

St. Peter's Church



*Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 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 – 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 _____

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

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 12/05	No Mass	
Tuesday 12/06	12:10pm	In Memory of Lewis Chuck Getgen (Joan)
Wednesday 12/07	6:00pm	In Memory of Eileen Evert (Dy Family)
Thursday 12/08	12:10pm	In Memory of Frank Dziengowski (Wife Ida & Family)
Friday 12/09	12:10pm	In Memory of Wayne Singer (Family)
Saturday 12/10	5:00pm (Mass is livestreamed)	In Memory of Joseph Donovan Sr. (Grab Family)
Sunday 12/11	8:30am	In Memory of Merle Wilcox (Wife Kathy)

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

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.

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.

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 4th

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

Tuesday, December 6th

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

Wednesday, December 7th

Dinner Fundraising Meeting – 10:00am, Parish Center

Thursday, December 8th

Rectory Closed

Sunday, December 11th

Religious Education classes –
 8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12
 Confirmation Prep Class – 6:00pm, Parish Center
 Penance Service – 6:00pm, St. Peter’s

Liturgical Reflection ~ Second Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

The Root of Jesse is described in an allegorical sense. Here, a little shoot comes out of a barren stump and will reach out to the Gentiles. The wolf and the lamb, the child and the adder (a snake), are examples of this extreme contrast between what was possible and what will be. Centuries after Isaiah, Christians understood his vision of God's ultimate reign over all things through a chosen ruler to be fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah, who proclaimed the Kingdom of God.

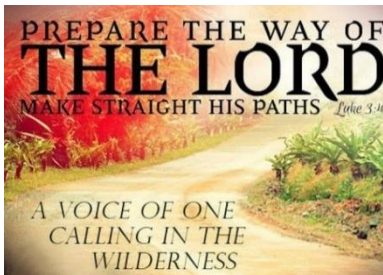
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 72

Psalm 72 speaks of endowing the king with judgment and the king's son with justice. This is a reference to King David and his son Jesse, the youngest and the chosen one. The Root of Jesse is Jesus, who will "rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him."

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-9

Endurance and encouragement is a curious description of God. It contrasts with the sometimes angry and brooding images of God we hear in the Old Testament. Paul called for harmony among the early Church followers. This is not that much different than the Christian communities and various theologies of God that exist today. Jesus led us to look beyond our differences and ministered to people in many walks of life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12



John the Baptist preached a difficult message, and challenged the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" One is not baptized out of fear, nor is it about pedigree or education, background, or position. Baptism is a response to the call to "produce good fruit as evidence of...repentance." John makes clear that he himself is not the Messiah, but rather, his messenger; he baptizes with water, but God's Anointed One will baptize with divine Spirit. In Greek, baptizo means to wash or immerse; thus the Messiah will immerse the baptized in God's own life-giving presence.

Marian Ministries



Living Rosary Update

Participants from St. Peters and Holy Child parishes have offered two Living Rosaries to our Blessed Mother every day throughout October. What a gift of grace, given and received! We plan to continue this devotion through the end of December, when we will re-evaluate the participants desire to continue. Ideally, we hope to offer at least one Living Rosary indefinitely. Contact Linda Sampson if you are no longer able to pray your chosen decade or if you would like to join the Living Rosary family. (Email sampson4509@gmail.com; text or call 570-404-2180).

"The word Advent means coming. The Lord is coming. This is the root of our hope; the certainty that God's consolation comes to us amidst the troubles of the world. Not a consolation of words, but of His presence among us."

Pope Francis

ADVENT SEASON

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

Advent Traditions for Families



The Empty Manger: Each child may have his own individual manger, or there may be one manger for the whole family. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, Baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus' bed as comfortable as possible through their good deeds. In the process, explain Christ's incomparable self-gift at Christmas and Easter that enables us to be part of God's family.

The Jesse Tree: The Jesse tree tells about Christ's ancestry through symbols and relates Scripture to salvation history, progressing from creation to the birth of Christ. The tree can be made on a poster board with the symbols glued on, or on an actual tree.



Blessing of the Tree: More and more frequently families are blessing their Christmas trees. It is good to remind children that the tree relates to many aspects of our faith. For example, we are reminded that our first parents were not allowed to eat from one tree, and that Christ paid the great price for our redemption by hanging on a tree (cf. Acts 5:29-32).

St. Nicholas Day: The feast of St. Nicholas is on Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season. Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop with his miter, staff, and bag of gifts will pay a visit. Many families give gifts on both Dec. 6 and Christmas.



The Christ Candle: Any large white candle can be used for the Christ candle. The idea is to decorate it with symbols for Christ. Use old Christmas cards, sequins, holly, etc. The candle can be lit on Christmas Eve to show that the Light of the World has arrived. Then continue to light the Christ candle throughout the year at Sunday dinner to remind your family of our waiting for Christ, as well as celebrating His birth and Resurrection.

St. Lucy Cakes: The feast of St. Lucy, virgin, and martyr, is on December 13th. This marks the opening of the Christmas season in Sweden. Her life story can be found in most saints books, as can the recipe for the traditional cakes. The symbolism is rich and her life story worthwhile reading.



The Nativity Scene: This is the event in which the entire family shares setting up the Christmas manger. Mary and Joseph should be far off traveling and their approach to Bethlehem can be adjusted daily. Older children can make life-size Nativity models, carve them, cut them out from cardboard, or set up pre-made figurines. The creative ideas are without limit. Make sure to place the Nativity scene where many can admire the children's efforts to give God glory.

