



The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 19, 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.

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 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.

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 _____



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Let us love, not with words, but with deeds.

For all the poor throughout the world and in our midst, that on this first World Day of the Poor, they may come to know more concretely the love and care of the Church, a love not with words, but with deeds.
 Let us pray to the Lord.

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

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 11/20 <i>1 Mc 1:10-15,41-63; Lk 18:35-43</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 11/21 <i>2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Louis Lubera (Ostapowicz Family)
Wednesday 11/22 <i>2 Mc 7:1,20-31; Lk 19:1-10</i>	7:00pm	In Memory of Jeannette Long (Waclawik Family)
Thursday 11/23 <i>1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44</i>	No Mass	
Friday 11/24 <i>1 Mc 4:36-37,52-59; Lk 19:45-48</i>	No Mass	
Saturday 11/25 <i>1 Mc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40</i>	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confession In Memory of Deceased Members of Camp Irwin (Camp Irwin)
Sunday 11/26 <i>Ez 34:11-12,15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26,28; Mt 25:31-46</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Lana Bennett (Pete & Pat Gorda)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in
Memory of **Helen Pryslak** (Olivia & Archer Light)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, November 19, 2017

Family Advent Celebration – 9:30am, Parish Center

TUESDAY, November 21, 2017

Eucharistic Adoration–8:00am–7:00pm

Benediction 6:45pm

Women's Bible Study- 9:00am, Rectory

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, November 22, 2017

Rectory Closed

THURSDAY, November 23, 2017

Rectory Closed

FRIDAY, November 24, 2017

Rectory Closed

SUNDAY, November 26, 2017

No Religious Ed Classes

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.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, St. Catherine, Westfield - 7:00pm

Sunday, St. Thomas, Elkland – 11:30am

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

November 22nd – Thanksgiving Mass

7:00pm

Servers: J.Gordon, L.Gordon, B.Levindoski

Lectors: D.Gordon, M.Ostapowicz

E. Min.: N.Ostapowicz, C.Lannak, E.Evert, G.Brown

November 25th/26th

5:00pm

Servers: X.Tellgren, L.Gordon

Lectors: C.Evert, K.Tellgren

E. Min.: G.Brown, B.Chiamonte, V.Anthony, C.Lannak

8:30am

Servers: A.Dunkel, L.Germine

Lectors: R.Kramer, P.Kramer

E. Min.: K.Wilcox, G.Porier, A.Singer, D.deGuzman

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 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.



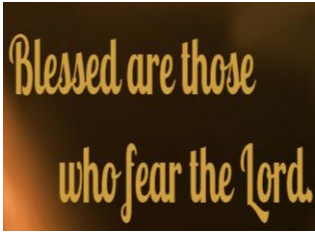
Liturgical Reflection

The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

This is the final Sunday before Christ the King. One might wonder why the First Reading is the selection from Proverbs about a worthy wife. The woman's fear of the Lord is an example to us. Her works demonstrate how to respond faithfully to the Lord's call. Her reward for a life well lived is entrance in the heavenly Jerusalem. Accomplished as she is, the greatest praise that the worthy wife receives is that she fears the Lord. She stands in reverent awe before the God who governs all things.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 128



The refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm replicates the theme of the First Reading. Those who fear the Lord are blessed. The verses used today begin and end with a general statement extending the Lord's

blessing to all those who fear him.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Our Second Reading begins with Paul affirming that he really does not need to write the Thessalonians about anything related to the times and seasons, especially the time when Christ will come like a thief in the night. The timing of the Lord's coming will be unexpected. The Thessalonians are children of the light, not of the dark, so the unexpected nature of Christ's coming will not leave them behind. Children of the light stay awake for the Lord, living in steadfast and sure hope.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The well known parable of the talents is the Gospel for this final Sunday in Ordinary Time. This parable is about the kingdom of heaven, and who is in and who is out. One could incorrectly get the sense from this parable that what we do with the gifts God gives us, determines our entry into the kingdom of heaven. Yet, the parable is not about us earning our salvation, but rather about how responsible we are with all our generous gifts God gives us. God calls us to imitate his generosity to the best of our ability, for in doing so we accept his invitation to share the Master's joy. Both the positive and negative portraits of the Master in this parable, can act as incentives to be always prepared for the Lord's coming, whether that be in the here and now or at his final appearance.



