



# St. Peter Catholic Church

1840 Marshall Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Fr. Bernard-Mary Ayo Oniwe, O.P., Pastor

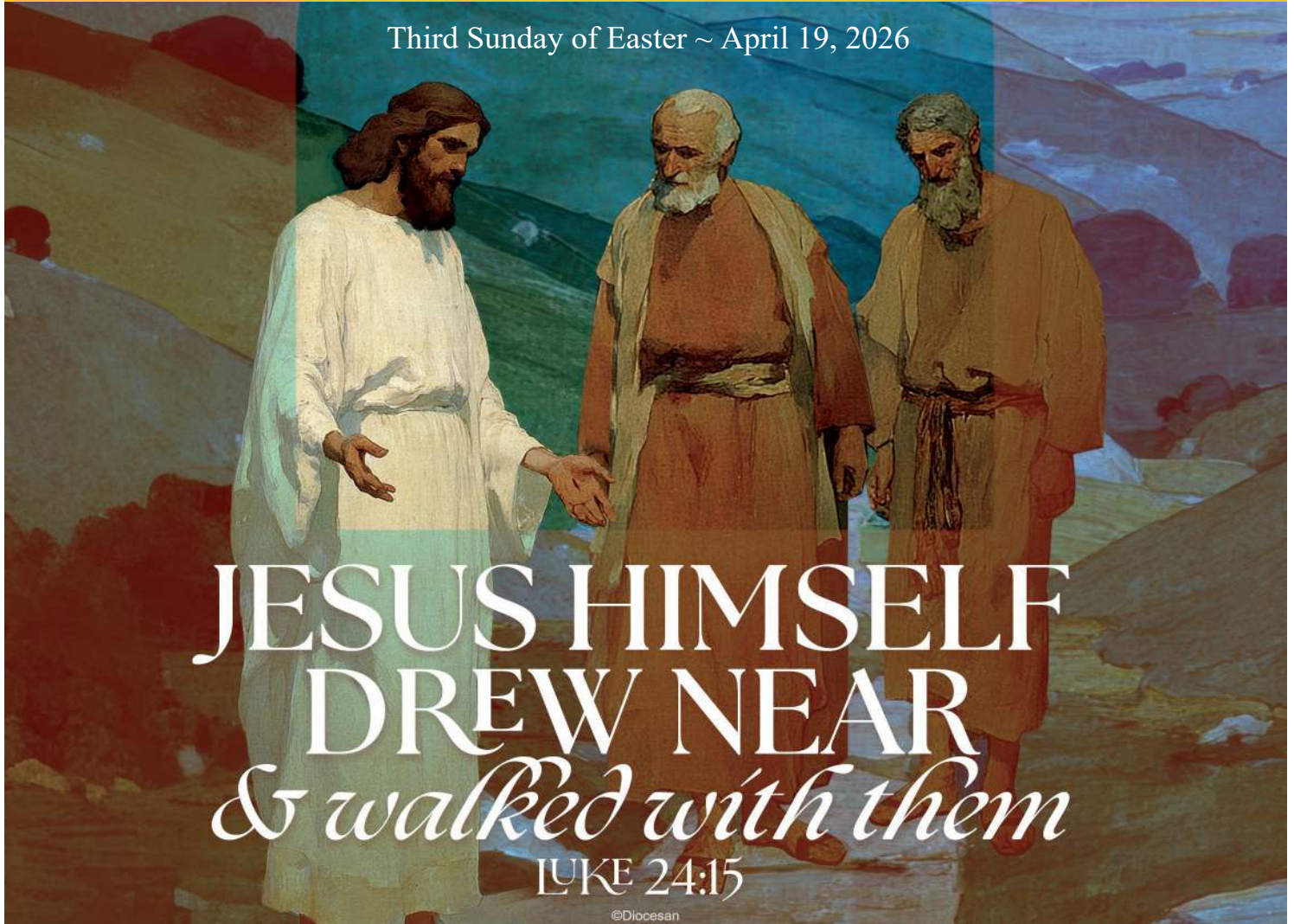


[www.stpeteretown.org](http://www.stpeteretown.org)

Email: [frboniwe@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:frboniwe@hbgdiocese.org)

717-367-1255

Third Sunday of Easter ~ April 19, 2026



### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Friday Closed  
Telephone: 717-367-1255 Fax: 717-367-1270

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening Vigil - 4:30 pm - Church  
Sunday - 8:30 am & 10:30 am - Church

### DAILY MASS ~ HISTORIC CHURCH & CHURCH

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00 am HC  
Thursday 6:00pm Church 5:30 pm Rosary C

### HOLY DAYS

Holy Day Vigil - 5:30pm C  
Holy Day - 7:00am HC 7:00pm Church  
(Mass Times subject to change)

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 5:15-5:30 pm Saturday 3:30-4:00 pm  
By Appointment

### PARISH STAFF

Deacon Gregory Amarante, [DGamarante@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:DGamarante@hbgdiocese.org)

Steve Desjardins, Parish Business Administrator x 5

Eileen M. Rider, Administrative Assistant x 2  
[secretary@stpeteretown.org](mailto:secretary@stpeteretown.org)

Kira Crispino, Parish Secretary x 2

Georgann Azzalina, Coordinator of Religious Education  
[cre@stpeteretown.org](mailto:cre@stpeteretown.org)

