

# 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-2:00pm

## Parish Staff

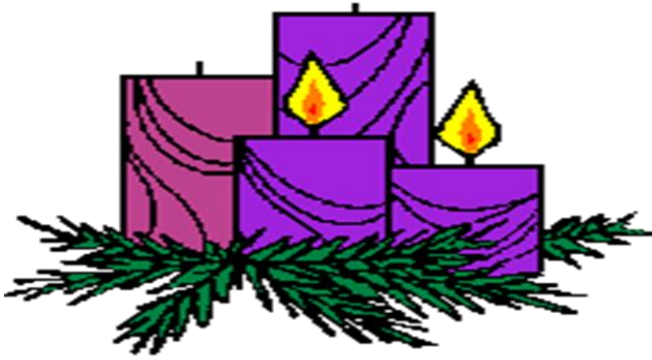
Pastor: Rev. Jacek Bialkowski  
Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net  
Bookkeeper: Melissa Mann – stpadm@ptd.net  
Religious Education: Jen Minnich – stpreled@ptd.net  
Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Rob Minnich

## Schedule of Weekend Masses

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

## Reconciliation

Tuesday through Friday, 11:45am-12:10pm;  
Saturday, 4:30-5:00pm; or by appointment



## *Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 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 – 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Advent Prayer**

**God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen**

### **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 – Jen Minnich 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 12/11	No Mass	
Tuesday 12/12	12:10pm	In Memory of Henry Sulewski (Daughter; Kathy)
Wednesday 12/13	12:10pm	In Memory of John Cherba (BJ Butler & Family)
Thursday 12/14	12:10pm	In Memory of Robert T. Sladowski (Janet Perkowski Bober)
Friday 12/15	12:10pm	In Memory of Patrick Benson (Norb & Nona Josten)
Saturday 12/16	5:00pm *Mass is livestreamed	Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 12/17	8:30am	In Memory of David Francis Sweeney (Lori Makos)

**Church Hours / Adoration**

**Monday – Friday:** The church doors will be open for private prayer from 8:00am – 5:00pm. If the main doors of the church are locked, please enter through the side parking lot door.

**Saturday:** The side parking lot door (only) will be open from 8:00am – 4:30pm for private prayer. All church doors will be unlocked at 4:30pm for Mass.

**Sunday:** All church doors will be unlocked at 8:00am for Mass and will remain open until 9:30am when religious education classes begin.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will take place on Tuesdays from 1:00pm - 6:00pm, with Benediction.

**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, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Religious Education Classes  
8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12

**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

Women's Bible Study – 10:00am; Adult Ed. Room  
Adoration – 1:00pm – 6:00pm; Church  
Parish Council Meeting – 6:30pm; Parish Center

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Office Closed

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Religious Education Classes –  
8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12  
Advent Penance Service – 3:00pm; Holy Child

**Stewardship**

Sunday Collection for December 3, 2023: \$9,254.00  
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00  
Difference: \$3,154.00  
Year to Date Budget Variance: \$2,359.65

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

**Inclement Weather Policy**

For the Safety of our parishioners, if the local schools are **closed**, there will be no daily Mass or Adoration. The church will remain open for private prayer using the parking lot side entrance.

## St. Peter's Parish Directories Are Here!

The Parish Directory has arrived! Reserved copies can be found on the sign-up table at the back of the church for parishioners who participated by having their photo taken. If your photo is in the directory, **please find the copy with your name on it and sign the sheet, indicating that you received it.**

A limited number of extra copies are in the parish office and will be available on a first come, first served basis during regular office hours; Monday through Thursday, 9:00am – 2:00pm. One copy per family, please.



## Two Books To Enrich Your Advent & Christmas Journey

Available in the back of the church, while supplies last, are two wonderfully enriching new books from Dynamic Catholic Ministries.

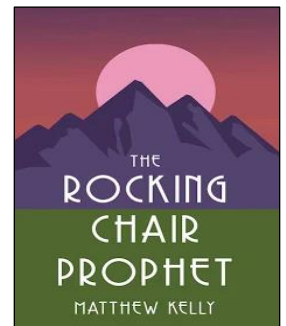


### **Beautiful Eucharist**

“Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist should be like touching Heaven, and that should change the way we live here on earth!” *Beautiful Eucharist* is an amazing collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in our lives.

