

St. Peter's Church



**Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 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 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 _____

Advent Prayer

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Parish Contact Listing

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

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

Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023

Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216

Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175

Parish Rummage Sale – Mary Lasko 570-439-7706

Pat Gorda 570-724-3035

Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591

Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529

Fundraising Dinners – Paul Urner 570-723-9970

Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,

Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427

Samaritan House – 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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 12/10	No Mass	
Tuesday 12/11	7:30am	In Memory of Charles Wilsey (Norb & Nona Josten)
Wednesday 12/12	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Robert Schmitt (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)
Thursday 12/13	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Rene Portland (Grab Family)
Friday 12/14	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Lewis & Lenora Bowers (Joan Getgen)
Saturday 12/15	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 12/16	8:30am	In Memory of Gus Vargas (Joe & Loretta Tascione)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Parishioners of St. Peter's

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 9, 2018

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

Secular Carmelites - 11:30am, Parish Center

TUESDAY, December 11, 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, December 12, 2018

Broad Acres Mass - 10:30am

Green Home Mass - 2:00pm

THURSDAY, December 13, 2018

Cards & Games - 12:00pm, Parish Center

Advent Penance Service - 7:00pm

MOMsnext - 7:00pm, Parish Center

SUNDAY, December 16, 2018

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

R.C.I.A. - 9:30am, Parish Center

Lessons & Carols - 5:00pm, Church

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are:

chicken noodle or tomato soup (10-11oz). 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: **foot aids (insoles, powder, cream), eye drops, lip balms,**

1# coffee, coffee singles, candy bars, M&M's & Reece's, microwave popcorn & personal notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.) A donation box can be found at the entrance of

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

December 15th/16th

5:00pm

Servers: E.Poirier, W.Poirier, B.Levindoski

Lectors: P.Walrath, G.Poirier

E. Min.: B.Butler, D.Sherman, I.Dziengowski, V.Anthony

8:30am

Servers: M.Ingerick, A.Banik,

Lectors: N.Kennedy, N.Bickham

E. Min.: N.Josten, M.Stirnaman, 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

Second Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Baruch 5:1-9

These words are addressed to exiles who still remember the pain of being “led away on foot by their enemies.” Israel’s exile in Babylon left the people hopeless, questioning their identity. How could God so utterly abandon them? The prophet’s promise is of complete reversal. God will remember his people and return them to their home from which they were snatched. God will clear the way for their return, leveling the lofty mountains and filling in the “age-old depths.” These words of hope do not speak only to people displaced geographically, but to each of us who has experienced our own exile of estrangement and spiritual malaise. God is at work turning sorrow to joy!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 126

The psalm continues the theme of restoration found in the First Reading and the Gospel. It presents an idealistic version of what the return from Babylonian exile would be like for the people of Israel. It speaks of joy and laughter and promises a return of fertility to the land. During the season of Advent, we are called to return to God from the exile that we have created for ourselves through our lives of sin and selfishness. We cannot hope to change our hearts with our own strength. It is God who will transform the desert of our hearts into a land overflowing with fertility.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Ever the teacher, in this letter of joy written from prison, Paul reminds us that the work of conversion lasts a lifetime. God begins “a good work” in us at Baptism initiating a life process of growth that doesn’t end till we stand before the Lord. Paul encourages the Philippians to continue doing what they’ve been doing, only more and prays that their love may grow and mature.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6



God’s salvation approaches and nothing will stand in its way. Mountains will be leveled and valleys filled in so nothing can impede the progress of God’s Kingdom. The Gospel speaks of the role of John the Baptist. He calls

upon his people to prepare the way for the Lord. Luke situates John within a very specific historic and geographical context with a clear nod to the Roman authorities and the religious elite who will prove to be the Kingdom’s first opponents. But somehow we sense that the voice in the desert knows full well that those who walk the halls of power will be no match for the one whose advent he proclaims. John the Baptist speaks to us as well. We cannot hope to embrace the babe of Bethlehem if we do not turn away from our sins.

Parish News and Activities

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. PETER’S

You are invited to share a meal and spend time with others on Christmas Day. Dinner will be served at 12:00noon in the Parish Center. Meat and beverage will be provided. Kindly bring a dish to share. If you do not cook, bring an item that can be served cold. Reservations are requested by Wednesday, December 19th by calling Betsy and Dan Gordon at 570-439-5790 or email danbg77@gmail.com. **Reservations should include NAME, # ATTENDING, and the DISH YOU ARE BRINGING.**



BREAD PUDDING BOOTH

Thank you to everyone who helped at this year’s Dickens bread pudding booth. A profit of \$3,043.81 was raised to support the parish.

