

Saint Peter Church

4 South 5th Street • Coplay, Pennsylvania 18037



The Epiphany of the
Lord
January 5, 2020

Mission Statement

We, as a Catholic parish under the patronage of Saint Peter, are a Eucharistic family, centered in prayer and worship, dedicated to self-sacrificing stewardship, and journeying together, Spirit-inspired, to the heavenly Kingdom.

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR: Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin
PASTOR EMERITUS: Rev. Msgr. William E. Handges
PERMANENT DEACONS: Thomas Reimer, Maurice Kelly
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Mrs. Lina Abi-Samra
PARISH ACCOUNTANT: Mr. Michael Leshko
DIRECTOR OF REL. ED.: Mrs. Linda Johnson
DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR:
Ms. Wendy Krisak, Direct Telephone 1 800-791-9209
Email: victimassistance@allentowndiocese.org
DIOCESAN SAFE ENVIRONMENT OFFICE:
Sr. Meg, S.S.J.M.S., LMFT 610-332-0442 Ext. 2019

MASS SCHEDULE:

DAILY: 8 A.M. (No morning Mass Thursday & Saturday)
Saturday Evening: 4:00 P.M. Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.
Holy Days Vigil: 6:30 P.M.
Holy Days: 8:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

PENANCE:

Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 P.M.
During Advent and Lent, Communal Penance Services are celebrated. Arrangements can always be made by appointment.

BAPTISM:

Contact the rectory for an appointment.
Baptism is scheduled on Sunday after the 10:30 A.M. Mass at 11:30 A.M. Parents may be required to attend a preparatory instruction in the rectory.

MARRIAGE:

Couples should contact the parish priest at least 1 year but no later than 6 months prior to the intended wedding date. The normal day for weddings is Saturday between 10 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Notify the rectory when someone at home becomes seriously ill, or weak on account of old age, so that the person might receive this Sacrament.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND: The priests and Eucharistic Ministers perform this service monthly. Notify us when someone wishes to be visited.

HOSPITALIZED: Alert us whenever someone has to be hospitalized, especially when their admission is an emergency. The parish identification number at each of the Valley hospitals is #171.

PARISH REGISTRATION: New members should make an appointment with the pastor at the rectory. Any change of an address, notify the rectory.

HIGH SCHOOL: Allentown Central Catholic, 4th & Chew Sts., Allentown 18102 (School Office: 610-437-4601)

ELEMENTARY:

Good Shepherd Catholic School
Mrs. Susan Parker, M.Ed. Principal
1300 Newport Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067
610-262-9171

CCD PROGRAM: Classes conducted at the Holy Apostles Catholic Education Center, 3008 Ruch St., Whitehall. The program is from September to the end of April. These classes are necessary for eligibility to receive the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. Contact Mrs. Linda Johnson at 610-261-0144

Rectory: 610-262-2417 Fax: 610-262-2652

Web Address: www.stpeterchurchcoplay.com • E-mail: info@stpetersccoplay.com



*Masses said by Retired Priests and Missionaries:
Deceased: Alfred Lederer, Frances Alban, Stephen
Steirer, Mel and Ann Procanyn, Theresa Brown,*

Stewardship Corner

December 29, 2019

\$7093.00

*Thanks to those who have made a commitment
during our increased offertory process. May our
renewed stewardship be to the honor and glory of
the Lord*



*Flame of Love Tuesdays- Rosary and Benediction in the
Chapel from 6-7:30PM*

*Bible Study Thursdays 6:30PM in the Heritage Center.
Will resume on 1/9/2020*

Altar and Rosary Society No meeting in January

*Parish Pastoral Council will meet Tuesday January 7th in
the Heritage Center.*

*Contributions Credit to 2019 the final date to receive
credit and verifications for any back contributions dated
2019 that you wish to return is Sunday, January 19, 2020.
Contribution letters for tax purposes will be mailed by
REQUEST ONLY*

*Pierogies We will be making pierogies on the 20th and
21st of January. If you can help, please meet us in the hall.
Volunteers are greatly appreciated and needed both
days.*

*2020 Calendars are available at all exits of the Church,
courtesy of Brubaker Funeral Home, Inc.*

*Message from Bishop Schlert In light of the heightened
cases of Influenza, His Excellency, Most Rev. Alfred
Schlert directs that the Exchange of the Sign of Peace be
suspended from 1/11/2020 until further notice.*

Sunday Jan 5th: Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

8:00AM- *Madge Garrison*

10:30AM- *Jane Serfass*

Monday Jan 6th: Christmas Weekday

1Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17

8:00 AM- *Albert Ondush*

Tuesday Jan 7th: Christmas Weekday

1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44

8:00AM- *Patrick Howlett*

Wednesday Jan 8th: Christmas Weekday

1Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52

8:00AM- *Jonathan Karo*

Thursday Jan 9th: Christmas Weekday

1Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22

No Morning Mass

Friday Jan 10th: Christmas Weekday

1Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16

8:00 AM- *Stephen Steirer*

Saturday Jan. 11th: Christmas Weekday

1Jn 5:14-2; Jn 3:22-30

Vigil Mass

4:00 PM- *John Szerencits*

Sunday Jan. 12th:

