

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



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 11, 2022

Rectory Office Hours

Labor Day to Memorial Day - Monday through Wednesday, 8:00am-2:00pm;
Thursday, 9:00am-1:00pm
Memorial Day to Labor Day - Monday through Thursday, 9:00am-1:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jacek Bialkowski
Secretary: Connie Spang - stpch@ptd.net
Business Manager: Patti Mitchell - stpadm@ptd.net
Religious Education.: Melissa Mann - streled@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, 4:15-4:45pm 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 _____



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
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
Marian Ministries - Linda Sampson 570-404-2180

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 9/12	No Mass	
Tuesday 9/13	12:10pm	In Memory of Shawn & Leah Lang (Josten Family)
Wednesday 9/14	No Mass	
Thursday 9/15	12:10pm	In Memory of Paul Beuter, Sr. (Family)
Friday 9/16	12:10pm	In Memory of Paul Urner (Mary Antoniw)
Saturday 9/17	5:00pm (Mass is livestreamed)	All Deceased Members of the Donovan Family (Grab Family)
Sunday 9/18	8:30am	In Memory of Paul Urner (Dick & Irene Miskovitz)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Arthur Sable (Family)

Parish News and Activities

Church Hours/Adoration

The church will be open for private prayer, Monday through Friday from 8:00am–5:00pm. Generally, all three doors leading into the church will be unlocked. If for some reason the front and carport doors are not open for entry, please use the door on the parking lot side of the church. Saturday, the church will be open from 8:00am–4:30pm using only the parking lot side door. The front and carport doors will be unlocked at 4:30pm 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.

NEW BOILERS NEEDED

The two boilers used to heat the church, are in need of replacement at a cost of approximately \$20,000. Contributions to help offset this cost are greatly appreciative. If you are an envelope user, please include your contribution in your Building Fund envelope that is included in your monthly packet. If you are not an envelope user, please just note on your check or the envelope that your donation is for the boilers. Please give as you are able.

INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church. It begins with a period of inquiry in which you may ask questions before you make a commitment to become Catholic. Please call (570-724-3371) or email (stpadm@ptd.net) the Rectory to register or for more information.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



Stewardship

Sunday Collection for September 4, 2022: \$6,336.00
 Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00
 Difference: \$ 236.00
 Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$3,243.00)

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

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

- Monday, September 12th** – Donation Dropoff
- Tuesday, September 13th** – Rummage Sale
 Women’s Bible Study, 9:00am, Harland’s
- Wednesday, September 14th** – Rummage Sale
 Staff Meeting, 10:00am, Rectory
 Green Home Mass, 1:00pm
 Parish Council Meeting, 7:00pm, Parish Center
- Thursday, September 15th** – Rummage Sale
 Catechist Meeting, Preschool Teachers 6:00pm,
 K-12 Teachers 6:30pm, Parish Center
- Sunday, September 18th** – Religious Education
 Classes Begin. Parent meeting followed with
 Donut Social, 9:30am

CARPORT ENTRANCE TO CHURCH CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The carport entrance to the church will be closed until further. For weekend Masses only, the temporary handicap entrance to the church will be through the parish center side door, located just beyond the carport next to the three handicap parking spaces. The church can then be accessed through the music room. These doors will be open until Mass begins. As usual, once Mass begins, the side doors will be locked and the church will have to be accessed through the front doors. At the conclusion of Mass, you will be able to exit the church through the music room to the parish center side door. Thank you for your patience as we await the repairs to the carport.

Liturgical Reflection ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

The narrator of Exodus reports a dramatic conversation between God and Moses that takes place on top of the covenant mountain while down below the Israelites pray and offer sacrifices to the work of their hands. God is displeased with the infidelity of the “stiff-necked” people and intends to bring punishment upon them as the people seemed to be determined to go their own way rather than follow the Lord. God sends Moses to make such an announcement. But Moses implores God to remember that they are “your own people” and reminds God of the promise to make this people a great nation. God listens to Moses and relents.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 51

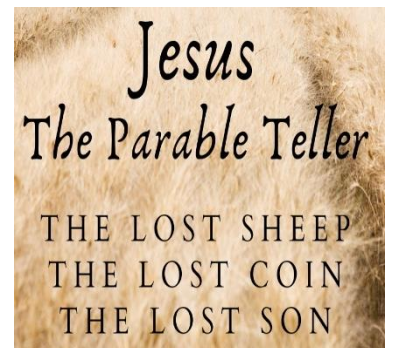
Psalm 51 is a penitential psalm written to commemorate the day that David repented for his sin against God and against Uriah the Hittite. The psalm reminds us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin by ourselves. The only way we can find forgiveness is to have a humble, contrite heart, for it is God who will renew us.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

