



## MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday:

4:00pm - Saints Peter & Paul

5:30pm - Saint Benedict

### Sunday:

8:00am - Saints Peter & Paul

10:30am - Saints Peter & Paul

### Eucharistic Adoration:

(at Saints Peter & Paul)

First Friday of every month Noon - 3:30pm

### Confession:

Saturday 3:00pm - 3:30pm

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL

13 Hudson Road, Plains, PA 18705-2015

## CONTACT US

13 Hudson Road

Plains, PA 18705-2015

Phone: 570-825-6663

Fax: 570-823-4556

Email: [parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

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

### Office Hours:

Monday: 8am - 7pm

Tuesday: 8am - 4pm

Wednesday: 8am - 7pm

Thursday: 8am - 4pm

Friday: 8am - Noon

*\*Closed daily Noon - 12:30pm\**

Reverend John C. Lambert M.S.W.

*Pastor*

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

Deacon Don Crane

*Permanent Deacon*

Email: [deacon@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:deacon@sspeterandpaulplains.com)



# SAINT BENEDICT

155 Austin Ave., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-2603

Like us on Facebook!

[Facebook.com/sspeterandpaulplains](https://www.facebook.com/sspeterandpaulplains)

# STEWARDSHIP

## SUNDAY STEWARDS

### Saints Peter & Paul

907 Families receive envelopes

**Feb. 1** 299 attended the 4pm Mass  
174 Families used their envelopes and offered \$2,694

**Feb. 2** 175 attended the 8am Mass  
103 Families used their envelopes and offered \$1,679  
245 attended the 10:30am Mass  
110 Families used their envelopes and offered \$1,743  
Tithe from  
719 Families was \$6,116  
Care and Education of Priests \$970

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

Next week's Collection will be for  
***Bernardine Bucks***  
*Please be generous!!!*

### Saint Benedict

374 Families receive envelopes

**Feb. 1** 124 attended the 5:30pm Mass  
161 Families used their envelopes and offered \$2,508  
Care and Education of Priests \$212



## BERNARDINE HALL RENOVATION FUND

The continuing restoration of Bernardine Hall is dependent on your participation in the aka No Festival Collection. This year we have collected **\$32,667**.  
With your help we can complete this project. Please be generous!!! Have we received your gift yet?

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 & PAUL LOTTERY

Jan. 27	#222	Stella Szymanski
Jan. 28	#127	Patty Sluhocki
Jan. 29	#915	Chief Joseph Coyne
Jan. 30	#867	Anna Hudock
Jan. 31	#487	Saints Peter and Paul
Feb. 1	#540	Irene Mangan
Feb. 2	#696	Saints Peter and Paul

*Congratulations to all!!!!*

## CHURCH HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

**“Sweet Heart of Mary be my Salvation”**

*Stained Glass in  
St. Benedict  
Church*



# WORSHIP

## WE REMEMBER

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

### MASSES AT SAINTS PETER & PAUL THIS WEEK

Monday	2-10	7am	<b>Communion Service</b>
Tuesday	2-11	7am	<b>Walter Krushinski</b> by Lora Urbas <b>Joseph Ornoski</b> by Millie Krokos
Wednesday	2-12	7am	<b>Waslin Family</b> by Family <b>Cherie Monie</b> by Jerry O'Hara
Thursday	2-13	7am	<b>John &amp; Eleanor Binker</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Ron Figel <b>Leo Schuster, Jr.</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Malacheski
Friday	2-14	7am	<b>Harold Golomb</b> by Family <b>Bernadine Macijczak</b> by Bernadine Banaszek

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Saturday	2-15	4pm	<b>Edmund Suchocki</b> by Waslin Family
Sunday	2-16	8am 10:30am	<b>Living &amp; Deceased Parishioners</b> <b>Michael Martin</b> by Ernie & Nancy Coassolo

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINT BENEDICT

Saturday	2-15	5:30pm	<b>Joan S. Reese</b> by Patti & Joe Rother
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#### ST. SCHOLASTICA

