

# 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



*Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 19, 2021*

## 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

### **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 – 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 – 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 - Michelle Sepiol 570-439-6206

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 12/20	12:10pm	In Memory of Frank Dziengowski (Wife, Ida)
Tuesday 12/21	7:30am	In Memory of Wayne Singer (Simonis Family)
Wednesday 12/22	12:10pm	In Memory of Eugene David Getgen (Joan)
Thursday 12/23	No Mass	
Friday 12/24	4:00pm 6:00pm (Mass is livestreamed)	Our Christmas Mass Intentions Our Christmas Mass Intentions
Saturday 12/25	10:00am (Mass is livestreamed)	Our Christmas Mass Intentions
Sunday 12/26	8:30am (Mass is livestreamed)	Our Christmas Mass Intentions

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of George & Helen Pryslak (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.

### 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.

### HAPPENING THIS WEEK

**Sunday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>** – Religious Education Classes  
8:30am Pre-School; 9:30am K-12<sup>th</sup>  
MS Youth Group Party – 11:45am  
**Monday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>** – Penance Service – 6:00pm  
**Tuesday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>** – Women’s Bible Study, 9:00am  
**Thursday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Rectory Closed  
**Friday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Rectory Closed  
**Sunday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>** – No Religious Education Classes

### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for December 5, 2021: \$5,184.00  
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00  
Difference: (\$ 916.00)  
Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$4,432.94)  
*We are grateful to all those who are able to financially support our parish.*

### 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.

### 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.

### RECTORY CLOSED

The Rectory will be closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. In the event of an emergency, please call the emergency numbers found on the front of the bulletin. Fr. Mos will return your call as soon as possible



## Liturgical Reflection ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

### FIRST READING: Micah 5:1-4

Today's reading from the Prophet Micah speaks of the coming of the Messiah. Written centuries before the birth of Christ, it tells us that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem and shall be the "ruler in Israel," who "shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord." The Messiah would fulfill the kingdom of David and reign as king forever and "his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth" and he shall be peace. All these descriptors fit Jesus perfectly who was born in Bethlehem, in the line of David, and fulfills the Davidic kingdom by being an everlasting king. Jesus is the king of the world and the entire universe since He is God. And Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Thus, with the birth of Jesus, this prophecy from Micah came to its fulfillment.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 80

The Responsorial Psalm expresses the anxious expectation for the day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. We call upon God to visit us and protect us. He is the only one who can truly save us. With his strength we can change our ways and walk in God's love.

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

Today's Second Reading comes from the Letter to the Hebrews. We do not know the author of this letter and even though we call it a letter, it is more like a homily, encouraging people to hold fast to the Gospel. The author reminds us that God values obedience far more than sacrifices. In the Gospel, Jesus often equates love with keeping the commandments. Rituals are important, but only if they reflect the true sacrifice of our lives in obedience to God's will. Christ's exemplary obedience was manifest when he willingly offered his body once for all.

### GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

Today's Gospel is the story of the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth and is told only by Luke. Mary rushes to the side of Elizabeth, who, like her, is the recipient of divine favor. But Elizabeth immediately recognizes in Mary one more blessed than she, and she also understands that what makes Mary special is her ability to trust that God's words to her would be fulfilled. Both women will suffer greatly for the privilege they have been granted - as will their sons - but for now the linked destinies of John and Jesus cannot detract from the sheer joy of reaching out to touch a cousin who is also the recipient of God's surprising grace. On this last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth and recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

## The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

The Twenty-fifth Day of December,

**when** ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world;

**when** God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness;

**when** century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace;

**in** the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees,

**in** the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt;

**around** the thousandth year since David was anointed King;

**in** the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;

**in** the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

**in** the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome;

**in** the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace,

**JESUS CHRIST**, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man.

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.







## Support your Parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal directly from your IRA

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your required minimum distribution to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

For more information, please contact Jim Bebla,  
Diocesan Secretary of Development at  
Jim-BebLa@DioceseofScranton.org  
or (570) 207-2250

## 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: \$31,976.00.**

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!




