). It was a harvest festival in which the first fruits of the harvest were offered to God in gratitude. It eventually became associated with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. Early Christians reinterpreted the Jewish festival as a commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, since Acts records that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples when the festival of Pentecost was fulfilled (Acts 2:1-11). During the celebration, the Spirit's sudden arrival surprised all who had gathered: the newly reconstituted "Twelve," that included Matthias (newly elected to replace Judas,) and a group of disciples numbering over one hundred that included Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Ten days before, the Apostles bid final farewell to Jesus and received their mandate to witness to him to "the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Now, his promise of "another advocate" (John 14:16) is fulfilled.

Parish Activities and Information

FATHER'S DAY ENVELOPS

Special Father's Day intention envelopes can be found in your packets to remember living and deceased fathers. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during the month of June.



Please place your envelope in the collection basket.

SIGN UP SHEET FOR 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 write your name on the sign up sheets hanging on the bulletin board near the entrance of the church. 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.

DEANERY MASS CELEBRATED



The annual Deanery Mass held at the deGuzman residence, will be celebrated on Thursday, June 22nd at 6:00pm. Bring a dish or snack to pass and a lawn chair. **All are welcome!**

Questions? Call 570-376-5427. (Directions: 287 N, 249 N to Keeneyville, turn right to Osceola, 1 1/2 miles to Box 818)

"I thank God for parents who strive to live in love and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way." Pope Francis

TIoga County Homeless Initiative Update

The Homeless Initiative recently arranged with the Experience Works program to provide workers for coverage at the shelter. Unfortunately this arrangement did not work out. As a result, they are again looking to churches such as ours, for volunteers to cover shifts on a rotating basis. We had a tremendous response for our last signups and appreciate the support in our Parish for this important mission! We'll be scheduling in the near future for our next shifts in July and hope you will consider volunteering your time. If you have any questions please call David Gordon at 570-439-0005 or Tara Gordon at 570-439-0006.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INITIATION NOTICE

Council #3972 Elkland Knights of Columbus is sponsoring an Initiation (Formerly the First Degree) degree on Sunday, June 18th at St. Thomas the Apostle Hall, Elkland. Candidates are to arrive by 6:30pm. The degree will start promptly at 7:00pm. In order to adequately prepare for the event, the council is asking that area Grand Knights contact Andrew St. Peter, Grand Knight, 814-367-5158 with the number of candidates and guests. Be sure to bring all required items with you. Refreshments will be served.

SECULAR ORDER DISCALCED CARMELITES

Secular Order Discalced Carmelites are men and women in the Catholic Church who are called to a deeper spiritual life. Under the protection of our Lady of Mount Carmel and inspired by St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and St. Therese of Lisieux, we make a commitment to the Discalced Carmelite Order to seek God for the Church and the world. The Secular Order Carmelite longs to seek God through our charisma of prayer, find God, and share God with others. Our local group meets at 12:30 on the 2nd Sunday of each month at St. Peter's. We invite interested parties to pray for discernment about this vocation for laypeople as our community will open for inquiries at our October 15th meeting. (Note the delay in the meeting date due to a church sale).

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 from 5:30-7:30pm.

This year's theme is *Message Received* – *Hearing God's Call*. More information will be provided as the date gets closer.

Pennsylvania State Laurel Festival St. Peter's Strawberry Shortcake Stand

Wednesday, June 14th – Prep

Thursday, June 15th – Set up

Friday, June 16th – On the Green

Saturday, June 17th – On the Green

In order for this fundraiser to be a success, volunteers are needed for food preparation, set-up, clean-up, manning the booth, and as couriers. We are also in need of some donated items. Monetary donations to offset the cost of strawberries are always appreciated.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Sign up sheets can be found on the handout table at the side of the church.

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM



Fortnight
for Freedom
2017
Freedom for Mission
June 21 - July 4

Highlighting the importance of defending religious freedom, the Fortnight for Freedom takes place June 21—the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More—to July 4, Independence Day. We are called to follow Christ as missionary disciples by seeking the truth, serving others, and living our faith in all that we do. Let us take a few moments each day from June 21 - July 4 to pray, reflect, and take action on religious liberty, both here in this country and abroad

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for May 28th: \$5,665.51*

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: (\$ 324.49)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$4,335.18)

*This amount includes Ascension collection of \$1,036.51.