Feast day Feb. 10

Twin Sister of  
Saint Benedict



#### OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Feast day Feb. 11

Appeared to  
St. Bernadette in 1858



### SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

#### Sanctuary Candle

#### Lady of Lourdes

Pagnotti Family

Zigmund Koshinski



#### Holy Family Votive

Donna Marie Keil

# WORD

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY

### MINISTRY OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY

*Each month, a Ministry of the parishes will be highlighted. You are asked to prayerfully consider each ministry, and to participate in whatever capacity that suits your availability, interest, and needs.*

#### **Ushers**

Ushers are the first people you meet who represent the church when you attend Mass on the weekend. They faithfully come early to attend Mass so that they can open the door for you, greet you and smile. They gather our offerings for the financial needs of the church and assist us in an orderly fashion with Communion. If anyone needs special assistance, either regularly or on the spur of the moment they are ready to spring into action. Ushers distribute the bulletins as we leave the church. If needed for another type of prayer service or event they are available.

The scheduling program allows for individuals to submit substitute and volunteer requests.

**Contact:** Paul Muczynski [pmuczynski@epix.net](mailto:pmuczynski@epix.net)



## WEEKLY READINGS

### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### **Sunday**

Is 58:7-10;  
1 Cor 2:1-5;  
Mt 5:13-16

#### **Monday**

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13;  
Mk 6:53-56

#### **Tuesday**

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30;  
Mk 7:1-13

#### **Wednesday**

1 Kgs 10:1-10;  
Mk 7:14-23

#### **Thursday**

1 Kgs 11:4-13;  
Mk 7:24-30

#### **Friday**

1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19;  
Mk 7:31-37

#### **Saturday**

1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34;  
Mk 8:1-10

## Faith Formation

*Faith Formation meets at 9am followed by Mass. Children with their families are encouraged to attend Mass with the understanding that Faith Formation is a combination of both class and Mass.*

*Nothing takes the place of Jesus in the Eucharist.*

*The Eucharist is the source and summit of all of our lives for all of our life.*

# The Sunday Good News

CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL / SAINT BENEDICT PARISH

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*Teach me,  
Lord Jesus,  
to be generous:  
to serve You as You  
deserve;  
to give,  
not counting the  
cost,  
to fight,  
not heeding the  
wounds;  
to toil,  
not asking for  
rest,  
to labor,  
not seeking any  
reward,  
save that of  
knowing that we  
do Your will.*

*Amen.*

### First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

This reading is a vigorous exhortation from the prophet Isaiah to lead lives of active charity and generosity. He promises that the Lord will be our “dawn,” our “rear guard,” our “light” if we share our bread, shelter the homeless, and clothe the naked.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Paul tells the Corinthians that he and they must not rely on the so-called “wisdom” of secular teaching and philosophy but on the power of the Spirit.

### Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus reminds the disciples and all Christians that they carry special responsibilities to be “the salt of the earth.” They must not hide their light but show their goodness to all.

### A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

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

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 9, 2020**

**“I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of Spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God....You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world.”**

We are so accustomed to read the letters of St. Paul, or travel with him on his journeys, to consider this itinerant preacher as one who had it all together. As we listen to him today, he placed his trust on the Lord, the Spirit and God’s good grace or power. Although he denies the use of persuasive speech, our Christian lives are molded and formed by his great teaching. As I listen to the homily at mass, may I ask that that same Spirit and power be on the lips and in the heart of the preacher, to assist me in my growth as a disciple.

May the image of salt and light, strengthen and guide me as the words and Spirit move my heart.

# 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)*

### Loaves and Fishes

For the month of **February** will be collecting  
**Peanut Butter and Jelly**

### Food Pantry

Anyone in the Plains, Miners Mills, and Parsons  
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. Please place them in the basket in the  
vestibule of the Church.

### Treasures

is accepting new or gently used school clothes for  
children and fall 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. God bless.

### Prayer Shawls

can be given to anyone for many reasons! Comfort,  
illness, occasions, friendship & joy. If there is  
anyone that would like to receive a shawl or request  
one for someone, please contact the Parish Office  
at 570-825-6663 or call Mary Jo at 570-825-6969.