This letter portrays Paul the great evangelist as Paul the great sinner. Paul’s biographical account to Timothy recalls his time of persecution of the followers of Christ. But Paul gives thanks to the Lord for sending him the grace to change his life. Because Paul acted out of ignorance in his unbelief, Christ treated him mercifully. He now believes that Christ came into the world to save sinners and he humbly counts himself as one of them. He then expresses gratitude that Christ Jesus considered him a trustworthy Apostle.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-32

Chapter 15 of Luke’s account recounts three of the most familiar parables of Jesus. The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the Prodigal Son attest to the mercy of God and explain Jesus’ actions to the religious leaders. Each notes the joy of the shepherd, the woman, and the father when the sheep, the coin, and the son have been found. The compassion of God is personified in the actions of the shepherd, the woman, and the father who seek out the lost. The story of the prodigal centers on the Father’s mercy and reminds us we can always return home. To his older son, the father responds: “My son, you are here with me always, everything I have is yours.” The older son, like all disciples, enjoys an indescribably rich daily life in his father’s house. And the return to life and to that father’s house of one who is lost and dead cannot go uncelebrated. All are offered forgiveness; not all embrace it.



Fall Sale Schedule

This year’s annual fall clothing, book, bake and household sale schedule is as follows:

- Sept. 10th – 6:00-7:00pm – Donations Accepted
- Sept. 11th – 9:30am-12:30pm – Donations Accepted
- Sept. 12th – 9:00am-6:00pm – Donations Accepted
- Sept. 13th – 9:00am-6:00pm – Sale Day
- Sept. 14th – 9:00am-5:00pm – Sale Day
- Sept. 15th – 9:00am-2:00pm – Fill a Bag, Make a Donation



NO EARLY SALES ~ NO DONATIONS OF TVS

BAKE SALE – We will have a bake sale during the sale days. Donations of baked goods are greatly appreciated. Donations should be dropped off September 11th or 12th during the hours listed above. Any questions, please call Pat Gorda 570-404-8918 or Diane Bill 570-458-9130.

SYNOD REPORT AVAILABLE

For six months, people throughout our diocese responded to Pope Francis' call to the Synod on Synodality by sharing their hopes, concerns, and dreams for the Catholic Church. Some participated at listening sessions, and many others through an online survey. Through this participation, many themes began to emerge.

Our Diocesan Synthesis Report representing these themes has been submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and is also available for general review. To learn more and to review the synthesis report, please visit the [Synod on Synodality page](#) on our diocesan website www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Up and Over Retreat

It has been a long time since we have had a retreat opportunity for middle school students due to the pandemic. Today, I want to invite our middle school students to our first Up and Over Retreat in three years! Up and Over will be held September 23-25 at Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas. This weekend is centered around how students can use their God given talents in order to work together with others. The weekend involves fun activities, mass, free time, a movie, and an outdoor obstacle course! It is a great opportunity for students to meet new friends and grow in their faith!

Registration will open on August 1st on the Diocese of Scranton's website dioceseofscranton.org. The registration fee is \$180, and includes all meals, lodging, a t-shirt, and other retreat materials. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Kowalski at (570) 207-2213 or skowalski@dioceseofscranton.org. We hope to see some of our middle school students for a great weekend!



CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Greetings Catholic Men - We are pleased to announce that our 7th annual Be A Catholic Man Conference is now open for registration. The Conference will be on October 8, 2022, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Holy Redeemer High School, 159 S. Pennsylvania Blvd., Wilkes Barre, PA. and will be favored with nationally known Catholic Speakers: Father Stan Fortuna, Dr. Ralph Martin, and Kevin Wells. This year's theme is "Be Not Afraid" under the patronage of Saint Joseph. All of us are challenged to live virtuous lives in this secular world, --- whether single, married, or clergy. Men are encouraged to set this date aside and attend. There will be Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacramental Confession, and lunch break. Mass will be offered by the Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Bambera. For reservations, write a check payable to "Be A Catholic Man" for \$40.00 (early bird price \$30.00 till September 9th) and mail to: Bill Leandri, 239 Hayfield Road, Shavertown, Pa. 18708; or Online at BeACatholicMan.com. Questions, please contact Michael Kilmer, Conference Chairman, at 570-746-0100 or michaelkilmer71@gmail.com.

