



St. Peter's Church

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
 Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322
 Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789
 Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com
 Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net
 Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net
 Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann – stpreled@ptd.net
 Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am

Reconciliation

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

***The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 September 3, 2017***

A Prayer for Labor Day

Lord on this Labor Day, we thank You for the blessing of work. We ask for strength to complete each day. We ask for rest when we are weary. We ask for Your guidance and hope for everyone seeking employment. We ask that you be with those who faces we might never see, but who work tirelessly each day for the good of all of us. Amen

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 – Sue Singer 570-724-2360
 Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056
 Parish Council – Rectory 570-724-3371
 Worship Committee – Rectory 570- 724-3371
 Sunday Nursing Home Communion – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470
 Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047
 Order of Secular Carmelite – Lori Makos 570-724-3371
 ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095
 Prayer Shawl Ministry - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371.

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 9/4 <i>1 Thes 4:13-18; 4:16-30</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 9/5 <i>1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Cindy Dalton (Gina Brown)
Wednesday 9/6 <i>Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Katie Brennan (Tom & Linda Sampson)
Thursday 9/7 <i>Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Honor of the Deveney Family Grandchildren
Friday 9/8 <i>Mt 5:1-4; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Honor of Philip Deveney
Saturday 9/9 <i>Col :21-23; Lk 6:1-5</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions For Victims of Violence (Grab Family)
Sunday 9/10 <i>Ez 33:7-2; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Beth Patt (Frank Patt)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Katie Brennan (Tom & Linda Sampson)

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, September 4, 2017

Rectory Closed

TUESDAY, September 5, 2017

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

Benediction – 6:45pm

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

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, September 6, 2017

Finance Council Meeting – 8:00am, Rectory

THURSDAY, September 7, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

St. John Neumann Group – 7:00pm, Holy Child Hall

(Meet at 6:30pm at St. Peter's to carpool)

SUNDAY, September 8, 2017

Secular Carmelites – 12:30pm, Parish Center

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: **Canned Tuna, Ham, or Chicken (5-6oz)**. 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 9th/10th

5:00pm

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

Lectors: L.Sampson, T.Sampson

E. Min.: G.Poirier, G.Brown, K.Tellgren, T.Straniere

8:30am

Servers: L.Singer, Z.Singer, K.Kramer

Lectors: T.Reindl, N.Kennedy

E. Min.: A.Singer, L.Whitney, L.Stager, D.Stager

Sacramental Information

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

Confirmation - Confirmation is administered every year to all 8th grade students in our Parish Religious Education program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages- In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact the Rectory whenever a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized.

Monthly Visitations - Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (R.C.I.A.) - The R.C.I.A. prepares unbaptized adults for reception into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the needs of each person and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Contact the Rectory for more information.



Liturgical Reflection

The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Jeremiah's words outwardly express his internal, personal, frustration with the Lord. Others have scorned and reproached Jeremiah for his prophesies such that he no longer wants to speak the Lord's name. Yet the power of the Lord's name becomes too much for him to keep inside. Later in Jeremiah's words, which we do not hear today, he affirms the Lord's presence with him. This will allow those who persecute him not to win out. Today's reading is only a brief portion of one of the six laments among Jeremiah's prophesies. Vehement and accusing as he is, it is significant that he continues to address all his pain to God. God alone is the one who can understand the depths of Jeremiah's grief, and the only one who can rebuild prophet and people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 63

The Responsorial Psalm assigned for today is also one of the common psalms for Ordinary Time. In the psalm the author longs deeply for God to point that his soul thirsts for him. The psalmist's confidence in the Lord's kindness and care is evident. Like us, the author has gazed upon the Lord in the sanctuary and knows the riches of the banquet. The Lord who provides is also the Lord to whom we cling when others scorn us as they did Jeremiah.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-2

For three more Sundays our Second Reading comes from Paul's letter to the Romans. Today's brief passage, addressed to both Jewish and Gentile Christians, comes from the beginning of Romans 12, a chapter in which Paul instructs on how they responsibly live in the light of the free gift of justification in Christ and provides the foundation for the pattern of life to be embraced by all believers. They cannot live with disregard for their actions. God holds them accountable. Conformity to Christ, not the world, is the Christian charge. Living in Christ will lead us to discern God's will for us.

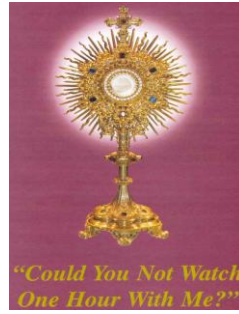
GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-27

Today's Gospel reading follows immediately upon last Sunday's, in which Simon Peter professed Jesus as the Christ and in turn, Jesus blessed Peter with the keys to the kingdom and acknowledged that the Church would be built upon him. In today's Gospel Jesus is realistic with his disciples informing them that he must suffer, die, and rise. Peter rebukes the Lord, disagreeing with him, perhaps neither hearing nor understanding what it meant that Jesus would be raised. Jesus, in turn rebukes Peter, and teaches the disciples that if they wish to follow, the Cross is also theirs. The cross is ours, too. What Jesus says about his own dying and rising, his own loss and finding of life, teaches his disciples of every age about their own death and resurrection, about losing their lives to find them again eternally.



