

St. Peter's Church



***The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
December 30, 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 _____

The Feast of the Holy Family

This feast celebrates the human family unit, as well as the ultimate family unit: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The feast, not a solemnity, is usually celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas and has been on the Church liturgical calendar for about one hundred years, often on different dates. It is a "devotional" or "idea" feast that was inaugurated by Holy Family associations.

Everything we know about the Holy Family, which is not much, comes from the Gospel accounts read over the three years. It celebrates the unity and love so evident in the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus.

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

December 30, 2018

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 12/31	5:00pm	In Memory of Eugene David Getgen (Joan Getgen)
Tuesday 1/1	10:00am	In Memory of Rosemary Stutz (Peter & Martha Donnelly)
Wednesday 1/2	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions For Victims of Clergy Abuse (Wayne & Sue Singer)
Thursday 1/3	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Honor of Ray McCormick (D. Lacsamana)
Friday 1/4	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Cecelia Gamble (Don & Lucy Whitney)
Saturday 1/5	8:30-8:45am 9:00am 4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish Confessions In Memory of Donald Domineske (Francis Ann Scott)
Sunday 1/6	8:30am	In Memory of Sr. Joan Bourne (Secular Carmelites)

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

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 30, 2018

No Religious Education Classes

MONDAY, December 31, 2018

Rectory Closed

TUESDAY, January 1, 2019

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

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, January 3, 2019

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

FRIDAY, January 4, 2019

Rectory Closed

SUNDAY, January 6, 2019

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

R.C.I.A. – 9:30am, Parish Center

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

January 5th/6th

5:00pm

Altar Servers: A.Banik, M.Ingerick, W.Steinbacher

Lectors: C.Evert, P.Walrath

E. Min.: V.Anthony, K.Wilcox, T.Straniere, D.Sherman

8:30am

Altar Servers: J.Lubera, L.Germino, H.Campbell

Lectors: D.Gordon, L.Gordon

E. Min.: L.Stager, D.Stager, L.Whitney, 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.



Liturgical Reflection

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

Today's First Reading is perhaps best understood by reading the first chapter of 1 Samuel in its entirety. Prior to the birth of her child, Hannah was a woman of deep suffering and shame. She had promised the Lord that she would dedicate her child to him if he answered her prayer. We have the beautiful and tender scene of his dedication to the Lord in the second part of the reading. Samuel had an important role in the history of salvation: he was the prophet who anointed David to be king of Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 84

The Responsorial Psalm continues the theme of serving the Lord in his holy dwelling place. This same idea is found in the Gospel today. Where is our true dwelling place? Where can we truly say that we are home? The psalm speaks of making pilgrimage to the Lord's house. This is the one place where we find ourselves at home, where we can experience the love of God in a unconditional manner. Jesus came into the world, and we therefore no longer have to go to a particular shrine or church to experience his love. He is our home, for wherever we are upon the earth, we are dwelling in him.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-2,21-24

John's words bring home to us the reality of the family of God to which we belong through the loving gift of our Heavenly Father. We have life from the Father and share in the divine life through his love. John says that the world does not recognize us. Do we recognize this reality in ourselves? Note the importance given to keeping his commandments if we are to "remain," to live in this reality. Jesus "remains," dwells within us, through the gift of his Spirit.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52



Today's Gospel gives us a beautiful image of the Holy Family faithfully keeping the traditional practices and observances of Judaism. Today it is the pilgrimage to Jerusalem at the time of Passover. We witness Jesus'

deep interest in the Scriptures and his desire to know and understand them. We find him today holding court among the scholars and teachers, astounding them with the insight he manifests, not only with his "questions," but also in his "understanding and his answers." The sober final sentences tell us of Jesus' obedience, his mother's silent, prayerful musings, and of how Jesus, in his hidden, inner life grow into an impressive figure before both "God and man." Note how themes of his Passion are previews in today's reading: the Passover, the three days, the business of the Gather which he must be about.

Parish News and Activities

RECTORY CLOSED

The Rectory will be closed on December 31st and January 1st. In the event of an emergency, please call the emergency numbers found on the front of the bulletin. Fr. Bechtel will return your call as soon as possible

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Those who've completed "Discovering Christ" this past fall are invited to continue their journey into a deeper relationship with our Lord in "Following Christ." This second, 7-week series of the ChristLife program, will convene on Wednesdays, beginning January 9th, from 6:30 – 8:30pm in the parish Center. If you have not already confirmed your participation, please call Norb Josten at 570-724-9095.

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 statement" on your weekly offering envelope.

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.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

A candle is kept burning day and night whenever the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in Catholic churches. It is an emblem of Christ's abiding love and a reminder to the faithful to respond with loving adoration in return. Sanctuary candles are available to remember or honor your loved ones. Call the rectory to reserve a week.

That's The Way It Is!

That's the Way It Is!
will return in next week's bulletin.

Stewardship

Due to an early printing of the bulletin, there is no financial report this week. Next week's bulletin will include a financial report for the weekend of December 30th.

Saint John Neumann ~ Feast Day, January 5th

John Neumann was born in the Czech Republic on March 28, 1811. Zealous for the missionary life and to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support. Neumann was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York in June 1836, and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls.



In 1852, at the age of 41, he was named bishop of Philadelphia. At this time, the Diocese of Scranton was not established and Wellsboro was the responsibility of Bishop Neumann. He made it his mission to visit every town in his See, even though his trip was long and hard. His visit to Wellsboro is recorded in his travel log from 1858, where he writes that on June 17, 1858 he confirmed 2 in the home of William Carroll and 40-50 in the home of Jacob Stickley. It's a proud part of our parish history to know that our faith community began with confirmation administered by a man who later became the 2nd American saint of the Roman Catholic Church.

