

Saint Peter's Catholic Church

114 Cornelia Street
Plattsburgh, New York 12901
Parish Office: 518.563.1692
Religious Education: 518.563.3278
Fax: 518.566.9420

Liturgical Celebrations

Daily Mass Schedule
6:45am & 12:05pm, Monday - Friday
8:15am Saturday

Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil at 4:00pm
Sunday at **8:00 9:30 & 11:00am
** Mass is Signed for
the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Reconciliation
Saturday 2:45-3:30pm
Wednesday 12:30-1:00pm

Christmas Mass Schedule
December 24: 4:00pm,
Children's Mass - 6:00pm,
8:00pm and Midnight
Dec. 25: 11:00am

Advent Penance Service
Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7:00pm



Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2008



Our Credo

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church;
 No matter what your current family or marital situation;
 No matter what your past or present religious affiliation;
 No matter what your own personal history, age, background, race or color;
 No matter what your own self-image or esteem;
 You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected at
 St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Parish Ministries and Committees

If you are interested in volunteering your time and talent in one of the following areas, please call the Parish Office.

Community

- Activities/Hospitality
- Altar Rosary Society
- Bereavement Ministry
- Bethany Ministry (Post Funeral Lunches)
- Bible Study
- Buildings and Grounds
- Finance Council
- Homebound Ministry
- Knights of Columbus
- New Beginnings – Divorced/Separated
- Parish Council
- Parish Nurses
- Pre-Cana
- St. Matthew's Guild
- Women's Group

Religious Education

- Rite of Christian Initiation
- 1st – 8th Religious Ed Catechists
- Confirmation Program
- Children's Church
- Baptism Visitors
- Seton Academy/Catholic High

Social Justice

- Soup Kitchen
- Respect Life
- Homeless Hospitality
- Food Shelf
- JustFaith – Environment
- Mission of Hope

Youth Ministry

- Junior High Youth Group
- Senior High Youth Group
- Young Adult Ministry

Worship Ministries

- Liturgy Committee
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Prayer Chain
- Greeters
- Lectors
- Altar Servers
- Ushers

Music Ministry

- Adult 9:30am Choir
- Contemporary 11am Choir

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 15

- 6:45am Raymond Pulsifer by his wife Jerri
- 12:05pm Edward Richardson by David & Madeline Pombrio

Tuesday, December 16

- 6:45am Wilfred Germain by his wife Gert
- 12:05pm Frank & Louise Garran by Donald & Mary Garran

Wednesday, December 17

- 6:45am John Trudeau by Ester Donah
- 12:05pm M/M Julien Allie by their family

Thursday, December 18

- 6:45am Alton Pete Rabideau by Richard Rabideau
- 12:05pm Catherine Ruprecht by David & Ann Bilow

Friday, December 19

- 6:45am Thomas Bushey by his family
- 12:05pm Peter Lynch by his wife Lois

Saturday, December 20

- 8:15am Daryl Johnson by the family
- 4:00pm Mose & Nora Facticeau by their daughter Marilyn

Sunday, December 21

- 8:00am Parishioners
- 9:30am James Mousseau by his mother & family
- 11:00am Ingrid Ormsby & Mark Strack by their family



Vigil Candles for this Week

- In Memory of **Pat Parmeter**
By David & Ann Bilow
- In Memory of **Priscella Steele**
by her family
- In Memory of **Shirley Forgette**
by family & friends



You may contact the Parish Office to secure a time for a seven day vigil candle -- \$10 is the offering.



Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer physically, emotionally or spiritually.

God's Plan for Giving ... Tithing

- December 9, 2007..... \$14,159.50
- December 7, 2008 \$15,647.35

Including Electronic Transfers
Thank you for your generosity and commitment to stewardship.

Are you writing or rewriting your will?
 Consider designating a gift to St. Peter's and give witness to your faith.

Got Sins?? Join us for our

Advent Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 pm

Bring your family! Bring your neighbors!



We pray for those who have recently entered eternal life. May the angels lead them into paradise.

**Peter J. Andresakis
Jessica King**

Advent Night of Reflection

Come spend a peaceful night with the Lord in Adoration as we prepare for the birth of the Lord. Music and meditation on the O Antiphons from the Breviary's Vespers during the Octave before Christmas. Each Antiphon begins with "O" and addresses Jesus with a unique title, which comes from the prophecies of Isaiah and Micah. Join us on **Wed., Dec. 17** at 7 pm in the Chapel.



Youth Group Meetings

On Sunday, Dec. 14th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm there will be an open gym at Our Lady of Victory gym for all Junior High and Senior High Students. Feel free to just show up for a night of fun.

