St. Peter's Church



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 15, 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 $- 12^{th}$ grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371. Children's Liturgy (grades K-4th) is held during the 8:30am Mass when Religious Education classes are in session.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church!

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name___

Phone

Address

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901 Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371~ Fax: 570-724-6322 Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789 Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

<u>Rectory Office Hours</u>

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 <u>Reconciliation</u>

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am -12:00noon; Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

Catechetical Sunday, September 15, 2019.

The 2019 theme is **Stay with Us.** Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.



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 Praver 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

24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time			September 15, 2019
Date	Time	Confession T	Time and Mass Intention
Monday 9/16	No Mass		
Tuesday 9/17	7:30am	In Memory of Mary Agnes Bushne (David & Alice Bechtel)	
Wednesday 9/18	11:45am-12:00pmConfessions12:10pmIn Memory of Jas		son Hofstetter (Evan Beck)
Thursday 9/19	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Leo Prechtl (Jean Dragovich)	
Friday 9/20	11:45am-12:00pm 12:10pm	Confessions In Memory of Mary Louise Blower (Kate Black)	
Saturday 9/21	7:00pm	In Memory of Le	enora Bowers (Joan Getgen)
Sunday 9/22	8:30am	All Living and D	Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Honor of Our Religious Education Catechists			Ministers of the Altar Schedule <u>September 21st/22nd</u> 5:00pm Altar Servers: J.Poirier, W.Poirier
The Week AheadSUNDAY, September 15, 2019Religious Ed–Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12 th :9:30-10:40amRel. Ed. Parent Meeting – 9:30am, ChurchDonut Social – 10:00am, LawnTUESDAY, September 17, 2019Adoration – 8:00am-6:30pm; Benediction 6:30pmBible Study – 9:00am, Parish CenterAA/Al-Anon – 8:00pm, Parish CenterParish Council Meeting – 7:00pm, Parish CenterWEDNESDAY, September 18, 2019Staff Meeting – 8:30am, RectoryTHURSDAY, September 19, 2019Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish CenterSUNDAY, September 22, 2019Religious Ed–Pre-School:8:30-9:30am; K-12 th :9:30-10:40am			Lectors: C.Evert, D.Bleggi E. Min.: B.Chiaramonte, B.Butler, D.Kerestes, G.Poirier 8:30am Altar Servers: A.Banik, L.Germino, S.Zimmerman Lectors: M.Ostapowicz, N.Kennedy E. Min.: A.Huck, T.Gamble, N.Ostapowicz, 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 8 th 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.
FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS This month's food pantry items are: Pork & Beans and canned fruit. 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: <i>foot aids</i> , <i>eye drops, lip balms, sunscreen, trail mix, flavored</i> <i>sunflower seeds, beef jerky, slim jims, Oreos, tootsie pops,</i> <i>lollipops & personal notes.</i> A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.			 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 homeboun 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

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE Saturday 7:00pm, St. Catherine, Westfield Sunday 11:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland

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

RELIGIOUS ED KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Today, September 15th, is Catechetical Sunday and will be the first class for students in grades Pre-K through 12th grade. Following the 8:30am Mass, students will report to their classrooms and a short parent



meeting will be held in the church. At the conclusion of the parent meeting, we will be joined by the students to kick off the year with donuts and coffee/juice on the lawn for everyone.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL SALE

St. Peter's annual fall rummage sale will be held October 1^{st} – October 3^{rd} . When you are fall cleaning, please consider donating household items, books and clothing. If you have any questions regarding donations, please call Mary Lasko 570-439-7706 or Pat Gorda 570-404-8919.

The schedule for the sale is as follows:

September 29th –**Donations accepted** 11:00am–3:00pm September 30th –Set up & **Donations accepted** 8:00am–5:00pm October 1st –Sale Hours 8:00am–6:00pm October 2nd –Sale Hours 8:00am–5:00pm October 3rd –Sale Hours 8:00am–3:00pm *Take what you want for a donation on October 3rd*! No Early Sales! Please, no donations of televisions.

