



## *The 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time October 1, 2017*

# St. Peter's Church

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

### **Rectory Office Hours**

Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

### **Parish Staff**

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – [Dbechtel00@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbechtel00@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.

## Respect life. All life is sacred.



## Respect Life Sunday

### **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 – Rhonda Gooch 570-724-3092  
 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 10/2</b> <i>Zec 8:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10</i>	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 10/3</b> <i>Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56</i>	7:30am	In Honor of Alex & Nona Caro
<b>Wednesday 10/4</b> <i>Neh 2:1-8; Lk 9:57-62</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Patti Radocaj (Sticklin Family)
<b>Thursday 10/5</b> <i>Neh 8:1-4,5-6,7-12; Lk 10:1-12</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Jeffrey Mann (Mann Family)
<b>Friday 10/6</b> <i>Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession For All Souls in Purgatory (Ostapowicz Family)
<b>Saturday 10/7</b> <i>Bar 4:5-27-29; Lk 10:17-24</i>	8:15-8:45am 9:00am 4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Cindy Dalton (Wellsboro Council Knights of Columbus) Confession In Honor of Rebekah Mcumber
<b>Sunday 10/8</b> <i>Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Joseph Donovan, Jr. (Grab Family)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of  
**Mary Woods** (James & Helen Mellon)

## The Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, October 1, 2017

Religious Ed. – Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12<sup>th</sup>:9:30-10:40am  
First Penance Parent Meeting – 9:30am, Church  
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Church  
Fall Sale – Donations Accepted 12:00-3:00pm

### MONDAY, October 2, 2017

Fall Sale – Donation Accepted 8:00am – 5:00pm

### TUESDAY, October 3, 2017

Eucharistic Adoration–8:00am–7:00pm (Benediction–6:45pm)  
Fall Sale – 8:00am – 6:00pm  
Women's Bible Study- 9:00am, Rectory  
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### WEDNESDAY, October 4, 2017

Fall Sale – 8:00am – 3:00pm

### THURSDAY, October 5, 2017

Fall Sale – 8:00am – 3:00pm  
Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center  
St. John Neumann Group – 7:00pm, Parish Center

### SUNDAY, October 8, 2017

Religious Ed. – Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12<sup>th</sup>:9:30-10:40am  
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Church

## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: **Chicken Noodle and Tomato Soup (10-11oz).** 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: **Hand and Feet Warmers, Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Homemade Cookies and Fudge & Personal Notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.)** Please place your donations in the box at the entrance of the church.

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### October 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>

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

Servers: A.Banik, B.Levindoski  
Lectors: T.Sampson, L.Sampson  
E. Min.: E.Evert, T. Straniere, G.Brown, D.Sherman

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

Servers: W.Feil, A.Dunkel, L.Germino  
Lectors: M.Sampson, H.Sampson  
E. Min.: D.Stager, L.Stager, N.Ostpowicz, L.Whitney

## Sacramental Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, St. Catherine, Westfield - 7:00pm  
Sunday, St. Thomas, Elkland – 11:30am



## Liturgical Reflection

The 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:25-28**

Whose way is not fair, God's or ours? This is the question at the heart of the prophetic words from Ezekiel. Turn from wickedness to do what is right and just, the prophet instructs. God's way is fair, because God will save the life of a person who acts in this manner. Following the commandments leads to life, not death. Not following the commandments, which sometimes is our way and was the way of the Israelites, leads to death. When the prophet tells them that God Shall preserve life for those who turn away from wickedness, he offers hope. Transformed lives will result in a new possibility of life, even in exile.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 25**

The author of the psalm prays that the Lord make his way known. Together with the psalmist we pray to God for guidance in following God's ways of truth and justice. When we sin and fail to follow, we ask in the words of the psalm refrain, for the Lord to remember his mercies.

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-11**

Our attitude must match the attitude that is in Christ Jesus. Our mind is to be of the same mind as Christ Jesus. This is the essence of Paul's words to the Philippians. In Christ, we find humility, not selfishness, and this is our motivation. Christ's humility led to his exaltation. So, too, ours will lead us to life with in God's glory. This exhortatory reading ends with great Christological hymn that presents the pattern of Christ's humility and exaltation through his obedience to Death on a Cross. In every moment of his life, Jesus' actions were for the sake of others. We can listen, pray, and sing this hymn both to honor Christ, and as an inspiration for our own humble and obedient self-emptying.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 21:28-32**



Today's Gospel parable of the two sons whom the father asks to work in the vineyard, is directed to the chief priests and elders, among the most powerful of Jesus' opponents and follows immediately after the authorities question Jesus about from where his authority for teaching in the temple

comes. In this parable one son tells his father he will not work, and then does. The other son says he will work and then does not. Beginning with an "Amen" Jesus solemnly teaches that the first son, like all those who have sinned, repented, and chose to follow him, will share in the Kingdom of God. Unlike the seemingly righteous priests and elders, the so-called sinners believed and repented; they are the truly righteous ones.

