

# 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.com

## Rectory Office Hours

Labor Day to Memorial Day - Monday through Wednesday, 8:00am-2:00pm;  
Thursday, 9:00am-1:00pm

Memorial Day to Labor Day - Monday through Thursday, 9:00am-1:00pm

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jacek Bialkowski

Secretary: Connie Spang - stpch@ptd.net

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell - stpadm@ptd.net

Religious Education.: Melissa Mann - streled@ptd.net

Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

## Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm (Livestreamed); Sunday 8:30am

## Reconciliation

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:45am-12:00pm;

Saturday, 4:15-4:45pm or by appointment



**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**August 21, 2022**

### **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.

### **Pregnancy Support**

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310

Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS

Heart of Tioga County Pregnancy & Parent Support 570-948-2020

### **Emergency Contact**

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please leave a message. Fr. Jacek will return your call as soon as he is able.

### **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 worshipping 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Trust**  
in the Lord   
with all thine heart;  
and *lean not*  
unto thine own understanding.  
in all thy ways  
*acknowledge Him,*  
and He shall *direct* thy paths.  
Proverbs 3: 5-6

### **Parish Contact Listing**

Women's Bible Study - Sue Singer 570-948-2184

Social Concerns - Karen Plumley 570-439-0175

Parish Rummage Sale - Pat Gorda 570-404-8918

Church Decorations - Sue Singer 570-948-2184

Buildings & Grounds - Rick Joachim 570-439-2591

Cemetery Committee - Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529

Fundraising Dinners - Michelle Sepiol 570-439-6206

Music Ministry - Christina Simonis 570-724-2085

Samaritan House - Linda Sampson 570-404-2180

Youth Group - 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 - Rectory 570-724-3371

Prayer Chain - Kate Black 570-916-9573

ChristLife - Norb Josten 570-724-9095

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Michelle Sepiol 570-439-6206

Marian Ministries - Linda Sampson 570-404-2180

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 8/22	No Mass	
Tuesday 8/23	12:10pm	In Memory of John Sattler (Daughter, Joan)
Wednesday 8/24	12:10pm	In Memory of Dy Hue Bun (Dy Family)
Thursday 8/25	12:10pm	In Memory of Joan Sattler (Daughter, Joan)
Friday 8/26	12:10pm	In Memory of Jeffrey Roberto (Grab Family)
Saturday 8/27	5:00pm (Mass is livestreamed)	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 8/28	8:30am	In Memory of Ann Marie Dlugokinski (Mary Antoniw)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Robbie Butler (B.J. Butler & Family)

### Parish News and Activities

#### Church Hours/Adoration

The church will be open for private prayer, Monday through Friday from 8:00am–5:00pm. Generally, all three doors leading into the church will be unlocked. If for some reason the front and carport doors are not open for entry, please use the door on the parking lot side of the church. Saturday, the church will be open from 8:00am–4:30pm using only the parking lot side door. The front and carport doors will be unlocked at 4:30pm for those attending Mass. All doors of the church will be unlocked on Sunday morning at 8:00am for those attending Mass. Adoration will take place on Tuesday from 1:00pm-6:00pm, with Benediction but no evening prayer.

#### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for August 14, 2022: \$8,406.00  
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00  
 Difference: \$2,306.00  
 Year-to-Date Budget Variance: \$ 57.00

*We are grateful to all those who are able to financially support our parish.*

#### CARPORT ENTRANCE TO CHURCH CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The carport entrance to the church will be closed until further notice due to a motor vehicle accident that occurred on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Significant damage occurred and we will not be able to use that entrance until repairs can be made. For weekend Masses only, the temporary handicap entrance to the church will be through the parish center side door; located just beyond the carport, next to the three, handicap parking spaces. The church can then be accessed through the music room. These doors will be open until Mass begins. As usual, once Mass begins, the side doors will be locked and the church will have to be accessed through the front doors. At the conclusion of Mass, you will be able to exit the church through the music room to the parish center side door. Those attending weekday Masses will enter and exit through the front door or parking lot side door. Thank you for your assistance as we await the repairs to the carport.

#### HAPPENING THIS WEEK

**Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> – Social Concerns Meeting, 9:00am**

#### NEW BOILERS NEEDED

The two boilers used to heat the church, are in need of replacement at a cost of approximately \$20,000. Contributions to help offset this cost are greatly appreciative. If you are an envelope user, please include your contribution in your Building Fund envelope that is included in your monthly packet. If you are not an envelope user, please just note on your check or the envelope that your donation is for the boilers. Please give as you are able.



