

St. Peter's Church



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord March 25, 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 worshipping 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

Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789

Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

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

Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net

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

Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am

Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am -12:00noon;

Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

Palm Sunday
They took palm branches and
went out to meet him, shouting,
“*Hosanna!*”
“Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!”
“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

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
Monday 3/26 <i>Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 3/27 <i>Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33,36-38</i>	7:30am	In Memory of Lillian Pickle (Dale & Rose Marie Aulthouse)
Wednesday 3/28 <i>Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25</i>	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Raymond & Flora Beuter (Family)
Thursday 3/29 <i>Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15</i>	7:00pm	In Memory of Mary Cleveland (Frank & Ida Dziengowski)
Friday 3/30 <i>Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16,5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42</i>	12:10pm 1:30pm	(Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Communion) Confessions
Saturday 3/31 <i>Gn 1:1-2:2; Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 55:1-11; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7</i>	8:00pm	Our Easter Intentions
Sunday 4/1 <i>Acts 10:34,37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9</i>	8:30am 10:30am	Our Easter Intentions Our Easter Intentions

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

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 25, 2018

No Religious Education Classes

MONDAY, March 26, 2018

Knights of Columbus – 7:00pm, Parish Center

Broad Acres Mass – 10:30am

Green Home Mass – 2:00pm

TUESDAY, March 27, 2018

Adoration – 8:00am-11:00am

Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, March 28, 2018

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

THURSDAY, March 29, 2018

Rectory Closed

Altar Servers Practice – 6:00pm, Church

Foot Washer Practice – 6:30pm, Church

FRIDAY, March 30, 2018

Rectory Closed

Altar Server Practice – 11:30am, Church

Tenebrae -7:00pm, Church

SATURDAY, March 31, 2018

RCIA Practice – 10:00am, Church

Altar Server Practice – 11:00am, Church

Blessing of Easter Baskets – 12:00pm, Parish Center

SUNDAY, April 1, 2018

No Religious Education Classes

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

March 29th – Holy Thursday

7:00pm

Servers: E.Hazelton, I.Hazelton, W.Feil, L.Germino

Lectors: M.Sampson, H.Sampson

E. Min.: B.Butler, I.Dziengowski, K.Wilcox, M.Bialas

March 30th – Good Friday

12:10pm

Servers: L.Singer, Z.Singer, J.Lubera

Lectors: T.Reindl, M.Ostapowicz

E. Min.: T.Gamble, A.Singer

March 31st/April 1st - Easter

8:00pm Vigil

Servers: K.Swendrowski, A.Swendrowski, A. Banik,
E.Hazelton, I. Hazelton

Lectors: C.Evert, T.Sampson, L.Sampson, N.Kennedy

E. Min.: E.Evert, V.Anthony, T.Straniere, N.Josten

8:30am Easter Sunday

Servers: X.Tellgren, J. Lubera

Lectors: M.Stirnaman, C.Waclawik

E. Min.: B.Chiamonte, G.Brown, M.Stirnaman, K.Tellgren

10:30am Easter Sunday

Servers: E. Poirier, W.Poirier, J.Poirier

Lectors: L.Sampson, T.Sampson

E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, G.Poirier, K.Wilcox, D.Sherman

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS

This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: *Hand & 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 HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday – 7:00pm

Good Friday – 3:00pm

Easter Vigil – 8:00pm

Easter Sunday – 10:00am

All services will be held at St. Thomas Church in Elkland.



Liturgical Reflection

Palm Sunday

GOSPEL AT THE PROCESSION: John 12:12-16

In John's version of Palm Sunday, we hear many of the same phrases found in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). The crowd cries "Hosanna" and they proclaim Jesus as the Jewish king, something that would have provoked a reaction from the leaders of the Jews and the Romans. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. This fulfills Zechariah's prophecy that the Jewish Messiah would enter the holy city in a meek and gentle manner, riding a donkey and not on a great battle steed like the pagan conquerors. His disciples did not understand this until Jesus was glorified.

