

St. Peter's Church



***First Sunday of Lent
March 10, 2019***

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 _____

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
stpried@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.

Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. During this Lent, lead us by your Holy Spirit to live more faithfully in Christian freedom. Through prayer, increased charity, and the disciplines of this sacred season, draw us closer to you. Purify the intentions of our hearts so all our Lenten observances give you praise and glory. Grant that through our words and actions, we may be faithful messengers of the gospel message to a world in need of the hope of your mercy. Amen.

Parish Contact Listing

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

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

First Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2019

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 3/11	No Mass	
Tuesday 3/12	7:30am	In Honor of Rachel Pagano (Wayne & Sue Singer)
Wednesday 3/13	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Barbara Burkhart (Dale & Rose Marie Aulthouse)
Thursday 3/14	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Mary Ruth Mann (Grab Family)
Friday 3/15	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Beth Patt (Frank Patt)
Saturday 3/16	9:00am 4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	In Honor of Dennis & Adele Young Confessions In Memory of Jean M. Getgen (Joan Getgen)
Sunday 3/17	8:30am	In Memory of Fred & Helen Sereno (Patty Perry)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Anne Donovan (Grab Family)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 10, 2019

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

RCIA – 9:30am, Parish Center

Secular Carmelites – 11:30am, Parish Center

Parish Mission – 7:00pm, Church

MONDAY, Marcy 11, 2019

Confessions – 5:30-7:00pm

Parish Mission – 7:00pm, Church

TUESDAY, March 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, March 13, 2019

Staff Meeting – 8:00am, Parish Center

Rectory not opening until 9:00am

ChristLife – 6:30pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, March 14, 2019

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

MOMSnext – 7:00pm, Church

FRIDAY, March 15, 2019

Rectory Closed

SATURDAY, March 16, 2019

Faith & Healing Retreat – 8:45am

SUNDAY, March 17, 2019

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

RCIA – 9:30am, Parish Center

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS - This month's food pantry items are: Creamy Peanut Butter & Grape Jelly. A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 7:00pm, St. Catherine, Westfield

Sunday 11:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

March 16th/17th

5:00pm

Altar Servers: E.Hazelton, I.Hazelton, W.Steinbacher

Lectors: T.Sampson, D.Bleggi

E. Min.: D.Sherman, K.Wilcox, T.Straniere, N.Ostapowicz

8:30am

Altar Servers: M.Ingerick, E.Benjamin, A.Osborn

Lectors: N.Kennedy, T.Delmott

E. Min.: T.Gamble, M.Bialas, M.Osborn, 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. prepares those who are unbaptized for full initiations into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the needs of each person. Contact the Rectory for more information.

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS - This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: *foot aids, eye drops, lip balms, 1# coffee, coffee singles, candy bars, M&M's & Reece's, microwave popcorn & personal notes*. A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.



Liturgical Reflection

First Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

This is the story of the wandering ancestors whom God took and turned into a great nation. It is a story of deliverance from the clutches of Egypt's pharaoh, and a story of delivery to the borders of a rich new land "flowing" with abundance. The firstfruits offered to the Lord are given in gratitude for this history and for the good that God pours into their lives daily. Moses speaks to the people and tells them of the deep memory they are to retain. The wandering in the desert does not erase memory; it burns it into each heart the truth that God hears our cry and responds with abundance. Our job is to return those gifts generously.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 92

**BE WITH ME,
LORD, WHEN
I AM IN TROUBLE**

The Responsorial Psalm contains the saying that Satan would quote when he was tempting Jesus in the desert:

"For to his angels he has given you a command about you, that they guard you in all of your ways. Upon their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." The irony of Satan quoting this saying is that it is contained in a psalm that professes a radical trust in God. The psalmist speaks of God being his refuge and his fortress. Satan uses the saying to try and tempt Jesus away from trusting God; to get Jesus to create a situation where he forces God to rescue him. This would not be an act of trust, but a form of manipulation, which one does not do if one truly trusts and loves another.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8-13

Following Jesus requires the same assent of heart and mind that was asked of Israel in the original covenant. Paul argues the need to both "believe" and "confess" in order to be saved.

For "whoever calls
upon the name
of the Lord
shall be saved."

