

St. Peter's Church



Third Sunday of Lent – March 4, 2018

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 _____

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322
Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 8:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com

Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net

Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann –
stpreled@ptd.net 570-724-9789

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.

Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. During this Lent, lead us by your Holy Spirit to live more faithfully in Christian freedom. Through prayer, increased charity, and the disciplines of this sacred season, draw us closer to you. Purify the intentions of our hearts so all our Lenten observances give you praise and glory. Grant that through our words and actions, we may be faithful messengers of the gospel message to a world in need of the hope of your mercy. 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

Third Sunday of Lent

March 4, 2018

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 3/5 <i>2 Kgs 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 3/6 <i>3:25,34-34-43; Mt 18:21-35</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Dan & Edith Sparks (Leonard & Family)
Wednesday 3/7 <i>Dt 4:1,5-9; Mt 5:17-19</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Mary Cleveland (Paul Patt Family)
Thursday 3/8 <i>Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Tom Sticklin (Family)
Friday 3/9 <i>Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of Chua Pue Tin (Ang & Dy Family)
Saturday 3/10 <i>Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14</i>	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 3/11 <i>Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25</i>	8:30am	In Memory of Mary Cleveland (Mary Lou Koch)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Chua Pue Tin (Ang & Dy Family)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 4, 2018

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

MONDAY, March 5, 2018

The Light is on For You – 5:30-7:00pm, Church

TUESDAY, March 6, 2018

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

WEDNESDAY, March 7, 2018

Finance Council Meeting – 8:00am, Rectory
St. John Neumann Group – 1:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, March 8, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

FRIDAY, March 9, 2018

Stations of the Cross – 3:30 & 7:00pm, Church

SUNDAY, March 11, 2018

Religious Ed –Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12th:9:30-10:40am
R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center
Carmelite Meeting – 11:30am, 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: *Pork & Beans and Canned Fruit.*

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

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

March 11th/12th

5:00pm

Servers: L.Poirier, W.Poirier, J.Poirier
Lectors: P.Walrath, C.Evert
E. Min.: T.Straniere, G.Brown

8:30am

Servers: A.Dunkel, B.Levindoski, M.Bergen
Lectors: H.Sampson, M.Sampson
E. Min.: K.Wilcox, L.Whitney

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

Second Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:3-7

Tired and unsure of their future, the Israelites demand that Moses fix their intolerable situation. Moses himself is tremendously frustrated and minces no words with God. God answers the plea of his messenger with instructions to obtain water from the rock in Horeb. The people demand water, but they really wanted God to send them a sign of his presence. It is a very human story because it reveals the truth that it is easy to trust that God is in our midst when everything is going well in our lives,

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 95

This liturgical hymn praises the God of the covenant. The psalmist issues a fivefold invitation to praise, "Come let us sing...let us acclaim...let us come...let us bow down...let us kneel." The image of God echoes the First Reading; God is the "Rock of our salvation." Here one imagines a great rock, one that speaks of strength and security, something one could depend on to be in place forever. Such is the role of the Lord in the life of the people.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-2, 5-4

Paul's writing is complex, but his message is simple: Christ died for all humans and, in doing so, proved God's great and unconditional love for all. That supreme and generous act, that pure grace that comes from God through Jesus Christ, is the source of our hope and the reason for our trust.

GOSPEL: John 4:5-2



In this Gospel, Jesus initiates a conversation with a woman of Samaria who is sitting alone at the town well in the noonday heat. She is so dumfounded by this that she forgets her social status and blurts, "How can you ...ask me...for a drink?" Thus begins

one of the longest and most fascinating conversations of the New Testament. Jesus asks for a drink, but then reveals he is the source of water that will quench thirst for all eternity. The woman then reverses the dialogue and says, "Give me this water." At this point, the conversation shifts and the testimony of faith begins to unfold. Jesus, aware that she has been married five times, tells her to get her husband. In doing so, Jesus recites details of her life that no stranger could know. She asks Jesus if he is the Messiah. And the world is forever changed with these words: "I am he, the one speaking who is with you." She is the first to hear the news and share it with others. Some have said she is the first missionary to proclaim the news. What we remember is that this woman stands in a long line of witnesses who have journeyed in faith before us. Buoyed by their faith, we are called to continue that journey today.