Confirmation

Sunday, Dec. 14th is the last evening for Confirmation classes before Christmas break. Classes will begin again January 11th. If you have any further questions please call Miss Therese Moen, Youth Director at 563-3278 or e-mail at stpetersyd@charterinternet.com.

children's Ministry

Christmas Eve Mass Choir Practice

Sunday, Dec. 14th & 21st (After 11:00 Mass)
12:00-12:30 pm, Upper Room

Come practice Christmas Carols with Miss Meinert to be sung at the Christmas Eve Mass--6:00 pm Dec. 24th.

Children's Ministry "Christmas Eve Mass"

December 24th

6:00p.m. Holy Mass

Come join our children as they lift their voices in song.

We will welcome the birth of Christ with joy and celebration. .

Combating Mental Illness Stigma

- Know the facts:
Educate yourself on mental health – causes, symptoms, treatment etc. By learning the facts you will dispel the common myths.
- Be conscious of your attitudes and behaviors:
We all have prejudices and judgmental thinking that are passed on by society and reinforced by family, friends and the media.
- Choose your words carefully:
Words can be poison. The way we speak can affect the way other people think and speak. It is important to use sensitive words when talking about mental illness. Words like "crazy", "nut case", and "psycho" are very harmful. Avoid labeling people by their diagnosis.
- Educate others:
Pass on facts and positive attitudes about people with mental illness. Challenge the myths and stereotypes of others.
- Focus on the positive:
People with mental illness can and do make valuable contributions to society.
- Support people:
Treat people with mental illnesses with the same respect and dignity you would want to be treated with.
- Include everyone:
People with a mental illness have a right to take an equal part in society. They have a right to access jobs, housing, health care etc.

THE NET

The following activities are held at "The Net" -- 14 Charles St., Plattsburgh, NY.

Support Group Meetings

• **Alcoholics Anonymous (Awakenings)**

Time: Monday- Friday at 7:00 am, Saturday at 8:00 am
The meetings focus on group discussion and everyone is welcome.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous (KJ.S.S.)**

Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 12:00 pm
Monday meetings are for beginners, and focus on the first three steps of the *Alcoholics Anonymous* program. Wednesday and Friday meetings offer general discussion and are open to all. The Saturday meetings are also open to all, with emphasis on the Big Book discussions of the AA program.

• **Narcotics Anonymous (No Matter What)**

Time: Tuesday at 12:00 pm
The meetings are open to everyone and the format is a one hour open discussion session.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Annual Seton Christmas Dinner is being held **Dec. 14th** from Noon to 5 PM at Seton Catholic High School (206 New York Rd). A traditional turkey dinner will be served with new items such as macaroni & cheese and apple crisp. Adults \$9, Seniors (55+) \$8, Children 12-5 yrs \$5, Under 5 are FREE and take outs \$9. All seating is handicap accessible. Purchase a chance to win a homemade quilt or \$1,000 CASH. Do some shopping at our Silent Auction, Cash & Carry, "Gift from Home" or wreath sale. Our students are in the giving spirit and will sponsor a toy drive and food drive for local agencies. Come and enjoy great food, friendly faces and entertainment by the Singing Santa. All proceeds benefits Seton Academy & Seton Catholic.

Worldwide Candle Lighting Services

Communities across the globe will be joining with the Champlain Valley Chapter of the Compassionate Friends for the 12th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting on **Sunday, Dec. 14** at St. Peter's Church, at 7:00pm for National Children's Remembrance Day. Please bring a photo of your child, grandchild or sibling.

The ceremony unites families and friends around the globe as they light candles for one hour to honor and remember children who have died at any age, from any cause.

Sweet Sounds of Christmas Concert

Sweet Sounds of Christmas Concert will be presented on **Tuesday, Dec. 16**, at 7 pm, at the Plattsburgh United Methodist Church, 127 Beekman Street. This concert is a benefit for the Interfaith Food Shelf. Admission is a non-perishable food item for the Food Shelf.

The groups performing are the Choirs of the United Methodist Church, the After Five brass, and the Adirondack Liturgical Dance Troupe. Call 563-2992 between 9 am and 12 noon for further information.



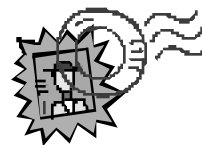
Father John and altar servers enjoying their pizza party on Friday, Nov. 14.

