



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



January 19, 2020

Saints Peter and Paul Church

106 Third Street - Towanda, Pennsylvania 18848-1798

Phone: 570-265-2113

FAX: 570-265-2114

E-mail: stppp@epix.net

Website: sspeterandpaulchurch.net

Pastor: Rev. Edward L. Michelini

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL, *PRAY FOR US!*

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9 am to 3 pm

The Parish in the heart of the Endless Mountains
Serving Bradford County since 1841

Mass Schedule

- Vigil Mass
(Saturday) 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday Mass
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Weekday Mass
M, T, W, F 8:30 a.m.
- Confessions before daily
Mass; Saturday 4:15 p.m.

SPIRITUAL DEVOTIONS

The Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the *Divine Mercy Chaplet* are prayed in common before weekday Masses.

The Perpetual Novena of the Miraculous Medal is prayed in common every Monday after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration is held from 9:00 a.m. on the Thursday preceding First Friday until 2:00 p.m. on Friday in Grotto Hall and the church.

Sacred Heart Devotions are prayed in common after First Friday Masses.

Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary are prayed in common after the First Saturday Masses.

Parish Prayer Line requests
Call Annette at 570-265-9691.

SACRAMENTS

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated Sundays after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. First time parents are asked to attend a welcoming session prior to baptism. Godparents are asked to present a sponsor card. Please call the parish office as soon as possible after your child's birth to plan his or her baptism.

The Sacrament of Marriage—engaged couples should notify the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed date. Couples participate in a preparation program.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick—please call the parish office for visitation of the sick at home, in the hospital, or health care facility.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is the official process used by the Church to bring adults into the Catholic faith.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

SS. Peter & Paul Parish, a community of faith called by God to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, serves the Lord by sharing our time, talent and treasure. As disciples of Christ, we are called to bring Jesus Christ to ourselves and others: our children, the sick, the poor, the fallen away Catholics and those who need to hear God's message of unconditional love and forgiveness. SS. Peter & Paul Parish is a beacon of light rooted in Jesus Christ, passed on to his successor, our Holy Father the Pope, and is guided by our local bishop to build the Kingdom of God on Earth. It is our mission to shine the light of Jesus Christ in our world and to spiritually enrich the individual members of the parish as well as the larger community through word, worship, sacrament and service.



*I saw the Spirit come
down like a dove
from heaven and
remain upon him
He . . . will baptize
with the Holy Spirit.*

John 1: 32...34

St. Agnes School

Night at the Races - Feb. 2

For more information about this annual fundraiser for the school, call 570-265-6803.

CCD Classes - Sundays 9:15 am @ St. Agnes School

Feb. 1: Confirmation Retreat and Mass

Feb. 7: First Penance practice 6 pm

Feb. 8: First Penance 10 am; lunch afterward

Confirmation and First Penance Prayers

Prayers are requested for the students of our parish (Lilli Bride, Sara Burrowes, Lara Vega, and Joey Weinman) and of the surrounding parishes who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. Bishop Bambera will be here on Monday April 20, 2020 to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation upon these students. On Saturday February 1, 2020 all the Confirmation students will participate in a retreat given by Br. David Deradorian FSC and several men studying to be Religious Brothers – De LaSalle Christian Brothers.

The young men and women to receive Confirmation will attend the 5 pm Mass that Saturday and lead the congregation in several aspects of the liturgy. Please keep all these students, their parents, and their sponsors in your prayers.

Widows Support Group

The Widows Support Group will be having their January luncheon at the Northern Tier Career Center (Vo Tech School) this Thursday, January 23 at noon. If you need a ride, please meet at the church parking lot at 11:45 AM. Donation for the lunch is \$5 but reservations need to be made by calling 570-265-2625.

All widows are welcome to attend.

Taking Down the Christmas Decorations

The parish community extends many thanks to all who helped in taking down the Christmas decorations. Many hands made light work. We especially thank Mary Kay Ward for directing the operations from her wheelchair. Our church looked terrific for Christmas! Again, we thank every person who had anything to do with setting-up and/or taking-down!



World Marriage Day - Feb. 16, 2010

World Marriage Day will be celebrated here on February 16, 2020 (rather than Feb. 9). Additional information will be coming in the mail and the bulletin. It would be great if all our married couples could participate in this special celebration of your commitment. Thank You, and please plan to attend.