It is not enough to assent in our hearts to the mysteries of Christ; we must also be willing to proclaim those truths. And proclamation is not just a rote recitation of facts, it is a declaration that we have committed our lives to those truths, that we will live them with integrity, that we will not be satisfied with lip service and would even give our lives for them. Belief in Christ, Paul tells us, is transformative. It not only eliminates the distinctions between "Jew and Greek," but also changes us from mere speakers to committed doers of God's Word. When what we speak with our lips and believe in our hearts turns into concrete action on behalf of others for the sake of Christ, then our salvation is manifest.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

The temptations in the desert marks a moment when Jesus can purify the intentions for his public ministry. He is not going out into the world to gain fame or power. He is preaching and healing in order to obey the will of the Father. The story of the temptations of Jesus is a pointed



reminder of the mystery of the Incarnation. Like us, Jesus was human. Like us, he could be tempted to indulge his appetites, find satisfaction in the material, act in grandiose ways, and abuse power. All of these Jesus resisted. He has nothing to prove. Jesus has placed himself entirely in God's hands. Luke presents a real man engaged in genuine struggle with a real adversary. His unwillingness to be seduced thwarts Satan. How might this example be translated into our own human lives?

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

The First Sunday of Lent is always the account of the temptation of Jesus from one of the Gospel accounts. The forty days of Lent correspond to Jesus' own forty days spent in the desert. For him, it was a period of preparation for his coming mission. At the end of the forty days Jesus had three encounters with the Evil One where Jesus was tempted to compromise his mission during his public life. The world, the Kingdom that Jesus came to build, has a different set of values altogether. And it is those values we will be considering all during Lent. Many Christians are chasing the idols of wealth, status and power just as fanatically as their non-Christian brothers and sisters. But, in fact, these are non-Christian, even anti-Christian, ambitions. They are not the way of Jesus, they are not the way of the Kingdom, nor indeed are they the way to a fully human, fully satisfying life for anyone.

This is what Lent means as a time of reflection and a time of re-evaluating the quality and direction of our lives. It's a time for reconsidering our priorities, both as Christians and human beings; a time to re-affirm our conviction of the equal dignity of every single human person. For us, too, the battle against evil never stops. The selfishness, the greed, the anger and hostility, the jealousy and resentment, above all the desire to have rather than to share, to control rather than to serve, will continually dog us. That is why we need this purifying period of Lent every year. If, in past years, we let it go by largely unnoticed, let this year be a little different. Let it be a second spring in our lives. Let it mean something in our discipleship with Christ.

Parish News and Activities

POLISH DINNER REPORT

Income: Dinner Sales \$2990.00
Donations 370.00
Total Income: \$3360.00
Total Expenses: \$1,292.45
Profit: \$2,067.55

The money raised will be used to support the expenses and activities of the parish. Thank you to all who contributed to this successful fundraising dinner!

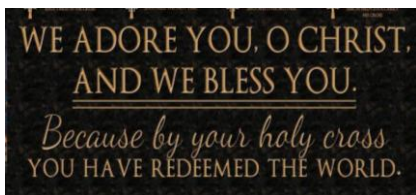
LENTEN MATERIAL AVAILABLE



Lenten materials, for your spiritual enrichment, have been placed on the handout table at the back of the church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00pm in the church. Children's Stations of the Cross will be held at 3:30pm. Students are invited to the parish center after school for a light snack before stations begin. The students will be chaperoned following the conclusion of stations (4:00pm), until parents are able to arrive. All parishioners are encouraged to attend Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season.



SPRING SALE

Annual Spring Sale This year's annual spring clothing, books and house wares sale will be held from March 31st – April 4th in the Parish Center. When you are spring cleaning, please consider donating household items, books and clothing. The schedule is as follows:

March 31st – Donations accepted 12:00 – 3:00pm
April 1st – Donations accepted & set up 8:00am – 5:00pm
April 2nd – Sale Hours 8:00am – 6:00pm **No TV's**
April 3rd – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm **No Early Sales**
April 4th – Sale Hours 8:00am – 3:00pm – Take what you want for a donation.