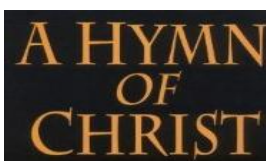
FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-7

During his public ministry, Jesus did speak to the weary, the hopeless, the sick, and the grieving, a word that roused them to new purpose, the purpose of the gospel. Jesus continues to do so today, as we gather to hear the word proclaimed. But the prophet does not hide the cost. Jesus did indeed appear to be disgraced and shamed in the eyes of his short-sighted enemies, but opposition did not keep him from his appointed mission, as it must not keep us, his disciples.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 22

As we enter Holy Week, the readings focus on the reason for Jesus' suffering and Death. This selection from one of the four Suffering Servant songs, summarizes well Jesus' ministry, why he was rejected, how he responded, and what ultimately led to his suffering and Death. Through it all, Jesus trusted in God, knowing he would never be disgraced for attuning himself to God's way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11

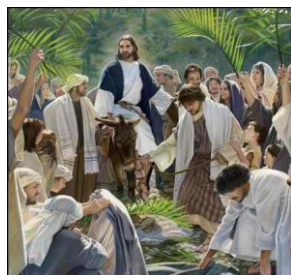


This great early Christian hymn takes us through the overreaching mystery of the Cross, which begins with the Word's self-emptying in the Incarnation and continues through a

life of human suffering, even to the obedience of death on a cross. But the glory of Easter already shines through the dark chapters of Jesus' life, beckoning us forward in his footsteps.

GOSPEL: Mark 14:1-15:47

In this shortest and most stark of the Passion narratives, the evangelist weaves into the simple unfolding of events, threads of older Scriptures that illumine the underlying meaning of what is happening. Some are heavy with literary irony: passages that tell the deeper truth about the Christ are quoted against him when in fact; they validate his person and his mission beyond the wildest dreams of his opponents. Truth speaks with many voices but will not be silenced, not even by the stillness of death.



ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

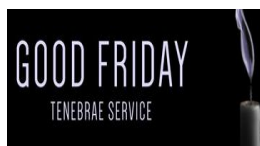
Branches of palm, olive, or sometimes even budding willow, are ancient symbols of victory and hope, as well as of new life. The procession celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem overflowed with praise and excitement, as onlookers waved these triumphant branches and proclaimed their blessings. Yet, in a few days, they will cry "Crucify him!" The crowd's change of heart illustrates the problem of holding God to our expectations. The crowd expected a liberating leader, the Messiah, to free them from Roman oppression. Jesus instead takes up his Cross and invites us to do the same. Through his Death and Resurrection he is indeed a liberator, but from death and sin, not from Rome. But unable to see past their need, the crowd's disappointment turns into anger and a death order. As we enter Holy Week, Palm Sunday teaches us to let God be God, and to trust in God's wisdom not only to meet but shatter and exceed our expectations.

REFLECTION

The proclamation of the Passion of Jesus today gives us an opportunity to reflect upon the meaning of remembrance. The Jewish concept of remembrance was much more powerful than simply calling something to mind. By remembering, one somehow made that thing present. Thus, when Jewish people read the account of the Passover, they believed that they were somehow participating in those events. Likewise, as we enter into the commemoration of Holy Week, we are passing outside of our everyday life and entering into the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Parish Activities and Information

TENEBRAE SERVICE



What is a Tenebrae service? The Latin word "tenebrae" means darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. A loud noise may also sound symbolizing the closing of Jesus' tomb. The worshipers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection. Join us on Good Friday at 7:00pm for this moving service.

RECTORY CLOSED FOR EASTER

The Rectory will be closed on March 29th, March 30th, April 2nd, and April 3rd. In the event of an emergency, please see the emergency contact information for Fr. Bechtel, on the front of the bulletin.

CHANGE TO ADORATION/BENEDICTION TIMES

The new schedule for the weekly, Tuesday, Benediction, and Evening Prayer will be as follows:



7:30am - Mass

8:00am - 6:30pm - Adoration

6:30pm - Benediction & Evening Prayer

Also, please note that adoration for Tuesday, April 27th will only be from 8:00-11:00am, due to Fr. Bechtel attending the Chrism Mass in Scranton.