Income: \$3,885.00

Expense: (841.19)

Profit \$3,043.81

2019 CALENDARS ARE HERE

The 2019 Catholic family calendars have arrived and can be found at each entrance to the church and on the handout table. Special thanks to Tussey-Mosher Funeral Home for their full sponsorship of these beautiful calendars.



YEAR END DONATIONS

2018 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31st to be included on your 2018 statement. If you would like a 2018 statement, please call the rectory or write —send statementll on your weekly offering envelope.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Christmas, the flowers in the church during the season, memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year’s Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket.

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

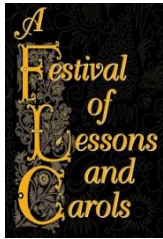
Special Christmas Mass Intention envelopes can be found in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Christmas Masses to remember your intentions. Please place your Christmas Mass intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

“Advent is a time for renewing the faith, for purifying it, so that it can be more authentic.” Pope Francis

GIVING TREE REMINDER

Gifts for children should be placed UNWRAPPED, in a gift bag, with the tag attached, back under the tree by December 14th. Gifts for families should also be placed under the tree by December 14th. Please deliver gifts for nursing home residents in person, by December 24th, as your visit is just as important as the gift. Questions? Call Karen Plumley 570-439-0175.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



Please join us on Sunday, December 16th at 5:00pm for The Festival of Lessons and Carols. This festival is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry creates beautiful shawls to help comfort those who are sick, bereaved, shut-in, nursing home resident, or those experiencing loneliness or stress. The shawls are like being wrapped in prayers and love. Our hope is that those who receive them will feel the hands of God around them, giving them healing and comfort. If you know of someone in need of a shawl, please contact Jan Bernethy at 307-267-0677.

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Reflection on today's readings - God has "begun a good work" in each of us (2nd Reading) when he called us, through faith and baptism, to live in Christ and to be "filled with the fruit of righteousness." Advent is meant to accomplish growth in this fruit in our lives. By that growth, we then work together to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Gospel), whom the First Reading makes clear is a God of Justice.

This is a time of year when prayers and thoughts of "peace on earth" come naturally into our lives. The first reading speaks of "the peace of justice." Peace does not simply mean that wars stop. Peace means that nobody is so victimized that a war is the only way to defend them. Peace comes only when justice is restored.

The Advent journey of God's people is a journey of fighting for the God-given rights of every human being - from the unborn child to the prisoner on death row. Getting engaged in the work of justice, in the light of Christ, is the way to celebrate Advent and prepare the world for Christmas. www.priestsforlife.org

Religious Education & Youth Group News

COIN CHALLENGE

During the month of October, students in grades K-12th participated in the Coin Challenge for Charity fundraiser. A total of \$550 was collected. The high school classed collected the most money and chose the Humble Bumble Project as the charity to receive the donation. The Humble Bumble Project was started by the Griffin family of Middlebury Center whose daughter, Paige, was diagnosed with cancer in 2016 at the age of 20. The mission of the project is to alleviate some of the financial burden faced by pediatric and young adult cancer patients and their families, so parents and caregivers can focus on family rather than finances. Sadly, Paige lost her battle with cancer last month at the age of 22, but the Humble Bumble Project will continue Paige's mission in her memory.



High School Religious Education Class

ECUMENICAL YOUTH GROUP EVENT



An Ecumenical Youth Group Event for students in grades 7th through 12th will be held next Sunday, December 16th from 2:00-4:00pm in St. Peter's parish center. Students from local church youth groups will come together for food, music, fun, and fellowship. This event will be held in place of the morning religious education classes for grades 7th through 12th, so all students in those grades should plan to attend this event.

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve ~ 4:00pm & 6:00pm

Christmas Day ~ 10:00am

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

5:00pm (Vigil) & 10:00am

"Advent is the time to welcome the Lord who comes to meet us, the time to look ahead, and to prepare ourselves for Christ's return." Pope Francis

Diocese of Scranton News

ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to those who have already made a pledge to the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

St. Peter's Annual Appeal Parish Goal: \$ 46,500

Current Pledged Amount: \$ 20,703

If you have not yet given your support, please:

- Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a pledge or give a gift by credit card
- Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office at 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503, or
- Give online at www.DioceseofScranton.org.

Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts made to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal goal.



DID YOU KNOW...



