



The Epiphany of the Lord January 7, 2018

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 Thursday 8:00–2:00pm

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 –
stpried@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 _____



Happy Birthday and
 God's blessings, to
 Mary Lou Koch who
 celebrated her 96th Birthday!

We welcome Henry Allen Myers
 into the One, Holy, Catholic
 Church through the
 Sacrament of Holy Baptism.



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 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 – Paul Uner 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

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2018

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 1/8 <i>Is 55:1-11; Mk 1:7-11</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 1/9 <i>1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Mary Cleveland (Family)
Wednesday 1/10 <i>1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20; Mk 1:29-39</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Peter Strindberg (Barbara Anthony)
Thursday 1/11 <i>1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Sheila Grahman (Joan Getgen)
Friday 1/12 <i>1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22; Mk 2:1-12</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Cynthia Gordon (Gordon Family)
Saturday 1/13 <i>1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2:13-17</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 1/14 <i>1 Sm 3:3-10,19; 1 Cor 6:13-15,17-20; Jn 1:35-42</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Alfred & Eric Swendrowski (Swendrowski Family)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, January 7, 2017

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am;K-12th:9:30-10:40am
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center
Virtus Training – 1:00pm, Parish Center

TUESDAY, January 9 2017

Adoration – 8:00am-7:00pm; Benediction 6:45pm
Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Adult Ed Room
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, January 10, 2017

Broad Acres Mass – 10:30am
Green Home Mass – 2:00pm
St. John Neumann Group – 1:00pm, Parish Center
ChristLife – 7:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, January 11, 2017

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

SUNDAY, January 14, 2017

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am;K-12th:9:30-10:40am
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center
Secular Carmelites – 12:30pm, Parish Center

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.)*
A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS - This month's food pantry items are: *Canned tuna, ham, chicken 5-6oz.*
A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

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

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Mary Cleveland (Rummage Sale Workers)

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

January 13th/14th

5:00pm

Servers: L.Poirier, E.Poirier, W.Poirier

Lectors: G.Poirier, P.Walrath

E. Min.: B.Butler, V.Anthony, K.Wilcox, N.Ostapowicz

8:30am

Servers: M.Ingerick, W.Feil, M.Bergen, L.Germino

Lectors: N.Bickham, N.Kennedy

E. Min.: M.Bialas, T.Gamble, M.Sampson, D.de Guzman

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 Epiphany of the Lord

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord has several themes. First, we have the wise men being guided through darkness by the light of the star. Second, we have the star as a sign that leads the wise men to Jesus. Third, we have the manifestation of God to Gentiles, not just Jews, pointing to the reality that Jesus came for all people. Fourth, we have the mystery that God does reveal his very self in human flesh. This feast with its stars and the arrival of the Magi, reminds us that God has a plan that is worked out in time.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

In Isaiah's splendid poetry, Israel heard a promise of the exiles' return from Babylonian captivity and a prophecy that Gentiles would one day come to honor the city. Light and darkness are the images he uses to suggest the difference that will be manifest when God's strong arm demonstrates divine power over the earth. To Christian ears Isaiah's words announce the coming of the light of Christ who dispels the "darkness" of sin and fills us with radiant light. Note: it is from this text, not Matthew's account of the Gospel, that we derive the details of kings and camels that we generally associate with the magi.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 72

The psalmist petitions God for blessing upon the king. The king not only acts on behalf of God, but must have the justice and compassion of God. No small task for a monarch. One of the king's particular responsibilities is to treat the poor and the afflicted with special concern, just as the Lord would do.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Unique among the band of Apostles, Paul gained knowledge of the mysteries of salvation by direct revelation from Christ himself without ever having known him in the flesh. The special charge entrusted to Paul was to evangelize the Gentiles, and such was his success that his efforts could only have been fueled by divine grace. The revelation Paul asserts here was a disquieting one among the early Christians: Gentiles are made coheirs with the Jews. The mercy and generosity of God goes far beyond our own; Jews cannot claim exclusive right to Christ. In Christ, Jews and Gentiles are made members of one body and both are sharers in the promises of Christ.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12



The arrival of the magi and their inquiry regarding the child born to be "king of the Jews" strikes fear in the heart of Herod and all his minions. Immediately, he seeks information about the prophesied birth of the Messiah,

so Herod fears not some future human usurper, but the divine will itself that will place a true and eternal king upon the throne of David. The sad details of the story tell of this tragic king's futile efforts to thwart the will of God through schemes and subterfuge. But we're left with a hopeful image of a child in his mother's lap plied with gifts that dimly foreshadow his destiny of King and Savior.

