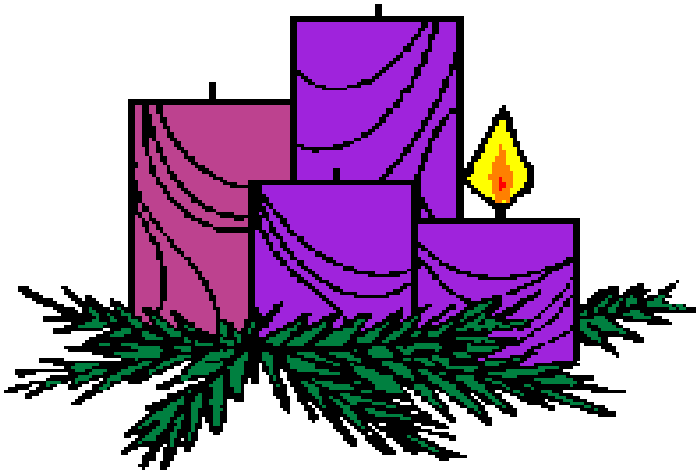


St. Peter's Church



First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2022

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 worshipping 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 _____

"Advent is a time of waiting
for our Lord, who will visit
us all in our own hearts.
The Lord is coming!
Let us wait for him!"

POPE FRANCIS

www.universeoffaith.org

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 570-724-3371
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 11/28	No Mass	
Tuesday 11/29	12:10pm	In Memory of Eileen Evert (Sue Singer)
Wednesday 11/30	12:10pm	In Memory of Bob Dalton (Norb & Nona Josten)
Thursday 12/1	12:10pm	In Memory of Cecil & Mary Rogers (Family)
Friday 12/2	12:10pm	In Memory of Viola Statts (B.J. Butler & Family)
Saturday 12/3	5:00pm (Mass is livestreamed)	In Memory of Staff Sgt. Scott Waclawik (Family)
Sunday 12/4	8:30am	Frank Dziengowski (Janet Perkowski-Bober)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Viola Statts (B.J. Butler & Family)

The Altar Flowers are in Memory of Carrie Niles Daugherty (Niles & Daugherty Families)

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.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for November 20, 2022: \$3,944.00
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00
 Difference: -\$2,156.00
 Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$5,495.85)

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

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, November 27th

No Religious Education classes

Monday, November 28th

Rectory Closed

Tuesday, November 29th

Women's Bible Study – 10:00am, Parish Center
 Adoration – 1:00pm – 6:00pm, Church

Friday, December 2nd

Hamilton Gibson Concert - 7:30pm

Saturday, December 3rd

Youth Group Dickens Parking – 8:30-10:30am
 Dickens Bread Pudding Booth – 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday, December 4th

Religious Education classes –
 8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12

Liturgical Reflection ~ First Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

Mountains are sacred, mysterious places, where God is often found. “The mountains of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest mountain.” And “all nations shall stream toward it.” Here, we see the initial move toward Jerusalem, a frequent theme in the Gospel accounts as well. We must climb to grow in our faith. When Israel and all the nations walk in the light of God’s instruction, they will truly “cease doing evil” and “learn to do good”.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 122

Psalm 122 follows the theme of climbing from the First Reading. It is the one of several Psalms of Ascent used by Jewish pilgrims on their journey to Jerusalem. “Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up.” It sets our entire attitude for Advent as we sing, “Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

In his holy Rule, Benedict tells his monks to “Keep death daily, before your eyes” (*Rule of St. Benedict, 4:47*). That is what Paul is telling us. Sometimes, it is easy to fall asleep, to become complacent in our faith. The Romans were returning to some of the earlier ways, and Paul tried to shake them awake with this reminder to leave earthly things behind. Today’s Second Reading provides the reason for Christians to live according to the Commandment to love ones’ neighbor as oneself; the final fulfillment of God’s plan for salvation is near at hand. Paul stresses that Christians must act in accord with the new life already begun in Christ and soon to be completed with his coming in glory. Those who continue to live in the spirit, the abiding presence of God’s love freely given in Christ, will surely live by the divine command of love.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:37-44

Today’s Gospel stresses that the time of God’s coming is unknown; therefore believers must always be prepared. As the great flood caught people unaware, the coming of the Son of Man will also arrive in God’s own time. For that coming, Christians must always be prepared. Our lives must reflect the Gospel. The best way to be ready for God’s coming is to live it every moment.

