

# 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](http://www.stpeterswellsboro.org) ~ Email: [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

## **Rectory Office Hours**

Monday through Thursday 9:00–2:00pm

## **Parish Staff**

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – [Dbechtel00@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbechtel00@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Connie Spang – [stpch@ptd.net](mailto:stpch@ptd.net)

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – [stpadm@ptd.net](mailto:stpadm@ptd.net)

Director of Religious Ed.: Melissa Mann – [stpreled@ptd.net](mailto: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.

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**August 18, 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 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12<sup>th</sup> 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-4<sup>th</sup>) 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 on  
**August 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 570-404-8918

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

# 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 18, 2019

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 8/19	No Mass	
Tuesday 8/20	7:30am	In Memory of Keith & Valerie Josten (Family)
Wednesday 8/21	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Harold & Ruth Knapke (Tom & Ginny Reindl)
Thursday 8/22	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of William Dy (Dy Family)
Friday 8/23	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Dy Hue Bun (Dy Family)
Saturday 8/24	4:15-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Jeffrey Grab (Grab Family)
Sunday 8/25	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of  
Merle Wilcox (Family)

## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY, August 19, 2019

Social Concerns Meeting – 9:00am, Parish Center

### TUESDAY, August 20, 2019

Adoration - 8:00am-6:30pm; Benediction – 6:30pm

AA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish Center

### WEDNESDAY, August 21, 2019

Staff Meeting – 8:30am, Rectory

Broad Acres Mass – 10:30am

Green Home Mass – 2:00pm

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

### THURSDAY, August 22, 2019

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

### FRIDAY, August 23, 2019

Rectory Closed

### SUNDAY, August 25, 2019

Donut Social – 9:30am, Parish Center

## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are: Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup (10-11oz). 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 10:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland

## Ministers of the Altar Schedule

### August 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>

#### **5:00pm**

Altar Servers: E.Hazelton, I.Hazelton

Lectors: C.Evert, D.Bleggi

E. Min.: I.Dziengowski, B.Butler, D.Stager, L.Stager

#### **8:30am**

Altar Servers: A.Banik, M.Ingerick, A.Tokarz

Lectors: T.Delmott, N.Kennedy

E. Min.: A.Huck, T.Gamble, T.Tokarz, N.Josten

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Parish News and Activities

### BACK-to-SCHOOL PROJECT



Back to School is coming soon! The Social Concerns Committee will again be sponsoring the Back-to-School project. Please select a tag and follow the directions on it. All items are for children in need, in Tioga County. Please return all items, in a bag with the name tag attached, to the box by the Giving tree, by Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Any questions? Call Ginny Reindl 570-506-06081 Thank you for your generosity!

### ADULT FAITH FILM SERIES

St. Peter's adult faith film series continues on Wednesday, 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 *When the Game Stands Tall* and tells the remarkable true story of legendary football coach Bob Ladouceur, who took the De La Salle High School Spartans from obscurity to a 151-game winning street that shattered all records for any American sport. Discussion & refreshments to follow. Please join us!

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Do you knit or crochet? If so, please consider helping someone in need of your love by making them a simple prayer shawl. When they are alone or cold, when they need to feel the love of someone who cares, they can snuggle under a prayer shawl. Directions are simple and easy. *Knitting: use needles size 11 or 13, cast between 54-63 stitches, knit 3, purl 3 to end of row, repeat. Crocheting: use a size P hook, chaining 48 loosely hooks, turn and double chain and repeat. The shawl should measure approx. 50" x 24" and optional fringe can be added to each end. Variegated Lion Brand yarn is wonderful to use. Yarn can be provided.*

A beautiful testimony: A lady was in treatment for breast cancer and was gifted a prayer shawl, which brought her to tears. She would wrap up in it when she needed courage and strength, or to feel warm or love of the person who made it for her. She stated that it was a comfort and a prayer every time she wrapped up in it. That was 15 years ago and she still has her shawl, and it has comforted many since, as when she was finished with treatment and working in her office, it would be folded in a chair and often people would reach for it and hold it and she would know God's love was still at work. You can do the same for someone now. Please call Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677 for more information.