HOMELESS SHELTER VOLUNTEER NEEDED

In a Lenten message, Pope Francis stated: "In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ." In our community the Tioga County Homeless Initiative helps meet the needs of those who lack shelter. St. Peter's is assigned to staff the shelter the week of April 1st - 7th, each evening from 5:00 - 9:00pm and to prepare meals for the residents. For more information or to volunteer please contact Tara Gordon at 570-439-0006 or David Gordon at 570-439-0005. Sign-up sheets are also located in the back of the Church.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED AT EASTER

At the Easter Vigil, Kristina Zimmerman, Scott Zimmerman, and Karon Swendrowski will become the newest members of our church family. Please keep them in your prayers as they take this next step in their faith journey and prepare to receive the sacraments of initiation. Also, **parishioners are invited to a reception** in the Parish Center immediately following the Easter Vigil Mass in honor of our new members.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA BEGINS THIS WEEK

The Novena in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday begins this Friday, March 30th, Good Friday, and continues through Saturday, April 7th. Copies of the Novena have been placed on the table in the back of the church.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Immediately following the 8:30am Mass on Sunday, April 8th, we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with a blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All members of the parish are invited and encouraged to participate in this special devotion. ***Religious Ed students are expected to participate and should plan on attending the 8:30am Mass on April 8th.***

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Christians around the world are united in a special way during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Our parish, once a year on Good Friday, is called on to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives. As a pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection offers a direct link for parishioners to be witnesses of peace and to help protect the Holy Places and the work of the Franciscans and others in the Holy Land. Please be as generous as you are able.

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.

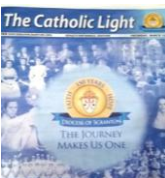
ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Graduates of the "Following Christ" series are invited to continue their ChristLife journey with "Sharing Christ" beginning Wednesday, April 4th, from 6:30 - 8:30pm in the Parish Center. Additional Wednesday dates are: April 18th, 25th, May 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd with a retreat on Saturday, May 12th. Questions: call Norb Josten at 570-724-9095 or email norb.josten@gmail.com.

ADOPT A PARISH ENVELOPES

A decision has been made to stop the Adopt A Parish collection. Beginning with the next envelope mailing, you will no longer find an Adopt A Parish envelope included.

SPECIAL EDITION OF THE CATHOLIC LIGHT



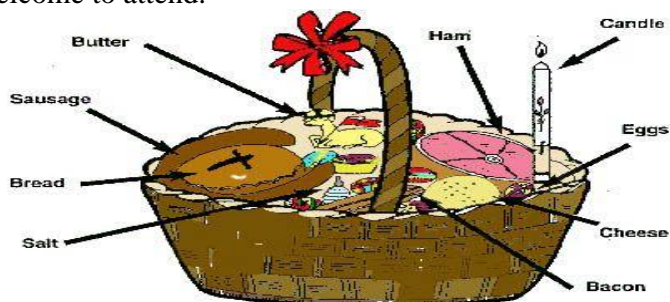
A special Sesquicentennial Commemorative edition of the Diocese of Scranton newspaper, *The Catholic Light*, can be found at all entrances to the church. This 80-page publication offers a historical overview and highlights the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton. We have been given enough copies for each family to have their own.

NEW ITEMS HAVE ARRIVED

New material has arrived and has been placed in the stand on the side of the church. There are items for all ages, including a few books and videos for younger age children.

BLESSING OF BASKETS

Baskets will be blessed on **Holy Saturday, March 31st at 12:00noon in the parish center.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.



Items often found in the Blessed Easter Basket

Paska (unleavened bread) to remind you that Jesus is our true bread of life. **Ham** and **Kielbasa** because of its richness, is symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. **Bacon**, uncooked, is symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us. **Syrok** (cheese) having a bland but sweet taste, is indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. **Horseradish**, red and bitter, reminds us of the Passion of Christ. Mixed with some sugar, it indicates the Resurrection, present in the bitter suffering. **Butter**, may be shaped into the figure of a lamb or a cross, which reminds us of the goodness of Christ. **Salt**, a condiment necessary for flavor, recalls our Christian duty to "Flavor Society" with Christian principles. **Eggs**, colored and decorated with Easter symbols, indicate the new life we received in the resurrection. **Lamb** or **Veal**, optional, but reminds us of Christ, the Paschal Lamb. **Wine**, optional, reminds us of the wine that Jesus turned into his blood at the Last Supper. **Candle** to remind us that Christ is the light of the world and can be lit when the priest blesses the basket. **Sweets** suggest the promise of eternal life and all good things to come. All placed in a wicker basket, as was Moses, symbolic of our being saved from death by Christ, and then covered with a cloth, representing the shroud of Christ. The items in the basket should be eaten by the family as a family meal, either breakfast or lunch and explained to the children what it represents and how it unites us to Christ and to one another.

