



# 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.

*The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*August 27, 2017*

**GOD ALWAYS HAS SOMETHING  
 FOR YOU, A KEY FOR EVERY PROBLEM, A  
 LIGHT FOR EVERY SHADOW, A RELIEF FOR  
 EVERY SORROW AND A PLAN FOR  
 EVERY TOMORROW.**

## **Mission Statement**

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

## **Pregnancy Support**

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310  
 Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS  
 Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

## **Welcome to St. Peter's Church!**

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

## **Request for Parishioner Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## **Emergency Contact**

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

## **Parish Contact Listing**

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360  
 St. John Neumann's Prayer Group – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085  
 Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047  
 Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023  
 Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216  
 Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175  
 Parish Rummage Sale – Mary Lasko 570-439-7706  
 Mary Beth Sampson 570-724-2953  
 Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360  
 Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591  
 Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529  
 Fundraising Dinners – Tara Gordon 570-439-0006  
 Paul Urner 570-723-9970  
 Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,  
 Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427  
 Samaritan House – Daria Guelig 570-724-3030  
 Youth Group – Maureen Poirier/ Melissa Mann 570-724-9789  
 Eucharistic Adoration – Mary Cleveland 570-724-5286  
 Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056  
 Parish Council – Rectory 570-724-3371  
 Worship Committee – Rectory 570- 724-3371  
 Sunday Nursing Home Communion – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470  
 Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047  
 Order of Secular Carmelite – Lori Makos 570-724-3371  
 ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095  
 Prayer Shawl Ministry - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

## **Religious Education and Formation**

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 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 8/28</b> <i>1 Thes 1:1-5, 8-10; Mt 23:13-22</i>	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 8/29</b> <i>1 Thes 2:1-8; Mk 6:17-29</i>	7:30am	In Memory of William Goltz (Ostapowicz Family)
<b>Wednesday 8/30</b> <i>1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Honor of Josefa & Anthony Dunkel (Steve, Lisa, & Alexis Banik)
<b>Thursday 8/31</b> <i>1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Vicente Bofill (Lourdes)
<b>Friday 9/1</b> <i>1 Thes 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Lana Bennett (Gina Brown)
<b>Saturday 9/2</b> <i>1 Thes 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Tom Sticklin (Family)
<b>Sunday 9/3</b> <i>Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Richard Dunkel (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of  
**Constance Krueger** (Samaritan House Volunteers)

## The Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, August 27, 2017

Parish Brunch – 9:30am, Parish Center

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

### MONDAY, August 28, 2017

Knights of Columbus Meeting – 7:00pm, Parish Center

### TUESDAY, August 29, 2017

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

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### THURSDAY, August 31, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

St. John Neumann Group – 7:00pm, 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

### September 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>

#### 5:00pm

Servers: A.Banik, L.Gordon, A.Dunkel

Lectors: C.Evert, D.Gordon

E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, D.Sherman, C.Lannak, E.Evert

#### 8:30am

Servers: M.Ingerick, J.Lubera, L.Germino

Lectors: P.Kramer, R.Kramer

E. Min.: M.Bialas, M.Stirnaman, N.Ostpowicz, T.Gamble

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19-23**

The First Reading describes the transfer of authority as Shebna is removed from his high post, master of the palace, and a new leader, Eliakim, put in his place and invested with all his power. God is the giver of authority. According to the Second Book of Kings (22:8), Eliakim's father Hilkiah had brought honor to his family by finding a copy of the book of the Law that was the impetus for reforms instituted by King Josiah. Now Eliakim has the opportunity to bring further honor by acting as a wise father, a careful guardian, and a living symbol of stability.

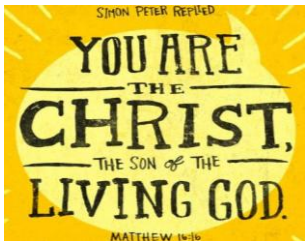
**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 138**

In Psalm 138, we ask God to be involved in our lives, to stay with his creation and continue to bless "the work of your hands."

