



## *The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ* *June 18, 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

### **Reconciliation**

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

Blessed indeed is the man  
who hears many gentle  
voices call him father!

**HAPPY Father's Day!**

### **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 – 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.

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
<b>Monday 6/19</b> <i>2 Cor 6:1-10; Mt 5:38-42</i>	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 6/20</b> <i>2 Cor 8:1-9; Mt 5:43-48</i>	7:30am	Our Father's Day Intentions
<b>Wednesday 6/21</b> <i>2 Cor 9:6-11; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions Our Father's Day Intentions
<b>Thursday 6/22</b> <i>2 Cor 11:1-11; Mt 6:7-15</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions Our Father's Day Intentions
<b>Friday 6/23</b> <i>Dt 7:6-11; 1 Jn 4:7-16; Mt 11:25-30</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Ted Sykora (Don & Lucy Whitney)
<b>Saturday 6/24</b> <i>Is 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Joseph & Clara Patt (Family)
<b>Sunday 6/25</b> <i>Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Katie Brennan (Tom & Linda Sampson)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered  
in Memory of **Swendrowski Family**  
(Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)

## The Week Ahead

### TUESDAY, June 20, 2017

Adoration – 8:00am – 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm

Evening Prayer/Benediction – 6:45pm

Staff Meeting – 8:30am, Rectory

Parish Council Meeting – 7:00pm, Parish Center

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### THURSDAY, June 22, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

Deanery Mass – 6:00pm, deGuzman Residence

St. John Neumann Group – 7:00pm

## 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 – 10:30am

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### June 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>

#### 5:00pm

Servers: A.Burge, L.Burge, A.Banik

Lectors: L.Sampson, T.Sampson

E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, G.Brown, D.Sherman, C.Lannak

#### 8:30am

Servers: M.Mann, A.Swendrowski, K.Swendrowski

Lectors: T.Reindl, M.Stirnman

E. Min.: D.Stager, L.Stager, C.Delong, L.Whitney

## 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 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 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.



# Liturgical Reflection

Corpus Christi

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16**

In this reading from Deuteronomy, Moses reminds the Israelites of the manna which fell from heaven each night during their wanderings in the desert. This mysterious food was not simply sustenance for their bodies. It also sustained their faith, reminding them daily of God's protecting care and God's determination to bring them to their new homeland as he had promised.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 147**

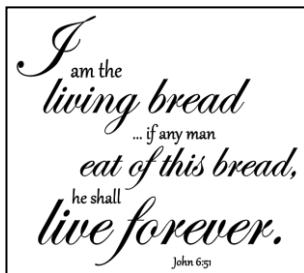
Psalm 147 is a song of praise to an all-provident God, who grants his people all they need – blessing and protection, food and a law unlike that granted to any other nation. For Christians, this psalm has long been associated with the Eucharist, truly “the best of wheat.”

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17**

This passage from 1 Corinthians reminds us that the Body of Christ is not simply something we receive; it is something we become. The bread and wine we share are truly the Body and Blood of Christ, and we who receive them become one body – incorporated into Christ and into each other.

**GOSPEL: John 6:51-58**

Jesus recalls the manna in the desert and invites the people to taste a new kind of food, which gives life not just from one day to the next, but life that last forever. Jesus' teaching about the Bread of Life marks a turning point in the Gospel according to John: many, including some of his disciples, cannot accept it and no longer follow him. Today's solemnity places before us the mystery of Christ's abiding presence in his Church. Are we prepared to receive this bread of everlasting life – and live what it demands of us?



## Parish Activities and Information

### THANK YOU!!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to work at this year's strawberry shortcake booth this weekend. A very special thank you to Sue Sticklin and Lisa Banik for chairing the event and ensuring its success! A financial report will be in next week's bulletin.

### DEANERY MASS CELEBRATED



The annual Deanery Mass held at the deGuzman residence, will be celebrated on Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 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)

## TIOGA COUNTY HOMELESS INITIATIVE VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED!

Pope Francis recently stated that Christian joy comes from the Holy Spirit, who gives us...the gift of bringing Jesus to our brothers and sisters.

We're looking for volunteers to cover the week of July 2nd - 8th at the shelter located on Charleston Road in Whitneyville. Shifts are from 5-9pm each evening and there are also opportunities to prepare meals for shelter guests. The shelter is also in need of some supplies for the guest; we need razors, deodorant for both men and women, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, floor cleaner, tub and bath cleaner, dish soap, scrubber, coffee, sugar, creamer, milk, and trash bags (tall kitchen bags and 55 gal bags.) For more information or to help out please contact Tara Gordon at 570-439-0006 or David Gordon at 570-439-0005!

Get Involved.

Make a Difference.

