



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time February 4, 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](http://www.stpeterswellsboro.org) ~ Email: [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

### Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 8:00–2:00pm

### Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – [Dbechtel100@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbechtel100@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.

### **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 – 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.

### **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 FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**

GOD OUR FATHER, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



### **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  
 Pat Gorda 570-724-3035  
 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 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
<b>Monday 2/5</b> <i>1 Kgs 8:1-7,9-13; Mk 6:53-56</i>	No Mass	
<b>Tuesday 2/6</b> <i>1 Kgs 8:22-23,27-30; Mk 7:1-13</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Jack & Arlyne Patt (Paul & Marion Patt)
<b>Wednesday 2/7</b> <i>1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of James, Amelia,& Robert Williams (Shirley Borden)
<b>Thursday 2/8</b> <i>1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of William & Mary Carlson (Shirley Borden)
<b>Friday 2/9</b> <i>1 Kgs 11:29-32,12:19; Mk 7:31-37</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Mary Cleveland (Dio & Marilyn de Guzman)
<b>Saturday 2/10</b> <i>1 Kgs 12:26-32,13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
<b>Sunday 2/11</b> <i>Lv 13:1-2,44-46; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Margaret McCullough (Grab Family)

## The Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, February 4, 2018

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am;K-12<sup>th</sup>:9:30-10:40am

R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center

### MONDAY, February 5, 2018

Samaritan House Book Club – 6:30pm, Parish Center

### TUESDAY, February 6, 2018

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, February 7, 2018

Polish Dinner Prep – 9:00am, Parish Center

St. John Neumann Group – 1:00pm, Parish Center

ChristLife – 7:00pm, Parish Center

### THURSDAY, February 8, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

### FRIDAY, February 9, 2018

Polish Dinner – 4:00-7:00pm, Parish Center

### SUNDAY, February 11, 2018

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am;K-12<sup>th</sup>:9:30-10:40am

R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center

Youth Group – 10:45am, 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: *Chicken Noodle and Tomato Soup.*

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 Deceased Friends of St. Peter's Parish (Suzanne Niles))

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### February 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>

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

Servers: J.Grab, X.Tellgren, W.Steinbacher

Lectors: T.Sampson, K.Tellgren

E. Min.: B.Chiaramonte, E.Evert, V.Anthony, G.Brown

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

Servers: K.Kramer, A.Dunkel, L.Germino

Lectors: M.Stirnman, C.Waclawik

E. Min.: M.Stirnman, T.Gamble, M.Bialas, N.Ostapowicz

## 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 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.



## Liturgical Reflection

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### FIRST READING: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Written sometime between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, the Book of Job is widely considered one of the finest works of Israel's wisdom tradition contained in the Old Testament. The main question raised in Job is: why do innocent people suffer? Job's story of restlessness, sleeplessness, and sadness is the story of many people. His reflections on life's drudgery, however, are not his entire story. Job is a wise man with many blessing from God, including children and wealth. He is suddenly put to the test by Satan. Will Job remain strong in his faith when all is lost and suffering ensues? We must continue to read to the end of the Book of Job to read God's thought provoking reply. While he never answers the question why God seems to permit suffering, his experience teaches us that God is faithful. What God asks of Job and of us is to be faithful in the midst of suffering, because as humans, all of us will encounter suffering in one form or another. This reading leaves us with a stark sense of our mortality and helplessness.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 147

Psalm 147 is a song of praise. The psalmist praises God's gracious goodness for the Lord restored Jerusalem and brought her inhabitants back after the exile. The Lord heals broken hearts and binds wounds. The Lord knows each of us by name. Mighty and wise is the Lord who builds up the lowly and throws the wicked down to the earth. Our praise to the Lord we offer!

#### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Today's reading is a continuation of Paul's responses to various questions raised by the Corinthian Christians. Paul preaches the Gospel without want of any reward. His desire is only that all, whether weak or strong, might hear the freedom the Gospel offers. Our mission is nothing less than Paul's mission: the proclamation of God's grace in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. We carry this mission out with the confidence of Paul that we, too, will share in the God's grace.

#### GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

We continue to hear today about Jesus' many healings and exorcisms at the start of his public ministry in Galilee. Mark begins his Gospel account with a strong emphasis on Jesus' powerful deeds. In fact, the extensive focus on Jesus' miracles, especially during his Galilean ministry, seems to emphasize Jesus' deeds more than his words.

There are four movements to this reading: the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, evening healings of all the sick and possessed in Capernaum, Jesus at prayer, and Jesus' departure from Capernaum. We hear from Jesus himself the main purpose for his public ministry: to "preach" the Gospel to the nearby villages. Mark makes an important assertion here: while Jesus' deeds are truly amazing and astonishing, it is his words that also communicate the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Both Jesus' words and deeds left an impact on those he touched in his public ministry.



