

# St. Peter's Church



*Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023*

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-2:00pm

### Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jacek Bialkowski  
Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net  
Bookkeeper: Melissa Mann – stpadm@ptd.net  
Religious Education: Jen Minnich – streled@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 – 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### *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 your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. 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 – Karen Novak 570/982-5115  
Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570/724-2085  
Samaritan House – Mary 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  
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  
Fundraising Committee – Tim Gooch 570/971-5826  
Knights of Columbus – Mike Buono 717/320-2305

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 12/25	9:30am	Our Christmas Mass Intentions
Tuesday 12/26	No Mass	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><b>No Daily Mass</b> Father Jacek is away this week.</p> </div>
Wednesday 12/27	No Mass	
Thursday 12/28	No Mass	
Friday 12/29	No Mass	
Saturday 12/30	5:00pm <small>Mass is livestreamed</small>	
Sunday 12/31	8:30am	In Memory of Rosa M. Fullerton (All of her children)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Christine Plato (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.

**Happening This Week**

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

No Religious Education classes

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Office Closed

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

No Women's Bible Study  
Adoration – 1:00pm – 6:00pm, Church

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

No Religious Education Classes

**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.

**Stewardship**

Sunday Collection for December 17, 2023: \$7,512.00  
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00  
 Difference: \$1,412.00  
 Year to Date Budget Variance: \$4,843.65

*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 school is **closed**, there will be **no daily Mass or Adoration**. The Church will remain open for private prayer using the parking lot side entrance, and the parish office hours may be affected.

**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.

## Christmas Oplatki Wafers – A Polish Tradition

A beloved tradition in Polish homes throughout the world is the breaking of the oplatki on Christmas Eve. The oplatki is a thin wafer that is often stamped with an elaborate Christmas scene and is meant to remind families of the Eucharistic meal that Catholics participate in at each Mass. Just as we share in the Eucharist as one family in Christ and receive Christ's love through the Eucharist, the oplatki allows for families to come together and share the love they have for one another. Traditionally, before the Christmas Eve meal, the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another family member with a blessing. This blessing can be something that you desire for your loved one in the coming year – such as good health, success or happiness. It can also be an opportunity to ask someone for forgiveness and to heal hurts from the past year. Each family member participates in the same way.

**Oplatki wafers are available in the back of the church, next to the holy handout table.** Please feel free to take one home and begin your own family tradition. Donations for the oplatki are appreciated.

### Parish Directory

Extra copies of the new parish directory are available on a first come, first served basis. If you would like a copy, please contact the parish office at 570/724-3371.

### New Years Mass Times

#### Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

8:30am – St. Peter's  
11:30am – St. Thomas

#### Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

12:10pm – St. Peter's  
6:00pm – St. Thomas

### 2023 Year End Donations

2023 financial statements will be prepared upon request. **All donations must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> to be included on your 2023 statement.** To request your statement, please call the parish office or write *send statement* on your weekly offering envelope.

### Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will be closed:

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>,

Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

Regular hours will resume on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.



### 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

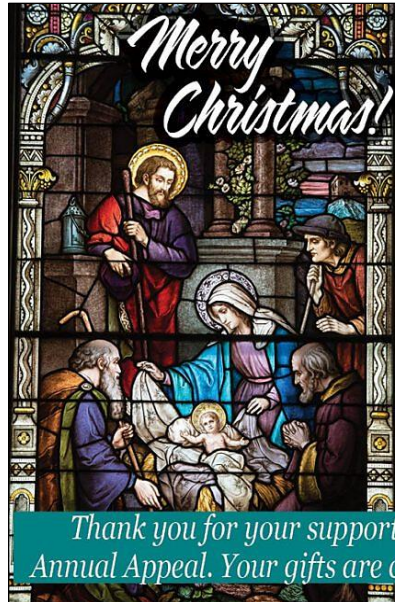
### Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

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](http://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.



*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).



*Forever*  
I WILL SING THE  
GOODNESS  
OF THE LORD

Scan to donate  
or visit  
[annualappeal.org](http://annualappeal.org)



Thank you for your support of the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your gifts are changing lives every day!