## Liturgical Reflection

### 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

Jeremiah again undergoes one of many sufferings as a result of his fidelity in proclaiming God's prophetic word to the people. His words of God's judgment and punishment for their sinfulness are continually rejected as the people take their anger out on Jeremiah personally, often endangering his life. Jeremiah, despite constant danger, trusted in the Lord and faithfully spoke God's words. God had warned Jeremiah that his prophetic words would lead some to "fight against you, but not prevail over you" (1:19). While constantly challenged in his ministry, Jeremiah continued to trust in the Lord and in today's passage, God once again save Jeremiah to preach again. How do you handle opposition and rejection for believing and trusting in God?

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 40

The Responsorial Psalm celebrates the fact that God delivers us from all of our difficulties. This is especially significant today, for the First Reading and Gospel speak of the fact that we will suffer if we give witness to the world of God in our lives. When we suffer we wonder, like the psalmist, when God will intervene. This psalm reminds us to trust in God who will deliver us.

#### SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:1-4

Addressing the opposition to their faith, values, and lifestyle, the author of the Letter to the Hebrews counsels that faith community to consider the suffering that Jesus experienced during his lifetime and learn from it so "that you may not grow weary and lose heart." Jesus endured the Cross, despised its shame and rightly took "his seat at the right of the throne of God." "We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" who ran the race before us and despite the difficulties persevered in their faith while keeping their eye on Jesus, "the leader and perfecter of faith." In similar manner, we too are to shed all sin and all that burdens us and persevere in the faith, running steadily towards the prize, total union with Jesus at God's right hand.

#### GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-53

Luke's Jesus knows that his mission and ministry will bring opposition, rejection, and suffering. It will divide families, cause disruption and havoc in community groupings and bring division instead of peace. Aware of all this, Jesus longs to "set the earth on fire" with God's Kingdom, proclaiming a way of relating that is countercultural and contrary to the normal way of thinking and acting. In doing so, Jesus will have to undergo the Baptism of rejection, suffering, and death, trusting that it will lead to ultimate victory. Despite all the rejection and suffering that will result from this ministry, both personally and to his followers, Jesus is determined to be faithful throughout bringing to completion and fulfillment God's Kingdom. As disciples we too are challenged to take up the same mission and ministry.

HOUSE  
DIVIDED



## That's The Way It Is



I decided this week to show you that God has a sense of humor. What you are looking at is a failure warning that was given to me when I was in high

school. The warning is dated December 8, 1993. In 1993, I was a sophomore at Nativity B.V.M High School in Pottsville PA. You will note that the failure warning was issued by Father Onushko. Father Onushko has since passed away, may he rest in peace. You will also note that the failure warning is in theology, in particular, Sacraments. The signature on the warning is my father's. I never turned in the warning and Father forgot to ask me for it. I kept it. I was going through some of my things the other evening and found it.

DEFICIENCY REPORT			
NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL			
One Lawtons Hill Pottsville, PA 17901 717-622-8110			
STUDENT'S NAME	David Bechtel	CLASS - GRADE	10
TEACHER	Father Onushko	ADVISER - COUNSELOR	
		SUBJECT	Sacraments
		DATE	12/8/93
PARENT OR GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION			
<p>The following evaluation report is being submitted by the instructor for the above subject to help both the student and the parent or guardian to understand the reasons for the unsatisfactory scholastic achievement of the student.</p> <p>Please feel free to request additional information, or an appointment with the teacher who issued this evaluation report.</p> <p>Parents should be familiar with the homework expected in the subject and with the school's grading system.</p>			
CAUSES FOR IMPENDING FAILURE			
ATTITUDE	ABILITY	PERFORMANCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Attendance problems <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic tardiness <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient class preparation <input type="checkbox"/> Low interest level in studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than favorable aptitude for subject <input type="checkbox"/> Basic skills for subject tend to be lacking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apparent immaturity <input type="checkbox"/> Motivation is insufficient to achieve success	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited class participation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homework assignments late, poor or incomplete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scores poorly in tests <input type="checkbox"/> Short attention span in class	
RECOMMENDATIONS			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assist pupil to generate more effort <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule teacher conference <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule extra help for after school <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring or help from outside the school			
PRINTED IN U.S.A. SHIREFORMS No. 085913 TRADEMARK		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: <i>David W. Bechtel</i> TITLE:	

At this stage in my life I had not yet considered becoming a priest. Hence, I did not care about theology or Sacraments. At this stage in my life I wanted a career in business; specifically health care management. I wanted to either lead a hospital or be part of the executive team of hospital management. I was interested in that because I was a volunteer at the local hospital. I absolutely loved the experience. I loved dressing up in a suit, having a badge and going to the hospital. I wasn't at all important, but the experience made me feel important and I liked that. I would see the executives walking around and I wanted to be them.