8:00AM- *Holy Name Society*

10:30AM- *Dorothy Abelovsky*



A set of keys were found in a pew on Christmas Eve. They include a Ford key pod and reward cards to three grocery stores. They could be claimed at the rectory during business hours

R.C.I.A. INFORMATION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a way of welcoming, forming and initiating new members into the Church. It is a process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or for those who were baptized Catholic but have yet to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. For more information call Msgr. Martin

School News



GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

- 1/6 Phantom Tickets Order due
- 1/8 Pretzel Sale begins
- Faculty Meeting 2:45 PM
- 1/10 Mass 9:15

1/10-12 Basket Social

ALLENTOWN CENTRAL CATHOLIC H.S.

- 1/6 Epiphany Mass
- 1/11 Dance Team Clinic 10AM-1PM
- 1/11 Wall of Fame 1PM-5PM

HOLY APOSTLES RELIGIOUS ED

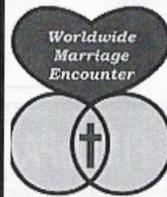
- Regular classes resume 1/6-8, 2020
- date change: 1/9 First Communion Parents Mtg. 6:30 PM St. Peter
- Confirmation Interviews will take place on January 23rd.

Area Events

Live Webinar: *The Beginner's Guide to Defending Your Faith with Trent Horn an adjunct professor at Holy Apostles College. He shows you that you don't need all the right answers—just the right questions and the right attitudes in order to share the Catholic Faith with anyone. The webinar will be live Wed. 1/29 at 7PM. Go to allentowndiocese.org/webinars to register.*

Whitehall-Coplay Hunger Initiative Our Free Community Meal is scheduled for Sunday, January 5, 2020 at Saint Peter Church Hall 4 S. 5th Street, Coplay 4-6:30PM 610-262-2417

Holy Trinity Church 4102 S. Church St. Whitehall invite you to join their parishioners Julie and Chris Moakley on a trip to "Ireland- Traditions of the Emerald Isle." June 15-25, 2021~~Information night is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:00PM in Holy Trinity Parish Hall where details will be provided.



A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION! Make 2020 the year you resolve to improve your marriage! Attend a **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** weekend and learn how. For info call 610-449-1859 or www.wwme.org.



RETRouvaille *Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!*
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES
Retrouvaille of Delaware Valley offers hope for married couples experiencing loneliness, boredom, misery, or frustration in their marriage. Couples learn valuable communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Our next program starts February 21-23 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, called 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary 618 Fullerton Ave. Soup Sale!
Warm your tummies with delicious homemade soup sold in quarts! Choices include: Chicken Corn Chowder, Chicken Noodle, Beef Barley & Vegetable. Each quart of soup is only \$10.00. Payment is due at time of order by Wednesday 1/8. Pick-up on 1/11-12 after all weekend Masses in the parish hall. Questions call 610.266.0695

"We are celebrating the Eternal Birth that God has borne and never ceases to bear in all eternity. But if it takes not place in me, what avails it? Everything lies in this, that it should take place in me."

Meister Eckhart



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January 2020

Rev. Msgr. John J. Martin
Saint Peter Church, Coplay

One Minute Meditations

St. Thomas Aquinas

Against his family's wishes, St. Thomas Aquinas joined the newly founded Dominican Order of Preachers. A brilliant, humble scholar, he taught theology at universities in Paris, Cologne, and Rome, and advised popes, kings, and students. His greatest achievement was his *Summa Theologica*, a thorough, logical, concise treatise on the faith. Exhausted by constant work and travel, St. Thomas collapsed en route to a Church council and died at Fossanova. He is the patron of students and schools.



Well-placed faith

Our world is filled with pain, sorrow, and suffering. Putting our faith in worldly powers guarantees disappointment. Putting faith in God guarantees that we will never be disappointed.

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).



Shed bad habits in the New Year

Bad habits are sinful inclinations acquired through repetition. Unless we overcome them, they come between us and God and can destroy our peace. Working to overcome our bad habits puts us on the path to true holiness.

Identify the root. It sounds simple, but recognizing what causes us to sin repeatedly is the first step to overcoming the behavior. That doesn't mean it's easy to do. It can be uncomfortable to look at our failings, but change won't come without courage. Ask for help if you need it.