## Parish Activities and Information

### RITE OF ACCEPTANCE

At last Sunday's Mass, Kristina Zimmerman and Scott Zimmerman asked to be received into the Catholic faith community through the Rite of Acceptance. Please give Kristina and Scott, along with Karon Swendrowski, your prayerful support as they continue their journey towards becoming full members of the Body of Christ.

### CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to Gary and Patty Dillman who prepared for and received the Sacrament of Confirmation this week. May God's love be in their hearts and continue to strengthen their faith along life's way.

### WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

The Wellsboro Ministerium will be offering Wednesday Lenten Services. All services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church from 12:00-12:30pm, with a light lunch to follow. The theme for this year is *Fruit of the Spirit*. The schedule for this year is as follows:

**February 14<sup>th</sup>** – First Presbyterian Church – *Love*  
**February 21<sup>st</sup>** – United Methodist Church – *Faithfulness*  
**February 28<sup>th</sup>** – St. Peter's Catholic Church – *Patience*  
**March 7<sup>th</sup>** – Valley Alliance Church – *Goodness*  
**March 14<sup>th</sup>** – First Baptist Church – *Peace*  
**March 21<sup>st</sup>** – Living Word Fellowship – *Joy*

### BLESSING OF THROATS FEBRUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>



In the United States the annual blessing of throats is a traditional sign of the struggle against illness in the life of the Christian. This blessing is ordinarily given during Mass or a celebration of the word of God on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the memorial of Saint Blaise. Saint Blaise was a bishop during the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages, because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died from a fishbone caught in his throat. Since the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. **Throats will be blessed after all Masses this weekend.**

### VALENTINE'S DINNER



The Social Concerns committee will again be delivering a Valentine's dinner to any parishioner (homebound, living alone, recovering from an illness, a "sweetheart" who contributes in a special way to the Parish) who would like one. Delivery of dinners will take place on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. To assist with needed supplies, please look for our sign-up sheets near the main entrance of the church. If you would like to receive a meal or know a parishioner who would like to receive one or can help with delivery, please contact Ginny Reindl at 570-724-8496.



## ST. JOHN NEUMANN RELIC

In 2019 our church building, erected in 1969, turns 50 years old. To celebrate this milestone in the life of our parish, different events are being planned. You will hear more about those events in the future. In anticipation of the celebration, a relic was requested from the Saint John Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia, PA. The Diocese of Scranton was not founded until 1868. Before 1868, we were part of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Saint John Neumann who was Archbishop of Philadelphia from 1852-1860, was also our bishop and has a connection with our town, as he came to the area and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation. The shrine sent us a beautiful relic, which can be seen in the showcase on the right, outside the double doors leading into the parish hall. (Also in that showcase is a second class relic of Saint John Paul II!) A pilgrimage is being planned to the Saint John Neumann Shrine, as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration. In 1842 St. John Neumann became the first man to profess his vows as a Redemptorist in America and an invitation to the Redemptorists to come and offer a parish mission during the Season of Lent 2019, is being extended. Look for more information as we get closer to 2019!



## Youth Group News

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Valentine Event** - February 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:45-12:00noon, Middle School and High School Youth Groups will have a Valentine's party and once again create homemade Valentines to accompany the dinners supplied by the Social Concerns Committee. *For more information on either event, please contact the Religious Education Office.*



**Youth Group Volunteering at Goodies for Our Troops**

## Stewardship

Sunday Collection for January 28<sup>th</sup>: \$4,854.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: (\$ 896.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$2,420.36

Campaign for Human Development: \$ 761.43

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



## WHY DO WE ADVOCATE? RESPONDING TO OUR GOSPEL CALL

We are called to love and serve our neighbor—but how do we do that?

We start by putting one foot in front of the other as we walk on the path of

Caritas toward the Kingdom of God. *Two Feet of Love in Action* describes two distinct, but complementary, ways we can put our faith into action in response to God's love: justice, which addresses the systemic, root causes of problems affecting many people; and charitable works, which provide emergency assistance for individuals in need.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE** “concerns the social, political and economic aspects and, above all, the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions.” We step with this foot when we advocate for just public policies and work to change the social structures that contribute to suffering and injustice at home and around the world.

**CHARITABLE WORKS** are our “response to immediate needs and specific situations: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for and healing the sick, visiting those in prison, etc.” We step with the charitable works foot when we aid or assist others both locally and globally to meet their immediate or short-term needs. Examples include engaging in direct service or providing food, clothing, shelter or monetary assistance to those in need.

**FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP** Speaking out is part of who we are as a people of faith. By our Baptism, Catholics are committed to following Jesus Christ and being “salt for the earth, light for the nations.” As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, “It is necessary that all participate, according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This is inherent in the dignity of the human person ... As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life.”

**TAKE ACTION** Begin your journey with the USCCB' guide, and watch the *Two Feet of Love in Action* video ([www.usccb.org/twofeet](http://www.usccb.org/twofeet)).

**FAITH IN ACTION** Today, we invite you to join us as we work to shape U.S. foreign policy through prayer, education and advocacy based on our Catholic faith and concern for poor and vulnerable people worldwide. We can confront the root causes of poverty around the world - hunger, disease, violent conflict, and injustice - which disproportionately affect the lives of our impoverished brothers and sisters around the globe. We seek to educate and mobilize Catholics to defend the lives and dignity of people living in poverty throughout the world, and urge our nation to act in response to the many faces of poverty. In February 2009, Catholics Confront Global Poverty, a joint initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services, was launched to make this vision a reality. JOIN US 1-866-608-5978; [info@confrontglobalpoverty.org](mailto:info@confrontglobalpoverty.org); [confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://confrontglobalpoverty.org).

## That's The Way It Is!



Someone sent me an email question about Numbers 5:11-31. Numbers 5:11-31 is a passage often put forth by abortion supporters to show that The Old Testament condones abortion. The person asked me to explain the passage in light of Catholic teaching. In this article I will seek to show that Numbers 5 cannot be used to show that the Bible condones abortion, or that God ordered an abortion as punishment for adultery.

Numbers 5:11-31 deals with the Biblical prescriptions that a jealous husband is to follow if he suspects his wife of adultery but cannot prove it. The husband is instructed to bring his wife before the priest. The priest is to take a jar filled with holy water and place some dust from the floor of the tabernacle into the jar and bring the woman before the Lord. The woman shall drink the water. If she was adulterous, the water will bring a curse upon her. If she was not adulterous, the water will not harm her and she will be cleared. What is the nature of the curse? Numbers 5:21-22: “[H]ere the priest is to put the woman under this curse—“may the LORD cause you to become a curse among your people when he makes your womb miscarry and your abdomen swell. May this water that brings a curse enter your body so that your abdomen swells or your womb miscarries.”

The passage makes it appear as though God ordered an abortion as punishment for adultery. There is just one problem: God didn't order an abortion or a miscarriage. The passage I quoted above comes from a blog called The Christian Left. It is contained in an article on the blog “Wait. What? God Ordered an Abortion?” The passage is mistranslated. The proper translation of the passage is the following: “then the priest shall cause the woman to swear with an oath of cursing, and the priest shall say unto the woman—the LORD make thee a curse and an oath among thy people, when the LORD doth make thy thigh to fall away, and thy belly to swell. And this water that causeth the curse shall go into thy bowels, and make thy belly to swell, and thy thigh to fall away” This translation comes from a website Mechon-mamre.org. This website gives translations of the Hebrew Old Testament. What is nice about this site is that the original Hebrew is next to the translation so it can be verified. There is no mention of a miscarriage or abortion in that translation.

There is only one translation of the Hebrew Old Testament that I am aware of that translates the Hebrew as “miscarriage.” That translation is the New International Version. (NIV) The author of the article did not provide a citation. It is likely that they quoted from the NIV. The NIV is a loose translation of the Scriptures. The scholars who created the NIV wanted a translation that uses a more modern language style than the old English style of the King James Version. Translators have to hold in tension two principles whenever they translate any document:

dynamic equivalent and formal correspondence. Formal correspondence is a literal word for word rendering. Dynamic equivalent seeks to capture the meaning but is a looser translation. The King James leaned a little too far to the formal correspondence, making it difficult to read. The NIV sought to correct this, but in so doing leans a little too far to the dynamic equivalent. If a translator overly focuses on the formal correspondence, the translation will be unintelligible. On the other hand if a translator overly focuses on the dynamic equivalent the meaning of the passage will be lost or changed. The work of translation is never easy. This is why multiple translations are often helpful.

Those who translated the NIV are not necessarily incorrect when they translate the Hebrew as “miscarriage.” One could argue that “miscarriage” is the dynamic equivalent of the Hebrew for “thigh.” This is because in the Hebrew language, the Hebrew “thigh” can be used as a euphemism for the sex organs or the womb. But when translating a passage it is not enough to know how to translate the word into English. The way the word should translate also depends on if the word is used in other places in the document, how the word is used in those other places, and, most importantly, the context of the passage it appears.