Second Annual Harrisburg March for Life Rally

Pennsylvania Family Institute and Pennsylvania March for Life have joined forces to sponsor this year's **Second Annual Harrisburg March for Life Rally, Monday, September 19**, at the State Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pa. The day's schedule: 9:30 a.m. mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 212 State Street; 10 a.m., Prayer and Praise Rally, Main Stage, Front Capitol steps; 11 a.m., Rally with national speakers, Capitol front steps; 12 noon, march around Capitol Building; 1 p.m., Testimonials-Silent no More, Top of Front steps, Capitol Building and 1:30 p.m., mass, St. Patrick's Cathedral. Participants are encouraged to arrange to meet their state legislators before or after the rally. Registration for the event is not necessary, but if you would like to receive updates on the rally, please check out the 2022 Pennsylvania March for Life website. Area residents who would like to attend can make reservations through St. Thomas' or St. Peters' Church offices or by calling Tom Socha, 814-258-7386.

Marian Ministries - Upcoming Events

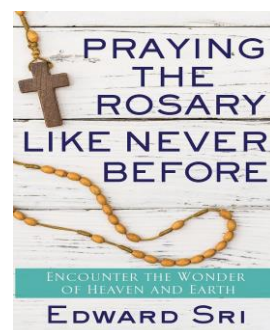
Book Group

Marian Ministries will sponsor a Book Study from Sept 4th-30th. Participants will read *Praying the Rosary Like Never Before*, by Edward Sri. The format will be similar to that of Mary's Mantle. Discussions will take place mainly online. *Anyone* can participate, just read the book! To take part online or for more information, email Linda Sampson at marian-ministries@outlook.com or call 570-404-2180. The book can be ordered from Amazon or your local bookstore.

From the Back Cover:

"Two and a half minutes. Can you give that much to God? This is the beauty of the Rosary. You don't have to pray it all at once and you can pray it anywhere! Do you struggle with praying the Rosary?"

Do you have trouble finding time, fighting distractions, or feeling like you're just going through the motions? In this powerful book by Edward Sri, you'll discover practical ways to encounter Jesus and Mary more in the Rosary and incorporate it more into your life. "



Living Rosary Social

To honor our Blessed Mother during the month of October and beyond, a Living Rosary will be prayed by all interested parishioners of St. Peter's and Holy Child churches. The Living Rosary will begin on **Saturday, October 1st**, and continue as long as there is interest. Join us for coffee and donuts as we usher in this beautiful devotion immediately following First Saturday services on **October 1st at St. Mary's Church in Blossburg.**

What is a Living Rosary? The devotion appears to have begun in France in 1826 when Venerable Pauline-Marie Jaricot formed the Living Rosary Association. She was inspired to pull together groups of 15 persons who would each be responsible for praying one decade of the Rosary each day so that the full 15-decades Rosary would be prayed each day by the group.

With 20 decades to cover now, we need at least that many participants. For those who struggle with the Rosary, the Living Rosary is a beautiful way to participate in one of the most powerful prayers of the Church - praying the same mystery every day and dedicating it to a specific intention. Interested persons are asked to sign-up for a decade at the holy handout table at St. Peter's; Holy Child participants can email Linda Sampson at marian-ministries@outlook.com or call 570-404-2180. If more than 20 people participate, some will pray the same decade. For more information, handouts are available, or Google *The Living Rosary: An Old Devotion for the New Year*.



Save the Date

Mark your calendars for an afternoon in the company of our Blessed Mother. **On Sunday, October 30th at St. Peter's Church, beginning at 2pm.** ChristLife founder and speaker, Dave Nodar, will share reflections on the Visitation and Mary's beautiful prayer, the Magnificat. The event will include two talks by Dave, the Rosary, Evening Prayer, and Eucharistic Adoration, and will conclude with a light social in the Parish Center. Watch the bulletin for details.

CURIOUS ABOUT THE MEANING OF YOUR LIFE?

Seek answers at Discovering Christ.



A great (free!) dinner



An engaging video message



Conversation about the message

Seven Wednesday Nights

Oct 5th - Nov 16th

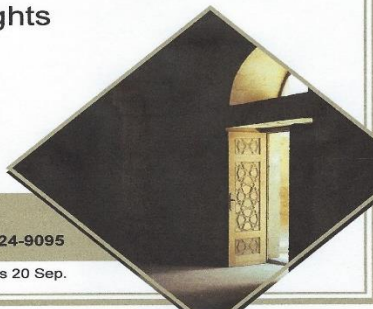
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Also, mark your calendars for a special
retreat day on Saturday, Nov 5th.

