St. Peter's Church



Seventh Sunday of Easter May 13, 2018

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.

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. Children's Liturgy (grades K-4th) is held during the 8:30am Mass when Relgious Education classes are in session.

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		
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"She is clothed with strength and dignity, and laughs at the days to come. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband, too, praises her." Proverbs 31

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

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 5/14 Acts 1:15-17,20-26; Jn 15:9-17	No Mass	
Tuesday 5/15 Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11	7:30am	In Memory of John Gordon (Gordon Family)
Wednesday 5/16 Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Mary Cleveland (Rummage Sale Workers)
Thursday 5/17 Acts 22:30,23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Mike & Mary Fermenic (Leonard & Family)
Friday 5/18 Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Gladys McElligott (Gina Brown)
Saturday 5/19 Acts 28:16-20,30-31; Jn 21:20-25	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions All Living an Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 5/20 Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13; Jn 20:19-23	8:30am	In Honor of Jim & Holly Josten (Norb & Nona)

This week's Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Helen Pietrowicz (Tascione Family)

The Week Ahead

TUESDAY, May 15 2018

Adoration – 8:00am-6:30pm, Benediction- 6:30pm Women's Bible Study – 9:00am, Parish Center Parish Council Meeting – 7:00pm, Parish Center AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, May 16, 2018

Staff Meeting – 8:30am, Rectory

Italian Dinner Prep – 9:00am, Parish Center

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

ChristLife – 6:30pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, May 17, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center

FRIDAY, May 18, 2018

Rectory Closed

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

SUNDAY, May 20, 2018

Graduation Brunch – 9:30am, Parish Center Secular Carmelites – 11:30am, Parish Center

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS

This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: popcorn, eye drops, "to go" powdered drink mix, travel size wet ones, beef jerky, & personal notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.) Note: No chocolate items during the summer months. A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: *Creamy Peanut Butter and Grane Jellv.* A donation box can be found at the church entrance.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

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

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

May 19th/20th

5:00pm

Servers: A.Osborn, J.Grab, M. Mann Lectors: P.Walrath, D.Sherman

E. Min.: V.Anthony, B.Butler, K.Wilcox, M.Osborn

8:30am

Servers: K.Swendrowski, A.Swendrowski, M.Ingerick

Lectors: M.Sampson, H.Sampson

E. Min.: T.Gamble, M.Sampson, D.Stager, L.Stager

Sacramental Information

Baptisms - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend baptismal instructions classes before the birth of their child, if possible. 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.

E Liturgical Reflection

7th Sunday of Easter FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Luke recounts the reason and process that went into the selection of Matthias as a replacement for Judas. The setting is the upper room, traditionally associated with the Last Supper, with about 120 persons present. This will be the setting for the Spirit's descent on Pentecost. It was God's plan that Judas betray Jesus, and so it is fitting to replace him so that the twelve Jesus chose can be witnesses to his Resurrection. Zeroing in on two candidates who accompanied them from the baptism of John to the Lord being taken up, they prayed, cast lots, and Matthias is chosen. Both divine and human elements are integral to any good Christian decision making.

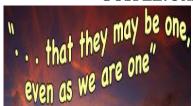
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 103

The Lord's throne is in heaven the refrain tells us. Following upon the First Reading, the psalm invites us to bless the Lord with our entire being as those who are Apostles do. The Lord rules over all, yet ours is the task now to show others the way to him.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:11-16

The message is simple, yet profound. God is love. God shared that love completely with us by sending Jesus. God initiates love of us and invites us to love one another in the same manner. In this way, God establishes intimacy with us and us with God. The concrete sign of this intimacy is the gift of the Spirit that has been given to all. In testifying to Jesus as the Savior of the world, we testify to God's love of us and we are challenged to love one another in return. Discipleship challenges all to love as God loves and Jesus modeled.

GOSPEL: John 17:11-19



Jesus prays for unity among his disciples, comparable to the unity he has with his Father. He protected them while with them, except for

Judas who chose his own path. But now that he will leave them, Jesus asks the Father to protect them from the world and the evil one. These forces choose not to believe and come to know the Father, not Jesus, the one whom the Father sent. Armed with the Father's protection, Jesus sends them into the world, already consecrated and armed with the truth, to love one another as Jesus has loved them. The Pentecost Spirit will facilitate much of what Jesus prays for and the Spirit is still at work in our communities as well.

REFLECTION

Christians always face a dynamic tension as they attempt to live in and not of the world. We do not reject the world for God created it. Yet, we must use it carefully, for our hearts and our attitude toward it have been distorted by sin.

Parish News and Activities

SAMARITAN HOUSE - 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

"Before and above all things, care must be taken of the sick, that they be served in very truth as Christ is served."