Parish Activities and Information

PARISH FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION

Today, Sunday, November 19th is our annual parish Family Advent Celebration. This celebration is **for all members of our Parish** and includes Advent crafts to make with your children, Advent handouts, door prizes, guessing jars, coffee and donuts. Please come and share in this time of fellowship with member of our Parish family.



The youth group will host this event and will also have a **bake sale**, with proceeds going to support upcoming youth group activities. We will also have for sale

Advent Wreath candles. The set includes 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle and costs \$5.00.



THANKSGIVING MASS SCHEDULE



St. Peter's Thanksgiving Mass will be held on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00pm. There will be no 12:10pm Mass on Wednesday, November 22nd, Thursday, November 23rd, or Friday, November 24th. **All parishioners are**

invited to bring a food bank donation to the Mass and present their donation as the gifts are brought forward.

2nd COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

There will be a second collection taken up at all Masses next weekend in support of our parish religious education program. This is not a diocesan collection and all money collected stays here. Please be as generous as you are able.

RECTORY CLOSED

The Rectory will be closed Wednesday November 22nd and will not reopen until Wednesday, November 29th at 9:00am. In the event of an emergency, please refer to the *Emergency Contact* information on the front page of the bulletin. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year's Wellsboro Ministerium Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held Sunday, November 19th at 7:00pm at the United Methodist Church. All are invited to attend.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



Share Christmas joy with a local child, family, or nursing home resident. Select a tag from our Giving Tree ---red for a child, white for a family in need, or green for a nursing home resident. Gifts for children and families need to be under the Giving Tree by Sunday, December 3rd. Please deliver the gifts for nursing home residents by December 24th, as your visit is just as important as the gift. Questions? Please call Jackie Murphy 570-724-7334.

PARISHIONERS WANTED TO LIGHT THE CANDLES DURING ADVENT

*Sign your Family up
to Light the Advent Candle*

Would your family like to light the Advent Wreath candles at one of the Masses during the season of Advent? A sign-up sheet can be found on the handout table on the side of the church. Those lighting the candles should wait for Fr. Bechtel in the back of the church prior to the Mass and will then process in behind the Altar Servers and Lector, light the appropriate candle(s), and then proceed to their pew as the opening hymn continues.

HOMELESS INITIATIVE NEEDS OUR HELP

Pope Francis recently said "The Church is truly alive if it is...missionary and goes out to meet others." One way we do this at St. Peter's is by supporting the Tioga County Homeless Initiative. Our next scheduled week is December 3rd – 9th and volunteers are needed to work shifts at the shelter on Charleston Road from 5:00–9:00pm each evening. We are also in need of parishioners to prepare meals some evenings. For questions or to sign up, please contact Tara Gordon at 570-439-0006 or David Gordon at 570-439-0005. There will also be signup sheets in the back of the Church.



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR



Make a difference in someone's life! Come to the annual Alternative Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 2nd from 10:00am-2:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church, where

shoppers will have the opportunity to purchase a "gift" that will help a variety of local charities within our community. St. Peter's Samaritan House will be represented, as well as other local organizations. There will also be food and music.

MESSAGE ABOUT YOUR WEEKLY ENVELOPES

In order to ensure that your contribution to the parish is correctly recorded, please make sure that the amount of your donation is denoted on the front of the envelope. This is a great help to our counters.

COLLECTION COUNTERS NEEDED



**OFFERING
COUNTERS**

We are in need of volunteers to count the weekly collection on Sunday mornings. Teams of 3 or more rotate on a six week schedule. We currently need to fill some empty spots on existing teams. If you are interested, please call or email the rectory.

A new schedule will begin in January.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Refresh and expand your understanding of what being a follower of Jesus means by attending the 7-session "Following Christ" course in St. Peter's Parish Center Wednesday evenings, from January 10th through February 28th from 7:00-9:00pm. There will also be a Spirit-filled Retreat on Saturday, February 17th.



Following Christ helps those who are hungry to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ to better understand and respond to the Lord's call. This is accomplished through the grace of God by praying together, teaching, and supporting one another in some of the basic disciplines and truths practiced by Christians since the early Church.

Following Christ consists of seven sessions and a retreat day. The weekly sessions include four components: prayer, video teaching, fellowship, and small group discussion.