## Parish Activities and Information

### PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE

St. Peter's now has a Facebook page. You can find us at **St. Peter's Catholic Church Wellsboro PA**. The profile picture is of the Rectory. Like and follow us and keep up to date on happenings in the parish. Please note there is another page that seems to be associated with St. Peter's, however is not. Please make sure you are on the correct page.



### 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 Peters Music Ministry wants YOU. Contact Christina Simonis 570-724-2085.



### CAN YOU HELP? DO YOU NEED A RIDE?

At various times parishioners are in need of a ride to Mass or church related events. If you need a ride or if you are able provide transportation, please call the rectory. We would like to establish a list of those who can offer a ride from time to time, so that we can match them with anyone who is in need.

### 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.

### TIAGA COUNTY HOMELESS INITIATIVE NEED

St. Mother Teresa said of those she served that, "Each one of them is Jesus in disguise." The Tioga County Homeless Initiative serves those



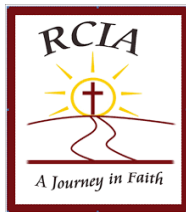
in need in our community by providing them food & shelter. St. Peters is covering the week of October 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> at the shelter on Charleston Rd. Volunteers are needed for shifts from 5:00-9:00pm each day as well as to prepare meals for guests. For more information or to sign up please contact Tara Gordon 570-439-0006 or David Gordon 570-436-0005. There is also a signup sheet at the back of the church.

"If we are faithful to Christ and do good works, we can spread the light of God's hope." Pope Francis



## 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 **TODAY**, Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am, in the Church.



## 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.

## 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.

## 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.



## Religious Ed. & Youth Group News

### FIRST PENANCE PARENT MEETING



There will be a meeting for all parents of students receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this year. The meeting will be held **TODAY** October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am in the Church.

### COIN CHALLENGE FOR CHARITY

The Religious Education classes will have a friendly competition to benefit a local charity. Students are encouraged to collect loose change (bills are accepted, too!) for donation and bring to class each Sunday in October. Weekly results will be posted on the bulletin board. At the end of the month, the class that has collected the greatest amount will get to select the charity that will receive the money. Your change can make a difference!



### UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – 2017 Life Chain – 2:15–4:00pm**

We will meet on the Green at 2:15 with other members from the community. Signs will be provided. After the Life Chain, at 3:30, we will walk to Peggy's Candies for ice cream. Students can be picked up on the Green at 4:00 pm. *Parents, family and friends are also encouraged to attend!*



**Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> – Hike & Potluck – 1:00–4:30pm**

Meet at St. Peter's to carpool to the Canyon. We will hike the Turkey Path and enjoy a potluck dinner afterwards. Wear appropriate footwear for hiking; bring a water bottle and a dish to share. Fried chicken, place settings and drinks will be provided. Permission slips and additional information will be coming home with students.

## Stewardship

Sunday Collection for September 24<sup>th</sup>: \$6,111.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: \$ 361.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$4,453.55)

Emergency Relief – Hurricane Irma: \$4,510.27

**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 \$4,453.55. 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!



In 1995 someone described the state of affairs in the Catholic Church in Latin America thusly: “When we need a labor union, we go to our parish priest; when we need the Word of God, we go to the Protestant pastor.” Read out of context we

might think this originated from some anti-Catholic fundamentalist preacher. (Fundamentalists think Catholics don’t preach the Word of God) But this quote is found in the book “The Faithfully Departed: the Collapse of Boston’s Catholic Culture” written by Philip Lawler. (I heartily recommend this book.) The quote is found on page 75. Lawler was quoting Father Raniero Cantalamessa who made the statement in 1995. At that time Father Raniero was the official preacher of the Papal household. Lawler believes that the situation in American Catholicism is similar.