CAN YOU HELP? DO YOU NEED A RIDE?

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

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.

Religious Education News

NO CLASSES ON PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER

A reminder to parents, there will be no religious education classes (Pre-School through High School) on Palm Sunday, March 25th, or Easter Sunday, April 1st. We will resume classes on Sunday, April 8th.

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

The theme of this weekend's readings is an overwhelming proclamation that God is master of life and death. Lent is meant to deepen our awareness and conviction of this truth, which is in turn the basis of the pro-life movement. We are not simply counteracting an evil in society through our human strength; rather, we are sent on a mission by the one who has authority over death, to free the human family from its oppressive regime.

Imagine going to a wake service and having someone say to you, "If you had been here sooner, my loved one would never have died." Yet that is what both Martha and Mary said to Jesus. They knew he had power over life and death. And yet they were subject to the all too human fears and calculations we make when we battle the culture of death. Martha says, "By now there will be a stench."

We say the same thing. We know what is right, and what has to be said and done to defend life. Yet we fear the stench. We fear who will object, who will get angry. Politicians fear who will vote against them; businesses fear who will stop supporting them. "Surely, there will be a stench." And that becomes the excuse not to act – even when we know that Jesus has authority over death.

As we approach the climax of Lent and proclaim these powerful readings of God's victory over death, let's call our people to a confident and persistent activism for the cause of life, without fear or excuses. www.priestsforlife.org

Holy Week & Easter Sunday Schedule

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

12:00pm – Blessing of Baskets (Parish Center)

8:00pm – Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday – April 1st

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



That's The Way It Is!



This week we begin the holiest week of the Church year. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. Prior to Vatican II Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday were distinct Sundays in Lent. Passion Sunday was the Sunday in Lent when the Passion was read. That took place on the 5th Sunday of Lent. Palm Sunday followed when we hear the Gospel about Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Easter Sunday was the following week. After Vatican II, Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday were combined. Hence, on Palm Sunday we read from the Gospel about the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and then the Passion. When the Passion is read on Palm Sunday it is always taken from one of the Synoptic Gospels. This year we will read Mark's account of the Passion since we are in year B.

On Tuesday of Holy Week the bishop will celebrate the Chrism Mass. This is a special Mass where the oils used in the celebrations of the sacraments are blessed by the bishop. There are three oils that the bishop blesses: the Chrism, the Oil of the Catechumen and the Oil of the Sick. Chrism is used in Confirmation and in ordinations to the priesthood. The Oil of the Sick is used in administering the Sacrament of the Sick. The Oil of the Catechumen is used in Baptism. Ideally the Chrism Mass should be celebrated on Maundy Thursday morning. However, Holy Week is quite hectic for a priest. Celebrating the Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday morning and expecting all the priests to be able to participate is simply not practical in the modern Church. Most bishops now celebrate the Mass early in Holy Week to give all the priests the best opportunity to participate. The priests also renew their priestly vows at this Mass. The vows that all diocesan priests take are obedience to the bishop and his successors and celibacy.

Wednesday is unofficially known as Spy Wednesday. This day is held to be the day that Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. On Thursday, Lent comes to an end and Easter begins with the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening. Thursday of Holy Week is known as Maundy Thursday. The word "Maundy" is an English derivative of the Latin word "mandatum" which means "mandate." Jesus washed the feet of the apostles, an action that was typically done by slaves. In that action Jesus gave the apostles the mandate of service. They and their successors are to use the office that God gave them to serve others. On Maundy Thursday we also remember that Jesus instituted the Sacraments of Holy Orders and the Eucharist.

Good Friday is the darkest day in the Liturgical year. On this day we commemorate the death of Jesus for our sins and the salvation of the world. This is the only day in the Church when Mass is not celebrated. Not only is Mass not

celebrated, Mass is forbidden to be celebrated on this day. When you enter the Church you will notice that the tabernacle door is open and the Sanctuary Light is not lit. You do not genuflect. The Blessed Sacrament is not reserved in the tabernacle from Maundy Thursday evening to Holy Saturday at the end of Mass. On this day we have a Liturgy of the Word celebration with the Passion of Christ being read from the Gospel of John. We then have adoration of the cross, then Holy Communion. There is no final blessing. We simply end the service with a prayer and then depart in silence.