Marian Ministries



Living Rosary Update

Participants from St. Peters and Holy Child parishes have offered two Living Rosaries to our Blessed Mother every day throughout October. What a gift of grace, given and received! We plan to continue this devotion through the end of December, when we will re-evaluate the participants desire to continue. Ideally, we hope to offer at least one Living Rosary indefinitely. Contact Linda Sampson if you are no longer able to pray your chosen decade or if you would like to join the Living Rosary family. (Email sampson4509@gmail.com; text or call 570-404-2180).

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Share Christmas joy with a child, nursing home resident or family helped by Seeds of Hope. Select a red ornament for a child, green ornament for a nursing home resident or white for Seeds of Hope.

Please place the gifts for children, UNWRAPPED, in a Christmas gift bag, place the tag attached to the ornament on the bag and put it under the tree by Sunday, December 11.

Place the items for Seeds of Hope in the box near the tree by Sunday, December 11.

Please deliver the gift items for Broad Acres or Green Home residents in person, by December 24, as the visit from you is as important as the gift! These residents may not have any family members or friends that will visit them during the holiday.

Questions? Call BJ Butler- 570-724-2222.



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).

The Advent Wreath

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Blessing Of The Advent Wreath

The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

*Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or
Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

From "*Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*"

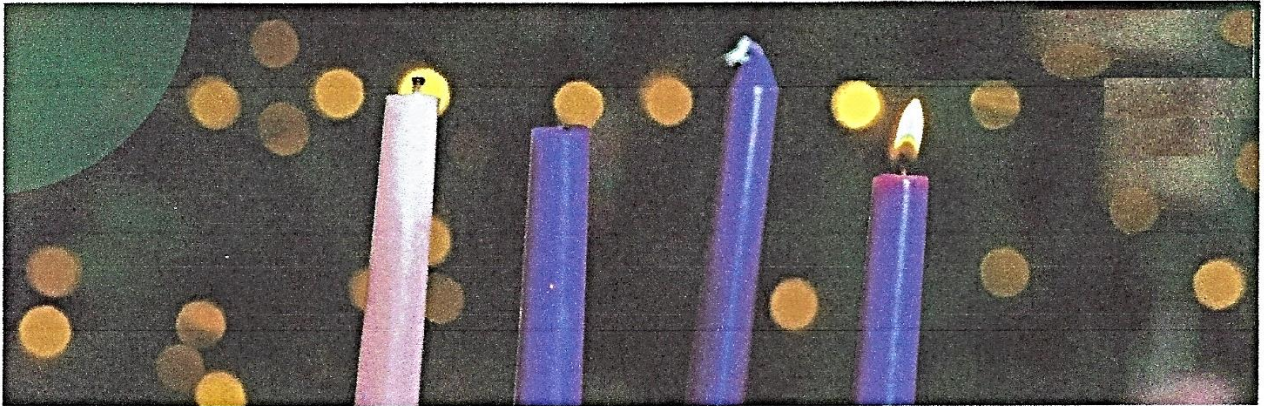


PARISHIONERS WANTED TO LIGHT CANDLES

Would your family like to light the Advent Wreath candles at one of the Masses during the season of Advent? A sign-up sheet can be found on the handout table on the side of the church. Those lighting the candles should wait for Fr. Jacek in the back of the church prior to the Mass and will then process in behind the Altar Servers and Lector, light the appropriate candle(s), and then proceed to their pew as the opening hymn continues.



The First Sunday of Advent



CNS photo/Karen Bonar, The Register

Advent Begins!

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.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest will wear violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose is worn (GIRM, no. 316). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar above can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.



The Christmas Remembrance Tree at St. Peter's Parish



This is a beautiful way to remember a loved one living or deceased as you adorn the tree near the altar.

The ornament you sponsor will be displayed throughout Advent and the Christmas Season.

Each ornament will display a name tag with your name and the loved one you are remembering.

There will be a Mass offered for all those named on the tree during the season along with a commemorative booklet for a keepsake.

Please select your sponsored ornament from the color/price as follows:

- Angel Tree Topper -- \$200
- Gold -- \$100
- Silver -- \$50
- Blue -- \$25
- Red -- \$25
- Flocked Pine Cone -- \$5

To sponsor your ornament, please complete the bottom portion of this form and return it to the rectory with your payment by December 11th. The booklet will be sent to the printer on that date. Please call the rectory with any questions.

