

The 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time November 5, 2017

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.

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.

Pregnancy Support

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

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for $\text{Pre-K} - 12^{\text{th}}$ 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.

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

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

> <u>Rectory Office Hours</u> Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

P<u>arish Staff</u>

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.



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

31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time			November 5, 2017
Date	Time		Fime and Mass Intention
Monday 11/6 Rom 11:29-36; Lk 14:12-14	No Mass		
Tuesday 11/7 Rom 12:5-16; Lk 14:15-24	7:30am	In Honor or Mike Miller (Ostapowicz Family)	
Wednesday 11/8 Rom 13:8-10; Lk 14:25-33	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Robert & Connie Brown (Daughter, Gina)	
Thursday 11/9 Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12; 1 Cor 3:9-11,16-17; Jn 2:13-22	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Mary Alsacker (Grab Family)	
Friday 11/10 Rom 15:14-21; Lk 16:1-8	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Florence Preston (Richard & Valarie Tobin)	
Saturday 11/11 Rom 16:3-9,16,22-27; Lk 16:9-15	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confession In Memory of Gerald & Anna Collins (Mitchell Family)	
Sunday 11/12 Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13	8:30am	In Memory of Cindy Dalton (Kathy Wilcox)	
The Week Ahead <u>SUNDAY, November 5, 2017</u> Religious Ed. – Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12 th :9:30-10:40am		9:30-10:40am	This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Paul Min Lin (Samaritan House Volunteers)
 R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center MONDAY, November 6, 2017 Samaritan House Book Club – 6:30pm, Parish Center TUESDAY, November 7, 2017 Eucharistic Adoration–8:00am–4:00pm Women's Bible Study- 9:00am, Rectory AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center WEDNESDAY, November 8, 2017 Finance Council Meeting – 8:00am, Rectory Broad Acres Mass – 10:30am Green Home Mass – 2:00pm Social Concerns Meeting – 3:00pm, Parish Center THURSDAY, November 9, 2017 Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center SUNDAY, November 12, 2017 Religious Ed. – Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12th:9:30-10:40am R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center 			 Sacramental Information Baptisms - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend instructions classes before the birth of their child. 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 receiption into the Catholic Church.

Ministers of the Altar Schedule November 11th/12th

5:00pm

Servers: J.Grab, M. Mann, A.Banik Lectors: P.Walrath, D.Bleggi E. Min.: V.Anthony, E.Evert, I.Dziengowski, B.Chiaramonte 8:30am Servers: K.Kramer, L.Singer, Z.Singer Lectors: M.Stirnaman, C.Waclawik E. Min.: T.Gamble, N.Josten, A.Singer, M.Stirnaman

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE Saturday, St. Catherine, Westfield - 7:00pm Sunday, St. Thomas, Elkland – 11:30am

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.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: Pork & Beans and *Canned Fruit.* 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.

Liturgical Reflection The 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time FIRST READING: Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10

The Lord's words as spoken through the prophet Malachi, offer a stern warning to the priests who have turned from the way of the Lord. The commandment the prophet delivers to them, is to listen to the Lord. Should the priests not do that, they will face the Lord's curse. People follow their leaders and this was the case; the people who chose to follow the priests and stray from the God who created them. The Lord gives the priests another chance to come back to the covenant, so their people will do the same thing.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 131

The author of the psalm has found peace in _put YOUR HOPE IN THE God. Like children rest in their mother's arms, so the psalmist rests in God, finding stillness and quietness within. The psalmist's personal experience extends to Israel whose hope is in the Lord.



SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

The Thessalonians have truly received the Word of God, not just as human word, Paul tells them. When Paul and his coworkers preached the Gospel to the Thessalonians, they did so with kindness and gentleness, not only communicating the Word, but sharing themselves as well. The community as Thessalonica endeared themselves to the ministers of the Gospel, supporting the missionaries even when their work was labor intensive.

GOSPEL: Matthew 23:1-12



The scribes and the Pharisees have themselves cast as hypocrites in Jesus' eyes. Jesus now speaks to the crowds and the Christ. his disciples instructing them to

do as they say, but not as they do. Everything the scribes and Pharisees love: honor, passing off their hard work on others, and public adoration is not the way of the life in Jesus. At the conclusion of the Gospel, Jesus summarizes the life of his follower consistent with everything he has taught to this point: Christ is the one Master, the greatest is the servant, and humility leads to exaltation. How different from the life of the Pharisees!

November – the Month of All Souls

Intercessions on behalf of those who have died is a cherished tenet of our Catholic faith, springing from our belief in the resurrection of the body and the communion of saints. Though separated from the living, the dead are still at one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayer and intercession. Trusting in God's mercy, we continue to pray for them, knowing that this spiritual bond with our brothers and sisters who have died can never be broken. In the month of November, we pray in a special way for those who have died - those who are known to us, and those who are unknown.

