

St. Peter's Church



47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
Parish Office: 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, 4:30-4:50pm; or by appointment

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 17, 2023

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!

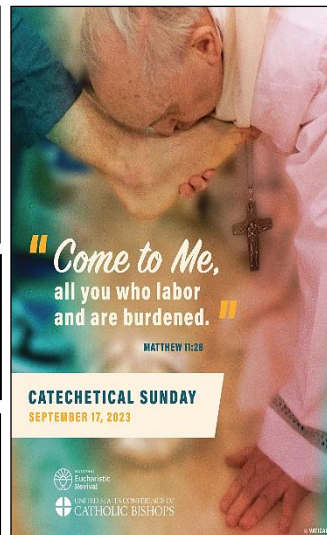
If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshiping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____



Today, the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday with the theme, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened."

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each baptized person plays in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Today, Catechists are formally commissioned for ministry in the community.

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 D. Grab 607/857-3447
Youth Group – Melissa Mann 570/724-9789
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
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
Welcoming Committee – Melissa Mann 570/724-9789

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday 9/18	No Mass	
Tuesday 9/19	12:10pm	In Memory of Paul Urner (St. Peter's Dinner Committee)
Wednesday 9/20	12:10pm	In Honor of Richard Black (Grateful Patients)
Thursday 9/21	12:10pm	In Memory of Casey Spang (Family)
Friday 9/22	12:10pm	In Memory of Ricardo Fullerton (Reza & Spang Family)
Saturday 9/23	5:00pm *Mass is livestreamed	In Memory of Mary Clark (Sisters, Patricia & Carolyn)
Sunday 9/24	8:30am	Living and Deceased Members of St. Peter's Parish

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of Lucille Keck (Kent & Nancy Walker)

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.

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.

Happening This Week

Sunday, September 17th

Religious Education Donut Social - Immediately following 8:30am Mass

Tuesday, September 19th

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

Wednesday, September 21st

Worship Committee Meeting - 6:00pm; Parish Center

Sunday, September 24th

Religious Education Classes - 8:30am pre-school; 9:30am K-12
Holy Hour at St. Thomas - following the 11:30am Mass

Stewardship

Sunday Collection for September 10, 2023: \$7,976.41
Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$6,100.00
Difference: \$1,876.41
Year to Date Budget Variance: \$744.76

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

A total of \$2,160 was collected last weekend to help the residents of Maui recover from the devastation caused by the recent deadly wildfires.

The funds will go directly to help the people of Maui rebuild. Thank you for your generosity.

Liturgical Reflection ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING: Sirach 27:30-28

This reading from Sirach talks about a forgiving God. Wrath and anger are not the ways of the Lord. If we refuse to forgive then we cannot expect to be forgiven. This is not always an easy thing to do. We must remember that when someone does something sinful, it comes from a place of brokenness. Adding more hate does little to hear. Healing takes place through love and forgiveness. Showing mercy to others allows mercy to be shown to us. We hate the sin, but we love the sinner.

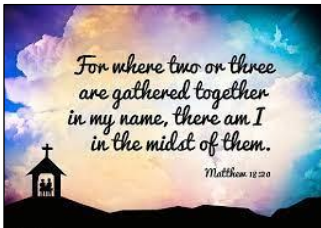
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 103

Today's Responsorial Psalm praises God who forgives our sins. We bring harm to our lives through our sinfulness. Sin is not an act of freedom as some may think. Instead sin is really us being a slave to our passions. Sin may bring us a fleeting moment of diversion from our lives, but it does not bring us joy and ultimately leaves us alienated and frustrated. God heals us from our self-destructive ways and does so with kindness and compassion, through love and mercy.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:7-9

Today's reading from St. Paul to the Romans tells us that we are not our own. We belong to no one or nothing else but Christ. We cannot live just for ourselves. We are only complete in the Lord. Even when we die, we die for the Lord. We live and die for the Lord. Our question to ourselves must be how can we live each day as a response to God's call?

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35



The theme of forgiveness found in today's readings continues in the Gospel reading from Matthew. Jesus said we have to forgive "seventy-seven times." There is no limit to the number of times we must forgive those who have sinned against us. God forgives our sins over and over again, when we ask him for mercy. We, too, must do the same with others. We have received a gift from God that we did not deserve and therefore must be generous with others. We forgive others because they need forgiveness. We

want them to be healed. Jesus died on the cross for all of us out of love for us. We need to try and love as much. Jesus' message of forgiveness seems so simple, yet can be one of our greatest challenges.