### Saints Peter & 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 & Paul

Barbara Zirnheld, Council of Catholic Women

Kathy Grinaway, Hospitality

Donna Mansfield, Hospitality

Indulge yourself before Lent begins! We will be taking orders  
for **Krispy Kreme Donuts** in the church vestibule before and  
after the Masses on the weekends of **February 8/9 and  
February 15/16**. Cost for one dozen, freshly baked original  
glazed donuts is \$8.00, payable at the time of your order.  
Donuts will be delivered on the weekend before Ash  
Wednesday (February 22/23) just in time for a last splurge.  
When ordering, please be sure to specify Saturday or Sunday  
pick-up.

### Mother Theresa's Haven...

A temporary shelter for homeless men will be our guest again.  
The first night will be **Monday, March 9, and the last night on  
Sunday, March 15, 2020.**

The men will sleep in the church hall of St. Benedicts, using  
cots provided by the program. As with their past stays, our  
united parishes will provide an evening meal for all seven  
nights. Showers and other personal care will also be provided.  
The men could use fresh underwear after a shower.  
Donations of men's boxer style underwear and tee shirts (sizes  
medium, large, and X-large.) and **socks** would be very helpful.  
Donations of water, soda, iced tea, lemonade; cans or 2 liter  
bottles would be good.

Anyone interested in preparing/providing an evening meal and/  
or donating snacks is asked to contact Barb Zirnheld at  
570-823-1491 or Irene Martin at 570-825-4464.

Cash donations to buy personal care items are also  
acceptable; leave plain envelope in collection basket marked  
"Homeless Shelter." Checks payable to Deacon Don Crane.  
Any other questions, contact Deacon Don at 570-762-7542.

**Wedding Anniversary Mass** 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 2:30PM 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.**

# SERVICE

FEBRUARY/MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 Faith Formation 9-10am <b>Donut Sale</b>	10 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm	11 Quilting 9am	12 Choir 6:30	13 Quilting 9am <b>Pastoral Council 6:30</b>	14 <i>Treasures 10am</i>	15 <b>Annual "Fat Tuesday" Donut Sale</b>
16 <b>Donut Sale</b> <i>Youth Ministry info &amp; game night 5:30</i>	17 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm	18 Quilting 9am	19 Choir 6:30 <b>Senior Citizens 12-3pm</b>	20 Quilting 9am <b>Food Pantry Prep Women's Society 6:30</b> <b>Crime Watch 7pm</b>	21 <i>Treasures 10am</i> <b>Food Pantry 9am</b>	22 <b>Pierogi Making 8am</b>
23 Faith Formation 9-10am	24 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm	25 Quilting 9am	26 Choir 6:30	27 Quilting 9am <b>Finance 6:30</b>	28 <i>Treasures 10am</i>	29
1 Faith Formation 9-10am <b>Donegal Society 7pm</b>	2 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm <b>CCW 6:30pm</b>	3 Quilting 9am	4 Choir 6:30 <b>Senior citizens 12-3pm</b>	5 Quilting 9am	6 <i>Treasures 10am</i>	7

## SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2020

*Don't miss out on all the fun!*

### Annual "Fat Tuesday" Donut Sale

Sale on February 8th, 9th, 15th, and 16th  
Delivery on February 22nd and 23rd

### Pierogi Making!

Saturday, February 22nd... 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 8am.



First event is scheduled for **Sunday, February 16 at 5:30PM** in the Second floor of St. Benedict's Rectory!

Anyone who is interested in joining the Parish Youth Group, contact Jay at [youthministry@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:youthministry@sspeterandpaulplains.com) or text 570-235-7318

# COMMUNITY

**The Senior Citizens of Sts. Peter and Paul/St. Benedict** are conducting a membership drive. This is open to anyone who wishes to join. Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. (weather permitting). Meetings start at 12pm with a light luncheon followed by the business portion after which refreshments are served, followed by bingo. Dues are \$5 per year and are collected by the membership chair person. If interested call Michael Boncheck, president at (570) 817-7532. Meetings are held at St. Benedicts hall located at 155 Austin Ave., Parsons.