**YOU MAY MAKE A GIFT
TO YOUR PARISH
OR TO THE DIOCESAN
ANNUAL APPEAL
DIRECTLY FROM YOUR IRA**

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your required minimum distribution to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

**For more information,
please contact Jim Bebla,
Diocesan Secretary of Development, at
Jim-Bebbla@DioceseofScranton.org
or 570-207-2250.**

Stewardship

Sunday Collection December 2nd: \$ 5,824.81

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$ 5,800.00

Difference: \$ 24.81

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$10,319.83)

Collection for Care & Education of Priests: \$796.00

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

News From the Vatican

ADVENT A TIME TO MAKE PEACE

Pope Francis is urging Christians to prepare themselves for Christmas this Advent season by being humble and trying to build peace in their soul, in their family and in the world. Pope Francis said that peacemaking consists in not talking evil of and harming others, a bit like imitating God, who humbled Himself.

The soul - Advent, therefore, is the time to prepare ourselves for this Prince of Peace by being at peace with ourselves, our soul, that is often in anxiety, anguish and without hope. For this, one needs to start with oneself.

The Lord asks us whether our soul is at peace? If not, then we should ask the Prince of Peace to pacify our souls, so we can meet Him. The Pope said we are so used looking at the souls of others rather than our own.

Family - After being at peace with our soul, it is time to be at peace at home, in the family, the Pope said. He noted much sadness in families with much struggle, "small wars" and at times disunity. He urged Christians to examine whether they are at peace or at war in their families or against others, whether there are bridges or walls that separate.

World - The Pope then spoke about making peace in the world where there is much war, disunity, hatred and exploitation. Christians should ask themselves what they are creating peace in the world by working for peace in the neighborhood, in the school and in the workplace and to ask themselves whether they find excuses to make war, to hate, to talk ill about others and condemn or are they meek and try to build bridges. Children too can ask themselves whether at school they bully a companion they dislike because he is a little hateful or weak, or they make peace and forgive everything.

Peacemaking like God - Peace, the Pope said, is never still but always moves forward. It starts with the soul, and after making its journey of peace, returns to the soul.

Making peace is a bit like imitating God. When He wanted to make peace with us and forgave us, He sent His Son to make peace, to be the Prince of peace. The Pope said to be a peacemaker one does not have to be wise and learned and study peace. Jesus glorifies God because he has hidden these things from the wise and learned and has revealed them to the little ones. Pope Francis urged Christians to make themselves small, humble and be the servant of others. "The Lord will give you the ability to understand how to make peace and will provide you the strength to make it," the Pope assured.

Stop short of "small wars" - The Pope said that whenever there is the possibility of a "small war" at home, in the heart, at school or at work, we should stop short and try and make peace. "Never, ever wound the other. Never," he said, by speaking ill of others or firing the first cannon. This way, he said, we become men and women of peace, carrying peace forward.

That's The Way It Is!



You will recall that approximately two years ago our parish council embarked upon a survey. The goal of the survey was to understand better the needs of our parish and assist us with pastoral planning. Some of the items on the survey assisted me with understanding some of the more concrete needs or

concerns of the people. For example: when it came to setting a new Mass schedule due to the new linkage with Elkland, I based the schedule off of the survey results. I also wanted your opinion on a project to relocate the tabernacle to the center of the Church and place the Baptismal font where the tabernacle is. Most people stated that they would rather things stay as they are. This is because people appreciated having a special prayer space where the tabernacle is located. I thought such project would be worthwhile, but due to the survey results, I left things as they are.

Those examples involve concrete actions and steps; things easier to quantify. The survey, however, also dealt with other things. These things might be more difficult to quantify but they are important. These things fall into one of four main pillar areas in our parish: Word, Worship, Community and Service. For the past year or so our parish council has been working in consultation with the diocese with the goal of coming up with a pastoral plan for our parish. We have been using the survey results as a guide for the pastoral plan. I am also in the beginning stages of a similar process with the parish council in Elkland.

Because 2019 is the 50th anniversary of the building of the Central Avenue Saint Peter's Church, we thought it would be the perfect time to reveal to the parish our pastoral plan for Saint Peter's. This pastoral plan is summarized in a new brochure that we created. Our vision for the parish and goals are listed in the brochure. I invite you to take a brochure. They are placed at the entrances/exits in the Church. Two members from our parish council will speak briefly at the Masses this weekend about this process.

We spent about a year trying to come up with a pastoral plan for the parish; a road map of sorts for the next few years. That process has come to a conclusion. Now that we have a pastoral plan and specific goals, our parish council will spend the next year or so formulating and brainstorming ways to meet these goals. We will also work on ways to keep you informed of our progress.