Samaritan House is celebrating 20 years of service to our community, helping guests die with dignity and loving care. We

have served over 100 souls in our 20 years, on an all volunteer basis. Currently we are seeking to increase our volunteer base. Our volunteers, some of whom started this ministry, have aged out, become ill, are caring for family members or have moved away. When a guest is in residence, there are 35 shifts per week to fill. Daytime shifts are 4 hours and nights are 8 hours. We ask for family involvement but often they are unable to do so. No medical experience is required to volunteer, just the desire to lovingly serve each guest. Volunteers work with an experienced volunteer until they feel comfortable. End of life care is about safety, comfort and caring. The ability of Samaritan House to accept guests is totally dependent on our volunteers. We URGENTLY need to recruit new volunteers! Please visit the Samaritan House website at www.samaritanhouseofwellsboro.com to review history and comments from volunteers. An application can be downloaded and emailed to dstager@ptd.net. or dropped off at the Rectory. Please call Julie Stager (570-376-2424) or Laurie Coffee (570-549-2210) if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration of this important ministry!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Peter's Catholic Church create beautiful prayer shawls to help comfort and warm those in need. They comfort the sick, the bereaved, shut-ins,



nursing home residents, or people experiencing loneliness and emotional distress. The shawls are like being wrapped in prayers and love. If you know of anyone needing a shawl, please call Jan Bernethy at 307-267-0677.

BINGO TO BENEFIT ST. THOMAS PARISH



Super Bingo will be held on Sunday, May 20th at the Knoxville Community Center, Main Street, Knoxville, PA. The cost is \$25.00. Doors will open at 10:30am with Bingo

beginning at 12:00noon. The kitchen will be open. The payout is as follows: 100 or less players - \$2,000; 120 or less players - \$2,500; 121 or more players - \$3,000.

Religious Education News

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date for Vacation Bible School! This year VBS will take place from July 15th - 18th. More information to come in upcoming bulletins.

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

A Prayer for Those Afraid of their Motherhood

Lord God, we thank you, the Source of Life, for all those who have welcomed and nurtured our lives. In particular, we thank you for our mothers, who with trust in you and self-sacrifice beyond description, have made it possible for us to live and praise you today. Give them the reward of their labors.

Today, Lord, we also pray for mothers who are afraid of being mothers. We pray especially for those carrying a child within them, but afraid to bring that child to birth. Look with favor on these, your daughters, and give them trust and strength. Enable them to give themselves to their children, as you give yourself to us, and to experience the joys of motherhood. Enable us to do our part to encourage them and provide for their needs. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

WE ARE WITNESSES

Just as in the first reading we see that the apostles were witnesses to the Resurrection, and just as we learn from the Gospel passage that we are consecrated in the truth of God's word, so we must stand before the world and testify to Christ (2nd Reading).

What is this truth in which we are consecrated and to which we bear witness? It is the truth about the meaning of love. God's love, and God himself, is revealed first of all in the love Christ showed on the cross, and furthermore in the concrete love we have toward one another. Love has a truth to it, a logic, that flows from the action of God in saving the world. As he gave himself for us, so we give ourselves away for one another.

Taking innocent human life is a contradiction of love; it is also a contradiction of truth. To treat the human person as disposable is to say something about that person that is contrary to the truth of that person's dignity and inviolable rights. It is to say something false about God, who alone owns that person. It is not only the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" that is broken when we depart from the Culture of Life. It is also the commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." We are witnesses – to the love of God and to the dignity of every human life. www.priestsforlife.org

CALLING ALL RUNNERS

Endless Mountains Pregnancy Center is hosting a *Pound the Ground for Ultrasound* 10k and 5k race on Saturday, May 26th beginning at 8:00am. Call 570-721- 2936 or visit *www.empccfree.com* for more information.

Diocese of Scranton News

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

There are now sign-up sheets on the handout table. For those who have not already signed up on line, please fill out and turn into the rectory no later than May 29th with payment of \$20. St. Peter's will pay the balance. For those who have signed up on line, please call the rectory and let us know, so that we can make sure you are on the bus list and refund to your our portion of the fee.



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

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

St. Peter's Church

Italian Dinner

Friday, May 18, 2018 4:00 - 7:00pm

Adults - \$10.00 Children (under 12) - \$5.00



Menu:

Basket Raffle

Chicken Cacciatore,
Pasta with Marinara Sauce,
Pasta with Alfredo Sauce, Meatballs,
Italian Wedding Soup, Salad, Bread
Homemade Desserts,
Coffee, Soda, Tea, Lemonade

In order for this dinner to be a success, we need volunteers to work during and after the dinner, donations of some food items and baked goods, and donations of filled baskets for the raffle. Signup sheets can be found on the handout table at the side of the church.