**St. Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre** is hosting their 55th Annual “German Nite” on Saturday, February 22, 2020. Doors open at 6:00pm. Food served from 6:15-7:15pm and includes beer and soft drinks. Music by “GTO” George Tarasek Orchestra AKA “Schnitzel” from 7:30-10:30pm. \$30 per person, advance tickets only. No tickets sold at the door. For tickets call the Church Rectory at 570-823-7736.

**St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre will sponsor a Night at the Races** on Saturday—February 22, 2020 at the St. Mary’s Byzantine Social Hall, 522 Madison Street, Wilkes-Barre. Doors open at 6:00 PM and races begin at 7:00 PM. Admission price is \$5.00. 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.

**St. Andre Bessette Parish Wilkes-Barre** will sponsor a Fish Dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at Father Zolcinski Hall, 668 North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre. Dinners will be served from 4-6pm, including take-outs. Cost is \$10. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets call Mary at 570-823-4988. Proceeds will benefit the parish Social Justice Ministry.

**Spaghetti Dinner** Sponsored by Breathe Deep NEPA/LUNgevity Foundation.

Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 12-4 PM in Bernardine Hall. There will also be basket raffles. Tickets are \$10. Funding goes for lung cancer research to find a cure.

## **A Retrouvaille Weekend**

A Retrouvaille Weekend has been scheduled for May 29-31, to be held at St. Gabriel’s Retreat Center in Clarks Summit. If you or any other Retrouvaille couple you know would like to assist with the nuts and bolts of restarting the ministry, help is needed. To learn more about attending the weekend, or to learn more about helping to bring this weekend to life, contact: Phil & Sue Milazzo, [philmilazzo@outlook.com](mailto:philmilazzo@outlook.com), 631-338-5413 or Jen Housel, [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org), 570-207-2213 x 1104.

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL AND SAINT BENEDICT STAFF

## **Pastor**

Rev. John C. Lambert

*pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Permanent Deacon**

Deacon Don Crane

*deacon@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Parish Secretary**

Mary Ann Gottlieb

*parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Faith Formation Coordinator**

Nina Cinti

*faithformation@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Youth Ministry**

Jason Garcia

*youthministry@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Music Ministry**

Scott Coates - Music Director

*music@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

Gina Macaravage –Organist

Jay Garcia –Organist

Jill Fiedorczyk –Organist

Steve Chronowski –Organist

Tom Zurla –Organist

## **Maintenance**

Greg Day

Michael Lambert

Travese Deremer

## **Sacristan**

Ben Berrini

## **Ministers Scheduler**

Dave Loiacono

*davl040@comcast.net*

## **Ushers**

Paul Muczynski

*pmuczynski@epix.net*

## **Altar Servers**

Nathan Smith

*nrssmith822@gmail.com*

## **Bernardine Hall Coordinator**

Jason Garcia

*hallrental@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Combined Pastoral Council**

Kathy Grinaway, *Chairperson*

Donna Mansfield, *Vice Chairperson*

JoAnn Chukinas, *Secretary*

Barbara Gubbiotti

Debby Zuzelski

Harold Golomb

Jack Keeley

Joanne Brague

Lou Zuzelski

Steven McGough

## **Saints Peter & Paul Finance Committee**

Don Prescavage, *Chairman*

Ben Berrini, *Vice Chairman*

Charlotte Dominick, *Secretary*

Gerald Cross, *Capital Budget Chairman*

Tony Dente, *Online Giving Coordinator*

Tracy Schooley, *Human Resources*

## **Saint Benedict Finance Committee**

Steve Yenchak, *Chairman*

Ed Yenchak

Jodi Gunari

## **Saints Peter & Paul 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.

## **Saint Benedict Mission Statement**

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

Every donation counts !!!

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

**Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal!**

**Saints Peter & Paul is at**

**25.79%**

We are grateful to the 269 parishioners who supported the 2019 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)

Every donation counts !!!

