

St. Peter's Church



47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
Parish Office: 570-724-3371~ Fax: 570-724-6322
Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789
Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.com

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00am–1:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jacek Bialkowski
Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net
Bookkeeper: Louise Wheaton – stpadm@ptd.net
Religious Education: Melissa Mann – stpreled@ptd.net
Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Rob Minnich

Schedule of Weekend Masses

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

Reconciliation

Tuesday through Friday, 11:45am-12:00pm;
Saturday, 4:30-4:50pm; or by appointment

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 27, 2023

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 – 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 _____

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE CARE OF CREATION**
September 1

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which He has entrusted to our care, and to implore His help for the protection of creation as well as His pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.

POPE FRANCIS

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
Diane Bill 516/458-9130
Church Decorations – Sue Singer 570/948-2184
Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570/439-2591
Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570/724-4529
Dinner Committee – Karen Novak 570/982-5115
Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570/724-2085
Samaritan House – Mary D. Grab 607/857-3447
Youth Group – Melissa Mann 570/724-9789
Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570/724-3092
Finance Council – Tim Gooch – 570/971-5826
Parish Council – Steve Tokarz 570/404-0693
Worship Committee – Christina Simonis 570/724-2085
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
Fundraising Committee – Tim Gooch 570/971-5826
Knights of Columbus – Mike Buono 717/320-2305
Welcoming Committee – Melissa Mann 570/724-9789

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 8/28	No Mass	
Tuesday 8/29	12:10pm	In Memory of Beth Patt (Frank Patt & Family)
Wednesday 8/30	12:10pm	In Memory of Rosemary Stutz (Husband Walter)
Thursday 8/31	12:10pm	In Memory of Stan Dragovich (Family)
Friday 9/1	12:10pm	In Memory of Joseph & Clara Patt (Marion Patt)
Saturday 9/2	5:00pm Mass is livestreamed	Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 9/3	8:30am	In Memory of Henry Topf (Wife Cindy)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Stanley & Elaine Myslinski (Tom & Linda Sampson)

Parish News and Activities

Church Hours/Adoration

The church will be open for private prayer, Monday through Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm. From 8:00-9:00am, the only entrance will be through the door on the main parking lot side. From 9:00am-5:00pm, the front door and carport entrance will be open. If for some reason the main door is not unlocked, please enter through the parking lot door, as this entrance will always be open from 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Saturday, the church will be open from 8:00am-4:30pm using only the parking lot door. The front and carport doors will be unlocked at 4:15pm 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.

Flower Arrangements

Parishioners are now able to purchase the flower arrangements that are placed at the altar, tabernacle, or by the Mary statue in memory or in honor of someone. The cost is as follows:
 Altar Flower Arrangements-1 arrangement \$70, 2 arrangements \$140
 Tabernacle Arrangements - 2 arrangements \$40
 Mary Arrangement - 1 arrangement \$25

You may request a particular flower(s) or color scheme and Akiko's will do their best to honor that if at all possible. The Arrangements will arrive in time for the weekend Masses and remain for the following week. Please stop in or call the rectory for available dates. The Memorial/Honorarium will be listed in the bulletin.

Parish Prayer List

To add a name to the bulletin prayer list, please contact the Parish Office at 570/724-3371. For privacy reasons, the person making the request must be an immediate family member. This would include a spouse, child, sibling, parent, or grandparent of the person to be added.

Happening This Week

Sunday, August 27th

Coffee Social - following the 8:30am Mass;
Parish Center

Tuesday, August 29th

Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm; Church

Wednesday, August 30th

Dinner Committee Meeting - 10:00am; Parish Center
 Finance Council Meeting - 10:00am; Parish Office

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for August 20, 2023: \$5,317.85
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00
 Difference: -\$782.15
 Year to Date Budget Variance: \$297.70

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

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day

Liturgical Reflection ~ 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19-23

The First Reading describes the transfer of authority as Shebna is removed from his high post, master of the palace, and a new leader, Eliakim, is put in his place and invested with all his power. God is the giver of authority. According to the Second Book of Kings (22:8), Eliakim's father Hilkiah had brought honor to his family by finding a copy of the book of the Law that was the impetus for reforms instituted by King Josiah. Now Eliakim has the opportunity to bring further honor by acting as a wise father, a careful guardian, and a living symbol of stability.

