

Mon. 7am *Christmas Mass Intentions*
Tues. 7am *Christmas Mass Intentions*
Wed. 4pm *Deceased Parishioners and Friends who died in 2014*
Thurs 10am *Christmas Mass Intentions*
Fri. 7am *Christmas Mass Intentions*
Sat. 4pm *Anna Kosek (A)* by Children
Sun. 8am *Mary C. Kutz* by Nephew
11am *Parishioners*

In the case of inclement weather conditions,

If Wilkes-Barre Area is *cancelled*,
there will be no Mass;

if there is a *delayed*, Mass will be at 12:10pm.

PASTOR'S

Luke 2:22-40

"And you yourself a sword will pierce." This old man in the Temple, a man filled with the Holy Spirit, uttered these ominous, prophetic words. Right in the midst of a religious celebration that could be considered a kind of parallel to Christian baptism, Simeon started talking about suffering. Although this might have put a damper on the joy of the occasion, it was nonetheless a precious moment. God was speaking through the mouth of the Spirit-filled Simeon and actually doing Mary a great service. God was helping Mary to prepare herself for what lay ahead. And the truth is, the road in front of her family was destined to be marked by the cross. Our families also bear this mark. Although in a different way from Mary, we all have our crosses to deal with. Whether it be the sickness or death of a loved one, conflicts among siblings or spouses, or unexpected challenges like infertility or a lost job, no family is without its share of trouble. As we navigate these difficulties, we would do well to remember Simeon's warning to Mary: suffering is going to happen, sometimes very painful, heart-piercing suffering. We can also remind ourselves that although Mary suffered when her Son suffered, she also rejoiced when he rejoiced. Ultimately, every cross she bore was trumped by the victory of the Resurrection, and we share in this triumph as well.

In Memory of
The Sanctuary Lamp

Paul Hession

Votive by the Blessed Virgin Mary

John Kozik

December 21, 2014

*Due to an early submission for this
Week's Bulletin the Contributions
Will be listed in the future.*

Questions of the Week

Luke 2:22-40:

What do you think most challenged Joseph and Mary as parents?

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3:

What role does faith in God have in your family life?

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19:

What does the author of Hebrews teach us about Abraham and Sarah?

The Parish Office and Parish Center will be closed until Jan. 5th.

Pastor

Rev. John Boyle

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Joseph Greskiewicz

Coordinator of Religious Education

Sande Holena

Eucharistic Minister/Lectors

David Loiacono

Ushers

Paul Muczynski

Youth Group

Maryann and Michael Quinn

Altar Servers

Gloria Flynn

Food Pantry

Pauline Makowski

Security

Shiloh & Kolbe Inc.



Christmas Greetings

Please make a special effort to keep Christ in Christmas this year. The proper salutation is: **Merry Christmas** – English speaking Europeans often say: “Happy Christmas” – either are correct and acceptable. However, if we join the “Politically Correct” and merely wish each other “Happy Holidays”, you are denying Christ has any role to play in this great Feast – without which our Savior would not have been born. All too often, we try to not insult others for fear they don’t celebrate “our” Feasts. We have become complacent in removing any mention of Christ in our dealings with others.

***Please...Please...Please...
Keep Christ in Christmas!
Merry Christmas!!!!***

Parish 5 Year Plan

We, you Parish Council are honored to be undertaking a 5 year plan for SS Peter and Paul Church involving Word, Worship, Service and Community of our church. We will simply organize the data for the Parish, it is our parish family who will speak as to what this plan will entail. We are looking forward to hearing from everyone in the parish; you concerns, desires and needs. Please watch the bulletin in the New Year for an exciting opportunity to share what’s on your mind in making SS Peter and Paul Parish an even more special place to worship, celebrate and grow together as a family. Together we will create a viable plan for our parish.

***Merry Christmas and Have a Blessed New Year
Your Parish Council***

Bulletin Briefs

“Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of life from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!”

- Address of John Paul II to the Bishops and Apostolic Administrators of Albania on their “Ad Limina” Visit, Feb. 3, 2001/

MaineSource Give Back Program

This program allows our parish to earn 5% of all purchases made by our participating members. To participate in this program just fill out a sheet located in the vestibule and give it to a cashier next time you shop at MaineSource. If you are not familiar with MaineSource which is located in Forty Fort, they are a large size grocery store/party warehouse that offers small and large quantity items at affordable prices. When shopping at MaineSource you will find savings on your items while helping the parish by our receiving a percentage of the purchase amount back. There are no membership cards or fees required to shop.

Fr. John Albosta

Fr. John will observe his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ on Tuesday, December 16. I have asked Fr. John to come and allow us to celebrate this great occasion with him. As you know, Fr. John was Senior Priest assigned to SS. Peter & Paul for approximately 3 years prior to his retirement in January of 2014. I have asked both the Women’s Society and the Holy Name Society to prepare a modest reception for Fr. John on January 11, 2015.

Anyone interested in making their favorite dish or desert please contact Joann Nixon at 570-823-8968 or Mary Jo Marek at 570-825-6969.

