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"You do not see Him, yet you love Him; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward that is, the salvation of your souls." St. Peter

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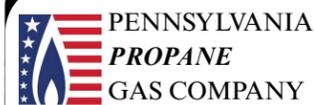
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AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.
Joshua 25:15

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ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

433 WEST CHURCH STREET
SOMERSET, PA. 15501
RECTORY: 814-443-6574
FAX: 814-445-7766
www.stpetersparish.com
office@stpetersparish.com



Jill Harris, School Principal
Tiffany Foy, School Secretary
Paula Vinzani, DRE
Dan Paugh, Maintenance Supervisor
Brett Wilmotte, Pastoral Council
Sean Isgan, Finance Council
Jason June, Choir Director
Abby Bristol, Social Media/Bulletin

Rev. Fr. Angelo J. Patti, VF, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Michael Raj Arokiasamy, HGN
Rev. Mark Komula, Deacon - 814-233-9285

MASSES FOR THE WEEK: FEB. 23 - MAR. 1		
Mon.	7AM	Theresa Morealli - Todd & Lisa Miller
Tues.	7AM	John F. Walsh Sr. - Family
Wed.	7AM	Mary & Joseph Smith & Billy Halverson - Family
Thurs.	7AM	Monsignor Tomaselli - Fr. Peter Kuligowski
Fri.	7AM	Michael & Helen Matthews - John & Betsy Matthews No 11:15AM Mass
Sat.	4PM	Elwood Shaulis - Angie Svonavec & John Kuhn
Sun.	8AM 10AM 12:15PM	George Singer - Carol Rozinsky For the People Ruth Bachtell Clarke - Mike, Janice, & Family

WEEKLY SCHEDULE: FEB. 22 - MAR. 1		
Sun.	11AM 12:15PM 6PM 7PM	CCD Class 2nd Grade Parent Reconciliations Meeting - Annex Confirmation Class Stations of the Cross - Church
Mon.	12:15PM 6:30PM 6:30PM	Stations of the Cross - Church Parish Mission Meeting - Annex OCIA Class
Tues.	Noon 7PM	Bible Study - Sue Sube's House TMIY Meeting - Hall
Wed.	8AM 6:30PM	Quilters - Annex Choir Practice - Church
Fri.	1PM	No School - Diocesan In-Service Mary's Way of the Cross Stations - Church
Sun. 1	11AM 11AM	CCD Class PTA Chicken Pick-Up - School Entrance

STATIONS OF THE CROSS during Lent are held in the Church every Sunday at 7PM and Monday at 12:15PM. Mary's Way of the Cross is led by the Women's Group on Friday at 1PM. All are welcome and encouraged to join!

ST. PETER'S NEXT LENTEN FISH FRY will be held on March 13th in the Hall from 4 - 7PM. Dine-in or take-out. **Please volunteer to help!** Scan the QR code or email Bill Croushore billcroushore6768@gmail.com to sign-up!



ORDINARY SCHEDULE - Sat. Mass: 4PM, Sun. Masses: 8AM, 10AM, & 12:15PM.
HOLY DAY MASSES - As announced.
CONFESSIONS: 2:45PM Sat. or upon request.
BAPTISM: Parish registration and participation in baptismal preparation are necessary.
MARRIAGES: The priest is your initial contact. Interview with the couple must precede setting a date.
PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Call the Rectory to request the Sacrament of the Sick for family members who are seriously ill. Communion is taken to the hospital, nursing homes, and home-bound on a regular basis.
PARISH MEMBERSHIP: It is important to be a registered parishioner in order to gain the benefits & privileges of parish membership. New parishioners are welcome. If you have moved into, within or outside the parish or are not a member, call the rectory so that your situation may be addressed. For questions, call the rectory, 814-443-6574.

Prayer for Lent:
My precious and crucified Lord, I offer You this Lent. I offer it to You with total abandonment and trust. I offer You my prayers, sacrifices and my very life this day. Do with me, Lord, as You will. I pray that this Lent will be fruitful. I know You have much to say to me and much to do in my life. May this Lent be a time through which Your mercy is poured in abundance into my soul, and into the souls of all Your faithful.

