

# 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 Wednesday, 8:00am–2:00pm  
Thursday, 9:00am–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

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:45am-12:00pm;  
Saturday, 4:30-4:45pm or by appointment



*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*February 20, 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 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 – 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## **WELCOME BISHOP BAMBERA**

We welcome Bishop Bambera to St. Peter's this weekend as part of a pastoral visit to Tioga County. Bishop Bambera will be the celebrant at the 8:30am Mass. All are welcome to attend and greet the Bishop following the Mass. We will livestream this Mass for those unable to attend in person.



### **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 – 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 – 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 – Rectory 570-724-3371  
Worship Committee – Rectory 570-724-3371  
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

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 2/21	No Mass	
Tuesday 2/22	7:30am	In Memory of Gus & Claire Vargus (Sue Singer)
Wednesday 2/23	12:10pm	In Memory of Cindy Dalton (Grab Family)
Thursday 2/24	No Mass	
Friday 2/25	12:10pm	In Memory of Michel Bowen (Suzan Richar)
Saturday 2/26	5:00pm (Mass is livestreamed)	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 2/27	8:30am	In Memory of Paul Urner (Ostapowicz Family)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of David Sweeney (Mike & Connie McNamara)

## 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.

### Stewardship

Sunday Collection for February 13, 2022: \$7,523.00  
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00  
 Difference: \$1,423.00  
 Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$3,292.59)

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

### 2022 Mass Intentions Notice

At this time we have filled all of our available Mass intentions for 2022 and are no longer able to accept any new requests. Sanctuary candles are still available for many dates. Please call the rectory to reserve a candle. We are able to send Mass intentions to Villa Saint Joseph in Dunmore. The retired priests of the Diocese of Scranton will then celebrate the Mass for the intention. Please call the office for more information on this option.

### UPDATED INFORMATION

Please let the rectory know whenever you make changes to your mailing address or telephone number or email. We know that many no longer use a landline. If you are one of those who has made that change, please let the rectory know so that our records can be as up to date as possible.

### HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – Religious Education Classes  
 Monday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – Rectory Closed  
 Tuesday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Women's Bible Study, 9:00am  
 Polish Dinner Prep – 9:30am  
 Wednesday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Polish Dinner Prep – 9:00am  
 Friday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – Polish Dinner Prep – 11:00am  
 Polish Dinner 4:00pm-6:00pm  
 Sunday, Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> – Religious Education Classes



The Rectory will be closed and there will be no daily Mass on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, in honor of President's Day.

**"Faith is born and reborn: not from a duty, not from something to be done, but from a gaze of love to be welcomed. Christian life thus becomes beautiful, if it is not based on our abilities and our plans, but rather on God's gaze." Pope Francis**

## Liturgical Reflection ~ 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Today's First Reading speaks of one of the several stories about political and military conflicts between David and Saul and challenges us to adopt a radically different sense of justice, one based upon mercy and not strict retribution. The reading recounts an episode from the life of David. God had chosen David to succeed Saul, and Samuel had anointed him as the next king. All that David did was successful. Saul had been anointed as king of Israel, but he had sinned against the Lord and the Lord had rejected him. This caused Saul to be jealous and he sought to kill David many times. David could have killed Saul when he came upon him, but David would not kill the anointed of the Lord. David's respect for the king puts the matter in God's hands. This gives us a good example of how we can respond to those who do evil things to us. We can respond with forgiveness. God favors those who show justice toward others and faithfulness to God.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 103

The Responsorial Psalm reminds us that we have learned what mercy means from the way the Lord has treated us. God has redeemed us and crowned us with kindness and compassion. He is slow to anger. He has forgiven our sins. We seek the mercy and compassion of God.

### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Today's Second Reading continues Paul's teaching on the resurrection of the dead, which we heard about 2 Sundays ago. Paul raises a very practical question: "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come back?" St. Paul uses the imagery of Jesus being a second Adam in this passage – *The first man, Adam, became a living being, the last Adam a life-giving spirit.* The first Adam, the first human created, is our forefather. He brought sin into the world. We have inherited this from him. The second Adam, Jesus, has brought life into the world. Unlike the first Adam, he was obedient to the command of his Father. While we have inherited our earthly nature and sin from the first Adam, we have inherited our spiritual nature and eternal life from Jesus. As we bear the image of Christ on earth, so will we bear the image of the risen Christ in heaven.

### GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

Today's Gospel is a continuation of Luke's Sermon on the Plain. Luke's Gospel has been characterized as being a Gospel of mercy and compassion. This passage demonstrates that, for in it Jesus calls us to base our human actions upon the call to mercy. It calls Christians to adopt the Gospel of love. Love is a choice of service to those who hate and hurt us. It cannot be motivated by what one will receive in return, but must be based upon the need of the other. We cannot refuse to love others because they do not deserve our love. We did not deserve to be loved and forgiven by God, and yet we received that mercy. We have to share that mercy with others. Jesus presents a goal. We must aim at that goal, realizing that it might take a lifetime for us to reach it. May our hearts be the exact reflection of God's heart of mercy, as we respond with compassion, just as we have received compassion from our loving God. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." When we act in this radical way and forget about self-protection, God will give us such superabundance that we will not be able to contain it.

"Be merciful,  
just as your Father  
is merciful.

Stop judging  
and you will  
not be judged.

Stop condemning  
and you will  
not be condemned.

Forgive and you  
will be forgiven."

The Diocese of Scranton strongly recommends that all parishioners wear a mask while attending Mass, regardless of vaccination status. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to protect our friends and neighbors and mask wearing remains an important mitigation tool against community spread.

*"Before God we are not strangers, or numbers. We are faces and hearts, known one by one, by name." Pope Francis*

# St. Peter's Church Polish Dinner

Friday, February 25, 2022  
4:00 – 6:00pm

Take Out Only

Cost: \$10:00

- ❖ Homemade Pierogies
- ❖ Homemade Kielbasa
- ❖ Stuffed Cabbage
- ❖ Sauerkraut
- ❖ Applesauce
- ❖ Brownie



Have you heard?  
Something CHARITABLY DELICIOUS  
is sizzling in the Diocese of Scranton!

REC ORY, SET, COOK!

PREMIERING FAT TUESDAY!

Fr. Mosley is one of 25+ "pastor chefs" suiting up to take part in a tasty virtual showdown unlike any you've seen before!  
STAY TUNED FOR FULL DETAILS on this joint fundraiser to benefit Catholic Social Services AND our parish!

You can fight local hunger AND benefit St. Peter/St. Thomas parishes by casting your vote!

## NEW ALTAR SERVER



## TRAINING

Open to all Youth who are at least in 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Two Training Sessions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27<sup>th</sup> DURING RELIGIOUS ED

AND

SUNDAY, MARCH 6<sup>th</sup> DURING RELIGIOUS ED

Training will take place in the CHURCH

Please call or email the religious ed office to register

(570) 724 – 9789 [stpreled@ptd.net](mailto:stpreled@ptd.net)



SAVE THE DATE  
Saturday, June 11, 2022  
Marywood University  
*Full of Grace*



[www.cwcnepa.com](http://www.cwcnepa.com)

## ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to those who have already made a pledge to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. We have met our goal!

*St. Peter's Annual Appeal Parish Goal: \$ 46,000 ~ Current Pledged Amount: \$ 46,941*

*Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts made to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal goal.* If you have not yet given your support, please: Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250, to make a pledge or give a gift by credit card, Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office at 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503, or give online at [www.DiocesefofScranton.org](http://www.DiocesefofScranton.org).

*The dioceses is offering a new donor initiative which provides a refund to parishes for reaching new donor goals. An increase of 10% in new donors results in a \$2000 refund to the parish. An increase of 5% in new donors offers a \$1000 refund to the parish. St. Peter's needs 31 new donors to meet the 5% increase and 49 new donors to meet the 10% increase. Any donation amount qualifies.*

# Everyone is invited to take and share the Diocese of Scranton's online survey for the Synod on Synodality



## *We Are Listening!*

Take the Diocese of Scranton's Online Survey for the Synod on Synodality  
at [dioceseofscranton.org](https://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

*(Available in both English and Spanish)*

*We invite you to share your joys, sorrows,  
hopes and dreams for our church*



By calling for the 2023 Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis is inviting the Church to gather and to listen to each and every Catholic to find the Church's path forward at this time in our history. This is a moment for the voice of God's people to be heard to give voice to the direction of the Church.

Pope Francis is providing the opportunity for this ancient and tested model to find relevance in light of today's challenges and opportunities. The Holy Father seeks to hear every voice. Prayerfully consider participating either in your parish's in-person consultation session or through the Diocese of Scranton's online survey.