Return this form to the Rectory

Make checks payable to St. Peter's Parish

_____ Angel Tree Topper \$200 _____ Gold \$100 _____ Silver \$50

_____ Red \$25 _____ Blue \$25 _____ Flocked Pine Cone \$5


Person's Name (please print) _____

Requested By (please print) _____

Amount Enclosed _____




St. Peter's Parish & St. Thomas Parish - Activity Calendar - December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4th Sunday of Advent Mass - 8:30am Mass - 11:30am St. Thomas Mass - 1:00pm St. Catherine Rel. Ed. - Pre K 8:30am K-12th 9:30 - 10:40am</p>	<p>5 No Mass St. Thomas Rectory Closed</p>	<p>6 St. Nicholas Mass - 12:10pm with Miraculous Medal Novena Adoration - 1:00pm - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA /AI-Anon-7:00am & 8:00pm</p>	<p>7 St. Ambrose Mass - 6:00pm St. Thomas Rectory Closed Dinner Fundraising Mtg - 10:00am</p>	<p>8 Immaculate Conception Mass - 12:10pm with St. Jude Novena Confessions - 11:45am Mass - 6:00pm St. Thomas Both Rectories Closed</p>	<p>9 St. Juan Diego Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45pm St. Peter's Rectory Closed</p>	<p>10 Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:20-4:50pm Youth Group Car Parking 8:30 - 10:30am Dickens Bread Pudding Booth 8:00am-4:00pm</p>
<p>11 3rd Sunday of Advent Mass - 8:30am Mass 11:30am St. Thomas Mass - 4:00pm St. Catherine Rel. Ed. - Pre K 8:30am; K-12th 9:30 - 10:40am Bingo - 12:00pm St. Thomas Penance Service - 6:00pm at St. Peter's Confirmation Prep- 6:00pm</p>	<p>12 Our Lady of No Mass St. Thomas Rectory Closed</p>	<p>13 St. Lucy Mass - 12:10pm with Miraculous Medal Novena Adoration - 1:00 - 6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA /AI-Anon-7:00am & 8:00pm</p>	<p>14 St. John of the Cross Mass - 1:00pm Green Home St. Thomas Rectory Closed</p>	<p>15 Mass - 12:10pm with St. Jude Novena Confessions - 11:45am</p>	<p>16 Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Rectory Closed</p>	<p>17 Mass - 5:00pm Confessions - 4:20-4:50pm</p>
<p>18 4th Sunday of Advent Mass - 8:30am Mass - 11:30am St. Thomas Mass - 1:00pm St. Catherine Rel. Ed. - Pre K 8:30am; K-12th 9:30 - 10:40am Youth Group Christmas Party 10:45 - 12:00pm Penance Service - 3:00pm at Holy Child</p>	<p>19 No Mass St. Thomas Rectory Closed</p>	<p>20 Mass - 12:10pm with Miraculous Medal Novena Adoration - 1:00-6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA /AI-Anon-7:00am & 8:00pm</p>	<p>21 St. Peter Canisius. Mass - 10:30am Confessions - 11:45am</p>	<p>22 Mass - 12:10pm with St. Jude Novena Confessions - 11:45am</p>	<p>23 St. John of Kanty Mass - 12:10pm Confessions - 11:45am St. Peter's Rectory Closed</p>	<p>24 Vigil of Christmas Mass - 4:00pm & 6:00pm</p>
<p>25 Nativity of the Lord Mass - 9:00am Mass - 11:30am St. Thomas Mass - 1:00pm St. Catherine No Religious Education Classes</p>	<p>26 St. Stephen No Mass Both Rectories Closed</p>	<p>27 St. John No Mass Adoration - 1:00-6:00pm Women's Bible Study - 10:00am AA /AI-Anon-7:00am & 8:00pm</p>	<p>28 The Holy Innocents No Mass St. Thomas Rectory Closed</p>	<p>29 No Mass</p>	<p>30 The Holy Family No Mass St. Peter's Rectory Closed</p> 	<p>31 St. Sylvester I Mass - 5:00pm Confessions- 4:20- 4:50pm</p>



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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, Jerry Pierce, 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 Antoniwi, 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, and B.J. Butler.



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.