

St. Peter's Church



*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 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 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 – 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 12/19	No Mass	
Tuesday 12/20	12:10pm	In Memory of Eugene David Getgen (Joan)
Wednesday 12/21	12:10pm	In Memory of Robbie Butler (BJ Butler & Family)
Thursday 12/22	12:10pm	In Memory of Casey Spang (Sue Singer)
Friday 12/23	12:10pm	Singer Grandchildren (Sue Singer)
Saturday 12/24	4:00pm 6:00pm <small>Mass is livestreamed</small>	Our Christmas Mass Intentions Our Christmas Mass Intentions
Sunday 12/25	9:00am	Our Christmas Mass Intentions

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Robbie Butler (BJ Butler & Family)

Altar Flowers are in Memory of Living & Deceased Members of the Simonis Family (Mark & Christina Simonis)

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.

Happening This Week

Sunday, December 18th
 Religious Education classes –
 8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12
 Youth Group Christmas Party –
 10:45am – 12:00pm, Parish Center
 Penance Service – 3:00pm, Holy Child

Tuesday, December 20th
 Women’s Bible Study – 10:00am, Parish Center
 Adoration – 1:00pm – 6:00pm, Church

Wednesday, December 21st
 Finance Committee Mtg. – 10:00am, Parish Center

Stewardship

Stewardship numbers are not available this week and will be printed in next week’s bulletin.

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

Liturgical Reflection ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-14

Other nations are at war with Judah, and Ahaz fears for the safety of his tribe. God assures Ahaz that the welfare of Judah will be taken care of. This prophecy of the birth of Emmanuel and his virginal conception follows the same formula of the appearance of the Angel to Sarah in the Book of Genesis, as well as the story of Sampson in the Book of Judges. We can be a bit like Ahaz. We may not want to “ask” or “tempt” the Lord, but we don’t always trust him either. This is the reason for the seemingly exasperated response of Isaiah to “Believe already!” May we be open to see signs in our lives and respond to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 24

This psalm was part of a ceremony when the Ark of the Covenant (signifying God) entered the Temple. Now we make way for Jesus the Lord to enter the world. Verses 3 and 4 ask, “We can ascend the mountain of the Lord? Or who may stand in his holy place? One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.” Have you made the proper preparations for Christ? Is your heart and hearth clean? Can you earnestly welcome him in good faith?

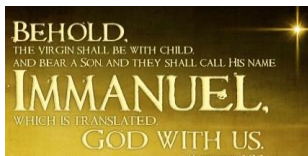
SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

We hear the beginning of Paul’s letter to the Romans. Paul stresses his call to be an Apostle of Jesus, who is the fulfillment of all that was prophesied in the Scriptures (Old Testament). His reference to Jesus as descended from David is particularly important as this points to Jesus as the promised Davidic Messiah or Anointed One. As the prophets of old foretold, salvation is offered not only to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles.

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-24

This infancy narrative takes place right after the genealogy account in Matthew. It is one of five stories which tell of Jesus as a young boy. Though the natural genealogy line is broken, it is fulfilled through Joseph, for Mary, his betrothed, accepts the child from the angel. The evangelist carefully notes that the righteous man chosen to parent descended from King David, thus suggesting that

Sammuel’s prophecy is about to be fulfilled in Jesus. Lest the point be missed, he repeats that Mary’s child has his true origin in God and God’s plan for salvation; further, the child is to bear the name “Jesus”, which means “God saves.” The events that have their origin in God, reveal the fullness of Isaiah’s words. In the child soon to be born, God is with us in an unimaginable way; in the person of a human infant.



Advent Penance Service
Holy Child
Dec. 18th
3:00pm

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



“Following Christ” Reminder

“ On **Wednesday, January 4th**, “Following Christ”, the 2nd seven-week segment of the 21-week *ChristLife* experience, will begin at **6:30pm in St. Peter’s Parish Center**. All those who have completed “Discovering Christ” this fall or prior to the Covid pause are eligible to participate. If you are eligible and haven’t already signed up, please call or email Norb Josten to be included at 570-724-9095 or norb.josten@gmail.com.

Marian Ministries



Living Rosary Evaluation

As we approach the New Year, it is my hope that the Living Rosary will continue in our parishes. The devotion has been a source of grace and peace to the participants and a beautiful offering to our Blessed Mother. We need at least 20 participants to continue the devotion. Please be in touch if you wish to take a break or pray a different decade for the new year. If you haven't been a participant but would like to pray one decade with the group beginning in January, let me know and I will add your name to our email group. Contact Linda Sampson at 570-404-2180 or email marian-ministries@outlook.com

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

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!

Join the Exodus!

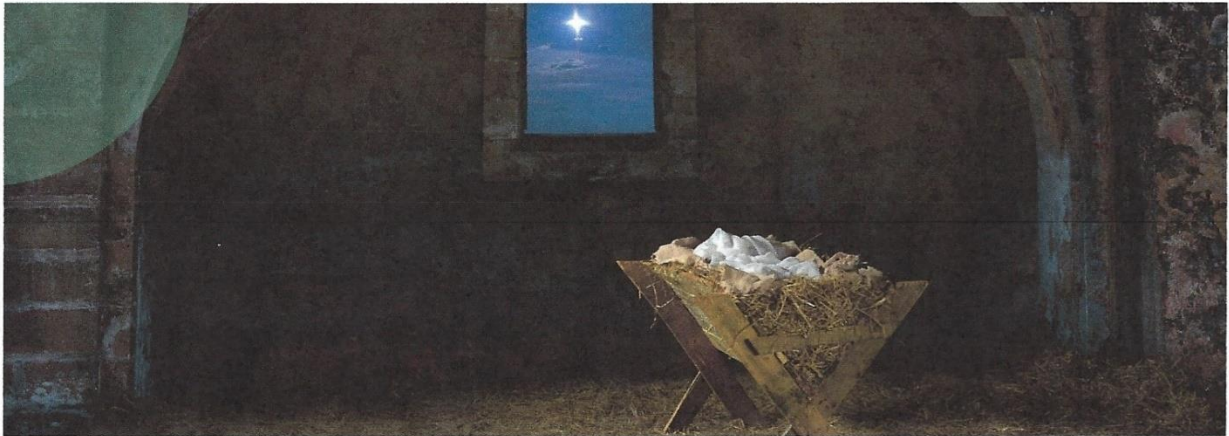
Exodus 90 is a 90 day challenge of prayer, asceticism, and brotherhood. From January 9th until Easter, participants will be presented with the opportunity to follow the Israelites on their cleansing journey through the desert in the Exodus from Egypt. Set down your attachments and open yourself to the love the Lord wishes to pour out upon you through daily holy hours, weekly fasting, limited technology, abstinence from snacking and alcohol. This challenge calls us to "deny yourself, take up your cross & follow me" as fellowship. Reach out to Patrick Bialas by Jan. 2nd for more information on how to join this group!

Deadline for Church Bulletin Submissions

For information to be printed in the church bulletin, all articles must be submitted for approval by 10:00am on the Tuesday prior to the weekend that you want the article to be published. Please note that during holidays, submission times are subject to change due to earlier print deadlines.

All submissions should be sent to spadm@ptd.net with the word "Bulletin" in the subject line.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Cetty Images

Blessing of a Christmas Manger

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.

R/. 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.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

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.

R/. Amen.

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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

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, Tim Webster.



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.