To participate in the survey, go to the Diocese's website -- <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/synod-on-synodality/>

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT  
**SIGNPOSTS:**  
HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND TRUST  
THE WORK OF GOD'S HAND IN ONE'S LIFE

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**FATHER PAT ROGERS, SJ**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
JESUIT CENTER,  
UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

TO REGISTER AND/OR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:  
**DICESEOFSCRANTON.ORG**

## Young Adult Retreat

The Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations are sponsoring a retreat for young adults (aged 18-35) on Friday, March 25. This 24-hour retreat is titled "Signposts: How to Recognize and Trust the Work of God's Hand in One's Life." The retreat will consist of interactive sessions led by Father Patrick Rogers, S.J., Executive Director of the Jesuit Center at the University of Scranton, small group discussion, private prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, reconciliation, Mass, and time to connect with other young adults from throughout the Diocese. Registration fee is \$20.00. To register and/or for more information, visit [dioceseofscranton.org](https://www.dioceseofscranton.org) or call 570-207-1452.



# VISION 2030

*Creating Parish Communities Rooted  
in the Life of Jesus Christ*

## **3. Diminishing Number of Ordained Priests**

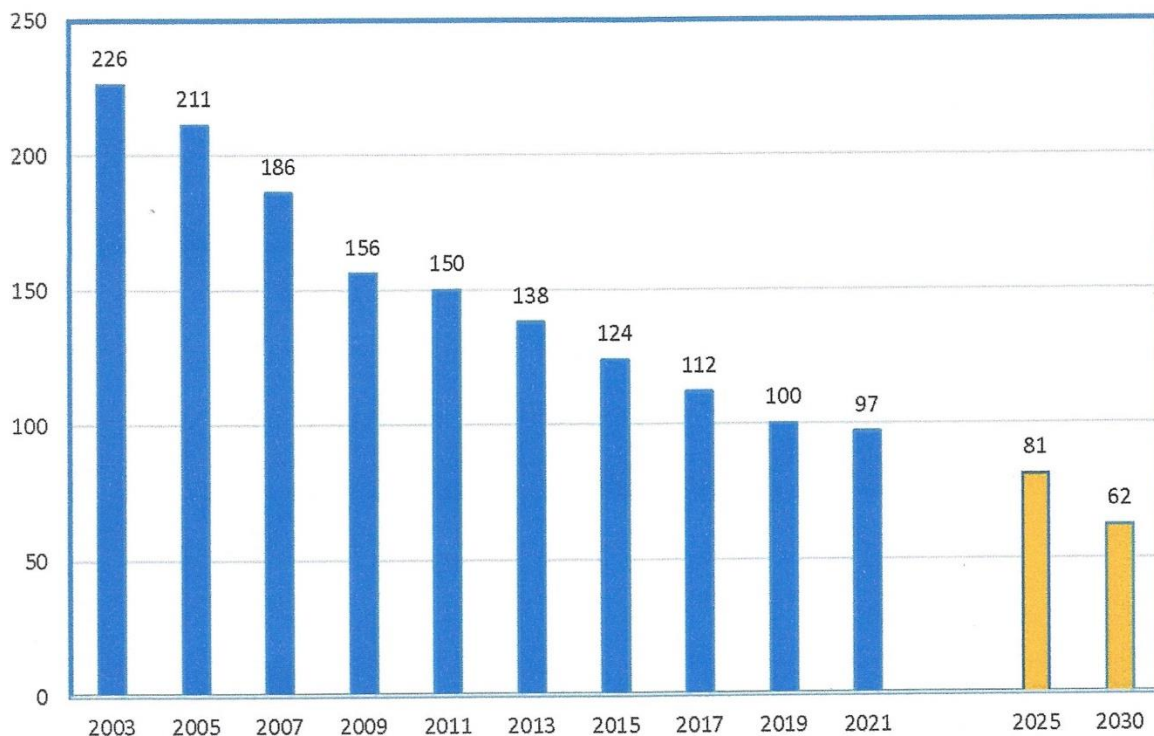
Over the coming decade and beyond, the Diocese of Scranton faces a decreasing number of priests. A fewer number of priests will represent a significant challenge to the entire diocese. Given the decline in people actively practicing their faith, there would naturally be fewer priests coming from our families. Changes will need to be prompted because of clergy retirement, infirmity or transfer.

