

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.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time *July 28, 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 _____

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous;
 teach me to serve you as you deserve,
 to give and not to count the cost,
 to fight and not to heed the wounds,
 to toil and not to seek for rest,
 to labor and not to seek reward,
 except that of knowing that I do your will.

Amen.

St. Ignatius of Loyola ~ Feast Day July 31st



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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 28, 2019

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 7/29	No Mass	
Tuesday 7/30	No Mass	No daily Mass this week. Fr. Bechtel is away on retreat.
Wednesday 7/31	No Mass	
Thursday 8/1	No Mass	
Friday 8/2	No Mass	
Saturday 8/3	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Robbie Butler (B.J. Butler)
Sunday 8/5	8:30am	In Memory of Veronica Stager (Husband, Tom)

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

The Week Ahead

TUESDAY, July 30, 2019

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

WEDNESDAY, July 31, 2019

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

THURSDAY, August 1, 2019

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

FRIDAY, August 2, 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

August 3rd/4th

5:00pm

Altar Servers: H.Campbell, A.Osborn, W.Steinbacher
Lectors: L.Gordon, D.Gordon
E. Min.: D.Kerestes, I.Dziengowski, M.Osborn, B.Butler

8:30am

Altar Servers: M.Ingerick, J.Lubera, X.Tellgren
Lectors: K.Tellgren, N.Kennedy
E. Min.: N.Josten, D.Stager, L.Stager, M.Bialas

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.

“Faith is a gift that keeps alive a profound and beautiful certainty:
that we are God’s beloved children.” Pope Francis



Liturgical Reflection

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

God's determination to punish Sodom and Gomorra for their sinfulness has Abraham pleading with God not to sweep away the innocent with the guilty. Secure in his covenant relationship with God, the crux of Abraham's prayer is summarized in a rhetorical question asked of God: "Should not the judge of all the world, act with justice?" Through prayer, Abraham is able to come to know and understand God's way of doing things, and in asking God for justice, he is able to attune his will God's will. Prayer is not a matter of changing God's mind to our way of thinking, but rather an attunement to God's ways of acting and thinking, as we strive to align ourselves with God's will.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 138

The theme of prayer is continued in today's Psalm and the verses chosen speak about God's faithful response to our prayer and need. God answers our prayers with kindness and truth. God reaches out to those who most need him and fills them with his blessings.

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:12-14

In Baptism we are buried with Christ and through God's power we are raised with him. God raises us up with Christ even while we are slaves to sin and legally bonded to evil powers. In Christ, God brings us to life, forgiving all our transgressions and eliminating any legal bonds against us from evil powers by nailing all to the cross. Colossians asserts that we have been justified and made righteous before God through Christ's Cross, symbolic of that total gift of self-emptying love. As disciples, we are called to model ourselves on Christ, and manifest that same love towards one another, even when not deserved or accepted.

**LORD
TEACH
US TO
PRAY**

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

Luke's Jesus is a person of prayer whose personal relationship to God sustains his life and ministry. His disciples, very much aware of this, ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus responds with what we now call the Our Father or the Lord's Prayer. We are taught to call upon God as we would a loving parent, bless, and praise God for life's may blessings, and ask God for those things that we need in life to be faithful partners in a covenant love relationship. A parable follows the prayer reminding us that we should be bold and persistent in our prayers to God, not to get our own way, but to ask God for justice and right relationship in all things so that we might live as God desires. The final sayings stress the reality that just as parents desire nothing but the best for their children, so too God desires nothing but the best for us and will provide what God deems best whenever we are bold enough to ask.

Parish News and Activities

FR. BECHTEL ON RETREAT

Fr. Bechtel will be away this coming week on retreat and therefore, there will not be daily Mass or Adoration. He will return for the weekend Masses. The Rectory will be open regular hours.

ADULT FAITH FILM SERIES

St. Peter's adult faith film series continues on Wednesday, July 31st starting at 7:00pm in the Parish Center. All films are free of charge and have been selected to enrich and inspire our faith journey. This week's film is *Amazing Grace*, the inspiring story of how one man's passion and perseverance changed the world. Based on the true story of William Wilberforce, the film follows his courageous quest to the end of the British slave trade. 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

The weekly collection report for July 21, 2019 will be published in next week's bulletin.

That's The Way It Is



Dear Parishioners,

As of July 1, 2019 I marked my fourth anniversary as your pastor. I have been reflecting on my pastorate thus far at Saint Peter's. I asked myself the question "If I could use one word to describe what I think has been a hallmark of my pastorate thus far, what word would I use?" The word that came to me was "change." Since becoming your pastor four years ago, I have had to lead Saint Peter's through times of change; change that no one asked for or wanted.

Four years ago, Father Chmil left Saint Peter's. I knew coming to Saint Peter's I would have big shoes to fill; that---and we needed a new organ. I also knew that Father Chmil and I are nothing alike. While we share a common ideology in terms of our outlook on the Church in general and its direction, our personalities and how we go about ministry could not be more different. Father Chmil in terms of celebrating the Mass is far more high church Roman and liturgical than I am. Father Chmil, also as is well known, had a very slow and deliberate pace in his celebration of the Mass. Compare that with me: I am decidedly low church; I also have a fairly quick pace. The differences between Father Chmil and I are not right or wrong, good or bad, but they are noteworthy. I understand that it took some time for you to adjust to my different ways and style and get used to that. As I was adjusting to a different assignment and area of the diocese, you were adjusting to your new pastor.