REFLECTION

It is easy to point to the many mistakes other have made, not realizing that we are in the same condition as they are.

Parish Activities and Information

SCRUTINIES

The Scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all, a spiritual purpose. They are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. The Scrutinies complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. They are celebrated on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. Today we pray for *Kristina Zimmerman, Scott Zimmerman, and Karon Swendrowski* as they receives the First Scrutiny in preparation for initiation into the Catholic faith.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00pm in the church. Children's Stations of the Cross will also be held at 3:30pm. Students are invited to the parish center after school for a light snack before stations begin. The students will be chaperoned following the conclusion of stations, until parents are able to arrive. All parishioners are encouraged to attend Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season.



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Easter, the flowers in the church during the season memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Easter flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket. A list of those we remember will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

EASTER MASS INTENTIONS

Parishioners are reminded that there are special Easter Mass Intentions envelopes in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Easter Masses to remember the donor's intentions. Please place your Easter Mass Intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

SPRING SALE



St. Peter's annual spring rummage sale will be held April 10th–April 12th. When you are spring cleaning, please consider donating household items, books and clothing. Donations can be dropped off April 8th from 12:00-3:00pm and April 9th from 8:00am-5:00pm. If you have any questions regarding donations, please call Mary Lasko 570-439-7706 or Pat Gorda 570-724-3035. NO TVS PLEASE! We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and tear down the sale. If you are willing to donate ANY time; please call Mary or Pat.

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:

March 7th – Valley Alliance Church - *Goodness*

March 14th – First Baptist Church - *Peace*

March 21st – Living Word Fellowship – *Joy*

CAN YOU HELP? DO YOU NEED A RIDE?

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

SUGGESTION BOX

There is a suggestion box hanging on the near the handout table. If you have suggestions please write suggestions and place them in the box. We will empty the box from time to time and talk about the suggestions at the parish council meetings. If you would like a personal response to your suggestion, please include your name and phone number on the card.



Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The readings of the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle A, along with those of the Fourth and Fifth Sundays, emphasize the baptismal themes of Water (the woman at the well), Light (the healing of the man born blind), and Life (the raising of Lazarus). These powerful readings remind those preparing for baptism, as well as all the baptized, what this baptismal life is all about.

The Gospel passage of Jesus' offer of the waters of new life to the Samaritan woman, along with the other readings of today, point out three things. 1.) Jesus offers his gift of life with no regard to the false barriers that society sets up between people. 2.) This gift of life comes through the Death and Resurrection of Christ. 3.) To accept the gift, repentance is required. All of this illumines our pro-life commitment, because the offer of eternal life necessarily presupposes the offer of natural life – again, without the kind of false boundaries society now sets up between born and unborn. Moreover, since Christ gives life, to stand with Christ means to stand with life, and therefore to stand against whatever destroys it. One simply cannot be a “pro-choice Christian.”

Finally, accepting Christ necessarily means repentance, which is concrete and “historical” in our lives. It includes a specific rejection of abortion. Any form of participation in abortion or of support for abortion is incompatible with the acceptance of Christ and the life of the baptized.

Stewardship

Collection for February 25th: \$4,675.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: (\$1,075.00)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$3,115.41

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

News from the Vatican



A Question on Judging from the Holy Father

When you are sitting in a meeting or at a meal, how much time do you spend judging others? Pope Francis posed this question during his February 26th homily at Mass at Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican. “Do not judge and you will not be judged.” Pope Francis repeated Jesus’ invitation from the Gospel of Luke (6:36-38). He went on to remind the congregation that no one will escape God’s judgment – and all will be judged “both personally and universally.” He recommended an examination of conscience to determine how much time is spent judging others. And he reminded those present that “Judging others is terrible because the Lord is the only judge.”

