



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



July 18, 2021

Saints Peter and Paul Church

106 Third Street - Towanda, Pennsylvania 18848-1798

Phone: 570-265-2113

FAX: 570-265-2114

E-mail: stppp@yahoo.com

Website: sspeterandpaulchurch.net

Pastor: Rev. Edward L. Michelini

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

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Thurs. 9:30-3:30

GREEN PHASE LIMITED RE-OPENING OF SSPP CHURCH

**See Updates on Website
sspeterandpaulchurch.net**

***A reminder that the Sunday
Mass obligation remains sus-
pended and that vulnerable
individuals should remain at
home for their own safety.***

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.

**Parish Prayer Line Re-
quests**

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

MASS TIMES - TV and Online

**SS Peter & Paul Church Sunday Mass is available
as a u-tube video link posted on our website**

Daily 8 AM, Noon, and 7 PM on EWTN television station

Sunday 8 AM and Noon on EWTN television station

**Weekdays 12:10, 3:30 and 7 PM on CTW television; on website
www.dioceseofscranton.org; and streaming on Diocesan
Facebook, twitter, instagram, and youtube.**

**Saturday Vigil 4 pm on CTW television and Diocesan website
www.dioceseofscranton.org; and streaming on Diocesan
facebook, twitter, Instagram and youtube**

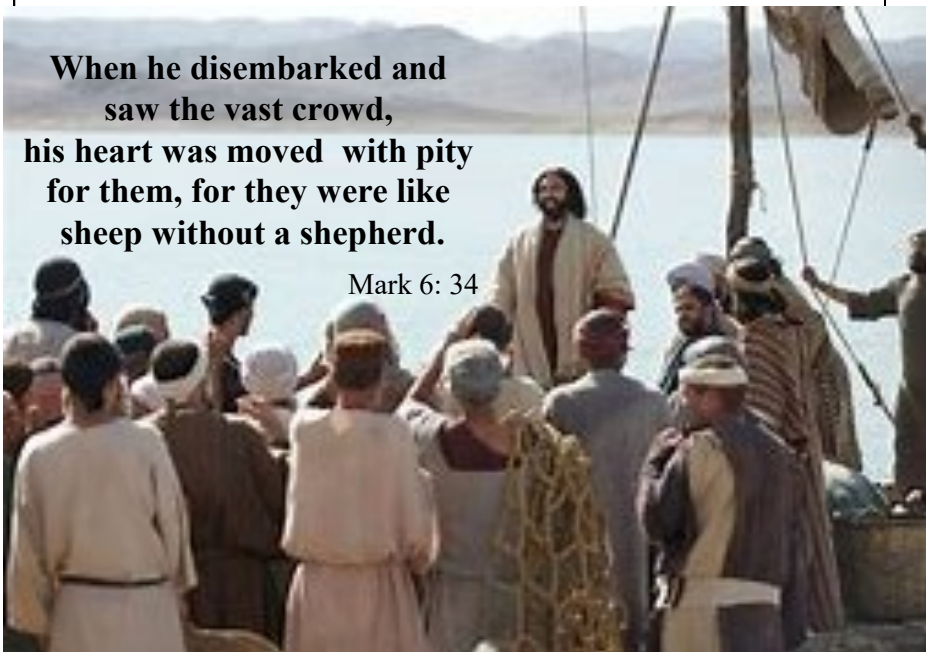
**Sunday 10 am on CTW and Diocesan website
www.dioceseofscranton.org; and streaming on Diocesan
Facebook, twitter, Instagram and youtube**

**Weekdays 9 AM livestream at TheDivineMercy.org Facebook
page**

**Weekdays 7 pm in Spanish livestream at LaDivinaMisericordia
(Official) facebook page**

**When he disembarked and
saw the vast crowd,
his heart was moved with pity
for them, for they were like
sheep without a shepherd.**

Mark 6: 34



Altar Servers

Seminarian Marc Phillips held an instructional session for aspiring altar servers this past Saturday; and the parish is looking forward to having some altar servers begin their ministry some time during next month.

Altar & Rosary Society

During the past month, the parish has celebrated many funeral liturgies. Our condolences and prayers go to those who have lost a loved member of the family and our prayers are also extended to you friends who also miss them.

Associated with many of these funerals has also been a funeral luncheon provided here for family and friends of the deceased, hosted by the members of our Altar & Rosary Society.

