

St. Peter's Church



Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God January 1, 2023

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

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 _____

A Prayer for the New Year

O God of new beginnings and Wonderful surprises, thank You for the gift of a new year.

May it be a time of grace for me, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew my commitment to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing for me, a time to cherish my family and friends, a time to renew my efforts at work, a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine through me, in spite of my weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You. **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 1/2	No Mass	
Tuesday 1/3	12:10pm	In Memory of Barbara Albro (Dennis & Linda Stager)
Wednesday 1/4	12:10pm	In Memory of Robert & Joan Tobaygo, Sr. (Robert Tobaygo, Jr.)
Thursday 1/5	12:10pm	In Memory of Ira & Elaina McDonell (Mickey Romania)
Friday 1/6	12:10pm	In Memory of Henry Sulewski (Daughter Kathy)
Saturday 1/7	5:00pm Mass is livestreamed	In Memory of Doug Robinson (Wife)
Sunday 1/8	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of Saint Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Peter Saladis, Sr. and Eugene Saladis (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, January 1st

No Religious Education classes

Monday, January 2nd

Rectory closed

Tuesday, January 3rd

Women's Bible Study - 10:00am, Parish Center

Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm, Church

Wednesday, January 4th

Following Christ - 6:30pm, Parish Center

Sunday, January 8th

Knights of Columbus District Mtg. - 3:00pm, Parish Center

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for December 25, 2022: \$10,650.96

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00

Difference: \$4,550.96

Year to Date Budget Variance: (\$-2,679.34)

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

Liturgical Reflection ~ Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

FIRST READING: Numbers 6:22-27

The New Year begins with a blessing, and the great hope of all today is that it will continue in peace, with the face of God shining upon all people. Held fast within God's kindness, we walk confidently from this sacred threshold into an unknown future.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 67

The psalm continues this theme of asking for God's blessing and mercy. Nations who know they are ultimately ruled by God can rejoice because they are free from the whims or mistakes of limited human beings. Knowing the generous nature of God, how could God do anything but bless?

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

If only people could fully comprehend the meaning and believe the message of this reading, they might not become so easily upset over failures and disappointments. If human beings are God's sons and daughters, heirs to God's kingdom, what could interfere? What else could possibly matter more? Because of Jesus' birth, every human being can call God Father, by whatever dear and intimate version of the name they wish.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:16-21



Luke's version of the Shepherds coming to Bethlehem, possibly heard before at the dawn Mass on Christmas day, is so central to faith that it is one of the earliest stories Christian children hear. Shepherds are not people of wealth, yet they are wise enough to be amazed. Can we too, no matter how often we hear the story, wonder at its simplicity as well as its extraordinary scope? As Jesus receives his name, it's a good time to reflect on our own names. What hopes and dreams did they contain? How does it feel to hear our unique and special name, called with tenderness? Jesus himself shares that experience. Just as his name was revealed by the angel at the Annunciation, so too God chose every human name with special care and specificity. We respond as the shepherds did, praising God.



We are still in the midst of Christmas Time, and today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The divine and virginal motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a singular salvific event: for Our Lady it was the foretaste and cause of her extraordinary glory; for us it is a source of grace and salvation because "through her we have received the Author of life". One of the most outstanding characteristics of Mary is her willingness to know and do God's will. While we would like to follow her example, we wonder how she was so sure of it. Today's Gospel gives a clue. She reflected on events that happened and were happening. She meditated. In our busy lives today, we often overlook meditation as a prayer.

"I would like to ask you all for a special prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict, who in silence is supporting the Church. Remember him – he is very ill – asking the Lord to console him, and sustain him in this witness of love for the Church, until the end." – Pope Francis

Saint John Neumann – Feast Day, January 5th

John Neumann was born in the Czech Republic on March 28th, 1811. Zealous for the missionary life and to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support. Neumann was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York in 1836, and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls.

In 1852, at the age of 41, he was named bishop of Philadelphia. At this time, the Diocese of Scranton was not yet established and Wellsboro was the responsibility of Bishop Neumann. He made it his mission to visit every town in his See, even though the trip was long and difficult. His visit to Wellsboro is recorded in his travel log from 1858, where he writes that on June 17, 1858, he confirmed two in the home of William Carroll and 40-50 in the home of Jacob Stickley.