Learn more and register:

www.christlife.org/discover or call 724-9095

No cost to participate! Registration closes 20 Sep.



CHRISTLIFE™

Registration is now open for this Fall's *Discovering Christ* series. This 7-week program includes a delicious (free!) dinner, a teaching video and small group discussion focusing on the Meaning of Life and the Person of Jesus Christ. Beginning October 5th, participants meet Wednesday evenings from 6pm – 8:30pm thru Nov 16th with an inspiring Retreat on Saturday, Nov 5th. Seating is limited and registration closes Tuesday, Sept 20th so please sign up early to ensure a place at the table! Registration forms are available on the table at the back of the Church or register on-line at norb.josten@gmail.com.

Questions? Call Norb at 570-724-9095.

***Before all else, the Gospel invites us
to respond to the God of love who
saves us, to see God in others and to
go forth from ourselves to seek the
good of others.***

(Evangelii Gaudium, no. 39)



SOCIAL CONCERNS BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECT

Thank you to all who helped fill backpacks with clothes and shoes, for area students, as the school year begins. Eleven backpacks were filled and given to students to start their school year in a positive way. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



“Let us pray to Pope John Paul I. Let us ask him to obtain for us the smile of the soul. Using his own words, let us ask for what he himself used to request: ‘Lord, take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but help me become what you desire me to be.’” Pope Francis



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Register Now - Registration information has been mailed to all returning students. Please fill out the registration form and return to the religious education office. If you have a new student or did not receive the mailing, please call or email the Religious Education office and information will be mailed to you.

Adult Volunteer Opportunities

Children and teens, ages preschool through 12th grade, attend St. Peter's Religious Education Program to celebrate the sacraments and learn about the Catholic faith. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, please prayerfully consider volunteering for the following available positions:

Catechist Assistant - The role of an assistant is to attend class each week to help where needed, serve as a support to the lead catechist by assisting students with the lesson and activities, and to help maintain a safe atmosphere for learning in the classroom.

Children's Liturgy of the Word Leader - During the 8:30am Mass, children in grades K-3 are called forward before the Scripture readings begin and are sent to the Parish Center with an adult leader. There they will hear the same readings that are proclaimed at Mass, but explained on a level that younger children can understand. Volunteers are needed to lead Children's Liturgy and all materials are provided in advance. Depending on the number of volunteers, leaders can expect to be scheduled approximately once every 4-6 weeks.

St. Peter's is blessed to have an active group of parishioners who support our faith formation programs by volunteering their time and talents. Our religious education program would not be possible without them. If you feel called to share the love of Christ and contribute to the spiritual growth of our children, as well as grow in your own faith, please contact Melissa Mann at stpreled@ptd.net or (570)724-9789.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Next Sunday, September 18th, is Catechetical Sunday and will be the first class for students in grades Pre-K through 12th grade. Following the 8:30am Mass, students will report to their classrooms and a short parent meeting will be held in the church. At the conclusion of the parent meeting, parents will be joined by the students to kick off the year with donuts and coffee/juice for everyone in the parish center.



BLESSING OF ANIMALS

The Church has a special ceremony called Blessing of Pets, which is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. In anticipation of Francis' feast day on October 4th, Fr. Jacek will bless all pets on Sunday, October 2nd at 2:00pm in the parking lot.



"God works through unplanned events, as well as through setbacks. Let us ask the Lord to send us His Spirit so that He might help us to discern and to recognize His presence even in the unforeseen and painful situations in our lives." Pope Francis

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Ph: (570) 944-0106 7534 Route 49
Fax: (570) 827-3063 P.O. Box 25
Email: unitedchristianministries.inc@gmail.com Elkland, PA 16920
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Great futures

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This spot is open.
Please call the Rectory to
place your ad here.

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, 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 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 Fermenic, Alice Kohut, John Bowe, Kathy Wheeler, Phyllis Davis, Tom Patt, Sammi Swinnich, Raymond Butler, Michael Joseph Harris, Maggie Stirnaman, Jane Johnson, Maureen Bailey, George Hill, Luis Ang, Colleen Rose, Kami Maloof, and Don Gordon.



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.