**SECOND READING: Romans 11:33-36**

This wonderful meditation on the mystery of God concludes the sequence of reading we have heard about the Jewish people. Faced with the reality that most of his Jewish kindred have not accepted Jesus, Paul utilizes his own experience and education in creating a solution to this painful situation. After all his complicated explanations, Paul seemed to realize that his arguments couldn't answer all his questions; the mystery of God's saving plan is beyond human comprehension. We can only wonder and trust in the wisdom of God. Having exhausted his capacity to provide a cogent explanation to the Jewish people about God's plan of salvation, Paul shifts to give praise and glory to God. Ultimately, it is not logical explanation of the great mysteries, but lived participation in them, enhanced by prayer, that is most important for Paul and for all who believe in Jesus.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20**



Who is Jesus? Answers to this question are woven throughout the Gospel accounts, inspiring all who hear the story to answer questions for themselves. When Jesus asks his disciples how they would answer the question,

Simon Peter speaks for the group – Jesus is the Christ, the long awaited Messiah. Jesus praises Peter, calling him blessed and the recipient of God's revelation. In the First Reading God chose Eliakim as a leader for his people. Here, Jesus chooses Peter. Peter is chosen not because of his leadership potential – just two Sundays ago, our reading showed us a Peter who boldly stepped out onto the sea, but whose confidence quickly faded at the sight of the waves. Rather, Peter is chosen because he has learned to listen to the voice of God – for it is through God that Peter is able to recognize Jesus as the Christ. Peter is called the "rock," but the strength of the Church built upon him does not come from Peter, but rather from God.

## Parish Activities and Information

**JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH BRUNCH!**

Please join us TODAY, August 27<sup>th</sup>, for our parish brunch, following the 8:30am Mass. All are welcome!



**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.

**RELIGIOUS ED KICK-OFF SUNDAY**

Mark your calendars. Catechetical Sunday is September 17<sup>th</sup> and will be the first class for students in grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Following the 8:30am Mass, students will report to their classrooms and a short parent meeting will be held in the church. At the conclusion of the parent meeting, we will be joined by the students to kick off the year with donuts and coffee/juice on the lawn for everyone.



**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.

**INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church. It begins with a period of inquiry in which you may ask questions before you make a commitment to become Catholic.

An informational meeting will take place on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am following the 8:30am Mass, in the Church. Please call the Rectory to register for more information.



**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.



## Stewardship

Sunday Collection for August 20<sup>th</sup>: \$4,741.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: (\$1,009.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$3,228.55)

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

### 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.

### 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.

### FALL RUMMAGE SALE

St. Peter's annual Fall Rummage Sale will be held October 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Center. When you are fall cleaning, please consider donating household items, books, and clothing to the sale. The schedule for the sale is as follows:

October 1<sup>st</sup> – Donations accepted 12:00 – 3:00pm

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Set up & Donations accepted 8:00am – 5:00pm

October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sale Hours 8:00am – 6:00pm

October 4<sup>th</sup> – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm

October 5<sup>th</sup> – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm



**Take what you want for a donation on October 5<sup>th</sup>!**

No Early Sales! Please, no donations of televisions.

**Bake Sale** – We will be selling homemade baked goods during the sale. *Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated* and can be dropped off at the Parish Center on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> during the hours above.

**Volunteers Needed** – We are in need of volunteers for the sale. Can you give an hour, half a day, or a full day? It's a great way to meet new people.

Any questions about donations or volunteering, call Mary Lasko 570-439-7706 or MaryBeth Sampson 570-72-2953.

### SECULAR ORDER 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 those interested to pray for discernment as our community will open for inquiries at our October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. For information contact Dolores Kostovick, 570-659-5320.