Instead, I became a priest and here I am. Little did I know, little did you know, little did anyone in the Diocese of Scranton know, and little did anyone at Nativity know that sitting in a classroom in 1993 at Nativity High School, the student who was failing theology known as David Bechtel was one day going to be your pastor. Little did anyone know that the student who was failing theology would go on to get two graduate degrees in theology and specialize in Systematic Theology. This is in itself ironic because Sacramental Theology is a branch of Systematic Theology. The very class I was failing, I could now write a book on. God has a sense of humor!

That's the way it is,

The Rev. David W. Bechtel, Pastor

### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for August 11<sup>th</sup>: \$5,882.00  
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$5,800.00  
 Difference: \$ 82.00  
 Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$1,543.65)

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

*"Holy communion is the shortest and safest way to Heaven." Pope St. Pius X, Feast day August 21st*

### 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 – 7:00pm 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. 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

## News from the Vatican



### BE READY FOR THE FINAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD

Pope Francis reflected on last Sunday's Gospel and on Jesus' call to be vigilant and to "light our lamps" as we

await the final encounter with the Father.

Jesus tells His disciples to "gird your loins and light your lamps." Pope Francis described this image as one that "recalls the attitude of the pilgrim, ready to set out on a journey." "It is a question of not putting down roots in comfortable and reassuring dwellings," he said, "but of abandoning oneself with simplicity and trust to the will of God, who guides us towards the next goal."

By reminding us to "light our lamps," Jesus invites us "to live an authentic and mature faith, capable of illuminating the many 'nights' of life," continued the Pope. "The lamp of faith needs to be nourished continuously, with a heart to heart encounter with Jesus in prayer, and in listening to His Word." "True faith opens the heart to one's neighbor," he said, "and spurs us on to concrete communion with our brothers and sisters, especially with those in need."

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus describes the servants awaiting the return of their master as an example of remaining vigilant. We need to be ready "for the final and definitive encounter with the Lord," added Pope Francis. "Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival." With these words, "the Lord reminds us that life is a journey towards eternity," said the Pope. "Every moment becomes precious, so we must live and act on this earth having a longing for Heaven in our hearts."

"If we live in harmony with the Gospel and God's commandments," continued Pope Francis, "He will allow us to share in His eternal happiness." Although "we cannot really understand what this supreme joy will be like," said the Pope, Jesus offers us an image of the master who, finding his servants still awake on his return, "will have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them." It is as though everything in Heaven will be reversed, said the Pope: "It will no longer be the servants, namely, us, who will serve God, but God will put Himself at our service."

May the thought of the final encounter with the Father "fill us with hope," concluded Pope Francis. May it stimulate us to a constant commitment to becoming holy, "and to building a more just and fraternal world." *Vatican News*

## US BISHOPS CALL FOR RESPONSIBLE GUN LAWS AFTER SERIES OF MASS SHOOTINGS

The Catholic Bishops of the United States renew calls for responsible gun laws and more resources to address the root causes of violence, after a series of mass shootings that left 29 people dead in just a few hours.

"Something remains fundamentally evil in our society when locations where people congregate to engage in the everyday activities of life can, without warning, become scenes of violence and contempt for human life." US bishops expressed that conviction this weekend in a statement that followed a mass shooting in the US state of Texas on Saturday and shortly before another in Ohio.

In a separate statement released after the Ohio shooting, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo and Bishop Frank Dewane say the pair of mass shootings reveals "a terrible truth." "We can never again believe that mass shootings are an isolated exception," the two Catholic bishops note. "They are an epidemic against life that we must, in justice, face."

Expressing their condolences to the victims' families, the US bishops urge preventative action in the form of "prayer and sacrifice for healing," as well as a renewed push for changes to gun laws. "We encourage Catholics to pray and raise their voices for needed changes to our national policy and national culture," they write.

The USCCB "has long advocated for responsible gun laws and increased resources for addressing the root causes of violence. Things must change."