The parish thanks all of you members for your dedication and efforts in making a time of grief a little uplifting, hopefully easier, and a time of gathering and solace for their family. People are amazed at what you have done for them – they are greatly appreciative.

On a similar topic, for many years now, Lucille Christini, as either co- or head- organizer, has been the main contact person for the funeral luncheons. At this time, Lucille is stepping away from that charge, and is “passing the reins” for coordinating the luncheons to a threesome: Mary Abell, Eileen Hugo and Kathy LeStrange. The parish is greatly appreciative of the work each of you do and have done, and especially those who have led this society; we truly appreciate the ladies who will venture into this area in the coming months. Many, many thanks!

Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic

The Bishop's office has announced that Fr. Andrew, who is pastor of the Epiphany Parish in Sayre has just been appointed the pastor of Gate of Heaven, Dallas/Our Lady of Victory, Harvey's Lake, effective in August. Fr. Andrew has served at Epiphany parish here in Bradford County for more than 18 years, and is the chair of our Deanery. He has been a frequent visitor to SSPP and has helped us many times. The parishioners of SSPP parish would like to extend a “Thank You” to Fr. Andrew and we wish him well in his new assignment.

July 25-31, 2021 - Natural Family Planning Awareness Week

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops focuses on this important topic, supporting God's gifts of love and life in marriage, each year. Watch for details in next week's bulletin.

Troy Fair July 25-31, 2021

The Troy Fair will be held July 25-31, 2021. If you plan to go to the fair this year, be certain to stop at the Bradford County Pennsylvanians for Human Life (BCPHL) Pro-Life Booth. Tell them you are from SSPP Parish.

The 4 Steps of Lectio Divina or Prayerful Reading

Fr. Ed has been recommending this form of personal prayer at various times over the past several years. It is worth the effort, and most find that it changes our lives.

1. **Lectio:** Read a Scripture passage aloud slowly. Notice what phrase captures your attention and be attentive to its meaning. Silent pause.
2. **Meditatio:** Read the passage aloud slowly again, reflecting on the passage, allowing God to speak to you through it. Silent pause.
3. **Oratio:** Read it aloud slowly a third time, allowing it to be your prayer or response to God's gift of insight to you. Silent pause.
4. **Contemplatio:** Read it aloud slowly a fourth time, now resting in God's word

How to Pray? How to Meditate? How to Grow in Spirit? - Come and See, Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Do you want to learn more about Lectio (above) or other forms of prayer and spiritual exercises? Marc Philips will be discussing and answering your questions on those subjects at 6:30 pm in Grotto Hall on Wednesday, July 28. Get up off the couch; turn off the re-runs on TV; stop chatting/ tweeting/ facebooking/ or whatever on the cell phone. Take some time to open your eyes, ears, and mind, to find your own center, to find more ways to draw ever nearer to our loving God.

Mass Intentions July 17 —

Sat. Vigil 5:00 pm: Our Parishioners
Sun. 8:00 am: Alex Antony Rabago (Rabago Family)
11:00 am: Richard May (Jacob Hoffmann)
Mon. 8:30 am: Francis A. Coleman Family
(Kathie DeWan)
Tues. 8:30 am: Barbara A. Miller
(Patricia R. Sherbondy)
12:00 pm: David Walsh Brubaker (Family)
Wed. 8:30 am: Hilda Garcia (Rabago Family)
Thursday: No Mass
Fri. 8:30am: Robert Doecker Family
(Marilyn Doecker)
Sat. Vigil 5:00 pm: Frank Madden
(John & Mary Alice Demangone)
Sun. 8:00 am: Ed & Barbara Branish for their
62nd Wedding Anniversary
11:00 am: Our Parishioners



A Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for:
David Walsh Brubaker (Carol Brubaker)

This Weekend We Welcome Fr. Alex Roche

Our parish community welcomes Fr. Alex Roche, the Diocesan Vocation Coordinator, to SSPP parish this weekend. Fr. Ed will be away in Hazleton for a family reunion. Fr. Roche is no stranger to our parish and we hope that you once again enjoy your visit here.

