

*Bread of Life*      MIGHTY GOD  
Emmanuel      *Lamb of God*  
*Prince of Peace*  
Glory to God in the Highest.  
*Light of the World*      Savior  
*Wonderful*      *The Truth*      Christ the Lord



**The Nativity of the Lord  
December 25, 2022**

# 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 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 – 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-12:00pm;  
Saturday, 4:20-4:50pm; or by appointment



## *The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2022*

### **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 – 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 570-724-337  
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 12/26	No Mass	
Tuesday 12/27	No Mass	
Wednesday 12/28	No Mass	
Thursday 12/29	No Mass	
Friday 12/30	No Mass	
Saturday 12/31	5:00pm Mass is livestreamed	In Memory of John Bober (Janet Bober)
Sunday 1/1	8:30am	In Memory of Mary Campbell (Paula & Randy Pirson)

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

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>**  
 No Religious Education classes

**Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
 Rectory closed

**Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
 Adoration – 1:00pm – 6:00pm, Church

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
 No Religious Education Classes

**Stewardship**

Sunday Collection for December 11, 2022: \$6,249.00  
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00  
 Difference: \$149.00  
 Year to Date Budget Variance: (\$-6,815.30)

Sunday Collection for December 18, 2022: \$5,685.00  
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00  
 Difference: \$-415.00  
 Year to Date Variance: (\$-7,230.30)

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



## Liturgical Reflection ~ The Nativity of the Lord

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

In this reading, Isaiah imagines the day of deliverance as it draws near; a divine herald announces the arrival of peace and salvation, with God once again ruling in a new Jerusalem as Israel's true King. The Hebrew words translated here as "peace" and "salvation" are laden with significance. "Peace" means so much more than the absence of war, and "salvation" is not limited to heavenly reward. Together, these two terms embrace multiple meanings, including deliverance, rescue, security, wellbeing, health, wholeness, and completeness – all beginning in the present world. The news is peaceful: a direct, hard-to-believe view of God restoring his people. God's new future would be more resplendent than anything that came before; all that had been destroyed would be created anew with divine glory.

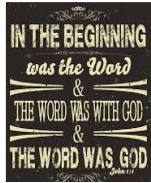
### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 98

Sometimes the message is so good, words cannot express it. God's song in Jesus is so astoundingly new that only harps, trumpets, and horns can do it justice. Perhaps the psalm hints at why singing Christmas carols is so much a part of the celebration. When humanity encounters God's kindness, fidelity, and saving power, all other concerns seem minor.

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-6

The writer of Hebrews notes that in times past partial revelation of God's Word came to Israel, particularly through the prophets. But in Jesus Christ, that self-revealing Word appears in all its fullness: the Son is "the very imprint" of God's being. All previous prophecies seem partial and lacking. As a child often resembles a parent, so Jesus bears the "very imprint" of God's self because he is God's firstborn son.

### GOSPEL: John 1:1-18



Anyone who despaired of ever seeing the face of God can now encounter it directly in the compassionate Christ. From the beginning of time, God speaks a word, not of condemnation or punishment but of intimately sharing human life. Despite human blindness or failure, God pitches a tent within us. All the evil attempts to smudge or obliterate divine light have failed; it cannot be extinguished. In God's children surges the very life of God. As Christmas day unfolds, the greatest gift is God's overflowing fullness, grace piled upon grace. This reading alone, while establishing

subsequent theses of John's account of the Gospel, gives more than enough cause for celebration.

## 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.





## 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](mailto:marian-ministries@outlook.com)



### “Following Christ” Reminder

On **Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**, “Following Christ”, the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:norb.josten@gmail.com).

### YEAR END DONATIONS

2022 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

### Rectory Hours

The rectory will be closed  
Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and  
Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

### THE 2023 CALENDARS ARE HERE

The 2023 Catholic family calendars have arrived and can be found at each entrance of the church and on the handout table. Special thank-you to Tussey-Mosher Funeral Home for their sponsorship of these beautiful calendars.

### Join the Exodus!

*Exodus 90* is a 90 day challenge of prayer, asceticism, and brotherhood. From January 9<sup>th</sup> 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 [stpadm@ptd.net](mailto:stpadm@ptd.net) with the word “Bulletin” in the subject line.