Charles Driscoll

Long-time parishioner, Dr. Charles Driscoll, passed away early Tuesday, January 14th. During the days prior to his death, Charles wished to extend his thanks to all who were sending him cards for his recovery and at Christmas; to all who visited; and for all who were praying for him. He was deeply moved by so many who were thinking of him. His funeral Mass was celebrated here Saturday morning.

May his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Calendar:

Jan. 19: 2 pm Pro-Life Rally @ County Courthouse (See article above)

Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Holiday: 8:30 am Mass as usual; parish office closed

Jan. 21: 10:15 Mass @ Personal Care Home

Jan. 23: Widows Support Group Luncheon (see article above)

Jan. 24: Bus to D.C. March for Life (see article above)

Feb. 1: First Saturday mass 8:30 am

Confirmation Retreat all day; participation afterward in 5 pm Mass

Feb. 2: The Presentation of the Lord

Feb. 6-7: Eucharistic Adoration in Grotto Hall and Church

Feb. 7: First Friday 8:30 am Mass; 10:15 Mass @ Bradford County Manor

Feb. 8: First Penance Practice 6 pm in church

Feb. 8: First Penance 10 am; lunch afterward

Feb. 16: World Marriage Day Celebration

Mass Intentions Jan. 18 - 26

Sat. Vigil 5 pm: Our Parishioners
Sun. 8:00 am: Jacqueline Vigil (Seibert Family)
11:00 am: Nicole DeFrancesco
(parents Rich & Sharon Frank)
Mon. 8:30 am: Hollenback & Mahoney Families
(Thomas E. Hollenback)
Tues. 8:30 am: Catherine H. Snell (Jim & Sue Bowen)
10:15 am: Peter Schuffels (Maureen Engelhard and
Mass @ Personal Care Home Bob Teppner)
Thursday: No Mass
Fri. 8:30 am: Rita Bustin (Mary Bustin)
Sat. Vigil 5 pm: Sharon Miller (Bob & Jackie Pynzar)
Sun. 8:00 am: Our Parishioners
11:00 am: Sharon Miller (Lucille Christini & Family)



Sanctuary Lamps burn this week for:

Ray DePaola (his Parents)
Our Confirmation Class
Protection of the Unborn

Monday - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday

8:30 am Mass as usual on Monday, Jan. 20.
The Parish Office will be closed for the holiday.

Tuesday - Feast of Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

St. Agnes is the patroness of our own St. Agnes School. The students will perform ministries at the 8:30 am Mass on Tuesday. *St. Agnes, pray for our students, and their parents and their teachers; Amen.*

Wednesday is the U.S. Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Let us remember to continue to pray for the health and safety of all of our Creator's babies-in-waiting, their mothers, and their families.

Volunteers Needed

A vital part of our parish life is that of keeping our worship space neat and clean. A small unseen army of volunteers has been doing this every Saturday morning for untold years. Because so many older members have left this ministry, there is an urgent need for new volunteers to STEP UP and continue to perform this important service.

Each Saturday, a team of three people uses a list of tasks which are rotated through the month so that "all the bases are covered" each month. Teams are scheduled only twice a year if we have enough people to do so.

Many Thanks to Fr. Ed, his robots take care of most of the vacuuming. If you could spare a couple hours on a Saturday morning to do light cleaning, or have one or two other people to bring with you to make up your own preferred team, (families/friends are welcome to come together) please contact the parish office ASAP because we need to organize the schedule for the next rotation beginning in March, 2020. E-mail stppp@yahoo.com or phone 570-265-2113 to volunteer, or for more information.

Anyone already on Altar Care who is no longer able should notify the office ASAP to be removed from the schedule; otherwise, you will be expected to come on your appointed Saturday.