Confessional Offers Forgiveness, not Threats

The confessional is a place of forgiveness, not threats, Pope Francis stressed. He pointed out that Lent is a time that is helpful for conversion; it is a time for growing closer to God and making changes in life. The Pope cited the first reading of the day, from Isaiah (1:10, 16-20):

Hear the word of the LORD, princes of Sodom!

Listen to the instruction of our God, people of Gomorrah!

Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good.

Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan’s plea, defend the widow. Come now,

let us set things right, says the LORD: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow;

Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool.

If you are willing, and obey, you shall eat the good things of the land; But if you refuse and resist, the sword shall consume you: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken!

The Pope explained that like he did with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, God calls us to come to him, to set things right – no matter what our sins. Pope Francis compared God to a parent helping a child to find the right path. He is like a father of a small child who has pulled a prank, and he has to correct him. He knows that if he approaches him with a stick in hand, things will not go well. He has to approach him with trust and confidence. In this passage, this is how the Lord calls us: ‘Come on, let’s have a coffee together. Let’s talk this over, let’s discuss it. Don’t be afraid, I’m not going to beat you.’

“God in His providence offers us the season of Lent each year as a chance to return to Him with all our hearts and in every aspect of our lives.” Pope Francis

That's The Way It Is!



Dear Parishioners,

In 2019 we will celebrate a major milestone in the life of our parish. This milestone is the 50th anniversary of the construction of our present church. The original church used for worship is located on Pearl Street and has long since been sold. That structure became too small to meet the spiritual needs of the growing congregation. Our present church was constructed and completed in 1969. For 50 years since, the present structure has been the place where our parish family gathers to worship God and celebrate milestones in our Faith life. For 50 years, people have gathered to celebrate joyful times in one's life such as Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communions and marriages. For 50 years people have gathered to grieve the loss of fellow parishioners and family at funerals and support each other during times of sadness. For 50 years this structure has been a sign of a strong and vibrant Catholic presence in Wellsboro; a place where God encounters the faithful and bestows His blessings upon them.

I am planning many things to mark this special time in our parish community. For the spiritual benefit of our people, I am planning a pilgrimage to the Saint John Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia and a parish mission during Lent 2019. I would like to take a parish trip to New York City to see the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall. I am also planning a special 50th anniversary Mass at some point in 2019, with Bishop Bambera as celebrant, if he is available, followed by a special banquet. I would also like to have a special parish directory made. The last one was made in 2011. We have gained some new parishioners since then and others have passed away or moved away. 2019 will be a great year for our parish, as we look forward to these celebrations and events.

Since I have arrived I have made no secret of the fact that one of my dreams for our parish is that we purchase a new organ to replace the current instrument. The current instrument has served our parish well for the past 50 years. It was installed when the church was built. After 50 years of faithful service the instrument is showing its age. It is old, tired and worn out. The time has come for the organ to retire and live out whatever time it has left not worrying about having to lead us in song anymore. However, before the organ can retire we have to procure a new organ. The current organ has generously agreed to remain on and lead us in song until we are able to raise the funds to procure a new one. But—the organ told me not to take too long; it is anxious to retire. After 50 years of faithful service, who could blame it?

Because we are celebrating a major milestone in our parish in 2019, marking 50 years of worship in our current church, I believe that the time has come to work on procuring a new organ. This new instrument will serve our worship needs for another 50 years as faithfully as our old

instrument has. I have spoken to both the parish council and the finance council about this. They support my efforts to raise funds for a new instrument. I am hoping to have the installation of the new organ coincide with our special anniversary Mass and banquet. I have written to Bishop Bambera to ask for permission to start a campaign to raise funds for a new organ. I have also requested to have monies raised for the new organ not assessed. I await his response. Once I hear from the bishop, I will be sending a letter to all registered parishioners that will explain the details of this project and efforts to raise funds for it. You should look for that in your mail in the coming months.