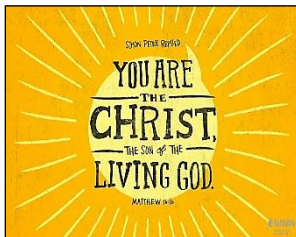
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 138

In Psalm 138, we ask God to be involved in our lives, to stay with his creation and continue to bless "the work of your hands." The psalm is a hymn of thanksgiving for the many ways in which the Lord has blessed the psalmist.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:33-36

This wonderful meditation on the mystery of God concludes the sequence of reading we have heard about the Jewish people. Faced with the reality that most of his Jewish kindred have not accepted Jesus, Paul utilizes his own experience and education in creating a solution to this painful situation. After all his complicated explanations, Paul seemed to realize that his arguments couldn't answer all his questions; the mystery of God's saving plan is beyond human comprehension. We can only wonder and trust in the wisdom of God. Having exhausted his capacity to provide a cogent explanation to the Jewish people about God's plan of salvation, Paul shifts to give praise and glory to God. Ultimately, it is not a logical explanation of the great mysteries, but lived participation in them, enhanced by prayer, that is most important for Paul and for all who believe in Jesus.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20



Who is Jesus? Answers to this question are woven throughout the Gospel accounts, inspiring all who hear the story to answer questions for themselves. When Jesus asks his disciples how they would answer the question, Simon Peter speaks for the group – Jesus is the Christ, the long awaited Messiah. Jesus praises Peter, calling him blessed and the recipient of God's revelation. In the First Reading God chose Eliakim as a leader for his people. Here, Jesus chooses Peter. Peter is chosen not because of his

leadership potential - just two Sunday's ago our reading showed us a Peter who boldly stepped out onto the sea but whose confidence quickly faded at the sight of the waves. Rather, Peter is chosen because he has learned to listen to the voice of God – for it is through God that Peter is able to recognize Jesus as the Christ. Peter is called the "rock", but the strength of the Church built upon him does not come from Peter, but rather from God.

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. 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.

Join us for Coffee and Conversation!



Our final Coffee Social for the season is being hosted by ChristLife after both Masses this weekend, Saturday August 26 & Sunday, August 27.

Please join us in the Parish Center.
All are welcome!



Religious Education News

Religious Education classes for the 2023-24 year will begin on **Sunday, September 17th**. Registration forms will be mailed to families this week and extra forms can be found in the box outside the Religious Education Office. For new students, please contact Melissa Mann, Director of Religious Education, at stpreled@ptd.net or 570/724-9789.

We are in need of several catechists to join this important ministry. All necessary materials, teaching resources, and support will be provided. As a catechist, not only will you be nurturing the children of our parish, but you will also grow in your faith and deepen your own relationship with Jesus. If you are willing to commit a few hours a week sharing your faith, please contact Melissa Mann in the Religious Education Office.

St. Peter's Polish Dinner

Friday, September 29th
4:30pm – 6:30pm or until sold out

Take-out or Dine-In the Parish Center

Adults: \$15.00
Age 12 and under: \$5.00
Age 3 and under: Free

Pierogi Sauerkraut Kielbasa
Halupki (stuffed cabbage)
Hot Dogs Applesauce
Homemade Desserts



Fall Fest

To benefit St. Thomas Parish

Saturday, September 9, 2023
Knoxville Fireman's Field
10:00am – 4:00pm

Chicken BBQ* Food* Games* Basket Raffle
and More!

First Saturday Pilgrimages St. Mary's Church, Blossburg

A carpool is available each First Saturday of the month for those who wish to attend these services. Mass begins at 9:30am, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions. The service concludes with Benediction at 11:00am. Those who wish to join the carpool meet at Whitneyville Fairgrounds at 9:00am. Contact Linda Sampson at 570/404-2180.



The Social Concerns Committee wishes to thank all who so generously donated items for the recent Back to School collection for area students. Your continued support of our projects is greatly appreciated.

SCHEDULING 2024 MASS INTENTIONS

Scheduling Mass intentions for 2024 will be available beginning September 5th 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 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 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 in honor of someone, is available on a weekly basis with no limit to the number each family may reserve. The stipend given for the Sanctuary Candle is \$10.

