

# St. Peter's Church



**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 10, 2019**

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](http://www.stpeterswellsboro.org) ~ Email: [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

## Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:00–2:00pm

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – [Dbechtel00@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbechtel00@yahoo.com)  
Secretary: Connie Spang – [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)  
Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – [stpadm@ptd.net](mailto:stpadm@ptd.net)  
Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann  
[stpored@ptd.net](mailto:stpored@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 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12<sup>th</sup> 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-4<sup>th</sup>) is held during the 8:30am Mass when Religious Education classes are in session.

## **Welcome to St. Peter's Church!**

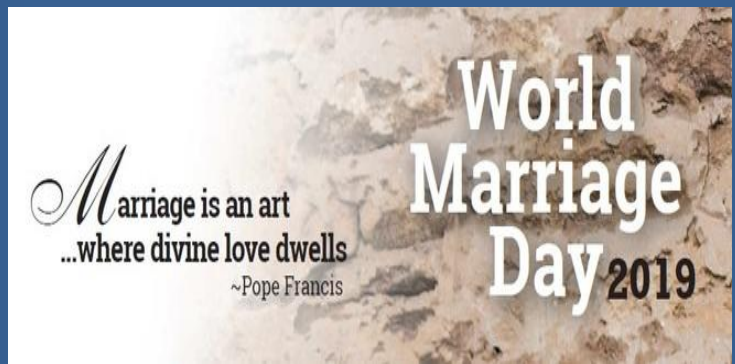
If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory 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 2/11	No Mass	
Tuesday 2/12	7:30am	In Memory of Stanley Myslinski (Tom & Linda Sampson)
Wednesday 2/13	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Thursday 2/14	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Beth Patt (Frank Patt)
Friday 2/15	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Paige Griffin (Wayne & Sue Singer)
Saturday 2/16	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Jack Worden (Agnes & Family)
Sunday 2/17	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Honor of  
Kate Shalonski (Linda Sampson)

### The Week Ahead

#### SUNDAY, February 10, 2019

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

Secular Carmelites - 11:30am, Parish Center

#### TUESDAY, February 12, 2019

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

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

AA/Al-Anon - 8:00pm, Parish Center

#### WEDNESDAY, February 13, 2019

ChristLife - 6:00pm, Parish Center

#### THURSDAY, February 14, 2019

Cards & Games - 12:00pm, Parish Center

#### FRIDAY, February 15, 2019

Rectory Closed

#### SUNDAY, February 17, 2019

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

Safety & Security Presentation - 2:00pm, Parish Center

### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are:

**Canned Fruit (15oz.) and Pork & Beans.**

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), 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 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

#### February 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>

##### **5:00pm**

Altar Servers: M.Mann, A.Tokarz, W.Steinbacher

Lectors: P.Walrath, D.Bleggi

E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, T.Straniere, K.Wilcox, V.Anthony

##### **8:30am**

Altar Servers: L.Singer, Z.Singer, S.Zimmerman

Lectors: T.Delmott, N.Kennedy

E. Min.: A.Singer, M.Bialas, D.deGuzman, T.Gamble

### 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:-1-2, 3-8

Last week we heard about the call of the prophet Jeremiah. Today we proclaim a similar text about the call of Isaiah to his prophetic ministry. The call of Isaiah follows a familiar pattern. Isaiah has an encounter with the Lord, seeing a vision of the Lords' magnificence in his dwelling in the Temple. Transformed and inspired by that encounter, Isaiah offers himself enthusiastically in service of the Lord. Though Isaiah understands his own limitations, he trusts God and is purified for his mission of preaching God's steadfast love and mercy to a people in great need.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 138

The Responsorial Psalm continues the theme found in the First Reading. It is a celebration of the tremendous holiness of God. We cannot even begin to comprehend the greatness and glory of our God. Our human mind and experiences are limited, but God is not. Our only possible response to this encounter with the holiness of God is to praise the glory of God. We join in the hymn sung by the angels that proclaims the holiness of God.

### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul offers words of encouragement about what we've been taught, what we've embraced, and what has taken root in our hearts. Like Paul, all disciples are called to share the Gospel. The Gospel we are called to proclaim is quite simple: Jesus died for our sins and was raised from the dead so that we might share in eternal life. If we do not believe in this truth and live our lives formed by this belief, our preaching will be empty and useless. If the preacher is not formed by faith, the preaching will not be able to inspire, convert, and transform.

### GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-11



In both the Isaiah text and this Gospel, we hear a call story in which the one called is painfully aware of sinfulness. In each, the one called is overwhelmed, almost speechless, certain he's unworthy to be in the

presence of the divine power that's calling and healing him at the same time. Today's Gospel recounts the calling of Jesus' first disciples. This call follows the familiar pattern. Having encountered Jesus and his preaching and having seen his glory (in the miraculous catch of fish), Simon Peter, James, and John are transformed. They abandon the life they have known and begin to follow Jesus, strengthened by the mission with which Jesus entrusts them.

