# St. Peter's Church



5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent March 17, 2024

#### **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 available at St. Peter's for grades K-12. Classes are held in the Parish Center immediately following Sunday Mass, from 9:30am until 10:40am, from September through May. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789. Children's Liturgy (grades  $K-4^{th}$ ) 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	
Audiess	

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-2:00pm

#### **Parish Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Jacek Bialkowski Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net Bookkeeper: Melissa Mann – stpadm@ptd.net Religious Education: Jen Minnich – 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-12:10pm; Saturday: 4:30-5:00pm; or by appointment

O God, bless us during this season of spiritual renewal. Fill our minds and hearts with love, so that we may be a sign of Jesus to all those living in our midst.

Lent

A season of Prayer, Reflection, and Renewal

#### **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 – Karen Novak 570/982-5115 Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570/724-2085 Samaritan House – Mary Grab – 607/857-3447 Youth Group – Steve Tokarz – 570/404-0693

Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570/724-3092

Finance Council – Tim Gooch 570/971-5826

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 Fundraising Committee - Tim Gooch 570/971-5826

Knights of Columbus – Mike Buono 717/320-2305

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 3/18	5:30pm	In Memory of Devina Prechtl (Jean Dragovich)
Tuesday 3/19	12:10pm	In Memory of Alfonse Krol (B.J. Butler)
Wednesday 3/20	12:10pm	In Memory of Clifford Parsells (Family)
Thursday 3/21	No Mass	
Friday 3/22	6:00pm	In Memory of Peter & Helen Demcher (Robert Tobaygo, Jr.)
Saturday 3/23	5:00pm Mass is livestreamed	Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish
Sunday 3/24	8:30am	In Memory of John J. Banik (Patricia Gorda)

#### **Church Hours / Adoration**

**Monday – Friday:** The church doors will be open for private prayer from 8:00am – 5:00pm. If the main doors of the church are locked, please enter through the side parking lot door.

**Saturday:** The side parking lot door (only) will be open from 8:00am – 4:30pm for private prayer. All church doors will be unlocked at 4:30pm for Mass.

**Sunday:** All church doors will be unlocked at 8:00am for Mass and will remain open until 9:30am when religious education classes begin.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will take place on Tuesdays from 1:00pm - 6:00pm, with Benediction.

# **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 is **closed**, there will be **no daily Mass or Adoration**. The Church will remain open for private prayer, using the parking lot side entrance, and the parish office hours may be affected.

# **Happening This Week**

#### Sunday, March 17th

Religious Education Classes Confirmation Class – 6:00pm; Parish Center

#### Monday, March 18th

*The Light is On for You* – Confessions after Mass

#### Tuesday, March 19th

Women's Bible Study – 10:00am; Adult Ed Room Adoration – 1:00pm – 6:00pm; Church Worship Committee Mtg. – 6:15pm, Parish Ctr.

#### Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Children's Stations of the Cross – 3:00pm Stations of the Cross – Following 6:00pm Mass

#### Sunday, March 24th

No Religious Education Classes

#### **Stewardship**

Sunday Collection for March 10, 2024: \$5,864.00 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00

> Difference: -\$236.00 Year to Date Budget Variance: \$11,536.72

Diocesan Collection - Catholic Relief Services: \$432.00

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

#### **Parish Prayer List**

To add a name to the bulletin prayer list, please contact the Parish Office at 570/724-3371. For privacy reasons, the person making the request must be an immediate family member.

This would include a spouse, child, sibling, parent, or grandparent of the person to be added.

# Lenten Reminders

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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (*Laetare Sunday*) when he wears rose vestments. The sanctuary is bereft of flowers or any other decorations and the Gloria will not be prayed/sung on Sundays. Also, Alleluia is not sung or said from the beginning of Lent until the Eater Vigil.



#### Days of Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence, which means no meat may be eaten. All Fridays during Lent are also days of abstinence. Catholics, 18-59 years of age, are bound by Church law to fast, which means only one large meal and two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together should not equal another full meal, unless dispensed or excused. Catholics 14 years of age and older are required to abstain.

#### **Easter Duty**

All parishioners are reminded of their obligation to fulfill their Easter Duty. A person's Easter Duty consists of receiving Holy Communion at least once between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday as well as going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to confess any mortal sins.

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held in the church every Friday during Lent, following the 6:00pm Mass. All parishioners are encouraged to attend Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season.

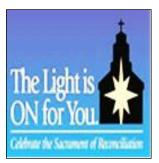


Children's Stations of the Cross will also be held every Friday during Lent. Students are invited to the Parish Center after school at 3:00pm for a light snack before Stations begin in the church at 3:30pm. Please have children enter through the Parish Center doors. Students can be picked up at 4:00pm and parents are also welcome to attend.