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

**Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal!**

**Saint Benedict is at**

**22.05%**

We are grateful to the 86 parishioners who supported the 2019 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)

## PARISH *Life*

*The classes the Diocese offers are very beneficial, especially to young couples, to allow us to prepare for the hurdles and hardships that come with marriage but also the joys.*

**Joseph Petro**



Joseph and Kimberly Petro with their pastor, Father Richard Fox, St. Patrick Parish, Scranton.

**F**rom Youth retreats to Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation, Men's and Women's Convocations to Catechesis Camp and Lay Ministry certifications, the actual cost to participants for programs offered by the Office for Parish Life is offset with funds from the Annual Appeal. For a complete list of offerings visit [DioceseofScranton.org/parish-life](http://DioceseofScranton.org/parish-life).

2019 **DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

SERVING *faith*  
IN WITH HOPE  
AND GRATITUDE

**Help provide opportunities for our faithful to grow as Disciples of Christ...Give to the Annual Appeal**

[AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org)

**Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance.**

Francis of Assisi

### **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 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](http://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

# VISION 2020

## *Seeing a Future Full of Hope*

### **SHAPING A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DIOCESE**

In Today's homily for the Second Sunday of Advent, Bishop Bambera explained to us that it is time for the whole Church of Scranton to take a good look at the life of our parishes and to project a future vision in response to God's call today.

Your Pastors have taken first steps in this conversation in recent deanery meetings, and now it is essential to broaden this conversation to include all of the faithful. Bishop Bambera Pointed out to us the reality of change in our world and in our local communities, and so we know that we will continue to face and respond to change within the church. "I'm inviting all of the faithful," he said, "to simply focus on how we best engage the mission of the gospel in these changing times." Some of these changes include shifting demographics, differing attitudes about formal church participation, and diminishment in numbers of ordained priests available to serve as full-time pastors.

In the coming year, then, Bishop Bambera is asking us to continue working together to fashion a "blueprint" if you will— a pathway for our local Church, tailored to each deanery and to each parish—for how we will meet both the challenges and opportunities we will face in the next ten year period.

In his Homily he stressed that, "while every parish is similar in what is being asked to do and to be, each parish will respond to this process in ways that are unique to its situation and circumstances.

### **PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR EACH DEANERY**

Guiding the overall process are these planning assumptions as common elements across the Diocese:

- The benchmarks for vibrant parishes are in accord with the vision expressed in Bishop Bambera's Pastoral letter, especially pages 7-13
- In every local circumstances, efforts are made to best utilize the particular ministry gifts of the clergy and, at the same time, to mobilize the gifts of all the baptized.
- Each deanery blueprint implementation is unique, and may consider such questions as: number of worship sites, Mass schedules and wise investment of resources.
- No deanery is planning in isolation—the circumstances in one may occasion change in another.
- Parish pastoral plans are respected and help to inform deanery level plans.
- Recommendations from deaneries or parishes are brought to Diocesan review.
- Parishes in linked relationship, sharing a Pastor, will be given additional planning support to evaluate and craft the best path forward.
- Every parish calls forth those individuals whose capacity for pastoral leadership could be developed through vocational discernment for priesthood, religious life, lay ministry or permanent diaconate.

We are located in the Wilkes-Barre Deanery, which consists of the following parishes:

Sts. Peter & Paul (Plains), St. Benedict (Wilkes-Barre), Our Lady of Fatima at St. Mary's (Wilkes-Barre), St. Nicholas (Wilkes-Barre), Our Lady of Hope at St. Mary's (Wilkes-Barre), St. Andrew at St. Patrick's (Wilkes-Barre), St. Andre Bessette (Wilkes-Barre), St. Robert Bellarmine at St. Aloysius (Wilkes-Barre), Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Hanover), St. Leo/Holy Rosary (Ashley), Holy Family (Sugar Notch), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Swoyersville), Our Lady Help of Christians - St. Mary's (Dorrance), St. Jude (Mountaintop)