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

That's The Way It Is!



This week is Pentecost Sunday. Easter Season 2017 goes to the history books at the end of Mass this day. We are entering the summer season. The Church is likewise sort of entering a time analogous to summer in her worship.

This is my favorite liturgical time of the year: the carefree dog days of Ordinary Time! Life is good! We will be in Ordinary Time now, until Advent. Let us bask in the beauty of the noble simplicity of Ordinary Time. It does not get much better than this!

Given that we are celebrating Pentecost, I think it most appropriate to talk about the Sacrament of Confirmation. Pentecost and the Sacrament of Confirmation are linked: the Sacrament of Confirmation is, in essence, the Pentecost experience of the Church re-presented in Sacrament. The Church was created on the Cross from the side of Christ. The Church was not created in flesh and bone, but water and blood: water the sign of Baptism, blood the sign of the Eucharist. In our Baptism we encounter the Cross and are spiritually branded with the mark of the Cross.

In Confirmation we encounter the Pentecost experience of the Church. The same Spirit that rushed upon the infant Church, gathered around the Apostles, with Mary at the center, that empowered the first Christians for the work of mission, is the same Spirit that comes to us in Confirmation, empowering us for mission. God does not just want us to be his children (Baptism,) God also wants to give us special graces to participate in the work of redemption through evangelization (Confirmation.) The graces given in the Sacrament of Confirmation build upon the graces given in Baptism. Confirmation seals us in the Spirit. Confirmation also strengthens us for the work of mission.

The Sacrament of Confirmation, is, sadly, poorly understood by many people—even clergy. Part of the problem comes because of the way in which the Sacrament is celebrated in the western half of the Church. Originally, the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist were celebrated as one rite. The eastern half of the Church continues this tradition even today. All three sacraments are administered together—even in infancy. In the west, however, for many reasons, the celebration of Baptism and Confirmation gradually began to become separated. Confirmation was put off later and later. The town priest would baptize infants. At a later time, when the person was older, the bishop would eventually complete the initiation process through confirming the person. That tradition continues today in the western half of the Church. It is recognized that this is not the ideal way to celebrate the Sacrament. Some are calling for a restoration of the ancient practice.

The manner in which Confirmation is celebrated in the western half of the church has led to aberrant theologies about the Sacrament. Confirmation is presented as though

you are becoming an adult in the Faith. Confirmation has nothing to do with adulthood. It is not analogous to a Jewish Bar mitzvah. Another way Confirmation is presented is as a sacrament of maturity. It makes you “mature” in the Faith. It makes you “mature” in the sense that it completes the initiation process, but it has nothing to do with physical or emotional maturity.

Confirmation is also presented as “In Baptism, God choose you. Now in Confirmation, you choose God.” First: God is the primary agent in all sacramental celebrations. God first chooses us. Our choice for God is always secondary. We can only choose God, because God first choose us. Second: God does not need our permission to work in our lives. Infants cannot make an active choice for God in any sacrament. Confirmation is not about “choice.” Granted, adults can make a choice for Baptism and Confirmation—but the sacraments are about God’s working in us and God’s election of us to share his life. They are not celebrations of our “choices” even when we actively choose to receive them.

I think by meditating on the Pentecost experience of the Church we can better realize what God intends through the Sacrament of Confirmation. God intends to seal us in the Spirit and give us special graces for the purpose of the work of mission. Baptism is a Sacrament of adoption: we become children of God. Confirmation is the grace to live out this adoption in a world hostile to Christ. Confirmation is the grace to evangelize and make God’s love present in the world around us. God accomplishes this in the sacrament through the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. That’s the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