Liturgical Ministers Jan. 25 - 26

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Sat. Vigil 5 pm: Joanne & Patrick Barry, Sharon Kaminsky
Sun. 8 am: Bob Brenner, Barbara Grimes, Edith Rabago
11 am: Charlene Garden, Kathy Joyce, Louise Schelter

Lectors

Sat. Vigil 5 pm: Patti Meredith
Sun. 8 am: Barbara Wyworski
11 am: Laurie Young

Altar Servers

Sat. Vigil 5 pm: Connor Babcock, Dillon Gallagher
Sun. 8 am: Max, Lara & Dalila Vega
11 am: Luke & Jack Tavani

Hospital & Personal Care Home: Lee Ann Wolfe
Bradford County Manor: Sonia Huff

Altar Care January Chair: Ed Krauss

Jan. 25 - Week 4: Ed Krauss

Jean Reilly, Cathy Corbett

Counters Tuesday, Jan. 21: Team B

Offertory Jan. 5, 2020

Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary	\$ 1,243.00
Initial Offering	\$ 284.00
Sunday Offering	\$ 4,439.00
Care & Education of Priests	\$ 578.00
Special Envelopes	\$ 35.00

Thank You for your Generosity

Second Collection

Jan. 19 - Insurance & Taxes

Next week Jan. 26 - NO SECOND COLLECTION.

Other Feast Days This Week

Mon.: St. Fabian Pope & Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr

Wed.: St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr

**Thurs.: St. Marianne Cope, Virgin, (USA) and
St. Vincent, Deacon & Martyr**

**Fri.: St. Francis DeSales, Bishop & Doctor of the
Church**

Sat.: Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle





1841- 2016

**SS Peter
and Paul
Church**

OTTAVIDANI OPTOMETRY

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PHONE: 570-265-6816

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Bob Hugo 570-265-6615

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patrick@barrettlawofficepa.com Fax: 570-673-5780
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Knights of Columbus

TOWANDA COUNCIL, No. 3915

7 Poplar St., Towanda PA 18848

Meetings 2nd Wednesdays at 7 pm

Contact: 570-265-2113

RICHARD M. FARLEY

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**I will make you
a light to the nations.**

Isaiah 49: 6

JoAnne Kizer



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If you would like to join our parish, contact:

SS. Peter & Paul Church—106 Third St.—Towanda PA 18848

Call 570-265-2113 or email stppp@epix.net

REQUEST FOR PARISH REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____ Phone _____

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Art Badger; Nancy Barrett; Tori Barton; Josie Beale; Gus Branish; Donna Brown;
Carol Brubaker; Tom Burger; Angela Burke; Chris Cole; Beth Coleman; Patricia
Coleman; Jon Curtis; Monica Curtis; Margaret DeMarco; Patricia Dibble; Mary
Theresa Dorsey; Rachel Dugan; Stephanie Duggan; George Emery; Helen Finlan;
Christina Fleury; June Gormley Goodrich; Sally Groff; Linda Hilscher; Evelyn
Hoff; John Hoffman, Sr.; Billy Hollenback; Polly Karschner; Jill Lewellyn;
Annette McClure; Deany McGarrigle; Mickey McGarrigle; Sharon Mahaffey;
Nate Miller; Paul Moran; Ethan Neuber; Irma O'Keefe; Jean Perry; Cindy
Robinson; Mary Ann Schram; Eugenia Serpe; Mackenzie Kempner Taylor; Ed
and Barbara Ulatowski; Prairie Rose Upton; Barbara Westfall; Sharon Wilson;
and 5 Special Intentions.



PRAY
FOR THE SICK

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday - January 19, 2020

On January 13, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating January 22 as the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day. (January 22, 1973, was the day the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand in all 50 states). Churches of many denominations around the United States use the third Sunday of January each year to celebrate God's gift of life, to commemorate the many lives lost to abortion, and to commit themselves to protecting human life at every stage.



Pro-Life Rally / Walk / Worship: THIS Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020 - 2 PM

You are invited to join the annual Pro-Life Rally at 2 pm at the Bradford County Courthouse on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2010. The group will walk first to the bridge, and then back to the First Presbyterian Church for an ecumenical worship service to be followed by light refreshments.

U.S. Representative Fred Keller will be the guest speaker. Please join in witnessing to the sanctity of human life, and to speak for the more than 60,000,000 American babies denied it in the past 48 years since abortion was made legal in our country.

D.C. National March for Life —Friday, Jan. 24, 2020

A bus chartered by Pennsylvanians for Human Life is available for transportation to attend the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Your reservation and \$30 payment is required. Please contact Rob Howard at 570-395-3417 or email rshoward1@frontiernet.net.