- Prayer - The prayer time is an opportunity for participants to grow deeper in their response to God's love together in group prayer.
- Video Teaching - The teachings provide practical ways to grow in relationship with the Lord and include foundational disciplines and truths that are important for maturing in Christ.
- Fellowship - The time of fellowship over drinks and desserts comes after the teaching as people transition into their small groups.
- Small Groups - The small groups are a place to freely discuss the teaching content, as well as a place of accountability for completing the action items encouraged in each session.

Session Topics:

1. Daily Personal Prayer
2. Hearing God in Scripture
3. The Power of the Sacraments
4. Forgiving One Another
5. The Spirit-Empowered Life
6. Retreat - The World, The Flesh, The Devil
7. Advancing the Mission of the Church

To register or for more information, contact Norb Josten at 570-724-9095 or norb.josten@gmail.com. A satellite course will also be hosted at the deGuzman residence in Keeneyville for those interested.

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.



"Nothing and nobody can block the light that Christ puts in our hearts and on the face of his friends." Pope Francis

Religious Ed. & Youth Group News

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Here's what's coming up for St. Peter's Youth Group:

- December 2nd – Dickens Parking 8:30-10:30am
- December 9th – Salvation Army Bell Ringers 10:00am-12:00pm
- December 17th – Christmas Activity – 10:45am-12:00pm

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



The second grade class was the winner of the Coin Challenge, and decided to donate the money collected to Samaritan House. This picture shows the second graders with some of the Samaritan House volunteers, along with Fr. Bechtel.



Youth group bowling participants.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for November 12, 2017	\$ 6,178.00
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses	\$ 5,750.00
Difference	\$ 428.00
Year to Date Budget Variance	\$ 1,970.81

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



Bread Pudding Stand

When: Saturday, December 2nd

Where: Main Street, Wellsboro

When: 9:00am - 4:00pm

This parish fundraiser helps support the operation of the church. In order for this parish fundraiser to be a success, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, working the booth, and as couriers. Some non-food items are also needed and monetary donations are welcome to help offset the cost of food supplies. Victorian style costumes are required for booth workers, but can be as simple as a long skirt, shawl, pants tucked into knee socks, or boots and a heavy sweater.

Sign-up sheets can be found in the back of the church.

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

We all have talents, the use of which will be judged at the end of time. In preaching about the use of our talents in a fruitful way, we can preach about the wide variety of talents that are applied to the effort to defend and promote the sacredness of human life. A wide variety of activities comprise the pro-life movement. People provide alternatives to abortion, legal advice, counseling, medical services, adoption services, employment searches, housing, education, and the many other services of Pregnancy Resource Centers, accessed through hotline numbers and websites. There is also the wide range of healing ministries for those who have had abortions. Moreover, the pro-life effort is advanced through research, medical expertise, litigation, lobbying, media work, writing, speaking, grassroots activism, and much more. In short, there is room for everyone in the movement. The greatest fruit of our talents would be to be able to present to the Lord the lives saved through our efforts.

That's The Way It Is!



Last week I talked a little bit about the Reformation and how Catholics and Protestants see the Reformation. This week I want to continue that discussion. The Protestant reformers came up with five “solas” to describe in a simple manner what they believed. This is also what they expected Protestant Christians to believe. Sola is a Latin word that means “alone.” These five solas guide their theology and belief. The five solas are: 1) Christ alone, 2) the glory of God alone, 3) Grace alone, 4) Scripture alone and 5) Faith alone.

Catholics agree with three of the five: Christ alone, Grace alone, God’s glory alone. Catholics cannot agree with Scripture alone or Faith alone. The doctrine Scripture alone is why Protestants are always demanding that Catholics prove their doctrines from Scripture. This is why many Protestants have such problems with the use of statues or images, honoring Mary or the saints, Purgatory, the Sacraments, and many other Catholic beliefs. They believe that these doctrines do not have a Scriptural basis. They believe that they are what they call “Romanist inventions.” The word “Romanist” is a pejorative term used to mock the papacy.

Many Catholics in our parish probably know of someone, or even have someone in their family who constantly criticizes the Catholic Faith. Ex-Catholics are even worse. Ex-Catholics aren’t happy unless they are making practicing Catholics unhappy. “Show me where Scripture teaches the Immaculate Conception.” “Show me where Scripture teaches purgatory.” “Show me where Scripture teaches the papacy” etc. I have been in these situations countless times. The truth is—we can show where Scripture reflects these doctrines. The problem is that the person demanding Scriptural proof has already made up their mind that the Catholic cannot show where Scripture reflects Catholic doctrine. Thus, any proof a Catholic gives from Scripture is by definition not proof to the “Bible Christian.”

