

St. Peter's Church



**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 16, 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 Thursday 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 Religious 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 _____

We welcome

Gideon Francis Xavier Gordon,

son of David & Tara Gordon,

into the One, Holy, Catholic Church
through the waters of Baptism.

Parish Contact Listing

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

St. John Neumann's Prayer Group – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085

Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023

Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216

Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175

Parish Rummage Sale – Mary 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 – Linda Sampson 570-404-2180

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 9/17	No Mass	
Tuesday 9/18	7:30am	In Honor of Carolyn Tester
Wednesday 9/19	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Agnes Buchko (Robert & Sylvia McKee)
Thursday 9/20	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of E.R. Petray (Tascione Family)
Friday 9/21	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Lenora Bowers (Joan Getgen)
Saturday 9/22	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Jeanette Dalby Long (Family)
Sunday 9/23	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Mary Cleveland (Bill & Joy Cleveland)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, September 16, 2018

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

Religious Ed Parent Meeting – 9:30am, Church

Religious Ed Social – 10:00am, Lawn

TUESDAY, September 18, 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, September 19, 2018

Staff Meeting – 8:30am, Rectory

THURSDAY, September 20, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00noon, Parish Center

FRIDAY, September 21, 2018

Rectory Closed

SUNDAY, September 23, 2018

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

Samaritan House Open House – 2:00-4:00pm. Parish Center

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: *canned tuna, ham, or chicken (5-6oz)*. A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

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

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

September 22nd/23rd

5:00pm

Servers: J.Poirier, E.Hazelton, I.Hazelton

Lectors: P.Walrath, C.Evert

E. Min.: B.Chiamonte, K.Wilcox, B.Butler, I.Dziengowski

8:30am

Servers: A.Banik, W.Steinbacher, B.Levindoski

Lectors: M.Stirnman, M.Ostapowicz

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

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 if 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.



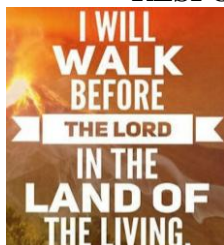
Liturgical Reflection

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:5-9

Today's reading presents the third of four poems of the suffering servant. The opening line emphasizes that this figure is a true Israelite who allows God to open his ear to hear. In Biblical thought, an open ear signified a person ready to hear and obey God's word. Isaiah describes the servant of God as one who is willing to undergo torment. The servant expresses nothing but gratitude and recognizes God as the one who opens his ears, who keeps him from disgrace and from being proven wrong. Such steadfastness is rooted in unflinching trust that God will not fail to come to his aid.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 116



Psalm 116 reflects the same confidence in the Lord the servant has in the First Reading. Facing death, the psalmist calls upon the Lord who is gracious and merciful. The Lord frees his soul from death and now he walks in front of the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: James 2:14-18

In today's second reading, James presents more of his concrete, no-nonsense ethical teaching. Today he insists that a Christian cannot simply talk about care for other members of the community, or give verbal assurance to those community members who have physical needs; one must act, in imitation of Jesus. James insists that faith must take concrete form in how one in fact treats others in need. Someone in need cannot be helped by mere claim of faith; believers must act, quickly and concretely, to alleviate another's need.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-35

From the beginning Mark has indicated that the mission of Jesus the Messiah will conform to that of the Suffering Servant. Jesus' description of his coming rejection, suffering, and death is too much for Peter, who vehemently objects and is in turn reproached by Jesus. Jesus' meaning is clear: If you wish to deny a suffering Messiah, you set yourself in direct opposition to me and my mission. Jesus speaks as directly as possible: if you are truly a disciple, you will follow your master in word and action, even to death, giving over your life in trust to God who will ultimately save you. Thus Mark again asks his hearers: do you truly understand who you follow – and do you truly choose to do so?



