



# 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 – [stpried@ptd.net](mailto:stpried@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.

***The 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time***  
***August 20, 2017***

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS**

DEAR GOD,  
 THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF  
 EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.  
 AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR  
 MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,  
 MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND  
 MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.  
 I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE  
 THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM  
 AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.  
 MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY  
 KNOWING THAT NO MATTER  
 WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,  
 THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.  
 AMEN

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR TEACHERS**

DEAR GOD,  
 THANK YOU FOR THE AMAZING TEACHERS  
 WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES  
 TO SERVE OUR CHILDREN.  
 AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE NEW YEAR,  
 FILL THEM WITH STRENGTH TO LEAD,  
 GRACE TO GUIDE AND HOPE TO THRIVE  
 IN THEIR CLASSROOM.  
 BLESS THEM BEYOND MEASURE  
 FOR THEIR WILLINGNESS  
 TO POUR INTO THE NEXT  
 GENERATION THROUGH EDUCATION. AMEN

### **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 worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

### **Request for Parishioner Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### **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 8/21</b> <i>Jgs 2:11-19; Mt 19:16-22</i>	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 8/22</b> <i>Jgs 6:11-24; Mt 19:23-30</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Cindy Dalton (Norb & Nona Josten)
<b>Wednesday 8/23</b> <i>Jgs 9:6:15; Mt 20:1-16</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of George & Helen Pryslak (Wayne & Sue Singer)
<b>Thursday 8/24</b> <i>Rv 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Edward Nonnenmacher (Ostapowicz Family)
<b>Friday 8/25</b> <i>Ru 1:1,3-6,14-16,22; Mt 22:34-40</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Stanley Banik (Steve, Lisa, & Alexis Banik)
<b>Saturday 8/26</b> <i>Ru 2:1-3,8-11,4:13-17; Mt 23:1-12</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of the Brown & Tarszowicz Family (Gina Brown)
<b>Sunday 8/27</b> <i>Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Jeffery Roberto (Grab Family)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of  
Christopher Arena (Family)

## The Week Ahead

### TUESDAY, August 22, 2017

Eucharistic Adoration – 8:00am – 7:00pm

Staff Meeting – 8:30am, Rectory

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### THURSDAY, August 24, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

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

### SATURDAY, August 26, 2017

ChristLife Team Training – 8:00am-4:00pm, Parish Center

### SUNDAY, August 27, 2017

Parish Brunch – 9:30am, Parish Center

Religious Ed. Teacher Meeting – 6:30pm, Parish Center

## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: ***Creamy Peanut Butter and Grape Jelly***. Please place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church.

## GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS

This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: ***Lip Balm, Eye Drops, Sunscreen, Bug Repellent, Trail Mix, Sunflower Seeds, Beef Jerky & 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

### August 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>

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

Servers: A.Banik, X.Tellgren, J.Grab

Lectors: T.Sampson, K.Tellgren

E. Min.: G.Brown, B.Brown, E.Evert, B.Butler

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

Servers: K.Swendrowski, A.Swendrowski, W.Feil

Lectors: H.Sampson, M.Sampson

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

## 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

The 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

God invites all people to come and share in the promises made to Israel. Not only the Jewish people, but everyone is invited to keep the covenant and enter God's house, which is open not to a single tribe, but to all people. Isaiah's visions should be our vision for our churches: God's house is "a house of prayer for all peoples."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 67

Psalm 67 calls upon all the nations to praise God, who is king over all peoples and nations.

### SECOND READING: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Paul continues his reflection on the Jewish people – his people. He knows that Christ is the source of salvation; and he knows that God's promises are "irrevocable." Not all accept Christ, or turn towards him; but God desires to "have mercy upon all." God's plan unfolds according to his will, and not ours.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28



The theme of insiders and outsiders appears in all today's readings. In the Gospel, a Canaanite woman – and outsider, part of a nation who were long enemies of Jews – approaches Jesus to beg healing for her daughter.

