

St. Peter's Church



**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 4, 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
stpreed@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 _____



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 11/5	No Mass	
Tuesday 11/6	7:30am	In Memory of William Dy (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)
Wednesday 11/7	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Anne Donovan (Grab Family)
Thursday 11/8	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Claire Vargas (Women's Bible Study)
Friday 11/9	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Mary Alsacker (Grab Family)
Saturday 11/10	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Doug Robinson (Pat & Christopher)
Sunday 11/11	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Our All Souls Intentions

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, November 4, 2018

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

TUESDAY, November 6, 2018

Adoration – 8:00am-6:30pm; Benediction 6:30pm

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

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, November 7, 2018

Finance Council Meeting – 8:00am, Rectory

ChristLife – 6:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, November 8, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

MOMSNext – 7:00pm, Parish Center

FRIDAY, November 9, 2018

Rectory Closed

SATURDAY, November 10, 2018

ChristLife Retreat – 9:00am-4:00pm, Parish Center

SUNDAY, November 11, 2018

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

Secular Carmelites – 11:30am. Parish Center

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: *chicken noodle or tomato soup*. 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: *Christmas lights, small non-breakable ornaments, Santa Hats, chocolate candy bars, warm socks, Christmas Cards (for the troops to send home) & personal notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.)* A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

November 10th/11th

5:00pm

Servers: J.Grab, M.Mann, A.Dunkel

Lectors: C.Evert, P.Walrath

E. Min.: T.Straniere, D.Sherman, I.Dziengowski, K.Wilcox

8:30am

Servers: J.Poirier, H.Campbell, J.Lubera

Lectors: M.Ostapowicz, N.Bickham

E. Min.: M.Stirnaman, T.Gamble, G.Poirier, D.deGuzman

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.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening – 7:00pm, St. Catherine, Westfield

Sunday Morning – 11:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland



Liturgical Reflection

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses instructs the people of Israel to keep the Lord's commandments. Land, prosperity, and progeny will be theirs. Only the Lord is God. The Lord is the God of Israel whom the people shall love with their heart, soul, and strength. Moses' words call us to take the Lord's statutes into our hearts this day.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 18

We sing our thanks to the Lord for the rescuing us from our enemies and express our love of the Lord, for God is our strength and our rock. As Christians, we believe ours is the victory the Lord gave us in Christ Jesus.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 7:23-28

Jesus the high priest is unlike the Levitical priests who needed to offer repeated sacrifice for their sins and the sins of their people, and whose priesthood ceases at death. Jesus' Death on the Cross is "once for all" sacrifice, which he never needs to repeat. His priesthood is eternal and the salvation he offers to people, constantly available.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:28-34

Jesus' words in response to the scribe who inquires about the most important commandment, echo Moses' words in the First Reading. To the commandment of honor the Lord God alone with love of one's heart, mind, and strength, Jesus adds the second commandment to love your neighbor as yourself.

Understanding these commandments brings one near to the Kingdom of God. It is often difficult to balance love of God with love of neighbor. Should we spend our time praying or serving the poor? Should we dedicate our time to our family or to our church community? We will always be torn between these calls while we are upon this earth. In November we remember the dead, and it is a good time to meditate upon the fact that in heaven we will no longer be torn between loving God and loving each other. In heaven we will be able to love both. In fact, we will be able to love everyone without it taking away from our love of each one.

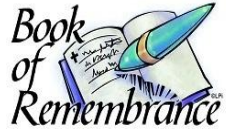
Parish News and Activities

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

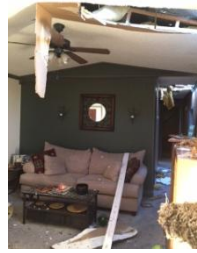
The Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am in the Adult Ed room in the Parish Center. We will begin a study on the Bible books James, Peter, and Jude. All women are cordially invited to come and visit or join our group.

BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD

The Church has a long tradition of remembering those who have died, to the love and mercy of God. We do this in a special way on the Feast of All Souls Day, and throughout November. During the month of November, a Book of the Names of the Dead will be located near the front entrance of the church. All Parishioners are welcome to write the names of those they wish to remember in this special book.

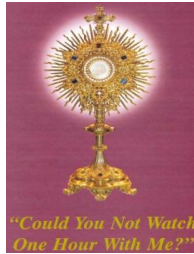


SECOND COLLECTION TO HELP



A second collection will be taken up at both Masses the weekend of November 11th. This collection is to aid Robert Brown, brother of parishioner Gina Brown, whose home was destroyed by hurricane Michael on October 10th in Florida.