### **The Rocking Chair Prophet**

Matthew Kelly's first novel is a fascinating and transformational story of recovering peace and joy after tragic, heart-rending loss. Kelly has masterfully woven into the story a piercing wisdom that is thought-provoking on a life-changing scale. This is destined to be a book you'll want to return to time and again, and to share with those you love.



## 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.

## PARISHIONERS WANTED TO LIGHT CANDLES

We are still in need of parishioners or families to light the Advent wreath at one of the weekend Masses during Advent. A sign-up sheet can be found on the table at the back of the church. Those lighting the candles should wait for Fr. Jacek by the main doors of the church prior to Mass. You will then process in behind the altar servers and lector, light the appropriate candle(s), then return to your pew.



## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Share Christmas joy  
with a local child, family, or nursing home resident!

Select a tag from our Giving Tree in the church. Gifts for children should be placed in a gift bag, UNWRAPPED, with a tree tag attached. Items for Seeds of Hope should be placed in the box provided.

Children's gifts and Seeds of Hope items should be brought to the church by **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**. For nursing home residents, please follow the directions on the tag.

Questions? Please call Ginny Reindl at 570/506-0608.



Scan to donate  
or visit  
[annualappeal.org](http://annualappeal.org)



As we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12, your gift to the **Diocesan Annual Appeal** helps build Hispanic ministry programs in many parishes.

## Advent Penance Service

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
at 3:00pm

Holy Child Parish, Mansfield



## Advent Materials

There is a selection of free Advent materials on the handout table at the back of the church to enrich your Advent season.

# Christmas Mass Schedule



## **Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00pm at Saint Peter's** - Music will be led by Young People's Choir.

**6:00pm at St. Peter's** – Music will be led by St. Peter's Music Ministry with organ, trumpet, piano, and others.

## **Christmas Day Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am at St. Peter's** – Christmas Carols and music led by cantors.

**11:30am at St. Thomas**



### Come Sing With Us!

**Children:** Young People's Choir will lead Christmas Carols and singing at the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Anyone who would like to sing, please come to the music room after Religious Education classes to prepare over the next few weeks. Practice will end at 11:15am. Call Mrs. Simonis at 570/724-2085 with any questions.

**Everyone:** St. Peter's Music Ministry welcomes anyone who can lend voice or instrument. We are preparing for the 6:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS. All those interested should please see us at the piano after Mass or call Christina Simonis at 570/724-2085.

### **CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS**

Special Christmas Mass Intention envelopes can be found in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Christmas Masses to remember your intentions. Please place your Christmas Mass intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

### **CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL**

Each Christmas, the flowers in the church during the season memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket.

### Year-End Donations

2023 financial statements will be prepared upon request. **All donations must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> to be included on your 2023 statement.** If you would like to request a donation statement, please call the rectory, or write *send statement* on your weekly offering envelope.



### **Knights of Columbus News**

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the **Tioga County Coats for Kids Program** by collecting **new socks** to help those in need in our area. There is a box in the entryway of the church for donations. Socks will be collected until January 22, 2024.

#### Meeting Date Change

The Knights of Columbus meeting for this month will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

thank  
you!

**Thank you** to everyone who helped at this year's Dickens bread pudding booth! A special thanks to Sue Sticklin and Lisa Banik. A profit of \$3,728.37 was raised in support of the parish.

**Thank you** also to the following parishioners and students who helped park cars for the Dickens youth group fundraiser: Cameron Lane, Stephen Tokarz, Steve Tokarz, and Terra Tokarz.

## Votive Candles

The votive candles in the church have been temporarily moved to accommodate the Remembrance Tree. The candles are now located near the carport entrance (next to The Pieta), and they will be moved back to their regular place in the church after Christmas.

The **Marian Ministries Team** invites and encourages women from our parishes to take advantage of this amazing opportunity to rest, reflect, and begin the New Year. A carpool or other transportation may be sought, depending on the number of reservations. Email [marian-ministries@outlook.com](mailto:marian-ministries@outlook.com) or call Linda Sampson @ 570-404-2180.