The disciples try to send her away, but she stubbornly refuses to go. Even when Jesus tells her that he has come for Israel only, she keeps asking for what she needs, and Jesus grants it. Both her words and actions show a greatness of faith that stands in sharp contrast with the littleness of faith that Jesus' own disciples have shown (see Matthew 8:26). What started out as a rejection, culminates in the healing of her daughter. Jesus' insistence that he came for the lost sheep of Israel does not mean that Gentiles who come in faith will be excluded. Jesus' love and compassion has no boundaries.

### August - The Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary takes place on the day after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, usually in June, but in this month when we celebrate Mary's Assumption (August 15<sup>th</sup>) and her Coronation or Queenship (August 22<sup>nd</sup>), we also give honor to her Immaculate Heart. There are many prayers to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Here is one short enough to memorize and pray every day during this special month: *O Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, obtain for me from Jesus a pure and humble heart.*

## Parish Activities and Information

### REGISTER NOW FOR RELIGIOUS ED



Registration information has been mailed to all returning students. Please fill out the registration form and return by September 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have a new student or did not receive the mailed information, please call or email the Religious Education office and information will be mailed to you.

### COMING IN SEPTEMBER FOR KIDS



St Peter's Music Ministry is forming a young musicians group to help with music at Mass this year. To find out more, call Mrs. Christina Simonis at 570-724-2085.

### JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH BRUNCH!

Mark your calendars for August 27<sup>th</sup>, the date of our parish get-together. We are trying something new this year – a dish-to-pass brunch, following the 8:30am Mass. The parish will provide pancakes, sausage, and drinks. Parishioners are asked to bring a breakfast/brunch type dish to pass. For planning purposes, a signup sheet can be found on the handout table.



### 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 about this ministry, please join us for our next meeting, September 10<sup>th</sup>, following the 8:30am Mass, in front of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call Jan Bernethy at 307-267-0677. Also if anyone is in need of a shawl, please let the ministry know.

### SIGN UP TO BE 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 signup 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.

### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for August 13<sup>th</sup>: \$6,771.51\*

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: \$1,021.51

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$2,219.55)

\* Includes Collection for Assumption of \$1,073.50

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



## **SCHEDULING 2018 MASS INTENTIONS**

Scheduling Mass intentions for 2018 will begin on September 1<sup>st</sup>, through the parish office, during regular business hours. **Due to the change in our Mass Schedule, we have established new guidelines for scheduling intentions:**

1. One weekend Mass on each weekend must be celebrated for the intentions of the parish. This is required by Canon Law (c. 534). Because of this we only have one weekend Mass for which we can accept an intention. Due to this limited availability of weekend Masses, no family may schedule more than ONE WEEKEND MASS PER QUARTER, or four weekend Masses per year.
2. There is no limit to the number of DAILY MASS INTENTIONS, including those Masses said at the nursing homes each month, which may be scheduled by each family.
3. Canon 948 states, "Separate Masses are to be applied for the intentions of those for whom a single offering, although small, has been given and accepted." Therefore, only one intention may be scheduled for any given Mass. However, for pastoral concerns to better accommodate the needs of the parishioners, we will adhere to the following: Up to three first names with the same last name (i.e. John, Paul and Mary Smith) or two last names only (i.e. Scott and Smith Families) will be allowed per intention.
4. The stipend given for a Mass intention is \$10. While we are willing to take requests over the phone, your Mass Intention will be not be scheduled until we are in receipt of your donation.
5. Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and All Souls Day Masses are always for the individual intentions listed by parishioners on their envelope.
6. The Sanctuary Candle, burning in memory or honor of someone, is available on a weekly basis with no limit to the number each family may reserve.

## **THE COMMUNITY OF THE SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES OPENING FOR INQUIRIES**

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites are Catholic men and women 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 through our charisma of prayer and to share God with others. Our local group meets at 12:30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at St. Peters. 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. For information contact Dolores Kostovick, 570-659-5320.

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## **Neighboring Parish News**

### **HOLY CHILD PARISH DINNER**

On Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am -2:00pm, Holy Child Parish will offer a Roast Beef Dinner at St. Mary's church in Blossburg. There will also be a cash raffle and basket raffle. The cost of the dinner is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Come out and enjoy a great meal, while supporting Holy Child Parish.