## Parish News and Activities

### SAFETY AND SECURITY PRESENTATION AND TEAM MEETING



On Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in the Parish Center, Sheriff Frank Levindoski will give a presentation on *Preparing for Active Assailants in Houses of Worship*.

Following the presentation, a team meeting will be held with all who are interested in being part of St. Peter's Safety and Security Team. The presentation and team meeting is open to all.

### 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.

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

As part of our ongoing safety and security procedures, we would like to make sure that we have current information for all parishioners. Please take a minute to fill out the form below and return it to the rectory as soon as possible. You can place your form in the collection basket, email it to stpadm@ptd.net, mail it to the rectory, or drop off during open hours. Thank you for your cooperation.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members Living At This Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**If we were to send out a group email, would you want to be included?** (Events at St. Peter's, changes to Mass schedules, emergency information, etc. Email address would be kept private) \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

**If we were to send out a group text message, would you want to be included?** (Events at St. Peter's, changes to Mass schedules, emergency information, etc. Cell numbers would be kept private) \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no



## WOMEN'S RETREAT - LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

A women's retreat and Lenten Day of Reflection will be held on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Eulalia's church, Coudersport, PA. The day will begin with Mass at 11:00am, followed by the program from 12:00-3:00pm, and dinner at 3:00pm. The cost is \$20.00 per person. The retreat will feature Judy Hehr, a spiritual motivator and inspirational speaker. Judy was a college dropout, single, homeless, drug addicted, and bankrupt by age 20, but a mom of 4 and a millionaire by the age of 34. Scorned, broken, and almost divorced by the age of 37, Judy is now a seminary graduate and thriving in a sanctified marriage. Her message of hope centers on her journey from captivity to freedom, and uses her sense of humor and real struggles from her personal life to compel her audience and connect theology to daily reality. The power behind her life journey will expand self-awareness, enrich attitudes, rekindle love for Christ, and encourage a personal relationship with God. For more information contact Sue Singer 570-724-2360

## Happening at St. Thomas

### BINGO

All paper Super Bingo will be held on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Knoxville Community Center on Main Street, Knoxville. The cost is \$25 and the doors will open at 10:30am, with Bingo starting at noon. Payout is as follows: 100 or less players - \$2,000; 120 or less players - \$2,500; 121 plus players - \$3,000. The kitchen will be open. All proceeds benefit St. Thomas Parish.

### SPRING FLING

You are invited to the First Annual Spring Fling Celebration! The celebration will include crafts, door prizes, delicious home cooked food, baked goods, and money & basket raffles. The event will take place on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-2:00pm at the Knoxville Community Center. Admission is \$1.00. Vendors wanted!

## Diocese of Scranton News

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2019 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

**Come to the Well**  
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

TERESA TOMEO  
Keynote Speaker

JILL METZ  
Featured Speaker

SR. MERCY MARIE, SV  
Featured Speaker

HIS OWN  
Musicians

MEGAN MURPHY  
Keynote Speaker

**Saturday, June 22, 2019**  
BYRON CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

**\$40** ADMISSION (EARLY BIRD PRICING UNTIL 6/9/19)  
**\$20** STUDENT ADMISSION  
**FREE** RELIGIOUS

**Register at**  
**CWCNEPA.COM**

REFRESH YOUR FAITH

**St. Peter's will provide transportation for any women who want to attend this conference.**

## 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Men's Conference for the Diocese of Scranton will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes Barre, PA. A most important day for the future of our faith, featuring keynote presentations by Fr. Philip B. Bochanski, the executive director of Courage International, who speaks on the good news of living chaste lives, along with well-known psychologist, speaker, and EWTN TV host, Dr. Ray Guarendi. Our third speaker will be motivational speaker, apologist, and TV host of "Battle Ready," Doug Barry. You will hear Doug explain the BATTLE READY effort to be more AWARE of, PREPARED for and ENGAGED in the battles that we all face, body, mind, and soul. The primary goal of BATTLE READY is to help others know how to deal with the attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil. A must awareness for Catholic men! There will be opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration, the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as well as praying the Rosary. Additionally, exhibitors will be present with a full array of Catholic books and publications as well as CD's and ministry opportunities.

St. Peter's will once again provide transportation, through Benedict's Bus Service, to the conference. Register on line at [www.beamanconference.com](http://www.beamanconference.com), call 570-207-2213 (Diocesan Pastoral Center), or mail the completed application with your check to: Men's Conference, Office of Parish Life, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18503.

## 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: \$ 34,978*

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.DioceaseofScranton.org](http://www.DioceaseofScranton.org).