Parish Activities and Information

EUCHARISTIC ADORERS NEEDED



Eucharistic Adoration is adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. In a deeper sense, it involves the contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us. During Eucharistic Adoration, we watch and wait, we remain silent in His Presence, and open ourselves to His Graces which flow from the

Eucharist. By worshiping the Eucharistic Jesus, we become what God wants us to be! Like a magnet, The Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us. In its fullest essence Eucharistic Adoration is God and Man reaching out for each other, at the same time!

You are invited to grow in faith and love of our Lord with us, by coming to Eucharistic Adoration. Every Tuesday from 8:00am – 7:00pm, adoration is held at St. Peter's. We are in need of more adorers. Two adorers are needed for each hour. All are invited to participate. You are free to visit any time without signing up. If you wish to sign up for a committed weekly hour, a sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the church or you can call Sue Singer at 570-724-2360.

How does one spend an hour before Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament? This hour Jesus wants you to spend with Him is spent any way you want. You may bring your own prayer books, use the books in the chapel, read the Bible, pray the Rosary, or just sit, relax and enjoy the sweet peace that comes from simply being in the Presence of God. You may feel you can't pray well. Don't let this discourage you. The mere fact that you take time out at a specific time each week to spend an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament pleases Him very much, and is in itself a prayer of great faith.

THANK YOU!

The Social Concerns Committee would like to thank everyone who very generously donated items for our Back to School Project this year. A new backpack, shoes and clothes to start their new year at school, were provided to 15 children in need, thanks to your thoughtful donations. We couldn't do this without your support. Thank you!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl ministry is made up of individuals who like to knit or crochet. We make shawls for the sick, homebound, and bereaved. 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 10th, 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.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER FOR KIDS

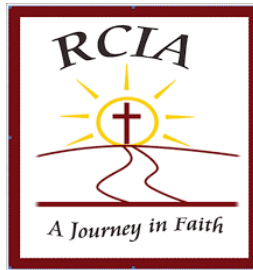


St Peter's Music Ministry is forming a young musicians group to help with music at Mass this year. To find out more, call Mrs. Christina Simonis at 570-724-2085.

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 1st at 9:30am following the 8:30am Mass, in the Church. Please call the Rectory to register of for more 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 5th. 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 17th and will be the first class for students in grades Pre-K through 12th 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.



SIGN UP TO BE GIFT BEARERS AND GREETERS

Sign Up ▶ 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.

SUGGESTION BOX

There is 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 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.



THE "EL CAMINO" WITH JAN BERNETHY

In 2014, Jan Bernethy, a parishioner of St. Peter's, set out alone to walk the 500 mile pilgrimage on the El Camino de Santiago in Spain. The journey stretched over the Pyrenees Mountains in France and across northern Spain to Santiago, ending at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela on Pentecost Sunday. The entire walk took 26 days.

On Monday, September 18th at 7:00pm, Jan will share her personal, spiritual journey, along with the unexpected moments of grace that she experienced as she set out on this intense pilgrimage. The event will take place at St. Peter's Parish Center. This presentation is sponsored by the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the Samaritan House. All are invited to come and listen to Jan's amazing story! Light snacks will be provided.

A 2010 film, "The Way", starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez, chronicles one man's journey on the El Camino. This movie can be viewed online at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0_zwXqHzoA. This motion picture gives one a sense of the El Camino and the pilgrims who make this journey. It was filmed entirely on location in Spain and France. Jan has offered to share her DVD with anyone who would like to view "The Way". Contact Linda Sampson @ 570-404-2180 to arrange this.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

St. Peter's annual Fall Rummage Sale will be held October 1st – 5th 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 1st – Donations accepted 12:00 – 3:00pm
- October 2nd – Set up & Donations accepted 8:00am – 5:00pm
- October 3rd – Sale Hours 8:00am – 6:00pm
- October 4th – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm
- October 5th – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm



Take what you want for a donation on October 5th!

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 1st and Monday, October 2nd 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.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for August 27th: \$4,642.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: (\$1,108.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$4,308.55)

Collection for the Church in Eastern Europe: \$ 602.00

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 can now be done 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.