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## **Dioceses of Scranton News**

### **SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in over 20 countries with pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week.

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## **Pro Life News**

### **PRIESTS FOR LIFE**

Catholic means "universal." Everyone is called to salvation in Christ; everyone is called to his house of prayer, his Church, his family. The Church, at her core is missionary, and all her efforts are geared toward an ever-wider expansion and growth, that she may embrace every human being.

This universality, reflected in all of today's readings, is rooted ultimately in the meaning of the Incarnation itself. "By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being" (Vatican II, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes*, 22). This reality raises the dignity of human life beyond what it already had as God's creation in his own image, and is also the basis for the urgency of the task to announce the Gospel to all people, that they may know the meaning and promise of the dignity they have.

"The gifts and the call of God are irrevocable," as today's second reading tells us. That is why the Church is pro-life, and why, as Paul VI declared in *Humanae Vitae* and John Paul II repeated in *Evangelium Vitae*, "this tradition is unchanged and unchangeable" (EV 62). Our stance in favor of life, and in defense of life, does not spring from us, or from some inclination we have toward a particular philosophy, ideology, or political platform. It is based, rather, in "the gifts and the call of God," which "are irrevocable" and universal. He has chosen to create and redeem us, and reserve a place for us on his throne. His choice is what makes human life sacred, and is the basis for our choices.

Today's readings, therefore, provide a foundation for a strong affirmation of the essential and integral pro-life stance of the Church, of its meaning and origin, and of the need for that pro-life witness to be given to the whole world and to every culture and subculture.

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## That's The Way It Is!



As a priest, assisting people who have begun the dying process and their families is a natural part of my ministry. What has surprised me is how little people know or understand about doctors, hospitals, treatments, surgery, medicine, the dying

process, grief and death. For example: I have worked with families who become incensed when a doctor suggests that they consider making their loved one a DNR. "DNR" stands for "do not resuscitate." That means if the person stops breathing, the person will be allowed to die. No heroic measures will be taken to save the person. The family feels like the doctor is giving up and does not care.

In actuality, the doctor cares deeply about the patient. That is why the doctor is recommending DNR status. I need to point out that what you see on TV in regards to CPR is not at all realistic. CPR is far more involved, and far harder on a patient than TV suggests. CPR is not the miracle TV portrays it to be. Doctors understand this. That would be why they might recommend DNR status for a person. In order to do CPR, a person's ribs have to be broken so doctors can pound on their chest and force the heart to beat. The person also needs to be electrocuted in the hopes of starting the heart. This leads to burns on a patient's body. A patient who is frail, near death, elderly, etc, might experience more harm than good from such a harsh process, especially when they have little to no hope of real recovery.

Most of us will probably have to face decisions about the healthcare of our loved ones if we have not already done so. What is useful to keep in mind if and when we have to face these tough decisions is that it is not about us. It is about our loved one and what is best for them. I have found in my ministry that people can allow their grief to cloud their better judgment about what is best for their loved one. The doctor may be recommending comfort care or hospice, DNR status, etc, but people are hearing that through their grief. They are not ready to let go of their loved one and allow them to die.

I worked as a hospital chaplain before I became a priest. I remember an emergency call. I remember it like yesterday. The day was Saturday June 15, 2002. The call came in the afternoon. I was 24 at the time. It was my first time on call and the second of four emergency calls I would receive that day. A patient wanted to stop treatment and be allowed to pass away. The treatment was futile and the patient knew that. Their loved ones, however, had a difficult time accepting that; the nurses, not certain how to handle the situation, called for the chaplain. Being young and inexperienced, I didn't know any better than the nurses what to do, and I was more nervous than they were.

My ministry involved trying to get the patient to see the wants and desires of the family. What can I say? I was

young and inexperienced. Now, I know better. Today, I would not handle the situation like that. Because I understand the dynamics of grief and guilt, I now know the family was struggling with their grief at the realization that their loved one was ready to pass away. Today, my ministry would be geared towards assisting the family to process their grief, deal with their feelings of guilt and accept that their loved one is ready to pass away. I would try to help them realize that the best help and gift they could give their loved one is their presence while they died. The best gift they could give their loved one is their love and support while their loved one went through the dying process.