Dearest Lord, help me to especially see my sins, this Lent. Humble me so that I may see clearly. Give me courage and strength to confess my sins, and to turn from them with all my heart. Enlighten me with Your Holy Word, dear Lord. Help me to come to know You and to deepen the gift of faith in my life. Show me the plan You have for me, and place my feet upon the path You have chosen.

*My suffering Lord, I thank You for the fullness of Your perfect Sacrifice. I thank You for holding nothing back, giving Your life to the last drop of blood. May I offer You my very life as a sacrifice, trusting in Your mercy with every offering.
Amen.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND PASTOR'S NOTES:

Message of the Holy Father for Lent 2026:

Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion Dear brothers and sisters, Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening - This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through listening. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone. In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (Ex 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery. Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen as he does. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church." [1]

Fasting - If Lent is a time for listening, fasting is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor. With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfillment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: "In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity." [2] Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good. However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because "those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not act properly." [3] As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic." [4] In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of

abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together - Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3). Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation. Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love. I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey. *From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr LEO PP. XIV*

PARISH SECRETARY POSITION - St. Peter's is accepting applications for a part time Parish Secretary. We anticipate this may be a shared position with the office being open 4 hours per day Monday – Friday. The Parish Secretary provides essential administrative and clerical support to the Pastor and parish staff. As the first point of contact for parishioners and visitors, this role requires a welcoming demeanor, high level of confidentiality, and the ability to manage diverse tasks in a ministry focused environment. **Responsibilities include:** Compiling employee time sheets; Acting in the role of Point of Contact for Parish related functions; Answering the phone and email messages; Assisting with parish projects and fundraisers as directed by Pastor; Processing mail and coordinating bill payment; Assisting with preparation of the weekly Church Bulletin; Ordering supplies; and other duties as assigned. **Required Qualifications:** Supportive of the mission of the Catholic Church and abide by the Diocesan Code of Conduct; Able to satisfactorily complete background checks and training applicable to diocesan requirements; Ability to maintain high levels of confidentiality; professionalism and integrity; Demonstration of strong communication skills through phone and face-to-face contact; Working knowledge of Microsoft Office programs; Proficiency with standard office equipment and technology; Ability to effectively work with St Peter Catholic School Administration and St Peter Religious Education Program, staff, volunteers, and parents. **Interested candidates can drop off or mail a Letter of Interest and Resume to: St. Peter Church - 433 West Church St., Somerset PA 15501. Email: office@stpetersparish.com**



ST. PETER SCHOOL

433 WEST CHURCH STREET | SOMERSET, PA. 15501 | 814-445-6662

SCHOOL NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026

- 2/23: Gardner Candy Orders Due! THANK YOU! Stations of the Cross 12:15 PM – Please join us!
- 2/24: Forensics Practice 3-4 PM
- 2/25: Forensics Practice 3-4 PM
- 2/27: NO SCHOOL – Diocesan Professional Learning Day

LOOKING AHEAD:

- 3/1: Chicken Fundraiser Pickup! 11:15AM – 1:30PM
- 3/2: Stations of the Cross 12:15 PM – Please join us!
- 3/24: Forensics Practice 3-4 PM
- 3/25: Forensics Practice 3-4 PM; Golden Eagle Running Club
- 3/6: Grade 4 School Mass 11:15 AM – Full Uniforms – Please join us! Modified Busing: This is an early dismissal for Somerset School District. St Peter School will have a full day of school an Modified Busing will be in place. Parents of all students who ride SASD buses during week are to enter "Modified Busing" or "Car Rider" into PickUP Patrol by 9AM Friday, February 27th.



PTA SECOND AND FINAL CHICKEN SALE!

Our February sale was sold out! We are now selling tickets for the March fundraiser. Tickets are \$8 and will be redeemed for a grilled and hot half chicken to be picked up on Sunday, March 1st. Tickets can be purchased at the school office from 7AM – 4PM during the week. Thank you!