***“Christmas is the feast of love incarnate and born for us in Jesus Christ. He is the light of mankind shining in the darkness, giving meaning to human existence and to the whole of history.”***

*Pope Francis*

## *New Year's Resolutions That Inspire*

### **Bible in a Year Podcast**

In **The Bible in a Year** podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way. With this podcast, you won't just read the Bible in a year. You will finally understand how all the pieces of the Bible fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today. According to Ascension Press, *The Bible in a Year* hit 142 million downloads and 3.3 billion minutes of listening worldwide. It gets 464,000 daily downloads. For more information visit <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration> or call/text Linda Sampson at 570-404-2180 or email: [marian-ministries@outlook.com](mailto:marian-ministries@outlook.com).

#### **Listen and:**

- Read the ENTIRE Bible
- **Each 20-25 minute episode includes:**
  - Two to three scripture readings
  - A reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz
  - A guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word
  - An explanation from Fr. Mike Schmitz about the reading

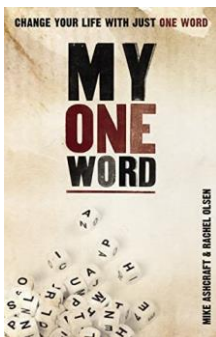


### **Catechism in a Year Podcast**

In Ascension's **The Catechism in a Year** podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz guides you through the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 episodes, providing explanation, insight, and encouragement along the way. For more information, visit <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear> or call/text Linda Sampson at 570-404-2180 or email: [marian-ministries@outlook.com](mailto:marian-ministries@outlook.com).

#### **Listen and:**

- Read the ENTIRE Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Understand how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture
- Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition
- Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness for your life
- **Each 15-20 minute episode includes:**
  - A guided prayer to help you enter into each episode
  - A reading from the Catechism of the Catholic Church
  - An explanation from Fr. Mike Schmitz about the reading



**My One Word** *My One Word* is simple: lose the long list of changes you want to make this year and instead pick ONE WORD. Just one word that centers on your character and creates a vision for your future. Choose one of the Catholic virtues highlighted in Mary's Mantle, words like trust, surrender, kindness, courage, gratitude, whatever word will help you focus and grow in faith and service to God. Visit: <https://myoneword.org/>. *Personal Testimony: I've practiced this for about 10 years and testify that it really works!* Contact Linda Sampson @ [marian-ministries@outlook.com](mailto:marian-ministries@outlook.com) for more information.





# CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

## In Memory Of:

Carrie Kathryn Daugherty  
Connie & Robert Brown  
Ethel & Robert Brown  
Mary & Joseph Tarszowicz  
Robert K. Johnson  
John & Frances Kohut  
Ted & Janet Owlett  
Francis Doane  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gould  
Mary Ellen Otten  
Frances Lee  
James Gould  
Ruth Knapke  
Ruth Reindl  
Frank J. Dziengowski, Jr.  
Basile and Gooch Families  
Sawicki Family  
Kane & Collins Families  
Smith & Mitchell Families  
Doris, Ted, Teddy & Joyce  
Sykora  
Lana Bennett  
Gertrude & Jake Whitney  
Dolly Clark  
Paul Patt  
Arlyne Robinson  
Josephine Patt  
Thomas Young  
Sally Lawton West  
Cynthia Gordon  
Thelma Hill  
John Gordon  
Carrie Niles  
Darren Kennedy  
Doug Robinson  
Jenn & Jerry Robinson  
John & Marion Cumiskey

Charles Chase, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ludwig Seitz  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Roeshot  
Mrs. Pauline Gray  
Christine Plato  
Ronald Behers  
Edgar & Marion Wallace  
Elizabeth Bechtel  
Frank & Helen Bechtel  
Thomas Bechtel  
Dy Hue Bun  
Ang Ye  
Chua Pue Tin  
Luz Ang-Siy  
Julie Dy  
William Dy  
Joey Banik  
Kerry Banik  
Mary & Joseph Kupchak  
Robbie Butler  
Dorothy Ellison  
Sr. Raphael DuPrey  
Sr. Gladys DuPrey  
Charles & Viola Statts  
Alfonse & Theresa Krol  
Jared William Lounsbury  
G. Darby & Cecelia Gamble  
Marie & Lawrence Stager  
John & Effie Antonio  
Delores Seiberlich  
Tarszowicz Family  
Hayden Family  
Morrisey Family  
Joseph Tarszowicz  
Elizabeth Tarszowicz  
Ring/Tutak Family  
Grant & Campbell Families

## In Honor Of:

Don & Lucy Whitney  
Gary & Linda Kreisler  
Ashley & Ryan Butler  
Heather & Chris Contrucci  
Ashley & Robert Butler  
Bob Cross  
Brown & Tarszowicz  
Families  
Gabriella Grace Daugherty



