



***The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 10, 2017***

St. Peter's Church

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

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel100@yahoo.com
 Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net
 Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net
 Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann –
stpreled@ptd.net
 Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

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

Reconciliation

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



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 9/11 <i>1 Thes 4:13-18; 4:16-30</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 9/12 <i>1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Ruth Reindl (Tom & Ginny)
Wednesday 9/13 <i>Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Jake Whitney (Don & Lucy Whitney)
Thursday 9/14 <i>Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Cindy Dalton (Rich & Marilyn Laczi)
Friday 9/15 <i>Mt 5:1-4; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of George Pryslak (Gary & Joann Dinnison, Tom & Linda Frantz)
Saturday 9/16 <i>Col :21-23; Lk 6:1-5</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Paul Beuter (Family)
Sunday 9/17 <i>Sir 27:30-28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Lana Bennett (Rich & Marilyn Laczi)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Family & Friends (Gina Brown)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, September 10, 2017

Secular Carmelites – 12:30pm, Parish Center

MONDAY, September 11, 2017

Carpet Cleaning in Parish Center

TUESDAY, September 12, 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 13, 2017

ChristLife – 6:30pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, September 14, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

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

SUNDAY, September 17, 2017

Religious Ed. – Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-8th:9:30-10:40am

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 16th/17th

5:00pm

Servers: M.Mann, A.Banik, A. Dunkel

Lectors: P.Walrath, C.Evert

E. Min.: E.Evert, B.Butler, V.Anthony, K.Wilcox

8:30am

Servers: M.Ingerick, B.Levindoski, W.Feil

Lectors: M.Stirnaman, M.Ostapowicz

E. Min.: D.Stager, L.Stager, D.deGuzman, N.Ostapowicz

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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-9

A prophet is like a watchman appointed to herald the advance of a country's enemies by blowing a trumpet. God appoints Ezekiel as the watchman for the house of Israel. The watchman's task is to speak the truth to others and lead them from their evil inclinations. Should the watchman not do that, he is liable for the person's injury or death. But the persons who simply not heed the watchman's words or the sound of the trumpet, are responsible for the consequences that befall them. Through the prophet, God's warnings offer the people a chance for a new life, even in exile, if only they will take heed. Listen, repent, and receive God's blessings: this is a prophetic message reiterated by all of Israel's prophets, including the greatest prophet, Jesus.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 95

Psalm 95 is another common psalm for Ordinary Time. The refrain commands us not to harden our hearts to the Lord's words like God's people did at Meribah and Massah in the desert. The psalm is also a call to worship. This is seen in the first two stanzas. The psalmist twice invites us to "Come" to the Lord in song and worship. Our gestures of bowing and kneeling serve to acknowledge that God created us and we honor him as Creator and our shepherd.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-10

Christ's own love shown for us through his Death and Resurrection means that love is now the fulfillment of the law. Following the letter of the law no longer satisfies, but rather embracing fully the commandment to love one another does. Love is the opposite of evil. When we love our neighbor as ourselves, we fulfill the law as Jesus did, for he is Love, the Love whom God calls us to imitate.

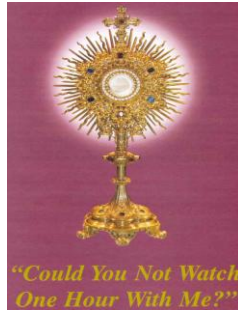
GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

*If your brother sins against you,
go and rebuke him in private.
If he listens to you,
you have won your brother.*

We skip ahead a few chapters in Matthew for this Sunday's Gospel reading where we find Jesus teaching his disciples how to handle a situation in which a person sins against them. Jesus' instructions initially follow the pattern of Ezekiel's words from the First Reading in which a disciple is to speak honestly with the person who sinned. If the sinner does not listen, then a small group of people comes to address the situation as in trial. Failing resolution, then one is to tell the Church, which Jesus instructs, is to treat the sinner as he treated tax collectors and Gentiles. Remember: even Gentiles and tax collectors are welcomed into the community if they believe in Jesus and show the fruits of repentance in their lives. So too will anyone who finally repents, be welcomed home. We, who are the Body of Christ, the Church, dine with sinners in the Eucharist, extending God's forgiveness in Christ. Throughout the process of healing divisions, Jesus remains present in the community. Even with as few as two or three witnesses, he is present in their efforts at reconciliation.

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 worshipping 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.

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, **TODAY**, 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.

JOIN OUR YOUNG MUSICIANS GROUP



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.

CALLED TO SERVE?



If you play an instrument and like to sing, St Peter's Music Ministry wants YOU. See Christina Simonis or call 570-724-2085.

