

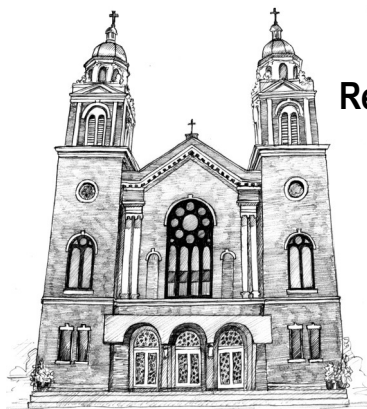
# Parish of Saints Peter and Paul

13 Hudson Road  
Plains, PA 18705-2015  
Phone 570-825-6663  
Fax 570-823-4556

Parish email: [parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

Parish Web: [www.sspeterandpaulplains.com](http://www.sspeterandpaulplains.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sspeterandpaulplains/>



**Reverend John C. Lambert, M.S.W.**  
**Pastor**

email:  
[pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

**Deacon Don Crane**  
**Permanent Deacon**

**Office Hours**  
Saturday and Sunday  
by appointment

**Saints Peter and Paul/Saint Benedict**  
Monday through Friday 8am-4pm  
Office closed daily Noon—12:30pm

## **Weekend Mass Schedule**

**Saturday**  
4pm—Saints Peter and Paul  
5:30pm—Saint Benedict

**Sunday**  
7:30am—Saints Peter & Paul  
10am—Saints Peter and Paul  
11:30am—Saint Benedict

# Parish of Saint Benedict

155 Austin Ave  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705  
Parish Web: [www.stbenedictwb.org](http://www.stbenedictwb.org)



**Confession**  
By appointment anytime

**Saints Peter and Paul**  
Daily 6:30am-6:45am  
Saturday 3pm-3:30pm

**Saint Benedict**  
after the 5:30pm Mass

## *Welcome*

*To all who are tired and need rest; to all who mourn and need comfort;  
to all who are friendless and need friendship;  
to all who are discouraged and need hope;  
to all who are homeless and need sheltering love;  
and to all who sin and need a Savior; and to whomsoever will,  
the Parishes of Saints Peter and Paul and St. Benedict open wide their doors  
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ*

**Eucharist Adoration at Saints Peter and Paul** - First Friday of every month—Noon till 3pm

**First Saturday Rosary at Saint Benedict**—First Saturday of every month at 4:45pm

*Working Together to Build the Kingdom of God*

## Sunday Stewards

### Saints Peter and Paul Parish

1068 Families receive envelopes

**Jan. 19** 356 attended the 4pm Mass  
169 Families used their envelopes and offered \$5,267

**Jan. 20** 35 attended the 7:30am Mass  
21 Families used their envelopes and offered \$563

54 attended the 10am Mass

21 Families used their envelopes and offered \$897

*Tithe from*

211 Families was \$6,727

Bernardine Bucks \$354

The Second Collection this weekend will be for  
**Bernardine Bucks**

Next week's Collection will be for  
**Care and Education of the Priest**

Please be generous!!!

### Saint Benedict Parish

429 Families receive envelopes

**Jan. 19** 78 attended the 5:30pm Mass  
72 Families used their envelopes and offered \$1,426

**Jan. 20** 35 attended the 11:30am Mass  
10 Families used their envelopes and offered \$225

*Tithe from*

82 Families was \$1,651

*Thank you for your continued generous Support!*

## Stewardship

God has entrusted us with many gifts: Time, Talent & Treasure. We hope and pray that all members will share their gifts, and continue to share the Good News of Jesus with all people.

### SAINTS PETER AND PAUL LOTTERY

Jan 14	#506	Leona Svab
Jan 15	#478	Theresa Mycho
Jan. 16	#491	Florence Bilcastro
Jan. 17	#000	Marie Fender
Jan. 18	#510	Bruce Szczecinski
Jan. 19	#887	Saints Peter and Paul
Jan. 20	#111	Saints Peter and Paul