Friends of David Brubaker

are invited to the Noon Mass on Tuesday. If you wish to attend the private luncheon afterward, please call Carol at 570-265-9645 right away so she can plan for the food; or email caroljean1941@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Next Sunday 7/25 - Mass at French Azilum – 1:00 PM

A Sunday Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Ed on **Sunday July 25, 2021 at 1:00 pm** at the French Azilum Historic Site. Seating is provided under a pavilion there. Mark your calendars to celebrate Mass, and to enjoy viewing the site and history in the first Catholic settlement in Bradford County. Outbuildings, farm, and exhibits of life circa 1778-90 provide a self-guided tour, if you are interested.



Fr. Ed is looking for a few parishioners to help with this celebration. Sign up at church today, or contact the parish office, stppp@yahoo.com or 570-265-2113.

Ministers July 12 — 18

Collections Mon. Jul 19, 9:30 am: Team B
Altar Care July Chair: Eileen Hugo
Sat. Jul. 24 Eileen Hugo
 Colleen Sullivan

Lectors

Sat. Jul. 24 5 PM: Gwen Tama
Sun. Jul. 25 8 AM: Barbara Wywiorski
11 AM: Karen Stroud

Offertory July 4

Sunday Offering	\$ 5,026.75
Care & Education of Priests	\$ 307.00
Special Envelopes	\$ 135.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Mailed- Delivered-Automatic Contributions Appreciated

Second Collection

This week is for Peter's Pence; next weekend will be for the Air Conditioning.

Peter's Pence

Today is the Peter's Pence Collection, a worldwide collection that supports the work of the Universal Church, including the work of the Holy See and the charitable works of Pope Francis. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a sign of mercy to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous. For more information, visit www.peterspence.va/en.html. Information sheets and special envelopes are available near the entrance; for contribution credit, be sure to mark your name or envelope number on that envelope.

Post-Pandemic Parish Life

The Coffee & Donuts gathering after the 8 am Mass June 27 was very well received and appreciated by all – Many thanks go to Patti Meredith for taking the lead in organizing this for the parish.

The parish is planning additional social opportunities after weekend Masses coming up on July 31 and August 8.

Please sign up in advance on the sign-up sheets at the entrance to the church and make arrangements to meet and greet some parish friends.

**“MAKE A TACO” JULY 31
IN GROTTO HALL AFTER 5:00 PM MASS
AND**

**“ICE CREAM SOCIAL” AUGUST 8
CHURCH PARKING LOT AFTER 11:00 AM MASS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW. SIGN-UP
SHEETS ON TABLE IN BACK OF CHURCH
(so that we don't run out of tacos or ice cream)!**



1841- 2016

**SS Peter
and Paul
Church**

OTTAVIANI OPTOMETRY

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WYSOX PA 18854
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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
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
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570-265-4993
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*Woe to shepherds who
mislead and scatter...*
Jeremiah 23: 1

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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; Josie Beale; Ed Branish; Gus Branish; Kate Bride; Carol Brubaker; Tom Burger; Angela Burke; Beth Coleman; Patricia Coleman; Rita Cori; Jon Curtis; Monica Curtis; Margaret DeMarco; Patricia Dibble; Marilyn Doepker; Rachel Dugan; Stephanie Duggan; George Emery; Helen Finlan; Christina Fleury; Sally Groff; Linda Hilscher; Dawn Hodgdon; Evelyn Hoff; Billy Hollenback; Polly Karschner; Ed Krauss; Annette McClure; Deany McGarrigle; Mickey McGarrigle; Sharon Mahaffey; Gloria Minardo; Paul Moran; Charles Muchichko; Ethan Neuber; Noah Novickas; Irma O'Keefe; Jean Perry; Cindy Robinson; Robert Murphy; Mary Ann Schram; Eugenia Serpe; Len Sharp; Theresa Sparrow; Pastor Rachel Stahle; Charmaine Stempel; Mackenzie Kempner Taylor; Barbara Ulatowski; Prairie Rose Upton; Barbara Westfall; Sharon Wilson; Jeanine Winslow; Kathleen Woods; Joe Zak; and 7 Special Intentions.



PRAY
FOR THE SICK

OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS IN JEOPARDY - Please read, and Link: NoTaxpayerAbortion.com

June 14, 2021

Reverend and dear Father,

This week, the House Committee on Appropriations will be addressing the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill, which currently excludes the 46-year-old Hyde Amendment and other longstanding, bipartisan provisions including the Weldon Amendment.

Eliminating these provisions would force taxpayers to pay for elective abortions and force health care providers and professionals to perform and refer for abortion against their deeply-held beliefs, as well as force employers and insurers to cover and pay for abortion.