My point in writing this week is that death, dying, medical decisions, end of life issues are all things no one wants to think about. People also do not realize that medicine is not an exact science. Despite medical advances and all the technology we have at our disposal, the practice of medicine is still quite primitive. We have come a long way since the days of bloodletting but we still have a long way to go. Star Trek type medicine remains a dream. It helps to be aware of end of life issues. It helps for loved ones to talk about these things and make sure their wishes are known, who is to make decisions, where the important papers are, who needs to be called, etc. Anyone who has been through this process knows how much stress is involved and how difficult it can be to make decisions. The more prepared one is, the less one will have to make decisions and the more one will be able to focus on being present to their loved one and other family.

It may be helpful for people to know that as hard as it is to let a loved one go, whatever medical decisions that get made should always have the best interests of the loved one at heart. It is about the needs of the loved one, not the needs or wants of the family. This is to say that it is very difficult to decide to pull life support and allow a loved one to pass away—but—as hard as that is, if it is in the best interest of the loved one, it is the right decision. If decisions are made to continue life support and those decisions are based on family desires or family grief, they may help to assuage the feelings of loss and guilt, but they may not help the loved one.

In my ministry I have realized that many people simply do not think about these issues, and they do not talk about them. Because of this, a naturally difficult time is made even more difficult for people. I highly recommend you have conversations with your loved ones about these issues in order that you are prepared. You can't prepare yourself for the death of a loved one. I am not suggesting that. What you can do, through talking about this, is ensure that when the time comes, you can be more present to your loved one and their needs. In this way, you will be better equipped to face your grief and go through the process.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

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## News from the Vatican



### THE IMPORTANCE OF SOLID FAITH

*Faith Is Not An Easy Way Out of the Problems of Life, but Supports Us on the Way and Gives It Meaning.*

The Gospel reading of Matthew 14:22-33 describes the episode of Jesus, who after having prayed all night on the shore of Lake Galilee, went towards His disciples' boat, walking on the water. The boat was in the middle of the Lake, blocked by a strong adverse wind. When they saw Jesus walking on the water, the disciples thought he was a ghost and got scared. But He reassured them: "Take heart, it is I, have no fear!" (v. 27). Peter, with his usual intrepidity, said to Him: "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water": and Jesus called him "Come!" (vv. 28-29). Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus; however, because of the wind, he was afraid and began to sink. Then he cried out: "Lord, save me!" and Jesus reached out His hand and caught him (vv. 30-31).

This story has a rich symbolism and it makes us reflect on our faith, be it as individuals, by it as ecclesial community, also the faith of all of us that are here today in the Square. Does the community, this ecclesial community, have faith? How is the faith of each one of us and the faith of our community? The boat is the life of each one of us and also the life of the Church. The adverse wind represents our difficulties and trials. Peter's invocation: "Lord, bid me come to you!" and his cry: "Lord, save me!", is so much like our desire to feel the Lord's closeness, but also the fear and anguish that accompany the hardest moments of our life and of our communities, marked by internal fragility and external difficulties.

For Peter, at that moment, Jesus' sure word wasn't enough, which was like a tightrope that he could grip to face the hostile and turbulent water. It's what can also happen to us. When one doesn't grip the Lord's word, and to have greater security, one consults horoscopes and fortune-tellers, one begins to go down. It means that faith isn't that strong. Today's Gospel reminds us that faith in the Lord and in his word doesn't open a way for us where everything is easy and tranquil; it doesn't subtract us from life's storms. Faith gives us the certainty of a Presence, the presence of Jesus that drives us to overcome the existential storms, the certainty of a hand that grips us to help us face the difficulties, pointing out the way to us also when it's dark. In sum, faith isn't an easy way out of life's problems, but it supports us on the way and gives it meaning.