Bake Sale – We will again be selling homemade baked goods during the sale. **Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated** and can be dropped off at the Parish Center on April 1st or April 2nd. The bake sale is very popular, so extra bake goods would be appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding donations or are willing to volunteer to help set up and tear down the sale., please call Mary Lasko 570-439-7706 or Pat Gorda 570-724-3035.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY OUTREACH

United Christian Ministries is having a St. Patrick's Day Outreach at Sister Jenny's Outreach Center, 14 Plaza Lane, Middlebury Center, PA 16935 on March 14th from 9:00am – 4:00pm. There are clothes, coats, boots, shoes, household items and everything is FREE!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HOSTING RETREAT

On Saturday, March 16th, the Knights of Columbus will host a Faith and Healing Retreat at St. Peter's Church. The retreat will include Mass, Adoration, Confession, Discussion, Rosary, Angelus and Healing Service. A video presentation of *Salvation is from the Jew* by Roy Schoeman will be shown. Roy Schoeman was born of Jewish parent who had fled Nazi Germany. Midway through his career as a Harvard professor, he received the grace of several supernatural experiences that resulted in his totally unanticipated and enthusiastic conversion to Christianity. Following his conversion he became active in Catholic evangelization, Catholic TV, and Catholic writing, and is a popular guest on EWTN shows. Roy weaves together his personal witness with discussion of the role of Judaism in salvation history from the beginning to end of time, as illumined in Catholic doctrine, shedding light on the unfolding of salvation history leading up to the Second Coming.

The schedule is as follows:

8:45am – Morning Prayer
9:00am – Mass
9:30am – Adoration and Confession
10:00am – Roy Schoeman Video Presentation
11:00am – Small Group Discussion
11:30am – Recitation of the Rosary
12:00pm – Angelus and Lunch (subs, chips, cookies, drink)
1:00pm – Healing Service
1:30pm – Prayer for a Journey

All are welcome! Reservations: Please call Tom Socha 814-258-7386 or email tmsoch@gmail.com.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Easter, the flowers in the church during the season memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Easter flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket. A list of those we remember will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

EASTER MASS INTENTIONS

Parishioners are reminded that there are special Easter Mass Intentions envelopes 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 Easter Masses to remember the donor's intentions.

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**

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 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.

ANNUAL APPEAL

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

Our Parish is at 77% of our Parish Goal of \$ 46,500

Current Pledged Amount: \$ 35,788

If you have not yet given your support, please:

- Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a pledge or gift by credit card
- Mail a check to the 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.

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. Please let the *Rector* know if you are planning attending the conference.

5th ANNUAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

The 5th Annual Catholic Men's Conference for the Diocese of Scranton will be held on Saturday, April 27th at Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes Barre, 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. 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 provide transportation, through Benedict's Bus Service, to the conference. Register on line at www.beamanconference.com, call 570-207-2213, or mail the completed application with your check to: Men's Conference, Office of Parish Life, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18503. Please let the *Rector* know if you are planning attending the conference.

News from the Vatican



WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR LENT? POPE FRANCIS' 10 TIPS

Every year Catholics try to answer the age old question: What should I do for Lent? Here is what Pope Francis suggests.

1. **Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil**

“[Lent] is a ‘powerful’ season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us.”

2. **Do something that hurts**

“Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.”

3. **Don't remain indifferent**

“Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation.”

4. **Pray: Make our hearts like yours!**

“During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: ‘Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum’: Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.”

5. **Take part in the sacraments**

“Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ.”

6. **Prayer**

“In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren; intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering.”

7. **Fasting**

“We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth ‘satisfies’ us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it

helps us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him.”

8. **Almsgiving**

“Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others.”

9. **Help the Poor**

“In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing.” –

10. **Evangelize**

“The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness.”

Pro Life News

Reflection on the Today's Gospel - The temptations of Jesus, summarized in today's Gospel passage, also summarize our own. Living on bread alone would imply that the economic challenges of having a child become more determinative than the value of that child. Worshiping anyone other than the Lord our God would imply that our own will is more important in the end than God's. Finally, failing to trust in the Lord alone, and his provision for our future, can lead us to resort to violent acts like abortion to try to control that future or surmount an obstacle in the way of what we think should happen.

The shape of Lenten penance derives from fighting these temptations, and fostering a more pure and trusting dependence on God. That is what also builds a culture of life.

Happening at St. Thomas

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 13th from 10:00am-2:00pm at the Knoxville Community Center. Admission is \$1.00. Vendors wanted!