Parish Activities and Information **ALL SOULS INTENTIONS**

There are special All Souls NOVEMBER Intentions envelopes in your THE MONTH OF ALL SOULS monthly packets, which can be used to remember deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during the month of November.

BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD

The Church has a long tradition of remembering those who have died, to the love and mercy of God. We do this in a special way on the Feast of All Souls Day, and throughout the



Month of November. During this month, a Book of the Names of the Dead will be located near the front entrance of the church. All Parishioners are welcome to write the names of those they wish to remember in this special book. ******

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Training for new Altar Servers will take place on November 15th from 3:15-4:15pm. Training is open to all students who have completed 4th grade or above. Please meet in the church.

2018 LECTOR WORKBOOKS AVAILABLE

Lectors, please pick up your 2018 Lector Workbook in the Sacristy after Mass this weekend. *****

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.

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, so that we can match them with anyone who is in need.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for October 29th: \$13,413.11* Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$ 5,750.00 Difference: \$ 7,663.11

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$ 1,541.56

*Amount Includes All Saints Collection: \$ 1,148.11

Due to a generous donation by a parishioner, our budget deficit has been erased, to which we are very appreciative. We are also very grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries.

Religious Ed. & Youth Group News COIN CHALLENGE FOR CHARITY

The coin challenge was a great success! In total \$530.64 as raised to support a local charity. The 2nd grade class raised the most money and will decide what charity will be presented with the money. Look for an update in a future bulletin.



UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Here's what's coming up for St. Peter's Youth Group: November 12th – Bowling, 1:00-3:00pm November 17th – Family Advent Prep, 3:15-5:00pm December 2nd – Dickens Parking 8:30-11:00am

For more information, please see the flyer sent home with all youth group members or contact the Religious Education Office.

That's The Way It Is!



The last major area of the survey was the social concerns area. This area of the survey deals with the social justice concerns in our parish and the larger community. The results in this area were generally positive. The comments suggested that people are appreciative of

the different activities our social concerns committee is involved with. People would like to see our parish expand our outreach offerings. Some people requested that the parish make sure we do as much as we can to make people aware of the different outreach activities the social concerns committee is involved. Many people offered some great suggestions as to different ways we might expand our outreach to the community.

Our parish is already engaged in many areas of outreach. The Samaritan House hospice program offered by our parish is unique. To my knowledge, no other parish, Catholic or Protestant, offers a program like this. Samaritan House provides a place for the dying and their families to receive hospice care. Many of our volunteers are Catholic, but many are not. This outreach of our parish is truly community wide and it enjoys the support not only of our parish but the wider community. The Samaritan House is funded by our parishioners and the wider community. I am happy to report that due to the generosity of our supporters this outreach remains fiscally healthy. In the near future Samaritan House will undergo some exterior renovations in order to make the house more easily accessible to people, especially in the winter. This project is funded completely by donations from the friends of the Dalton family. They desired to do something to honor Cindy Dalton who passed away last February. Cindy was very much involved with the Samaritan House as a volunteer.

Another area of outreach is the funeral lunch program. Due to the generosity of our volunteers our parish is able to offer funeral lunches to the family and friends of deceased parishioners. The families are truly grateful for this offering. Other areas of outreach include but are not limited to the following: Christmas giving tree, Christmas day dinner, backpack project, Valentine's Day dinners for the elderly, collections for the local food pantry, prison outreach, homeless shelter initiatives, Supplies for mothers who have unexpected pregnancies, pro-life activities, and more.

Of course the needs even in a small rural town like Wellsboro are endless. The needs in our parish are endless. Some people have suggested we explore the possibility of offering a "new comers" program as a way to connect parishioners with some of the new people who have registered. A visitation program for the elderly or shut-ins, food drives with the food being brought up as part of the offertory procession, and outreach to minority communities was also suggested. Some people requested that we change the rectory office hours to better accommodate families who cannot conduct parish business during those hours. I want to note in answer to this request that while the rectory is open from 9-2, I am never out of contact. If I am home after the office is closed I will answer the phone. If I do not answer the phone and the person leaves a message I call the person back as soon as I can. The rectory staff can testify that I do not let phone messages pile up. As soon as I get the message I am calling the person. Last evening (Monday) I got back to the rectory from Elkland around 9:00PM. I saw the phone blinking which meant there were messages. I checked the messages and called the people right then. For emergencies my pager number is listed.