That's The Way It Is!



This Sunday is a special day because it is Mother's Day. Mother's Day in general honors the family with a particular emphasis on the maternal bond, and the influence of motherhood on society.

Mother's Day as a national holiday exists thanks to the efforts of Anna Jarvis. Anna's mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis died in 1905. During the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis was a peace activist and cared for injured soldiers on both sides of the war. When Ann Reeves Jarvis died, Anna Jarvis campaigned to have Mother's Day recognized as a national holiday in honor of her mother and her work.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation making the second Sunday in May a national holiday in honor of mothers. As you might expect, corporations took advantage of the profit potential and began to commercialize the holiday. This angered Jarvis and she organized protests against the commercialization of the holiday. The day, argued Jarvis, is about sentiment, not profit. So outraged was Jarvis at what the corporations had made of the holiday that in 1923, at a candy makers convention in Philadelphia she was arrested for disturbing the peace! In a very brief time, Mother's Day morphed into something Jarvis had never intended.

In a capitalist society, corporations will always take advantage of anything they can if they think it will increase their bottom lines. That is, to coin a phrase, the way it is. This does not mean that Mother's Day is any less a day to honor mothers and motherhood. Jarvis said that a mother "is the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world." Indeed! I echo this sentiment! I have always believed that the bond between a mother and her child is the strongest of bonds. This is because it is only mother's who have the unique gift to be able to carry their child inside them for 9 months. You cannot get closer to someone then literally being inside them! While fathers are bonded to their children and love them as much as mothers do, nevertheless it is not men who nurture children as they germinate in their wombs for 9 months.

I recognize that many people have had a less than ideal relationship with their mothers. For people in this situation, the phrase "Your mother has done more for you than anyone in the world" does not ring true. People who have not had a good relationship with their mother may not have fond memories of their mother. I think it may be helpful to keep one thing in mind on this day: whatever relationship you have or had with your mother, your mother made at least one good decision: she chose to give you life. In this country mothers do not have to

choose life. Sometimes we take life for granted, but life is a gift. If you are here to feel anger or resentment towards your mother, it means you are alive. It means your mother gave you the gift of life. If nothing else, everyone can thank their mothers for giving them life.

For some, their mothers may have long since passed on from this world. If you had a great relationship with your mother, honor them in death by praying for them. Thank God always for what He gave you in your mother. If your mother passed away before you had a chance to work out issues or reconcile, or if your mother passed away and you are still angry at your mother, do not lose heart. You may have every right to feel whatever it is you feel. If you want healing, pray for the repose of the soul of your mother. Pray that God may have mercy on her soul. Pray that God will heal your mother and welcome her into heaven. Pray that God will heal you and that you may find some peace. It may help for you to visit your mother's grave and spend some time there. Ask Mary, the mother of all mothers, the mother par excellence to pray for you. Ask Mary to bring healing and peace where there are still open wounds and hurt.

On this day where we reflect on the gift of motherhood and honor mothers, we pray in a special way for single mothers. Single mothers are the unsung heroes of our time. They have chosen life and love despite the odds. They have chosen life and love when they could have chosen to have an abortion. May God bless them and continue to give them the graces they need to care for their children. May they be celebrated for choosing life and love when at present, in this country, they didn't have to.

I would be remiss if I did not mention this to any mother who had an abortion: you are not outside the love, mercy and Grace of God. Your child is not beyond the love and Grace of God. God loves you and so does your child. If you want to be healed, if you want to come back to God and to the Church, if you want experience the love and mercy of God, all you need to do is go to Confession. It is just that easy! God has made it that easy through the power of His blood.

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

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for May 6th: \$5,656.65 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,750.00

Difference: (\$ 93.35)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$6,543.58 Collection for Care & Education of Priests: \$673.00

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



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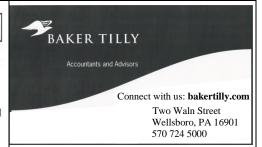
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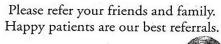


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BULLETIN ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

We currently have advertising space available in our weekly bulletin. If you are interested in placing an ad, please call the rectory.

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



Kenneth Mitchell Owner

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, 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, Paul Beuter, Jerry Eckert, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Margaret Barnett, Richard Nowak, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Fr. Paul Mullen, Gus Vargas, Helene Carpenter, Clark Hewitt, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Delores Scuderi, Colleen Rose, Elizabeth Payne, Cindy Sereno, Denny Young, Jack Worden, Teagan Kohler, Cindy Copp, Carolyn Tester, Tom Brown, Richard Stankiewicz, Jim Callahan, Barb Bechtel, Mary Antoniw, and Ruth Russell.



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.