

St. Peter's Church



***Second Sunday of Lent
March 17, 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
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.

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

Second Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2019

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 3/18	No Mass	
Tuesday 3/19	7:30am	In Honor of Leslie Campbell (Wayne & Sue Singer)
Wednesday 3/20	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Honor of Kate Sholonski (Linda Sampson)
Thursday 3/21	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Leo & Devina Prechtel (Daughter, Jean Dragovich)
Friday 3/22	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Mary Agnes Bushner (Robert Bechtel)
Saturday 3/23	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Clifford Parsells (Family)
Sunday 3/24	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Beth Patt (Frank Patt)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 17, 2019

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

TUESDAY, March 19, 2019

Adoration - 8:00am-6:30pm; Benediction 6:30pm
Women's Bible Study - 9:00am, Parish Center
Parish Council Meeting - 7:00pm, Parish Center
AA/Al-Anon - 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, March 20, 2019

ChristLife - 6:30pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, March 21, 2019

Cards & Games - 12:00pm, Parish Center

SUNDAY, March 24, 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.

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.

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 7:00pm, St. Catherine, Westfield

Sunday 11:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

March 23rd/24th

5:00pm

Altar Servers: E.Poirier, W.Poirier, J.Poirier

Lectors: L.Sampson, T.Sampson

E. Min.: K.Wilcox, I.Dziengowski, B.Chiamonte, G.Poirier

8:30am

Altar Servers: A.Tokarz, J.Lubera, S.Zimmerman

Lectors: D.Gordon, L.Gordon

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

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.



Liturgical Reflection

Second Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

God had previously promised Abram that he would become a great nation, a blessing to all the families of the earth. God assures him by comparing his future descendants to the number of stars in the sky. When God promises land as well as heirs, Abram asks for a sign that he will, in fact, possess it. God complies by enacting an ancient contract ritual where animals are cut in half and placed opposite each other, so those making the contract can walk between them to suggest their willingness to suffer the fate of the animals, if either should break the agreement. Abram emerges from this experience with an even deeper faith. In that faith Abram walked until God's promise was fulfilled and in that same faith we, his descendants, are called to walk today.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 27

The Responsorial Psalm is a series of verses taken from Psalm 27, an individual lament. The way that the verses have been chosen, however, makes this psalm more of a psalm of trust. The psalmist is sure that God will intervene in his cause and rescue him from the hands of his enemies. In Lent, we ask what the enemies are, from which God delivers us. Could they be sin and selfishness and the loneliness that we bring into our lives every time that we consciously or subtly reject God?

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Paul has heard that his hard work among the Philippians is being threatened by false teachers, and he writes urgently from prison to bring them back. What is at stake is salvation. He is not competing with other false teachers for the attention of the Philippians; he's competing for the souls of his beloved converts whom he himself won for Christ. Paul ends with a strong and moving declaration of love for the Philippians. Out of that love he calls them to imitate him in standing firm in the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36

Today we consider one of the most startling events in our faith story. The man the disciples knew as friend and rabbi is suddenly revealed to a privileged three as God's Son. The Transfiguration of Jesus comes just before the suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus will be predicted. With Jesus are two great figures of Israel: Moses, the human scribe of God's law, and Elijah, the greatest of the prophets. Until this point, the disciples seem confused about whom Jesus was; here we see his continuity with all that went before him. Peter seems to also misinterpret the moment, acting as if it must be captured and housed on earth. In fact, Jesus will usher in a new messianic glory affirmed by the voice of God the Father. The experience leaves the three disciples silent, a most fitting response to the wonder and mystery of the infinite God.

Parish News and Activities

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.

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.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Sheriff Levindoski met with the staff of St. Peter's and discussed opportunities for us to enhance our safety and security. This is just the first step of many, and updates will appear in the bulletin as we work to ensure the safety of all our parishioners.

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.

TENEBRAE SERVICE



What is a Tenebrae service? The Latin word "tenebrae" means darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. A loud noise may also sound symbolizing the closing of Jesus' tomb. The worshipers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection. Join us on Good Friday at 7:00pm for this moving service.

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

St. Peter's will provide transportation for any women who want to attend this conference. Please let the Rectory 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 Rectory know if you are planning attending the conference.*

CHRISM MASS

All the faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, on Tuesday, April 16th at 4:00pm. At this Mass priests from throughout the Diocese will renew their priestly promises before the Bishop, and the oils to be used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders will be blessed. Participation in the Chrism Mass is a beautiful way to pray for and support the priests of the Diocese. For reserved seating, contact Diane Franklin, Office of Parish Life, 570-207-2231 ext. 1103, Diane-Franklin@dioceseofscranton.org.

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



News from the Vatican



LENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE SIMPLE AND TRUE

Taking his cue from the Book of the prophet Isaiah, Pope Francis condemned all forms of hypocrisy and explained the difference there is between objective and formal reality.