Second Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima



On June 13 1917, accompanied by about 50 people, the children were reciting the rosary, when there was again the lightning, and immediately after the Lady on the holmoak appeared like in May. *“What do you want from me?”* asked Lucy. ***“I wish you to come here the 13th of next month; that you say the Rosary every day, and that you learn to read. In succeeding months I will tell you what else I want.”*** *“I would like to ask you to bring us to Heaven”,* said Lucy. ***“Yes, Giacinta and Francis will be among the few, but you must stay here for a long time. Jesus wants to help Himself of you to make Me known and loved. God wishes you to remain in the world for some time because He wants to use you to establish in the world a devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who embrace it, and their souls will be loved by God as flowers placed by myself to adorn His throne.”*** Lucy asked: *“Will I stay here alone?”* ***“Don’t be discouraged, I will not abandon you ever. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and through it will conduct you to God.”*** Then She opened her hands and emanated her light on the children, Giacinta and Francis seemed to be in the light that went up toward the sky, Lucy in the light that spread on the earth. In front of the palm of the right hand of the Lady there was a heart surrounded by thorns that impaled it. They understood that it was the Immaculate Heart of Mary affronted from the sins of men, and She then asked for reparation.

The young church (16-35) and those who work with them are encouraged to let their voice be heard as the Diocese of Scranton ‘partners with Francis’ in preparation for the 2018 Synod on the topic of Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. Both those who identify as Catholic and those who do not, can complete an online survey at www.partnerwithfrancis.org. The results of this survey will not only help Pope Francis and the Bishops as they prepare for the Synod, but also help shape programming for the young church here in our Diocese. For more information, please contact Dominick Costantino, program coordinator for the Diocesan vocation office, at 570-780-2996.

Quo Vadis Days 2017 will be held June 25-28 at Misericordia University, Dallas. This camp is for young Catholic men in High School (9-12th grade) to deepen their faith, learn more about all vocations, and better discern God's call in their lives. The camp will feature dynamic talks, prayer, games, sports, activities, music and more. Participants will have the opportunity to meet priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Scranton. All participants are required to get a letter of recommendation from a priest, deacon, parish life coordinator, director of religious education, or youth minister to register. Register on line at www.scrantonvocations.org. For more information, call 570-207-1452.

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*Blue Ridge Trail Club
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11:00 a.m. Lunch
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and type Priest

■ Call 570-207-2250 for a brochure or

■ Complete the form below and mail to:
Diocese of Scranton Development Office
300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503

**ALL DONATIONS & MEMORIAL GIFTS WELCOME. DONORS LISTED BY
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☐ Hole \$100
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Please make checks payable to Diocese of Scranton "Vocations Endowment"

Human Life Exalted - Jesus prayed on the night before he died, "Father, give me the glory I had with you before the world began." How is the glory he has in the Ascension different from the glory he had "before the world began?" It differs only in that now, he has it in a human nature. Our humanity has been taken to the heights of heaven, fulfilling the destiny God intended for human life from the beginning. Revelation 3:21 declares, "To the one who gains the victory, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne." God's plan for us is not just that we will gather around the throne or fall down before the throne, but that we will sit with him on the throne! This hope extended to the human family by the Gospel is directly contradicted when the same human beings destined for the heights of heaven are attacked by violence, degraded in their dignity, or put to death by things like abortion. The human nature Jesus brings to glory in the Ascension is the same human nature you and I share, and the same human nature that the babies in the womb share. Celebrating the Ascension in daily life means treating each human life as one destined to sit with Christ on his throne.

Anyone interested in supporting the Stand Up for Life Rally to be held in Harrisburg on Tuesday, June 6th beginning at 11:00am and in need of transportation, may contact Norb Josten at norb.josten@gmail.com. 570-724-9095 or email at norb.josten@gmail.com. Informational flyers can be found on the hand out table on the side of the church.

You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion.

— Pope John Paul II —

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-HourChild 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, Joseph DeVizia at (570-862-7551) or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

News from the Vatican



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HOPE

In the imminence of the Solemnity of Pentecost, we cannot but speak of the relation there is between Christian hope and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the wind that drives us on, that keeps us on the way, makes us feel ourselves pilgrims and strangers, and does not permit us to ensconce ourselves and to become a “sedentary” people.