I want to invite all of you to share in my joy as I plan for our special anniversary in 2019. I hope you will be part of our celebrations and happiness in this most important milestone in the life of our parish. I also hope you will respond positively to my initiative to start raising funds for a new organ. I invite you to join me in my dream of having a nice new instrument installed in our parish that will thunder and reverberate the praise and glory of God for many years to come.

Thank you for being a blessing to this parish and for all you do. Thank you for choosing Saint Peter's as your parish community. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your pastor. This summer will mark my third year as your pastor. I know I will be spending much of the summer working on and planning for 2019.

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

Penance Services, Holy Week, & Easter Sunday Schedules



~ Penance Services ~

March 11th – 3:00pm, Holy Child
March 15th – 6:30pm, St. Peter's

~ Palm Sunday – March 25th ~

8:30am – Mass begins in Parish Center
(5:00pm Mass begins in Church)

~ Chrism Mass – March 27th ~

4:00pm – St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

~ Holy Thursday – March 29th ~

6:00pm – Altar Server Practice
7:00pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper
8:30-11:00pm – Adoration

~ Good Friday – March 30th ~

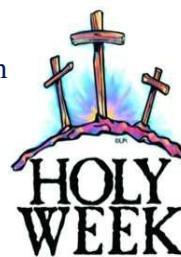
11:00am – Altar Server Practice
12:10pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion
1:30pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation
7:00pm – Tenebrae

~ Holy Saturday – March 31st ~

10:00am – RCIA Practice & Retreat
11:00am – Altar Server Practice
12:00pm – Blessing of Baskets (Parish Center)
8:00pm – Easter Vigil


~ Easter Sunday – April 1st ~

8:30am & 10:30am – Easter Sunday Masses



Diocese of Scranton News

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

 Celebrating His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th 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.

CHRISM MASS

All the faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton, on Tuesday, March 27th at 4:00pm. At this Mass, priests throughout the Scranton Diocese will renew their priestly promises before Bishop Bambera and the oils to be used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders, will be blessed. Participation in the Chrism Mass is a beautiful way to pray for and support the priests of the Diocese.

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE MAY 5th

Our 4th 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 5th, 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 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.

Refresh Your Faith

The First Annual Catholic Women's Conference
of the Diocese of Scranton
Saturday, June 23, 2018 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Byron Complex, The University of Scranton

Featuring:

Judy Landrieu Klein: Faith Through It All
Father Richard McAlear: Ministry of Hope and Healing
Music by "His Own"
Mass Celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph Bambera
Megan Murphy: Host

For information or to register:

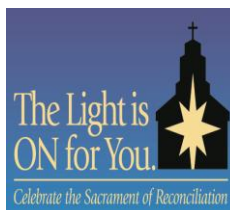
dioceseofscranton.org/catholic-womens-conference

Co-Sponsored by:



St. Peter's will provide transportation through Benedicts Bus Company and will pay half of the registration fee for those interested in attending.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU



As we begin this season of Lenten preparation, each of us is invited to reflect on those choices which will bring about the new life we celebrate in Easter. For this reason, the Church invites us to experience Lent as a time for deepened prayer, personal sacrifice, and self-giving – all so that we can be raised to new life in Christ! The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera is helping to make this experience possible by arranging for a Lenten initiative called *The Light Is On for You*. **Every Monday evening during Lent**, each parish throughout the Diocese of Scranton will have their "lights on" from **5:30-7:00pm** for confession so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God's grace, mercy and healing. **Due to Fr. Bechtel responsibility for St. Thomas Parish, the schedule for St. Peter's will be March 5th & 19th.**

Please make plans to come on a Lenten Monday, and spread the word of this special outreach of mercy to those you know. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Christ and his Church. **"The Light Is On for You!"**

Lenten Reminders

Days of Fast and Abstinence – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. All Catholics, 18-59 years of age, are bound by Church law to fast, which means only one large meal and two smaller meals may be eaten. Catholics 14 years of age and older are required to abstain, which means no meat may be eaten.