Parish Activities and Information

2018 CALENDARS ARE HERE

The 2018 Catholic family calendars have arrived and can be found at each entrance to the church and on the handout table. Special thanks to Tussey-Mosher Funeral Home for their full sponsorship of these beautiful calendars.

HOMELESS SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thank you to everyone who recently volunteered recently to staff the homeless shelter and prepare meals for guests! Your assistance to those in the most need in our community is appreciated! The schedule for 2018 has been released. St. Peter's is on again next month, from January 7th – 13th. As a result we are again asking for people to encounter and minister to the needs of the poor in our area in a tangible way. Please consider signing up to help staff the shelter on Charleston Road from 5:00-9:00pm during this week, or preparing a meal for guests. To sign up or questions please contact Tara Gordon at 570-439-0006 or David Gordon at 570-439-0005. Signup sheets can be found on the hand out table on the side of the Church.



SANCTUARY CANDLES

A candle is kept burning day and night wherever the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in Catholic churches. It is an emblem of Christ's abiding love and a reminder to the faithful to respond with loving adoration in return. Sanctuary candles are available to remember or honor your loved ones. Please call the rectory to reserve a week.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry creates beautiful, prayer shawls to help comfort and warm those in need. They comfort the sick, the bereaved, shut-ins, nursing home residents, or people experiencing loneliness and emotional distress. The shawls are like being wrapped in prayers and love. If you know of anyone needing a shawl, please call Jan Bernethy at 307-267-0677.

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.

2017 STATEMENT OF DONATIONS

The 2017 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31st to be included on your 2017 statement. If you would like a 2017 statement, please call the rectory or write "send statement" on your weekly offering envelope.

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.

Registration closes today, January 7th. Those wishing to join the course should call or email Norb Josten at 570-724-9095 or norb.josten@gmail.com.

That's The Way It Is!



The Catholic understanding of sin is one of the many ways we differ from our Protestant brothers and sisters. Catholics believe that there are two types of personal sin: Mortal and Venial. Protestants do not make such a distinction. Catholics believe that in order to be forgiven of Mortal Sin they must go to Confession. Confession is not necessary in order to be forgiven of Venial Sin. It is important to note that the difference between Mortal and Venial sin is not degree but kind. It is important to understand this difference because Venial sins cannot add up to a Mortal Sin. Venial sins are venial.

Mortal sins are deadly—that is when one commits a Mortal Sin they sin unto death. It is because one sins unto death that Confession is necessary in order to be forgiven from a Mortal Sin. When one commits a Venial sin, one does not sin unto death. This is why Confession is not necessary to be forgiven of Venial Sins.

It might be helpful to draw an analogy in order to understand this better. On the spiritual level, Venial Sins are like minor illnesses in one's physical body: a cold, the flu, a headache, minor aches and pains throughout the body, etc. In all of these cases, one's body can recover from these illnesses without the aid of a doctor. One might choose to take an over-the-counter drug to assist the body's natural healing process, but one's body can recover without major medical intervention. There are some things however, that cause death—such as when one's heart stops beating. One's body cannot recover without major medical intervention. Without the intervention from a doctor, one dies. Moral Sins are analogous to that. Just as one cannot recover from a heart attack without major medical intervention, so too, one cannot recover from a Mortal Sin without the intervention of a priest.

The commission of sin causes damage to our souls. Sin does not only effect those we sin against it effects our souls. When God forgives the sin the soul is cleansed of sin but the damage from the sin is not repaired. Think of it

like this: your soul is like a white cloth. Sin is like a red thread running through the cloth. Forgiveness removes the red thread. The damage the sin caused is like the holes created from the needle when the red thread was sewn into the cloth. Forgiveness removed the red thread but it did not repair the holes created from the needle. This is where penance for sin comes in. The penance we do to make up for sin is what fills in the holes caused by the needle.

This is why a penance is assigned after Confession. Your sins have been forgiven but the damage those sins caused needs to be repaired. God does for us what only God can do: forgive our sins. Our part is to do what we have the power to do: repair the damage the sin caused. This is why penance is so important. It is important to note that works of penance do not get our sins forgiven. We cannot earn God's forgiveness. Works of penance presuppose that our sins have been forgiven. Works of penance are of no use if our sins have not been forgiven. Looking at the analogy, the holes from the needle cannot be repaired if the red thread is still in the cloth.