*Congratulations to all!!!!*

### Saints Peter and Paul and Saint Benedict Staff

Diana Pehala, Parish Secretary & Cemeteries

Mary Ann Gottlieb, Parish Secretary

Nina Cinti, Faith Formation Coordinator

Michael Lambert, Maintenance

Greg Day, Maintenance

Chuck Unice, Festival Choir Director, Organist

Tom Zurla, Organist

Jill Fiedorczyk, Organist

Gina Macaravage, Organist

Ben Berrini, Sacristan

Dave Loiacono, Ministers Scheduler

Paul Muczynski, Ushers

Nathan Smith, Altar Servers

### Bernardine Hall Renovation Fund

The Bernardine Sisters gave 104 years of service as teachers to the children of Saints Peter and Paul Parish. In 2015 the former cafeteria was renamed **Bernardine Hall** in their honor. It has been many years since any work has been done. For the next 3 years we will be focusing on sprucing it up and making the necessary repairs. (Lighting, heating, electrical, air and a cosmetic face lift) Please consider joining together to make this possible. Money can be sent in at any time throughout the next three years to fund this project.

To date we have received contributions from **207** families in the amount of **\$44,178**

Don't miss out on being a part of this endeavor!!!

## Blessed are They Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

*"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."* -

Jesus knows what it means to hunger. After his baptism by John, he undertook a 40-day fast in the wilderness, where, it can be safely said, water would also have been quite scarce. There, the devil tempted him to appease his hunger miraculously. Jesus' response to the tempter is an excellent opening for reflecting on the fourth beatitude of the Sermon on the Mount: "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). The Gospel of John, unlike Matthew, Mark or Luke, makes no mention of Jesus' temptation, but John tells us that not even his disciples could tempt Jesus to eat if it meant interrupting his mission. When his disciples find him at the well with the Samaritan woman, they are certain he must be hungry and needs to eat: "The disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat of which you do not know.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Could someone have brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work'" (John 4:31-34). Physical hunger is one of the most compelling needs a human or any other creature can ever experience. When severe hunger afflicts an entire region it is called a famine, and famine is such a dreaded reality that the book of Revelation names it as one of the principal powers of death and Hades (6:8). There is, however, a danger of having too much to eat. Americans, more than any others, face the challenge of having their lives shortened by too much food, rather than too little. But there is also a spiritual danger. Like the wealthy man in Jesus' parable who didn't think he needed God because his barns were full (Luke 12:16-21), when our stomachs are always full do we cease to concern ourselves about what's in, or not in, our souls? It is those of us who are well fed who are in most need of fasting as a spiritual exercise. Physical hunger, when deliberately accepted in order to remind ourselves of a greater, higher need, can awaken the hunger for righteousness. It can also awaken us to the needs of those whose lives are threatened by a lack of food. Hunger for righteousness is a hunger for a more just distribution of the world's goods. This becomes clearer when we examine the meaning of "righteousness." For many of us, righteousness is often understood as a synonym for holiness. Righteousness as holiness would then have very strong religious connotations. A righteous person might be said to live a "godly" life, avoiding immorality and exhibiting commitment to frequent worship and prayer. But holiness is not the best synonym for righteousness. Holiness, in its biblical context, means to be set apart for God in some special way. In both the Old and New Testaments, the word most commonly translated into English as "righteous" can also be correctly translated as "just." Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are not so much seeking to be known for their holiness as they are yearning for the flourishing of justice. But what about the promise that they will be satisfied? It is commonly assumed that the promised state of blessedness is the reward of heaven. There can be no question that to enter heaven will be a blessed reward, but the hunger for righteousness Jesus speaks of is a plea for righteousness—justice—to abound in this world. This has always been the desire of God's prophets: "Let justice descend, you heavens, like dew from above, like gentle rain let the clouds drop it down. Let the earth open and salvation bud forth; let righteousness spring up with them! A just world! What a bold promise! As with all the beatitudes, this is not just a promise, but a directive. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness must be always seeking to bring it about.

## Word

### Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Sunday

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

#### Monday

Heb 9:15, 24-28; Mk 3:22-30

#### Tuesday

Heb 10:1-10; Mk 3:31-35

#### Wednesday

Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20

#### Thursday

Heb 10:19-25; Mk 4:21-25

#### First Friday

Heb 10:32-39; Mk 4:26-34

#### First Saturday

Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18;  
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

### Saints Peter and Paul and Saint Benedict

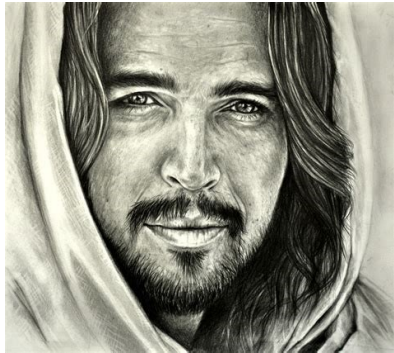
Holy Communion will take place  
Saturday, May 4 at noon

Confirmation will take place  
Sunday, June 9 at 5pm.