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.

"Let us pray together in the face of the many challenges and difficulties of our age. We should not remain idle spectators. Rather, may we actively engage for a more just and peaceful world." Pope Francis



Religious Education News

This weekend is Catechetical Sunday which marks the beginning of the Religious Education year. Following the 8:30am Sunday Mass there will be a Donut Social in the Parish Center for all students and families. There are no pre-k or k-12 classes this weekend.

Classroom instruction will begin on Sunday, September 24th. Please submit a registration form before your child attends class. Forms have been mailed to all families and extra copies are in the box outside the Religious Education Office. Contact Melissa at stpreled@ptd.net or 570/724-9789 with any questions.



Knights of Columbus News

Volunteers Needed

The knights of Columbus are asking for volunteers to help clean up after the Polish Dinner on September 29th at 6:30pm. Brother Knights are encouraged to help with this project along with any parishioners willing to participate.

Polish Dinner Raffle

The Knights of Columbus will be raffling off *A Basket of Cheer* at the Polish Dinner on September 29th. The cost will be \$5.00 per ticket. The proceeds will benefit The Immaculate Conception Council of St. Peter's Church with funds being used for the church grounds project. Raffle drawing will be on October 31st and the winner will be notified by phone or email. There will also be a 50/50 raffle ticket sale at the dinner with proceeds split between the Knights of Columbus and St. Peter's Dinner Committee.



Holy Hour at St. Thomas

Sunday, September 24th
Following the 11:30am Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Adoration
Confession
Benediction

St. Peter's Polish Dinner

Friday, September 29th

4:30pm – 6:30pm or until sold out

Take-out or Dine-In the Parish Center

Adults: \$15.00

Age 12 and under: \$5.00

Age 3 and under: Free

Pierogi Sauerkraut Kielbasa Hot Dogs
Applesauce Halupki (stuffed cabbage)
Homemade Desserts

Volunteers are needed to help make this dinner a success. Please see the sign-up sheets on the table at the back of the church if you are able to help. Thank you!

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON YOUTH RALLY



BE AN ORIGINAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2023 | 10AM - 7:00PM

Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton PA 18503

****OPEN TO YOUTH IN 7TH-12TH GRADE****



Sessions for Youth & Adults | Opportunities for Praise & Worship
Lunch & Dinner Provided | Adoration & Closing Mass
Music from Thomas Muglia | Keynote from Steve Angrisano
Closing Mass 5:30 PM | St. Peter's Cathedral

SCHEDULING 2024 MASS INTENTIONS

Scheduling Mass intentions for 2024 will be available beginning September 5th through the parish office, during regular business hours. **The following are the established guidelines for scheduling intentions:**

One weekend Mass on each weekend must be celebrated for the intentions of the parish. This is required by Canon Law (c. 534). Because of this, we only have one weekend Mass for which we can accept an intention. Due to this limited availability of weekend Masses, no family may schedule more than ONE WEEKEND MASS PER QUARTER, or four weekend Masses per year. There is no limit to the number of daily Mass intentions which may be scheduled by each family.

Canon 948 states, "Separate Masses are to be applied for the intentions of those for whom a single offering, although small, has been given and accepted." Therefore, only one intention may be scheduled for any given Mass. However, for pastoral concerns to better accommodate the needs of the parishioners, we will adhere to the following: Up to three first names with the same last name (i.e., John, Paul, and Mary Smith) or two last names only (i.e., Scott and Smith Families) will be allowed per intention.

The stipend given for a Mass intention is \$10. While we are willing to take requests over the phone, your Mass intention will not be scheduled until we are in receipt of your donation.

Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and All Souls Day Masses are always for the individual intentions listed by parishioners on their envelope.

The Sanctuary Candle, burning in memory or in honor of someone, is available on a weekly basis with no limit to the number each family may reserve. The stipend given for the Sanctuary Candle is \$10.



WE NEED YOU!

The Religious Education Program is in need of classroom aides to join this important ministry. Aides assist and support teachers in the classroom where needed and are not required to prepare or teach a lesson. If you are willing to commit an hour each week to share your faith with the children of our parish, please contact Melissa in the Religious Education Office at 570/724-9789 or email stpreled@ptd.net.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church through study and prayer. It begins with a period of inquiry in which you may ask questions before you make a commitment to become Catholic.

