

St. Peter's Church



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

Director of Religious Ed.: Melissa Mann – stpreled@ptd.net

Assistant Director of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier

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.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time *July 21, 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 _____



All are invited to the
Parish Center
following the 8:30am
Mass this weekend for
donuts, coffee/juice,
and fellowship!
Please join us!

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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 21, 2019

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 7/22	No Mass	
Tuesday 7/23	7:30am	In Memory of Jesus Torres (Evan Beck)
Wednesday 7/24	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Beverly Grab (Grab Family)
Thursday 7/25	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Jerad Close (Don & Lucy Whitney)
Friday 7/26	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Steve Singer (Mom & Dad)
Saturday 7/27	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Tom Sticklin (Family)
Sunday 7/28	8:30am	In Honor of Norb & Nona Josten (Family)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
All Deceased Parishioner of St. Peter's Parish

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, July 21, 2019

Donuts/Coffee Fellowship – 9:30am, Parish Center
ChristLife Reunion – 1:00pm, Parish Center

TUESDAY, July 23, 2019

Adoration - 8:00am-6:30pm; Benediction – 6:30pm
AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, July 24, 2019

Adult Education Film Series – 7:00pm, Parish Center

THURSDAY, July 25, 2019

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Adult Ed. Room

FRIDAY, July 26, 2019

Rectory Closed

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.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: Canned Tuna, ham, or chicken. 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 10:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

July 27th/28th

5:00pm

Altar Servers: L.Singer, Z.Singer

Lectors: C.Evert, P.Walrath

E. Min.: N.Ostapowicz, A.Singer, V.Anthony, T.Straniere

8:30am

Altar Servers: H.Campbell, J.Lubera, W.Steinbacher

Lectors: N.Kennedy, N.Bickham

E. Min.: L.Whitney, D.deGuzman, K.Wilcox, T.Gamble

Sacramental Information

Baptisms - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend baptismal instructions classes before the birth of their child, if possible. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed. Contact the Rectory to schedule.

Confirmation - Confirmation is administered every year to all 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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10

Abraham and Sarah entered into covenant relationship with God who had promised that they would be the ancestors of a great nation. Being old and having no children, they continued to trust that God would be faithful to those covenant promises. After many years of trusting in God's covenant word, God visits Abraham and Sarah in the guise of three strangers. Abraham's cultural sensitivity to hospitality drives him to invite them in and prepare a rich meal for them. The three strangers representing the Lord announce to them the good news of a promised child. God is faithful and does not go back on promises, establishing right relationship with all those who trust in the Lord and who respond to God in mutual covenant love.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 15

The First Reading spoke of hospitality and welcoming God into one's home. The Gospel speaks on the same thing, as it presents the story of Martha and Mary and their hospitality to Jesus. Today's Responsorial Psalm asks who can be a host to the Lord. The answer given is standard wisdom teaching: The one who lives a moral, righteous life.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:24-28

The author speaks of filling up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ. One might ask what that could be. There is only one thing: to make Christ's suffering present and alive again in us. By trusting when we suffer, we become Sacraments of the Passion of Christ. We also hear about the mystery hidden from ages past. We as humans cannot even begin to know the fullness of God's will; it is so far beyond us. Yet, this is what has been revealed in Christ. In his death and resurrection, we have learned how much God loves us and the glory that he had prepared for us.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

This passage, unique to Luke, narrates the hospitality offered Jesus by Martha and Mary. For Martha, hospitality is best expressed by attentiveness to details while for Mary, hospitality is best expressed by attentiveness to the person. Martha even asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. Jesus responds with the confusing statement that Mary has chosen the better part. The story has generated many different interpretations. However, what is clear from both the Abraham and Sarah and the Martha and Mary narratives is that hospitality demands attentiveness to the person first, from which the details of service will flow. Martha and Mary are two sides of the same coin of ministry and discipleship. Let us learn to minister well by being attentive to the needs of each person we encounter.



Parish News and Activities

ADULT FAITH FILM SERIES

St. Peter's will present an adult faith film series on Wednesday evenings from July 24th to August 28th at 7:00pm in the Parish Center. The films are free of charge and have been selected to enrich and inspire our faith journey. The first film is *Chariots of Fire*. In this 1981 Academy Award winner for Best Picture, two very different men on the UK Olympic team vie to win gold to demonstrate to the world the worth of their deeply held convictions. A friendship builds between them in this true story, that is as strong as their desire to win in the 1924 Paris Olympics. Discussion & Refreshments to follow. Please join us!