## 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.



## Advent Penance Service

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm

# Advent

## PREPARING THE WAY



## CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. PETER'S CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR

We are saddened to say that we will not be able to host our Christmas dinner this year, due to the increase in cases of Covid-19. At this time we are acting out of an abundance of caution to safeguard the health of all those who would attend.

The Diocese of Scranton strongly recommends that all parishioners wear a mask while attending Mass, regardless of vaccination status. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to protect our friends and neighbors and mask wearing remains an important mitigation tool against community spread.



### 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 Michelle Sepiol, 570-439-6206 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

○ 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, ○ Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, ○ glorious and blessed Virgin.

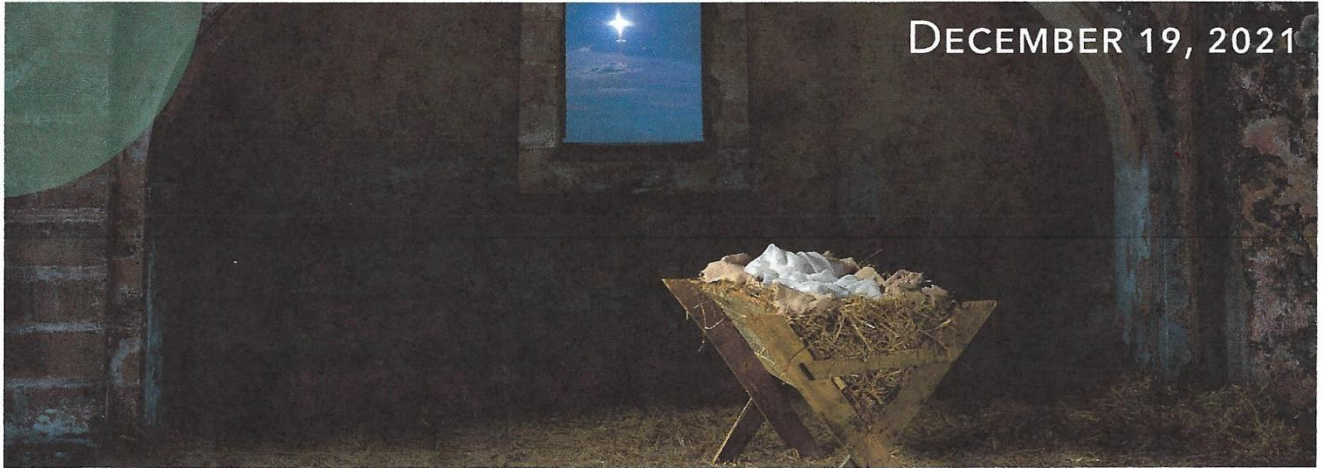


***"Life is a time for making decisive, eternal choices. Trivial choices lead to a trivial life; great choices to a life of greatness. In fact, we become what we choose. If we choose God, we grow daily in his love, and if we choose to love others, we find true happiness."*** Pope Francis



# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 19, 2021



Getty 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.





As Elizabeth recognized God's presence  
in Mary, we too are invited to discover  
the Lord in our midst. May our eyes be open to see  
God among us, and may we respond with hearts that  
are open to the abundant love  
which is our inheritance.



*The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

*The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills,  
and life to joy awakes.*

*Not as of old a little child  
to bear, and fight, and die,  
but crowned with glory like the sun  
that lights the morning sky.*

*O brighter than the rising morn  
when He, victorious, rose  
and left the lonesome place of death,  
despite the rage of foes.*


*O brighter than that glorious morn  
shall this fair morning be,  
when Christ, our King, in beauty comes,  
and we His face shall see.*

*The King shall come when morning dawns,  
and earth's dark night is past:  
O haste the rising of that morn,  
the day that aye shall last.*

*And let the endless bliss begin,  
by weary saints foretold,  
when right shall triumph over wrong,  
and truth shall be extolled.*

*The King shall come when morning dawns,  
and light and beauty brings;*

*"Hail, Christ the Lord!" Thy people pray,  
come quickly, King of kings!*



## CHRISTMAS SEASON

December 25 - January 9

Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in his friendship and his life. Therefore let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery.

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us. The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends as a way to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

### *A Prayer for Christmas*

*O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.  
May Christmas morning make us happy to be our children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. 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

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 Antoniw, 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, Staci Stager, and Sammi Swinnich.



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.