Bake Sale: We will be selling homemade baked goods during the sale. *Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated* and can be dropped off at the Parish Center on Sunday and Monday during the hours above.

Volunteers Needed: We are also looking for volunteers to help set up and tear down the sale. If you are willing to donate <u>ANY</u> time; please call Mary or Pat.

INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church. It begins with a period of inquiry in which you may ask questions before you make a commitment to become Catholic.



An informational meeting will take place on Sunday, September 29th at 9:30am following the 8:30am Mass, in the Church. Please call the Rectory to register or for more information.

CHANGE TO MASS TIME Please note that the Mass time for Saturday, September 21st has been changed to 7:00pm, to accommodate Fr. Bechtel's Elkland schedule.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Registration for Discovering Christ 2019 is now open! A free, delicious dinner! An interesting and instructive video presentation! Discussing the meaning of life and the person of Jesus Christ with other adults in small groups! What's not to like!!! Come and experience the Discovering Christ series on Wednesday evenings for seven weeks 9^{th} beginning October with a refreshing retreat on Saturday, November 9th. If you have already experienced the blessings of this inspiring series, reexperience it more deeply, while accompanying someone you have invited so they can be blessed as well. If a firsttimer, consider inviting a spouse or friend to make this spirit-filled journey with you! St. Peter's Parish Center, 6-8:30pm. Child care available. Call 570-724-9095 or email norb.josten@gmail.com to register.

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SCHEDULING 2020 MASS INTENTIONS

Scheduling Mass intentions for 2020 will begin on September 3rd, through the parish office, during regular business hours. **The following are the established guidelines for scheduling intentions:**

- 1. One weekend Mass on each weekend must be celebrated for the intentions of the parish. This is required by Canon Law (c. 534). Because of this we only have one weekend Mass for which we can accept an intention. Due to this limited availability of weekend Masses, no family may schedule more than ONE WEEKEND MASS PER QUARTER, or four weekend Masses per year.
- 2. There is no limit to the number of DAILY MASS INTENTIONS, including those Masses said at the nursing homes each month, which may be scheduled by each family.
- 3. Canon 948 states, "Separate Masses are to be applied for the intentions of those for whom a single offering, although small, has been given and accepted." Therefore, only one intention may be scheduled for any given Mass. However, for pastoral concerns to better accommodate the needs of the parishioners, we will adhere to the following: Up to three first names with the same last name (i.e. John, Paul and Mary Smith) or two last names only (i.e. Scott and Smith Families) will be allowed per intention.
- 4. The stipend given for a Mass intention is \$10. While we are willing to take requests over the phone, your Mass Intention will be not be scheduled until we are in receipt of your donation.
- 5.Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and All Souls Day Masses are always for the individual intentions listed by parishioners on their envelope.
- 6. The Sanctuary Candle, burning in memory or honor of someone, is available on a weekly basis with no limit to the number each family may reserve.

"The Lord is the first to trust in you, and He also invites you to trust in yourselves; He invites you to encourage one another, and join Him in writing the most beautiful page of your lives." Pope Francis

Liturgical Reflection ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

The narrator of Exodus reports a dramatic conversation between God and Moses. God is displeased with the infidelity of the "stiff-necked" people and intends to bring punishment upon them. God sends Moses to make such an announcement. But Moses implores God to remember that they are "your own people" and reminds God of the promise to make this people a great nation. God listens to Moses and relents.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 51

Psalm 51 is a penitential psalm written to commemorate the day that David repented for his sin against God and against Uriah the Hittite. The psalm reminds us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin by ourselves. The only way we can find forgiveness is to have a humble, contrite heart, for it is God who will renew us.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Paul's biographical account to Timothy recalls his time of persecution of the followers of Christ. But Paul gives thanks to the Lord for sending him the grace to change his life. He now believes that Christ came into the world to save sinners and he humbly counts himself as one of them. He then expresses gratitude that Christ Jesus considered him a trustworthy Apostle.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-32

Chapter 15 of Luke's account recounts three of the most familiar parables of Jesus. The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the Prodigal Son attest to the mercy of God. Each notes the joy of the shepherd, the woman, and the father when the sheep, the coin, and the son have been found. The compassion of God is personified in the actions of the shepherd, the woman, and the father who seek out the lost. The story of the prodigal centers on the Father's mercy and reminds us we can always return home. All are offered forgiveness, but not all embrace it.



SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

Reminder: Beginning September 14th 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; 12:00pm until after Mass on Saturday; 8:00am until after Mass on Sunday. All other hours, the doors will be locked and you will not be able to enter the building.

Also, for the weekend and Holy Day Masses, the doors will be locked once Mass begins. If you arrive after the start of Mass, please enter through the front doors. You will not be able to enter from either side door.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY NEEDS 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

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. Please call Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677 for more information.

New Procedures for Religious Education

Parents of students attending Religious Education classes - please note the new procedures for this year.

- Students in grades K through 3rd will be dismissed from the front doors of the church. Parents are asked to park their cars and come to the front door to pick up their child.
- Students in grades 4th through 12th will be dismissed from the parish center entrance. There will be a crossing guard at this entrance to assist the children.
- Students not attending the 8:30am Mass should be dropped off at 9:30am, not before, at the parish center entrance.

That's The Way It Is

Vatican II was the most recent of the great Ecumenical Councils of the Catholic Church. The council was held from 1962-1965. There are 21 Ecumenical Councils in the Catholic Church. In the life of the Church Vatican II stands out for a number of reasons. Vatican II was the first council where people could watch the events of the council unfold from the comfort of their living rooms and they could learn some of the issues that were being discussed. Vatican II was the first council called when there was no major heresy dividing the Church that needed a formal addressing.

There is a curious myth circulating among many, namely, that Vatican II overturned or changed Church teaching on a number of issues. Vatican II did no such thing. Vatican II did not change Church teaching; Vatican II changed the way Church teaching was presented. Vatican II presents Church teaching in a way that better engages the modern culture. Instead of saying "If anyone believes X let them be anathema" (Anathema is a word that means "accursed") as councils had done before, the council sought ways to better engage the world through finding common ground and building upon that.

There are four pillar documents of Vatican II. The documents are as follows: Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, and Dogmatic Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. The four Constitutions (pillar documents of Vatican II) give official summaries of Church teaching and are the backbone of Vatican II. It is in light of these pillar documents that the rest of the Vatican II documents (declarations and decrees) are understood and interpreted.

The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation clarifies the relationship between the Scriptures, Church Tradition and the teaching authority of the Church. It clarifies how each functions to ensure that the Deposit of Faith is kept pure.

The Dogmatic Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy spells out the principles that are to guide the reform of the Mass. How many people realize that Vatican II intended for the use of Latin in the Mass to be preserved? How many people realize that Vatican II intended for Chant to have a "pride of place" within the Mass? I think a fun activity would be for you to read the document and ask yourself whether the Mass as it is celebrated today conforms to the principles for the reform of the Mass as spelled out in the Constitution.

The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church spells out the nature of the Church, the different roles in the Church, the relationship between the pope, bishops and laity and the place of Mary within the church.

The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church in the modern world spells out the relationship between the Church and

the modern world and the role of the Church within a modern society. The document notes may problems that exist in the modern world and makes particular note of atheism. It notes that Christians contribute to the problem by not being educated in the Faith! How many knew that? The document says that the way to cure atheism is through making God present and visible through our Faith. Faith must be shown in ACTION. In order for Faith to be shown----it must of its very nature be a public affair not a private affair, and one that affects the public sphere.

I recommend that people read the documents if they have some time. It is my belief that if you read the documents you might see a certain disconnect between what some people say Vatican II teaches and what Vatican II actually teaches. The documents can be accessed online through a simple Google search.

