

St. Peter's Church



*Third Sunday of Lent
March 12th, 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 _____

God, I pray for
my prayer life to become
vibrant and strong in this season
of Lent. I pray that Your voice,
even though a whisper, would
ring loud and true in my life.

I pray for the courage and
boldness to follow wherever
You lead me, to love and serve
whomever and however
You invite me.

Amen.



Share Catholic
www.ShareCatholic.com

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 – Mary D. Grab 607-857-3447
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 3/13	5:30pm	In Memory of Alfonse Krol (BJ Butler & Family)
Tuesday 3/14	12:10pm	In Memory of Mary Clark (Beth Dy)
Wednesday 3/15	12:10pm	In Memory of Flora Beuter (Ann Marie Beuter)
Thursday 3/16	No Mass	
Friday 3/17	6:00pm	In Memory of John Banik (Pat Gorda)
Saturday 3/18	5:00pm Mass is livestreamed	In Memory of Lillian Pickel (Dale & Rose Marie)
Sunday 3/19	8:30am	All Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

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, March 12th

Religious Education Classes -
 8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12
 Exodus 90 - 4:00pm; Adult Ed. Room

Monday, March 13th

The Light Is On For You; Confessions - Following
 5:30pm Mass; St. Peter's
 Knights of Columbus Council #4493 Mtg - 7:00pm;
 St. Peter's, Adult Ed. Room

Tuesday, March 14th

Women's Bible Study - 10:00am; Adult Ed. Room
 Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm; Church
 Parish Council Mtg. - 6:30pm, Adult Ed. Room

Wednesday, March 15th

Lenten Services - 12:00pm; Presbyterian Church

Thursday, March 16th

Dinner Fundraising Mtg. - 10:00am, Adult Ed. Room

Friday, March 17th

Children's Stations of the Cross - 3:30pm; Church
 Stations of the Cross - Following 6:00pm Mass; Church

Sunday, March 19th

Religious Education Classes -
 8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12
 Penance Service - 3:00pm, St. Peter's
 Exodus 90 - 4:00pm; Adult Ed. Room
 Confirmation Prep Class - 6:00pm; Parish Center

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for March 5, 2023: \$7,953.50
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00
 Difference: \$1,853.50
 Year to Date Budget Variance -\$1,089.60

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

Liturgical Reflection ~ 3rd Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:3-7

Today's reading continues the account of Israel's journey from slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. The Israelites are upset with Moses because they are without water, and fear dying in the desert. Moses calls out to God for help. God answers Moses telling him to strike a rock and water will flow from it. "I will be there in front of you," promises God. God is faithful to his promise and the Israelites are saved. The reading ends with a question "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" The answer is given in the Gospel. God always goes before us in our lives, struggles and journeys. God wait for us – ready to meet us and show us his power, love and care.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 95

The psalmist issues a fivefold invitation to praise, "Come let us sing...let us acclaim...let us come...let us bow down...let us kneel." The image of God echoes the First Reading; God is the "Rock of our salvation." Here one imagines a great rock, one that speaks of strength and security, something one could depend on to be in place forever. Such is the role of the Lord in the life of the people.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

The Second Reading reinforces the conviction that Christ died for us sinners and now waits for us, resurrected in glory, to provide us with new life. Paul explains that we are saved by our faith, rather than by our obedience to the Law. Paul came to believe that no human effort, including observing the Law of Moses, could bring about a state of uprightness before God. Human justification could be accomplished only by means of an unearned gift of God. Christ gave his life for us as a gift of love to secure our justification.

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

Today's reading presents an encounter with Jesus which abounds with Old Testament references, layers of meaning, and unfolding insight into Jesus' true identity of God's self-revealing Word made flesh. John indicates an implied call in every encounter with Jesus: whoever engages with him and so comes to believe is thereby commissioned to bring others to Jesus, so he can reveal himself to them. A woman of Samaria would seem a most unlikely candidate for an encounter with Jesus, because Samaritans and Jews avoided each other. John presents her as the first missionary, the only person to whom Jesus directly identifies himself as the Messiah, and the one who first proclaims him to non-Jews. Jesus becomes the source of new life for the woman and she becomes an evangelist, bearing the news that she has found the Messiah.



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.

Important Notice Regarding Offertory Envelopes

St. Peter's is changing offertory envelope providers.

Temporary envelopes for March and April have been mailed to parishioners.

If you did not receive your envelopes, or if you did not opt to receive them in the past but would like them now, please contact the rectory at 570/724-3371.

March Confirmation Class Date Change

The Sunday, March 12th evening Confirmation class has been moved to Sunday, March 19th at 6:00pm in the Parish Center.



FOOT WASHERS NEEDED

According to the Gospel, Jesus performed a final act of service for his Disciples, following the Passover meal. Arising from the table, He tied a towel about His waist and filled a basin with water and one after another He washed the feet of each disciple. When he finished, he said to them, "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do".

In the Church, the foot washing ceremony is an important call for all people that they too should be willing to serve others. Following the homily at the Holy Thursday Mass, members of the congregation sit and have their feet washed by the priest, who plays the role of Christ. One by one, the priest will wash the participant's feet with a basin and a towel. It is a reminder that we are of the Body of Christ and as such, and as His followers, we too are called to serve others in a spirit of humility. And we are to do so, even if we do not feel the desire to do so. As Christians, this is our duty.

Twelve volunteers are needed to have their foot washed at the Holy Thursday Mass.

A sign-up sheet can be found on the handout table on the side of the church.

Cross Carrying Walk for Jesus

A *Cross Carrying Walk for Jesus* is scheduled to take place in Wellsboro on Good Friday, April 7th, at 10:00am.

