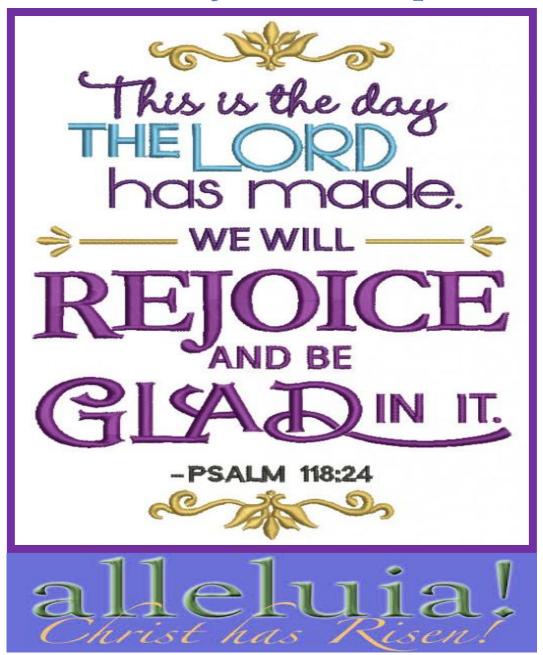
St. Peter's Church

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901 Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322 Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net Pastor: Rev. David W. Bechtel

The Resurrection of the Lord-April 21, 2019



Easter Sunday Blessing

May the celebration of resurrected life bring new hope to your being. May the victory over earthly death turn your eyes to the promises of heaven. May the empty tomb help you to leave your sorrows at the foot of the cross. So that God's hope, promises and forgiveness reign in your life forever. Amen. Easter Sunday April 21, 2019

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 4/22	No Mass	
Tuesday 4/23	No Mass	
Wednesday 4/24	11:45am – 12:00pm 12:10pm	Confession In Memory of T.J. Piano (Grab Family)
Thursday 4/25	11:45am – 12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Lewis Bowers (Joan Getgen)
Friday 4/26	11:45am – 12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Julie Dy (Dy Family)
Saturday 4/27	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Beth Patt (Frank Patt)
Sunday 4/28	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Tom Stager (Friends of the Polish Dinner)

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, April 21, 2019

NO Religious Education Classes

MONDAY, April 22, 2019

Rectory Closed

TUESDAY, April 23, 2019

No_Adoration

Rectory Closed

WEDNESDAY, April 24, 2019

ChristLife – 6:30pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, April 25, 2019

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

FRIDAY, April 26, 2019

Rectory Closed

First Holy Communion Prayer Service & Practice – 6:30pm

SATURDAY, April 27, 2019

ChristLife Retreat – 8:00am-4:00pm, Parish Center

Pearl Street Cemetery Clean Up – 9:00am

SUNDAY, April 28, 2019

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

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, sunscreen, trail mix, flavored sunflower seeds, beef jerky, slim jims, Oreos, tootsie pops, lollipops & 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

April 27th/28th

5:00pm

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

Lectors: T.Sampson, P.Walrath

E. Min.: G.Poirier, B.Chiaramonte, V.Anthony, B.Butler

8:30am

Altar Servers: J.Grab, H.Campbell, W.Feil

Lectors: D.Bleggi, N.Bickham

E. Min.: J.Bernethy, T.Gamble, A.Huck, L.Whitney

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

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34, 37-43

Jesus of Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, healed many people. He was put to death but was raised by God. We have seen him and have eaten with him. He has sent us to preach this Good News. And this is the truth we speak to you today: "Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name." Peter took a very bold step that day to broaden the mission of the followers of Jesus. Because of the vision he received, Peter had come to believe that all people were to be included in the great work of preaching the story of Jesus Christ. The Good News could not and should not be contained, for it is meant for all time.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 118

More verses of the song of victory, Psalm 118, are heard in this reading. God's mercy is not a one-time reality; it endures across the ages. God will protect those who believe, who are rescued through his power. The final verse, in which the rejected stone is mentioned, is recited by Jesus in reference to himself in the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Jesus has not fit the blueprint expected for the rebuilding of God's house.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

The Colossians reading urges us to die to self in order to focus on the Lord, for having been baptized in Christ, the concerns of the world should diminish in meaning. For those who are caught up in the things of this world, however, this reading is an invitation to reorder our lives. On the day of glory, the worldly things that can consume human hearts will have no significance.





