

St. Peter's Church



*Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022*

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

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, 4:20-4:50pm; or by appointment

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 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 _____

Advent Prayer

God of power and mercy,
open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us
from receiving Christ with joy, so
that we may share his wisdom and
become one with him when he
comes in glory, for he lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. 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 – 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 – Steve Tokarz 570-404-0693
Worship Committee – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085
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 12/12	No Mass	
Tuesday 12/13	12:10pm	In Memory of Patrick Joseph Feinberg (Jan Bernethy)
Wednesday 12/14	No Mass	
Thursday 12/15	12:10pm	In Memory of Eileen Evert (Ida Dziengowski)
Friday 12/16	12:10pm	In Memory of Wayne Singer (Sue Singer)
Saturday 12/17	5:00pm (Mass is livestreamed)	In Memory of John & Marion Cumiskey (Family)
Sunday 12/18	8:30am	In Memory of Katie Stirnaman (Richard & Patty Kramer)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Rocco Cimino (Tony & Julie Cimino)

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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

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

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for November 27, 2022: \$3,662.55
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00
 Difference: \$-2,437.45
 Year to Date Budget Variance: (\$-7,933.30)

Sunday Collection for December 5, 2022: \$7,069.00
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00
 Difference: \$969.00
 Year to Date Variance: (\$-6,964.30)

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

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 11th

Religious Education classes –
 8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12
 Confirmation Prep Class – 6:00pm, Parish Center
 Penance Service – 6:00pm, St. Peter’s

Tuesday, December 13th

Women’s Bible Study – 10:00am, Parish Center
 Adoration – 1:00pm – 6:00pm, Church

Sunday, December 18th

Religious Education classes –
 8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12
 Youth Group Christmas Party – 10:45am - 12:00pm, high school room
 Penance Service – 3:00pm, Holy Child

Liturgical Reflection ~ Third Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Today's First Reading is one of the hopeful visions. There is much joy and anticipation as we await rare desert flowers and miraculous cures. God restores all that has become barren to former beauty, and those who have been taken captive in Babylon will be freed and will enter Zion (Jerusalem) singing. What encouragement for the feeble and the frightened, to hear they will be made whole again!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 146

Psalm 146 is a song of praise, giving thanks to God for all that he has done. The response is fashioned from Isaiah 35:4, reiterating the notion that our God will come and save us. The tense of the psalm reminds us that this is not a concept from of old, but a reality for today. Psalm 146 is the joyful prayer of one who has lived through terrible times, only to shine forth praising God's name. Faith and trust are learned amidst pain and suffering.

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

Patience is a difficult virtue to learn and act upon. None of us wants to hear "in God's time". We want what we want now. Yet, in his wisdom, James counsels that we must wait patiently and joyously, and to never give up. Temptation and rash judgments are things which can get us into trouble when we do not think things through and spontaneously act upon our desires. We must be patient.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

Last Sunday's reading from Matthew introduced John the Baptist's call to repent in order to prepare for the arrival of God's final rule, which he described as "the coming wrath". He indicated awareness that he himself was not the Messiah, but his forerunner. It is ironic that as we speak of waiting, John the Baptist becomes impatient and sends his disciples to inquire, "are you [Jesus] the one who is to come or should we look for another?" He seems disappointed that there is not a big, fiery finish. Jesus rebukes him and, paraphrasing Isaiah says that the prophecies have now been fulfilled. However, realizing he responded quickly, Jesus goes on to tell the crowds the great things that John has done.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament. Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears purple vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation— especially prayer and fasting—for Christmas. For this same reason, the third candle of the Advent wreath, first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored. Gaudete Sunday has a counterpart in Lent: Laetare Sunday. God is at work turning sorrow to joy!



Advent Penance Service

St. Peter's

Dec. 11th

6:00pm

Advent
PREPARING THE WAY

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

4:00pm - St. Peter's

6:00pm - St. Peter's

Christmas Day

9:00am - St. Peter's

11:30am - St. Thomas

1:00pm - St. Catherine



The Christmas Remembrance Tree at St. Peter's Parish



This is a beautiful way to remember a loved one living or deceased as you 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.

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 -- \$25
- Flocked Pine Cone -- \$5

To sponsor your ornament, please complete the bottom portion of this form and return it to the rectory with your payment by December 11th. The booklet will be sent to the printer on that date. Please call the rectory 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