Parish News and Activities

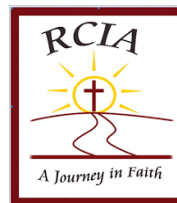
RELIGIOUS ED KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Today is Catechetical Sunday and will be the first class for students in grades Pre-K through 12th grade. Following the 8:30am Mass, students will report to their classrooms and a short parent meeting will be held in the church. At the conclusion of the parent meeting, we will be joined by the students to kick off the year with donuts and coffee/juice on the lawn for everyone.



INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church. It begins with a period of inquiry in which you may ask questions before you make a commitment to become Catholic.



An informational meeting will take place on Sunday, September 30th at 9:30am following the 8:30am Mass, in the Church. Please call the Rectory to register or for more information.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL SALE



St. Peter's annual fall rummage sale will be held October 2 – October 4th. When you are fall cleaning, please consider donating household items, books and clothing. **Donations can be dropped off** on September 30th from 11:00am -3:00pm and on October 1st from 8:00am to 5:00 pm. If you have any questions regarding donations, please call Mary Lasko 570-439-7706 or Pat Gorda 570-724-3035 . 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.

The schedule for the sale is as follows:

September 30th – Donations accepted 11:00am – 3:00pm
 October 1st – Set up & Donations accepted 8:00am – 5:00pm
 October 2nd – Sale Hours 8:00am – 7:00pm
 October 3rd – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm
 October 4th – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm

Take what you want for a donation on October 4th!

No Early Sales! **Please, no donations of televisions.**

Bake Sale – We will be selling homemade baked goods during the sale. *Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated* and can be dropped off at the Parish Center on Sunday and Monday during the hours above.

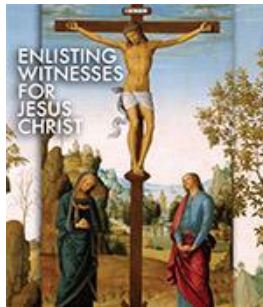
Volunteers Needed – We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and tear down the sale. If you are willing to donate **ANY** time; please call Mary or Pat.

"Let us involve ourselves in our relationship of love with Jesus and we will be able to perform good works that have the fragrance of the Gospel." Pope Francis

Today is **Catechetical Sunday**.

The 2018 theme will be *Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ*.

Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

TV NEEDED

St. Peter's Prison Ministry is in need of a flat screen TV, 36" or so, for use in screening Christian teaching videos and Christian-themed films at the Tioga County Prison. If you have one in good working order that you would consider donating to benefit our incarcerated brethren, please call Sue at 570-724-2360 to arrange for pick-up.

MOPS and MOMSNext



Momming is hard. You deserve a break. Are you pregnant or a mom/guardian/female who cares for a child Kindergarten or younger? Then MOPS is for you! Are you a

mom/guardian/female who cares for a child Kindergarten through High School? Then MOMSNext is for you! Are you a woman who loves children and would be interested in providing childcare to kids, birth through 6 years old? Then MOPSKids is for you! MOPS & MOPSKids meets on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 9:00-11:15am (September through May) at the First Baptist Church. MOMSNext meets on the 2nd Thursday, 7:00-9:00pm (September through May) at St. Peter's. For more information about MOPS & MOPSKids contact Lauren Novak at 570-578-0266 or on Facebook at *MOPS of Wellsboro, PA*. For information about MOMSNext contact Tara Gordon 570-439-0006 or on Facebook at *Endless Mountains MOMSnext*. The mother of all mom meetups isn't complete without you!

50th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIES

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of our Church on Central Avenue, we are asking those who have memories or stories to tell, pictures, keepsakes, etc. to please share them with the Rectory. We would like to compile a remembrance book of the time leading up to building the current church, and memories of the last 50 years. Submissions can be made in hard copy, through email, or in person. Copies can be made and original items returned to you. Please stop in or call the Rectory if you have any questions.