Participants are asked to meet in front of the Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce that morning at 9:50am.

The cross will be carried along the sidewalks of Wellsboro to the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church, and the United Methodist Church. A brief prayer, devotional, song, or meditation will take place at each location. Songs will be sung along the way and participants will take turns carrying the cross.

On Saturday, April 8th at 3:00pm, flowers will be placed on the cross for the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. On Easter there will be additional flowers available to be placed on the cross. Flowers from home are also welcome.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Easter, the flowers in the church during the Easter season memorialize deceased loved ones.

If you would like to contribute to this year's Easter flowers, please place your contribution in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and write your name/collection number on the front. On the back of the envelope print the name of your loved one(s) and place the envelope in the collection basket. A list of those we remember will be included in the Easter bulletin.

EASTER MASS INTENTIONS

Due to the parish switching offertory envelope providers, there will not be a special envelope for Easter Mass Intentions included with your temporary packet. All Easter Mass Intentions should be placed in an envelope labeled "Easter Mass Intentions." Please write your name and the name of the loved ones you would like remembered on the outside of the envelope, and place in the collection basket. The envelopes will be kept on the altar during the Easter Masses to remember the donor's intentions.

Volunteer Opportunity – Collection Counters Needed

Each Sunday, volunteers count the offerings collected during the weekend Masses and prepare the funds for deposit. There are five teams of counters, and each team serves once every five weeks. We are looking for someone to join a counting team. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the rectory at 570/724-3371.

Parish Directory Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the directory photo taking effort. Work on the directory took a temporary pause due to the holidays, however we have been working to plan and produce a final draft. We are proposing to have a "Life at St. Peter's" section in which each committee head can submit photos of their ministry. The photo could be of the group itself or action photos of the ministry/group during an event or activity.

Each committee can submit these photos to stpdirectory.2023@gmail.com. This section is intended to be a collage of photos without names. Also, any parishioner or family who did not get a photo taken can submit personal photos if they choose. Please submit these photos to stpdirectory.2023@gmail.com. We expect the directory to take several more months to finalize before printing, so we appreciate your patience in this important effort.

Please submit all photos by March 26th.

Any questions can be directed to Steve Tokarz at 570/404-0693.



A Message from The Bishop's Office

A dispensation from the Friday Lenten observance of abstaining from meat has been granted for those celebrating the Feast of Saint Patrick on Friday, March 17, 2023

In keeping with the sacrificial nature of the Lenten season, the Bishop asks that all who receive this dispensation offer some act of charity for the well-being of God's holy people.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. You will notice a change in liturgy, decorations, and colors around the church. The priest will vest in violet, except on the 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) when he wears the rose vestments. The sanctuary is bereft of flowers or any other decorations. The Gloria will not be prayed/sung on Sundays. Also, Alleluia is not sung or said from the beginning of Lent until the Easter Vigil.



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 1st - 5:00pm; St. Peter's
 Sunday, April 2nd - 8:30am; St. Peter's
 11:30am; St. Thomas
 1:00pm; St. Catherine

Tuesday of Holy Week - April 4th

Chrism Mass - 4:00pm, St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

Holy Thursday - April 6th

7:00pm - St. Peter's

Good Friday - April 7th

Liturgy of the Word

1:00pm - St. Peter's
 3:00pm - St. Thomas

Holy Saturday - April 8th

Blessing of Baskets - 12:00pm; St. Peter's Church
 Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00pm

Easter Sunday - April 9th

8:30am; St. Peter's
 11:30am; St. Thomas
 1:00pm; St. Catherine



As we begin this season of Lenten preparation, each of us is invited to reflect on those choices which will bring about the new life we celebrate at Easter. For this reason, the Church invites us to experience Lent as a time for deepened prayer, personal sacrifice, and self-giving - all so that we can be raised to new life in Christ! The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance.

On Mondays during Lent, there will be Mass at 5:30pm at St. Peter's followed by confessions.

"The Light is on For You!"

Ecumenical Event - Wednesday Lenten Services

The Wellsboro Area Ministerium will be offering Wednesday Lenten Services. All services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church at 12:00pm with a light lunch to follow.

The schedule for the church who will host the luncheon and lead the prayer service is as follows:

March 15th - First Baptist Church;
 March 22nd - St. Peter's Church;
 March 29th - Vineyard Church.

All are welcome to attend!

Stations of the Cross

On Fridays of Lent there will be Mass at 6:00pm at St. Peter's followed by Stations of the Cross.

Children's Stations of the Cross will be held at 3:30pm on Fridays. Students are invited to the Parish Center after school for a light snack before Stations begin.



Pick Your Penance

After weekend Masses during Lent you will be able to "pick your penance" which is an extra act of kindness or a prayer that you can perform during Lent. A new "penance" can be picked each week. Penance will be available for adults and children at the parish doors after Mass.

Penance Services

Sunday, March 19th - 3:00pm; St. Peter's

**There will be three priests present at St. Peter's penance service*

Sunday, March 26th - 3:00pm; Holy Child

Wednesday, April 5th - 6:00pm; St. Boniface,

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> MITCHELL'S CARQUEST AUTO PARTS FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1950 kenneth@mitchellcarquest.com 688 South Main Street Mansfield, PA 16933 T 570.662.2277 F 570.662.1078 Kenneth Mitchell Owner</p>	<p> Stephen F. Tokarz • Artisan • Craftsman Specializing in Custom Wood Products 570-404-0693 Established in Tioga County, PA</p>	<p><i>"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."</i></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, 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 Antoniow, 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 Fermenic, 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, B.J. Butler.

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

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.