Operation Rice Bowl - Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. Proceeds benefit the poor in our own diocese and throughout the developing world. You are asked to eat one sacrificial meal each week during Lent and to give the money you saved to the Rice Bowl program. An envelope can be found in your monthly offering packet.

Easter Duty – All parishioners are reminded of their obligation to fulfill their Easter Duty. A person's Easter Duty consists of receiving Holy Communion at least once between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday as well as going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to confess any mortal sins.

Rediscovering the Faith

Welcome. Have you been away from the Church? Are you thinking about coming back? Do you know someone who wants to come home to the Catholic Church, but is struggling with their faith? Maybe you or someone you know has experienced one of these thoughts:

I grew up Catholic, but for some reason I just sort of stopped going to Church...

I just moved to a new city, I tried going to a couple different parishes, but I never really felt welcomed...

After my marriage ended, I felt uncomfortable around my family, friends and parish...

I just don't understand why the Church teaches what it does! Some teachings seem so outdated...

I tried to contact my parish about getting married but no one got back to me...

If you have experienced one of these situations or thoughts you are not alone. The Church wants you to know that you are a child of God, called by name, precious in his eyes and loved by him (Is. 43:1,4). The Church also wants you to know that you are missed. When one member of the Body of Christ suffers, the entire Body of the Church suffers. Resources to help you rediscover the faith and answer questions about the Church and Church teachings can be found at these websites, www.usscb.org and catholicscomehome.org. We invite you to explore these sites or contact the rectory to talk and learn more about coming home.



WE ARE FAMILY. WELCOME HOME.

www.CatholicsComeHome.org

Questions About Lent

Q. How is Lent Observed?

A. Lent was first practiced in the fourth century as a period of self-examination and self-denial to prepare for Easter. While Catholics have observed strict fasting rules over the centuries, nowadays only Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent are considered fasting days.

The Lenten season is also seen as a time to give up something pleasurable – which could be anything from chocolate to habits like swearing or procrastinating.

Q: Why are Sundays excluded from the reckoning of the forty days?

A: Because Sunday is the day on which Christ arose, making it an inappropriate day to fast and mourn our sins. On Sunday we must celebrate Christ's resurrection for our salvation. It is Friday on which we commemorate his death for our sins. The Sundays of the year are days of celebration and the Fridays of the year are days of penance.

Q: Why are Fridays during Lent days of abstinence?

A: This is because Jesus died for our sins on Friday, making it an appropriate day of mourning our sins by denying ourselves something we enjoy. During the rest of the year Catholics in this country are permitted to use a different act of penance on Friday in place of abstinence, though all Fridays are days of penance on which we are required to do something expressing sorrow for our sins, just as Sundays are holy days on which we are required to worship and celebrate God's great gift of salvation.

Q: Are acts of repentance appropriate on other days during Lent?

A: Yes. Thus the *Code of Canon Law* states: "All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and time throughout the universal Church" (CIC 1250).

Q. When does Lent end?

A. Lent officially ends on Holy Thursday. That is when the "Triduum", great three Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday occur. Easter is not only a day but an Octave (eight day) celebration leading to a Season of the Church, Easter Season, which ends on Pentecost.

Laetare Sunday

Today is known as Laetare Sunday. The name meaning "rejoice," comes from the first words of today's entrance antiphon, "Laetare, Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem"). The passage from Isaiah continues, "rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow," and on Laetare Sunday, the purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent are set aside, and rose ones are used instead. Flowers, which are normally forbidden during Lent, may be placed on the altar. Traditionally, the organ was never played during Lent, except on Laetare Sunday. Laetare Sunday is also known as Rose Sunday, and it has a counterpart in Advent: Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, when purple vestments are exchanged for rose ones. The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as we progress toward the end of each respective penitential season.

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Parish Prayer List



PRAYERS
Needed For...

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Bob Erway, Mary Mekos, Nick Cavagnaro, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, 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 Mommicco, 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, Jenny Clemens, Cindy Sereno, Denny Young, and Jack Worden.



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.