HOLY FAMILY ICON WILL VISIT THE CHURCH

The Holy Family icon will visit St. Peter's Church from September 22nd to 26th. The Holy Family Prayer Program and icon began August 4th at the 133rd Supreme Knights of Columbus Convention in Philadelphia. This program features an image of the Holy Family and a set of prayer booklets. Each Knights of Columbus jurisdiction (state) received several Holy Family images, which will be the centerpiece of prayer services conducted in churches and council meeting places throughout the Order for the duration of the program. This is the 17th Marian Prayer Program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, beginning with the first program – honoring Mary under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe - in 1979. In preparation for the 1982 Centennial of the Order, the second prayer program was initiated, which highlighted the Holy Family. Since then, the Blessed Mother has been honored by her Knights under her titles of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of the Rosary and Our Lady of Charity. These Order-wide programs of Marian Prayer have gathered together more than 16 million people at some 140,000 prayer services conducted at local councils and parishes.

On September 25th at 7:00pm, a special prayer service will be held. All are invited to attend.

RCIA INFORMATION

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 be held on Sunday, October 1st at 9:30am following the 8:30am Mass, in the Church. Please call the Rectory to register or 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

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.

"Dear young people, do not be afraid of the future! Dare to dream big! Keep joy alive, a sign of a young heart that has encountered the Lord." Pope Francis

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.

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.

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



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.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for September 3rd: \$6,070.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: \$ 320.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$3,988.55)

Collection for the Care & Ed of Priests: \$ 808.85

Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2016-17:

Income: \$494,729.43

Expense: 498,940.18

Net Loss: (\$ 4,210.75)

We ended the 2016-17 fiscal year with a net loss of \$4,210.75. Although this amount is less than 1% of our overall budget, it is a shortfall nevertheless. The deficit cannot be linked to a single factor, but several variances occurred, including our weekly and special collections not meeting budgeted amounts, and unexpected increases in certain expenses; the loss was mitigated as a result of cost savings in other areas. A complete financial report is available in the rectory for anyone who wishes.

Please note, although the budget for the current year weekly collection amount was reduced to \$5,750 from \$5,900 last year, we are already behind our Year-to-Date goal by \$3,988. Please reflect on your monthly giving and be as generous as you are able. We are grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries.

That's The Way It Is!



The extreme weather in our country, especially with the Hurricanes affecting the south, has many people asking the question “Where is God in all of this?” “If God is so good, why does he allow Hurricanes and other severe weather to cause all the suffering that they cause?” This weekend is also close to the anniversary of September 11. This causes people to ask why God allows hate and evil to exist. These are natural questions. They are questions I ask all the time.

In this life, I am sorry to say that we will not have the answers we seek. Even Scripture does not really give satisfactory answers to those questions. If you read the Book of Job, the classic book of Scripture that directly deals with the suffering of the innocent and godly, God’s answer to Job is decidedly unsatisfactory and inadequate from the human perspective. God basically tells Job to man up and stop complaining—because he has no right to complain. In the end, God restores Job one-hundred fold, but gives no real answer to why the godly suffer and why evil seems at times to be far more powerful than that of good.

If God has chosen not to give a substantial answer to the question of evil, I certainly can’t give an answer. What I can do, however, is offer some observations that I think are worth reflecting and praying over.

At the Easter Vigil, a special prayer is chanted called the Exsultet. There is a part of the prayer that sounds rather bizarre: “O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam which gained for us so great a redeemer...” The prayer praises the sin of Adam. It is the only time I am aware that sin is praised in the worship of the Church. Why would the Church be praising sin? It is not so much that the Church is praising sin so much as it is the Church is reflecting on the greatness of God. Had Adam never sinned, we would never know the full extent of God’s power. Had Adam never sinned, we would never know the true greatness of God. Had Adam never sinned, God would never have had the opportunity to reveal to us what greatness really is and what power really is—what it really means to be God.

Here is my point: just as you need the darkness to show the light, you need evil to show the good; hate to show love. Where is God in the tragedies of life? Where is God in the destructive weather? God is revealed in all the police, fire, National Guard, military, emergency responders, medical workers, etc, who risk their own lives to rescue people. God is in the volunteers who are helping the victims of hurricanes to rebuild. God is in the volunteers who help the people to grieve their losses. God is in the generosity of all the people who are sending in donations of money or other supplies. Without these tragedies, generosity, courage, sacrifice, love, etc, would not have the opportunity to express themselves and show their true power. While we never praise evil, without evil we could never know the real power of good. Evil and

suffering give good people a chance to reveal the power of good. Hate gives love the chance to reveal what real power can do.

September 11 will never be forgotten. I remember watching a movie about the attacks. At one point in the movie a US Marine locates surviving emergency personnel. The personnel were naturally scared. They pleaded with the Marine not to leave them. The Marine said in a deep, and powerful voice: “Sirs, I am a United States Marine and YOU are my mission!” [In other words “Sirs, I would sooner die before I ran out on you.”] One line from one Marine demonstrated how the power of good casts out evil and darkness. One line from one Marine demonstrated that God was very much present in that tragedy. For me, when the Marine uttered that one line, it was as if the sun came out and dispelled the darkness and evil of those attacks. The Marine, in short, revealed the power of love in the midst of hate. The Marine revealed God’s presence.

None of what I have written explains why God allows evil. None of what I have written explains why good people suffer. What I have written, however, I hope, shows how good uses evil to reveal what real power is. What I have written, however, I hope, shows how God uses evil to show his true power and goodness.