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



**Candle Lighting at Christmas Eve Mass** – *During the 6:00pm Christmas Eve Mass*, parishioners will be given a lighted votive candle after they receive Communion. Candles are to be brought back to the pews for the singing of *Silent Night*. Votives do not need to be returned after Mass and are yours to keep.

*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’ll 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](mailto:laurie.coffee@gmail.com), or Linda Sampson, 570-404-2180 so we can plan for lunch.

# CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS



## ***In Memory of:***

Nykola Antoniow  
June Ostapowicz  
Anna Marie & Al Dlugokinski  
Robinson-Cumiskey Families  
Ted & Doris Sykora  
Teddy Sykora and Lana Bennett  
Dolly Clark  
Deceased Cuda & Niles Family  
Members  
Rhea Grace Sherman  
The Holy Souls in Purgatory  
Christine Plato  
Gerald & Ann Collins  
Leonard & Emily Mitchell  
Joseph Tarszowicz  
Elizabeth Tarszowicz  
Beth Patt  
Martha & Earl King  
Steve King  
Kathy Byers  
Lipski Family  
Miskovitz Family  
John and Betty Frazier  
Durwood and Joyce Stewart  
Robbie Butler  
Charles & Viola Statts  
Srs. Raphael & Gladys DuPrey  
The Guertin and Plumley Families

Mary Kupchak  
Joseph Kupchak  
Angelo Giannavola  
Elaine Turton  
Dennis Turton, Sr.  
Ana Elena Turton Asturias  
Jeffrey Mann  
Bonnie Ress  
Ross Christopher  
Gail Hans  
James & Amelia Williams  
William & Mary Carlson  
Basile & Gooch Families  
Paul Patt  
Marie T. Stager  
Effie Antonia  
Deceased Members of Kohut  
& Owlett Families  
Robert & Joan Tobaygo  
Walter & Marie Tobaygo  
Peter & Helen Demcher  
William & Linda Demcher  
Frank J. Dziengowski, Jr.  
Henry "Sonny" Caso, Jr.  
Bill & Doris Coumbe

## ***In Honor of:***

Linda Stager  
Michelle Romania  
Heather and Chris Contrucci  
Rob & Ashley Butler & Family  
Ryan and Ashley Butler  
& Family  
Don & Lucy Whitney  
Gary & Linda Kreisler  
Gabriella Grace Daugherty  
Tina and Eric Kreisler  
Mary Antoniow



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

<p><b>Advertise with us!</b> <b>See your ad here</b></p>	<p><b>WALRATH &amp; COOLIDGE</b>          Probate &amp; Estate Administration          Real Estate          Personal Injury  <b>570-724-3801</b>          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  <b>"If Akiko's Not Your Florist, She Should Be"</b>          Shop24/7 at <a href="http://www.akikos.com">www.akikos.com</a>          Akiko, Clark &amp; Joe Hewitt</p>	<p><b>OVER 125 YEARS OF SERVICE</b>  <b>TUSSEY-MOSHER</b>          FUNERAL HOME, LTD.          Calvin T. Mosher, Supervisor          139 Main St. Wellsboro, PA 16901          (570) 724-4637   <a href="http://TusseyMosher.com">TusseyMosher.com</a></p>	<p>Call the parish office at 570/724-3371 for information.</p>
<p>          25 Main Street          Wellsboro, PA 16901          570-723-4263  <a href="http://www.popscultureshoppe.com">www.popscultureshoppe.com</a>  <b>Games * Imagination * Fun</b>          Your proprietors Julian and Anja Stam          Consider it all joy! James 1:2</p>	<p>          1803 Route 287, Morris          www.Nessmuks.com 570-404-6159          A Family Owned Small Business  <b>Zack &amp; Tracy Buck</b></p>	<p><b>A Gift in Your Will</b>          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>          MITCHELL'S CARQUEST AUTO PARTS          FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1950          kenneth@mitchellcarquest.com          688 South Main Street          Mansfield, PA 16933          T 570.662.2277          F 570.662.1078          Kenneth Mitchell Owner</p>	<p>          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, 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, 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, Phylliss Davis, Tom Patt, Sammi Swinnich, Raymond Butler, Michael Joseph Harris, 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.  
**Marguerite Chambers**

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.