This episode is a stupendous image of the reality of the Church of all times: a boat that, along the crossing must also face adverse winds and storms, which threaten to sink it. What saves it is not the courage and quality of its men: the guarantee against shipwreck is faith in Christ and in His

word. In this boat we are safe, despite our miseries and weaknesses, especially when we kneel and adore the Lord, like the disciples that, at the end, "prostrated themselves before Him, saying: "Truly you are the Son of God!" (v. 33). How beautiful it is to say this word to Jesus: "Truly you are the Son of God!" Shall we all say it together? "Truly you are the Son of God!"

May the Virgin Mary help us to remain firm in the faith to resist the storms of life, to stay in the boat of the Church, eschewing the temptation to go up on the spellbinding but insecure boats of ideologies, fashions and slogans.

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### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, join Pope Francis and Catholics across the globe praying for our common home.

#### *Prayer To Care For Our Common Home*

*Father of all, Creator and ruler of the universe,*

*You entrusted your world to us as a gift.*

*Help us to care for it and all people,*

*that we may live in right relationship--*

*with You, with ourselves, with one another,*

*and with creation.*

*Christ our Lord, both divine and human,*

*You lived among us and died for our sins.*

*Help us to imitate your love for the human family*

*by recognizing that we are all connected—*

*to our brothers and sisters around the world,*

*to those in poverty impacted by environmental devastation,*

*and to future generations.*

*Holy Spirit, giver of wisdom and love,*

*You breathe life in us and guide us.*

*Help us to live according to your vision,*

*stirring to action the hearts of all—*

*individuals and families, communities of faith,*

*and civil and political leaders.*

*Triune God, help us to hear the cry of those in poverty,*

*and the cry of the earth, so that we may together care*

*for our common home. Amen.*

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### POPE FRANCIS ON TWITTER - @Pontifex

*Aug 17* - May nothing stop you from living and growing in your Heavenly Father's friendship, and from witnessing to His infinite goodness and mercy.

*Aug 14* - The journey of entrusting ourselves to the Lord begins every day, starting each morning.

*Aug 11* - When something makes us suffer, let us listen to the voice of Jesus in our hearts: "Do not fear! Go ahead! I am with you!"

What gives ultimate meaning and purpose to life?

Why does *Jesus* matter?

How can I begin a better life?

*Tired of just fishing for answers?*

## Discovering Christ

Join us for this exciting new 7-session series where we gather to share a delicious dinner, listen to a dynamic teaching, and explore answers to some of the most important questions worth asking about God and finding ultimate purpose in life.

**Wednesday evenings, September 13<sup>th</sup> – October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**With a life-changing retreat on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

**All sessions from 6:30-9:00 PM St. Peter's Parish Center, Wellsboro, PA**

Dinner and program offered at no cost.

Registration is limited to first 50 parishioners to register.

For more information on this course visit the *ChristLife* website [christlife.org](http://christlife.org), or call Norb Josten at 570-724-9095

To register, fill out and send bottom portion of this form to: *St. Peter's Rectory, 47 Central Ave, Wellsboro, PA 16901*

Or email [stpadmin@ptd.net](mailto:stpadmin@ptd.net). Registration closes Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

- - - - - Registration form - - - - -

### Discovering Christ

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph #: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (other) \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions? (vegetarian, gluten allergy, etc) \_\_\_\_\_



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 <p><b>MITCHELL'S CARQUEST AUTO PARTS</b> FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1950</p> <p><a href="mailto:kenneth@mitchellcarquest.com">kenneth@mitchellcarquest.com</a> 688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933 T 570.662.2277 F 570.662.1078</p> <p>Kenneth Mitchell Owner</p> 	 <p><b>You are more than a Girl Scout. You're a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader).</b></p> <p>We believe there's no such thing as too much. We are G.I.R.L.s. We will not stop. In fact, we're just getting started. Interested in joining Girl Scouts as a girl or volunteer? Contact Misty-Jo Osborn at <a href="mailto:mosborn@gsnypenn.org">mosborn@gsnypenn.org</a> or 607-796-6202 ext 2526</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, 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, 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, Larry Mommico, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Gloria Fermenic, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, James Quimby, Francis Dy, Bud Boyce, Mary Lou Bonk, Clare Vargas, and Marian Coolidge.



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

*Gayle Patkos, Paul Min Lin*

*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.*