# The Sunday Good News

Saint Benedict & Saints Peter & Paul

January 27, 2019



*Most holy  
and most merciful  
God,  
strength of the weak,  
rest of the weary,  
comfort  
of the sorrowful,  
savior of the sinful,  
our refuge  
in every time  
of need:  
grant us  
strength  
and protect us;  
support us  
in all dangers,  
and carry us  
through all trials.*

## **First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10**

Ezra gathered the people and read to them from the book of the Law of God. He interpreted the law clearly, so that everyone understood what he had read. He then told them to go and rejoice in the Lord.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

Paul explains that a body is composed of many different parts, and that each part has its' own purpose and is important. He compares this to the Church, describing how we are one body composed of many members. All members should show concern for each other and understand that we are all vital to the body as a whole.

## **Gospel: Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21**

Luke discusses his decision to write about the events he and the other disciples had witnessed. He begins by telling of Jesus reading a passage from the book of Isaiah, where the anointed one is portrayed. Jesus finished by telling the people that they had seen that passage fulfilled in their hearing

## **A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS**

**HIS WORD TODAY** by Rev. William J. Reilly

### **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**January 27, 2019**

"Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eye witnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received."

Our weekly reflections are entitled 'His Word Today.' Week after week we hear the gospel proclaimed, we spend time reading the daily meditations, and today we are reminded where this good news originates.

St. Luke addresses a Lover of God, as his name is translated and he writes to him and for us. He informs us with the what and why, what he intends to do and why. The church then jumps to chapter four introducing us to the mission of Jesus as He proclaimed it in His own town of Nazareth.

As He unrolls the prophet of Isaiah telling of liberty for captives, recovery from blindness, freeing the oppressed and announcing the good news, He says in our words 'this is happening today.' The mission of Jesus is the mission of the church today, calling all to carry out what Pope St. John Paul II says 'is still far from completion.' As Jesus was sent, so are we as Missionary Disciples.

# Worship

## We Remember

A Communion Service will be held at Saint Benedict at 8am

### Masses at Saints Peter and Paul this week

Monday	1-28	7am	<b>Communion Service</b>
Tuesday	1-29	7am	<b>Janet &amp; Primo Sorbelli</b> by Jerry Quino Sr. & Family <b>Helen Wolczyk</b> by Ben & Angela Uzdilla
Wednesday	1-30	7am	<b>Raymond Butch Deiter</b> by Mr & Mrs. Sebastian Piccillo <b>Marie Podrasky</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Wasiakowski
Thursday	1-31	7am	<b>Irene Cardoni</b> by Daughter <b>Michael J. Kowalski</b> by McClosky Family
Friday	2-1	7am	<b>Kathleen Lanza (A)</b> by Husband, Children & Grandchildren <b>Thomas Mulhern Sr.</b> by Millie Shuleski

### Weekend Mass Schedule Saints Peter & Paul

Saturday	2-2	4pm	<b>Zigmund Koshinski (A)</b> by Connie & Bruce Corey
Sunday	2-3	7:30am 10am	<b>Norma Kuzemko</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Sterling Jr. <b>Sherman Sartin</b> by Frank & Daria Kapalko

### Weekend Mass Schedule Saint Benedict

Saturday	2-2	5:30pm	<b>Burns Family</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rinaldi
Sunday	2-3	11:30am	<b>Living and Deceased Parishioners</b>

## Saints Peter and Paul Parish

### Sanctuary Candle

*Albert Janerich*

### Lady of Lourdes

*Dorothy Nestorick*

### Holy Family Votive

*John & Eva Letinski*



# Service

## We are Called to Serve...

*"Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash each other's feet. What I just did was to give an example: as I have done, so you must do."*  
(John 12:2-15)

### Saint Benedict's Loaves and Fishes Program

For the month of **February** will be collecting **Pasta**.