## Diocese of Scranton News

### RETREAT WEEKENDS BEING OFFERED

*Finding the Gift of God's Mercy in our Everyday Lives* will be directed by Rev. Richard Nalepa, CP of St. Paul of the Cross Monastery, Pittsburgh. The retreat begins Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and departs after the noon meal on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Praying the Passion* is a more silent experience for both men and women and will be directed by Rev. Curtis Kiddy, CP. The retreat begins Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and departs after the noon meal on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Both retreats are held at St. Gabriel's Passionist Retreat Center, 631 Griffin Pond Road, Clarks Summit, PA and cost \$140 per person. For more information, call the Retreat Office 570-586-4957 or email [kporter@epix.net](mailto:kporter@epix.net)

*"Let us ask for the grace to remember each day that we are not forgotten by God, and that we are His beloved children, unique and irreplaceable. Calling this to mind gives us the strength not to surrender before the adversities of life." Pope Francis*



## Priests for Life

*Reflection on the Readings* - We are destined, in this life, to be divided from at least some people, and today's readings urge us to be divided for the right reasons. Prejudice continues to raise walls between people. That is the division that happens all too naturally, and the conflict between the culture of life and the culture of death is largely a problem of prejudice against the unborn, the elderly, and the disabled. None of the reasons offered for abortion would be tolerated as reasons to kill the born; it is only because the victims are unborn that they become victims. Similarly, none of the reasons for killing the less functional people would be tolerated as reasons to kill the functioning; hence again, prejudice is revealed as the real problem.

When we stand against that prejudice, however, we get treated like Jeremiah. He was accused of "demoralizing the soldiers" because he was saying that the Babylonians, who were about to attack Jerusalem, could not be stopped because they were being used by God to punish his people. The problem was not military or political, Jeremiah said, but rather moral. In our day, when we point out the moral problems that stand at the foundation of so many other societal ills, we too will be rejected and mocked.

Moreover, issues like abortion will divide family members, as the Gospel promises, and will require us to resist sin even "to the point of shedding blood," as the second reading says. The blood to be shed, in other words, is our own, as we stand against the opposition that others will launch against us. The fact that so many people will say, "The opposition against me isn't that bad and I don't foresee that it will be" becomes in fact a good reason to stop worrying about what will happen to us when we fight for what is right.

Do you love to pray? But recently prayer seems dry, God seems distant, and you feel like you are in a spiritual desert? Lay Carmelites meet monthly, live by the Rule of St. Albert, study writings of Carmelite Saints, and participate fully in the Life of the Church. Come and see if God is calling you to the Carmelite Third Order as we nourish each other on the contemplative journey. Call Dolores 570 659 5320 or Chris 570 337 7668 for more information.

### ***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. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. 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](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). 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).

## **DO YOU KNOW YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?**

### ***Why do Catholics light votive candles?***

Almost nothing says "Catholic" like votive candles, especially if they are placed before images or statues in a church setting. When a film or show wants the audience to know a character is Catholic, a rack of votive candles is sure to turn up.

At our Easter Vigil, when the priest enters the darkened church with the Easter candle, he intones, "Christ, our Light," to which the congregation replies, "Thanks be to God." This recalls how Jesus came into our world of sin and death to bring the light of God to us.



Besides being used to illuminate the places where the early Christians celebrated Mass, candles were also lighted at the tombs of martyrs. Father William Saunders explains that "there is evidence that lit candles or oil lamps were burned at the tombs of saints, particularly martyrs, by the 200s, and before sacred images and relics by the 300s." In this context the "light signifies our prayer offered in faith coming into the light of God. With the light of faith, we petition our Lord in prayer, or petition the saint to pray with us and for us to the Lord."

The word "vigil" comes from the Latin *vigilia* and refers to keeping watch. The vigil candle that is lit remains so for a period of time (either a certain number of hours or a few days) and symbolizes how the person desires "to remain present to the Lord in prayer even though we may depart and go about our daily business." It also reminds the individual how the saint is constantly praying for their petitions.

Another word for these candles is "votive" candle and comes from the Latin *votum*, meaning promise, dedication or prayer. It reinforces the idea that the candles represent our prayers before God.

As humans, we are body and soul and our prayers often need to be expressed in a physical, tangible way. This helps our soul be at rest and is a way to deepen our spirituality. Similar to incense, the light of the candles is a physical reminder that points our souls to God. We light them not because we believe our prayers will be better heard by God, but because we need something visual to connect our body and soul.

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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, Sue Singer, Carolyn Clark, John Sulewski, and Tom Evert.



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.