## 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 12:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. (Note the delay in the meeting date due to a church sale).

## 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.

## 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.

## FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI



This Eucharistic day, observed with such solemnity throughout the world, began in a quiet Belgian convent in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with the vision of a holy nun, St. Juliana. In her vision, she saw the moon, full and bright. It was glorious, except that one part of its disk was in shadow. The meaning of the vision was then revealed to her: the moon represented the liturgical year; the shadow, a missing feast in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. Julian spoke to her confessor about what she had seen.

Amazingly, within thirty-five years, Pope Urban IV had established the Feast of Corpus Christi, in the Church's universal calendar. Hundreds of years later, in 1849, Pope Pius IX added the Feast of the Precious Blood celebrated July 1. Following the Second Vatican Council, the two liturgies become one solemnity in honor of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Of course, we already had a day honoring the Eucharist: the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, which even includes a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. On Holy Thursday, we walk with Jesus to the Mount of Olives, to keep watch with him on the night of his betrayal. On Corpus Christi, we walk in the afterglow of Easter Time, in company with the Risen Lord.

Corpus Christi is one of the most Catholic of days, an expression of our faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. And yet, this celebration is also outward looking, carrying the liturgy out of the church and into the streets. We come together in all our diversity and we celebrate our unity.

### St. Peter's Church Vacation Bible School



### *Message Received – Hearing God's Call*

*Join us for Bible Stories, Crafts, Games and Snacks  
Open to all children ages Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade*

**Date:** Sunday, July 16th through Wednesday, July 19th

**Location:** Sunday at St. Peter's Church; Monday ~ Wednesday at Woodland Park

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

For more information contact the Religious Education office 570-724-9789 or email at [stpreled@ptd.net](mailto:stpreled@ptd.net)

----- **Registration Form – PLEASE REGISTER BY JULY 10** -----

Name/grade of each child: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or special concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate emergency contact name/phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be able to volunteer and help with Vacation Bible School? (Ages 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up are welcome to help!)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail registration to: St. Peter's Church, 47 Central Ave., Wellsboro PA. 16901  
or place in Religious Education Mailbox found outside of the office door or drop in collection basket.**

# That's The Way It Is!



This time I was reading an article at the National Catholic Reporter. Our parish got a very nice write up in the publication once about our Samaritan House. Though I strongly disagree with the theological ideology and slant of the Reporter, I still enjoy reading their

articles. This is because I like to stay fresh when it comes to what our critics are saying. I cannot effectively teach the Faith if I do not know what the critics are saying.

One particular article made me laugh. The article was written by Bill Tammeus. Bill Tammeus is a Presbyterian elder. I have corresponded with him on occasion on some of the pieces he writes for the publication. I like Bill and I respect him even if I disagree with him. His article was entitled "Maybe it's Time to Reconsider Calling Priest's Father." This made me laugh because I wondered why a Presbyterian elder cares what Catholics call their clergy. Maybe I should write an article "It's Time for Presbyterians to Rethink the Whole Congregational Governance Trustee/Elder System" I wonder if the National Catholic Reporter would run my article. I won't hold my breath.

I am sick and tired of being told by Protestants and dissident Catholics alike that the Catholic Church has to change. I am sick and tired of being told that our theology is no good, our traditions are no good, our beliefs are no good, our practices are no good, our devotions are no good, on and on it goes. If I have not been clear in the past, let me be clear now: it isn't Catholic practices, beliefs, customs, traditions, etc, that need to change. What must change are the liberal, secular, atheistic humanistic values that have infested and taken hold of Catholic and Protestants alike.

Let me be clear: it is not the Catholic Church that needs to change. It is the world that needs to change. It is the liberal, secular, atheistic humanistic values that many have allowed to influence and ruin their Faith that need to change. The Catholic Church is a light to the nations; the nations are not a light to the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church takes her cues from what God has revealed in his Holy and Inerrant Word. God does not change. That means God's Word does not change. That means our Faith is the same yesterday, today, forever. The Faith of the Church, indeed, grows, develops and deepens, but it does not change.

I already know the reply of some: "But didn't Vatican II update the theology of the Church and change things?" Yes and no. Yes, Vatican II updated some things, but the council did not change anything of substance. What Vatican II did was reform the manner in which the Church presents her teachings to the world. Vatican II updated the language of theology. The Church no longer speaks to the world in Scholastic categories. The Church has tried to

translate her theology into more modern philosophical categories. I think this has proven problematic—but that is another article. Vatican II may have changed some customs or practices, or called for changing certain customs or practices, but the council did not change any teaching of substance. Vatican II also did not define anything—thus making it unique in the history of the Church. The council was pastoral in nature, not dogmatic.

