

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH PASTOR’S NOTES:
August 16, 2026 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Our readings today remind us that God is ever-faithful, even when we are not. They challenge us as Christian stewards to show our love for this faithful God through actions, and to lean in to our trust in Him even when it seems He is not answering our prayers. Jesus certainly challenged the Canaanite woman in today’s Gospel passage from Matthew. She called out to Him on behalf of her daughter, who was being tormented by a demon. What did Jesus do in reply to this mother’s desperate plea? Nothing. He “did not say a word in answer to her.” But she was undeterred and continued to call out to Him. Jesus did not give her what she asked for right away. Instead, He continued to challenge the woman’s faith. And she rises to the challenge to such an impressive degree that Jesus exclaims, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” Imagine hearing those words proclaimed over us by God. Truly, there could be no higher honor than hearing our Lord say that to us. So we must accept the difficulties that come with the stewardship way of life. Some days will be a true challenge, but those are the days when God is making saints of us. Let’s embrace the hard days. The deep joy that eventually comes will be so worth it.

BIRTH OF MARY CELEBRATION - A Birth of Mary Celebration will be held on **Tuesday, September 8th, at St. Catherine Siena Church/Shrine, 308 Old Rt. 22, Duncansville**
Mass Times: 7:00 AM, 12:05 PM, & 5:30 PM.
Evening Mass and Rosary Procession at the Shrine; Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, celebrant. Please bring a lawn chair. If inclement weather, the outdoor mass will be celebrated in the church.
Rosary times: 7:30 AM, 11:15 AM, 1:00 PM, & 4:30 PM.
Food, exhibits, and crafts will be in the church hall. Conclude the day with birthday cake for all in the church hall.

ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LITURGY
Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2026 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, **September 13** in **ALTOONA** at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, **September 20** in **JOHNSTOWN** at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at **2PM**. Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. **Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Friday, September 11th.**



St. Gregory’s Annual Festival – MacDonaldton, PA – Sunday, September 6, 2026
Family-style ham and turkey dinners with noodles and stuffing served 11AM to 2PM. Adults (\$15), children under 12 (\$7), children under 4 (free). Games, bake sale, themed baskets, refreshments, and fun for all ages. Come and enjoy reminiscing with family and friends in our air-conditioned hall.

 **DIOCESAN FAMILY CONFERENCE
CELEBRATING THE 125TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIOCESE.**
The diocesan family conference will be held on Saturday, September 19th at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg. This conference has been designed for every generation, from young children and teens to parents, grandparents, clergy and parish leaders.

This day includes the annual Men’s and Women’s Conferences, Shycon (**also a discipleship event for Senior High Confirmation candidates**) and Junior High Youth Day. This day-long event will offer inspiring keynote presentations, engaging break-out sessions, opportunities for prayer and fellowship, food and the Vigil Mass for Sunday. You may register online at: dioceseaj.org or copies of the registration booklet are available in the vestibule or by contacting the parish office. Please also prayerfully consider being a Sponsor for this day. Information on the day and to be a sponsor are in the registration booklet. For additional information contact Francine Swope at fswope@dioceseaj.org OR (814)317-2646.

In your prayers, please pray for Joseph P. Isenman, a parishioner, who died recently. May he rest in peace! May God bless, sustain, and console his family and friends.



HELP WANTED! Maintaining the beauty of our Church sanctuary is a sacred ministry. If you are able to volunteer as a church cleaner, please contact the rectory.

BUILDING FUND COLLECTION:
Thank you to all who have contributed to the building fund. To date, we have completed several projects including:

- Roof and gutter repairs and installed heat tracing in gutters.
- Replaced the electric panel in the hall.
- Removed the deteriorating pavers at the Church entrance and replaced with concrete.
- Contracted to have the hall air conditioners replaced.
- Replaced the boilers in the school.

Fundraising will continue for the following projects:

- Replace the back, side and basement steps at the hall. Budget estimate is \$30,000.
- Replace the pipes from the hall gutters that drain under the parking lot. Budget estimate is \$20,000.
- Upgrade the air conditioning in the rectory. Budget estimate is \$25,000.
- Replace the broken sidewalk at the east end of the school. Budget estimate is \$10,000.
- Roof Replacement (Church, Hall Rectory). This is a future project but the roofs are soon beyond repair and the last storm blew off some slate tiles. Budget estimate is \$200,000.
- Parking Lot Replacement. This is another future project and will be done in phases. Budget estimate is \$300,000.

FUNDS RAISED: \$188,664

 **ST. PETER SCHOOL**
433 WEST CHURCH STREET | SOMERSET, PA. 15501 | 814-445-6662

SCHOOL NEWS FOR AUGUST 16, 2026

OFFICE HOURS: The school office will be open Mon – Fri., 8AM – 2PM through August 24th. The office will be closed for staff trainings: Tues., 8/25, Wed., 8/26, and Fri., 8/28.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE: The Uniform Exchange is open and available during school office hours.