That's The Way It Is



This past Ash Wednesday we have begun Lent. It is about time! Lent isn't my most favorite season. At the same time, I might say, the only thing worse than Lent is a late Lent! I prefer to start Lent early and have an early Easter.

This year the start of Lent and Easter Sunday is almost as late as it can be. It will still be light out when we begin the Easter Vigil at 8:00PM.

The Season of Lent is penitential in nature. The Season of Advent is also penitential in nature, but Lent more so. The tone of the Mass and the musical selections take on a far more somber tone. We use chant during this time of the year because of the penitential nature of the season. Chant helps to highlight the somberness of the season. Decorations in the Church are few during these 40 days.

All joking aside, the truth is that Lent is a beautiful time of the year if we understand and use the time appropriately. I think of the season as a 40 day retreat that the Church enters in order to prepare for Easter. We meditate more fully on our sins and the cost of redemption during Lent. This is not because we like pain or because we have no Faith in redemption. This is to help give us a greater appreciation for the power of Easter and the mysteries of redemption. For 40 days we grieve over our sins, but at Easter this grief is turned to 50 days of joy and jubilation as we realize that Christ has conquered sin and death.

I remember when I was a child going to Mass during Lent. I remember all the somber music, the chants, the sparsely decorated church, and the overall somber tone of the season. Imagine going to Mass on Easter Sunday, after having gone through 40 days of penitence. Imagine the sun streaming in through the stained glass windows on Easter Sunday, the grand pipe organ thundering out "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" and the Church reverberating with God's Easter glory. All I can say is---wow! That is why we have Lent: it helps give us a greater appreciation for Easter.

During the season, we are expected to follow the Lenten regulations. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday we are expected to fast. What this means is essentially this: on those days we eat simple foods and only what is necessary for sustenance. Fasting is biblical. Our Lord Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. If even our Lord coupled fasting

with prayer, it is a good idea for us to do likewise. The most well known practice during Lent is to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent. The reason for this has to do with the offering of Christ. On Good Friday, flesh was offered in sacrifice for sin. Therefore on Friday's during the season that we reflect more fully on this sacrifice, we abstain from flesh in honor of that sacrifice.

Some people also have the laudable practice of giving something up during Lent. Ultimately, the reason we have the disciplinary practices during Lent that we do is to discipline our flesh. The idea is that if we can exercise self-control over things that we can legitimately have, it becomes easier to resist temptation when it comes to things we are not allowed to have. One of the consequences of our fallen natures is that flesh and spirit are at odds. The passions of the flesh can draw us away from the passions of our spirits. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. (Matthew 26: 41.) By disciplining the flesh, our passions will more willingly follow after the things of God. The disciplines of Lent are like spiritual boot camp. They get us into shape so that we can live the life of God.

This weekend we welcome Father Collins from the Saint John Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia. He will be celebrating all Masses this weekend at Saint Peter's. For those who are Saint Thomas parishioners, not to worry. I am working on a parish mission for you also down the line. On Sunday evening at 7:00PM we will celebrate evening prayer. Father Collins will give a talk on Saint John Neumann and also show some relics of the saint. On Monday, we will celebrate evening prayer at 7:00. Father Collins will continue his presentations and showing of relics. Attending this parish mission will be a great way to begin Lent. Those who belong to Saint Thomas are most welcome to attend.

That's the way it is,

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

Stewardship

Sunday Collection March 3, 2019: \$6,294.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,800.00

Difference: \$ 494.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$11,008.74)

Collection for Care & Education of Priests: \$641.95

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

"Lent is the time to rediscover the direction of life. Because in life's journey, as in every journey, what really matters is not to lose sight of the goal." Pope Francis

LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving

PARISH MISSION TO BE HELD AT ST. PETER'S

Fr. Ray Collins from the Saint John Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia will be celebrating and preaching at all of the Masses the weekend of March 10th, the First Sunday of Lent.

On **Sunday and Monday evenings, March 10th and 11th**, we will gather at St. Peter's for evening prayer beginning at 7:00pm. This will be followed by Fr. Collins speaking on St. John Neumann and his spirituality, along with sharing information on a few relics of the saint, Fr. Collins will bring with him.

Beginning the season of Lent with reflections on the life and spirituality of Saint John Neumann will be a great way to begin the season of Lent.

All are invited!

Why Do We Do That?

In Lent, why do we fast?