I can say this: if I didn't believe the teachings of the Church I would leave for a Church that taught what I believed. If I thought calling priests "Father" was wrong, if I supported abortion, if I thought Contraception was not sinful, if I supported gay marriage, if I supported women's ordination, if I supported a more democratically run church, if I supported divorce and remarriage, if I believed that a pastor was nothing more than a figure head in a parish or church, etc, I would leave the Catholic Church and join up with a liberal Protestant church that believes these things. Then I would live happily ever after.

What I would not do is remain Catholic and start demanding that the Catholic Church change to suit my personal whims or ideology. What I would not do is remain Catholic and demand that the Church become something she can never, ever become. What I would not do is remain Catholic and demand that the Church adopt teachings and beliefs that she can never adopt.

I am Catholic for one reason and one reason only: because I believe that the Church of Christ subsists in the Catholic Church, I believe her teachings are true, I love her teachings and I believe she got it right. I will defend the Truth of the Catholic Faith, if God permits by his Grace, until the day I die. I promise you that. If I didn't believe that I would have left a long time ago! I fully expect that you the parishioners would have it no other way. You have the right to expect that your pastor believe, teach and defend the Truth of the Catholic Faith. When priests do not teach, belief or profess what the Church teaches, believes or professes they do great spiritual harm to their people, and they violate the rights of the faithful.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

## Stewardship

Sunday Collection for June 11<sup>th</sup>: \$4,360.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,990.00

Difference: (\$1,630.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$5,551.18)

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

Everyone's existence is tied to that of others: life is not time merely passing by, life is about interactions. Pope Francis

## 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.

## Pro Life News

### PRIESTS FOR LIFE

*The Eucharist and Unity* - Imagine a person who receives Communion, accepts the Host when the priest says, "The Body of Christ," says "Amen," and then breaks off a piece, hands it back, and says, "Except this piece, Father!" This is what the person who rejects other people may as well do. In receiving Christ, we are to receive the whole Christ, in all his members, our brothers and sisters, whether convenient or inconvenient, wanted or unwanted, born or unborn.

As St. John remarks, Christ was to die "to gather into one all the scattered children of God." Sin scatters. Christ unites. The word "diabolical" means "to split asunder." Christ came "to destroy the works of the devil" (1Jn.3:8). The Eucharist builds up the human family in Christ who says, "Come to me, feed on My Body, become My Body." Abortion, in a reverse dynamic, says, "Go away! We have no room for you, no time for you, no desire for you, no responsibility for you. Get out of our way!" Abortion attacks the unity of the human family by splitting asunder the most fundamental relationship between any two persons: mother and child. The Eucharist, as a Sacrament of Unity, reverses the dynamic of abortion.

### FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM



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.

“The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth.” Mother Teresa

## Dioceses of Scranton News

### ONLINE SURVEY TO PARTNER WITH FRANCIS

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](http://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

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](http://www.scrantonvocations.org). For more information, call 570-207-1452.

Donors, Golfers, Sponsors		The Eighth Annual <b>VOCATIONS</b> Golf Classic   2017		
	<b>MONDAY JULY 10, 2017</b> Blue Ridge Trail Club Mountain Top		11:00 a.m. Lunch 12 p.m. Start Awards Dinner Following	
	Donate or Register by Credit Card or Check			
■ Online: <a href="http://www.DioceseofScranton.org">www.DioceseofScranton.org</a> under "Giving" Tab		■ Call 570-207-2250 for a brochure or		
■ On Your Mobile Phone: Text 51-555 and type Priest		■ Complete the form below and mail to: Diocese of Scranton Development Office 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503		
<b>ALL DONATIONS &amp; MEMORIAL GIFTS WELCOME. DONORS LISTED BY CATEGORY ON THE COURSE, IN THE PROGRAM AND IN THE CATHOLIC LIGHT</b>				
Name		Phone		
Address				
City		State	Zip	
Donation made in Memory of _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Hole \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Donor: \$_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Flag \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> Archangel \$2,500 & <input type="checkbox"/> Angel \$1,250 - Both Include 4 Golfers Please make checks payable to Diocese of Scranton "Vocations Endowment."				



# News from the Vatican



## WHAT IS CHRISTIAN WITNESS? BEING SALT & LIGHT

The Holy Father focused on Christ's call to all the faithful to be salt and light in and for the world. "This is what it is to be Christian: to illumine, to be of help in seeing that both the message and people are not corrupted – to preserve as salt does; but, if the light is hidden, if the salt becomes tasteless, without strength – if it weakens – the testimony will be weak."

The proclamation of the Gospel, the Pope said, is "decisive," noting there are no "shades" to saying "yes" or "no" to the Gospel. Any attempt to offer a "nuanced" response to the Gospel, he said, will "lead you to seek artificial safety."

