

# 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

Monday through Wednesday, 8:00am-1:00pm

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Joseph Mosley – joseph.mosley81@gmail.com  
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

Saturday, 4:30-4:45pm or by appointment



*Third Sunday of Advent  
December 12, 2021*

### **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  
Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

### **Emergency Contact**

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If after hours, please leave call our emergency number 570-439-2219. If no answer, please leave a message and Fr. Mosely 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  
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 Decorations – Sue Singer 570-948-2184  
Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591  
Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529  
Fundraising Dinners – Rectory 570-724-3371  
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 – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470  
Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-916-9573  
ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095  
Prayer Shawl Ministry - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 12/13	12:10pm	In Honor of All Patients of U.S. Renal Care (Ostapowicz Family)
Tuesday 12/14	7:30am	In Memory of Adeline Talisesky (Jim Scandle)
Wednesday 12/15	12:10pm	In Memory of Robbie Butler (B.J. Butler)
Thursday 12/16	No Mass	
Friday 12/17	12:10pm	In Memory of Elmer Santos (Dy Family)
Saturday 12/18	5:00pm (Mass is livestreamed)	In Memory of Frank Dziengowski (Charles & Mary Fagg)
Sunday 12/19	8:30am	In Memory of Eliza Hallead (Teri Austin & Katie Pacific)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Christine Janeski (Waclawik Family)

### Parish News and Activities

#### CHURCH HOURS/ADORATION

The church will be open for private prayer, Monday 11:30am–5:00pm (to allow for thorough cleaning from the weekend), Tuesday through Friday, from 8:00am–5:00pm. If the front doors are not open for entry, please use the door on the parking lot side of the church. Adoration will take place on Tuesday from 8:00am–6:00pm, with Benediction but no evening prayer. The church will also open on Saturday at 4:30pm & Sunday at 8:00am.

#### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for December 5, 2021: \$7,141.00  
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00  
 Difference: \$1,041.00  
 Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$3,516.94)  
*We are grateful to all those who are able to financially support our parish.*

#### 2022 CALENDARS ARE HERE

The 2022 Catholic family calendars have arrived and can be found at each entrance to the church and on the handout table. Special thanks to Tussey-Mosher Funeral Home for their full sponsorship of these beautiful calendars.

#### Bread Pudding Report

Booth Receipts and Donations	\$4071.00
Expenses (fee, supplies)	593.01
Sales Tax	<u>211.60</u>
<b>Profit Earned to Support the Parish</b>	<b>\$3,266.39</b>

#### WEEKLY BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin is emailed to those for whom we have email addresses. If you are not currently receiving the weekly email and would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact the rectory. For those who are unable to attend Mass in person and do not have access to the internet, a bulletin can be mailed to your home. Please call the rectory to request a mailing.

#### YEAR END DONATIONS

2021 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> to be included on your 2021 statement. If you would like a 2021 statement, please call the rectory, or write *send statement* on your weekly offering envelope.

#### HAPPENING THIS WEEK

**Sunday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**– Religious Education Classes  
 8:30am Pre-School; 9:30am K-12<sup>th</sup>  
**Tuesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**– Women’s Bible Study, 9:00am  
**Sunday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>**– Religious Education Classes  
 8:30am Pre-School; 9:30am K-12<sup>th</sup>

#### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

For the safety of our parishioners, if the local school are **closed**, there will be **no daily Mass or Adoration**. If the schools are **delayed** on a Tuesday, there will be no daily Mass or Adoration. If schools are delayed on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, there will be 12:10pm Mass. The Church will remain open for private prayer using the parking lot side entrance.

## Liturgical Reflection ~ Third Sunday of Advent

### FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Zephaniah begins with imperatives commanding hearts to sing! On this day of rejoicing as the celebration of the Incarnation draws near, Zephaniah announces hope and declared the people must rejoice because God comes not with judgment, but with merciful deliverance. Zephaniah declares that God dwells among the chosen people. If we let this truly sink into our consciousness, we can do nothing else but be overwhelmed with joy.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 12

The Responsorial Psalm is a hymn taken from the first part of the book of the Prophet Isaiah and speaks of the salvation the Lord would deliver to the city of Jerusalem, the city of Zion. The Response speaks of the joy that the people of God would experience because the Lord was present in their city. This continues the theme found in the First Reading that speaks of the fact that God is no longer far off, but has deigned to come into our midst. We understand both of these passages to be fulfilled with the birth of Jesus into our world.

### SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

The Second Reading continues the theme of rejoicing. Paul exhorts the Christian community to rejoice, even as he sits in prison. He writes about his joy for the community and praises them for remaining steadfast in their faith in the face of persecution. Contrary to those who might anticipate the coming of the Lord with trepidation, Philippians exhorts us to abandon fear and worry and surrender instead to joyful prayer. And we are not to shy away from making our needs know to God. Peace should characterize our anticipation of Christ's coming – whether at the end of time, at Christmas, or in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. When we know that, we will have no anxiety at all because our hearts will be linked to Christ's.

### GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18



Today's Gospel is a continuation of the Gospel reading from the Second Sunday of Advent, where John is presented as a traveling preacher who offered a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin. Luke speaks of the coming of the Day of the Lord. This would be the day of judgment upon Israel and upon the world. John invites his listeners to turn away from their sins. A refrain that runs through today's Gospel is "what then should we do?" and John's responses are blunt and sparse to those who come asking advice: Do this. Don't do that. His confidence is clear and he demonstrates a boldness that's born of his ability to see as God sees. His obvious authority prompts his questioners to ask if he is the Messiah, which he roundly denies by pointing away from himself to one who is more powerful. There is no false humility in his words, and we sense his own longing for the one who will be the Good News he proclaims. The Third Sunday of Advent is a time to make some serious decisions concerning how we live, work and play. Like the tax collectors and soldiers who spoke to the Baptist, we are called to conform our ways to the Good News.

## GAUDETE SUNDAY

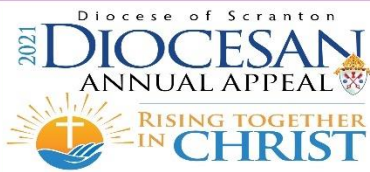
*"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The 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!*

## Help Our Parish Reach its Goal!

Gifts to the 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal change lives every day. As Christmas draws near, please support the diocesan ministries that help our children and families as well as the poor, lonely and vulnerable.



GIFTS OF ANY AMOUNT ARE APPRECIATED



Donate now at:  
[annualappeal.org](http://annualappeal.org)



## Diocesan Annual Appeal

This year's Diocesan Annual Appeal, "Rising Together in Christ," is already underway. The overall goal of this year's Appeal is \$4.5 million. The money that is raised 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: \$31,676.00.**

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!

## GIVING TREE

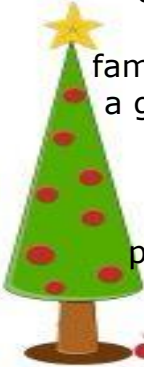
Share Christmas joy with a local child, family, or nursing home resident. Please select a tag from our Giving Tree and read the directions printed on the tag explaining how to deliver the gifts to a nursing home resident. The gifts for children or families must be placed, UNWRAPPED in a gift bag with the tag attached, under the Giving Tree

by Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Gifts for Seeds of Hope should be placed under the tree in a plastic bag.

Questions? Please call

Karen Plumley 570-439-0175.



## Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve ~ 4:00pm & 6:00pm

Christmas Day ~ 10:00am

## 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.

## 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.

"Let's look at the faces of the children. They challenge and ask us: What kind of world do you want to give us?" Pope Francis



## CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. PETER'S

You are invited to share a meal and spend time with others on Christmas Day. Dinner will be served at 12:00pm in the Parish Center. Meat and beverage will be provided. Kindly bring a dish to share. If you do not cook, bring an item that can be served cold. Reservations are requested by Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> by calling Betsy and Dan Gordon at 570-724-7259 or email [danbg77@gmail.com](mailto:danbg77@gmail.com). Reservations should include NAME, NUMBER ATTENDING, and the DISH YOU ARE BRINGING.



### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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 cares, they can snuggle under a prayer shawl. A beautiful **testimony**: A lady was in treatment for breast cancer and was

*gifted a prayer shawl, which brought her to tears. She would wrap up in it when she needed courage and strength, or to feel warm or love from the person who made it for her. She stated that it was a comfort and prayer every time she wrapped up in it. That was 15 years ago and she still has her shawl, and it has comforted many since, as when she was finished with treatment and working in her office, it would be folded in a chair and often people who came to her office, would reach for it, and hold it and she would know God's love was still at work. You can do the same for someone now. Please call Jan Bernethy, 307-267-0677 for more information.*

**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 and needles can be provided. **We are in need of shawls made from neutral or darker colors of yarn, but any color is greatly appreciated.**

### Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection during the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



### Advent Penance Services

Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – 3:00pm, Holy Child  
December 20<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm, St. Peters

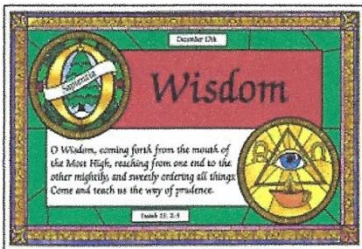
# ADVENT SEASON

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas and is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C).

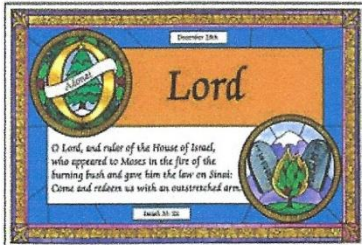


## The "O Antiphons" Of Advent

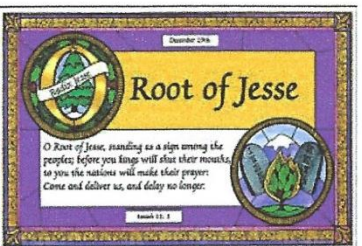
The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.



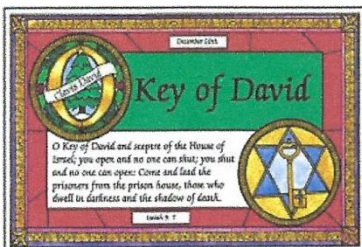
**December 17 - O Wisdom** of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!



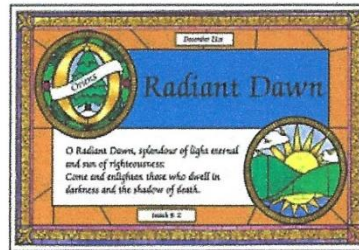
**December 18 - O Leader** of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!



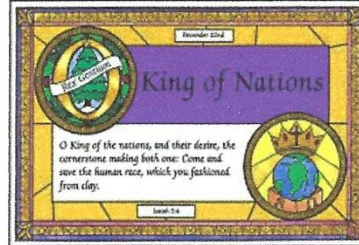
**December 19 - O Root** of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!



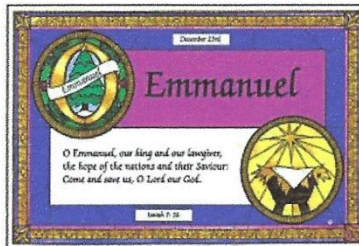
**December 20 - O Key** of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!



**December 21 - O Radiant Dawn**, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.



**December 22 - O King** of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!



**December 23 - O Emmanuel**, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

## BLESSING OF NATIVITY SCENE

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.



The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

**All** make the sign of the cross as the **leader** says: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**Response:** Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

**Response:** Amen.

# The Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 12, 2021



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

## Lighting the Rose Candle

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple, and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

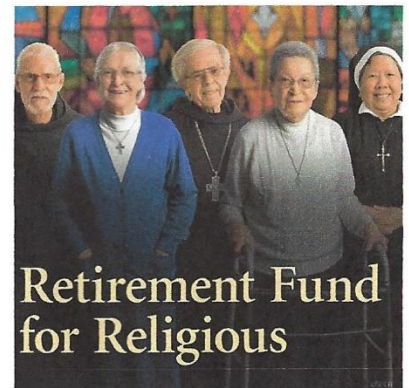
The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time.

The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over, and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

## Retirement Fund for Religious

Say thank you to the senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who devoted their lives to serving others. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious at Mass today. Learn more at [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).




Catholic  
Current

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**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**

Nan Bowser, 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, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Floyd Williammee, 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 Antoniow, Ruth Russell, Edward Cruttenden, Anne Marie Beuter, Carol Fasick, Skip Warriner, Stephanie Calicchia, Jacoby Aratari, Doris Coumbe, 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, Jim Walker, Richard and Valerie Tobin, Shirley Dixon, Lucy Whitney, Adele Young, Suzan Richar, Lucille Keck, Gloria Fermenic, Stephanie Anthony, Victor Carlucci, Alice Kohut, John Bowe, Kathy Wheeler, Phyliss Davis, Tom Patt, and Staci Stager.



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

**Sue Evert**

*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.*