Fall Rummage Sale Schedule

St. Peter's Parish Center

Donation Drop-Off Dates

Saturday, Sept. 9th – Donations accepted after the 5:00pm Mass

Sunday, Sept. 10th – Donations accepted after the 8:30am Mass

Monday, Sept. 11th – Donations accepted from 9:00am – 6:00pm

Sale Dates

Tuesday, Sept. 12th – 9:00am – 6:00pm

Wednesday, Sept. 13th – 9:00am – 5:00pm

Thursday, Sept. 14th – 9:00am – 2:00pm; Fill a bag for a donation

~ NO EARLY SALES – NO DONATIONS OF TV'S ~

Volunteers are needed (especially men) during set up and tear down to help move tables and racks. Please see the sign-up sheets at the back of the church for all volunteer opportunities.



CHRISTLIFE™

SAVE THE DATES!

Discovering Christ is slated to begin its 2023 program of free dinners, inspiring teaching and small group faith sharing on **Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00pm** for 7 consecutive Wednesdays, plus a retreat on Saturday, November 4th.

Those intending to participate in this Spirit-filled program, please contact Norb Josten at 570/724-9095 or at norb.josten@gmail.com. You can also sign-up during the after-Mass socials hosted by ChristLife this weekend in the Parish Center.



Members of St. Peter's Parish at the ChristLife Conference in Severna Park, Maryland on August 17-19 at St. John the Evangelist Church.

Fall 2023 Events
Sponsored by Marian Ministries



Mt. Saviour Retreat

Saturday, September 23rd
9am-3:15pm

All parishioners of St. Peter's, St. Thomas', St. Catherine's, Holy Child, and St. Mary's parishes are invited to participate in this pilgrimage. Mt. Saviour Monastery is a sacred place of rest and peace where pilgrims from around the world seek hospitality and spiritual refreshment. Our group will leave St. Peter's parking lot at 7:45am and arrive at the monastery for Mass at 9am. (We'll form a carpool or use the Teen Center Van.) A continental breakfast will be provided, followed by a brief talk given by one of the monks. For the remainder of the morning, Theresa Delmotte will speak about angels and their roles in our lives. We will join the Benedictine community for Midday prayer (Sext) followed by lunch from Subway. The afternoon hours are free for personal prayer, reflection, and browsing the bookstore, and hopefully, Confessions. The retreat will end with Midafternoon prayer (None.) Departure for home will be at 3:15pm. **Deadline for registration: Sunday, September 17th.** A free-will donation of 10.00/person is suggested.

- **REGISTRATION FOR MT. SAVIOUR** : Use the sign-up sheets at your parishes or text Linda Sampson at (570) 404-2180 or Laurie Coffee at (703) 470-2975. **Contact information must be provided to secure registrations.** You can also register by sending an email to marian-ministries@outlook.com.

Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage

September 30, 2023

Catholics from around the country will unite on Saturday, September 30, 2023, to seek the intercession of our Lady. The Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage is hosted by the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. The event will take place on Saturday, September 30th. Most of us will not be able to attend in person, but we can pray the Rosary with the community on that day. For more information about this powerful event, visit Rosarypilgrimage.org This may be a future pilgrimage destination!

Living Rosary

October 2023

The Living Rosary will be updated and prayed from October 1st-31st. Those who have been praying throughout the past year may continue with their decade of choice but are asked to contact Laurie Coffee to sign up for October 2023. Many of you may be attached to the decades you've been praying, so please continue with them. However, others felt that the ongoing, annual commitment was a challenge. Therefore, Marian Ministries will sponsor the Living Rosary in the months of May and October only.

We need 40 people to pray one decade each day (the same decade for 31 days) so that all four sets of the mysteries are covered. Participants will gather for a social at St. Mary's Church following First Saturday services on November 4th. For more information or to sign up, call Laurie Coffee (703) 470-2975 or email laurie.coffee@gmail.com.

**An Invitation to All Parishioners of St. Peter's, Holy Child,
St. Thomas, St. Catherine's, and St. Mary's Parishes**

Afternoon of Reflection

"In the Breaking of the Bread"

Sunday, October 8, 2023

11:30am-6pm, St. Peter's Church



Mary Clare Hallman, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life, will lead us through an Afternoon of Reflection on the Eucharist. Using the Emmaus story, Mary will speak about how we connect our personal lives and stories - blessed, broken, and offered - to the celebration of the Eucharist. We will ponder the Blessed Mother as the first "chalice" that held the Body of Christ.