SCHEDULING 2018 MASS INTENTIONS

Scheduling Mass intentions for 2019 will begin on September 4th, through the parish office, during regular business hours. **The following are the established guidelines for scheduling intentions:**

1. One weekend Mass on each weekend must be celebrated for the intentions of the parish. This is required by Canon Law (c. 534). Because of this we only have one weekend Mass for which we can accept an intention. Due to this limited availability of weekend Masses, no family may schedule more than ONE WEEKEND MASS PER QUARTER, or four weekend Masses per year.
2. There is no limit to the number of DAILY MASS INTENTIONS, including those Masses said at the nursing homes each month, which may be scheduled by each family.
3. Canon 948 states, "Separate Masses are to be applied for the intentions of those for whom a single offering, although small, has been given and accepted." Therefore, only one intention may be scheduled for any given Mass. However, for pastoral concerns to better accommodate the needs of the parishioners, we will adhere to the following: Up to three first names with the same last name (i.e. John, Paul and Mary Smith) or two last names only (i.e. Scott and Smith Families) will be allowed per intention.
4. The stipend given for a Mass intention is \$10. While we are willing to take requests over the phone, your Mass Intention will be not be scheduled until we are in receipt of your donation.
5. Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and All Souls Day Masses are always for the individual intentions listed by parishioners on their envelope.
6. The Sanctuary Candle, burning in memory or honor of someone, is available on a weekly basis with no limit to the number each family may reserve.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection September 9: \$5,260.00
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,800.00
Difference: (\$ 540.00)
Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$7,389.25)

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

SAMARITAN HOUSE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Samaritan House, a ministry of St. Peter's Church, is celebrating 20 years of service to our community. Our volunteers care for guests with dignity and love throughout their final days. Over 100 souls have been served in the last 20 years, with no cost to the guests or their families. Please join us for a reception on Sunday, September 23rd from 2:00-4:00pm in the Parish Center. We will celebrate the past and look forward to the future of this vital ministry. All are welcome to join us for food, music, sharing, and tours of the Samaritan House.

SAMARITAN HOUSE NEEDS

YOU
CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Volunteers bring their gifts to the ministry of Samaritan House. Some provide physical care for guests, others, clean, paint and do organizational tasks. If you would like to share your gifts, here are some of current needs for this ministry:

- Check and clean gutters twice a year (spring and fall)
- Inspect roof/chimney flashing annually
- Care of shrubbery and mulching around the house
- Snow removal from porch and sidewalks
- Keep debris and sticks off the lawn on a regular basis, especially after a storm.
- Handyman/woman for minor repairs/answering questions

If you wish to help or contribute in any way, please contact: Linda Sampson 570 404 2180. Thank you to all for your generosity and support of this mission of caring.

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Reflection on Today's Readings - "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." This Gospel rebuke of Jesus to Peter applies to us all. In particular, we tend to think that to be successful in our efforts to win people over to the Gospel and the pro-life message, we have to be popular. This is a human way of thinking, that does not give enough room to the role that the cross, and persecution, play in the plan God has for us. The fact is that people are converted by the truth of the message and by the integrity and faithfulness with which we convey that message even in the face of opposition. People are not ultimately inspired or converted by crowd-pleasers, but by God-pleasers.

Jesus, of course, gives the primary example of this. The fact that the Gospel passage indicates that some people thought he was John the Baptist or Elijah or one of the other prophets gives us a good insight into what he was like. John the Baptist, Elijah, and the prophets were tough preachers, proclaiming hard truths and inviting all kinds of opposition and persecution.

Success does not require popularity; rather, it requires fidelity. This is a particularly valuable lesson in relation to our efforts to proclaim the sanctity of human life in the face of abortion. People who attack the messenger are, nevertheless, impacted by the message. That's the very reason they are attacking.