_____ Red \$25 _____ Blue \$25 _____ Flocked Pine Cone \$5

Person's Name (please print) _____

Requested By (please print) _____

Amount Enclosed _____

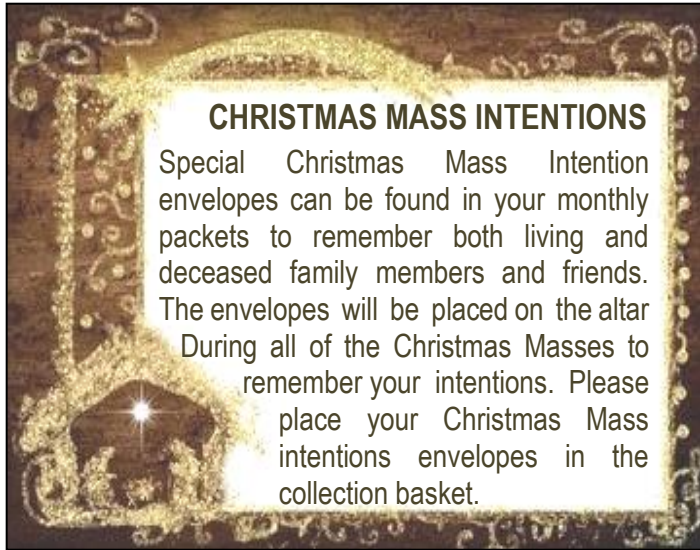


Marian Ministries




Living Rosary Update

Participants from St. Peter's and Holy Child parishes have offered two Living Rosaries to our Blessed Mother every day throughout October. What a gift of grace, given and received! We plan to continue this devotion through the end of December, when we will re-evaluate the participants' desire to continue. Ideally, we hope to offer at least one Living Rosary indefinitely. Contact Linda Sampson if you are no longer able to pray your chosen decade or if you would like to join the Living Rosary family. (Email sampson4509@gmail.com; text or call 570-404-2180).



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 intention 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

2022 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31st to be included on your 2022 statement.

If you would like a 2022 statement, please call the rectory, or write *send statement* on your weekly offering envelope.

Diocesan Annual Appeal

The money that is raised through the Diocesan Annual Appeal will help to continue the mission of our Church in the Diocese of Scranton by providing programs and ministries to bring the love of Christ to our neighbors, our children, and those most in need.

Our parish goal this year remains at \$43,000.
Total raised: \$20,570.

We appreciate any support that you might be able to give to the Appeal to help continue the spread of the gospel in our local Church. Blank pledge envelopes can be found near the front doors of the church. Thank you, and may God bless you!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE


Share Christmas joy with a child, nursing home resident or family helped by Seeds of Hope. Select a red ornament for a child, green ornament for a nursing home resident or white for Seeds of Hope.

Please place the gifts for children, UNWRAPPED, in a Christmas gift bag, place the tag attached to the ornament on the bag and put it under the tree by Sunday, December 11.

Place the items for Seeds of Hope in the box near the tree by Sunday, December 11.

Please deliver the gift items for Broad Acres or Green Home residents in person, by December 24, as the visit from you is as important as the gift! These residents may not have any family members or friends that will visit them during the holiday.

Questions? Call BJ Butler- 570-724-2222.




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

 <p>UNITED CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES, INC. SOCIAL MINISTRY</p> <p>V.E. Boley, Ph.D. E.D. Clemens Executive Director Director of Operations</p> <p>Ph: (570) 944-0106 7534 Route 49 Fax: (570) 827-3063 P.O. Box 25 Email: unitedchristianministries.inc@gmail.com Elkland, PA 16920 Website: ucministries.org</p>	<p>WALRATH & COOLIDGE</p> <p>Probate & Estate Administration Real Estate Personal Injury</p>  <p>Wills • Corporate Adoptions Family Law</p> <p>570-724-3801 R. Lowell Coolidge, Esq • Priscilla Walrath, Esq Fax: 570-724-7239 126 Main St • Wellsboro, PA</p>	<p>Great relationships Great conversations Great futures</p> <p>Connect with us: bakertilly.com Two Wain Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 +1 (570) 724 5000</p>  <p>now, for tomorrow.</p> <p>© 2020 Baker Tilly US, LLP.</p>
<p><i>Akiko's Floral Arts</i></p>  <p>31 East Avenue Wellsboro</p> <p>(570) 724-1509</p> <p>"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</p> <p>TUSSEY-MOSHER FUNERAL HOME, LTD.</p> <p>Calvin T. Mosher, Supervisor</p> <p>139 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901 (570) 724-4637 TusseyMosher.com</p>	<p>CARQUEST AUTO PARTS</p> <p>MITCHELL'S CARQUEST AUTO PARTS FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1950</p> <p>kenneth@mitchellcarquest.com 688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933 T 570.662.2277 F 570.662.1078</p>  <p>Kenneth Mitchell Owner</p>
 <p>25 Main Street Wellsboro, PA 16901 570-723-4263</p> <p>www.popscultureshoppe.com</p> <p>Games * Imagination * Fun Your proprietors Julian and Anja Stam Consider it all joy! James 1:2</p>	<p>NESSMUK'S SPORTING GOODS Hunting-Fishing-Trapping-Trekking</p>  <p>1803 Route 287, Morris 570-404-6159 www.Nessmuks.com</p> <p>A Family Owned Small Business Zack & Tracy Buck</p>	<p>A Gift in Your Will</p> <p>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><i>"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."</i></p>
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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, 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 Fermevic, Alice Kohut, John Bowe, Kathy Wheeler, Phyliss Davis, Tom Patt, Sammi Swinnich, Raymond Butler, Michael Joseph Harris, Maggie Stirnaman, Jane Johnson, Maureen Bailey, George Hill, Kami Maloof, Don Gordon, Jordan Dugan, Midge Bialas, and B.J. Butler.



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.