When we look at the immediate context in which the word appears, we see right away that there is little justification for understanding “thigh” as a euphemism for sexual organs or womb because there is nothing in the passage that indicates either explicitly or implicitly that the woman is pregnant. The immediate context of the passage is the jealousy of a husband and how he should proceed if he suspects his wife of adultery. For this reason the most we can glean from this passage is that if the woman is guilty of adultery her “belly will swell” and her “thigh fall away.” In other words—the woman loses her fertility. In the Hebrew world large families and children were considered a blessing from God. This is in part because for the Hebrew people your family line lived on through your offspring. Infertility would have been considered quite a punishment. I want to note that many translations render the Hebrew as “infertile” “womb to shrivel” or use other euphemisms for infertility instead of rendering the Hebrew literally as “thigh.” Examples of translations that do this are the King James, the New American Standard, etc.

I hope you can see how our Faith can always be vindicated in the face of those who seek to attack or distort it. Often times all it takes is a little bit of reading and research to vindicate the Christian Faith.

That's the Way it is! The Reverend David W. Bechtel

### Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule - February 14<sup>th</sup>



**7:30am** – Liturgy of the Word  
with Distribution of Ashes  
**12:10pm & 7:00pm** – Mass



## Pro Life News

### PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Jesus loved the poor, the weak, the sick, and the demon-possessed. These individuals, and those who cared for them, knew that they could come to Jesus to find what they needed. What they needed, however, was often much more than what they thought they needed, because Jesus indicated by his words in today's Gospel, and by his actions, that it was his purpose to preach the Word of God. The healing, in other words, flowed from something more fundamental. People need to hear the truth of God. By accepting it and being formed in it, they can establish right relationships with God and one another. They can conquer sin. They can have integral salvation, in body and soul.

As Jesus was the one to whom the people brought the ill and those possessed by demons, so the Church today is the place that people should be inclined to go first. The Church preaches integral salvation, as the "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church" so clearly explains. The feeding of the soul and the care given to temporal needs go hand in hand.

The Church, which teaches the truth that all life belongs to God, is reaching out each day to those who are tempted to take life by abortion. The thousands of pregnancy centers run by Christians across the nation bear witness to this fact. These centers provide medical help, financial assistance, legal advice, counseling, job and education opportunities, assistance to keep the child or to make an adoption plan, and countless other needs. Some national hotlines, like the "Option Line" (1-800-712-HELP) and websites like [www.pregnancycenters.org](http://www.pregnancycenters.org) bring this help to countless people daily. The members of each parish can extend the ministry of Jesus by referring people to this kind of help. It saves lives, spares people endless grief, and proclaims the Word of God about human life.

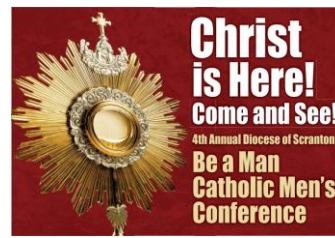
#### **Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis).

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551), or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

## Diocese of Scranton News

### CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE MAY 5<sup>th</sup>



Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Be A Man" Catholic Men's Conference for the Scranton Diocese will be held at King's College in Wilkes Barre on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Based on our 2018

theme "Christ is Here, Come and See," our three nationally-known presenters will highlight various aspects of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist: Tom Peterson – founder of Catholics Come Home Inc.; Fr Michael Gaitley MIC – author of 33 Days to Morning Glory; Jesse Romero – a full-time bilingual Catholic Lay Evangelist.

- Join hundreds of like-minded Catholic men for a half-day conference celebrating the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist
- Hear excellent talks that will challenge you, re-awaken your spirit, and lift you up
- Examine your priorities
- Rejuvenate your commitment to Catholic Faith, Family & Fellowship
- Get new insights for growing in holiness in your daily life
- Support, challenge and affirm your call as a son of God and brother of Christ
- Participate in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Help you come closer to Jesus!!

We will be honored to have Scranton Bishop Joseph Bambera celebrate our closing Mass. There will be opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Various exhibitors will be present with a full array of Catholic books, DVDs, CDs and other products, as well as information concerning ministry opportunities.

**St. Peter's will provide transportation through Benedicts Bus Company and will pay half of the registration fee for those interested in attending.** Registration forms can be found on the hand out table on the side of the church.

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### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS



His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2018 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 10, 2018. The event includes a 2:30pm Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral, followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation should be made through your pastor before March 12, 2018.