EUCHARISTIC ADORERS NEEDED



Eucharistic Adoration is adoring or honoring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. In a deeper sense, it involves the contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us. During Eucharistic Adoration, we watch and wait, we remain silent in His Presence, and open ourselves to His Graces which flow from the Eucharist. By worshiping the Eucharistic Jesus, we become what God wants us to be! Like a magnet, The Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us. In its fullest essence Eucharistic Adoration is God and Man reaching out for each other, at the same time!

You are invited to grow in faith and love of our Lord with us, by coming to Eucharistic Adoration. Every Tuesday from 8:00am – 6:30pm, adoration is held at St. Peter's. We are in need of more adorers. Two adorers are needed for each hour. All are invited to participate. You are free to visit any time without signing up. *If you wish to sign up for a committed weekly hour, a sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the church or you can call Rhonda Gooch at 570-724-3092.*

How does one spend an hour before Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament? This hour Jesus wants you to spend with Him is spent any way you want. You may bring your own prayer books, use the books in the chapel, read the Bible, pray the Rosary, or just sit, relax and enjoy the sweet peace that comes from simply being in the Presence of God. You may feel you can't pray well. Don't let this discourage you. The mere fact that you take time out at a specific time each week to spend an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament pleases Him very much, and is in itself a prayer of great faith.

PARISH FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 18th is the date of our annual parish Family Advent Celebration. This celebration is **for all members of our Parish** and includes Advent crafts to make with your children, Advent handouts, door prizes, guessing jars, coffee and donuts. Please come and share in this time of fellowship with member of our Parish family.



The youth group will host this event and will also have a **bake sale**, with proceeds going to support the students attending the Steubenville Youth Conference next summer. **Donations of**

baked goods are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off before 9:30am.

We will also be selling **Advent Wreath candles**. The set includes 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle and costs \$5.00 per set.



3 purple candles
1 pink candle

ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Wellsboro Ministerium Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 18th at 7:00pm at the United Methodist Church. All are invited to attend.



THANKSGIVING MASS SCHEDULE



St. Peter's Thanksgiving Mass will be held on Wednesday, November 21st at 7:00pm. There will be no 12:10pm Mass on Wednesday, November 21st, Thursday, November 22nd, or Friday, November 23rd.

All parishioners are invited to bring a donation to the food bank to the Thanksgiving Mass and present their donation as the gifts are brought forward.

ORGAN DEDICATION CELEBRATION

All parishioners are invited to celebrate the installation of our new organ on Sunday, November 18th at 4:00pm. The concert will last about an hour. Light refreshments will be served in the parish hall following the concert. Phil Maue of Robert M Sides in Williamsport will give the concert.

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, call Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677.

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.



Religious Ed. & Youth Group News

FAMILY ADVENT SET UP

The youth group will meet on Thursday, November 16th from 3:15-5:00pm to prepare of the parish Family Advent Celebration. Please meet in the parish center.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy is offered at the 8:30am Mass. Children, along with an adult leader, are dismissed by Father before the First Reading and rejoin their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. While gathered in the parish center, children celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word that is more appropriate to their level of understanding. All children ages Pre-K through 4th grade are invited to attend. No registration is necessary.

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Reflection on today's readings - Christ puts the second commandment together with the first. "There is no other commandment greater than these." The close relationship between these two commandments is discussed at length in the First Letter of John, in which he makes it clear that the failure to love the neighbor we see, and to attend to his needs, makes it impossible to love the God we do not see. These two closely-related commandments provide the core of the Church's efforts to defend the unborn and the vulnerable. Because we love God with all our mind, heart, soul, and strength, we cannot place our own plans and choices above His choice to create human life and entrust it to our care. Moreover, we realize that religious piety is never meant to turn us in on ourselves, but rather to make us more attentive and responsive to the needs of the vulnerable. We love our neighbor – including our unborn neighbor – "like ourselves," which means that we recognize the unborn as a person like ourselves. Some say the unborn are too small, or too unlike us in their characteristics, to be considered a neighbor, a person. But the second commandment requires that we see every human being as a neighbor "like ourselves," and therefore love them.

This demand of love is greater than any other commandment. Often, it is the claim to observe other commandments that keeps people from intervening to save the unborn. We have legal concerns, often exaggerated. We shrink back because of human respect. We are afraid to part with certain possessions, relationships, or guarantees of security. And sometimes even those to whom we must answer tell us to "tone it down" regarding our outspoken defense of the unborn. But "there is no greater commandment than these." We are to love our unborn neighbor just as we love our born neighbor, and without reserve. www.priestsforlife.org

That's The Way It Is!



