St. Peter's Church



Second Sunday of Advent December 5, 2021

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 – 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 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 – stpreled@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

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 – Rectory 570-724-3371 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 - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

Date	Time	Mass Intention	
Monday 12/6	12:10pm	In Memory of Joseph Donovan, Sr. (Grab Family)	
Tuesday 12/7	5:00pm	In Memory of Peter Rymarczuk (Dio & Marilyn deGuzman)	
Wednesday 12/8	12:10pm 5:00pm	In Memory of Myslinski Family & Friends (Tom & Linda Sampson) In Memory of Denison Young (Sue Singer)	
Thursday 12/9	No Mass		
Friday 12/10	12:10pm	In Memory of Wayne Singer (Women's Bible Study)	
Saturday 12/11	5:00pm (Mass is livestreamed)	In Memory of Lewis & Lenora Bowers (Joan)	
Sunday 12/12	8:30am	Deceased Members of the Robert Tayton Family (Family)	

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Myslinski Family & Friends (Tom & Linda Sampson)

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.

ADVENT MATERIAL

There is a wide selection of free Advent material on the handout table on the side of the church to enrich your Advent season.

Please feel free to take a few for your family.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin is emailed to those for whom we have email addresses. If you are not currently receiving the weekly email and would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact the rectory. For those who are unable to attend Mass in person and do not have access to the internet, a bulletin can be mailed to your home. Please call the rectory to request a mailing.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 5th – Religious Education Classes 8:30am Pre-School; 9:30am K-12th Confirmation Prep Class – 6:00pm

Tuesday, Dec. 7th – Women's Bible Study, 9:00am **Sunday, Dec. 12**th – Religious Education Classes 8:30am Pre-School; 9:30am K-12th

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for November 28, 2021:\$4,521.00
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses:\$6,100.00
Difference:(\$1,579.00)
Year-to-Date Budget Variance:(\$4,557.94)
We are grateful to all those who are able to financially support our parish.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic adoration takes place every Tuesday from 8:00am-6:00pm. We are in need of more adorers, especially from 8:00am-9:00am and 9:00am-10:00am. Please consider signing up for a spot. The signup sheet is located on the bulletin board in the church.

YEAR END DONATIONS

2021 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31st 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.

Liturgical Reflection ~ First Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Baruch 5:1-9

Today's First Reading from Baruch was addressed to exiles who still remember the pain of being "led away on foot by their enemies." Israel's exile in Babylon left the people hopeless, questioning their identity. How could God so utterly abandon them? Baruch urges Jerusalem to throw off her garments of grief and put on the garment of the splendor of glory and the cloak of God's justice so that they may all see her period of mourning is finished. God will remember his people and return them to their home from which they were snatched. God will clear the way for their return, leveling the lofty mountains and filling in the "age-old depths." These words of hope do not speak only to people displaced geographically, but to each of us who has experienced our own exile of estrangement and spiritual malaise. God is at work turning sorrow to joy!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 126

The psalm continues the theme of restoration found in the First Reading and the Gospel. It presents an idealistic version of what the return from Babylonian exile would be like for the people of Israel. It speaks of joy and laughter and promises a return of fertility to the land. During the season of Advent, we are called to return to God from the exile that we have created for ourselves through our lives of sin and selfishness. We cannot hope to change our hearts with our own strength. It is God who will transform the desert of our hearts into a land overflowing with fertility.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

In today's Second Reading, Paul writes to this community from prison, and reminds us that the work of conversion lasts a lifetime. God begins "a good work" in us at Baptism initiating a life process of growth that doesn't end till we stand before the Lord. Paul urges the community to continue to grow in agape love, the kind of love that knows no bounds and that expects nothing in return. It is the kind of love that will make them pure and blameless when Christ returns in glory. Paul calls this "faith working through love" -- the active response of Christian believers to the gift of right relationship with God.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6



Today's Gospel tells of John the Baptist, the herald of the coming kingdom or reign of God. God's salvation approaches and nothing will stand in its way. Mountains will be leveled and valleys filled in so nothing can impede the progress of God's Kingdom. The Gospel speaks of the role of John the Baptist. He calls upon his people to prepare the way for the Lord. Luke includes two details about John's mission not found in the other three Gospel writings. First, he tells of John traveling throughout the region with his proclamation; he was a traveling preacher. Second, his message included a

baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John speaks to us as well. We cannot hope to embrace the babe of Bethlehem if we do not turn away from our sins. We live in hope of seeing the salvation of God.



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 Jan Bernethy, 307-267-0677 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.**



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: \$29,843.50.

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!

GIVING TREE

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

Please select a tag from our Giving Tree and read the directions printed on the tag explaining how to deliver the gifts to a nursing home resident. The gifts for children or families must be placed, UNWRAPPED in a gift bag with the tag attached, under the Giving Tree by Friday, December 17th.

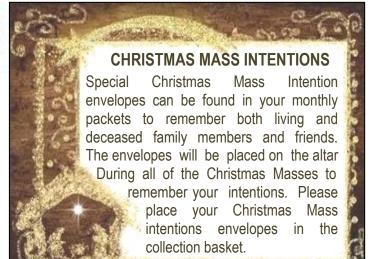
Gifts for Seeds of Hope should be placed under the tree in a plastic bag.

Questions? Please call Karen Plumley 570-439-0175.

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.



"Our life becomes beautiful when we wait for a dear one or someone important. May this Advent help us transform our hope into the certainty that He whom we await loves us and will never abandon us. Pope Francis

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. PETER'S

You are invited to share a meal and spend time with others on Christmas Day. Dinner will be served at 12:00pm in the Parish Center. Meat and beverage will be provided. Kindly bring a dish to share. If you do not cook, bring an item that can be served cold. Reservations are requested by Sunday, December 19th by calling Betsy and Dan Gordon at 570~724~7259 or email danbg77@gmail.com. Reservations should include NAME, NUMBER ATTENDING, and the DISH YOU ARE BRINGING.

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 next week's bulletin.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection during the Coronavirus Pandemic

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

Advent Penance Services

Sunday, December 12th – 3:00pm, Holy Child December 20th – 6:00pm, St. Peters

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. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C).

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 Gods 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.

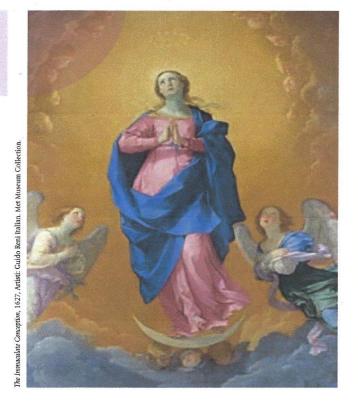
St. Lucy Cakes: The feast of St. Lucy, virgin, and martyr, is on December 13th. This marks the opening of the Christmas season in Sweden. Her life story can be found in most saints books, as can the recipe for the traditional cakes. The symbolism is rich and her life story worthwhile reading.



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



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.



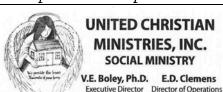
Prayer from Saint John Paul II, copyright © 2004, Libreria Editrice Vaticanca, Vatican City State. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The article about the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is an excerpt from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006) 141–143,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





Mass Schedule for Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 7th – 5:00pm Wednesday, December 8th – 12:10pm and 7:00pm Please patronize our sponsors and thank them for their support. Their advertising helps to make our bulletin possible.



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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."

Parish Prayer List

Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Mary Mekos, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephenie 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 Ouattrone, 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, and Staci Stager.



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

Robert Dalton, Joyce Bowe

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.