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

As part of our ongoing safety and security evaluation and implementation, there will be a change in when the church building will be open. The time has come to lock the church doors during the evening and overnight hours. Beginning in September the church doors will be unlocked and open from 8:00am – 5:00pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; 7:00am – 5:00pm on Tuesday; 4:00pm until after Mass on Saturday; 8:00am until after Mass or Religious Education classes are over on Sunday. All other hours, the doors will be locked and you will not be able to enter the building. If you currently have a key signed out (daily sacristan, candle or linen volunteer, etc.) please note that your key will still work for the interior doors such as the Sacristy or holy room, but your key will not open any of the outside doors to the church. You will have to perform your "church duties" during the hours listed above, when the building is open. While this is a big change for us, and one that may take some getting used to, it is a necessary step in our ongoing safety and security efforts, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

FISCAL YEAR HAS ENDED

Our fiscal year has come to a close. The Finance Council met this week and approved a budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year. A financial report for 2018-19 is being prepared and will be shared with the parish and published in the bulletin in September.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection July 14, 2019: \$ 5,609.00
Weekly Goal to Meet Projected Expenses: \$ 5,800.00
Difference: (\$ 191.00)
Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$ 602.00

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

That's The Way It Is



Dear Parishioners of Wellsboro, the Land of Elk, the Field in the West, the Village of Knox and the Village where Lawrence lives:

Happy belated New Year! Yes, you read that right. The New Year I am talking about is not the civil New Year, nor liturgical New Year. The year I am talking about is the fiscal New Year that began on July 1, 2019. On the fiscal New Year everything is reset and begins anew. We have begun a new budget; something I affectionately refer to as The Big B. We have worked and reworked the numbers to come up with a budget that does not require or ask for an increase in the offering totals. 90% of the parish budget involves fixed expenses; things we have no control over. These items include heat, electric, HVAC, water, sewage, administrative costs, diocesan assessments, school assessments, salaries, insurance, etc. But each year, since I have been here, we have been able to make it work without asking for an increase in the offering totals.

Part of the reason we are able to make The Big B work has to do with the linkage between Saint Thomas and Saint Peter's. My salary is split 50/50 between the parishes. There are drawbacks to parish linkages but one benefit is cost savings. Father Tracey is also no longer on staff so we are saving on his salary and mileage reimbursements. We are able to direct these savings into other areas of the budget. It is important that you understand that if it were not for the linkages, both of our parishes would struggle to make the budget work without asking for an increase in the offering totals. At Saint Thomas, part of the reason I have been able to have a lot of the improvements and repairs completed is due to the savings on my salary. I was able to redirect the money that otherwise would have been spent on a full time pastor's salary into improvements and repairs.

Currently, the fiscal health of Saint Peter's and Saint Thomas is relatively sound. Neither parish is in debt nor is either parish projected to go into debt. Both parishes ended the previous fiscal year with a bit of a deficit. What that means is that the offering totals were less than what we projected them to be. When the offering totals are less than we project, that means income is less than we project. When income is less than we project, we risk having to tap savings to make up the loss. This is why it is very important for all of you to continue support your parish financially. While there are savings available, if we are forced to keep tapping the savings, eventually the savings will run out. When that happens we are in trouble; we would

go into debt. Experts in money will say things like "Debt is good; it gives you leverage you otherwise would not have had." I say: "If you enjoy being a slave to banks and other financial institutions, then yes. I agree. Debt is good."

So why am I writing the above? The long and short of it is this: it is important that we make our weekly collection goals. Everyone all needs to do their part to ensure the fiscal health of our parishes. I understand that you receive a lot of envelopes. I also understand that you have a limited amount of money you are able to contribute. Whenever resources are limited, priorities have to be set. Thus, when it comes to giving, I respectfully suggest that support of your parish is the first consideration. Before you give to the diocese, before you give to the other second collections, give your parish community the first priority. If you feel you have the resources to contribute to the diocesan collections or other second collections that the USCCB does, fine. After the parish, the Annual Appeal should be given consideration. After the Annual Appeal, the rest of the diocesan second collections, then after those, the USCCB and other second collections. The point to remember here is that if you contribute to nothing else; please make sure you contribute to the fiscal well being of your parish.

I would also respectfully suggest that in deciding how much to contribute, that your contributions reflect your state in life. If you are a person with means, your offering should reflect this. When God blesses us with means, God does this in order that we can be a blessing to others. If you are not a person with means, obviously your offering will reflect that. The Catholic Church is a "here comes everybody" church. We have rich and poor alike. Both rich and poor are called to contribute to the well being of their parishes according to their ability to do so. Someone with means obviously has a greater ability than someone without means to contribute to the financial wellbeing of their parishes.

I want to close by thanking you for your generosity. Last year Saint Peter's did a successful 50th anniversary campaign and organ campaign; we reached our goal of \$100,000 within four months of starting. Saint Thomas the Apostle ran a successful capital campaign for the new boilers in the Church. We raised the necessary \$20,000 within a few months. We have two wonderful parishes with incredibly generous people. Please continue your acts of generosity this new fiscal year so we can continue to do great things in our communities and parish. May God Bless you!

That's the way is,

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

News from the Vatican



MERCY IS THE TRUE FACE OF LOVE

Pope Francis on Sunday upheld the example of the Good Samaritan as a model for Christians, explaining that only by loving our neighbors as ourselves, do we show love for God, and at the same time express true religiosity and humanity. Addressing the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus, the Pope reflected on the Gospel reading of the day which recounts the parable of the Good Samaritan, a parable the Pope described as a treasure.