In reading books critiquing Christianity it is common to see the authors speculate about how religion arose in the human species. This is especially true when atheists critique the Catholic religion. There are several theories offered for why religion arose in our species. I am going to explore these theories in this and subsequent articles and explain why they are not sufficient to explain the rise of religion in the human species. As you read this article, I would not be surprised if you recognize one or more of the theories.

The first theory is the Fraud Theory of religion. The theory goes like this: in early times a group of evil but shrewd people set themselves up as religious leaders and priests. They preyed upon the simple and ignorant. They were able to trick people into thinking they truly represented God. They used psychological manipulation, tricks, pseudo-ceremonial witchcraft and vague guesses that passed for prophecy. Though these tactics they were able to convince people that they were truly in communication with a higher, unseen god like being who rules the world. Through these unscrupulous tactics they were able to set themselves up with an easy life. We see this phenomenon today in the likes of televangelists like Jesse Duplantis. God apparently told him to get a brand new jet and that his followers should pay the \$54,000,000 for it. To think...I can't even get any of you to cough up a meager \$100,000 for a new BMW! This priesthood thing isn't working out. I need to take up televangelism...

Humor aside, the Fraud Theory of religion has one glaring problem: it presupposes the very thing it seeks to account for. You can't gain sway over a large group of people using religion unless religion already exists. Thus, the existence of religious quacks does not explain the existence of religion or people's belief in God. The basic premise of the Fraud Theory of religion is that religion originated from religious quacks. The theory is self defeating. There are quacks in every profession. The existence of quacks presupposes the existence of the profession. Quacks are not the origin of the profession. If charlatans masquerading as men of God explain the origin of religion, then Kevin Trudaeu explains the origin of the medical profession, ambulance chasers explain the origin of the legal profession and snake oil salesmen explain the origin of business. Religious quackery presupposes the existence of religion and

belief in God and therefore cannot explain the origin of belief in God and religion.

Another theory is the Law Theory. The basic premise of this theory is that Heaven, Hell, Religion, etc, all originated from those who ruled and governed. They were used as a means to keep people under control. People may think twice about disobedience and challenges to authority if they are brainwashed to believe that disobedience to the authority will send them to Hell and prevent them from going to heaven.

If this is true, from my view, this has proven a rather ineffective and poor means of controlling people. Now stop and think: religious leaders and other people in authority are alleged to have invented religion, concepts of God, Heaven and Hell as a means of controlling people, scaring them, preventing challenges to their authority and keeping them subservient. Yet history is replete with protests and revolts against the very same religious leaders and others in authority who are alleged to have invented the concepts of God, Heaven, Hell and religion to prevent the protests and revolts in the first place! The concepts of God, Heaven and Hell that were supposedly invented by religious leaders and those in authority to control people and keep them in submission do not work. People readily accept the concepts of religion, God, Heaven and Hell and from time to time still revolt and protest against their leaders, as history shows.

The theory, like the last theory is also self defeating. How can the authority appeal to Heaven, Hell, God, religion, etc, unless the people already believed in Heaven, Hell, God, religion, etc? The theory, like the last theory presupposes the existence of the very thing it seeks to account for and therefore is insufficient to explain its origin.

Next week I will explore other theories that seek to account for religion. I will explore the Social Theory, the Ghost Theory and the Instinct Theory. Until then, That's the way it is,
Reverend David Bechtel, Pastor


Stewardship

Sunday Collection October 28th: \$ 7,081.07
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$ 5,800.00
Difference: \$ 1,281.07
Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$10,195.07

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

"We need smiling Christians, not because they take things lightly, but because they are filled with the joy of God, because they believe in love and live to serve." Pope Francis

Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for their support. Their advertising helps to make our bulletin possible.



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Dr. Richard F. Black

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:



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

"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



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 Hemighaus, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, 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, 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, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Paul Beuter, Jerry Eckert, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Margaret Barnett, Richard Nowak, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Fr. Paul Mullen, Helene Carpenter, Clark Hewitt, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Elizabeth Payne, Cindy Sereno, Denny Young, Teagan Kohler, Cindy Copp, Carolyn Tester, Tom Brown, Richard Stankiewicz, Jim Callahan, Barb Bechtel, Mary Antoniwi, Ruth Russell, Edward "Turk" Cruttenden, Jack & Agnes Worden, Mary Freeman, Larry Mommico, Anne Marie Beuter, Carol Fasick, Skip Warriner, Jim Honeywell, Beverly Willsea, Stephanie Calicchia, and Jacoby Aratari.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Al Dlugokinski

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.