I am going to continue to work with the different committees to find ways to expand our outreach. This year we have become involved with the homeless shelter initiative. Please note that in order to have active outreach to the wider community, we need volunteers. Anyone in the parish who feels called to volunteer for an outreach, or wants to start something need only call the rectory and talk to me. We are glad for any other ideas or suggestions and we need all the volunteers we can get. I see these things as falling under "community organizing" type things. Whatever I am good at as a priest, I am not good at community organizing type stuff. One of my cohorts remarked one day in frustration "You know they train us in seminary to be theological practitioners when what is needed in the parish is community organizing." All I can say is true that! Any parishioner who feels they have a gift for community organizing type stuff and wants to share that gift with the parish is invited to do so! That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

"We are all small and defenseless before the mystery of death, but what a grace if at that moment we keep in our heart the flame of faith." Pope Francis

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The first reading from Malachi asks, "Have we not all one Father? Has not the one God created us?" This theme is echoed in the Gospel's teaching, "Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven." In a culture of death, the worldview is that we are responsible only for those for whom we choose to be responsible, and that this choice is a purely individual, private matter. Such a culture would have us believe that someone's decision to abort a child is "none of our business." But if we all have one Father, then that makes us brothers and sisters, and means that our lives are entrusted to one another's care. We are responsible for each other before we choose to be. The abortions that others have are our business, because those children - as well as their parents -- are also entrusted to our care, in the one family of God. Ours is the business of love, to care as much as we can for all our brothers and sisters.

Diocese of Scranton News DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Your gifts support the following ministries made possible by the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

- Catholic Social Services & Parish Social Justice Grants
- Catholic Education in Schools and Parishes
- Clergy Formation, Education and Support
- Parish Life and Ministry Formation
- Catholic Media and Communication

St. Peter's annual appeal goal is \$46,500. We currently have raised \$23,260. This amount does not include the pledges made during our in pew appeal.

News from the Vatican GOD'S DREAM FOR MAN IS THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Seeing the Great Commandment lived out would satisfy God's dream. Reflecting on the passage from the Gospel of St. Matthew, and Jesus giving the Great Commandment to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

When the Pharisees came together to put Jesus to the test, asking Him which commandment in the Law is the greatest, Francis observed it was an "insidious" question because in the Law of Moses more than 600 precepts are mentioned. "How can one distinguish, among all these, the great commandment?" he asked. However," he noted, "Jesus has no hesitation and answers: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." And adds: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus' answer, the Holy Father noted, was not a given because, among the many precepts of the Jewish Law, the most important were the Ten Commandments, communicated directly by God to Moses, as conditions of the pact of the Covenant with the people. "However," he stressed, "Jesus wants it understood that without the love of God and of one's neighbor there isn't true fidelity to this Covenant with the Lord. You can do many good things, fulfill many precepts, many good things, but if you don't have love, it's all for nothing."

Jesus, Francis reminded, lived His life precisely preaching and doing what really counts and is essential, namely, love. "Love gives impetus and fruitfulness to life and to the journey of faith: without love, life and faith remain sterile." What Jesus proposes in this evangelical passage, the Pope noted, corresponds to the most authentic desire of our heart, namely that we were created to love and to be loved. "God, who is Love, has created us to make us participants in His life, to be loved by Him and to love Him and, with Him, to love other people. This is God's "dream" for man." However, to realize it, he said, we need His grace.

COURAGE & 'DIRTY HANDS' ARE NEEDED FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

For the Kingdom of God, courage and 'dirty hands' are needed. Pope Francis gave this reminder as he reflected on the day's Gospel, according to St. Luke. For the Kingdom of God, the Pope stressed, we must channel our inner strength. Even St. Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, highlights how many tensions there are in life. Yet, the Pontiff reminded, our sufferings 'do not compare to the glory that awaits us." In the midst of such tensions there is "an immense expectation" of a "great revelation" of the Kingdom of God. This expectation, the Pope explained, belongs not only to us, but also to Creation, which, like us, 'is fallen.' The inner strength that "leads us to hope for the fullness of the Kingdom of God" is that of the Holy Spirit, Francis said, reminding that hope can enable us to surpass our limits and reach glory. "It is the Holy Spirit that is within us and brings this: this is a great thing, a liberation, a great glory. And for this reason, Jesus says," the Jesuit Pope recalled: 'Inside a mustard seed, that small grain, there is a force that triggers unimaginable growth."" "Within us and in Creation," the Pope repeated, "there is a force that triggers [us]: it is the Holy Spirit," which "gives us hope.

The Pope went on to explain what it means to live in hope. Calling hope the 'most humble' and 'servant' virtue, the Pope rebuked those who preach the Kingdom of God, but who avoid 'getting dirty,' whom he called 'museum custodians.' Pope Francis concluded, reminding that where there is hope, there is the Holy Spirit, and this helps lead us to the Kingdom of God.

the Kingdom of God.

Apostleship of Prayer - Papal Intention for November *Christians in Asia* - Let us pray that Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions. Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for their support. Their advertising helps to make our bulletin possible.



Parish Prayer List

PRAYERS 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, Richard Nowak, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Callie Cavanaugh, Fr. Paul Mullen, Jane Johnson, Gus Vargas, Helene Carpenter, Michele Bush, Clark Hewitt, Larry Mommicco, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Mary Lou Bonk, Clare Vargas, Marian Coolidge, John Williams, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, and Elizabeth Payne.



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