What I need to emphasize here is that the vision, goals and plan for our parish is based on the survey results. They are based on the needs that you reported. They are

based on the things that you wanted to see here. What this means is that just as you were a part of helping me to identify the pastoral needs and issues of our parish, so also, I need you to be a part of helping me to meet these needs. In short: I need people to volunteer! The biggest way you can help is by offering your time to serve on the committees that we will be forming to do the work of meeting our goals.

We are a community. No one person or priest can do everything. There are people here who have certain gifts and talents that will be a perfect match for one of the pillar areas we are working on. If you are a people person, you would work very well on our welcoming committee. On the other hand if you are a liturgy person, you would work well on a worship committee. If you like service projects and serving others, you would work well on the volunteer committee. If you like working with youth, you would work well in our youth ministry.

One of the worst things a leader can do is to build everything around himself or herself. When leaders do this, the community falls apart when they move on. As your pastor, I may lead this community, but this community is not founded on me, nor should it be built around me. Our community is founded on God and depends on all of us for its success. A successful community is one where the people are involved and they offer their unique gifts and talents for the benefit of the community. I think a successful leader is one that is able to recognize the gifts and talents of the different members of the community and be able to find an area where that person can best share their gifts and talents and thrive.

I recognize that the Catholic Church as a whole is going through a very painful time right now. The storm we are in the midst of does not show signs that it is going to let up anytime soon. Notwithstanding the dark times for the Church as a whole, I don't think that means that all light and goodness has gone from the Church. It is important to remember that there are good things going on at Saint Peter's. Our pastoral plan will help to ensure that our parish community continues to be a light in dark times. Our pastoral plan will also help to ensure the strength and vibrancy of the community long after my time here has ceased.

Happy Advent!

That's the way it is!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

Advent Penance Services

December 13th – 7:00pm, St. Peter's

December 19th – 7:00pm, St. Thomas

December 20th – 7:00pm, Holy Child

ADVENT SEASON

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas and is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C).

Advent Traditions for Families

Advent Wreath: The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. It is a wreath made of evergreens that is bound to a circle of wire. It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its Redeemer; it also represents the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones lit on the penitential Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent.



The Empty Manger: Each child may have his own individual manger, or there may be one manger for the whole family. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, Baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus bed as comfortable as possible through their good deeds. In the process, explain Christ's incomparable self-gift at Christmas and Easter that enables us to be part of God's family.



The Jesse Tree: The Jesse tree tells about Christ's ancestry through symbols and relates Scripture to salvation history, progressing from creation to the birth of Christ. The tree can be made on a poster board with the symbols glued on, or on an actual tree.

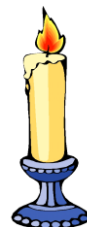


Blessing of the Tree: More and more frequently families are blessing their Christmas trees. It is good to remind children that the tree relates to many aspects of our faith. For example, we are reminded that our first parents were not allowed to eat from one tree, and that Christ paid the great price for our redemption by hanging on a tree (cf. Acts 5:29-32).



St. Nicholas Day: The feast of St. Nicholas is on Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season. Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop with his miter, staff, and bag of gifts will pay a visit. Many families give gifts on both Dec. 6 and Christmas.

The Christ Candle: Any large white candle can be used for the Christ candle. The idea is to decorate it with symbols for Christ. Use old Christmas cards, sequins, holly, etc. The candle can be lit on Christmas Eve to show that the Light of the World has arrived. Then continue to light the Christ candle throughout the year at Sunday dinner to remind your family of our waiting for Christ, as well as celebrating His birth and Resurrection.



St. Lucy Cakes: The feast of St. Lucy, virgin and martyr, is on December 13th. This marks the opening of the Christmas season in Sweden. Her life story can be found in most saints books, as can the recipe for the traditional cakes. The symbolism is rich and her life story worthwhile reading.

The Nativity Scene: This is the event in which the entire family shares setting up the Christmas manger. Mary and Joseph should be far off traveling and their approach to Bethlehem can be adjusted daily. Older children can make life-size Nativity models, carve them, cut them out from cardboard, or set up pre-made figurines. The creative ideas are without limit. Make sure to place the Nativity scene where many can admire the children's efforts to give God glory.




Christmas Baking: There are many recipe books available to find great traditional Christmas baking ideas. The baking usually starts around December 20th. As Christmas nears the house will smell of baking and fresh wreaths. The glory of Christmas is at hand! Move the manger to a focal point, add lights to the Nativity to be lighted on Christmas Eve, and anticipate together.

ADVENT MATERIAL

There is a wide selection of free Advent material on the handout table on the side of the church to enrich your Advent season. Please feel free to take a few for your family.

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



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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, 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, Agnes Worden, Mary Freeman, Larry Mommicco, 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.

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.