#### SOCIAL CONCERNS BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT

If you took a tag a tag from the Giving Tree, please place the items in a plastic bag with the tag attached and place the bag in the box located in the church near the Giving Tree no later than Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Any questions? Contact Karen Plumley 570-439-0175. Thank you for your generosity!

## Liturgical Reflection ~ 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:18-21

This passage echoes a central theme of the book of Isaiah that Israel's God is the Lord of all nations. In this passage, written shortly after the return of the exiles from Babylon, we hear of how God will reach out to all the nations, as he is the God of all people upon the earth and he bring them to his holy city and make them part of his holy people.

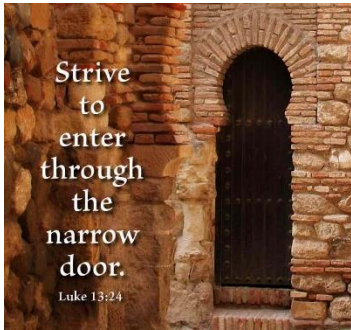
### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 12

The psalm continues the theme found in the First Reading and the Gospel – God reaches out to the nations of the earth.

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:5:7, 11-13

This reading, continuing from last Sunday, encourages the struggling faith community to “endure your trials as ‘discipline’” from the Lord. They are to learn from their faith-filled struggles, for such discipline will later bring with it “the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” No one seeks out suffering, but when accepted in fidelity to the Lord and worked through, it can become an occasion for drawing closer to God.

### GOSPEL: Luke 13:22-30



Someone asks Jesus, “Lord, will only a few people be saved?” Jesus responds first with the image of the narrow gate, clearly implying the challenge that salvation presents to all. Jesus’ parable concerning the master, who refuses entrance to those who claimed special relationship with him, sends a clear message that no one should presume to enter God’s banquet just because they claim a special, exclusive relationship with God. Entrance is based not on privilege or status, but rather on fidelity to God’s ways manifested by care and concern for all. Jesus warns them that many foreigners and those faithful to God’s ways will enter and recline at table in God’s Kingdom, while they will

be shut out. Jesus was emphasizing that entering the kingdom is not a question of belonging to a certain group of people. It is a question of committing oneself to the kingdom, even if that costs all that one has. His final warning warns us that when he returns, we could find ourselves standing outside the narrow gate, watching a diverse group of other people pass into the kingdom of God.

## Fall Sale Schedule

This year’s annual fall clothing, book, bake and household sale schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:00-7:00pm – Donations Accepted
- Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am-12:30pm – Donations Accepted
- Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am-6:00pm – Donations Accepted
- Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am-6:00pm – Sale Day
- Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am-5:00pm – Sale Day
- Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – 9:00am-2:00pm – Fill a Bag, Make a Donation



*NO EARLY SALES ~ NO DONATIONS OF TVS*

**BAKE SALE** – We will have a bake sale during the sale days. Donations of baked goods are greatly appreciated. Donations should be dropped off September 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> during the hours listed above. Any questions, please call Pat Gorda 570-404-8918.



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PRESENTATION

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## SYNOD REPORT AVAILABLE

For six months, people throughout our diocese responded to Pope Francis' call to the Synod on Synodality by sharing their hopes, concerns, and dreams for the Catholic Church. Some participated at listening sessions, and many others through an online survey. Through this participation, many themes began to emerge.

Our Diocesan Synthesis Report representing these themes has been submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and is also available for general review. To learn more and to review the synthesis report, please visit the [Synod on Synodality page](#) on our diocesan website [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).

## Up and Over Retreat

It has been a long time since we have had a retreat opportunity for middle school students due to the pandemic. Today, I want to invite our middle school students to our first Up and Over Retreat in three years! Up and Over will be held September 23-25 at Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas. This weekend is centered around how students can use their God given talents in order to work together with others. The weekend involves fun activities, mass, free time, a movie, and an outdoor obstacle course! It is a great opportunity for students to meet new friends and grow in their faith!

Registration will open on August 1st on the Diocese of Scranton's website [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org). The registration fee is \$180, and includes all meals, lodging, a t-shirt, and other retreat materials. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Kowalski at (570) 207-2213 or [skowalski@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:skowalski@dioceseofscranton.org). We hope to see some of our middle school students at one of our first in person retreats for a great weekend!



## CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Greetings Catholic Men - We are pleased to announce that our 7th annual Be A Catholic Man Conference is now open for registration. The Conference will be on October 8, 2022, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 S. Pennsylvania Blvd., Wilkes Barre, PA. and will be favored with nationally known Catholic Speakers: Father Stan Fortuna, Dr. Ralph Martin, and Kevin Wells. This year's theme is "Be Not Afraid" under the patronage of Saint Joseph. All of us are challenged to live virtuous lives in this secular world, --- whether single, married, or clergy. Men are encouraged to set this date aside and attend. There will be Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacramental Confession, and lunch break. Mass will be offered by the Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Bambera. For reservations, write a check payable to "Be A Catholic Man" for \$40.00 (early bird price \$30.00 till September 9th) and mail to: Bill Leandri, 239 Hayfield Road, Shavertown, Pa. 18708; or Online at [BeACatholicMan.com](http://BeACatholicMan.com). Questions, please contact Michael Kilmer, Conference Chairman, at 570-746-0100 or [michaelkilmer71@gmail.com](mailto:michaelkilmer71@gmail.com).



## **Thank You to all our parishioners who volunteered during VBS!**

**Adult Volunteers:** Tracy Buck, Mallory Hamm, Katie Harsch, Patty Kramer, Madeleine Mann, Steve Tokarz

**Student Volunteers:** Brayden Benjamin, Emily Benjamin, Evelyynn Buck, Gwenevere Buck, Isabella Hazelton, Jude Mann, Claire Smith, Luke Szentesy, Anna Tokarz, Stephen Tokarz

## **Second Annual Harrisburg March for Life Rally**

Pennsylvania Family Institute and Pennsylvania March for Life have joined forces to sponsor this year's **Second Annual Harrisburg March for Life Rally, Monday, September 19**, at the State Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pa. The day's schedule: 9:30 a.m. mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 212 State Street; 10 a.m., Prayer and Praise Rally, Main Stage, Front Capitol steps; 11 a.m., Rally with national speakers, Capitol front steps; 12 noon, march around Capitol Building; 1 p.m., Testimonials-Silent no More, Top of Front steps, Capitol Building and 1:30 p.m., mass, St. Patrick's Cathedral. Participants are encouraged to arrange to meet their state legislators before or after the rally. Registration for the event is not necessary, but if you would like to receive updates on the rally, please check out the 2022 Pennsylvania March for Life website. Area residents who would like to attend can make reservations through St. Thomas' or St. Peters' Church offices or by calling Tom Socha, 814-258-7386.

**“Jesus shows us the patience of God, the merciful Father who calls us even at the last hour, who does not demand perfection but heartfelt enthusiasm, who wants to open a breach in our hardened hearts.”**

**“Love goes beyond usefulness, convenience, or duty; love generates wonder, it inspires creative, freely-given zeal.”**

**“We need to pray always, even when everything seems in vain, when God appears to be deaf and mute and it seems we are wasting time. Even if heaven is overshadowed, the Christian does not stop praying.”**

**“Being disciples of Jesus and progressing along the path of holiness means first and foremost letting ourselves be transfigured by the power of God's love.”**







On Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, eleven parishioners from St. Peter's and Holy Child traveled to Our Lady of Victory National Shrine in Lackawanna, NY. The group participated in Mass on the Feast of the Assumption and enjoyed a guided tour of the Basilica. A dinner stop in Mt. Morris capped the day. Special thanks to the driver, Tom Sampson, and to Pastor Carl Linscott for loaning the Wellsboro Teen Center van - which provided a few good laughs for those who watched this group of "mature teens" climbing in and out!

**UPMC in North Central Pa. Pastoral Care Department** will be hosting a Volunteer Chaplain Assistant Training at UPMC Williamsport on September 28, 2022, from 9 AM - 3:30 PM. If you desire to be a spiritual companion for those who are sick in any of the UPMC hospitals in North Central Pa., please consider becoming a Volunteer Chaplain Assistant. Contact Jackie Perchinski at 570-321-2215 or [perchinskijm@upmc.edu](mailto:perchinskijm@upmc.edu) by September 16, 2022. We hope you can join our mission of extending God's healing love by providing an extraordinary patient experience throughout North Central Pa.

## SCHEDULING 2023 MASS INTENTIONS

Scheduling Mass intentions for 2023 is now open through the parish office, during regular business hours. **The following are the established guidelines for scheduling intentions:**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.





# Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Saint of the Week

St. Augustine

Feast Day—August 28

Very few men have had such an impact on Christianity as St. Augustine. He was born in AD 354 in North Africa, at that time a strong and dynamic Christian region. His father was a prominent pagan, but his mother, Monica, was a devout Christian. She intended that Augustine be baptized, but in his adolescence, he distanced himself from the Church and did not want to be baptized. He studied Latin literature and became a follower of an esoteric philosophy known as Manichaeism.

He had a mistress with whom he lived for fifteen years. She bore him a son, but he later broke off with her while living in Milan, where they had gone because he had been given a teaching position there. He found himself gradually more attracted to Christianity as he listened to the preaching of St. Ambrose, the bishop of Milan. But he resisted conversion, though his mother prayed persistently for him.

In a book entitled *The Confessions*, written in his later years as a spiritual and theological reflection on his life, Augustine describes the final steps to his conversion.

He had felt the tension between attachment to his sinful ways and attraction to Christ and the Gospel. One day in the year 386, he went crying into the garden of the house where he was staying with friends. He was weeping because of his inability to make a decision for conversion. But then he heard the voice of a child from a neighboring house singing the refrain, "Take it and read, take it and read." He picked up the Letters of St. Paul and read the first passage his eyes fell upon: "not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh" (Rom 13:13-14). Augustine recognized the grace of God in this reading and embraced conversion.

St. Augustine knew God's mercy in the forgiveness of sins gained for us by Jesus Christ. Today Catholics encounter this same mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance.

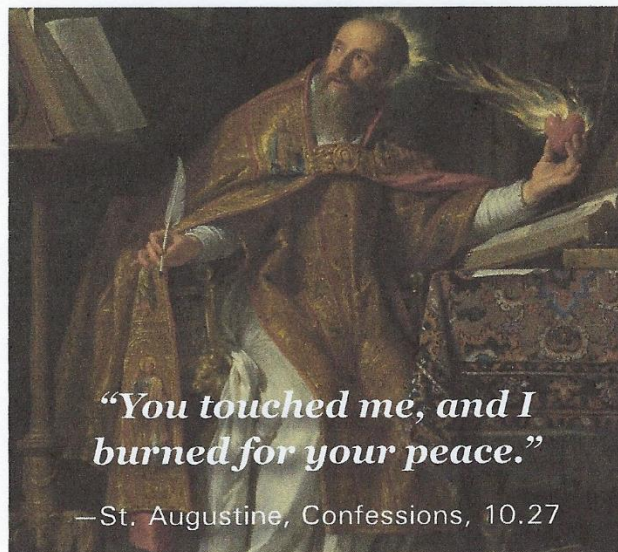
## Prayer

*A Prayer Before or After Reading Scripture from the Writings of St. Augustine*

Let your scriptures be my chaste delight . . .  
O Lord, perfect me and reveal those pages to me!  
See, your voice is my joy. Give me what I love . . .  
May the inner secrets of your words be laid open to me when I knock.

This I beg by our Lord Jesus Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col 2:3). These are the treasures I seek in your books.

—St. Augustine, *The Confessions*, bk. 11, chap. 2, nos. 2-4



*"You touched me, and I  
burned for your peace."*

—St. Augustine, *Confessions*, 10.27



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Please call the Rectory to  
place your ad here.

**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."*

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## Parish Prayer List

Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Mary Mekos, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighaus, Suzie Alexander, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Jerry Pierce, Joann Black, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Fran Rose, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Darleen Kohler, Victoria Salerno, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Paul Beuter, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Stephen Horvatch, Fr. Paul Mullen, Helene Carpenter, Clark Hewitt, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Elizabeth Payne, Cindy Sereno, Carolyn Tester, Richard Stankiewicz, Jim Callahan, Mary Antoniwi, Ruth Russell, Anne Marie Beuter, Skip Warriner, Stephanie Calicchia, Jacoby Aratari, Lou Kirby, Shannon Jones, Steve Ziemak, Cody Bowers, Carolyn Clark, Don Hayden, Shannon Slaton, Lisa Neil-Keller, Ann Callahan, John Harling, Shawn Wheeler, John Wheeler, Kayleigh Johnson, Mary Clark, Ruth Braham, Richard and Valerie Tobin, Shirley Dixon, Lucy Whitney, Adele Young, Suzan Richar, Lucille Keck, Gloria Fermenic, Alice Kohut, John Bowe, Kathy Wheeler, Phyllis Davis, Tom Patt, Sammi Swinnich, Raymond Butler, Michael Joseph Harris, Maggie Stirnaman, Jane Johnson, Maureen Bailey, George Hill, Luis Ang, Colleen Rose, and Kami Maloof.



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.