Since Vatican II the way that priests understand their ministry and the way that bishops understand the Church and their role within the Church has shifted. Prior to Vatican II bishops were doctors of the Faith, successors to the Apostles and teachers of the Faith. Priests were helpmates to the bishop. They were the bishop’s representatives at the local level. The bishop is the pastor of the diocese. Priests pastor in the name of the bishop. The role of the priest was understood as that of a spiritual father to his parish. The priest feeds and nourishes the people with the spiritual food from above. All of this is still taught by the Church—it is just that it is not given as much emphasis today.

After Vatican II there was a shift. Bishops tended to identify more closely with the secular roles of the Church than the spiritual. Today, bishops present more like community leaders, politicians, community organizers and activists; priests likewise. Priests now identify more with their secular roles: counselor, psychologist, social worker, advocate for the poor, social justice warrior, community organizer, community leader, etc. Father Raniero noted this change and his comment reflects the fallout from this change. Lawler was noting this in his book.

What has been minimized as a result of this shift in emphasis is the notion that the Church was founded and commissioned to sanctify the world. The Church was founded and commissioned by Christ to give something to the world that the world does not have and cannot offer: redemption. The Church was founded to make present the graces of redemption and offer those graces to all who want to receive them. The Sacraments, in particular the Mass, provide the means to this end. This is what makes the sacraments, in particular the Mass so vital to what it means to be the Church. This is why the Ministerial Priesthood is vital to the spiritual health and life of the Church.

Priests and bishops because of the nature of what they do will have secular roles. It is natural that people will expect them to be community organizers, activists, advocates for

the poor, etc. At the same time we don’t need a bishop or priest to help someone form a union. That is what labor organizers are for. Bishops and priests are not the only ones who can be activists, social justice warriors, counselors, social workers, etc. The laity can perform those roles. In fact these things are precisely more proper to the vocation of the laity as priests in virtue of their baptism. The vocation of the laity is in the world. Hence, they are the ones who offer their spiritual sacrifices on the altar of the world through their Christian works of charity. The only ones who can make present the graces of redemption are bishops and priests. The laity take the graces that they receive into the world and they make them fruitful. The Church is not first and foremost a charitable organization; the Church is the Ark of Salvation. This aspect of the mission of the Church has been minimized after Vatican II.

We are living in a culture that believes truth is relative and all religions are equally valid expressions of truth. This has impacted the Church. Many people, even priests do not see the connection between the Church and salvation. If someone thinks the Church is not essential to salvation, why would they emphasize the role of the bishop or priest as spiritual father, the role of the Sacraments or anything else that the Church offers that is unique to salvation? A person who does not see the connection between the Church and salvation, the priesthood and Christ is going to tend to see the Church as little more than yet another charitable organization.

Social justice and works of charity are certainly important in Catholicism—but Social justice and works of charity are not unique to Catholicism. One need not be Catholic to do works of charity, be a peace activist, a social worker, psychologist, counselor, advocate for the poor, etc. One can be an atheist and be all those things. The work of redemption is what the Church is first and foremost about. From my view, and I think from Lawler’s, this aspect of the Church needs to be recovered.

That’s the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel



### October Month of the Holy Rosary

On October 7<sup>th</sup> we celebrate a well-loved memorial in honor of the Rosary, and according to a long-standing tradition, the entire month

of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. In the Rosary with its sequence of prayers and mysteries, we contemplate the Gospel in company with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.

*“With the Rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love.” Blessed Pope John Paul II*

## Pro Life News

### TODAY IS LIFE CHAIN SUNDAY



Life Chain's 30<sup>th</sup> Year - October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:30-3:30pm along Main Street, Wellsboro. Meet on The Green at 2:15pm to pick up a sign! LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 60 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Bring the whole family! Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome!

### PRIESTS FOR LIFE

People, indeed, can convert. God himself asks us to believe that through today's readings. The son who first said no can later say yes (Gospel); the wicked one can turn from his wickedness and still find life (First reading). This proves true in the pro-life effort; in fact, the flow of conversions is in the direction of life, not death. Norma McCorvey, the former "Jane Roe" and plaintiff (and winner) of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion, became a pro-life Catholic and worked for the rest of her life to end abortion. The same is true of Dr. Bernard Nathanson, one of the chief engineers of the abortion rights movement. And there are so many others that an international society of ex-abortionists has been formed, called the "Society of Centurions."

But even more common is the testimony "I Regret My Abortion" from the women of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, the largest mobilization in history of those who have had abortions and now speak out against it. "I Regret Lost Fatherhood" is the message that the men of the campaign offer, as they grieve the children they lost to abortion. The Church is called by today's readings to welcome these individuals back, and to learn from their experience.