About a year and half later a major change struck our parish: I was asked to take over temporary administration of Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish. As I began my ministry at Saint Thomas Parish, it quickly became evident that what was supposed to be a temporary assignment was going to be permanent. As a priest, long before I even became your pastor, I knew a linkage between the parishes was likely. It isn't that anyone told me; that I had special access to secret knowledge. I am just good at reading the handwriting on the proverbial wall. But---I did not expect the linkage to happen as quickly, nor in the manner it did. I thought there would be plenty of lead in time and time for both Father Kita and I to prepare our parishes for the linkage. That was not to be. The linkage happened and that was that. We had no choice but to accept it and adapt. One of the major changes that Saint Peter's was forced to accept was that we would go from two Sunday masses to one. Saint Thomas was forced to accept that they would have to go from four weekend masses to two; and no longer have a full time resident priest. But---adapt we did; we

not only adapted but we adapted well and moved forward.

That brings me to now. Our parish is forced to adapt to a reality no one wants: that our parish can no longer be open 24/7. In addition, we are adapting to more stringent security during Mass and religious education. I know all too well of the concerns that this seems "unwelcoming" and perhaps unnecessary. I am sure many people are asking "Why can't things just stay like they were? For 50 years, nothing has happened." If you are asking those questions, I am asking them too. I don't like these new security measures any more than the next person. "But Father" some might say "You are the one making these changes and imposing them. You are the one in charge. If you don't want these changes, don't make them." And the reply is this: these are the recommendations made by professional law enforcement officers. I do not shoot Craps with the safety and well being of the parishioners. When I am warned that there are security risks and given recommendations to address them, I listen. I would be foolhardy not to listen.

The modern situation in the world has forced my hand. I cannot stick my head in the ground and pretend mass shootings and tragedies can only happen in large urban areas. I do not pretend that the steps I am taking will guarantee that a tragedy will never happen at Saint Peter's; I can at least make our parish less of an attractive (soft) target to a potential assailant, taking steps to mitigate risks to safety and life.

Unfortunately in the Catholic world, the buck stops with the pastor, not a board of trustees/elders. If we were a Protestant church, it would be the board of elders/trustees who worry about this, not me. It would be the board of elders/trustees making these unpopular decisions, not me. It is times like this when I wish we were Protestant. I wish I had a board of trustees/elders I could blame for this! Nevertheless, I am the one making these decisions, and make them I must. I am aware no one wants this to happen. But---it is happening. Change is difficult. I believe just as you adapted to me when I was new, and just as you adapted to our linkage with Saint Thomas, so you will adapt to this and we will move forward together as a parish. Once we do adapt things will be easier. In many ways, I think our parish is not just struggling with change, but grief. I think we are all grieving that the world as we know it is changing right before our eyes for the worse. 50 years ago, something like this would have been unthinkable. Today, we grieve that we even have to consider this.

In this life, change is the only constant!

That's the way it is,

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

Priests for Life

Reflection on the Readings - Jesus told us that if we ask, we will receive. That is what Abraham also knew and carried out in the first reading. His prayer called upon the mercy of God. Jesus says that the greatest good we can ask for is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brings that mercy, and enables us to say "Our Father." When we pray in that way, we are (like Abraham) calling down God's mercy on all our brothers and sisters. We are in fact defining ourselves as brothers and sisters because of the fact that we all have one Father.

This has implications. No longer can we exclude any person from our love. Love is indivisible, and must be extended to every human being. This is the basis of our pro-life convictions. In its broadest sense, the acknowledgment of God as Father extends to his role as Creator and affirms the responsibility we have to every human being (whether Christian or not) because he/she was made by and is loved by God. Hence, the unborn and the terminally ill cannot be excluded from personhood, from prayer, from protection, or from practical help.

When we ask, we receive. What we receive, furthermore, is not simply an answer to our prayer in the form of God doing something. What we receive is part of the heart of God. He makes us compassionate as he is, and he gives us the grace to live out that compassion as true brothers and sisters united in the Holy Spirit with one Father.

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551), or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V.G., at (570-207-2269).

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

Why can't non-Catholics receive Holy Communion in the Catholic Church?





This is a common question asked by both Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Many non-Catholics, when attending a Mass at a Catholic wedding, find themselves being gently told that they should not come forward to receive Holy Communion. Of course, they wonder, "Why? Catholics are allowed to receive communion in our church, so why can't we receive Communion with the other Catholics here?"

Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, meaning that what appears to be bread and wine is really Jesus' body and blood—not just a symbol of his body and blood. When Catholics receive Holy Communion, it is an expression of the unity among all those in communion with the Catholic Church throughout the world, who maintain the belief in the Real Eucharistic Presence of Christ. Therefore, only those who believe in the True Presence may participate in this sacrament of oneness with Christ and his Church.

Ultimately, Catholics believe that we cannot celebrate this unifying sacrament with other Christians while there are disagreements about the Eucharist itself. However, Catholics pray for the day when we can reconcile with other Christians and share in the unity of God's people through the Holy Eucharist.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops expresses this desire for unity: "We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us 'that they may all be one'" (John 17:21).

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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>Oral & Facial Surgery</i> 15 Meade Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-2141 <i>Dr. Richard F. Black</i></p>	<p>DR. RICHARD STRAUCH AUDIOLOGY</p> <p>Licensed Audiologist</p> <p>Adult and Pediatric Audiology • Hearing Aid Dispensing 2-B Wain Street • Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-4042 • Fax: (570) 724-2638 www.drstrauch.com</p>
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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, 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.