... About Abortion: The Truth

Many women in crisis pregnancy long to hear someone say "Please don't do it." There are many voices saying that an abortion is a quick solution to all your problems, but that is a lie. Speak the Truth, with Compassion.

... An Alternative: The Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center

EMPCC is our local community resource center which can counsel and support women and families during a problem pregnancy, including the free "First Look" ultrasound, continuing with educational resources in child and health care, and following up with the material resources such as baby clothes and car seats. Located in Towanda (13 State Street) and Canton (26 W. Main St.), they may be reached by phone at 570-265-0500 (Towanda) or 570-673-4476 (Canton). Volunteers in this special ministry are also invited to visit or call.

... Forgiveness

We can be forgiven. God can forgive and heal even the sin of abortion. Because of a previous mistake, you don't have to suffer separation from God. Repent and be reconciled. Confessions are heard here before the morning Masses; Saturdays 4:15 pm; or by appointment, 570-265-2113.

... Healing

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information about the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat experience, call 1-877-HOPE-4-ME or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org



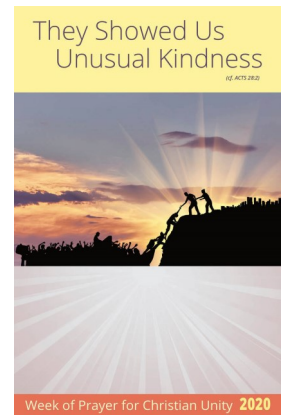
St. Mother Teresa of Kalkata

The greatest destroyer of peace is abortion because if a mother can kill her own child, what is left for me—to kill you and you to kill me? There is nothing between.

Ecumenical Sunday - January 19 – Ecumenical Sunday

Today is Ecumenical Sunday when we celebrate what God is doing through the many ecumenical agencies—local, regional, national and international—that make up the modern ecumenical movement.

As we continue our special prayers “that all may be one... that the world may believe” (John 17:21), we take time to familiarize ourselves with the work that (Grace Connection, Hezekiah’s Hands, Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center, and the Towanda Area Christian Outreach (TACO Food Pantry) all do to promote understanding and cooperation among Christians and others in our community.



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Members of the Diocese of Scranton, together with members of various Christian congregations and members of the Christian Communities Gathering of Northeastern Pennsylvania, will come together for an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God on Wednesday, January, 22 at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, began in 1908, and is celebrated each year throughout the world.

The "Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms of Ecumenism" encourages ecumenical participation: "The ecumenical movement is a grace of God, given by the Father in answer to the prayer of Jesus (35) and the supplication of the Church inspired by the Holy Spirit. (36) While it is carried out within the general mission of the Church to unite humanity in Christ, its own specific field is the restoration of unity among Christians. (37) Those who are baptized in the name of Christ are, by that very fact, called to commit themselves to the search for unity. (38) Baptismal communion tends towards full ecclesial communion. "To live our Baptism is to be caught up in Christ's mission of making all things one."

The theme for the 2020 observance is "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (cf. Acts 28:2). The theme and text for each year's observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are chosen and prepared by representatives of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and representatives of the World Council of Churches.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Ecumenical prayer service for Christian Unity. If you cannot attend the Cathedral service, please participate in local ecumenical celebrations.

Pre-Lenten Retreat To Be Offered

The Office for Parish Life will be holding *“Preparing Our Hearts for Lent: A Journey Together in Ministry” Retreat*. This is a retreat for DREs, Youth Ministers, Pastoral Associates, Participants in Lay Ministry Formation and anyone engaged in Ministry of the Word and Lifelong Faith Formation who will gather for prayer, reflection and fellowship.

The retreat will be held at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center, 1000 Seminary Rd., Dalton, PA. The retreat begins on Friday evening, February 7th with arrival between 5:00-6:00 p.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 8th. The cost is \$100 and includes the retreat program, meals and lodging. Father Michael Bryant will be the retreat facilitator.

Please register below by January 29th. The link to register is below.

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/preparing-our-hearts-for-lent-journey-together-in-ministry-retreat-feb-7-8/>

Diocesan Wedding Celebration Invitation

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2020 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 14.

The event includes a 2:30 PM mass at St. Peter’s Cathedral followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation, with an April mailing address, should be made through your parish office before March 16.