### DISCOVERING CHRIST

Join us for this new 7-session series where we gather to share a meal, listen to a dynamic teaching, and explore answers to some of the important questions worth asking about God and finding ultimate purpose in life. Wednesday evenings, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-9:00pm in the Parish Center, with a retreat on Sat., Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration is limited to first 50. For more information visit the ChristLife website [christlife.org](http://christlife.org), or call Norb Josten at 570-724-9095. To register, fill out and send form to: St. Peter's Rectory, 47 Central Ave or email [stpadm@ptd.net](mailto:stpadm@ptd.net). Registration closes Monday., Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### Registration Form - Discovering Christ

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

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

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

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

Dietary restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

## That's The Way It Is!



A Catholic nun asked the following of House Speaker Paul Ryan at some kind of town hall event: “Good evening, Mr. Speaker. I know that you're Catholic, as am I, and it seems to me that most of the Republicans in the Congress are not willing

to stand with the poor and working class as evidenced in the recent debates about health care and the anticipated tax reform. So I'd like to ask you how you see yourself upholding the church's social teaching that has the idea that God is always on the side of the poor and dispossessed, as should we be.”

Speaker Ryan replied: “Sister, you may -- this may come as a surprise to you, but I completely agree with you. Where we may disagree is on how to achieve that goal. As you know, we all exercise prudential judgment in practicing our faith. And for me, the preferential option for the poor, which is something that's a key tenet of Catholic faith, that means upward mobility, that means economic growth, that means equality of opportunity. That to me means working with this guy over here at Gateway Tech to make sure that we can close the skills gap, to make sure that every person who wants a career and job can get the benefits.” (Emphasis mine)

There is a lot of confusion on Church teaching regarding this issue. Speaker Ryan actually gave an informed and thoughtful answer in terms of Catholic teaching regarding the issue. Speaker Ryan used a term that most Catholics would not be familiar with. This suggests that he might have expected her question and was advised by a Catholic moral theologian. The term was “prudential judgment”

Prudential judgment refers to the application of general moral principles to particular cases in order to achieve good and avoid evil. This term is contrasted with another term you have heard me talk about: intrinsic moral evils. An intrinsic moral evil is something that is always and everywhere morally evil. There is no circumstance, time or place when there can be a moral justification for the action. Abortion is an example of something that is an intrinsic moral evil. There is never a time when a direct abortion is morally justifiable. The death penalty is an example of something that is a prudential judgment. This is because there are times when the use of the death penalty can be morally justifiable. Catholics can be at odds with the bishops on matters of prudential judgments yet remain in good standing with the Church. Catholics cannot be at odds with the bishops on matters that are intrinsic moral evils.

That we must help the poor, care for the poor, have a preferential option for the poor is not a prudential judgment. All Catholics are bound under pain of sin to believe that we all have an obligation to care for the poor. Paul Ryan's answer indicates he is aware of this: “Sister, you may—this may come as a surprise to you, but I completely agree with you. Where we may disagree is on how to achieve that goal.” The disagreement with the Catholic sister is not on Church teaching regarding the

poor. The disagreement is on how best to apply the teaching—thus making it a matter of prudential judgment.

To believe that we have no obligation to the poor would put a person at odds with the Catholic Faith. If Speaker Ryan had said something like “Sister, I respectfully disagree with you. I do not believe that Catholic teaching requires me to care for the poor” he would be at odds with Catholic teaching and his Catholic Faith. Speaker Ryan, however, is not saying that he does not believe we have an obligation towards the poor. He is saying that he disagrees with sister and maybe some of the bishops on how best to help them. That is perfectly acceptable when it involves a matter of prudential judgment as this does.

Catholic social teaching, in the end, is politically popular. Catholic moral teaching is not. I would prefer to see Catholic politicians held to account for their positions on abortion. I would like to ask of them the following: “The clear teaching of the Church is that Catholics cannot in good conscience support abortion. You support abortion unapologetically. How do you reconcile your support of abortion with your Catholic Faith?” I can't answer for them, but many Catholics have answered with the following: “I am pro-life but we mustn't impose our views.” I follow up with “Then why do we get to impose Catholic social teaching on the nation and hold Catholic politicians to account for their views on Catholic social teaching?” To date I have not heard a meaningful or substantive reply to that question.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

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## Pro Life News

### PRIESTS FOR LIFE

If some mistook Jesus for John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah, as today's Gospel passage indicates, then his preaching must have borne a resemblance to theirs. They were tough characters who did not hesitate to confront power with the truth and the demands of the moral law. They did not hesitate to point out that violation of the covenant brings ruin to the people. They did not shy away from moral absolutes, and from the absolute requirements of fidelity to God.