Without the Hyde Amendment and Hyde-related policies, billions of taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortion in the United States and throughout the world. Eliminating the Weldon Amendment would be an egregious violation of conscience rights by forcing individuals and entities to perform, pay for, or otherwise participate in an abortion against their beliefs.

I encourage you to share this information with your faithful parishioners – and encourage them to take action to help ensure the Hyde Amendment and all similar life-saving appropriations remain in place.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities is sponsoring a petition to legislators asking them to preserve the Hyde Amendment. All are encouraged to sign it at NoTaxpayerAbortion.com

The Diocese of Scranton is sharing links to this petition via its social media platforms. Additional information is also located on the Diocese of Scranton website and this week's edition of The Catholic Light Newspaper.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
†Joseph C. Bambera

First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - Next Sunday, July 25

Pope Francis has dedicated Sunday, July 25 as the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme for this first celebration is "I am with you always," referring to the Gospel of Saint Matthew 28:20. Bishop Bambera will commemorate this Day at the 10:00 AM Mass in the Cathedral on July 25.

The 11 am Mass in our parish next Sunday will also be offered for Grandparents and the Elderly. In observance of this day, let us recognize the great treasure that grandparents and the elderly are for our families and our society! To live this day more fully on a personal level, we invite you to consider doing something special for the elderly in your family and community. Here are a few ideas to spark your thinking:

If you still have your grandparents, use this day to call them or to visit them.

If your children have the ability to spend time with their grandparents, encourage that beautiful opportunity to enjoy their presence and create memories for a lifetime.

If your parents are no longer here, pray together with your children for them, and tell them stories about them.

Share with the younger generations in your family about your grandparents and the moments lived with them and teach them the importance of respecting and valuing the elderly.

Check on any elderly in your community, and take the opportunity to visit them to make sure they are well or to simply spend time and hear their stories.

To learn more, please visit the USCCB webpage for information about and resources for this celebration, or contact Jen Housel at jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570- 204-2213 ext. 1104.

SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION - DISPENSATION-to be lifted AUGUST 15, 2021

July 15, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For more than a year, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed unique challenges in our lives. It has brought hardship and struggle to some – separation, anxiety and isolation to others. We pray for those who have been directly affected by the virus, those that are still impacted by its effects and those who have lost loved ones.

Since March 2020, there has been a dispensation in the Diocese of Scranton from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. In light of the continued decline in cases and hospitalizations locally, that dispensation will end on Sunday, August 15, 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This change will occur in each diocese in Pennsylvania on the same date.

The Sunday celebration of Mass is the center of the Church's life. The importance – and necessity – to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is rooted in our Baptism as Christians. Baptism compels us, as Christians, to unite ourselves with Christ at the altar in his saving Sacrifice of the Cross. Put simply, attending Mass is an encounter with Our Risen Lord.

This is a moment to thank God anew for the great gift of the Mass and the Real Presence of Jesus to us in His Holy Body and Blood as well as the joy of gathering together as people of faith.

As Pope Francis reminded us in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." Long before we knew a pandemic was on the horizon, the Holy Father reminded us the Sunday encounter gives us the strength to experience the present with confidence and courage and to go forth with hope.

I invite and encourage all of the faithful in our community – including those who may have left the Church long before the pandemic – to return to the Table of the Lord – and be nourished by the Bread of Life! Our participation at Mass in-person is a gift for our own spiritual well-being, happiness and eternal salvation. It is also our responsibility to our brothers and sisters with whom we journey in faith.

It is important to note that people who are seriously ill or have a serious health risk, as well as those who have significant fear or anxiety of being part of a large group will continue to be legitimately excused from participating in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Those individuals are still encouraged to spend time in prayer, meditating on the Death and Resurrection of the Lord, reading Sacred Scripture and uniting themselves to Christ in his worship of the Father of us all.

Please continue to pray for all of our clergy and religious – who work tirelessly to make sure our parish communities remain safe and vibrant!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

†Joseph C. Bambera

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Scranton

My tears have been my food day and night, as they ask daily, "Where is your God?" Those times I recall as I pour out my soul, When I went in procession with the crowd, I went with them to the house of God, Amid loud cries of thanksgiving, with the multitude keeping festival. Why are you downcast, my soul; why do you groan within me? Wait for God, whom I shall praise again, my savior and my God.

~ Psalm 42: 4-6