



## 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. 15** 298 attended the 4pm Mass  
146 Families used their envelopes and offered \$4,034

**Feb. 16** 149 attended the 8am Mass  
83 Families used their envelopes and offered \$2,023  
242 attended the 10:30am Mass  
200 Families used their envelopes and offered \$3,387  
Tithe from  
429 Families was \$9,444  
Bernardine Bucks \$447

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

Next week's Collection will be for  
**Care and Education of Priests**  
*Please be generous!!!*

.....  

### Saint Benedict

374 Families receive envelopes

**Feb. 15** 126 attended the 5:30pm Mass  
124 Families used their envelopes and offered \$3,503



**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

Feb. 10	#714	Joseph Urban
Feb. 11	#593	B. Fender
Feb. 12	#692	Kathleen Pilconis
Feb. 13	#552	Rose Mary Brice
Feb. 14	#970	Lenny Lispi
Feb. 15	#332	Rob Sax
Feb. 16	#797	Thomas Tkach

*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	2-24	7am	<b>Communion Service</b>
Tuesday	2-25	7am	<b>Margaret Janerich</b> by Daughters <b>Leonard Loomis</b> by Richard Loomis
Wednesday	2-26	7am	<b>Patte Family</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Merlie <b>Anne Wittman</b> by Estate of Anne <b>Arthur Kline</b> by Josephine
Thursday	2-27	7am	<b>Joe Flynn &amp; Ron Milgate</b> by David & Sheri Pisack <b>Mary Loomis</b> by Richard Loomis
Friday	2-28	7am	<b>Salus &amp; Berzynski Families</b> by Tom & Elaine Salus <b>Margaret Larkin</b> by Ellen & Mike Havrilla

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Saturday	2-29	4pm	<b>Zigmund Koshinski</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Krzywicki
Sunday	3-1	8am 10:30am	<b>Rose Florio</b> by Jean Marie Rymar <b>Dorothy Nestorick</b> by MaryAnn, Paul, & Gabrielle Gottlieb

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINT BENEDICT

Saturday	2-29	5:30pm	<b>Living &amp; Deceased Parishioners</b>
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## Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

Saints Peter & Paul 7am & 12:15pm

Saints Peter & Paul 6:30pm - Prayer Service and Ashes

Saint Benedict 6:30pm - Prayer Service and Ashes

### SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

#### Sanctuary Candle

John & Eleanor Binker

#### Lady of Lourdes

Matthew Koneski

#### Holy Family Votive

Michael Martin



# 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

### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### **Sunday**

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18;  
1 Cor 3:16-23;  
Mt 5:38-48

#### **Monday**

Jas 3:13-18;  
Mk 9:14-29

#### **Tuesday**

Jas 4:1-10;  
Mk 9:30-37

#### **Wednesday**

Jl 2:12-18;  
2 Cor 5:20–6:2;  
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

#### **Thursday**

Dt 30:15-20;  
Lk 9:22-25

#### **Friday**

Is 58:1-9a;  
Mt 9:14-15

#### **Saturday**

Is 58:9b-14;  
Lk 5:27-32

### **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

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*Ash Wednesday  
Prayer*

*Gracious God,  
today begins a period  
of inner reflection and  
examination.*

*The days stretch  
before me and invite  
me inward to that  
silent, holy space that  
holds your Spirit.*

*This special time  
beckons me to see my  
life through Christ's  
eyes and the truth and  
reality of your love  
incarnate.*

*Give me the grace to  
enter the space of  
these days with  
anticipation of our  
meeting.*

*And, when I open my  
soul to your presence,  
let your loving  
kindness flow over me  
and seep into the  
pockets of my heart.  
I ask this for the sake  
of your love.*

*Amen*

### First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

The Lord urges Moses to tell the Israelite Community to love their neighbors as themselves. They should bear no grudge or hatred against another.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Paul, once again, reminds the Corinthians that they are the temple of God, and, as such, must avoid internal disputes and wrangling. He tries to make them realize that they belong to Christ and that the Spirit of God dwells within them.

### Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to do an extraordinary thing — to love their enemies and to pray for their oppressors. He reminds them that there is nothing laudatory in loving those who love them for even the “pagans” do this. He urges them to “turn the other cheek” and to “walk the extra mile.”

### A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

#### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 23, 2020

**“You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord... Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”**

The sin of anger constantly knocks on our door. Driving, they call it road rage, when we discriminate we call it hate, when we are jealous, envy takes over.

The expression ‘I don’t get mad I just get even’ is a violation of the direction of the earliest pages of scripture. I might find it hard to show love for someone who disagrees with me, or has injured me in some way.