Formal reality, the Pope said, is an expression of objective reality, but the two must proceed together, or else we end up living an existence of "appearances", a life "without truth". The simplicity of appearances, he continued, should be rediscovered especially in this Lenten period, as we practice fasting, almsgiving and prayer.

Christians, the Pope said, should show joy while doing penance. They should be generous with those in need without "blasting their trumpets"; they should address the Father in an intimate manner, without seeking the admiration of others. During Jesus' time this was evident in the behavior of the Pharisee and the publican; today Catholics feel they are "just" because they belong to such an "association" or because they go to Mass every Sunday, they feel they are better than others. "Those who seek appearances never recognize themselves as sinners, and if you say to them: 'you too are a sinner! We are all sinners' they become righteous", the Pope said, and try to show themselves "as a perfect little picture, all appearances". When there is this difference between reality and appearances, he added, "the Lord uses the adjective: Hypocrite".

Each individual is tempted by hypocrisy, Pope Francis said, and the period that leads us to Easter can be an opportunity to recognize our inconsistencies, to identify the layers of make-up we may have applied to "hide reality." "Young people", he said, "are not impressed by those who put on appearances and then do not behave accordingly, especially when this hypocrisy is worn by whom he described as "religion professionals." The Lord, he said, asks for coherence.

The Pope concluded his homily inviting the faithful to rediscover the beauty of simplicity, of reality that "must be one with appearance" during this time of Lent. "Ask the Lord for strength and go forward with humility, doing what you can. But don't put make-up on your soul, because the Lord won't recognize you. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to be consistent, not to be vain, not to want to appear more worthy than we are. Let us ask for this grace, during this Lent: the coherence between formality and the reality, between who we are and how we want to appear."

That's The Way It Is



The National "Catholic" Reporter had an article: "Honest Rituals Argues for a Sacramental Update." For purposes of understanding the ideological bias of the publication: they are the MSNBC of the Catholic news world. The article was written by Marinan Ronan. The article is a review of a book written by Joseph Martos: "Honest Rituals, Honest Sacraments: Letting Go of Doctrines and Celebrating What's Real." I have not read the book, but I did read the article. The article (and by extension Martos) shows an extremely poor understanding of the Sacraments, Sacramental Theology and the Catholic Faith.

There are several glaring problems in the article. For starters, the Sacrament of Holy Orders is stripped of any substantial meaning and is reduced to a Protestant notion of ordination/ministry. In the Catholic Faith, a priest is not just someone who is recognized by the community as having gifts necessary for ministry: preaching, teaching, administration, governance, counseling, etc, and then elected by the community to serve and represent the community. A priest is someone who is sacramentally configured to Christ the high priest, Christ the bridegroom and Christ the head and shepherd of the Church. A priest reveals and makes present the Fatherhood of God and the headship of Christ most especially through the celebration of the Sacraments. Priesthood is not something the person does in the Catholic Faith; it is something the person IS. Priesthood cannot be reduced to "tasks," "recognition" or "election."

Another problem is with the understanding of Marriage. According to the article, Marriage should be "the celebration of the spiritual reality at the heart of a mutually supportive, agape-type relationship, not a purity-based commitment to procreation." The article creates a caricature of the traditional Catholic theology of the Sacrament of Marriage. Catholics have always understood that part of Marriage is a "mutually supportive, agape-type relationship." It is just that the pro-creative dimension of Marriage cannot be separated and divorced from the "mutually supportive, agape-type relationship." The problem with modern theologians is that they divorce the pro-creative dimension from the marital relationship as though it is totally irrelevant. It is not irrelevant. It is an essential aspect of Marriage. This, incidentally, rules out an understanding of Marriage that is anything other than one man and one woman, formally committed to each other in a "mutually supportive agape-type relationship" until death do they part.

The absolute worst mistake the article makes concerns the understanding of the Mass. "The Eucharist should become the celebration and affirmation of what brings people together in a particular community around

the vision and values of Jesus." Here, we see an understanding of the Mass stripped of any real substance and reduced to a Protestant understanding of worship. Certainly there is a communal dimension to the Mass. This communal dimension, however, cannot be divorced and separated from what the Mass is in essence: the sacrifice of Christ, offered by the priest who stands "in persona Christi" as head and shepherd of the community. The Mass is first and foremost given to us in order to be able to offer the Father fitting worship. Left to our own devices, we cannot please the Father and we cannot offer Him fitting worship. Because of this, the Father has given us the Sacrifice of Christ offered once for all on Calvary and re-presented to us in sacramental form in the Mass.