Please contact Melissa in the Religious Education Office at 570/724-9789 or email stpreled@ptd.net for more information. The deadline to register is October 7th.



Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals is a special ceremony in the Church conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

In anticipation of St. Francis' Feast Day on October 4th, Father Jacek will bless all pets on Sunday, October 1st at 2:00pm in the church parking lot.



CHRISTLIFETM
CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

SAVE THE DATES!

Discovering Christ is slated to begin its 2023 program of free dinners, inspiring teaching and small group faith sharing on **Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00pm** for 7 consecutive Wednesdays, plus a retreat on Saturday, November 4th.

Those intending to participate in this Spirit-filled program, please contact Norb Josten at 570/724-9095 or at norb.josten@gmail.com. Registration deadline is September 24th.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

To offer healing and to increase awareness about the Church's mercy and care for those who have died by suicide, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance on Sunday, September 17th at 12:15pm at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton.

During the Mass, those attending will be invited to bring forward a flower in remembrance of those lost to suicide. No registration is necessary and all are welcome.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance

*To remember loved ones lost to suicide
and healing for those who still grieve their passing*

Sunday, September 17, 2023
at 12:15 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Peter
315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton

Principal Celebrant
Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

The Mass will also be broadcast live on CTV:
Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton
and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton
website, YouTube channel and Facebook.



Parish Office News Staff Position Available

Due to health concerns, Louise Wheaton has resigned her position as bookkeeper with St. Peter's Parish effective next month.

She will continue her position as secretary with St. Thomas Parish.

Melissa Mann has accepted the position of parish bookkeeper/secretary in the parish office.

Because of these changes, we are looking to fill the position of Director of Education as soon as possible. This is a part-time position with flexible hours. The deadline to apply is September 23rd and a detailed job description is available upon request.

For more information or to apply, please contact Melissa Mann at 570/724-9789 or email stpreled@ptd.net.

September

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15th.

September falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green.

This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary time.

Worship Committee Meeting Date Change

The Worship Committee Meeting scheduled for September 19th has been moved to September 21st at 6:00pm in the Parish Center.



Volunteer Opportunity Collection Counter

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 Melissa in the Parish Office at 570/724-3371.

Mt. Saviour Retreat

Saturday, September 23rd

9am-3:15pm

All parishioners are invited to participate in this pilgrimage. Our group will leave St. Peter's parking lot at 7:45am and arrive at the monastery for Mass at 9am. We will return to St. Peter's around 4pm. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes.

Deadline for registration: Sunday, September 17th. Use the sign-up sheets at your parishes. A free-will donation of 10.00/person is suggested.



Afternoon of Reflection

"In the Breaking of the Bread"

Sunday, October 8, 2023

11:30am-6pm, St. Peter's Church

This event will begin with Mass at 11:30am at St. Peter's Church. The program will include Mary Hallman's Presentation, the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, Evening Prayer, and Benediction. Following the Holy Hour, participants are invited to a catered meal in the Parish Center. We suggest a free-will offering of \$10 to assist with costs. **Deadline for registration: Sunday, September 24th. Register with the tear-off strip or use the sign-up sheets in your church. Please note: Contact information *must be* provided to secure your registration.**

Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage

September 30, 2023

For more information about this pilgrimage,, visit Rosarypilgrimage.org Prayer cards for the event can be found on the holy handout table.

Living Rosary

October 2023

The Living Rosary will be updated and prayed from October 1st-31st.

We need 20 people to pray one decade each day (the same decade for 31 days) so that all four sets of the mysteries are covered. Participants will gather for a social at St. Mary's Church following First Saturday services on **November 4th**. For more information or to sign up, call Laurie Coffee (703) 470-2975 or email laurie.coffee@gmail.com.

Registration for AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION, OCTOBER 8th

NAME _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____




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 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, 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, 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, Sammi Swinnich, Raymond Butler, Michael Joseph Harris, Maggie Stirnaman, Jane Johnson, Maureen Bailey, George Hill, Kami Maloof, Don Gordon, B.J. Butler, Christopher Moore, Jasmine Gordon, Kassie Nowak, Sr. Sally Villa, SSJ.

 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.