It is the loving Lord who knows our trials and our wounds, He suffered them as well. If I realize that He lives in me, and in others, it might make it easier to say ‘Lord because you are in me, please help me to find You in the other. May I love You in them.’

# 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 Zirnelt, Council of Catholic Women

Kathy Grinaway, Hospitality

Donna Mansfield, Hospitality

## The Light Is On For You!

Mondays from March 2nd - April 6th 5:30 - 7:00

The Women's Society invites all women of both parishes, as well as their friends and family members, to a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 21st from 9 am to 3 pm in the Parish Center. Dr. Marie Noel Keller, RSM, Director of the Institute for Sacred Scripture at Misericordia University will be the moderator. Cost is \$25 per person. A continental breakfast and lunch are included. Reservations can be made with Betty Jean Hession at 570-822-9448 or Kathy Savitski at 570-824-6846 by March 15th.

## 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 Zirnelt 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
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 <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	27 Quilting 9am <b>Finance 6:30</b>	28 <i>Treasures 10am</i> <b>Stations 12:15pm SSPP Stations 7pm— St. Benedict</b>	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 Light is On 5:30- 7pm</b>	3 Quilting 9am	4 Choir 6:30 <b>Senior Citizens 12-3pm</b>	5 Quilting 9am	6 <i>Treasures 10am</i> <b>Stations 12:15pm SSPP Stations 7pm— St. Benedict</b>	7
8 Faith Formation 9-10am <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>	9 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm <b>Light is On 5:30- 7pm</b>	10 Quilting 9am	11 Choir 6:30	12 Quilting 9am <b>Pastoral Council 6:30pm</b>	13 <i>Treasures 10am-</i> <b>Stations 12:15pm SSPP Stations 7pm— St. Benedict</b>	14
15 Faith Formation 9-10am	16 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm <b>Light is On 5:30- 7pm</b>	17 Quilting 9am	18 Choir 6:30 <b>Senior Citizens 12-3pm</b>	19 Quilting 9am <b>Women's Society 6:30pm Food Pantry Prep Crime Watch 7pm</b>	20 <i>Treasures 10am-</i> <b>Stations 12:15pm SSPP Stations 7pm— St. Benedict Food Pantry 9am</b>	21

**Christmas Flowers Correction...** In Honor of Stella Dudzik by Doug & Paulinette Tippins

**Join Father Jack** on a Grand Tour of Italy. Sept. 29 to Oct. 9. Brochures are in the parish office if you would like to pick one up to see whole itinerary.

**Looking for a car!** We have a young family in the parish in need of a vehicle. If anyone has a car or truck they are looking to sell cheap or donate, please call the parish office at 570-825-6663 ext. 2 - 1.



**Next meeting is Monday, March 2 @ 5:30PM  
Saint Benedict Rectory, Second Floor**

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



**St. Joseph's Table** will be held on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30pm in Bernardine Hall. The custom of the St. Joseph's Table is to bless bread and other simple foods and share them with the poor. Our St. Joseph's Table will consist of a variety of soups, salad, and bread. All are invited to join us in this celebration! Anyone able and willing to donate soups should contact MaryAnn at 570-825-6663 ext 2 then 1. A free will offering will be taken up for the Saints Peter & Paul Food Pantry.

## COMMUNITY

**The Senior Citizens of Saints 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. Benedict's hall located at 155 Austin Ave., Parsons.

**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. Take-outs available.

### **11 Day Grand Fall Tour of Italy September 29—October 9, 2020**

Rate: \$3,995/Person double occupancy | \$4,754/Person single occupancy. The features of the tour include: Roundtrip motorcoach transportation to the Newark Int'l Airport. Roundtrip airfare from Newark to Italy (non-stop) via United Airlines. Private deluxe motorcoach in Italy. 9-Nights First Class Hotels. Buffet Breakfast daily. 5-Dinners as listed on the itinerary with wine. All touring, admissions & entrance fees as per itinerary. Tour manager (Nick Tozzi) & Local city guides. Special visits to the Vatican & Colosseum. Special visit to Venice. Portage of 1 piece of luggage per person. All local taxes, service charges, city fees & motorcoach fees. All US Departure Taxes, surcharges & security fees. Initial deposit: \$350/person to confirm. Optional Trip cancellation insurance is available. Full & final payment due on July 31, 2020. Deposit is non-refundable without taking the insurance. Book early, trip is limited to 42 passengers. A valid US passport is required for this trip.

# 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**

**25.98%**

We are grateful to the 271 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 Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

*Serving*  
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)



### **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)