What modern theologians fail to grasp is that the Sacraments are not inventions of the Church. The Church is the custodian of the Sacraments, not the originator of the Sacraments. The Sacraments are instituted by Christ. God has willed that the Church celebrate seven rituals through which we encounter the graces of salvation. All of the Sacraments are an encounter with the cross of Christ. The Sacraments, therefore, are like extensions of the Mass. The Mass is the sacrifice of Christ, it is the whole reality. The Sacraments are individual extensions of the Mass in which a particular grace is given by God. In Confession, God offers forgiveness. In Baptism, God offers the grace of Sonship. In Confirmation, God offers the grace of Mission. In the Eucharist, God gives the heavenly Manna that sustains us in our journey through the desert of life, until we reach the promised land of Heaven. In the Sacrament of Marriage we see a mirror of the relationship and love that Christ has with and for the Church: bridegroom/bride. The relationship is by nature heterosexual because the essence of the Church is female. In the Sacrament of Orders, the headship of Christ is made present and revealed. In the Sacrament of the Sick, the grace of healing and strength is given; our suffering becomes redemptive because it is united with that of Christ's.

The article closes with the following: "Local church communities, under the leadership of local bishops, should implement these changes." Um, no, actually, they should not. What local communities should do is to continue to celebrate the Sacraments as the Church has been entrusted by God; not change the meaning to suit the likes of NcR or "theologians" like Martos.

That's the way it is, The Rev. David W. Bechtel, Pastor

Stewardship

Sunday Collection March 10, 2019: \$6,226.00

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,800.00

Difference: \$ 426.00

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$10,582.74)

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



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.*

Lenten Penance Service



Holy Child Church
March 31st – 3:00pm

St. Peter's Church
April 4th – 6:30pm

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

CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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 our 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.

Rediscovering the Faith

Welcome. Have you been away from the Church? Are you thinking about coming back? Do you know someone who wants to come home to the Catholic Church, but is struggling with their faith? Maybe you or someone you know has experienced one of these thoughts:

I grew up Catholic, but for some reason I just sort of stopped going to Church...

I just moved to a new city, I tried going to a couple different parishes, but I never really felt welcomed...

After my marriage ended, I felt uncomfortable around my family, friends and parish...

I just don't understand why the Church teaches what it does! Some teachings seem so outdated...

I tried to contact my parish about getting married but no one got back to me...

If you have experienced one of these situations or thoughts you are not alone. The Church wants you to know that you are a child of God, called by name, precious in his eyes and loved by him (Is. 43:1,4). The Church also wants you to know that you are missed. When one member of the Body of Christ suffers, the entire Body of the Church suffers. Resources to help you rediscover the faith and answer questions about the Church and Church teachings can be found at these websites, www.usscb.org and catholicscomehome.org. We invite you to explore these sites or contact the rectory to talk and learn more about coming home.

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.

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.

Holy Week, & Easter Sunday Schedules

~ Palm Sunday – April 14th ~

8:30am – Mass begins in Parish Center
(5:00pm Mass begins in Church)

~ Chrism Mass – April 16th ~

4:00pm – St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

~ Holy Thursday – April 18th ~

6:00pm – Altar Server Practice

7:00pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper

8:30-11:00pm – Adoration



~ Good Friday – April 19th ~

11:00am – Altar Server Practice

12:10pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion

1:30pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation

7:00pm – Tenebrae

~ Holy Saturday – April 20th ~

11:00am – Altar Server Practice

12:00pm – Blessing of Baskets (Parish Center)

8:00pm – Easter Vigil

~ Easter Sunday – April 21st ~

8:30am & 10:30am – Easter Sunday Masses



Why Stations of the Cross?

A. While this devotion certainly has a place in Lent, the overemphasis given to it in the past tended to distort the meaning of the season. Because the stations were prayed publicly throughout the whole season, the impression was given that Lent was primarily about commemorating the passion and death of Christ.











Vatican II strongly endorsed the use of devotions as part of Catholic spirituality, but it also called for their renewal, to harmonize them with the sacred liturgy. The liturgy of Lent focuses on the passion and death of the Lord only near the end of the season, especially with the proclamation of the Passion on Palm (Passion) Sunday and again on Good Friday. The weekday readings between the Fifth Sunday of Lent and Palm Sunday also point toward the coming Passion, so that might also be an appropriate time to pray the Stations. The earlier weeks of Lent, however, focus much more on Baptism and covenant than on the Passion.



When we do pray the Stations of the Cross, we can also connect them with the baptismal character of Lent if we place the stations themselves in the context of the whole paschal mystery. In Baptism we are plunged into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, and our baptismal commitment includes a willingness to give our life for others as Jesus did. Recalling his passion and death can remind us that we, too, may be called to suffer in order to be faithful to the call of God.

One limitation with the traditional form of the Stations is the absence of the second half of the paschal mystery. The liturgy never focuses on the death of Christ without recalling his resurrection. Some forms of the Stations of the Cross include a 15th station to recall the resurrection as an integral part of the paschal mystery.

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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.

Robert McDonough

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.