That's the way it is! The Reverend David W. Bechtel



www.dioceseofscranton.org

Priests for Life

Reflection on the Readings - The readings for this Sunday all proclaim the power and depth of God's mercy. The Gospel presents three analogies for the merciful behavior of God the Father; the first reading shows an example of that mercy toward an entire people; the second reading shows an example of it toward an individual.

This is an opportunity to point out that the Gospel of Life is a Gospel of Mercy. Mercy actually begins with God's choice to create us. We did not ask for or earn our lives, yet God decided to be merciful and give us what we didn't (and can never) deserve. He mercifully rescued us from the nothingness in which we once were, and brought us into being. Mercy always welcomes life; the destruction of life is a direct contradiction of mercy.

This weekend is an excellent opportunity to proclaim the mercy of God even in the face of the ongoing abortion tragedy. The Silent No More Awareness Campaign (www.SilentNoMore.com), a joint project of Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life, is essentially a proclamation of mercy. Women and men who have aborted their children find the healing of Christ and then proclaim his mercy publicly – in gatherings, in pulpits, in legislatures, in the media. Some of the testimonies of these men and women can be read, heard, and viewed on the website.

This also gives us the important opportunity to warn against presumption, and to distinguish mercy from permission. Neither God's people of old, nor Paul, nor the Prodigal Son were ever given permission to commit evil, whether before or after they were forgiven. The proclamation of the greatness of God's mercy is meaningful only because the evil of sin is great. Were sin trivial, then mercy would be meaningless. Some will say, when faced with the temptation to abort (or to commit any other sin), "Well, God is merciful – he'll understand." What he understands is that sin destroys us, and that grace can keep us from sin in the first place. The promise of his mercy should never be hijacked and made into an occasion of sin. Mercy follows upon repentance; it does not replace it.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

Why Do We Sit, Stand and Kneel at Mass? Why We Sit During the Mass - Sitting is considered the base position of worship. We sit when we are listening to the first two readings. We also sit down after the Gospel reading, focused and attentively taking in the homily. We remain sitting while waiting for the Eucharistic elements to be prepared, a very meaningful gesture because we expectantly wait and rise when the priest is ready. Why We Stand During the Mass - Standing has been considered the appropriate position for prayer since before Christ's time. When we stand, we are following this centuries old tradition. Standing is also a simple but profound way of honoring and respecting Jesus who is represented by the priest during Mass. During the Gospel reading, we stand up. The Gospel is the Word of God and to hear these is a great honor which is why we ascend from our base position of worship. We stand to acknowledge the significance of hearing God's very own words.

Why We Kneel During the Mass - Kneeling is the most humble way of worshipping God during Mass. When we kneel, we completely submit and surrender ourselves to our Heavenly Father. We kneel during several parts of the Mass. This is an incredible act of faith and devotion because when we kneel, we acknowledge that Jesus is really coming. We kneel to recognize Jesus' presence in the Eucharistic elements after the priest says the Eucharistic Prayers.

During the mass, the priest is not just leading the celebration of the Eucharist, he is acting the role of Jesus. As Jesus, he leads us to do the different gestures, traditions and rituals that are part of the Catholic Mass Order. This is why we sit and stand when the priest sits and stands. The Mass is rich with meaning, every element and gesture represents something profound and beautiful. When we understand these different meanings and take them to heart, each moment we spend during Mass will certainly become more transformative and nourishing to our souls.



Services Food & **Clothing Pantries** & living expenses

104 Retired & Ill Priests Received Care

44 Parishes Grants to serve countless families

15,000 Children using Social Justice in Religious Education & 4,500 in **Catholic Schools**

118 Parishes receiving support in all aspects of Parish Life

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GIFTS to the APPEAL support Diocesan ministries & will not be used to defray legal fees or fund the Survivors Compensation Program.

Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for their support. Their advertising helps to make our bulletin possible.



Parish Prayer List

PRAYERS Needed For...

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 Antoniw, 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, Susan West DeSanto, Don Hayden, and Barbara Montello.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Arthur Sable

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.