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

## That's The Way It Is



The controversy surrounding Cardinal Dolan's handling of Governor Cuomo is not showing signs of letting up. Outraged Catholics and pro-lifers all over the nation are slamming Cardinal Dolan for his decision not to excommunicate Governor Cuomo or issue sanctions against him. Two bishops; Bishop Stika of Knoxville Tennessee and Bishop Strickland of Tylor Texas have indicated that they would excommunicate Cuomo if he was in their jurisdiction. They pointed out that they would take no pleasure in doing so, but they would hope to use the action to bring about conversion. They said that excommunication is not a punishment but a tool analogous to medicine. Even Franklin Graham has called upon Cardinal Dolan to excommunicate Cuomo. I am a priest, Cardinal Dolan is a bishop. It is not for me to take a position on his actions. What I can do is explain why the controversy and outrage exist.

The outrage and controversy exist because Governor Cuomo claims to be Catholic, but the Catholic Church is pro-life not pro-abortion. Catholics are not free to support abortion; they are not free to dissent from Church teaching on abortion. Catholics who support abortion are not in union with the Church. If the governor would stop masquerading as a Catholic, there would be no issue. So I am clear: there would still be the issue of abortion. Catholics and pro-lifers would continue to fight vociferously against abortion. The law passed in New York would still be an abomination. The Church would still fight to have the law repealed; the Church would still condemn the law. What there would not be are discussions of canonical penalties or excommunications for Governor Cuomo.

The reason for the discussion of canonical penalties and excommunication has to do with the fact that Cuomo and many others do not get that "Catholic" and "pro-abortion" are contradictions in terms analogous to "married

bachelor" "square circle" or "Catholic and Atheist." If one wants to be Catholic, then one cannot support abortion. If one wants to support abortion, one cannot be Catholic. This is one of the few times where it is black and white, either/or and there can be no compromise. By definition choosing to support abortion rules out Catholicism; choosing Catholic by definition rules out support for abortion. The fear is that by Cardinal Dolan not taking action against the governor, he is implicitly sending the message that the Church isn't serious about abortion. The Church talks a good game in condemning abortion, or saying that dissent from Church teaching on abortion is not permitted, but when the rubber meets the road, that is all it is: talk.

Cuomo is Catholic and is publically supporting abortion as though this is perfectly acceptable for a Catholic. This is a huge problem. If the cardinal did take some kind of action against the governor, the purpose would not be trying to tell the governor how to vote or how to do his job. The purpose would be to send a message to the governor about what it means to be Catholic. The message is that the cardinal cannot stop the governor from supporting abortion, but the cardinal can stop him from masquerading as a Catholic while doing so. This would also send the message that the Church is serious when it comes to her teachings against abortion.

It is granted that Cuomo is not the only "Catholic" politician who take public stances contrary to that of the bishops or supports laws the bishops feel are not in keeping with Church teaching. There is a difference here: there is no respectful dissent permitted on the issue of abortion. It is impossible to be Catholic and support abortion. This why there are no calls to excommunicate other politicians when they take stances contrary to that of the bishops on other issues. Not every issue has the same moral weight. Not every issue requires the assent of Faith. Not every issue requires full and complete agreement with the bishops. And by the way: "pro-choice" means "pro-abortion." "Choice" is just a euphemism for abortion. Those who are against abortion are not against "choice." They are against abortion. Choice isn't the issue and never has been the issue. The issue is abortion.

That's the way it is,

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

## Stewardship

Sunday Collection February 3, 2019: \$7,409.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,800.00

Difference: \$1,609.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$10,817.74)

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

# St. Peter's Church

## Polish Dinner

Friday, March 1, 2019  
4:00 – 7:00pm in the Parish Center

Adults: \$10:00

Children (Under 12): \$ 5.00  
(Children 3 & Under are free)

**All You  
Can Eat!**

- ❖ Homemade Pierogies
- ❖ Homemade Kielbasa
- ❖ Stuffed Cabbage
- ❖ Baked Haddock
- ❖ Sauerkraut
- ❖ Applesauce & Veggie Tray
- ❖ Homemade Desserts
- ❖ Coffee, Soda, Iced Tea, Lemonade

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



## News from the Vatican



### THE BEATITUDES ARE THE TRUE WAY OF LIFE FOR THE CHRISTIAN

Pope Francis said that some people believe themselves to be good Catholics but don't even act like good Christians, as indicated by the Beatitudes. The Christian style is that of the Beatitudes that St. Mark in the day's Gospel describes as "new wine in new bottles."

According to the Pope, we can learn about the Christian style by first knowing our attitudes that don't belong to the Christian style. In this regard, he points to 3 of them: the "accusatory style," the "worldly style" and the "selfish style."