### Saints Peter and Paul Food Pantry

Anyone in the Plains, Miners Mills area in need of food can contact Pauline at 570-592-6798 to register. Food is distributed to the community on the third Friday of every month. **Non perishable** food donations are always accepted, place in the basket in the Vestibule of the Church.

**Saints Peter and Paul's Treasures** is accepting new or gently used fall and winter clothing for men, women and children. Shoes and purses in excellent condition as well. Treasures strives to maintain current style trends and clean quality clothing. Thank you for your continued support.

**2018 Tax Statements** are now available.  
Call the Parish if you would like to receive one.

### Saints Peter and Paul and Saint Benedict Ministries

Pauline Makowski, Food Pantry  
Janet Soller, Quilting  
Mary Jo Marek, Prayer Shawl  
Laura Rudloff, Treasures  
Irene Martin, Women's Society of Saints Peter and Paul  
Barbara Zirnheld, Council of Catholic Women  
Kathy Grinaway, Hospitality  
Donna Mansfield, Hospitality

**Treasures** would like to thank the students, staff & administration of Good Shepard Academy, Kingston for the generous donations of children's clothing. Our clothing closet is well stocked. Thanks again!!!



### Indulge yourself before Lent begins!!

The Women's Society of Saints Peter and Paul will be taking orders for Krispy Kreme Donuts in the church vestibule before and after the Masses on February 16/17 and February 23/24. Cost for one dozen freshly baked original glazed donuts is \$8. payable at the time of your order. Donuts will be delivered on March 2/3 (the weekend before Ash Wednesday) just in time for a last splurge. When ordering be sure to specify if you will pick up Saturday or Sunday.

### Mark Your Calendars....Saturday, February 23

We will be making Pierogi for the upcoming Lenten Season. Please plan to attend, many hands make light work. All are needed (including men). We will start at 9am, lunch will be provided for all who come.

### 2019 Lent To Go Calendar

*Let us do the cooking and contribute to a good cause!!!*

March 8—Nino's Famous Pizza

March 22—Haluski & Clam Chowder

March 29—Potato Pancakes

April 5—Baked Fish Dinner

April 12—Potato Pancakes

*Complete menus and pricing details to follow.*

*All proceeds go directly to Bernardine Hall renovations.*



### The Cookbooks have arrived.

If you have not picked yours up yet, please stop by the Parish Office during Office Hours.

## January/February Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 Quilting 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm	29 Quilting 9am Chess Club 6:30pm	30	31 Quilting 9am	1 Treasures 9am	2
3	4 Quilting 5pm <b>Prayer Shawl 5pm</b> Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm	5 Quilting 9am Chess Club 6:30pm	6	7 Quilting 9am	8 Treasures 9am	9
10	11 Quilting 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm	12 Quilting 9am Chess Club 6:30pm	13	14 Quilting 9am <b>Food Prep 9am</b>	15 Treasures 9am <b>Food Pantry 9am</b>	16 <b>Donut orders being taken at Mass</b>
17 <b>Donut orders being taken at Mass</b>	18 Quilting 5pm <b>Prayer Shawl 5pm</b> Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm	19 Quilting 9am Chess Club 6:30pm	20	21 Quilting 9am <b>Women Society 6:30pm</b>	22 Treasures 9am	23 <b>Pierogi Making 9am</b> <b>Donut orders being taken at Mass</b>

### Circle of Prayer

Many of us need the prayers of a praying faith community. To request prayers or to join our circle of prayer please contact Mary Jo Marek at 570-825-6969.

### Rosary Repair

Parishioners who have rosaries in need of repair can call Len Kalinoski at 570-829-1864.

**Saint Benedict Envelopes for 2019** are available in back of church. Anyone who has not donated or contributed to the parish in the last year were not issued envelopes for the coming year. Any questions can be directed to the Parish Office during Office Hours.

### Parish Cemeteries

Available plots in each of our Parish Cemeteries (Saints Peter and Paul, Sacred Heart, and St. Francis) for purchase.

For information contact the Parish Office.