## News from the Vatican



### THE HOLY FATHER'S CATECHESIS ON THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

We continue today with the catecheses on the Mass. After having reflected on the rites of introduction of the Mass, we now

consider the Liturgy of the Word, which is a constitutive part because, in fact, we gather to listen to what God has done and still intends to do for us. It's an experience that happens "directly" and not by having heard, because "when Sacred Scripture is read in Church, God Himself speaks to His people and Christ, present in the Word, proclaims the Gospel". And how often, while the Word of God is read, one comments: "Look at him . . . , look at her . . . , look at the hat she is wearing: It's ridiculous . . . "And they begin to make comments Isn't that true? Should comments be made while the Word of God is being read? No, because if you gossip with people you don't listen to the Word of God. When the Word of God is read in the Bible — the First Reading, the Second, the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel — we must listen, open our heart, because it's God Himself who is speaking to us, and we must not think of other things or talk about other things. Understood? I will explain to you what happens in this Liturgy of the Word.

The pages of the Bible cease to be a writing to become living word pronounced by God. It's God that, through the person that reads, speaks to us and questions us, who listen with faith. The Spirit "who has spoken through the prophets" and has inspired the sacred authors, acts so that "that the Word of God truly operates in hearts what He makes resound in ears". However, to listen to the Word of God it's necessary to have an open heart to receive the word in the heart. God speaks and we listen to Him, to then put into practice what we have heard. It's very important to listen. Sometimes, perhaps, we don't understand well because there are some Readings that are a bit difficult. However, God speaks the same to us in another way. It's necessary to be in silence and to listen to the Word of God. Don't forget this. At Mass, when the Readings begin, we listen to the Word of God.

We need to listen to Him! It is, in fact, a question of life, as the incisive expression well reminds that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4) — the life that the Word of God gives us. In this connection, we speak of the Liturgy of the Word as the "table" that the Lord prepares to feed our spiritual life. That of the Liturgy is an abundant table, which

draws widely from the treasures of the Bible be it of the Old or of the New Testament, because in them the Church proclaims the one and the same mystery of Christ. We think of the richness of the biblical Readings offered by three Sunday cycles that, in the light of the Synoptic Gospels, accompany us in the course of the Liturgical Year: a great richness. I wish to recall the importance of the Responsorial Psalm, whose function is to foster meditation on all that was heard in the Reading that preceded it. It's good that the Psalm is enhanced with the song, at least in the refrain.

The liturgical proclamation of the same Readings, with the songs deduced from Sacred Scripture, expresses and fosters ecclesial communion, accompanying the path of each and all. One understands, therefore, why subjective choices, such as the omission of Readings or their substitution with non-biblical texts, are prohibited. I've heard that some, if there is news, read the newspaper, because it's the news of the day. No! The Word of God is the Word of God! We can read the newspaper later, but there, the Word of God is read. It's the Lord who speaks to us. To substitute that Word with other things, impoverishes and compromises the dialogue between God and His people in prayer. On the contrary, required is the dignity of the pulpit and the use of the Lectionary, the availability of good readers and psalmists. It's necessary to find good readers — those that are able to read, not those that read, mangling the words, and nothing is understood. They must prepare themselves and try before the Mass to read well. And this creates a receptive atmosphere of silence.

It's certainly not enough to listen with the ears, without receiving in the heart the seed of the divine Word, enabling it to bear fruit. The action of the Spirit, which renders the response effective, is in need of hearts that allow themselves to be worked and cultivated, so that what is heard at Mass passes in daily life, in keeping with the Apostle James' admonition: "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). The Word of God makes a path within us. We hear it with the ears and it passes to the heart. It doesn't stay in the ears; it must go to the heart, and from the heart it passes to the hands, to good works. This is the course that the Word of God follows: from the ears to the heart to the hands. Let us learn these things. Thank you!

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**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR  
FEBRUARY 2018 - ENTRUSTED TO THE POPE'S  
WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK**

**Universal:** *Say "No" to Corruption* - That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

**All You  
Can Eat!**

## St. Peter's Church Polish Dinner

**Friday, February 9, 2018 ~ 4:00 – 7:00pm in the Parish Center**


**Adults: \$10:00 ~ Children (Under 12): \$ 5.00 ~ (Children 3 & Under are free)**

Menu: Homemade Pierogies, Homemade Kielbasa,  
Stuffed Cabbage, Baked Haddock, Sauerkraut,  
Applesauce & Veggie Tray, Homemade Desserts,  
Coffee, Soda, Iced 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 on the side of the church.*



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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, 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, Claire Vargas, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, Elizabeth Payne, Ann Osgood, Brenden Young, Jane Usavage Johnson, and Jenny Clemens.



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.*