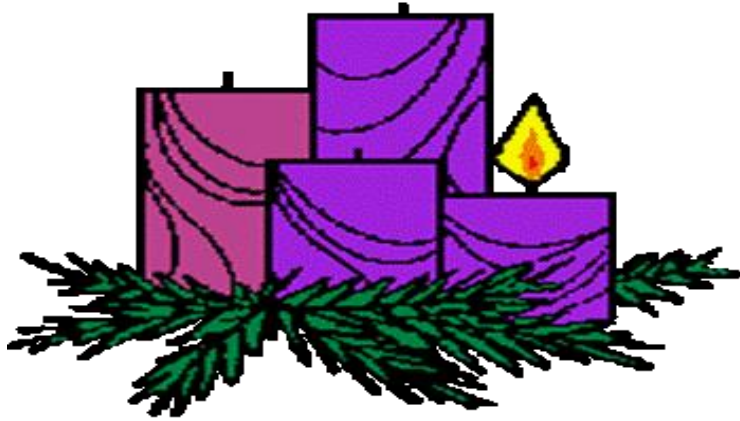


St. Peter's Church



First Sunday of Advent December 3, 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 _____



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 12/4	No Mass	
Tuesday 12/5	12:10pm	In Memory of Viola Statts (BJ Butler & Family)
Wednesday 12/6	12:10pm	In Memory of Fr. James Cronen (Tom & Linda Sampson)
Thursday 12/7	6:00pm	In Memory of Denison Young (Family)
Friday 12/8	12:10pm	In Memory of Joseph Donovan, Sr. (The Grab Family)
Saturday 12/9	5:00pm *Mass is livestreamed	In Memory of Wayne Singer (Wife; Sue)
Sunday 12/10	8:30am	Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Fr. James Cronen (Tom & Linda Sampson)

Tabernacle Flowers are in Memory of John J. Bober, III (Wife; Janet)

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 3rd

Religious Education Classes
8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12

Tuesday, December 5th

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

Sunday, December 10th

Religious Education Classes –
8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12

Mass Schedule for

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Vigil Mass: Thursday, December 7th
6:00pm – St. Peter's

Friday, December 8th
12:10pm – St. Peter's
6:00pm – St. Thomas

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for November 26, 2023: \$4,495.00
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00
Difference: -\$1,605.00
Year to Date Budget Variance: -\$794.35

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

Liturgical Reflection – First Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63: 16-17, 19, 64:2-7

Isaiah's prayer of lamentation is the cry of the people who believe that God has abandoned them in their distress and appears to blame God, who has allowed them to wander from the ways of God. God's anger may be justified because the people have been sinful. But this author trusts that God will provide the grace needed for us to choose the good and reject the evil, for God is a loving parent who would never abandon his beloved children. God carefully shapes our hearts to respond to his call.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 80

The theme of lamentation continues in the psalm. The psalmist cries out to God on behalf of the community. But the psalmist is confident that the Lord will respond and will once again look kindly on his people. The psalmist addressed God using images of shepherd and gardener, thus revealing a confidence that the Lord will surely tend to his flock, the vine he has planted. When we pray the Responsorial Psalm, we are continuing a long tradition (almost 3000 years old). In a mystical way, we can sense the communion of saints, living and deceased, who join us in worship in this liturgy. It is as if the divisions of space and time are overcome in the great act of praise.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

The First Sunday of Advent emphasizes Jesus' return in glory at the end of time and not his coming in his birth at Bethlehem. It continues the theme of the past few Sundays of the necessity of converting our lives in order to be ready for the Day of the Lord. Paul speaks of how Christ must be the center of our lives. He is the one who makes our lives and our hearts complete.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:33-37

Mark's Gospel account sets the tone for our Advent spirituality: Be watchful! Be alert! A brief parable about the master and his servants underlines the urgency of Jesus' message. Just as the servants are to take care of the master's possessions until his return, so too are the Lord's disciples to take care of the gifts entrusted to them by God. Neither the servant nor the disciple knows when the master will return. Advent is a season of expectation; waiting and preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and also for his return in glory. It is a period to convert our hearts and also to live in hope, as we wait for that which has not yet arrived. We watch and wait for Jesus' coming again in glory.

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.

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.

PARISHIONERS WANTED TO LIGHT CANDLES

Would you or your family like to light the Advent wreath candles at one of the Masses during the season of Advent? A sign-up sheet can be found on the table at the back of the church. Those lighting the candles should wait for Fr. Jacek at the back of the church prior to Mass. You will then process in behind the altar servers and lector, light the appropriate candle(s), then return to your pew.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Share Christmas joy
with a local child, family, or nursing home resident!

Select a tag from our Giving Tree in the church. Gifts for children should be placed in a gift bag, UNWRAPPED, with a tree tag attached. Items for Seeds of Hope should be placed in the box provided.

Children's gifts and Seeds of Hope items should be brought to the church by Sunday, December 10th. For nursing home residents, please follow the directions on the tag.