CCD NEWS

Paula Vinzani, DRE

814-443-6574 ext. 4 & paula.vinzani@gmail.com

- 2/22: CCD & Confirmation Class & Second Grade Parent First Reconciliation Meeting - 12:15PM in the Annex.
- 3/1: CCD Class
- 3/8: CCD & Confirmation class
- 3/15: CCD & Confirmation class
- 3/22: CCD Jr. High Days for Grades 6th - 8th & Rite of Sending Mass at 12:15PM. Reception in Hall to follow.

DEAR PARISHIONERS, The second collection will be for the building fund. Last year we began a building fund that was supported by a second collection over the course of the year. We were able to raise over \$100,000 and complete nearly all of what was a very ambitious and much needed list of maintenance items. We are well on our way to meeting last year's goal of \$120,000. The last of the 2025 projects will be completed this spring. Recently, the electrical panel box in the Hall (original equipment) has presented several problems. Use of many of the circuits is now limited. We are increasing the goal to \$170,000 for 2026 to support provision of a new breaker box, replacing a large portion of the existing wiring, and replacing all of the original receptacles and switches. It is A new primary service line may be required. Thank you for your support of maintaining the physical plant requirements of our wonderful parish. **COMPLETED PROJECTS: Roof Repairs: \$25,000 Church Pavers: \$6,700, Parking Lot: \$22,000, School Boilers: \$54,000. UNFINISHED: Hall Air Conditioners: \$14,000 and Electrical Work: \$50,000 Thank you! Funds Raised: \$127,679.**

170,000



For social media or website content, email editor@stpetersparish.com. For bulletin announcements, events for the calendar email editor@stpetersparish.com AND office@stpetersparish.com. Submit bulletin announcements by the Wednesday before.

We would like to thank our sponsor of the week: Stoystown Auto Wreckers

The 2026 Catholic Ministries Drive will soon be underway. This year, our theme is Sent to Serve – which reminds us that, by virtue of our Baptism, each of us has been Sent To Serve, entrusted with gifts that are meant to be shared for the good of others. Saint Peter teaches us, "as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

St. Peter's 2026 Parish Mission is March 16th - 18th. Each evening features dinner at 5PM (Monday - soup, Tuesday - picnic, Wednesday - pasta), a talk by Paulist Fr. Bruce Nieli at 6:30PM, followed by reflection and confession at 7:45PM. Everyone is welcome! There will be a meeting on Monday, February 23rd in the annex at 6:30PM.

LENTEN CONFIRMATION PROJECT: Jo Sharbaugh will be collecting baby wipes for Birthright of Somerset. Please contact Lindsey Sharbaugh, 814-483-7130 for pick up of donations or drop them off in the church vestibule in the tote labeled 'Donations.' Thank you!

ST. PETER'S WOMEN'S GROUP will lead **Mary's Way of the Cross** this Friday, February 27th, at 1PM in the Church. Everyone is welcome to join!

ST. PETER'S MEN'S GROUP - That Man Is You! will meet at 7PM this Tuesday, February 24th in the Parish Hall. We begin with a meal (no cost, but donations accepted), watch a short video and conclude with a 30 minute small group discussion. All men are welcome!

THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 4th at 6PM in the annex.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP - Family Hospice is offering 6 free support group sessions at UPMC Somerset Hospital, Conference Room #223 located at 225 S. Center Ave. The group will meet every Tuesday from 5-6PM starting on March 17th and ending April 21st. Space is limited so please register with Daun Boyle - boyledm@upmc.edu or 814-515-6056. All are welcome!

MINISTER SCHEDULE:

February 28 - March 1

Saturday - 4PM

EM: M. Charney

Lector: V. Jacob

Greeters: Saylor

Sunday - 8AM

EM: C. Gombita

Lector: B. Wilmotte

Greeters: Kuhn

Sunday - 10AM

E.M.: Deacon Komula

Lector: F. Reeping III

Greeters: Murdy, Wilk

Sunday - 12:15PM

E.M: J. Zern

Lector: L. Latuch

Greeters: Halverson, Hook

STEWARDSHIP:

Stewardship prepares our hearts and homes for Easter.

Sunday Giving: \$8,398

Online Giving: \$2,925

School: \$860

Votive: \$109

Building Fund: \$2,608