"Pro-choice" is an exaltation of self; the cross is the denial of self. "Pro-choice" is the assertion of oneself; the cross is the emptying of oneself. "Pro-choice" says we can lift ourselves up; the cross says that we are obedient and that God lifts us up. This attitude, which St. Paul says must be ours, counteracts the attitude that we exalt ourselves by our own choices. Rather, our exaltation, our freedom, and our fulfillment come from a humble acceptance of and obedience to a truth that we did not create. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil marks the limit of our choices. True freedom is the power to choose what is right, and to love as Christ did, by embracing the cross and giving ourselves away for the good of the other person.

**"Joy multiplies when you share it!"**  
Pope Francis

## Diocese of Scranton News

### DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

**Care and Education of Priests:** Our priests and deacons unconditionally answer the call to serve God's people meeting increasing needs throughout our Diocese. Contributions to the Annual Appeal fund ongoing formation of our priests, permanent deacons, seminarians and deacon candidates. These funds also help us care for and support our 96 retired or ill priests, many of whom continue to generously assist with the celebration of Masses, the visitation of the sick and by offering spiritual guidance to all in need. Appeal gifts also assist the Vocations Office, which has been blessed with encouraging growth, in guiding those who are considering priesthood through a comprehensive discernment process. We are grateful to currently have 13 seminarians pursuing the priesthood in the Diocese of Scranton. Your gift to the Annual Appeal directly supports the celebration of the Eucharist, men in clergy formation, proclamation of the Gospel, and administration of the Sacraments within our parish communities.



## News from the Vatican

### LET'S HOPE FIRMLY, CONFIDENTLY IN HIS



#### PROMISES

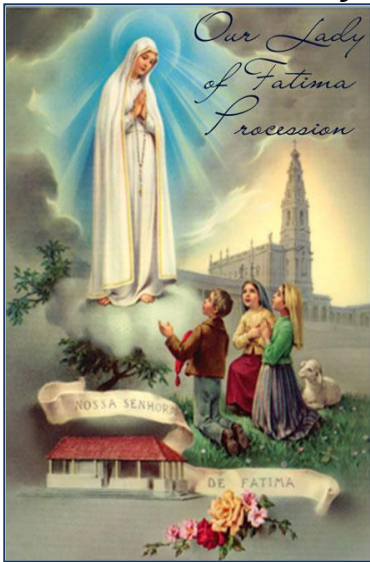
Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on Christian hope, I would now like to reflect on the importance of combating all that threatens our hope. As the ancient story of Pandora's Box teaches us, hope remains as the treasure enabling mankind to face with trust in God's providence, every evil let loose in this world. In our own day, hope motivates so many of our brothers and sisters forced to leave their homes in search of a better life, but also those who welcome them, sharing the journey with them and trusting in a better tomorrow. Hope is especially the virtue of the poor. As the mystery of Christmas teaches us, God came into this world among the poor, to bring the good news of our salvation. Hope is also the virtue of the young, who deserve not to be robbed of it by an often soulless and materialist society. Hope's greatest enemy is spiritual emptiness, the "noon-day devil" that tempts us to stop fighting and to yield to discouragement. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to hope more firmly in his promises, confident that his victory over the world will fill our hearts with joy as we face the future and all that it has in store for us.

### Apostleship of Prayer - Papal Intention for October

*Workers and the Unemployed* - That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.



## Sixth and Last Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima



On October 13, 1917 the three children, surrounded by a crowd of 70,000 persons under a torrential rain, Lucy asked again of the Lady: "What do you want from me?" she answered: **"I am the Lady of the Rosary, I desire here a chapel in my honor to be built, that people continue to recite the Rosary every day. Will the war finish. The war is going to end, and the soldiers will soon return to their homes."** Then Lucy

asked: "May I ask you for cures and conversions, will you grant them?". **"Some yes, others no. It is necessary that they ask pardon for their sins, that they don't offend God our Lord, and that he is already too much offended."** "Do you want anything else from me?" Lucy asked. **"I do not want anything more."**

Then She opened her hands again and She launched a ray of light in the direction of the sun as Lucy shouted that they should look at the sun. At this point the promised sign happened, the rain stopped suddenly and there appeared an exceptionally bright sun, but not dazzling. The sun began to turn as if projecting, in each direction, bands of light of each color that lit and colored the clouds, the sky, the trees, and the crowd. It stayed for some moments then it went back to its normal position, stayed still for a small while and then it happened again. Suddenly it looked as if it stood out from the sky to fall headlong on the crowd that was looking terrorized; they fell to their knees and begged mercy. Meanwhile the children saw a Lady dressed like the white of the sun with a blue cope, St. Joseph with the Child Jesus that blessed the world. After this vision they saw The Lord bless the world, standing next to Our Lady of Sorrows. After these visions the Lady of Mt Carmel finished the miracle and the people then became aware that their clothes were completely dried.