Questions? Please call Ginny Reindl at 570/506-0608.



Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org



Your Gift to the *Diocesan Annual Appeal* helped to provide 16,172 nights of emergency shelter to people in need last year.

HOSTED BY THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
VOCATIONS OFFICE



THE BODY OF CHRIST

Encountering the Real Presence
to be Sent on Real Mission

College Age - 40 year olds



YOUNG ADULT
DISCERNMENT RETREAT

DECEMBER 8-9, 2023

HOLY FAMILY RETREAT CENTER
151 OLD NEWPORT ST, NANTICOKE, PA 18634

“Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ’s return.” - Pope Francis

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24th

4:00pm at Saint Peter's - Music will be led by Young People's Choir.

6:00pm at St. Peter's – Music will be led by St. Peter's Music Ministry with organ, trumpet, piano, and others.

Christmas Day Monday, December 25th

9:30am at St. Peter's – Christmas Carols and music led by cantors.

11:30am at St. Thomas



Come Sing With Us!

Children: Young People's Choir will lead Christmas Carols and singing at the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Anyone who would like to sing, please come to the music room after Religious Education classes to prepare over the next few weeks. Practice will end at 11:15am. Call Mrs. Simonis at 570/724-2085 with any questions.

Everyone: St. Peter's Music Ministry welcomes anyone who can lend voice or instrument. We are preparing for the 6:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS. All those interested should please see us at the piano after Mass or call Christina Simonis at 570/724-2085.

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

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 rectory, or write *send statement* on your weekly offering envelope.

The Advent Season Starts Today!

Take time to reflect on how you will use the next four weeks to prepare your heart for Christmas!

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.

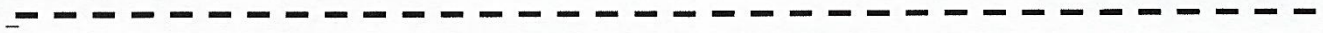
There will be a Mass offered for all those named on the tree during the season along with a commemorative booklet for a keepsake.

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 \$ _____



St. Peter's & St. Thomas Parishes Activity Calendar - December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Parish Office Closed Hamilton Gibson concert - 7:30pm	Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:30pm Youth Group Car Parking 8:30 - 10:30am Dickens Bread Pudding Booth 9:00am-4:00pm
					8	9
					Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45pm Mass - 6:00pm St. Thomas St. Peter's Parish Office Closed	St. Juan Diego Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:30pm
					15	16
					Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Parish Office Closed	Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:30pm
					22	23
					Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Parish Office Closed	St. John of Kanty Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:30pm
					29	30
					No Mass St. Peter's Parish Office Closed	Mass - 5:00pm Confessions- 4:30pm
					26	27
					Mass - 12:10pm Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA - 7:00pm / AA- 8:00pm	St. John, Apostle No Mass Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA- 7:00pm / AA- 8:00pm
					23	24
					Mass - 12:10pm Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA - 7:00pm / AA- 8:00pm	St. Stephen No Mass Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA- 7:00pm / AA- 8:00pm
					30	31
					Mass - 12:10pm Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA - 7:00pm / AA- 8:00pm	St. Thomas Becket No Mass St. Peter's Parish Office Closed
					20	21
					Mass - 12:10pm Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Parish Council Mtg. - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA - 7:00pm / AA- 8:00pm	St. Peter Canisius Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Parish Office Closed
					13	14
					Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Staff Meeting - 10:00am	St. John of the Cross Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am
					6	7
					Mass - 12:10pm Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA - 6:00pm / AA - 7:00pm	St. Nicholas Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am
					4	5
					No Mass St. John Damascene	St. Ambrose Mass - 6:00pm
					11	12
					No Mass St. Damasus I	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass - 12:10pm Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm
					10	11
					Mass - 8:30am Mass - 11:30am St. Thomas Mass - 1:00pm St. Catherine Rel. Ed.-Pre K 8:30am K-12 th 9:30 -10:40am	St. Lucy Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am
					17	18
					Mass - 8:30am Mass - 11:30am St. Thomas Mass - 1:00pm St. Catherine Rel. Ed.-Pre K 8:30am; K-12 th 9:30 -10:40am	St. John of the Cross Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Parish Office Closed
					24	25
					Mass - 8:30am Mass - 11:30am St. Thomas Mass - 1:00pm St. Catherine Rel. Ed.-Pre K 8:30am; K-12 th 9:30 -10:40am	St. John, Apostle No Mass Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA - 7:00pm / AA- 8:00pm
					24	25
					Mass - 8:30am Vigil Mass - 4:00pm & 6:00pm No Religious Ed. Classes	Nativity of the Lord Mass - 9:30am Mass - 11:30am St. Thomas
					31	31
					Mass - 8:30am Mass - 11:30am St. Thomas No Religious Ed. Classes	The Holy Family Mass - 8:30am Mass - 11:30am St. Thomas No Religious Ed. Classes




←----- No Daily Mass -- Father Jacek is away this week ----->

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> 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.