This is where Purgatory comes in to play. If we do not do sufficient works of penance to repair the damage our sins caused in this life, then God must do it for us in the next life. God does this in Purgatory. The more works of penance we can do in this life to make up for sin, obviously the less work God has to do in Purgatory to repair the damage for sin. This is also where indulgences come in. Indulgences are special gifts that are given based on the infinite merits of Christ that repairs the damage sin has caused to our souls without us necessarily having to do penance. Indulgences can be plenary or they can be partial. A Plenary indulgence repairs all the damage sin has caused while a Partial indulgence removes some of the damage. The Church makes it very easy to gain indulgences. We can gain an indulgence by reception of Holy Communion, Confession, and performing the work attached to the indulgence. Reading the Bible, praying the Stations of the Cross, and a whole host of things are examples of works that can have indulgences attached to them. Cardinal Wuerl has attached a Plenary indulgence for anyone in his diocese who attends the March for Life in Washington DC. That's the Way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

Knights of Columbus News



Mansfield University Knights of Columbus Council is sponsoring a Free Throw Championship on January 14th at 2:00pm.

All girls and boys ages 9-14 are invited to participate. The event will be held at the Kelchner Fitness Center on the Mansfield University campus. Each participant should bring a copy of their birth certificate. For more information, please call Tom Socha, District Deputy at 814-258-7386.

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The opening and closing prayer, the Preface, and the readings of today's feast all work powerfully together to enable us to communicate the message of the sanctity of life. Epiphany is about "revelation" and "manifestation," and that, of course is what Christ does. Not only does he reveal the Father to us, but he reveals us to ourselves. He shows us that this human nature of ours, that can be so troublesome and burdened, has in fact been renewed. The Preface proclaims, "You made us new by the glory of his immortal nature." That, indeed is "the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel" that Paul proclaims to the Ephesians in the second reading. As the opening prayer for the Vigil Mass says, it is a promise that God will enable us to "reach the brightness of our eternal home." Death is no longer the final word for the human family, and this gift is shared not only by one nation or one people, but by all humanity.

The universal offer of God's salvation extends to those still in the womb. Epiphany not only tells us that there are no national or ethnic boundaries to God's call, but that there are no artificial boundaries between "born" and "unborn," "wanted" or "unwanted," "convenient" or "inconvenient." Moreover, the "epiphany" most needed in our time is the ability to see beyond the appearances of those who are smaller and weaker, and beyond the illusion created when some are declared "non-persons" under the law. Breaking through all this darkness and blurriness is the clear light of Christ, which shines on every human life without exception, bringing those lives God's love and giving us the sacred obligation to love them as well.

Diocese of Scranton News

RETRouvaille PROGRAM

Help to Strengthen and Heal Marital Relationships through the Retrouvaille Program (To Re- Discover), a program that helps couples experiencing tension, stress and loneliness in the marriage relationship, even those separated and divorced, to better communicate and resolve conflicts in their relationships. Please call 1-800-470-2230 or visit the website www.helpourmarriage.org for more information or to pre-register. All calls confidential. Cost is by donation. The next local weekend is March 2-4, 2018 at the Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. Contact Persons: Nettie and Bob Goldate 570-587-0415.



News from the Vatican



LET'S ACKNOWLEDGE WE HAVE SINNED

Dear brothers and sisters: In our catechesis on the Holy Eucharist, today we consider the penitential rite. To prepare ourselves to celebrate worthily the sacred mysteries, we acknowledge, before God and our brothers and sisters, that we have sinned. Significantly, we make this confession as a community, yet in the Confiteor each of us speaks personally: "I confess... that I have sinned." Like the humble publican in Jesus' parable, we strike our breast and recognize that we are unworthy of the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We then beg the intercession of Our Lady and all the angels and saints to sustain us on the path of holiness and conversion. The priest then pronounces the absolution – "May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life". Unlike the absolution granted in confession, this does not remit mortal sin, yet it expresses our trust in God's promise of forgiveness and reconciliation. We thus join the great line of biblical figures – like David, the Prodigal Son and Saint Peter – who, conscious of their sin, acknowledged it before God with confidence in the transforming power of his grace.

Follow on Twitter - Pope Francis @Pontifex

"In the name of Jesus, with our witness, we can prove that peace is possible."

"Modesty is a virtue that is essential for anyone who wants to be like Jesus, who is meek and humble of heart."

Apostleship of Prayer - Papal Intention for January

Evangelization: Religious Minorities in Asia – That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for December 24th: \$8,845.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: (\$ 113.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$1,306.91

Sunday Collection for December 31st: \$8,626.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: \$2,876.00


Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$4182.91

Christmas Mass Collection: \$12,273.00*

* Our Christmas Mass Collection is deposited into our savings and is not reflected in the Year-to-Date Budget Variance above.

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

Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for their support. Their advertising helps to make our bulletin possible.



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A Gift in Your Will

We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attorney:

"I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to St. Peter's Church, Wellsboro [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

Parish Prayer List



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, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, Elizabeth Payne, Ann Osgood, Brenden Young, and Jane Usavage Johnson.



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

Mary Lou Bonk

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.