After years of frustration in dealing with such people, a light bulb went on in my head: Catholics do not believe Scripture alone, the Protestant believes Scripture alone. Catholics have never claimed that the Catholic Faith is based solely on the Bible; therefore, the Catholic is not the one who has something to prove. I have taken to turning the tables when Protestants ask such questions. “Since the Catholic Church has never claimed that the Catholic Faith is based solely on the Scriptures, why do I have to prove anything to you?” I then put the Protestant on the defensive: “Why don’t you show me where Scripture teaches Scripture alone?” Then the conversation usually turns to Second Timothy 3:16. I will write more on that at a later time.

The doctrine Faith alone is why Protestants accuse Catholics of being works centered and trying to earn God’s

love or heaven. There is a sense in which Catholics believe we can merit salvation, but it is not in the sense that Protestants think. Protestants think Catholics believe that we can put God in debt to us through our good works such that God owes us salvation. Catholics believe that good works save, not because they are inherently worth anything to God or because they somehow put God in our debt. Catholics believe that good works are saving; that we can merit salvation through good works because God has chosen and promised to associate his grace and benevolence with our human works of love.

This principle of human and divine working in unison is revealed in the Incarnation. I will write more on that at a later time. For Catholics, human works are saving because God’s grace works in them, just as God’s grace works in Faith. The truth is that Protestants believe similarly. No Protestant, no matter how fundamentalist, is going to argue that Christians do not actually have to practice what they preach and live a good Christian life. Protestants may not go as far as Catholics and claim that grace is operative in human works, but they do believe good works are necessary to vindicate Faith if nothing else.

Given what I have said, I hope this helps to explain the tone in some of the articles in the newspaper during the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. I also hope it explains further some of the disagreements between Protestants and Catholics and where they originate.

That’s the way it is! The Reverend David W. Bechtel

Diocese of Scranton News

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

You are invited to attend an “Annual Appeal Mass of Thanksgiving” to be held at St. Peter’s Cathedral, Scranton, on Sunday, November 26th, at 10:00 a.m. The Mass will be celebrated by Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera and followed by a reception in the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Your intention as you expressed on pledge envelopes during In-Pew Weekend will be remembered at this Mass. This Mass also marks the Liturgical Solemnity of Christ the King and the conclusion of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis. Thank you.

St. Peter’s annual appeal goal is \$46,500. We currently have raised \$37,795. This amount does not include the pledges made during our in pew appeal.

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.

News from the Vatican



MASS IS PRAYER 'PAR EXCELLENCE'

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

We continue with the catecheses on the Holy Mass. To understand the beauty of the Eucharistic Celebration, I want to begin with

a very simple aspect: the Mass is prayer, rather, it's the prayer par excellence, the highest, the most sublime and, at the same time, the most concrete. In fact, it's the encounter of love with God through His Word and the Body and Blood of Jesus. It's an encounter with the Lord.

However, first we must answer a question. What is prayer really? It is first of all dialogue, personal relationship with God. And man was created as being in personal relationship with God, who finds his fulfillment only in the encounter with his Creator. The journey of life is towards the definitive encounter with the Lord.

The Book of Genesis affirms that man was created in the image and likeness of God, who is Father and Son and Holy Spirit, a perfect relationship of love, which is unity. From this we are able to understand that all of us have been created to enter into a perfect relationship of love, in a continuous giving and receiving of ourselves to thus be able to find the fullness of our being.

When Moses received God's call in front of the burning bush, he asked Him his Name. And what did God answer? "I am who I am" (Exodus 3:14). In its original meaning, this expression expresses presence and favor, and, in fact, immediately after God adds: "The Lord, the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (v. 15). Thus Christ also, when He calls His disciples, He calls them so that they will be with Him. Therefore, this is the greatest grace: to be able to experience that the Mass, the Eucharist is the privileged moment to be with Jesus and, through Him, with God and with brothers.