## **Pick Your Penance**

After weekend Masses during Lent, parishioners will have an opportunity to "pick your penance", which is an extra act of kindness or a prayer that you can perform during Lent.

A new penance may be picked each week. Penances will be available for both adults and children at the parish doors after Mass.



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 in 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 a 5:30pm Mass at St. Peter's followed by confessions.

Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments, and in our neighbor."

- Pope Francis



Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl is a Lenten program that raises funds for those who need support and services in communities throughout the U.S. and overseas. Seventy-five percent of CRS Rice Bowl donations supports their work around the world, and twenty-five percent of gifts stay in each diocese for hunger and poverty alleviation efforts.

Rice Bowls are located on the holy handout table at the back of the church, or visit crsricebowl.org for more information on the program and to donate.

#### **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 in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place it in the collection basket or mail to the parish office. A list of those we remember will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

#### **Easter Mass Intentions**

There are special Easter Mass Intention envelopes in your monthly packet to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. Please place your Easter Mass Intention envelopes in the collection basket or mail to the parish office.

These envelopes will be placed on the altar during the Easter Masses to remember the donor's intentions.

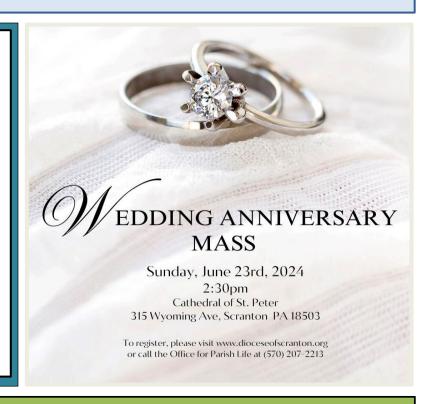
## Diocesan Annual Appeal

The money raised through the Diocesan Annual Appeal will help continue the mission of our Church in the Diocese of Scranton by providing programs and ministries that bring the love of Christ to our neighbors, our children, and those most in need in Northeastern and Northcentral PA.

Parish goal: \$43,000 Total raised to date: \$37,145.00

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!



## 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-HourChild 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.

Please continue to pray for the following parishioners who are participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), as they continue their journey preparing to become full members of the Catholic Church:

**Elect:** Emily Marguerite Griffin, Brenda Lee Thomas **Candidate:** Mark Anthony Petrakovich

There will be a reception with light refreshments in the Parish Center immediately following the Vigil Mass on March 30<sup>th</sup> to celebrate and welcome the new members who entered the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

# Holy Week & Easter Mass Schedule

## Palm Sunday - March 24th

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

# Tuesday of Holy Week - March 26th

Chrism Mass – 4:00pm Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

# Holy Thursday - March 28th

7:00pm – St. Peter's Adoration will follow Mass until 10:00pm in the Parish Center

# Good Friday - March 29th Liturgy of the Word

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

# Holy Saturday - March 30th

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

# Easter Sunday - March 31st

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

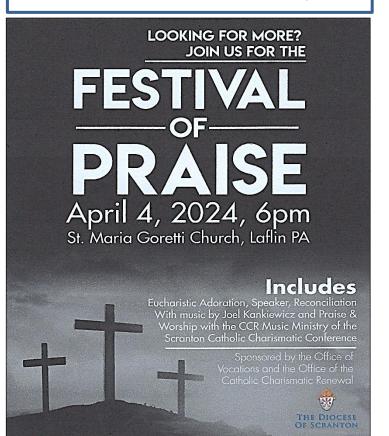


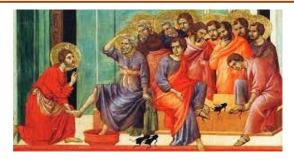


# Ecumenical Event Wednesday Lenten Services

The Wellsboro Ministerium is offering Wednesday Lenten Services to our community. All services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church (130 Main St, Wellsboro) at 12:00pm with a light lunch to follow. **Please join us - all are welcome!** 

March 20<sup>th</sup> – hosted by First Baptist Church will be the final Lenten Service for the year.