- *For the Christian, fasting is the only means by which man recovers his true spiritual nature. In order for fasting to be effective, the spirit must be a part of it. Christian fasting is not concerned with losing weight. It is a matter of prayer and the spirit. Christian tradition can name at least seven reasons for fasting:*
- *From the beginning, God commanded some fasting, and sin entered into the world because Adam and Eve broke the fast.*
- *For the Christian, fasting is ultimately about fasting from sin.*
- *Fasting reveals our dependence on God and not the resources of this world.*
- *Fasting is an ancient way of preparing for the Eucharist — the truest of foods.*
- *Fasting is preparation for baptism, and all the sacraments — for the reception of grace.*
- *Fasting is a means of saving resources to give to the poor.*
- *Fasting is a means of self-discipline, chastity, and the restraining of the appetites.*

Days of Fast and Abstinence — Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. All Catholics, 18-59 years of age, are bound by Church law to fast, which means only one large meal and two smaller meals may be eaten. Catholics 14 years of age and older are required to abstain from eating meat.

The Light is On For You!

The schedule for Monday Night Confessions will be as follows:

St. Peter's — March 11th, April 1st

St. Catherine — March 18th, April 8th

St. Thomas — March 25th, April 15th

5:30-7:00pm

WOMEN'S RETREAT LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

A women's retreat and Lenten Day of Reflection will be held on Sunday, March 24th 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.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

The Wellsboro Ministerium will be offering Wednesday Lenten Services. All services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church from 12:00-12:30pm, with a light lunch to follow.

This year's theme is *Love* — 1 Corinthians 4-8. The schedule below lists the church who will host the luncheon, and the verse being preached on for that day.

March 6th — First Presbyterian Church — Verse 4a

March 13th — Lutheran & Vineyard Churches — Verse 4b

March 20th — United Methodist Church — Verse 5

March 27th — Seventh Day Adventist — Verse 6

April 3rd — St. Peter's Church — Verse 7

April 10th — First Baptist Church — Verse 8

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!



1. Confess

CONFESS YOUR SINS ALOUD TO THE PRIEST, WHO LISTENS LOVINGLY ON BEHALF OF CHRIST & THE CHURCH.

THE PRAYERS OR GOOD DEEDS THE PRIEST GIVES YOU, TO BEGIN HEALING RELATIONSHIPS HURT BY YOUR SINS.

2. Receive Penance



3. Act of Contrition

A SIMPLE EXPRESSION TO GOD THAT YOU ARE SORRY FOR YOUR SINS & THAT YOU RESOLVE TO LEAVE SIN BEHIND.

THE WORDS THE PRIEST SPEAKS WHICH RECONCILE YOU TO GOD AND THE CHURCH.

4. Receive Absolution



AN ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.

THE 3 PILLARS OF LENT



PRAYER

It helps us be close to Christ and in constant dialogue with Him, joining Him in his sacrifice in the Cross.



FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Both are practiced on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**.
Abstinence is practiced **every Friday** during Lent.



ALMSGIVING

Giving what we have helps us to understand Christ's generosity in the Cross.

Lenten Penance Service

Holy Child Church
March 31st – 3:00pm

St. Peter's Church
April 4th – 6:30pm

Questions About Lent

Q. How is Lent Observed?

A. Lent was first practiced in the fourth century as a period of self-examination and self-denial to prepare for Easter. While Catholics have observed strict fasting rules over the centuries, nowadays only Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent are considered fasting days. The Lenten season is also seen as a time to give up something pleasurable – which could be anything from chocolate to habits like swearing or procrastinating.

Q: Why are Sundays excluded from the reckoning of the forty days?

A: Because Sunday is the day on which Christ arose, making it an inappropriate day to fast and mourn our sins. On Sunday we must celebrate Christ's resurrection for our salvation. It is Friday on which we commemorate his death for our sins. The Sundays of the year are days of celebration and the Fridays of the year are days of penance.











Q: Are acts of repentance appropriate on other days during Lent?

A: Yes. Thus the *Code of Canon Law* states: "All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and time throughout the universal Church" (CIC 1250).

Q. When does Lent end?

A. Lent officially ends on Holy Thursday. That is when the "Triduum", great three Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday occur. Easter is not only a day but an Octave (eight day) celebration leading to a Season of the Church, Easter Season, which ends on Pentecost.

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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.