DIOCESE OF  
SCRANTON

Women's Retreat

# Bold and Beloved

*Inspired by the teaching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*

## January 26-28, 2024

Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center  
1000 Seminary Rd, Dalton, PA 18414



For more information, contact the Office for Parish Life (570) 207-2213 x1100

Register at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/BoldandBeloved>



\$75 student  
\$125 shared room  
\$175 single room



Talks and Music Ministry by



**Kara Kardell**  
Sinner striving for sainthood.  
Wife and mother of 3.



**Fred Shellabarger**  
Husband. Father. Spiritual Arsonist.  
Big Kid Who Loves Jesus.

# The Christmas Remembrance Tree at St. Peter's Parish



This is a beautiful way to remember a loved one, living or deceased, as we adorn the tree near the altar.

The ornament you sponsor will be displayed throughout Advent and the Christmas Season.

Each ornament will display a name tag with your name and the loved one you are remembering or honoring.

There will be a Mass offered for all those named on the tree during the season along with a commemorative booklet for a keepsake.

Please select your sponsored ornament from the color/price as follows:

- Angel Tree Topper -- \$200
- Gold -- \$100
- Silver -- \$50
- Blue -- \$25
- Red -- \$10
- Flocked Pine Cone -- \$5

To sponsor your ornament, complete the bottom portion of this form and return it to the Parish Office with your payment by December 11<sup>th</sup>. The booklet will be sent to the printer on that date.

Please contact Melissa in the Parish Office (570/724-3371) with any questions.

Return this form to the Rectory

Make checks payable to *St. Peter's Parish*

\_\_\_\_\_ Angel Tree Topper \$200      \_\_\_\_\_ Gold \$100      \_\_\_\_\_ Silver \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Blue \$25      \_\_\_\_\_ Red \$10      \_\_\_\_\_ Flocked Pine Cone \$5

Person's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:    In Honor of (living)                      In Memory of (deceased)

Requested By (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_




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

<p><b>Advertise with us!</b> <b>See your ad here</b></p>	<p><b>WALRATH &amp; COOLIDGE</b>          Probate &amp; Estate Administration          Real Estate          Personal Injury  <b>570-724-3801</b>          Wills • Corporate Adoptions          Family Law          R. Lowell Coolidge, Esq • Priscilla Walrath, Esq          Fax: 570-724-7239 126 Main St • Wellsboro, PA</p>	<p><b>Take advantage of a unique marketing opportunity and advertise in the church bulletin.</b></p>
<p><i>Akiko's Floral Arts</i>            31 East Avenue          Wellsboro          (570) 724-1509  <b>"If Akiko's Not Your Florist, She Should Be"</b>          Shop24/7 at <a href="http://www.akikos.com">www.akikos.com</a>          Akiko, Clark &amp; Joe Hewitt</p>	<p><b>OVER 125 YEARS OF SERVICE</b>  <b>TUSSEY-MOSHER</b>          FUNERAL HOME, LTD.          Calvin T. Mosher, Supervisor          139 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901          (570) 724-4637   <a href="http://TusseyMosher.com">TusseyMosher.com</a></p>	<p><b>Call the rectory at 570/ 724-3371 for information</b></p>
<p>          25 Main Street          Wellsboro, PA 16901          570-723-4263  <a href="http://www.popscultureshoppe.com">www.popscultureshoppe.com</a>  <b>Games * Imagination * Fun</b>          Your proprietors Julian and Anja Stam          Consider it all joy! James 1:2</p>	<p>  <b>NESSMUK'S SPORTING GOODS</b>          Hunting~Fishing~Trapping~Trekking          1803 Route 287, Morris 570-404-6159  <a href="http://www.Nessmuks.com">www.Nessmuks.com</a>          A Family Owned Small Business  <b>Zack &amp; Tracy Buck</b></p>	<p><b>A Gift in Your Will</b>          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>  <b>TOKARZ</b>          CUSTOM WOODWORK          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, 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 Fermeric, Alice Kohut, John Bowe, Kathy Wheeler, Phyliss Davis, Sammi Swinnich, Raymond Butler, Maggie Stirnaman, Jane Johnson, Maureen Bailey, George Hill, Kami Maloof, Don Gordon, Christopher Moore, Jasmine Gordon, Kassie Nowak, Sr. Sally Villa, SSJ, Bill Cizek, Carter Benjamin

 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.