News From the Vatican

CHRISTMAS, THE SURPRISES THAT GOD LIKES

Looking back at the first Christmas, the Pope said it was "full of surprises," for Mary, for Joseph. From the Angel's announcement of Mary's pregnancy, to the Flight into Egypt, that first Christmas "brought unexpected changes" to their lives. "But it was in the middle of the night of Christmas," Pope Francis said, "that the biggest surprise of all arrived: The Most High is a little baby." Christmas, he said, means celebrating the "unprecedented things of God," or rather, "the unprecedented God."

The Pope said that "doing Christmas" means "welcoming on earth the surprises of heaven." It means helping the needy, as Jesus came down to help us in our neediness; trusting in God, as Mary did, even if we don't understand his plans; rising up, as Joseph did, to accomplish God's will, even if it means changing our own plans. If, on the other hand, we prefer the usual, mundane celebrations, we risk doing Christmas wrong. "If Christmas remains a beautiful traditional feast," where the focus is on ourselves rather than Jesus, "it will be a lost opportunity," the Pope said. "Please, don't make Christmas worldly!" And so, he explained, it will really be Christmas "if, like Joseph, we make room for silence; if, like Mary, we say 'Here I am' to God; if, like Jesus, we are close to those who are alone; if, like the shepherds, we go out of our enclosures to be with Jesus."

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Reflection on today's readings - The family is the "Sanctuary of Life" and the basic cell of society. The Holy Family, of course, is unique. One member is God, another is sinless, and the third is a saint. But the great lesson of today is that although God could have come into the world in any way he pleased, he chose to become a member of a family, obedient to his earthly parents, and yet totally devoted to the Heavenly Father's will, as we all must be. He also shared the vulnerability that comes with being a member of a human family. "Herod is going to search for the child in order to destroy him." St. Joseph here plays the unspeakable role of protecting God. His readiness to do so speaks to every father about the role of protector, and to our whole society about the need we have for good fathers. The culture of life depends just as much on fathers making the right choices as on mothers doing so.

Strong families are an integral aspect of the Culture of Life. Today's preaching can focus on that fact. It is precisely the breakdown of family structure that increases the temptation to abort, or to resort to euthanasia or a lack of proper care for the elderly. On the other hand, the communion of persons that comes from giving oneself away to the other in selfless love is what creates the proper context for saying a generous "yes" to life. A helpful lesson to point out from the very word "family" is that it stands for "Forget About Me; I Love You." www.priestsforlife.org

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: \$ 30,728










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.DioceseforScranton.org.

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

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2019 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 30th. The event includes a 2:30 pm mass at St. Peter's Cathedral followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation, with a mailing address, should be made through your pastor before April 2nd.

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

 <p>UNITED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, INC. SOCIAL MINISTRY</p> <p>V.E. Boley, Ph.D. E.D. Clemens Executive Director Director of Operations</p> <p>Ph: (570) 827-3171 Fax: (570) 827-3063 Email: ucminc@epix.net Website: ucministries.org</p> <p>7534 Route 49 PO Box 25 Elkland, PA 16920</p>	<p>WALRATH & COOLIDGE</p> <p>Probate & Estate Administration Real Estate Personal Injury</p>  <p>Wills • Corporate Adoptions Family Law</p> <p>570-724-3801</p> <p>R. Lowell Coolidge, Esq • Priscilla Walrath, Esq Fax: 570-724-7239 126 Main St • Wellsboro, PA</p>	 <p>BAKER TILLY</p> <p>Accountants and Advisors</p> <p>Connect with us: bakertilly.com</p> <p>Two Waln Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 570 724 5000</p>
<p><i>Akiko's Floral Arts</i></p>  <p>31 East Avenue Wellsboro</p> <p>(570) 724-1509</p> <p>"If Akiko's Not Your Florist, She Should Be" Shop 24/7 at www.akikos.com Akiko, Clark & Joe Hewitt</p>	<p>OVER 125 YEARS OF SERVICE</p> <p>TUSSEY-MOSHER FUNERAL HOME, LTD.</p> <p>Calvin T. Mosher, Supervisor</p> <p>139 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-4637 TusseyMosher.com</p>	
 <p>25 Main Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 570-723-4263</p> <p>www.popscultureshoppe.com</p> <p>Games * Imagination * Fun Your proprietors Julian and Anja Stam Consider it all joy! James 1:2</p>	<p>Please refer your friends and family. Happy patients are our best referrals.</p> <p>Oral & Facial Surgery 15 Meade Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-2141</p>  <p>Dr. Richard F. Black</p>	<p>A Gift in Your Will</p> <p>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:</p>
 <p>U-Haul® Dealer Since 2011</p> <p>Authorized Dealer</p> <p>uhaul.com</p>  <p>Ken Mitchell Mitchell's Carquest Auto Parts</p> <p>688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933 Business: (570) 662-2534 www.mitchellcarquest.com</p>	<p>BULLETIN ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE</p> <p>We currently have advertising space available in our weekly bulletin. If you are interested in placing an ad, please call the rectory.</p>	<p>"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."</p>

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, Cindy Copp, Carolyn Tester, Tom Brown, Richard Stankiewicz, Jim Callahan, Barb Bechtel, Mary Antoniow, Ruth Russell, Edward "Turk" Cruttenden, Agnes Worden, Larry Mommicco, Anne Marie Beuter, Carol Fasick, Skip Warriner, Jim Honeywell, Beverly Willsea, Stephanie Calicchia, Jacoby Aratari, Doris Coumbe, and Michael Bowen.



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.