IN OUR PARISH

- **JustMatters Meeting**
- JustMatters Climate Change group meets **Sunday, Dec. 14th** from 2:00-4:00 pm in the **Chapel**
- **Advent Penance Service**
All are invited to join in the Advent Penance Service on **Tuesday, Dec. 16th** at 7 pm.
- **Advent Night of Reflection**
Wednesday, Dec. 17th at 7pm in the Chapel.
- **Decoration of the Church**
Sunday, Dec. 21st after the 11am Liturgy.
- **Light Weigh**
A spiritual growth weight-loss program held **every Wednesday** evening in the Chapel, at 7 pm. The last meeting for this year will be Dec. 3. For more information contact Sue Holt at 561-2782.
- **New Beginnings**
Are you divorced, going through a divorce or separated? New Beginnings meets **every Thursday** in the Chapel at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to this group regardless of religious affiliation.

Stamps for the Mission

Sr. Barbara Langlois continues to collect cancelled stamps to raise money for the missions. To ensure that your donations of stamps reach her, please leave the stamps at her residence, 38 St. Charles Street, Plattsburgh.



Catholic Deaf Community of North Country Christmas Mass 2008

Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm
St. Peter's Chapel

Father George Tobin will say Christmas Mass in American Sign Language. After Mass, we will have a Christmas pot luck in the Emmaus Room. Please bring your dish to the Emmaus Room before the Mass.

Please bring your family and friends.

If any question, contact me at VP (866) 588-1271 or email me at pwkpw@aol.com.

Brother Paul Waller, fdm
Franciscan Deaf Ministry

Vocations

"The One who calls you is faithful." Will you be faithful to His call? If God may be inviting you to be a priest, deacon or consecrated religious, talk to your pastor or visit www.myvocation.net to contact Fr. Doug Lucia or Fr. Bryan Stitt.

Third Sunday of Advent



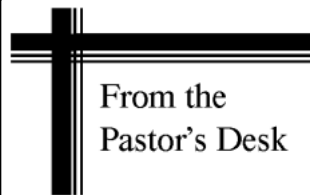
Many of us struggle with the concept of being outwardly faithful and helping others to understand the warmth of the light of life and fire of the Holy Spirit that fills us. Often, we

are fearful of what others will think of us; we don't like to be embarrassed or ridiculed for our beliefs. But what is the worst that could happen? Those who laugh or point fingers in disgust are the very ones we need to reach. We may not immediately see that we've reached them, but at some point that light we enjoy may also shine on them. Truly, it would be worse if we were able to show that light, and yet did nothing.

Today's Gospel reading from John is the story of the questioning of St. John the Baptist by the priests and Levites of Jerusalem. They mocked him, asking if he was the prophet Elijah, or any other prophet for that matter. After all, what right did he have to claim to know something about the coming of the long-awaited Messiah? He was just a man who spent his days among sinners, baptizing them in the waters of the Jordan. Who was he? "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'" as Isaiah the prophet said." That's who he was.

John was not afraid to profess who he was or in whose name he gave great glory. We are taught in the Catechism, "The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it" (CCC 1816). John might have simply lived his life knowing his belief in God and Jesus Christ would be enough for his salvation, yet he went further. In this season of Advent, challenge yourself to not only live your faith, but to share in its great joy with others.

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From the Pastor's Desk

Christmas is a major celebration in our life as a community of faith. One great way to prepare is the Sacrament of Penance.

Our Advent Penance Service will be celebrated on Tuesday, Dec. 16th at 7 pm. The

forgiveness of sins is of great importance. Our God does not want us to be burdened by our failures – our God wants us to know the peace of his tender forgiveness...this is the most important Christmas present you will ever receive.

The decorating of our church is always a joyful event. Needless to say, the stringing of lights on many trees, the hanging of wreaths, and the arranging of the Nativity figures...it all takes many hands! Please come and share your energy in making our church reflect the beauty of Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 21st after the 11 am Liturgy.

Father John

Catholic Charities 50th Anniversary Dinner

The Emmaus Room was full to capacity last Saturday evening as we celebrated 50 years of Catholic Charities in the Plattsburgh Office and also raised **\$5,000** for emergency fuel relief for the needy. This wonderful event was made possible by the delicious cooking skills of Dan Shusda and his son Jared, the decorating talents of Eleanor Lahtinen and her team, hors d'oeuvres and serving by Joe Swinyer, the Hospitality and Marketing class of the University and the corporate sponsorship of the dinner by the Msgr. Morris Dwyer Council 255 of the Knights of Columbus. *Thanks to all who prepared and those who came!*



Monsignor Aubin and Alice Fountain cut the 50th Anniversary Cake



Students from Plattsburgh State Hospitality and Marketing Class under the leadership of David Hensarling and Patti Cormier.



