

St. Peter's Church



*Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023*

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

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 _____

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.

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 12/18	No Mass	
Tuesday 12/19	12:10pm	In Memory of Michael Hoza (Singer Family)
Wednesday 12/20	12:10pm	In Memory of Christine Plato (Family)
Thursday 12/21	12:10pm	In Memory of Robbie Butler (B.J. Butler & Family)
Friday 12/22	12:10pm	In Memory of Harriet Josten (Family)
Saturday 12/23	5:00pm *Mass is livestreamed	In Memory of Jack & Arlene Robinson (Frank Patt & Family)
Sunday 12/24	8:30am	In Memory of Donald Orr (Rita Orr)
	4:00pm	Our Christmas Mass Intentions
	6:00pm Mass is livestreamed	Our Christmas Mass Intentions

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Frank Dziengowski (Wife; Ida & Family)

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 17th

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

Monday, December 18th

Knights of Columbus Meeting – 7:00pm;
Adult Ed. Room

Tuesday, December 19th

Women’s Bible Study – 10:00am; Adult Ed. Room
Adoration – 1:00pm – 6:00pm; Church

Sunday, December 24th

No Religious Education Classes

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for December 10, 2023: \$7,172.00
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00
Difference: \$1,072.00
Year to Date Budget Variance: \$3,431.65

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.

Liturgical Reflection – Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday

I am the voice
of one crying out
in the wilderness.
make straight
the way of
the Lord

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist calls people to conversion in order to prepare them for the coming of the Messiah by proclaiming a time of repentance. Through this account, John tries to help his audience understand who Jesus is. Jesus is “the light”. We hear this in the opening of today’s reading as John clarifies that the Baptist was “not the light, but came to testify to the light.” The ministry of John the Baptist was to “baptize” the people in preparation for the coming of the Messiah; to prepare the way of the Lord, making straight the path through a conversion of hearts to justice and righteousness.

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!

Rejoice



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24th – Christmas Eve

4:00pm - St. Peter's

6:00pm – St. Peter's

Monday, December 25th – Christmas Day

9:30am – St. Peter's

11:30am – St. Thomas

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.

“Jesus says to every believer and to his Church: be open because the Gospel message needs you to witness to it and proclaim it! Church, be open to the breath of the Holy Spirit who pushes you to be missionary, to evangelize!” Pope Francis

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.

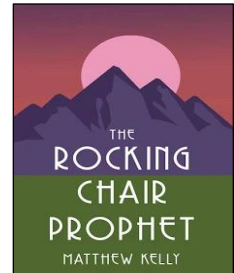


Beautiful Eucharist

“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.



Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org



Rejoice in the Lord Always!



Your Gift to the *Diocesan Annual Appeal* helps the Diocesan Office for Parish Life provide spiritual renewal opportunities for the faithful.

Advent Penance Service

Sunday, December 17th
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.



CHRISTLIFE™

ChristLife participants will resume their journey together with **Following Christ** on Wednesdays, **January 3rd through February 14th at 6:30pm** in the Parish Center.

All those who have completed *Discovering Christ '23* are already enrolled. Any parishioner who completed *Discovering Christ* in previous years and would like to reengage with this 2nd installment in the *ChristLife* series is welcome! Call or email Norb Josten to register (contact information can be found on the front page of the bulleting, under parish contact listings).



The Social Concerns Committee wishes to thank all who are helping to make Christmas happier for many this year by supporting the Christmas Giving Tree.

Your participation in the projects of the committee is appreciated.



Confirmation Class News - There will be a parent meeting on the following dates to discuss the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Sunday, January 7th after Mass at 9:30am in the church

Sunday, January 14th after Mass at 9:30am in the church

Parents/guardians of 7th and 8th grade students who are preparing for Confirmation are asked to attend one of these meeting dates.

Evening Confirmation classes will begin on **Sunday, January 21st** from 6:00pm-7:30pm in the Parish Center.

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.

2023

Year-End Donations

2023 financial statements will be prepared upon request. **All donations must be received by December 31st to be included on your 2023 statement.** If you would like to request a donation statement, please call the parish office, 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 18th at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

*O come let us adore Him... Rejoicing, we shall bring our hearts to the King,
bearing gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh.*

Marian Ministries invites you to join the "wise men" and journey to the City of David (St. Mary's Church) on Saturday, January 6, 2024 after First Saturday Mass and Adoration. Come by camel or car. Be prepared to receive a gift from God...and lunch!



If you can't join us for Mass and Adoration, the Epiphany Celebration will begin around 11am. We will start upstairs and proceed downstairs to the manger. Please join us!

RSVP to Laurie at 570-549-2210, by text 703-470-2975, or email laurie.coffee@gmail.com, or Linda Sampson, 570-404-2180 so we can plan for lunch.

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 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 11th. 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>Advertise with us! See your ad here</p>	<p>WALRATH & COOLIDGE Probate & Estate Administration Real Estate Personal Injury 570-724-3801 Wills • Corporate Adoptions Family Law R. Lowell Coolidge, Esq • Priscilla Walrath, Esq Fax: 570-724-7239 126 Main St • Wellsboro, PA</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> U-Haul® Dealer Since 2011 uhaul.com Ken Mitchell Mitchell's Carquest Auto Parts 688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933 Business: (570) 662-2534 www.mitchellcarquest.com </p>	<p> TOKARZ 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 Fermenic, 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.