The second reading illustrates the goal of our efforts, not to simply bring people to "believe" in the sanctity of life, but to have them practice it. We are called to respond concretely to the needs of the people we proclaim are sacred. The hungry must be fed, not just spoken about with sympathy. The unborn must be saved, not just mentioned in our prayers. Whether it's a candidate for public office or a Christian in the pews, just "believing" in the right to life is not enough. The pertinent question is, "What will you do to protect those who have that right?" www.priestsforlife.org

Diocese of Scranton News

COUNSELING OFFERED

The Diocese of Scranton offers compassionate counseling in a safe, comfortable, environment where your privacy is always respected. Help is available. Anyone who struggles with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, life transitions or a variety of emotional or psychological conditions is welcome. Catholic Social Services accepts Medicaid plans and some insurance plans. Counseling is made affordable for everyone. For more information or to make an appointment, please call (570) 207-2283.

Plan Now For 2018

Fall Fest

Saturday, September 22
10am - 4pm
Knoxville Fireman's Field
Knoxville PA 16928

FREE EVENT!

Food - Chinese Auction
Music - Vendors
Games For All Ages & Much More!

VENDORS WANTED
CRAFTS - PRODUCE - FOOD - FLEA MARKET ITEMS
\$20.00 SET UP FEE
(Bring own tables and canopy - limited electric, call to reserve.)

CHICKEN BARBECUE
READY AT 12 NOON
HALVES & DINNERS
Dinners include: Chicken, Salad, Baked Beans, Roll & Dessert.

Don't miss Cabbage, doing her thing at cow pie BINGO!
Tickets are on sale now & day of event - \$10.00.

814-258-5121
For More Information.

Event Benefits: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Elkland / Westfield, PA.

That's The Way It Is!



Steve Jobs died on October 5, 2011. Below is an apparent final essay from Steve Jobs. Someone sent this to me in an email. I wanted to share it with you. The fact that one of the most successful businessmen in the world wrote this right before he died is telling. It ultimately took the realization of the fact that he is

dying to learn something Christians have always known. I think we Christians can forget this at times. I know I do. At least he learned what he needed to learn, even if at the end of his life.

To those of us who read this now, there is still time. If we need to learn this lesson, now is the time to learn it. Do not wait until it is too late.

Steve Jobs Died a billionaire at age 56. This is his final essay:

"I reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In some others' eyes, my life is the epitome of success. However, aside from work, I have little joy. In the end, my wealth is only a fact of life that I am accustomed to. At this moment, lying on my bed and recalling my life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth that I took so much pride in have paled and become meaningless in the face of my death. You can employ someone to drive the car for you, make money for you but you cannot have someone bear your sickness for you. Material things lost can be found or replaced. But there is one thing that can never be found when it's lost - Life. Whichever stage in life you are in right now, with time, you will face the day when the curtain comes down.

Treasure love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your friends. Treat yourself well and cherish others. As we grow older, and hopefully wiser, we realize that a \$300 or a \$30 watch both tell the same time. You will realize that your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world. Whether you fly first class or economy, if the plane goes down - you go down with it. Therefore, I hope you realize, when you have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, who you chat with, laugh with, talk with, sing songs with, talk about north-south-east-west or heaven and earth, that is true happiness! Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy. So when they grow up they will know the value of things and not the price. Eat your food as your medicine, otherwise you have to eat medicine as your food.

The One who loves you will never leave you for another because, even if there are 100 reasons to give

up, he or she will find a reason to hold on. There is a big difference between a human being and being human. Only a few really understand it. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage! The six best doctors in the world are sunlight, rest, exercise, diet, self-confidence and friends. Maintain them in all stages and enjoy a healthy life."

That's the way it is,

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

News from the Vatican



CHILDREN ARE THE MOST PRECIOUS GIFT YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED

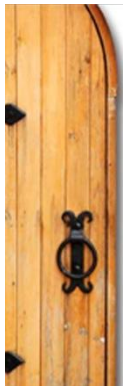
Pope Francis stressed this on Sept. 7, 2018, in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall. The Pope stressed how great a gift it is to have children and how it is important to cooperate with all the other structures and people in their schooling and upbringing.