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. 13th – Oct. 25th, from 6:30-9:00pm in the Parish Center, with a retreat on Sat., Oct. 14th. Registration is limited to first 50. For more information visit the ChristLife website 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. **New registration deadline – Tuesday, September 5th.**

Registration Form - Discovering Christ

Name(s): _____ Age(s): _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Ph #: (home) _____ (cell) _____
Dietary restrictions? _____

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 2nd 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 15th meeting. For information contact Dolores Kostovick, 570-659-5320.

Diocese of Scranton News

DIOCESAN DAY OF SERVICE – #Leaveamark2017

High school students, college students, young adults and adult chaperones are encouraged to unite in service on Saturday, September 16th. The day will begin at 11:00am

#Leaveamark17
Diocesan Day of Service
Saturday, September 16, 2017

at Holy Child Church Hall, Mansfield and will consist of an opening prayer service, sending forth blessing, volunteering at the Tioga County Homeless Shelter or Carleton Senior Care Center, lunch, faith and service presentation, reflecting on the experience, and a closing Mass at 4:00pm at Holy Child, Fr. Don Williams as celebrant. Individuals and/or groups can register online by September 11th at www.dioceseofscranton.org.

September

Month of our Lady of Sorrows

On September 15th the Church observes a memorial honoring Mary as our Lady of Sorrows. "And a sword will pierce your own soul, too," Simeon told Mary when she presented the child Jesus in the Temple forty days after his birth (Luke 2:35). That prophecy was fulfilled when Mary stood at the foot of her son's Cross, sharing his bitter suffering. During this month of September, we honor Mary under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows. This month let us bring to Mary all our sorrows, knowing that she understands what it is to suffer.

This month is a good time to draw closer to Mary by meditation on the great hymn to the Mother of Sorrows, *At her Cross Her Station Keeping*. In this beautiful prayer we ask for the grace to feel with Mary, to share her sorrows:



Holy Mother! pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my Savior crucified:
Let me share with thee his pain,
who for all my sins was slain,
who for me in torments died.

That's The Way It Is!



Pope Pius IX is the pope that everyone loves to hate. He was the pope who called Vatican I. Vatican I is the council best known for defining Papal Infallibility. When one of the bishops at the council argued that Papal infallibility is not in the Tradition of the Church, Pius was said to have remarked "Tradition?! I am Tradition!" Pope Pius IX defined the Immaculate Conception. Pope Pius IX also wrote the infamous document known as the Syllabus of Errors. Pius IX was not known for his humility.

Pius condemned the notion of religious liberty. Vatican II supports religious liberty. Many people claim that the Church has changed her teaching on religious liberty. Of course the Church has done no such thing. Whenever Church teaching appears to conflict with itself the conflict can often be resolved by understanding the precise question that is being answered and or the context in which the teaching appears.

The long and short of the apparent contradiction concerning religious liberty is that religious liberty meant something entirely different in the context of the time Pius lived. Embracing the concept of religious liberty at the time would have entailed the Church surrendering her rights to the government. It would have entailed embracing government persecution of the Church. Even in the US Catholics were persecuted. Given the context, I think we can understand why Pius IX would have been suspicious of the concept of religious freedom. In his mind, religious freedom was synonymous with persecution of Catholics. To this end, Pius also believed it was necessary for the pope to have temporal power. This is because he feared without temporal power the pope would be unable to defend the rights of the Church against state encroachment.

The context of Vatican II is far different. The documents of Vatican II have in mind the modern notion of civilization where church and state are no longer intertwined. Because church and state are not intertwined, the government has no competence to speak to religious matters. If the government is not competent to speak to religious matters, citizens of the government must have the freedom to seek truth without government interference. The context of Vatican II also does not equate religious liberty with persecution. Even though the state has no competence to speak to matters of Faith, nevertheless the state can restrict religious freedom when moral issues are at stake. This is because moral truth can be discerned through human reason. I grant that the light of Faith certainly helps us to better conform our minds to truth, but Faith is not absolutely necessary to know right from wrong. Moral Truth can be abstracted by our intellects from the Natural Law.

While Pope Pius condemned religious liberty, it is important to note that Pope Pius never suggested that people should be forced to convert or that other religions

should be suppressed. The documents of Vatican II also do not suggest any such thing. Without the gift of Faith, a person cannot assent to the truths of the Catholic Faith. To a person without the gift of Faith, the claims of one religion over that of another seem to boil down to little more than personal opinion or taste.

I need to note that there is a difference between someone who has not been given the gift of Faith and someone who has been given the gift of Faith and is a heretic. When a person is baptized, they take on certain rights, duties and obligations. The Church has every right to hold those who claim to be Catholic accountable for what they believe and profess. Being Catholic means something. The Catholic Faith is not just a matter of personal opinion or personal taste. When a person, therefore, claims to be Catholic, it means something. This is why the historical coercion of heretics is a separate issue from the one being addressed by Vatican II. Vatican II has in mind those who have not been enlightened by the Faith. They cannot be coerced because without Faith, they cannot assent to Catholic Truth. Religious liberty, therefore, enables someone to seek truth. Religious liberty does not entail that those who have been given the gift of Faith have the right to dissent or that they ought not be held accountable for what they claim to believe.