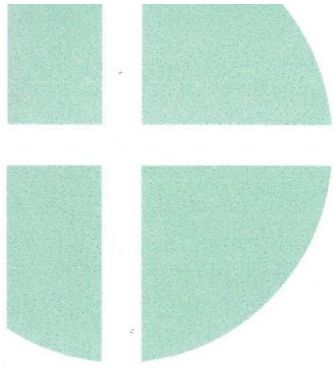
The number of Diocesan priests in active ministry has decreased significantly over the last several decades. As indicated in the graph below, the Diocese of Scranton had more than 200 active priests in 2003. That number has consistently declined in subsequent years. In 2021, there were 97 diocesan priests active in the Diocese.

While various factors can influence any projections - including the number of seminarians ordained by the Diocese in the coming years - the following is of immediate concern:

- 16 priests are expected to reach the retirement age by 2025.
- 19 additional priests are projected for retirement between 2025-2030  
(The retirement age is 75 in the Diocese of Scranton)
- Because of health conditions known in 2021, 6 priests may not be able to continue in ministry until their expected retirement age.

**Diocesan Priests Active in the Diocese**





# The feast of the Chair of St. Peter

BY FR. LARRY RICE

On February 22nd each year, the Church celebrates the feast of the Chair of St. Peter. This might seem odd, as the church doesn't venerate furniture. There's no feast of the end-tables of St. Cyprian, or feast of the Sofa of St. Andrew. So, what's with the chair?

In pre-Christian Rome, the feast of *Parentalia* (celebrated in the third week of February) commemorated deceased relatives and friends, and it was traditional to leave an empty chair at the table in their honor. This empty chair has parallels in many other faiths, including Judaism. Christianity, in its early centuries, often established feasts and holiday that coincided with—and generally supplanted—the celebrations of the larger culture.

As early as the 4th Century, there is evidence of a Christian feast celebrating the Chair of Peter. The significance isn't the chair itself, but rather the authority it represents. The Latin word for chair, *cathedra*, is where we get the word cathedral. And when a pope speaks a pronouncement with his full authority as head of the Church, he is said to speak "*ex cathedra*" or, "from the chair." So, when we observe the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, we're celebrating the office of the pope as the authoritative head of the Church.

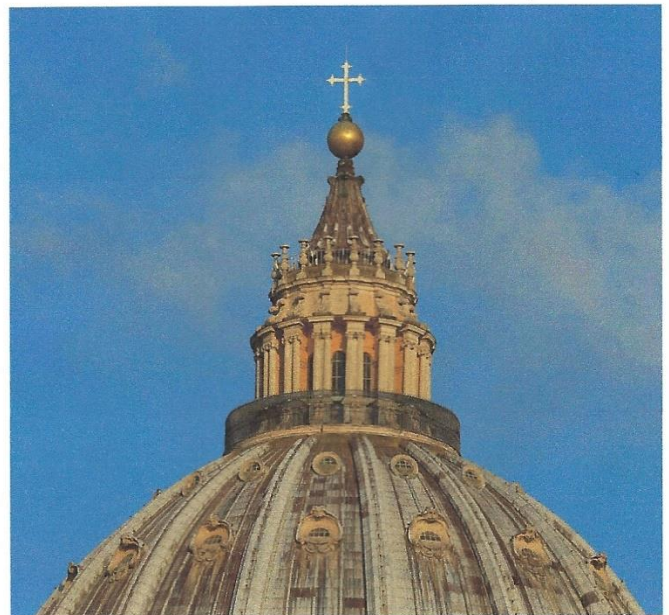
As for St. Peter's original chair, it is represented in St. Peter's basilica in Rome by an elaborate sculpture by Bernini. The relics of the chair itself are in the Vatican treasury, and not on public display. Those relics were given to the Vatican in the year 875 by King Charles II of France.

## PRAYER FOR CIVIC LEADERS

In Celebration of Presidents' Day

God our Father,  
You guide everything in wisdom and love.  
Accept the prayers we offer for our nation.  
In your goodness,  
watch over those in authority  
so that people everywhere  
may enjoy freedom, security and peace.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.


—From **Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers**



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*Dr. Richard F. Black*

**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**

Nan Bowser, 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, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, 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, 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 Fermeric, Alice Kohut, John Bowe, Kathy Wheeler, Phyliss Davis, Tom Patt, Sammi Swinnich, Claire Smith, Raymond Butler, Michael Joseph Harris, Bob & Pam Trynovich, Maggie Stirnaman, Jane Johnson, Dan Usavage, Philip Kniceley, Maureen Bailey, George Hill, and Mary Kay Clark.



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.