Mary Magdalene is the first person at the tomb in all four Gospel accounts. In the synoptic accounts, she brings oil to anoint the body of the Lord. In John's account, the anointing has already taken place, but Mary is still the first person on record to go to the tomb. She is the

messenger who then brings Peter and the Beloved Disciple to see the stone has been moved. There are not angels in this story to suggest that a body has inexplicably been raised. There are only cloths that lay on the ground, the head cloth arranged in a separate place, all to indicate that this is not the scene of a robbery. In those first moments, what it all means is unclear, and only the Beloved Disciple "saw and believed." Time and future appearances of the Lord will add believers to the community. As we gather on this Easter day, we remember and celebrate that Jesus is indeed risen and walks among us still. Yet, it is only with eyes of faith that we recognize him — in the breaking of bread, in the preaching of his Word, and in the presence of his people gathered in his name.

ABOUT THIS SUNDAY

Easter Sunday marks the end of the Triduum and is the first day of the Easter Octave. The great 50 days begin. Forty days of fast yield to fifty days of feast. After many weeks of penitential preparation, we now celebrate the defeat of sin and death and the victory of love. We use the word "Alleluia" for the first time since Lent began in order to celebrate and participate in that victory. Our participation in the liturgy, on this day, is our participation in the salvation won for us and made present for us. Therefore, it is on this day that God, through his only begotten Son, has "conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity."

Parish News and Activities

RECTORY CLOSED FOR EASTER

The Rectory will be closed on April 22nd, and April 23rd for Easter and will reopen on Wednesday, April 23rd at 8:00am. In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371 or page Fr. Bechtel at 570-329-5762 and he will return your call as soon as he is able.

SOCIAL CONCERNS BABY LAYETTE PROJECT

The Social Concerns committee is again asking your help in providing baby supplies to needy mothers in our area. We will be collecting diapers (size 3, 4 & 5) and crib sheets and pads for Seeds of Hope. We will also be collecting layette items to give to Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital maternity ward. These items will be given to new mothers who need basic clothing for their newborns. A tree can be found in the back of church with tags indicating items and sizes needed. If you are a knitter and would like to donate a baby blanket or newborn sweater set, those can also be placed in the boxes provided. We appreciate your help is supporting these new moms and hope we can count on your help. All donations need to be in the boxes at the back of church by Monday, May 6th. Please call Ginny with any questions - 570-724-8496.

CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN UP

Spring clean up of the Pearl Street Cemetery will take place on Saturday, April 27th starting at 9:00am. We can use all the help we can get to beautify these sacred grounds. Bring your rakes, shovels, gloves, etc. **Note**: **Remove all winter decorations from the cemetery prior to cleanup.** Please do not dispose of the decorations on the cemetery ground, but instead take them with you to discard elsewhere.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA BEGINS THIS WEEK

The Novena in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday began Good Friday, April 19th, and continues through Saturday, April 27th. Copies of the Novena can be found on the table in the back of the church.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET



Immediately following the 8:30am Mass on Sunday, April 28th, we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with a blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Praying the Diving Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

All members of the parish are invited and encouraged to participate in this special devotion. *Religious Ed students are expected to participate and should plan on attending the 8:30am Mass on April 28th.* The chaplet is also prayed daily at 3:00pm on EWTN.

SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE

Reminder, there will be only one entrance open to the Parish Center from the church. If you need to use the restroom during Mass, you will now have to use the door near the lower parking lot entrance (the door right past the Religious Education office.) We know this can be an inconvenience and we appreciate your understanding as we try and make St. Peter's as safe as possible for our parishioners

Religious Education News

CLASS SCHEDULE

Please note: There will be no Religious Education Classes, Pre-School, or Children's Liturgy on Easter Sunday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Holy Communion Mass will be held on Saturday, April 27th at 5:00pm. The Prayer Service and Practice will be held on Friday, April 26th at 6:30pm.

YOUTH GROUP CEMETERY CLEAN UP

All youth group members (and their families!) are encouraged to help clean up St. Peter's Cemetery on Pearl Street on Saturday, April 27th starting at 9:00am. Please meet at the cemetery.