50th Anniversary Celebration of our local Catholic Charities held on Dec. 6 in the Emmaus Room

Readings for the Week

December 14
 Is 61:1-2,10-11
 (Ps) Lk 1:46-50,53-54
 1 Thes 5:16-24
 Jn 1:6-8,19-28

December 15
 Nm 24:2-7,15-17
 Ps 25:4-9
 Mt 21:23-27

December 16
 Zep 3:1-2,9-13
 Ps 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23
 Mt 21:28-32

December 17
 Gn 49:2,8-10
 Ps 72:1-4,7-8,17
 Mt 1:1-17

December 18
 Jer 23:5-8
 Ps 72:1-2,12-13,18-19
 Mt 1:18-25

December 19
 Jgs 13:2-7,24-25
 Ps 71:3-6,16-17
 Lk 1:5-25

December 20
 Is 7:10-14
 Ps 24:1-6
 Lk 1:26-38

St. Peter's Religious Education
 Classes are 9:30-10:45am
 Grades 1-6
 at Seton Academy
 Grades 7 & 8
 in the Upper Room
Last Day is Dec. 14

Children's Church
 There will be a
 Children's Liturgy
 at the 11:00 Mass
 on the following dates:
 December 14, and 28.

Top Ten Myths about Mental Illness

“Misconceptions about mental illness are pervasive, and the lack of understanding can have serious consequences for millions of people who have a psychiatric illness, according to the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD). The largest not-for-profit organization raising and distributing funds for psychiatric research, NARSAD surveyed mental health professionals nationwide to determine the most common myths about mental illness. NARSAD received 102 responses from the experts, who included members of NARSAD’s Scientific Council and psychiatrists around the country.”

Myth #1: Psychiatric disorders are not true medical illnesses like heart disease and diabetes. People who have a mental illness are just "crazy."

Fact: Brain disorders, like heart disease and diabetes, are legitimate medical illnesses. Research shows there are genetic and biological causes for psychiatric disorders, and they can be treated effectively.

Myth #2: People with a severe mental illness, such as schizophrenia, are usually dangerous and violent.

Fact: Statistics show that the incidence of violence in people who have a brain disorder is not much higher than it is in the general population. Those suffering from a psychosis such as schizophrenia are more often frightened, confused and despairing than violent.

Myth #3: Mental illness is the result of bad parenting.

Fact: Most experts agree that a genetic susceptibility, combined with other risk factors, leads to a psychiatric disorder. In other words, mental illnesses have a physical cause.

Myth #4: Depression results from a personality weakness or character flaw, and people who are depressed could just snap out of it if they tried hard enough.

Fact: Depression has nothing to do with being lazy or weak. It results from changes in brain chemistry or brain function, and medication and/or psychotherapy often help people to recover.

Myth #5: Schizophrenia means split personality, and there is no way to control it.

Fact: Schizophrenia is often confused with multiple personality disorder. Actually, schizophrenia is a brain disorder that robs people of their ability to think clearly and logically. The estimated 2.5 million Americans with schizophrenia have symptoms ranging from social withdrawal to hallucinations and delusions. Medication has helped many of these individuals to lead fulfilling, productive lives.

Myth #6: Depression is a normal part of the aging process.

Fact: It is not normal for older adults to be depressed. Signs of depression in older people include loss of interest in activities, sleep disturbances and lethargy. Depression in the elderly is often undiagnosed, and it is important for seniors and their family members to recognize the problem and seek professional help.

Myth #7: Depression and other illnesses, such as anxiety disorders, do not affect children or adolescents. Any problems they have are just a part of growing up.

Fact: Children and adolescents can develop severe mental illnesses. In the United States, one in ten children and adolescents has a mental disorder severe enough to cause impairment. However, only about 20 percent of these children receive needed treatment. Left untreated, these problems can get worse. Anyone talking about suicide should be taken very seriously.

Myth #8: If you have a mental illness, you can will it away. Being treated for a psychiatric disorder means an individual has in some way "failed" or is weak.

Fact: A serious mental illness cannot be willed away. Ignoring the problem does not make it go away, either. It takes courage to seek professional help.

Myth #9: Addiction is a lifestyle choice and shows a lack of willpower. People with a substance abuse problem are morally weak or "bad".

Fact: Addiction is a disease that generally results from changes in brain chemistry. It has nothing to do with being a "bad" person.

Myth #10: Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), formerly known as "shock treatment," is painful and barbaric.

Fact: ECT has given a new lease on life to many people who suffer from severe and debilitating depression. It is used when other treatments such as psychotherapy or medication fail or cannot be used. Patients who receive ECT are asleep and under anesthesia, so they do not feel anything.