The event will begin with Mass at 11:30am at St. Peter's Church. The program will include Mary's Presentation, the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, Evening Prayer, and Benediction. Following the Holy Hour, participants are invited to a catered meal in the Parish Center. We suggest a free-will offering of \$10 to assist with costs. **Deadline for registration: Sunday, September 24th. Register with the tear-off strip or use the sign-up sheets in your church.**

Please note: Contact information *must be* provided to secure your registration.

Program:

- 11:30am Mass at St. Peter's Church

- 12:30pm Introductions and refreshments in the Parish Center

- 1:00pm Mary's Presentation: "*In the Breaking of the Bread.*"

- 2:00pm Break

- 2:15pm Decade of the Rosary and Presentation

- 3:15pm Break

- 3:30pm Holy Hour in the Church, Music/Meditation, Exposition, Adoration, Confessions,
Evening Prayer & Benediction

- 4:30-6:00pm Catered Dinner and Social in the Parish Center.

NAME _____ NUMBER ATTENDING _____

PHONE NUMBER _____


EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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

<p>Advertise with us! See your ad here</p>	<p>WALRATH & COOLIDGE Probate & Estate Administration Real Estate Personal Injury 570-724-3801 R. Lowell Coolidge, Esq • Priscilla Walrath, Esq Fax: 570-724-7239 126 Main St • Wellsboro, PA</p>  <p>Wills • Corporate Adoptions Family Law</p>	<p>Take advantage of a unique marketing opportunity and advertise in the church bulletin.</p>
<p><i>Akiko's Floral Arts</i>  31 East Avenue Wellsboro (570) 724-1509 "If Akiko's Not Your Florist, She Should Be" Shop24/7 at www.akikos.com Akiko, Clark & Joe Hewitt</p>	<p>OVER 125 YEARS OF SERVICE TUSSEY-MOSHER FUNERAL HOME, LTD. Calvin T. Mosher, Supervisor 139 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-4637 TusseyMosher.com</p>	<p>Call the rectory at 570/ 724-3371 for information</p>
<p> 25 Main Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 570-723-4263 www.popscultureshoppe.com Games * Imagination * Fun Your proprietors Julian and Anja Stam Consider it all joy! James 1:2</p>	<p> Hunting~Fishing~Trapping~Trekking 1803 Route 287, Morris 570-404-6159 www.Nessmuks.com A Family Owned Small Business Zack & Tracy Buck</p>	<p>A Gift in Your Will We hope you'll consider including a gift to St. Peter's Church in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share this sample bequest language for St. Peter's Church with your estate planning attorney:</p>
<p> MITCHELL'S CARQUEST AUTO PARTS FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1950 kenneth@mitchellcarquest.com 688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933 T 570.662.2277 F 570.662.1078  Kenneth Mitchell Owner</p>	<p> Stephen F. Tokarz • Artisan • Craftsman Specializing in Custom Wood Products 570-404-0693 Established in Tioga County, PA</p>	<p>"I, [name], of [city, state, zip], give, devise, and bequeath to St. Peter's Church, Wellsboro [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose."</p>

Parish Prayer List

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, 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, Paul Beuter, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Stephen Horvatch, Fr. Paul Mullen, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Elizabeth Payne, Cindy Sereno, Carolyn Tester, Richard Stankiewicz, Jim Callahan, Mary Antoniow, Ruth Russell, Anne Marie Beuter, Skip Warriner, Stephanie Calicchia, Jacoby Aratari, Lou Kirby, Shannon Jones, Steve Ziemak, Cody Bowers, Carolyn Clark, Don Hayden, 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, Gloria Fermenic, Alice Kohut, John Bowe, Kathy Wheeler, Phyliss Davis, Sammi Swinnich, Raymond Butler, Michael Joseph Harris, Maggie Stirnaman, Jane Johnson, Maureen Bailey, George Hill, Kami Maloof, Don Gordon, B.J. Butler, Christopher Moore, Jasmine Gordon, Kassie Nowak, Sr. Sally Villa, SSJ.

 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.