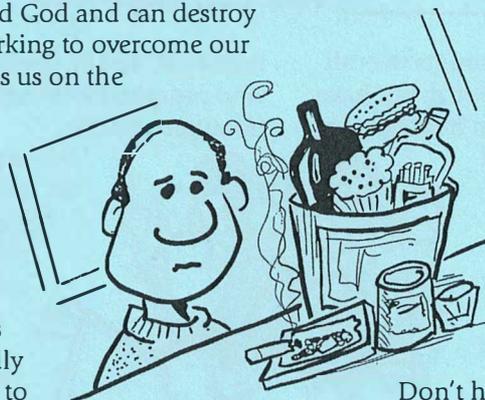
Replace a bad habit with a good one. Once we understand what is behind our bad habits, we can replace

them with new and healthy ways to deal with the underlying issue. If we overeat or drink too much when stressed, for example, we can adopt exercise or meditation to cope instead.

Eliminate triggers. Make it easier to cure bad habits by avoiding the conditions that nurture them. Do you want to avoid eating junk food?

Don't have it around you at home or at work. Want to change a gossip habit? Avoid the people with whom you gossip. Change your environment to change your behavior.

Find good influences. It may not be necessary to lose your old friends, but consider finding new ones who already live the way you want to live.

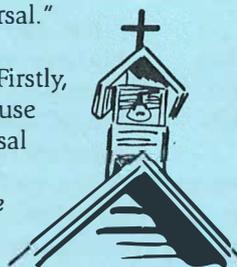


Why Do Catholics Do That?

"Catholic" means "universal." In the Greek, it also means "wholeness" or "fullness." Firstly, the Church is catholic because her members have a universal mission. Jesus commanded his Apostles to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" (Matthew

Why are Catholics called "catholic"?

28:19). Secondly, the Church is catholic because, being founded by Christ and united to him, her members have the "correct and complete confession of faith, full sacramental life, and ordained ministry in apostolic succession" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #830*).

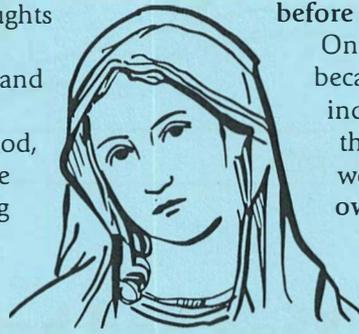


The keys to Mary's success

Jesus loved his mother dearly, and his last thoughts on Earth were of her. We know she is Queen of Heaven, but what did she do to receive His love and great reward?

When Mary agreed to become the mother of God, she could have expected an easy life but Scripture tells us that all Mary expected was the joy of doing God's will. She put God's will before her own.

Mary didn't have to go with Joseph to Bethlehem for the census. She chose to go with Joseph as his wife. She put Joseph's needs



before her own.

Once there, the couple lodged with animals because there was no room at the inn. Instead of indulging in self-pity, Mary graciously received the shepherds and the Magi, who came to worship her baby. She put their joy before her own discomfort.

Throughout her life, Mary said "yes" to God, put his will first, and thought of others before herself. If we follow her example, we'll receive our reward in Heaven, too.

from Scripture

Matthew 4:12-23, The common call

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). When invited to know Jesus better and follow him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing things. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, converted countless souls for heaven, and suffered hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as



their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – intimate friends of God. Jesus invites each of us to know him personally and follow him closely. While few of us are called to leave everything,

we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still imitate the first disciples who dropped everything "at once" to accept God's invitation. Knowing Jesus personally and closely makes for a great adventure.

Q & A Why are we required to respect Jesus' name?

As the Son of God, Jesus' name is "above every name" (Philippians 2:9) and commands respect.

It is the name God gave himself when he became man (Luke 1:31). In Jesus' day, there was no internet, no media, no network to use to find out if someone was reputable or reliable.

All people had was their good name and the way others used it with respect. He knew he would need a recognizable name.

Jesus' name tells us of his mission. The angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to name the child "Jesus," "for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). And he did.

There is great power in Jesus' name. Jesus promised his disciples that whatever they asked in his name, he would do (John 14:14). In his name, the Apostles cast out demons (Luke 10:17), cured the sick and even raised the dead (Acts 3:16; 4:10). "There is no other name under heaven...by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

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Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. On this holy day of obligation, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. In their honor, pray a Rosary and attend Mass.

Jan. 6 – St. André Bessette (1937). Born near Montreal, Canada, André joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross at twenty-five and was the doorkeeper for their school. During an epidemic, everyone in his care was miraculously healed. He helped build a beautiful chapel to St. Joseph.

Jan. 12 – The Baptism of the Lord

(1st century). Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was free of sin, but he allowed himself to be baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). By his baptism, Jesus declared his willingness to fulfill God's saving plan.

Jan. 20 – St. Fabian (250). During his long reign as pope, Fabian organized Rome into seven districts, countered a heresy in Africa, and founded churches in France. He was martyred during the Decian persecutions.