"Mercy towards a human life in a state of need is the true face of love" Pope Francis said, explaining that it is by loving the other that one becomes a true disciple of Jesus and that the face of the Father is revealed. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," he quoted from Luke the evangelist, highlighting the fact that God's Commandment to love one's neighbor for Christians is a single and coherent rule of life. And commenting further on the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Pope pointed out that it is not us, on the basis of our criteria, who can define who is neighbor and who is not, but it is the person in need who must be able to recognize who his neighbor is, that is, "The one who treated him with mercy."

Pope Francis also reflected on the fact that it was no coincidence that Jesus chose the Samaritan as a positive figure. "We know that the Jews treated the Samaritans with contempt, considering them strangers to the chosen people," he said pointing out that in this way he strove to overcome prejudice, showing that "even a foreigner, even one who does not know the true God and does not attend his temple, is able to behave according to His will, feeling compassion for his brother in need and helping him with all the means at his disposal."

The key of Christian life, the Pope reiterated, is in one's capacity to show compassion. If you lack compassion, ask yourself whether your heart has turned to ice. "If before a person in need you do not feel compassion, if your heart is not moved, it means that there is something wrong," the Pope said. "If you cross a homeless person on your path, and you pass by without looking at him, or thinking 'he's drunk,' do not ask yourself whether that man has had too much to drink, but whether your heart has stiffened and turned to ice," he continued.

Pope Francis concluded with a prayer to the Virgin Mary to help us to increasingly live that inseparable bond that exists between our love for God the Father, and a concrete and generous love for our brothers and sisters, and to give us the grace to grow in compassion.

Priests for Life

Reflection on today's readings - The First Reading and Gospel speak to us about welcome and hospitality. In the exercise of welcoming the other, we welcome God himself. The only proper response to the human person is welcome, acceptance, and love. This starts with the welcome we give to our own children, born and unborn, and continues in the fabric of the family, Church, and society to create a communion of love and service. The attitude of welcome, the virtue of hospitality, means that we make room for the other because of the value of the other, not because of some pleasure or convenience of our own. The opportunity to welcome the other comes at times we do not expect. We are always living in the community of the human family, and have to be always ready to respond to the needs of the other person. We are not only responsible for the people we choose and plan for; we are responsible before we choose, simply because all human beings are our brothers and sisters, whose care has been entrusted to us by the Creator. Extending welcome can bring suffering and inconvenience to us – and this is the opportunity to live out what St. Paul describes in the Second Reading, uniting our sufferings with those of Christ.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

Why does the Catholic Church believe in Purgatory?

The Catholic Church's belief in the existence of purgatory is indeed scriptural!



First of all, it is important to understand what the Church believes purgatory is. The Catechism describes purgatory like this: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (CCC 1030).

Note that the Church believes that purgatory is not an eternal state, but rather a state of purification before entering eternal life with God in heaven. Scripture teaches us that nothing unclean can enter heaven (Revelation 21:27). Scripture also describes a place where a man goes and suffers loss, yet is still saved, but only through fire (1 Corinthians 3:13-15). Purgatory is this place that cleanses us of whatever impurity we have when we die, allowing us to enter into God's presence without the stain of sin.

Safety Tip #4 - Report Suspicious Behavior

If you see something odd or out of place, report it to the priest or the Rectory. While what you have witnessed may be perfectly innocent, your report may prevent future harm.

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<p>POP CULTURE Shoppe</p> <p>25 Main Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 570-723-4263</p> <p>www.popscultureshoppe.com</p> <p>Games * Imagination * Fun Your proprietors Julian and Anja Stam Consider it all joy! James 1:2</p>	<p>Please refer your friends and family. Happy patients are our best referrals.</p>  <p><i>Dr. Richard F. Black</i></p> <p>Oral & Facial Surgery 15 Meade Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-2141</p>	<p>DR. RICHARD STRAUCH AUDIOLOGY</p> <p>Licensed Audiologist</p> <p>Adult and Pediatric Audiology • Hearing Aid Dispensing</p> <p>2-B Waln Street • Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-4042 • Fax: (570) 724-2638 www.drstrauch.com</p> 
<p>U-HAUL AUTHORIZED DEALER</p> <p>U-Haul® Dealer Since 2011</p> <p>uhaul.com</p> <p>Ken Mitchell Mitchell's Carquest Auto Parts</p> <p>688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933 Business: (570) 662-2534 www.mitchellcarquest.com</p> 	<p>BULLETIN ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE</p> <p>We currently have advertising space available in our weekly bulletin. If you are interested in placing an ad, please call the rectory.</p>	<p>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 attorney: "I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise and bequeath to St. Peter's Church, Wellsboro [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."</p>



Parish Prayer List

Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Mary Mekos, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighaus, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Jerry Pierce, Joann Black, Gabriel, Melissa & Daniel Espinoza, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Floyd Williammee, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, 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 Antoniwi, Ruth Russell, Edward "Turk" Cruttenden, Agnes Worden, Anne Marie Beuter, Carol Fasick, Skip Warriner, Beverly Willsea, Stephanie Calicchia, Jacoby Aratari, Doris Coumbe, Michael Bowen, Lou Kirby, Shannon Pierce Jones, Steve Ziemak, Ted Zuchowski, Cody Bowers, and Sue Singer.



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.