It is a proud part of our parish history to know that our faith community began with confirmation administered by a man who later became the second American saint of the Roman Catholic Church.



Knights of Columbus District Meeting

Tom Socha, District Deputy of District #51, Knights of Columbus, invites all Tioga County Knights to meet with him at 3:00pm, January 8, 2023, at St. Peter's Parish Center in Wellsboro, to relay information from the Pennsylvania State deputies meeting (Jan. 6-8th), introduce District ceremonial team and new procedures, and establish a county-wide knights calendar. A social will follow. Please RSVP to tmsoch@gmail.com.

Youth Group Events



Youth Group Christmas Party



Dickens Parking

Thank you to the following parishioners who volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign:

*Thomas & David Gordon
Melissa Mann
Anna Tellgren & Kirsten Tellgren*





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



“Following Christ” Reminder

On **Wednesday, January 4th**, “Following Christ”, the 2nd 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.

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.

Rectory Hours

The rectory will be closed Monday, January 2nd.
Happy New Year!

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 9th 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. 2nd 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 with the word “Bulletin” in the subject line.

Prayer is the best way to say thank you to Jesus who wants to enter into our homes and into our hearts.
- 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.

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

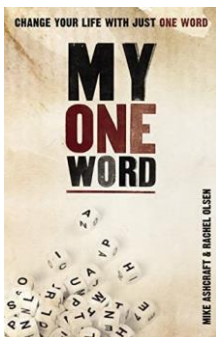


Catechism in a Year Podcast

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.


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 for more information.

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Solemnity of Mary Mass - 8:30am Mass -11:30am St. Thomas Mass - 1:00pm St. Catherine No Rel. Ed. Classes	2 Ss. Basil & Gregory No Mass Both Rectories Closed	3 Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm at St. Peter's Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA/Al-Anon - 6:00pm & 7:00pm	4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Thomas Rectory Closed Following Christ - 6:30pm at St. Peter's	5 St. John Neumann Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Rectory Closed	6 Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Rectory Closed	7 Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:30pm
8 Epiphany of the Lord 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 Knights of Columbus Mtg. - 3:00pm at St. Peter's	9 The Baptism of the Lord No Mass St. Thomas Rectory Closed	10 Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am Knights of Columbus Mtg. - 6:00pm at St. Thomas AA /Al-Anon-7:00am & 8:00pm	11 Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Thomas Rectory Closed Following Christ - 6:30pm at St. Peter's	12 Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am	13 St. Hilary Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Rectory Closed	14 Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:30pm First Penance - 10:00am
15 2nd Sun. Ordinary Time Mass - 8:30am Mass- 11:30am St. Thomas Mass - 4:00pm St. Catherine Rel. Ed. -Pre K 8:30am; K-12 th 9:30 -10:40am Super Bingo - St. Thomas at 12:00pm; Doors open 10:30am	16 St. Hilary No Mass Both Rectories Closed	17 St. Anthony Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm at St. Peter's Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA /Al-Anon-7:00am & 8:00pm	18 Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Thomas Rectory Closed Dinner Fundraising Mtg - 10:00am Following Christ - 6:30pm at St. Peter's	19 Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Fundraiser Mtg. - St. Catherine's Hall at 6:30pm	20 St. Sebastian Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Rectory Closed	21 St. Agnes Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:30pm
22 3rd Sun. Ordinary Time 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	23 St. Vincent No Mass St. Thomas Rectory Closed	24 St. Francis de Sales Mass- 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm at St. Peter's Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA /Al-Anon-7:00am & 8:00pm	25 Conversion of St. Paul Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Thomas Rectory Closed Following Christ - 6:30pm at St. Peter's	26 Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Finance Council Mtg. - 6:30pm at St. Catherine's Hall	27 Mass - 12:10 Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Rectory Closed	28 St. Thomas Aquinas Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:30pm
29 4th Sun. Ordinary Time 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 First Holy Communion Parent Meeting - 9:30am	30 No Mass St. Thomas Rectory Closed	31 St. John Bosco Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm at St. Peter's Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA /Al-Anon-7:00am & 8:00pm				

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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, 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 Antoniw, 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 Fermeric, 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, B.J. Butler, Tim Webster.



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.