"Dear parents, children are the most precious gift that you have ever received," Francis said, advising: "Know how to protect them with commitment and generosity, leaving them with the freedom necessary to grow and mature," in a way that eventually they themselves "may be open to life."

The Pope deviated from his remarks to recall when he misbehaved in school and got in trouble for saying something bad to the teacher. "If I may, I will tell you an anecdote," he said, explaining: "I was ten years old, and I said something unpleasant to the teacher. She called my mother. The day after my mother came to school, and the teacher went to receive her; they spoke, then my mother called me, and in front of the teacher she rebuked me." The Pope noted how his mother told him to apologize to the teacher and kiss the teacher, and he obeyed. "I did both, and then I returned to the classroom, happy, and the story was over." "No, it wasn't over," he stressed, "The second chapter was when I returned home..."

This is 'collaboration' in the education of a child: between family and teachers. Without them, you risk remaining alone in the your educational action and to be less and less able to face the new educational challenges that they come from contemporary culture, from society, from mass media, from new technologies." Teach your children moral discernment, ethical discernment: this is good, this is not so good, and this is bad, so that they may know how to distinguish. But this is learned at home, and at school: together, both of them.

Adult Faith Formation



ask.
seek.
knock.

discovering
CHRIST
a seven-week experience

Registration is now open for the fall Discovering Christ series. This 7-week program includes a delicious (free!) dinner, a teaching video, and small group discussion focusing on the Meaning of Life and the Person of Jesus Christ. Beginning October 10th, participants meet Wednesday evenings from 6 - 8:30pm thru Nov 14th with an inspiring Retreat on Saturday, Nov 10th, and a concluding session on Monday, Nov 19th. Free child-care is available for parents of younger children who would like to attend. Seating is limited and registration closes Sept 30th so please sign up early to ensure a place at the table! Registration forms are also available on the table and at the back of the Church or email your registrations to christlife.wellsboro@gmail.com. Questions? Call Norb at 570-724-9095.

----- Registration Form ----- **Discovering Christ**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email(s): _____

Ph #: (home) _____ (cell) _____ (other) _____

Dietary restrictions? (vegetarian, gluten allergy, etc) _____

Child Care: Number of Children ____ Ages _____ Allergies/Special Needs? _____

Do you need transportation? Yes ____ No ____

Bishop Bambera's Message Regarding This Year's Annual Appeal

Dear Friends,

After much thought and prayerful reflection and in consideration of the gravity of the findings of the Grand Jury report and the impact it is having on victims, their families and all members of the faithful, I have decided to make some changes to this year's Annual Appeal.

During the course of the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to speak with pastors and hear from parishioners who have shared with me the pain and hurt that everyone is feeling. This is an extremely difficult time for all of us and we must be steadfast in our resolve to support one another and care for those among us who are suffering the most – the victims of sexual abuse and their families.

While we initially planned to move forward with the Diocesan Annual Appeal as we have done in past years, it has become clear to me that we must engage your support in a much different way this year.

With this in mind, some components of the Appeal will be suspended this year – the showing of the Appeal video in the parishes and our In-Pew Commitment Weekend.

We will be requesting support through an Appeal letter to be sent to past Appeal donors in September. There will also be pledge envelopes in the back of your Church for anyone wishing to make a gift to the Annual Appeal. The Appeal video is available on our website: www.AnnualAppeal.org and I encourage you to view the video which shares stories about some of the wonderful ministries that rely on your gifts each year.


I am sincerely grateful to you for your understanding and prayers and for your continued interest in supporting the Diocese. There has never been a more important time in the history of our Diocese for us to come together as one to meet the needs of our Diocese and the people we serve.

With your support, we will restore trust, care for all who seek our assistance and once again bring hope to our people.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton

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**UNITED CHRISTIAN
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Executive Director Director of Operations

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Fax: (570) 827-3063
Email: ucminc@epix.net
Website: ucministries.org

7534 Route 49
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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.