On Holy Saturday we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. In the late morning some parishes, including ours, have the tradition of blessing Easter baskets. Usually the contents of the baskets will be the first meal of Easter, candy or bread. The Easter Vigil begins at 8:00PM. In the Diocese of Scranton we are not permitted to begin any earlier than 8:00PM. Otherwise I would be starting earlier! Other dioceses may permit earlier start times for the Easter Vigil. At about 7:45PM we will start to gather outside the Church as the special Easter fire is prepared. The fire will be blessed and the Paschal Candle lit. This is the most powerful and triumphant day in the liturgical year. This is the night where Christ passed over from death to life. This is the night of the true Passover, the night when we all pass over with Christ from death to life. This is our heavenly Passover. We keep vigil at the tomb with Christ and joyously await the Resurrection. The bells ring out and we proclaim Alleluia to our King.

Easter Sunday begins our 50 day celebration of the Resurrection. Lent was 40 days. Easter is greater than lent, for Christ is greater than our sins. We are given 50 days to reflect on and celebrate the mystery of the resurrection. In Lent we are given 40 days to mourn our sins and what it cost God to redeem us. The traditional Easter meal is lamb. Some people do not like lamb and so choose to have ham, beef or even turkey. I always enjoy watching the classic movie "The Ten Commandments" on this day. If you have a chance to watch the movie, I highly recommend that you do so. One thing I know is that another Lent is in the history books! We get to put away all the chants and dirge like hymns until next Lent!

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for March 18th: \$6,705.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: \$ 955.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$5,779.93

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

News from the Vatican



FIFTH YEAR OF POPE FRANCIS' PAPACY

On the occasion of Pope Francis' 5th anniversary, the statistics gathered by the Holy See's Press Office helps us reflect on the importance of his Papacy. On March 19, 2013, the Solemnity of St Joseph, Pope Francis celebrated Mass inaugurating his pontificate. Since then, the 81 year old pontiff has certainly left his mark on the Church.

Pope Francis has demonstrated that he is continuing in the footsteps of both John Paul II and Benedict XVI. The themes of both synods – the Family and young people – were very dear to John Paul II. And both Encyclicals have connections with Benedict XVI. The first, *Lumen Fidei*, is based on a manuscript begun by Pope Benedict and concludes his Encyclicals on Faith, Hope and Charity. The second, *Laudato Si'*, not only cites Pope Benedict numerous times, but also treats a recurring theme from Pope Benedict's pontificate.

But Pope Francis is also leaving his own mark on the Papacy, one which is rooted in his formation and pastoral experience in Argentina. The creation of a special Council of Cardinals to assist him in the reform of the Roman Curia is a concrete example of the collegiality that Pope Francis embraces.

Perhaps most remarkable of all is the Pope's affable and affectionate personality which shines through every public and personal encounter with him. Francis is a Pope who enters into the everyday lives of people with phone calls and letters, with "Good evening", "enjoy your lunch", and "please don't forget to pray for me."

THE POPE'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS

March 2018 ~ Evangelization: Formation of Spiritual Discernment - That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

Diocese of Scranton News

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. Bishop Bambera will celebrate the 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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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:

DIocese of SCRANTON
Allus Women

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

Jesus rode into Jerusalem not as a conquering king, but in humility, the Servant King, ready to complete the task for which he had walked this world. Forgive us those times when we think too highly of ourselves, and remind us always that you ask from us lives dedicated to service, to you and to our neighbors, wherever and whoever they might be. Enable us to take off our cloaks of self-righteousness, and lay them down at your feet. 'Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.' Psalm 32:5

The Paschal Triduum

After the penitential season of Lent, we come to the pinnacle of the Church year. Holy Week and the Triduum climax in the Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is the culmination of all we believe and begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. These days recall the central mystery of our faith: the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Christ.