The Letter to the Hebrews compares hope to an anchor (6:18-19); and to this image we can add that of the sail. If the anchor is what gives the boat security and keeps it “anchored” between the waves of the sea, the sail, instead, is what makes it go and advance on the waters. Hope is truly like a sail; it receives the wind of the Spirit and transforms it into the driving force that pushes the boat, depending on the circumstances, to the open sea or to the shore. The Apostle Paul ends his Letter to the Romans with this wish: hear well, listen well to this beautiful wish: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (15:13). Let us reflect a bit on the content of this very beautiful word.

The expression “God of hope” does not only mean that God is the object of our hope, namely Him that we hope to reach one day in eternal life. It also means that God is He that already now makes us hope, rather, He makes us “rejoice in hope” (Romans 12:12): rejoicing now in hope, and not only hoping to rejoice. It is the joy of hoping, now today, and not hoping to have joy. “While there is life, there is hope,” states a popular saying. And the contrary is also true: while there is hope, there is life. Men have need of hope to live and they have need of the Holy Spirit to hope.

We heard Saint Paul, who attributes to the Holy Spirit the capacity to make us even “abound in hope.” To abound in hope means never to be discouraged; it means to hope “against all hope” (Romans 4:18), namely, to hope also when every human motive for hope fails, as it was for Abraham, when God asked him to sacrifice to Him his only son, Isaac, and as it was, even more so, for the Virgin Mary under Jesus’ cross. The Holy Spirit makes this invincible hope possible, giving us the interior testimony that we are children of God and His heirs (Romans 8:16). How could He who gave us His only Son not give us everything else together with Him? (Romans 8:32). “Hope — brothers and sisters — does not disappoint: hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). Therefore, it does not disappoint, because the Holy Spirit is within us who pushes us to go on, always! And because of this, hope does not disappoint.

There is more: not only does the Holy Spirit make us capable of hoping, but also to be sowers of hope, to be also — like Him and thanks to Him — “paracletes,” namely consolers and defenders of brothers, sowers of hope. A

Christian can sow bitterness, he can sow perplexity, and this is not Christian, and one who does this is not a good Christian. He sows hope: he sows the oil of hope; he sows the perfume of hope and not the vinegar of bitterness and despair. In one of his addresses, Blessed Cardinal Newman said to the faithful: “Instructed by our own suffering, by our own pain, even by our own sins, we will have the mind and the heart exercised in every work of love towards those who have need of it. In the measure of our capacity, we will be consolers in the image of the Paraclete, and in all the senses that this word entails: advocates, assistants, comfort bearers. Our words and our advice, our way of being, our voice, our look, will be gentle and tranquilizing.” And it is above all the poor, the excluded, the unloved that are in need of someone who will be a “paraclete” to them, namely, a consoler and defender, as the Holy Spirit is with every one of us, who are here in the Square — consoler and defender. We must do the same with the neediest, with the most rejected, with those who have greatest need, those who suffer most — defenders and consolers!

The Holy Spirit nourishes hope not only in men’s heart, but also in the whole of Creation. The Apostle Paul says — this seems a bit strange, but it is true: that Creation also “waits with eager longing” to be set free and “groaning in travail” as the pangs of birth (Romans 8:20-22). “The energy capable of moving the world is not an anonymous and blind force, but the action of the Spirit of God ‘moving over the face of the waters’ (Genesis 1:2) at the beginning of Creation. This also drives us to respect Creation: a painting cannot be besmirched without offending the artist who created it.

Brothers and sisters, may the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, which is the birthday of the Church, find us in accord in prayer with Mary, Jesus’ Mother and ours. And may the gift of the Holy Spirit make us abound in hope. I will say more to you: may it make us fritter away hope with all those who are most in need, most rejected and all those that have need.


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POPE FRANCIS’ JUNE PRAYER INTENTIONS

Lapsed Christians ~ That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.

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Parish Prayer List



PRAYERS
Needed For...

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Bob Erway, Mary Mekos, Nick Cavagnaro, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, 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, 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, Michele Bush, Clark Hewitt, Colleen Rose, Larry Mommico, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Gloria Fermevic, Everett Dean Brown, Marlene Olin, Roberta Mahar, James Quimby, and Francis Dy.



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.