The three words of "yes," "salt," and "light," as proposed in St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, the Holy Father stressed, "indicate the power of the Gospel that leads to witnessing and even glorifying God." In this "yes," the Jesuit Pope highlighted, we find "all the words of God in Jesus, all the promises of God." In Jesus, he continued, "everything that has been promised is fulfilled. For this reason, He is the fullness." "In Jesus, there is no 'no': always 'yes,' for the glory of the Father. But we too share this 'yes' of Jesus, because He has given us the anointing, He has imprinted on us the Seal, has given us the 'security deposit' of the Spirit. The Spirit that will bring us to the definitive 'Yes,' and also to our own fullness.

That same Spirit, he reminded, will help us to become light and salt, that is to say, it is the Spirit that leads us to give Christian witness." "Everything is positive," said the Pope, "and that Christian witness" is "salt and light." Noting that light is meant to illuminate, the Pope stressed that, "anyone who hides the light gives counter-testimony." "These then have the light, but do not give it, do not make it to shine forth – and if they do not allow the light they have to shine forth, they do not glorify the Father who is in heaven."

Other than decisive words 'yes' and 'no', as the Lord has taught us, the Holy Father stressed, "anything extra comes from the Evil One." Decisiveness is, "this attitude of security and testimony," he added, noting that the Lord has entrusted to the Church and to all of us baptized." "Security in the fullness of promises in Christ: in Christ, everything is accomplished." "If we do not accept the 'yes' in Jesus Christ," the Pope stressed, "this happens, and therefore, we must be decisive, be hopeful and say yes."

He then called on those present to ask themselves a series of questions: "Am I light for others? Am I salt for others – that salt, which insists on life and defends it from corruption?" "Do I cling to Jesus Christ, who is the 'yes'?" "Do I feel anointed, sealed?" "Do I know that I have the security that will be full in Heaven, but at least the Holy Spirit is with me now as a 'down payment.'"

Commonly, Pope Francis observed, "When a person is full of light, we say that person is 'of a sunny disposition.'" Noting what we observe is more than a 'disposition,' Francis stressed: "This is the reflection of the Father in Jesus in whom all promises are fulfilled." When one glorifies God with his life, the Christian is "sunny," he stressed, reminding: "Jesus said to the disciples, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. Thus, is the Christian's life."

Pope Francis concluded, saying, "Let us ask this grace "to cling, to be rooted in the fullness of the promises in Christ Jesus who is the 'yes,' totally 'yes', and to bring this fullness with the salt and light of our testimony to others to give Glory to the Father who is in heaven."

## POPE FRANCIS' JUNE PRAYER INTENTIONS

- *Prayer Intention* – **National Leaders:** That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.
- *Urgent Intention* – **Peace and Healing:** May the Holy Spirit grant peace to the entire world. May He heal the wounds of war and terrorism, which most recently struck innocent civilians in London. Let us pray for the victims and their families.

## Family Night Out! For Parents and Youth 10-14

### Help You & Your Youth Prepare for the Teen Years!

*A Free, Fun Opportunity to Strengthen Family Communication & Promote Family Bonding!*

#### Join Us For:

- **Fun** Family Games and Activities
- **Weekly Prizes** and a Graduation Gift
- **A Free** Family Meal
- **Interaction** With Other Parents
- **Free** Childcare
- **Engaging** and Interactive Youth Activities
- **Free** Transportation Available



**HELPING TEENS TO  
HAVE A GREAT FUTURE!**

### Youth will learn about and practice:











- ☐ Making good decisions and setting goals
- ☐ Empathy and appreciation of parents/caregivers
- ☐ Coping with stress

### Build on Your Family's Strengths!

**Tuesday's starting July 11<sup>th</sup> to August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at the United Methodist Church, Wellsboro 5:00-7:30pm**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL Call 570-723-0520**

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 <p>U-Haul® Dealer Since 2011</p> <p><a href="http://uhaul.com">uhaul.com</a></p> <p>Ken Mitchell Mitchell's Carquest Auto Parts</p> <p>688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933 Business: (570) 662-2534 <a href="http://www.mitchellcarquest.com">www.mitchellcarquest.com</a></p> 	<p><i>Priesthood</i></p> <p>A Call Worth Answering</p> <p>†</p> <p>A Commitment Worth Making</p> <p><a href="http://www.scrantonvocations.com">www.scrantonvocations.com</a></p>	<p><b>A Gift in Your Will</b></p> <p>We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attorney:</p> <p><i>"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."</i></p>

## Parish Prayer List



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, 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 Mommicco, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Gloria Fermenic, Everett Dean Brown, Marlene Olin, Roberta Mahar, James Quimby, Francis Dy, and Bud Boyce.



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

*Robert Baker*

*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.*