Diocese of Scranton News

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: \$ 35,963

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 hose, Dr. Ray Guarendi. Our third speaker will be motivational speaker, apologist, and TV host of "Battle Ready," Doug Barry. 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

That's The Way It Is



Happy Easter! It has been one long Lent, but at long last, Easter has come. The Season of Easter will last for 50 days. The Feast of Pentecost on Sunday June 9 will close the Easter Season. Then, we begin my most favorite season of all: Ordinary Time. Yes, after Mass

on Sunday June 9, we begin the dog days of Ordinary Time. How appropriate that by then, we will also be beginning the dog days of summer. Life is good.

The Resurrection of Christ, which we celebrate in a unique way today, is a historical event. Some modern Scripture scholarship, especially the scholarship steeped in the Jesus Seminar denies the historicity of the Resurrection claiming that the Resurrection is a metaphor for the rise of Easter Faith in the hearts of the disciples of Jesus. The idea that the Resurrection is a metaphor is absurd. Ironically, noted atheist Christopher Hitchens pointed this out in a discussion with a liberal Unitarian minister Marylin Sewell. Here is an excerpt from the discussion:

Sewell: "The religion you cite in your book is generally the fundamentalist faith of various kinds. I'm a liberal Christian, and I don't take the stories from the scripture literally. I don't believe in the doctrine of atonement (that Jesus died for our sins, for example). Do you make and distinction between fundamentalist faith and liberal religion?"

[Note that for Sewell if you take the Bible seriously, if you believe what the Bible says, if you believe that the Resurrection is a historical event, this makes you a Christian fundamentalist]

Hitchens: "I would say that if you don't believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ and Messiah, and that he rose again from the dead and by his sacrifice our sins are forgiven, you're really not in any meaningful sense a Christian."

To that, I say: "Amen Mr. Hitchens, Amen!" I might disagree with Hitchen's atheism. One thing I can say about Hitchens is that he knows what it means to be a Christian. It is ironic in this discussion that the atheist knows better than the purported Christian what it means to be a Christian. If the Resurrection didn't actually happen in history, what are we all doing here this morning? If I didn't believe in a historical resurrection, I would not have bothered getting out of bed this morning to celebrate Mass. For that matter I wouldn't bother getting out of bed any Sunday morning to celebrate Mass. I would not bother being Christian, much less a priest.

Without the Resurrection, without the death of Christ, Christianity is worthless. The most important point you can take with you as you leave church today is that Jesus Christ is truly Risen. This is a historical event and a historical fact. The wedding feast of the Lamb has begun and his bride is prepared to welcome Him. This is the Passover of the Lamb. Jesus Christ has passed over from death to life. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Once He was dead, but now He lives to die no more. Jesus Christ is light and life, Jesus Christ is our life. Jesus Christ holds the keys of life and death. Jesus Christ lives that death and sin may die. O happy fault! O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a savior! What good would life have been had we not been redeemed? What good is life, what good is our Faith, what good is Christianity without the Resurrection?

Jesus is LORD, Jesus is LIFE, Jesus is RISEN! Happy Easter!

That's the way it is,

The Rev. David W. Bechtel, Pastor

Stewardship

Sunday Collection April 14, 2019: \$5,199.00 Difference: (\$601.00) Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$13,492.24)

Collection for Care & Education of Priests: \$ 599.00

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

Priests for Life

Life is Victorious! "Jesus Christ our King is Risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!" (Easter Exsultet). Today is the Feast of Feasts, the foundation of all that we celebrate in our faith. By rising from the dead, Jesus did not only conquer his death; he conquered ours. He overturned the entire kingdom of death! He has opened the way to the true destiny of the human person: to be on the throne of God forever, in life that knows no end! Because of this, we are the People of Life. We seek to apply the victory of Jesus over death to the problems of our day. We are a pro-life people, and reject the false solutions of abortion and euthanasia. Rather, we say yes to every life, no matter how vulnerable or burdensome. It is an Easter yes; it is a yes filled with hope. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!

News from the Vatican



PRAY WITH COURAGE, PUTTING IT ALL ON THE LINE

Pope Francis invites us to pray courageously to the Lord and invited the faithful to pray face-to-face to the Lord,

bringing all our lives to Him with courage.

Pray with boldness - "Much courage is needed to pray. And we are often lukewarm... True prayer is this: with the Lord. And when I need to intercede, I need to do so with courage. In common parlance, people use an expression that I really like when they have a goal: 'I put it all on the line'... But perhaps the doubt may arise: 'I do it, but how do I know the Lord listens to me?' We have a certainty: Jesus. He is the great intercessor." Pope Francis said prayer requires parrhesia – boldness or freedom of speech – to address the Lord with courage.