OPEN HOUSE / MEET THE TEACHER & WELCOME BACK PICNIC: This year we will have our fall Open House/Meet the Teacher Night before school starts. Students and families from grades 1-6 are invited to stop in the school, meet their teacher and drop off supplies from 5:30– 6:30PM Sunday, August 30th. Then all families are invited to enjoy our “Welcome Back Picnic” behind the school from 6-8 PM. More details can be found in our Welcome Back Newsletter.

SUPPLIES: Student Supply Lists for the 26-27 school year were handed out in May and sent to families over the summer in the Welcome Back Newsletter. Printed copies are available at the school office during office hours. Students are to have supplies for the first day of school. They can be dropped off during office hours, at the Kindergarten Orientation or Open House

SUMMER MATH & READING: Students in grades 1-6 are to turn in their Summer Math and Reading folders by Fri., September 4th.

8/27: Kindergarten Orientation at 6:30PM
8/30: Grades 1-5 “Meet the Teacher/Open House” 5:30-6:30PM
8/30: 6-8 PM “Welcome Back Picnic” for all current St. Peter School families
9/1: First Day of School with Opening Mass at 11:15AM – Full Uniforms (Grades 1-6)
9/4: School Mass at 11:15AM – Full Uniforms
9/7: NO SCHOOL – Labor Day

CCD NEWS
Paula Vinzani, DRE
814-443-6574 ext. 3 & paula.vinzani@gmail.com

CCD/Confirmation Registration 2026–2027: Classes are tentatively scheduled to begin September 13th, 2026. Families with children entering Grades 1–9 are encouraged to register for Religious Education. Current families should have received a registration form by email. If not, please scan the QR code or contact Paula Vinzani for the link. We look forward to another year of faith formation!



For social media or website content, email editor@stpetersparish.com. For bulletin announcements and parish calendar events, email both editor@stpetersparish.com **and** office@stpetersparish.com. Submit bulletin requests by the Wednesday before the Sunday announcement.

Thank you to our sponsor of the week: B.J. Maurer

PRO-LIFE ROSARY will be said this Thursday, August 20th after 7AM Mass. Join us as we pray to end abortion in our nation and the whole world.

ST.PETER’S MEN’S GROUP - That Man Is You! Kicks off Tuesday, September 15th. This is a 13 week program for men to grow in their faith and become better husbands, fathers, and sons. The theme for this year is "The Revelation of the Father." We will meet at 7PM in the hall on Tuesday evenings and conclude promptly at 8:30PM.
BBQ PIT RESTORATION - Many of you have asked and we finally did it. We're replacing the BBQ pit behind the school and we need help moving the blocks that will construct the new pit. Weather permitting, we plan to rebuild at 8AM Saturday, August 22nd. Email billcroushore6867@gmail.com for details.
Want to learn more about That Man Is You!? We're breaking in the new BBQ pit Sunday, August 30th from Noon - 2PM with some delicious chicken and sweet corn. There is no cost. Come and enjoy great food and better fellowship. This is open to all parishioners and their families.

ST. PETER’S WOMEN’S GROUP - Upcoming Events
Cards & Games Afternoons - 2nd Thursday of the month from 1:30 - 3:30PM in the parish hall beginning on September 10th. Bring your favorite deck of cards or board games for an afternoon of fun. Contact Sue Hook - 814-443-3593 for info.
Fall Painting Party - Friday, September 18th at 6PM in the parish hall.
Fall Women's Retreat - Saturday, October 10th at St. John the Baptist Retreat Center, New Baltimore, PA.
Fall Ethnic Potluck Celebration - Saturday October 17th after 4PM Mass in the parish hall.
All parishioners and guests are invited to join these events!

 **THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA**
will have their next meeting on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6PM in the annex.

MINISTER SCHEDULE:
AUGUST 22nd - 23rd
Saturday - 4PM Mass
EM: C. Madigan
Lector: C. Madigan
Greeters: Craig
Sunday - 8AM Mass
EM: J. Wahl
Lector: J. Wahl
Greeters: Woy
Sunday - 10AM Mass
E.M.: Deacon Komula
Lector: D. DiLoreto
Greeters: Komula, Murdy
Sunday - 12:15PM Mass
E.M.: J. Zern
Lector: M. Petrosky
Greeters: Soberdash

STEWARDSHIP:
Let us persevere in faith, trusting that His plan is always leading us toward the joy He has prepared for us.
AUGUST 9TH 2026
Sunday Giving: \$9,830
Building Fund: \$1,571
School: \$280
Votive: \$163
Assumption: \$50 (8/15/26)
