

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD PASTOR’S NOTES:

August 23, 2026 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Our readings today reveal beautiful truths about our God, and they challenge us to look at the truth about ourselves as well. Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, leads us to take a serious look at whether our lives give God the glory He deserves. It comes in the form of a question that Jesus poses to the disciples. He leads up to it gently enough: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they offer varying responses. Then, Jesus gets personal with them, “But who do you say I am?” Peter gets the answer right, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus is getting personal with us today. He poses the same question to each one of us who call ourselves His stewards and modern-day disciples. Surely, we would not hesitate to answer just as Peter did, that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the living God. But do our lives truly reflect this answer?

The gifts and blessings that God has given us – our time, our talents, our material possessions – are meant to be used in a manner that says “Christ is my Savior and I am His disciple.” The most eloquent praise we can offer Him is a life lived in grateful response to His unfathomable love. This is the beauty and power of a stewardship way of life.

BIRTH OF MARY CELEBRATION - A Birth of Mary Celebration will be held on **Tues., September 8th, at St. Catherine Siena Church/Shrine, 308 Old Rt. 22, Duncansville**
Mass Times: 7AM, 12:05PM, & 5:30PM.
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: 7:30AM, 11:15AM, 1PM, & 4:30PM.
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.

PILGRIMAGE TO PADRE PIO SHRINE - Saint Andrew Catholic Church in Johnstown is organizing a pilgrimage on the feast day of Saint Padre Pio to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA on Wednesday September 23. We will plan to leave Saint Andrew Church parking lot by 6am and depart Barto at 3pm. Seats on the bus are \$55 and children are free. We will participate in Mass celebrated with an auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia , Fr Crowe, and other priests present, outdoor procession with a statue of Padre Pio accompanied by the Italian Festival band, Confessions will also be available. We will be able to view many of Padre Pio’s relics and learn more about his life. The Padre Pio Museum and Cultural center will be open for visits. A food truck will be available for lunch. We will stop for dinner on the way back home. The ticket price does not include food. Please sign up with the sign up sheet located at the

(CONT.) St. Andrew adoration chapel foyer. Signups are first come, first served, so sign up today! Payment is due by September 7. This allows us to properly plan and pay for everything. If you would like to go but the cost of the ticket might be prohibitive, please do not let this stop you. Financial assistance may be available to help cover the cost of the ticket. Please contact Eileen Bohensky for more details or if you would like to sign up. Phone number: 814-893-5702. Email: ebohensky@comcast.net.



**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 Joe Schrock who died recently. May he rest in peace! May God bless, sustain and console his family and friends.

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: \$190,051



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

SCHOOL NEWS FOR AUGUST 23, 2026

OFFICE HOURS: The school office will be open this week on Monday & Thursday, 8AM – 2PM, and on Friday, 8AM – Noon. The office will be closed this Tuesday, Wednesday and next Monday for staff training.

OPEN HOUSE / MEET THE TEACHER & WELCOME BACK PICNIC: Students and families from grades 1-6 are invited to stop in the school, meet their teachers and drop off supplies from 5PM – 6:30PM Sunday, August 30th. Then all families are invited to enjoy our “Welcome Back Picnic” behind the school from 6-8PM. More details can be found in our Welcome Back Newsletter.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION: Our Kindergarten “Meet the Teacher & Orientation” will be Thursday, August 27th at 6:30PM. Families should have received their invitations – please RSVP to the school office.

SUPPLIES: Student Supply Lists for the 26-27 school year were handed out in May and sent to families over the summer and in the Welcome Back Newsletter. Printed copies are available at the school office during office hours. Students are to have all 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 Friday, September 4th.

LOOKING AHEAD:
8/27: Kindergarten Orientation at 6:30PM
8/30: “Meet the Teacher / Open House” 5 – 6:30PM
8/30: “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: Rooted in Health, Holistic Health Center

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.
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 will host their first ‘**Cards & Games Afternoons**’ on Thursday, September 10th in the parish hall from 1:30-3:30PM. This event will be held on the second Tuhursday of each month. All parishioners and guests are welcome to join! Bring a deck of cards or your favorite board game. More information can be found in the vestibule of the church.
A ‘**Fall Painting Party**’ will take place on Friday, September 18th at 6PM in the parish hall. Cost is \$25 and RSVP’s are due by September 8th. You are welcome to bring food and drinks. Please mail check and design choice to Danielle Holiday:1502 Turkeyfoot Trail Rd, Markleton, PA 15551. Include your name, phone number, and design choice number which can be found on the easel in the vestibule or on social media.



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

SS. Philip & James in Meyersdale, PA invite you to the annual Labor Day Festival on Monday, September 7th. A ham and turkey buffet dinner will be served from 11:30AM - 2PM with takeout options available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. Outdoor activites will take place from 11AM-3:30PM and include games, basket raffle, funnel cakes, and refreshements. Music entertainment provided by Ray Christiansen!

MINISTER SCHEDULE:

AUGUST 30th - 31st

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 16TH 2026
Sunday Giving: \$11,527
Building Fund: \$1,387
School: \$316
Votive: \$109
Assumption: \$760
(8/15/26)