HOLY THURSDAY – The season of Lent concludes with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The only Mass celebrated is in the evening when we remember Jesus' celebration of the Passover meal. We recall that Jesus took the form of a slave and washed the feet of his disciples—giving us an example of what it means to follow Christ. We celebrate the institution of the Eucharist, when Jesus gave us his Body and Blood to feed us on our journey of faith. Mass concludes with the Holy Eucharist leading the procession to where the Eucharist will be reposed, reminding us of Christ's prayer in the Garden. Because the Good Friday liturgy does not contain a Eucharistic Prayer or consecration, sufficient hosts are consecrated on Holy Thursday to serve the people on both days. At the end of the Holy Thursday Mass, the tabernacle is left empty. After the procession, the altar in the Upper Church is stripped, all candles are extinguished, and holy water is removed from the fonts.



GOOD FRIDAY – Good Friday is a celebration of Jesus' Passion – recalling His suffering and death on the cross that He suffered for each of us. Because it is through His death that we have salvation, we call the day 'Good.' Traditionally the Lord's Passion is celebrated between the hours of 1:00pm and 3:00pm. Based on the Gospel accounts, it is presumed that Jesus died around 3:00pm. There is no Mass celebrated on Good Friday, rather it is a celebration of the Word which includes the veneration of the cross and distribution of Holy Eucharist which was consecrated on Holy Thursday.



HOLY SATURDAY – The Easter Vigil is the highest celebration of the Church's liturgical year. This is the celebration that our Lenten preparations have pointed to – both the Resurrection of Jesus and the welcoming of new members into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. The Easter Vigil begins in darkness, symbolizing the darkness of the tomb. The Paschal Candle enters the church symbolizing Christ, who is the light of the world and Christ who is now raised from the dead. The light of Christ shatters the darkness and illuminates the entire Church as the Gloria is sung. The elect are baptized and confirmed after the homily.

Questions about the Paschal Triduum

Q. When does the Triduum begin and end?

A. The Easter Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

Q. Is the *Mandatum*, the washing of feet at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, required?

A. The *Roman Missal* only indicates, "After the Homily, where a pastoral reason suggests it, the Washing of Feet follows."

Q. How are the Holy Oils, consecrated and blessed at the Chrism Mass, to be received in the parish?

A. A reception of the oils may take place before the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The oils, in suitable vessels, can be carried in procession by members of the assembly.

Q. When should the Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion take place?

A. Normally it should take place in the afternoon, at about 3:00pm, to enable people to assemble more easily. However, pastoral discretion may indicate a time shortly after midday, or in the late evening, though never later than 9:00pm.

Q. How is the cross venerated by members of the congregation on Good Friday?

A. After the showing of the Cross, the priest or deacon may carry the Cross to the entrance of the sanctuary or another suitable place. The first person to adore the Cross is the priest celebrant. If circumstances suggest, he takes off his chasuble and his shoes. The clergy, lay ministers, and the faithful then approach the Cross. The personal adoration of the Cross is an important feature in this celebration and every effort should be made to achieve it.





Q. When should the Easter Vigil take place?

A. The Vigil, by its very nature, must take place at night. It is not begun before nightfall and should end before daybreak on Easter Sunday. The celebration of the Easter Vigil takes the place of the Office of Readings of Easter Sunday. The Easter Vigil begins and ends in darkness. It is a *nocturnal vigil*, retaining its ancient character of vigilance and expectation, as the Christian people await the Resurrection of the Lord during the night. Fire is blessed and the paschal candle is lighted to illumine the night so that all may hear the Easter proclamation and listen to the word of God proclaimed in the Scriptures. For this reason the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil takes place before the Liturgy of the Word.

Q. What directions are given for the celebration of Masses on Easter Sunday?

A. Mass is to be celebrated on Easter Day with great solemnity. A full complement of ministers and the use of liturgical music should be evident in all celebrations. The rite of the renewal of baptismal promises may take place after the homily, followed by the sprinkling with water blessed at the Vigil, during which the antiphon *Vidi aquam*, or some other song of baptismal character should be sung. The holy water fonts at the entrance to the church should also be filled with the same water. On the subsequent Sundays of Easter, it is appropriate that the Rite for the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water take the place of the Penitential Act.

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Parish Prayer List

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Bob Erway, Mary Mekos, 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, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, Elizabeth Payne, Ann Osgood, Brenden Young, Jane Usavage Johnson, Jenny Clemens, Cindy Sereno, Denny Young, Jack Worden, Teagan Kohler, Cindy Copp, Carolyn Tester, and Tom Brown.



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.