On that day, Fr. John will celebrate the 11:00 A.M. Mass and will join us in the School Hall for the reception. Please make time to join us and offer Fr. John our prayers and well wishes for his Golden Anniversary of Priesthood.

For those who would like to send Fr. John greetings for Christmas, his address is:

Fr. John Albosta 821 S. Hanover St., Nanticoke, PA 18634.

Marriage Moments

As the year comes to a close, many people review its ups and downs. Share the happiest and saddest time for each of you this past year. Is there anything you want to change to love each other better next year?

-Susan Vogt

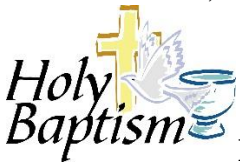
Hospital Visits

I am more than willing to visit our parishioners in hospitals and/or extended care facilities. However, I can only visit those who have notified the Parish Office that they or their relatives are in a particular health care facility. All too often, any lists that the hospital provides are not complete. Hence, you may be wanting a visit, but I can only visit if I know where you are. Please let me know if you or a loved one is ill and desires a Pastoral Visit or to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or the Final Apostolic Blessing for those near death.

Diocesan Annual Appeal

Thank you to those who have already made the commitment to join in "Transforming Lives Together."

On behalf of all who will benefit from your gifts, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera extends his sincere gratitude to everyone who has already made a pledge to the 2014 Diocesan Annual Appeal. Each gift truly matters. If you have not yet made your gift, and need a pledge envelope, envelopes will be distributed at Masses today. Packets are also available by calling the Diocesan Development Office at 570-207-2250, or on-line at www.DiocesefofScranton.org. Our Parish Goal is \$74,000. Amount Pledged as of Dec. 10th is \$53,510.



Infant Baptism

Expectant and new parents are required to participate in a Baptismal Preparation Class before scheduling their child's Baptism. These classes are held every three months; our next class is scheduled for Sunday, March 23rd. Please contact Sande Holena at 570-822-8761 to register for the class and/or schedule your child's Baptism.

The Rite of Christian Initiations (RCIA)

Anyone interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, or adult baptized Catholics interested in completing their initiation by preparing for the reception of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, contact Sande Holena at 570-822-8761.

Wedding Arrangements

1. To set a date for a wedding the couple is to meet with the pastor.
2. Six months previous to date of wedding fill out canonical forms with the priest.
3. Attend a Pre-Cana session with FOCCUS.
4. Two months before wedding discuss wedding ceremony.
5. If your wedding is cancelled please notify the parish office of cancellation to make the date available to others.

Travel Opportunity

Fr. B is sponsoring a trip to CANYON COUNTRY - featuring Arizona & Utah. The trip is 9 days, 12 meals (7 Breakfasts, 5 Dinners). The trip also will stop in Las Vegas for 2 nights. Date of the trip is: September 24, 2015 – October 2, 2015. Price – based on double occupancy is \$ 2929 – book now and save \$100 per person. For further information, please call the Parish Office and/or Fr. B.

Parenting Pointers

It's the after Christmas. Perhaps the house is a mess – but hopefully it's a happy mess. Presumably your child has gotten some nice gifts. Take time to enjoy them together this weekend. Play some games. Rejoice in each other's company. Relax.

Susan Vogt

Be a Voice for the Unborn – March for Life

January 22, 2015 in Washington DC. Call St. Joseph Mareello Parish for more details (570-654-6902)

The Music Ministry of Our Lady of Fatima

Parish at St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, Wilkes-Barre will present their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, January 4 at 3pm in the Church. The choirs and instrumentalists will perform Christmas Carol arrangements along with singing by all in attendance. This event is free and all are welcome to attend. For more information contact olfstmarys@aol.com or call 570-823-4168.

Know a Marriage That Needs Help?

If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, then the Retrouvaille program can help. Retrouvaille is helping couples put the pieces back together and to rediscover a more loving relationship. The next local program will be Feb. 27 – March 1, 2015 at the Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit, PA. Registration required. All calls confidential. Cost is by donation. Please call 1-800-470-2230 or visit <http://www.retrouvaille.org> for more information or to register.

Some Christmas Reminders

May the Christmas gifts remind you of God's greatest gift, His only begotten Son.

May the Christmas candles remind you of Him who is the "Light of the world."

May the Christmas tree remind you of another tree upon which He died for you.

May the Christmas cheer remind you of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."

May the Christmas bell remind you of the glorious proclamation of His birth.

May the Christmas carols remind you of the song the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest."

May the Christmas season remind you in every way of Jesus Christ you King.



New Year's Eve: 4:00 P.M.

For all those Parishioners, Family and Friends
who died during 2014

New Year's Day: 10:00 A.M.



Promises for the New Year

This year make some promises rather than resolutions for the New Year. The following list should get you started

Promise to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

Promise to make all your friends feel that there is something special about them.

Promise to look at the sunny side of everything, and make your optimism come true.

Promise to think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to make the best come true.

Promise to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

Promise to forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

Promise to wear a cheerful expression at all times and give every person you meet a smile.

Promise to give so much effort to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

Promise to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble in your life.