The Pope says that the accusatory style belongs to those who always try and live by accusing others, disqualifying others, acting as absent promoters of justice. But they don't realize that it's the style of the devil: in the Bible, the devil is called the "great accuser," who is always accusing others. Living by accusing others and looking for defects, the Pope says, is not "Christian," not new wineskin.

Speaking about worldliness, Pope Francis calls it an attitude of Catholics who can "recite the Creed," but live on "vanity, pride and attachment to money," believing themselves to be self-sufficient. The Pope says that the Lord has offered you the new wine but you did not change the wineskin, you did not change yourself. This worldliness is what ruins so many who are good but they enter into this spirit of vanity, of pride, of being seen... Humility that is part of the Christian style, is lacking, the Pope says.

Commenting on the third un-Christian style, the Pope says it is the selfish spirit, the spirit of indifference that is common in our communities. One believes oneself to be a good Catholic but doesn't worry about the problems of others – wars, illnesses and the suffering of our neighbors. This, the Pope says, is the hypocrisy that Jesus reproached the doctors of the law for. What then is the Christian style?

According to the Pope, the Christian style is that of the Beatitudes: meekness, humility, patience in suffering, love for justice, ability to endure persecution, not judging others... If a Catholic wants to learn the Christian style, so as not to fall into this accusatory style, the worldly style and the selfish style, he/she must read the Beatitudes. They are the wineskins, the path we must take.

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### WORD OF GOD IS NOT IDEOLOGY, IT IS LIFE THAT MAKES US GROW

What does it mean for a Christian to have a "perverse heart," a heart that can lead to faintheartedness, ideology, and compromise? That was the theme of Pope Francis' homily Thursday morning. "Take care, brothers, that none of you may have an evil and unfaithful heart, so as to forsake the living God." This is the harsh "message", the "warning" as Pope Francis calls it, that the author of the Letter to the Hebrews addresses to the Christian community in today's liturgy. The Pope warns that the Christian community, in all its components - "priests, nuns, bishops" - runs this danger of "slipping towards a perverse heart".

But what does this warning mean to us? The Pope focuses on three words, again taken from the First Reading, which can help us to understand: "hardness", "obstinacy", and "seduction".

A hard heart is a "closed" heart, "that does not want to grow, that defends itself, that is closed in on itself". In life this can happen because of many factors; as, for example, a "great sorrow." We can ask ourselves: Do I have a hard heart, do I have a closed heart? Do I let my heart grow? Am I afraid that it will grow? And we always grow with trials, with difficulties, we grow as we all grow as children: we learn to walk [by] falling. From crawling to walking, how many times we have fallen! But we grow through difficulties. But who remains in this? They are the fainthearted. Faintheartedness is an ugly attitude in a Christian, he lacks the courage to live. He is closed off...


The second word is "obstinacy": In the Letter to the Hebrews we read, "Exhort each other every day, as long as this today lasts, so that none of you may be obstinate"; and this is "the accusation that Stephen makes to those who will stone him afterwards". Obstinacy is "spiritual stubbornness": an obstinate heart – explains Pope Francis - is "rebellious", is "stubborn", is closed in by its own thought, is not "open to the Holy Spirit". This is the profile of "ideologues", and of the proud and the arrogant. Ideology is a kind of obstinacy. The Word of God, the grace of the Holy Spirit is not ideology: it is life that makes you grow, always, that makes you go forward, and also opens your heart to the signs of the Spirit, to the signs of the times.

Finally, in order to help us understand how not to slip into the risk of having a perverse heart, the Pope reflects on the word "seduction": the seduction of sin, used by the devil, the "great seducer", "a great theologian but without faith, with hatred", who wants to "enter and dominate" the heart and knows how to do it. So, concludes the Pope, a "perverse heart is one that lets itself be seduced; and seduction leads him to obstinacy, to closure, and to many other things." And with seduction, either you convert and change your life or you try to compromise: but a little here and a little there, a little here and a little there. "Yes, yes, I follow the Lord, but I like this seduction, but just a little..." And you're starting to lead a double Christian life. To use the word of the great Elijah to the people of Israel at that moment: "You limp from both legs". To limp from both legs, without having one set firmly. It is the life of compromise: "Yes, I am a Christian, I follow the Lord, yes, but I let this in...". And this is what the lukewarm are like, those who always compromise: Christians of compromise. We, too, often do this: compromise. Even when the Lord lets us know the path, even with the commandments, also with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but I prefer something else, and I try to find a way to go down two tracks, limping on both legs.

The Pope concludes, "may the Holy Spirit, therefore, enlighten us so that no one may have a perverse heart: a hard heart, which will lead you to faintheartedness; a stubborn heart that will lead you to rebellion, that will lead you to ideology; a heart that is seduced, a slave to seduction."

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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, 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, 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, Michael Bowen, Lou Kirby, Linda Kichline, Shannon Pierce Jones, Arlene Froutz, and Steve Ziemak.



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.