I am hoping for a very generous response to the financial request of the USCCB. This gives the parishioners of Saint Peters and Saint Thomas the Apostle the chance to reveal their own generosity in the midst of tragedy and let the victims of the Hurricane know that we are with them. We should absolutely pray for the victims, but sometimes our prayers need to translate into concrete action. God will answer our prayers for the victims through our generosity to the victims in the offering being taken up for them this weekend. I know the generosity exists in both parishes because I have witnessed it. When the parishioners band together and decide that a need exists and they want to meet the need, they do so in force; they will not be stopped. That’s the way it is! The Reverend David W. Bechtel

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.

News from the Vatican



LOVE ALONE GIVES MEANING AND HAPPINESS TO LIFE

Last Sunday's passage (Matthew 16:21-27) is the continuation of the profession of faith of Peter, "rock" on which Jesus wishes to build his Church. Matthew

shows us the reaction of the same Peter when Jesus reveals to the disciples that He will suffer in Jerusalem, be killed and be raised. Peter takes Jesus aside and rebukes Him because this – he says to Him – can't happen to Him, to Christ. However, Jesus in turn rebukes Peter with harsh words: "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men!" A moment earlier, the Apostle was blessed by the Father, because he had received from Him that revelation, he was a solid "rock" on which Jesus could build His community, and immediately after, he becomes an obstacle, a rock not on which to build but a stumbling block on the way of the Messiah. Jesus knew well that Peter and the others still had a long way to go to becoming His Apostles!

At that point, the Master turned to all those that followed Him, presenting clearly to them the way to follow: "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." The temptation always, also today, is to want to follow a Christ without the cross, rather to teach God the right way, as Peter: "No, no Lord, not this, it will never happen." However, Jesus reminds us that His way is the way of love, and there is no true love without the sacrifice of oneself. We are called not to allow ourselves to be absorbed by the vision of this world, but to be ever more aware of the need and effort for us Christians to walk counter-current and uphill.

Jesus completes His proposal with words that express a great wisdom that is always valid, because they challenge the egocentric mentality and behavior. He exhorts: "For whoever will save his life will lose it and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Contained in this paradox is the Golden Rule that God has inscribed in human nature created in Christ: the rule that love alone gives meaning and happiness to life. To spend one's talents, one's energies and one's time only to save, protect and fulfill oneself leads in reality to lose oneself, that is, to a sad and sterile existence. If, instead, we live for the Lord and we organize our life on love, as Jesus did, we will be able to savor genuine joy, and our life won't be sterile, it will be fruitful.

MORALITY ISN'T "YOU CAN, YOU CAN'T"

Morality isn't "you can, you can't" or "you must, you must not," says Pope Francis in a book-interview with French researcher Dominique Wolton. Morality is a consequence of an encounter with Jesus Christ. It's a consequence of the faith for us Catholics. Morality is always a consequence. He points the finger at the "temptation of the Church" to

pronounce herself in terms of "they can't do this": "But no, and no, and no! This type of interdiction is what one finds in Jesus' dramas with the Pharisees. The same! The greats of the Church are those that have a vision that goes beyond, those that understand. Behind every rigidity, there is an inability to communicate."

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.

Pro Life News


PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The readings today provide important insight into the pro-life witness of the Church and of each member of the Church. Combining the themes of the readings, we can say that the Church consists of "loving watchmen." Because we love God, we love others, and therefore try to persuade others to love the same God and to keep themselves from the destructive harm of sin. When we try to fulfill the exhortation of Ezekiel and of Jesus to engage in the spiritual work of mercy of "admonishing the sinner," we are told – particularly when the sin we are trying to prevent is abortion – that we should "mind our own business." Yet it actually is our business to engage in fraternal correction, because God has entrusted us to each other. "The God of the Covenant has entrusted the life of every individual to his or her fellow human beings" (Evangelium Vitae, 76). There is a natural bond of responsibility, because we are all one human family, and there is a mystical communion in grace and a harm that is done to the entire Body of Christ by the sins of each individual. Hence, fraternal correction and being a "watchman," make sense. The task is especially urgent when we are speaking up for defenseless human beings who cannot speak for themselves.

The love that Paul describes in the second reading is what infuses the pro-life movement and motivates its participants. Defending the unborn is simply an application of "love your neighbor." Pro-life advocacy, therefore, does not have to be seen as ideologically or politically motivated. It is simply love in action, and love that inspires not only the work of the pregnancy centers and the post abortion healing ministries, but also the legislative efforts, the political efforts, the protests, and every other form of pro-life activity.

The gospel passage today ends with the words, "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Why did the Lord say "two or three?" He is there when just one person is present, isn't he? Certainly, he is. But it is when the "other" or "others" show up that we are then able to give ourselves away in love, and that bond of active love between human beings manifests Jesus' presence in the particular way that he highlights in this passage

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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



PRAYERS
Needed For...

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Bob Erway, Mary Mekos, Nick Cavagnaro, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, Joan Kilmer, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighauf, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, 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.

David Cornell

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.