The Church presents the same teaching to the world, assured, as we also see in the Gospel, of its union with Christ in its mission not only of teaching but of transformation. Challenging every culture with which it communicates, the Church takes the initiative and storms “the gates of hell.” Gates, after all, do not run out on the battlefield to attack the enemy. Rather, gates stand still and defend the city against the enemy attacking it.

All of this provides a context for understanding the fight against abortion and all the manifestations of the Culture of Death. The readings of today should help people understand not only why the Church's pro-life teachings are faithful to Christ, consistent and unchangeable, but also why she does not shy away from asserting that her mission is to transform the culture of the death into the culture of life, and is not deterred from pursuing that mission.

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## News from the Vatican



### UNWAVERING FAITH

*The Evangelical Episode of the Canaanite Woman “Helps Us to Understand that We Are All in Need of Growing in Faith and of Strengthening Our Trust in Jesus”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today’s Gospel (Matthew 15:21-28) presents to us a singular example of faith in Jesus’ meeting with a Canaanite woman, a foreigner for the Jews. The scene unfolds while He is on the way to the city of Tyre and Sidon, northwest of Galilee: it’s here that the woman implores Jesus to heal her daughter who, the Gospel says, “is severely possessed by a demon” (v. 22). Initially the Lord seems not to listen to this cry of grief, so much so as to arouse the intervention of the disciples, who intercede for her. Jesus’ apparent detachment doesn’t discourage this mother, who insists on her invocation.

The inner strength of this woman, which enables her to surmount every obstacle, is found in her maternal love and in her confidence that Jesus can hear her request. And this makes me think of the strength of women. With their fortitude they are able to obtain great things. We have known so many! We can say that it’s love that moves faith and faith on her part becomes the reward of love. Her heartrending love for her daughter induces her “to cry: ‘Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David!’” (v. 22). And her perseverant faith in Jesus enables her not to be discouraged, not even in face of His initial refusal; so the woman “knelt before Him, saying: ‘Lord, help me!’” (v. 25).

At the end, in face of such perseverance, Jesus remains in admiration, almost astonished by the faith of the pagan woman. Therefore, He consents saying: “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly” (v. 28). Jesus points out this humble woman as an example of unwavering faith. Her insistence on invoking Christ’s intervention is a stimulus for us not to be discouraged, not to despair when we are oppressed by life’s harsh trials. The Lord doesn’t turn away in face of our needs and, if at times He seems insensible to requests for help, it’s to test and strengthen our faith. We must continue to cry as this woman: Lord, help me! Lord, help me!” — so, with perseverance and courage. And this is the courage we must have in prayer.

This evangelical episode helps us to understand that we are all in need of growing in faith and of strengthening our trust in Jesus. He can help us to rediscover the way, when we have lost the compass of our way; when the way no longer seems flat but rough and arduous; when it’s hard to be faithful to our commitments. It is important to nourish our faith every day, with attentive listening to the Word of God, with the celebration of the Sacraments, with personal prayer as “cry” to Him — “Lord, help me!” — and with

concrete attitudes of charity to our neighbor.

We entrust ourselves to the Holy Spirit so that He will help us to persevere in faith. The Spirit infuses audacity in the heart of believers; He gives our life and our Christian witness the strength of conviction and persuasion; He encourages us to overcome incredulity towards God and indifference towards brothers.

May the Virgin Mary render us increasingly aware of our need of the Lord and of His Spirit; may She obtain for us a strong faith, full of love, and a love that is able to become entreaty, courageous entreaty to God.

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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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### APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER


PAPAL INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

PARISHES – THAT OUR PARISHES,  
ANIMATED BY A MISSIONARY SPIRIT, MAY  
BE PLACES WHERE FAITH IS  
COMMUNICATED AND CHARITY IS SEEN.

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

## Parish Prayer List



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, Michele Bush, Clark Hewitt, Larry Mommicco, 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.

*Audrey Zuchowski*

*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.*