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The Church's efforts to proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of Life are marked by the themes in today's readings. First, the effort to defend life is based on the thirst for God that today's first reading and Psalm express. We long for him, who is life itself, and we long for others to possess him as well. We serve the Kingdom of Life because it has captured and enthralled us, and convinced us that all our happiness and fulfillment are found in it.

Second, it is that conviction which departs from a worldly way of thinking, which would see no connection between freedom and truth, but which instead asserts that individual belief and choice are primary, even over life itself. This attitude builds a culture of death. As St. Paul says in the second reading, we must not conform ourselves to this age, nor to its "pro-choice" ways of thinking, especially about the unborn and the disabled. The pro-life movement is based on the renewal of our mind, that results in the ability to discern "what is good, pleasing, and perfect."

Third, the Gospel passage reinforces the need for this discernment. Peter was thinking in a worldly way when he saw suffering and crucifixion as something to be avoided at all costs. Such thinking today leads some to see abortion as a solution to the suffering of a "crisis pregnancy," or euthanasia as the escape from illness and disability. But that is not Godly thinking.

News from the Vatican



OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

During the General Audience in St. Peter's Square, the Pope continued his catechesis on Christian hope by meditating on the memory of vocation revives hope.

Every vocation, marriage, consecrated life, priesthood begins with an encounter with Jesus that gives new joy and hope. Jesus wants people who experience that living with Him, gives immense happiness. He recommended that young people not give into those who are cynical and the old-hearted. Do not trust someone who extinguishes enthusiasm by saying that nothing would be worth the sacrifice of a lifetime. God wants us to dream like him and with him.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I wish to reflect again on the relationship between hope and memory. In the Gospel passage we have heard, Saint John shares with us the precious memory of when Jesus called the first disciples and asked them: "What do you seek?" It is a question that he asks each of us in our own time. Jesus recognizes that a young heart, and a healthy one at that, is a searching heart, full of a desire for life and happiness. For the first disciples, this encounter was only the beginning of their relationship with Jesus and the living out of their vocation; it ignited a flame in their hearts, which transformed them into missionaries who always treasured the memory of that first encounter with Christ.

Their story reminds us how we discover our vocation. Whether we are called to marriage, consecrated life or priesthood, our vocation finds its origin in our first encounter with Jesus. It is that first spark which, even in the midst of trials, leads to an ever-deeper relationship with the Lord and which brings us hope and joy. Let us treasure this flame of love that burns in our hearts, by recalling our first encounter with Christ. May we be joyful disciples, who dream with God of a better world, and who share the reason for our hope with all whom we meet.

EVERY STONE HAS ITS PLACE IN THE CHURCH

"No small stone is useless, rather, in Jesus' hands it becomes precious, because He gathers it, looks at it with great tenderness, works on it with His Spirit, and puts it in the right place, which He has always thought of and where it can be more useful to the entire edifice. Each one of us is a small stone, but in Jesus' hands we participate in the building of the Church. And all of us, in as much as small, have been made living stone, because when Jesus takes the stone in His hand, He makes it His, He makes it alive, full of life, full of life by the Holy Spirit, full of life from His love, and thus we have a place and a mission in the Church: she is a community of life, made up of very many stones, all different, which form one edifice in the sign of fraternity and communion."

POPE FRANCIS OFFERS PRAYERS FOR HARVEY VICTIMS

His Holiness Pope Francis asks you kindly to convey the assurance of his spiritual closeness and pastoral concern to all those affected by the violent hurricane that swept through the states of Texas and Louisiana in these days. Deeply moved by the tragic loss of life and the immense material devastation that this natural catastrophe has left in its wake, he prays for the victims and their families, and for all those engaged in the vital work of relief, recovery and rebuilding. He likewise trusts that the immense and immediate needs of so many individuals and communities will continue to inspire a vast outpouring of solidarity and mutual aid in the best traditions of the nation. With these sentiments, and with the renewed promise of his prayers, the Holy Father sends his blessing as a pledge of consolation, strength and peace in the Lord.

"Christian Peace is founded on Love. There cannot be peace without love. Love will pave the way to peace." Pope Francis

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.

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551), or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

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A Gift in Your Will

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:

"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 Fermeric, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, James Quimby, Bud Boyce, Mary Lou Bonk, Clare Vargas, Marian Coolidge, John Williams, and Mary Cleveland.



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

Gary Palmer

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.