### Saints Peter and Paul Finance Committee

Don Prescavage, Chairman  
Ben Berrini, Vice Chairman  
Charlotte Dominick, Secretary  
Gerald Cross, Capital Budget Chairman  
Maryann Kropiewnicki, Revenue Coordinator  
Tony Dente, On-Line Giving Coordinator  
Cheryl Woloski, Internal Audit and Compliance  
Tracy Schooley, Human Resources

### Saint Benedict Finance Committee

Steve Yenchak, Chairman  
Tom Kozerski  
Jodi Gunari  
Ed Yenchak

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

After being anointed by the power of The Holy Spirit at His Baptism, Jesus went to His hometown of Nazareth and read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Then Jesus told the people in the synagogue that by His reading, the scripture is fulfilled—made real.

Year C

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**"Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."**

LUKE 4:21

Jesus had many followers and believers. Among them were the poor, captives, blind and oppressed.

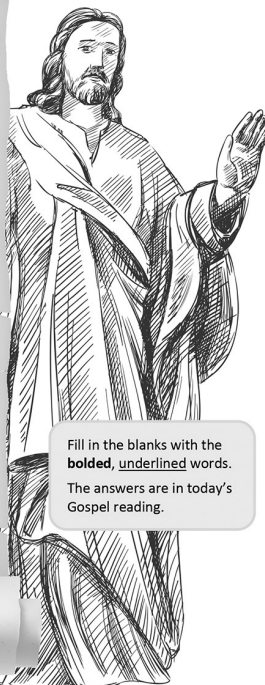
## Prophet Isaiah

"The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is upon me,  
because He has \_\_\_\_\_ me to  
bring glad tidings to the \_\_\_\_\_. He has sent me  
to proclaim liberty to \_\_\_\_\_  
and recovery of sight to the \_\_\_\_\_, and  
let the \_\_\_\_\_ go free,  
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

Luke 4:18-19

The words of the prophet  
Isaiah were talking about  
the works of...

a) Luke b) Jesus c) Isaiah



Fill in the blanks with the  
**bolded**, underlined words.  
The answers are in today's  
Gospel reading.

Every donation counts !!!

If you have not yet pledged,  
please....

Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish  
Goal!

**Saints Peter and Paul is at  
42.5%**

We are grateful to the 197 parishioners who  
supported the 2018 Annual Appeal to date. If  
you have not yet given your support, please:

- Call the Development Office at  
570-207-2250 to make a pledge or  
give a gift by credit card
- Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal  
Office at 300 Wyoming Ave.,  
Scranton, Pa 18503 or
- Give online at  
[www.DioceseofScranton.org](http://www.DioceseofScranton.org)

**Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts  
made to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal**

Every donation counts !!!

If you have not yet pledged,  
please....

Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish  
Goal!

**Saint Benedict is at  
37.2%**

We are grateful to the 85 parishioners who  
supported the 2018 Annual Appeal to date. If  
you have not yet given your support, please:

- Call the Development Office at  
570-207-2250 to make a pledge or  
give a gift by credit card
- Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal  
Office at 300 Wyoming Ave.,  
Scranton, Pa 18503 or
- Give online at  
[www.DioceseofScranton.org](http://www.DioceseofScranton.org)

**Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts  
made to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal  
goal.**

**Visiting the Sick** Several members of Saints Peter and Paul  
Parish visit various nursing homes. If you have a family member  
from the parish in one of the local nursing homes and would like us to  
visit them please call the Parish Office with their information.

## 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. 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 or to Diocesan officials, including the Vicar General, Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney, V. G., at 570-207-2269



## **Do You Want to Know More About the Annulment Process?**

In the Diocese of Scranton, the annulment process is now more “user friendly” than you might expect, and there is no longer a processing fee. Please contact your pastor or the Diocesan Tribunal Office 570-207-2246 to begin a conversation. It is possible to get clear answers to these questions and to renew your connection with the Church.

## ***Community Happenings***

**Scout Soup Supper** Boy Scout Troop 100 in Plains will host a Soup Supper on Sunday, January 27 from 3 to 6pm at Scout Hall, 13 Stocker Street in Plains (behind Sheehan's Pharmacy). Come in, get out of the cold and sample a large variety of Homemade Soups. Take-Outs available.

**Wyoming Area Catholic School** will have an Open House on Sunday, January 27 from noon to 2pm. We have limited openings in our Pre-K through 8 Grade classes. Mrs. Eileen Rishcoff, Principal and the faculty and staff invite you to come to the Open House and tour the school to see what a Catholic Education has to offer your child. Call the School Office for more information 570-654-7982. Come and “Catch our Spirit” To “kick-off” our Open House and Catholic School Week, we will have Mass at 11am on Sunday, January 27th in the School Auditorium. All are welcome to celebrate this liturgy with our WACS family.

**VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children for Adults Program** will be held on Sunday, January 27 at 12:30pm at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William Street, Pittston. Sessions will take place in the Rectory. To register, please contact the Parish Office at 570-654-0053.

**St. Anthony/St. George Church Superbowl Food Sale** will be held on Feb 2/3. Available is Revello's 12 cut Par-Baked (Gluten free upon request) for \$15 and a quart of Chili with or without beans. Pick up times are Feb 2 from noon to 3pm and Feb. 3 from 11am to 1pm. To place an order call Lisa Thomas at 570-507-4193.

**Holy Redeemer High School** will hold registration for the 2019-2020 School Year. Appointments for class scheduling are available February 7, 11 and 12 from 3 to 6pm. Call today for an appointment or to arrange for a day to shadow a student. Guidance Department 570-829-2424.

**St. Andre Bessette Parish** in Wilkes-Barre will sponsor a Night at the Races on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at the St. Mary's Byzantine Social Hall, 522 Madison St., W-B. Doors open at 6pm and races begin at 7pm. Admission price is \$5. Food and beverages will be served. Must be twenty one years of age to attend. To purchase horses, admission tickets or for additional information call the Parish Office at 570-823-4988. Tickets will be available beginning Feb. 2.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

300 WYOMING AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

November 8, 2018

Dear Friends,

I wrote to you in August and pledged that I would do all that I can to restore your trust in the Church and to provide a safe environment for your children. This continues to be my priority.

This week, we announced our Independent Survivors Compensation Program, which I believe is another step along the path towards healing for survivors. I believe wholeheartedly that survivors deserve to have their voice heard. They deserve recognition of their pain and suffering. It is our responsibility to offer a solution of our own.

Several weeks ago, Pennsylvania's Bishops announced support of such a program, which was recently discussed but not enacted by the Pennsylvania Grand Assembly. We are therefore moving forward and offering this Program for survivors. Participation in the Program by survivors is entirely voluntary.

The Program will be administered by Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros, two leading experts in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. They will oversee the claim process and will have absolute autonomy in determining compensation for survivors. This firm has managed a number of high-profile compensation programs nationwide, including similar programs started by five Catholic Dioceses in New York. This Program will review cases quickly and efficiently to provide compensation to survivors, so they can continue along the path towards healing.

There will also be an Independent Oversight Committee to oversee the implementation and administration of the Program. To be clear, the Diocese will have no authority over this committee.

It is important for you to know that parish and school assets, as well as contributions and bequests from parishioners and donations to the Diocesan Annual Appeal, will not be used to fund the Program. Rather, we will use available reserves and will sell assets and borrow money as needed. We will strive to maintain our core mission to serve the local community. Our commitment to the people of the Diocese of Scranton remains true.

The Diocese continues to refine the Program so that it better serves survivors. Further details concerning the Program will be made available in the near future, including a website for survivors to obtain information and claim forms.

Thank you for your attention. Please continue to pray for survivors, their families and the community at large.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

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

**“By our Baptism, I firmly believe that we are called to servant leadership here in the Diocese of Scranton. We are called to a servant leadership that helps us to transform our hurting world through compassion, solidarity, justice, and love.”**

From Bishop Bambera’s pastoral letter,  
Wounded and Loved: Regathering the Scattered



#### **Mission Statement**

As members of Saints Peter and Paul,  
we have as our mission the sharing of our  
faith and our talents.

We proclaim the Word of God through  
compassion for our community and sharing of our  
treasures as Disciples of Christ.

#### **Mission Statement**

Saint Benedict

Building a Catholic Community where all are  
welcome, respected, needed and appreciated;  
where we incorporate and share the word of  
God in our daily lives and the lives of others.

#### **Pastoral Council Members**

##### **Saints Peter and Paul**

Kathy Grinaway, Chairperson  
Harold Golomb, Jr, Vice Chairperson  
JoAnn Chukinas, Secretary  
Gerald Cross  
Barbara Gubbiotti  
Steven McGough  
James Susek

##### **Saint Benedict**

Donna Mansfield, Chairperson  
Debby Zuzelski, Secretary  
Joanne Brague  
Jack Keeley  
Lou Zuzelski