One of the principal anti-clerical publications of the day was *O Dia*, a major Lisbon newspaper. On October 17<sup>th</sup>, *O Dia* reported the following: At one o'clock in the afternoon, midday by the sun, the rain stopped. The sky, pearly gray in color, illuminated the vast arid landscape with a strange light. The sun had a transparent gauzy veil so that eyes could easily be fixed upon it. The gray mother-of-pearl tone turned into a sheet of silver which broke up as the clouds were torn apart and the silver sun, enveloped in the same gauzy gray light, was seen to whirl and turn in the circle of broken clouds. A cry went up from every mouth and people fell on their knees on the muddy ground. The light turned a beautiful blue as if it had come through the stained-glass windows of a cathedral and spread itself over the people who knelt with outstretched

hands. The blue faded slowly and then the light seemed to pass through yellow glass. Yellow stains fell against white handkerchiefs, against the dark skirts of women. They were reported on the trees, on the stones and on the serra. People wept and prayed with uncovered heads in the presence of the miracle they had awaited.

Francisco died on 4 April 1919 and Jacinta died on 20 February 1920. Before she dies, little Jacinta revealed little-known but remarkable statements made by Our Lady. Here are just some of them:

- More souls go to hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason.
- Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend Our Lord very much.
- Many marriages are not good; they do not please Our Lord and are not of God.
- Priests must be pure, very pure. They should not busy themselves with anything except what concerns the Church and souls. The disobedience of priests to their superiors and to the Holy Father is very displeasing to Our Lord.
- The Blessed Mother can no longer restrain the hand of her Divine Son from striking the world with just punishment for its many crimes.
- Tell everybody that God gives graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask graces from her, and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Lucy entered the Convent of the Sisters of St Dorothy to learn to read and write; then she entered in the convent of Coimbra. On December 10, 1925, Sister Lucy received an apparition by the Child Jesus and the Virgin Mary in her convent cell. The Holy Virgin shown her a Heart surrounded by thorns, Our Lady said to her:

**"See, My daughter, My heart surrounded by thorns which ungrateful men pierce at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude... Say to all those who:**

- **for five months, on the first Saturday, confess,**
- **receive Holy Communion,**
- **recite the Rosary**
- **and keep Me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, in a spirit of reparation,**

**I promise to assist them at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls."**

Sr. Lucia, the last surviving witness of the three children to whom the Virgin Mary appeared at Fatima, Portugal, died on February 13, 2005 at the age of 97. The Church is currently examining documents and collecting testimonies for her beatification cause.

Pope John Paul II beatified Francisco and Jacinta Marto on May 13, 2000 in a celebration attended by more than 700,000 people. On May 13, 2017 Pope Francis officially declared Francisco and Jacinta Marto saints of the Catholic Church in front of hundreds of thousands of pilgrims at Fatima, Portugal – teaching us that even young children can become saints.

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## 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, Fr. Paul Mullen, Jane Johnson, Gus Vargas, Helene Carpenter, Michele Bush, Clark Hewitt, Larry Mommico, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Gloria Fermenic, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, James Quimby, Bud Boyce, Mary Lou Bonk, Clare Vargas, Marian Coolidge, John Williams, and Kay Evans.



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

*Mary Cleveland*

*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.*



St. Peter's Church

# Harvest Dinner



**Friday, October 20, 2017**  
**4:00 – 7:00pm in the Parish Center**

**All You  
Can Eat!**

Adults – \$10.00

Children (under 12) – \$5.00

Children (under 3) – Free

**Menu:**

*Roasted Chicken and Pork*

*Mashed Potatoes, Gravy & Stuffing*

*Carrots & Coleslaw*

*Applesauce & Cranberry Sauce*

*Rolls*

*Homemade desserts*

*Coffee, soda, tea, lemonade*

*In order for this dinner to be a success, we need volunteers  
to work during & after the dinner and donations  
of some food items and baked goods.*

***Signup sheets can be found on the handout table in the church.***