Christmas Baking: There are many recipe books available to find great traditional Christmas baking ideas. The baking usually starts around December 20th. As Christmas nears the house will smell of baking and fresh wreaths. The glory of Christmas is at hand! Move the manger to a focal point, add lights to the Nativity to be lighted on Christmas Eve, and anticipate together.



Second Sunday in Advent



The Immaculate Conception, 1627. Artist: Guido Reni Italian. Met Museum Collection.

Prayer from St. John Paul II

Immaculate Virgin!

Your spotless spiritual beauty is for us a living source of confidence and hope. To have you as Mother, Holy Virgin, reassures us on the path of life as a pledge of eternal salvation. Because of this, O Mary, we have recourse to you with confidence. Help us to build a world where human life is always cherished and defended, every form of violence banished, the peace of all tenaciously sought.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation.

An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. "Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, 'full of grace' through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception" (CCC, no. 491).

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin. In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church.



Catholic
Current

Prayer from Saint John Paul II, copyright © 2004, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City State. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The article about the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is an excerpt from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006) 141–143, 149. Copyright © 2006, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC. All rights reserved.

BULLETIN INSERT

Mass Schedule for Immaculate Conception

Wednesday, December 7th – 6:00pm at St. Peter's

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

The Christmas Remembrance Tree at St. Peter's Parish



This is a beautiful way to remember a loved one living or deceased as you 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.

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 -- \$25
- Flocked Pine Cone -- \$5

To sponsor your ornament, please complete the bottom portion of this form and return it to the rectory with your payment by December 11th. The booklet will be sent to the printer on that date. Please call the rectory 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

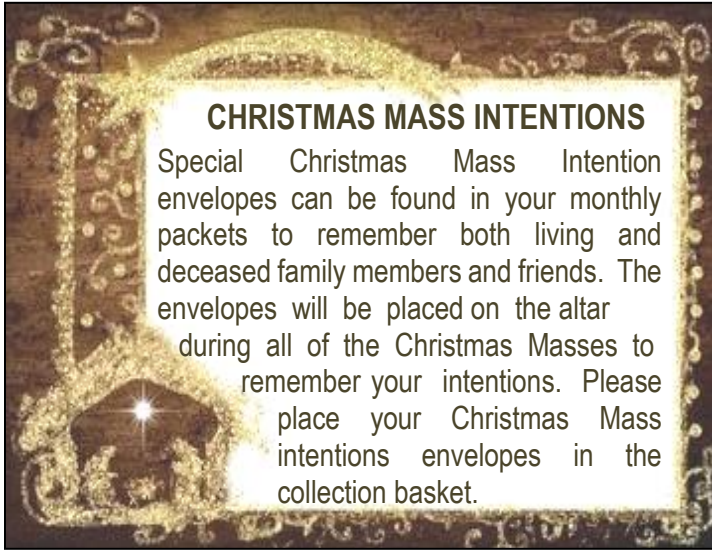
_____ Red \$25 _____ Blue \$25 _____ Flocked Pine Cone \$5

Person's Name (please print) _____

Requested By (please print) _____

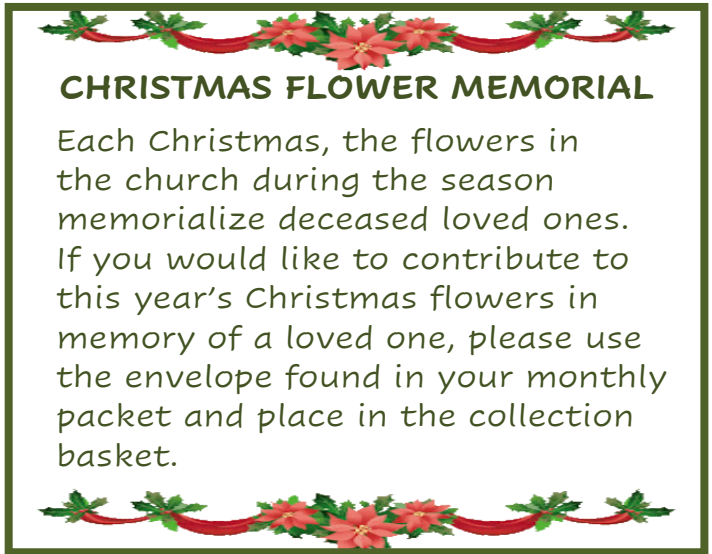
Amount Enclosed _____





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.

BREAD PUDDING BOOTH

Thank you to everyone who helped at this year's Dickens bread pudding booth. A special thank you to Sue Sticklin and Lisa Banik for chairing the event. A financial report will be in an upcoming bulletin.

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!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE


Share Christmas joy with a child, nursing home resident or family helped by Seeds of Hope. Select a red ornament for a child, green ornament for a nursing home resident or white for Seeds of Hope.

Please place the gifts for children, UNWRAPPED, in a Christmas gift bag, place the tag attached to the ornament on the bag and put it under the tree by Sunday, December 11.

Place the items for Seeds of Hope in the box near the tree by Sunday, December 11.

Please deliver the gift items for Broad Acres or Green Home residents in person, by December 24, as the visit from you is as important as the gift! These residents may not have any family members or friends that will visit them during the holiday.

Questions? Call BJ Butler- 570-724-2222.



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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.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Janice M. McNinch

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.