#### **FOOT WASHERS NEEDED**

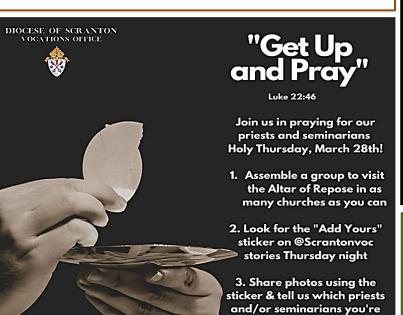
According to the Gospel, Jesus performed a final act of service for his Disciples, following the Passover meal. Arising from the table, Jesus tied a towel about his waist, filled a basin with water, and one after another he washed the feet of each disciple. When he finished, he said to them, "I have 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 is on the table at the back of the church for those who would like to participate.



praying for!



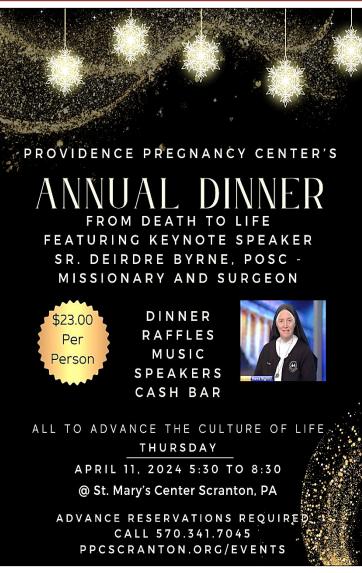
#### March Calendar

17 Class

High School Penance

Confirmation Class; 6:00pm / Parish Center

- Saint Papers & Sponsor Interviews Due
- No Class (Palm Sunday)
- 31 No Class (Easter)



<u>Volunteer Collection Counters Needed</u> – Each Sunday, volunteers count the offerings collected during the weekend Masses and prepare the funds for deposit. There are four teams of counters, and each team serves once every four weeks. **We are looking for parishioners to join a counting team**. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the parish office at 570/724-3371.



You're Invited to Attend this Special Celebration!

Chrism Mass

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 4:00 p.m. Cathedral of Saint Peter

During the Mass, Bishop Bambera will bless the sacred oils used for sacramental purposes in parishes throughout the Diocese.

The priests of the Diocese of Scranton will also renew their commitment to the priestly ministry.



# Spring Cemetery Clean-Up Day

Spring cleaning at St. Peter's Cemetery on Pearl Street will take place Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. **We can use all the help we can get to beautify these sacred grounds.** Meet at the cemetery and bring your rakes, shovels, and gloves.

#### Please note:

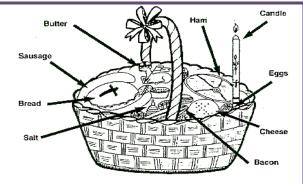
All winter decorations should be removed from the cemetery prior to clean-up day on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Please do not dispose of the decorations on cemetery grounds; we ask that you instead take them with you to discard elsewhere.

## Blessing of Easter Baskets

Baskets will be blessed on Holy Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00pm in the church. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

#### Items found in the Blessed Easter Basket:

The Christian significance of Easter is symbolized in the foods used for the holiday feast. Baskets are lined with a white cloth and decorated with ribbons and greenery to symbolize spring, renewal, and the Resurrection.



Traditionally, the baskets would include: **decorated hardboiled eggs** (representing Christ's resurrection), **lamb shaped butter** (representing Christ as the "Lamb of God"), **bread** (symbolic of great joy and abundance), **sausage** (symbolic of God's favor and generosity), **bacon** (a symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy on us), **salt** (symbolizes wisdom and preservation from corruption; it reminds us that Jesus did not undergo corruption in the grave and also reminds us that people are the flavor of the earth), **cheese** (symbolizes the moderation Christians should have at all times), and **horseradish** (symbolic of the Passion of the Christ and the bitter herbs of the Passover). A **white candle** is often inserted into the basket to represent Christ as the "Light of the world". Lastly, the basket is covered with **linen** symbolizing the covering of Christ's shroud.

# **Religious Education Reminder**

There are no Religious Education classes:

March 24<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) March 31<sup>st</sup> (Easter Sunday)

Classes will resume on April 7th

#### **Celebrate Holy Week and Easter with EWTN**

Learn more about your faith during the holiest time of the year with EWTN's first-rate movies, documentaries, musicals, children's programs, and much more. For program details, visit ewtn.com.



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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**

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, Everett Dean Brown, 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, 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, Gloria Fermenic, Alice Kohut, John Bowe, Kathy Wheeler, Phyliss Davis, Raymond Butler, Michael Joseph Harris, Maggie Stirnaman, Jane Johnson, George Hill, Kami Maloof, Don Gordon, Christopher Moore, Kassie Nowak, Sr. Sally Villa; SSJ, Bill Cizek, Carter Benjamin, Stephen Farrell, Elexxa Germino

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.