To pray, as every true dialogue, is also to be able to remain in silence, — in dialogues there are moments of silence —, in silence together with Jesus. And when we go to Mass, perhaps we arrive five minutes early and we begin to chat with the one who is next to us. However, it's not the moment to chat: it's the moment of silence to prepare oneself to dialogue. It's the moment to recollect oneself in the heart to prepare oneself for the encounter with Jesus. Silence is so important! Remember what I said last week: we are not going to a show; we are going to an encounter with the Lord, and silence prepares us and accompanies us. We remain in silence together with Jesus. And from God's mysterious silence gushes His Word, which resounds in our heart. Jesus Himself teaches us how it is really possible "to be" with the Father and He demonstrates it with His prayer. The Gospels show us Jesus who withdraws to places apart to pray. The disciples seeing this, His intimate relationship with the Father, feel the desire to be able to participate in it, and they ask Him: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). We heard it in the First Reading at the beginning of the Audience. Jesus answers that the first thing necessary to go pray is to be able to say "Father." Let's be careful: if I'm

not capable of saying "Father," I'm not capable of praying. We must learn to say "Father," namely, to put ourselves in His presence with filial confidence. However, to be able to learn, it is necessary to recognize humbly that we are in need of being instructed, and to say with simplicity: Lord, teach me to pray.

This is the first point: to be humble, to recognize ourselves children, to rest in the Father, to trust Him. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven it's necessary to make oneself little as children, in the sense that children know how to trust, they know that someone will take care of them, of what they will eat, of what they will wear and so on (Cf. Matthew 6:25-32). This is the first attitude: trust and confidence, as a child towards his parents' to know that God remembers you and takes care of you, of you, of me, of all.

The second predisposition, which is also proper to children, is to let oneself be surprised. A child always asks a thousand questions because he wants to discover the world, and he marvels even at small things, because everything is new to him. To enter in the Kingdom of Heaven it is necessary to let oneself be surprised. I ask, in our relationship with the Lord, in prayer, do we let ourselves be surprised or do we think that prayer is to talk to God as parrots do? No, it's to trust and to open one's heart to let oneself be surprised. Do we let ourselves be surprised by God who is always the God of surprises? Because the encounter with the Lord is always a living encounter, it's not a museum encounter. It's a living encounter and we go to Mass not to a museum. We go to a living encounter with the Lord.

In the Gospel there is talk of a certain Nicodemus (John 3:1-21), an elderly man, an authority in Israel, who goes to Jesus to get to know Him, and the Lord speaks to him of the need to be "born anew" (Cf. v. 3). But what does it mean? Can one be "reborn"? Is it possible to have again the taste, the joy, the wonder of life even in face of so many tragedies? This is a fundamental question of our faith and this is the desire of every true believer: the desire to be born anew, the joy of beginning again. Do we have this desire? Do each one of us always have the desire to be born anew to encounter the Lord? Do you have this desire? In fact, it can be easily lost because, given so much activity, so many projects to implement, at the end there is little time left and we lose sight of what is fundamental: our life of the heart, our spiritual life, our life which is encounter with the Lord in prayer.

In truth, the Lord surprises us by showing us that He loves us also in our weaknesses. "Jesus Christ is the victim of expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2). This gift, source of true consolation — but the Lord forgives us always — this consoles, it's a true consolation, it's a gift that is given to us through the Eucharist, that nuptial banquet in which the Bridegroom meets our frailty. Can I say that when I go to Communion in the Mass, the Lord encounters my frailty? Yes! We can say it because this is true! The Lord encounters our frailty to take us back to our first calling: that of being in the image and likeness of God. This is the environment of the Eucharist; this is prayer.

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 <p>U-Haul® Dealer Since 2011 uhaul.com</p> <p>Ken Mitchell Mitchell's Carquest Auto Parts</p> <p>688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933 Business: (570) 662-2534 www.mitchellcarquest.com</p> 	 <p>You are more than a Girl Scout. You're a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader).</p> <p>We believe there's no such thing as too much. We are G.I.R.L.s. We will not stop. In fact, we're just getting started. Interested in joining Girl Scouts as a girl or volunteer? Contact Misty-Jo Osborn at mosborn@gsnypenn.org or 607-796-6202 ext 2526</p>	<p>A Gift in Your Will</p> <p>We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attorney:</p> <p><i>"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."</i></p>

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, 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 Mommico, Loretta Nonnenmacher, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Mary Lou Bonk, Clare Vargas, Marian Coolidge, John Williams, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, Elizabeth Payne, Ann Osgood, and Brenden Young.



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

Kathleen Shaefer

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.