The Pope gave the examples of several Biblical figures who excelled at intercessory prayer: Moses, Abraham, Hannah, and the Canaanite woman.

He said they laid it all on the line to obtain their desires. "At times, when we see how these people struggle with the Lord to obtain something, we think it's as if they were arm-wrestling with God, but they arrive at what they are requesting." They pray so forcefully, said the Pope, because they have faith that the Lord can fulfill their desires.

Jesus intercedes for us - Pope Francis reminded the faithful that Jesus has ascended to Heaven and intercedes for us before the Father, just as he had promised Peter before the Passion. "Jesus prays for us, in this moment. And when I pray — whether I am convinced or pray like a mercantilist or stutter or struggle with the Lord — it is He who takes my prayer and presents it to the Lord. Jesus has no need of speaking before the Father: He shows Him His wounds. The Father sees His wounds and extends His grace. When we pray, let us recall that we do so with Jesus. Jesus is our courage. Jesus is our security, who in this moment intercedes for us."

St. Peter's Church

Italian Dinner

All You Can Eat!

Friday, May 10, 2019 4:00 – 7:00pm

Adults - \$10.00 ~ Children (under 12) - \$5.00

Menu:

Chicken Cacciatore,
Pasta with Marinara Sauce,
Pasta with Alfredo Sauce, Meatballs,
Italian Wedding Soup, Salad, Bread
Homemade Desserts
Coffee, Soda, Tea, Lemonade



In order for this dinner to be a success, we need volunteers to work during and after the dinner, donations of some food items and baked goods, and donations of filled baskets for the raffle. Signup sheets can be found in the back of the church.

Easter Flowers

In Loving Memory

Robert & Connie Brown Lyman & Ethel Brown Joseph & Mary Tarszowicz Brown & Tarszowicz Families Mr. & Mrs. Peter Koslosky

Robert Koslosky

Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Starkweather

David. W. Starkweather

Snyder Family

Rudolph & Julia DalPezzo

DalPezzo Family Piha Family Anne Donovan Ann Mathews

G. Darby & Cecelia Gamble Stanley & Lottie Yastrzemski

Bernard Mekos Michael Mekos Frank Family Dy Hue Bun Julie Dy Ang Ye

Chua Pue Tin

Luz Ang-Siy & Family

William Dy

John & Betty Frazier Joyce & Durwood Stewart Doris, Ted, Teddy Sykora

Lana Bennett

Jake & Gertrude Whitney Phil, Steve, Doug Clark Joseph Tarszowicz Elizabeth Tarszowicz

Frank & Mary Dziengowski

Henry & Luella Caso Cuda & Niles Family Msgr. John J. O'Brien John Tellgren

John Tellgren

Mary & Joseph Kupchak

Straniere Family
Joseph & Clara Patt
Josephine Patt

Jonathan Borden Greeley

Captoni Family Norton Benjamin Marie Stager

Rozmary Nowski Family

Sticklin Family

Owlett & Kohut Family Chris, Margaret, Dorothy, Vincent, James Arena

Shirley Arena Dolores Fliz

Bill & Virginia Woo, Lola Wilcox, Sulewski, Mountain

Family

James, Amelia, Robert Williams

William & Mary Carlson

Darrin Sherman Thomas Young Sally Young West Rosemary H. Stutz

Korenkiewicz & Glasgow Family

Jim Comes Lydia Milano Ronald Behers

Edgar & Marion Wallace Frank & Helen Bechtel

Thomas Bechtel
Elizabeth Bechtel
Mitchell Family
Jim Callahan
Ginger Callahan
Harold Berguson
Austin Seymour
Callie Cavanaugh
Dan & Rita O'Donnell
Robert & Helen Diltz

Mamoru Hewitt John C. Hewitt Dorothe A. Duncan Ivnii Matsuda

Joseph & Barbara Lisowski

James & Alice O'Donnell

Thomas Miller
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Effie Antonio

Marie Stager Feil Family

Whitney & Kreisler Family Aschcraft & Fagg Family Nick & Virginia Basile Family Everett & Marjorie Gooch Family

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Mike & Mary Fermenic

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Matthew & Florence Waclawik Robert & Jeannette Dalbey

Robbie Butler

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A Gift in Your Will

We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attornev:

"I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to St. Peter's Church, Wellsboro [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."

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, 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 Antoniw, 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.



JoAnn Wolfe

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.