Michael Checco, Director of Liturgical Music  
[music@stpeteretown.org](mailto:music@stpeteretown.org)

Vicky Kern, OCIA Coordinator, [kernvicky64@gmail.com](mailto:kernvicky64@gmail.com)

Dearly Beloved,

"That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus..." (Lk 24: 13). Let's take some time on this "first day of the week," this third Sunday of Easter, to reflect on the importance and necessity of going to mass every Sunday (if inclement weather or poor health do not impede us). Catholics are expected to attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Why so? What is so special about Sunday? Early Christians received wisdom on the centrality of this day of all days in the week as a day primarily devoted to sacred worship. Pope St. John Paul II wrote of Sunday in the following words: "It is *Easter* which returns week by week, celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death, the fulfillment in him of the first creation and the dawn of "the new creation" (cf. 2 *Cor* 5:17). It is the day which recalls in grateful adoration the world's first day and looks forward in active hope to "the last day", when Christ will come in glory (cf. *Acts* 1:11; 1 *Th* 4:13-17) and all things will be made new (cf. *Rev* 21:5)" (*Dies Domini*, 1).



One of the earliest writings of the Church on early Christian understanding and practice on Sunday, "the first day of the week," is found in today's Office of Reading (Divine Office, the official prayer of the Church), St. Justin Martyr's "First Apologia," in which he describes what Christians did on that day: they assemble, they share the Word of Sacred Scriptures, and they partake in the Holy Eucharist. Here are words from St. Justin's "First Apologia": "We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on that same day our savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead."

Sunday is primarily the Lord's Day! It is not sports day (though we can play sports with family), it is not party day( though we can celebrate a party with family and friends), it is not a day to sleep all morning and watch TV (though we can indeed rest more and recreate with family by watching movies or sports on TV together); it is above all the day Christ is revealed sacramentally to the assemble of the faithful in the explanation of the Scriptures and the breaking of bread (see Lk 24:32,35). On the Jewish Sabbath, what did Jesus do? He often went to the temple to worship. As followers of Jesus, we should imitate his spirit by gathering in person on Sunday to glorify and praise God through the liturgies of the Word and the Eucharist.

Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation maintains God's covenant with us and offers him praise and thanksgiving for saving us from sin and death. It is why every Sunday is a mini-Easter, a day of the joyful celebration of the Risen Christ. The Mass on Sunday is preeminently foreshadowing the eternal banquet in heaven that we all look forward to. Therefore, it would be best if you looked forward to every Mass, especially on Sundays, as a foretaste of heaven, which is the purpose and destiny of our earthly journey. Always prioritize going to Mass on "the Lord's Day, the lord of days" (*Dies Domini* 2). Imagine missing Mass on Sunday as the equivalent of missing a taste of heaven on earth.

Congratulations to our children who received Holy Communion for the first time on Saturday. I taught them about the importance of attending Mass every Sunday. I told them it is the most excellent source of joy on earth: a meeting with the Real and Living Jesus. I pray they act on my instructions with the help of their parents and godparents. With Pope St. John Paul II, I invite you "to rediscover with new intensity the meaning of Sunday: its 'mystery', its celebration, its significance for Christian and human life" (*Dies Domini* 3). See you next Sunday! And strive to invite someone to mass if you can.

In Christ's Joy,  
Fr. Alayode, OP

### Third Sunday of Easter - April 19, 2026

*"Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him." (Luke 24:31)*

Just as the disciples recognized Jesus in their midst, couples are called to see Christ present in their marriage. In moments of shared love, sacrifice, and daily life together, Christ reveals Himself and strengthens their bond. Pray that more couples will open their hearts to His presence and live out their vocation with faith and joy.

### Sanctuary Candles Illuminate This Week:



~ **Historic Church** ~  
In Loving Memory of  
**Maureen Ludwig**  
From Steve and Pattie Desjardins

~ **Church** ~  
In Loving Memory of  
**Charles Holtz Jr.**  
From The Yoder Family



## Mass Intentions

**SAT APRIL 18**

4:30 PM + Our Parish Family

**SUN APRIL 19 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8:30 AM RE Catechists and Youth Helpers (C)  
Georgann Azzalina

10:30 AM + John Killian (C) The Killian Family

1:00 PM For All Priests & Religious (College Mass HC)

**MON APRIL 20**

8:00 AM + Rachel Snyder (HC) Azzalina Family

**TUE APRIL 21**

8:00 AM + Anne Burkhart (HC) Carmen and Joe

**WED APRIL 22**

8:00 AM + William Bradley (HC) Telenko Family

**THU APRIL 23**

6:00 PM Special Intentions of Daniel Wittman (C)  
Julie & Tim Wittman

**FRI APRIL 24**

8:00 AM + Emme Abel (HC) Brittany's Hope Staff

**SAT APRIL 25**

4:30 PM + Betty Shelley (C) St. Peter Men's Club

**SUN APRIL 26 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8:30 AM + Agnes Haggarty (C) Eileen Hill

10:30 AM Special Intentions of Loretta Zsido (C)  
Eileen and Kira

1:00 PM Our Parish Family (College Mass HC)



## Scripture Readings

For the week of April 19, 2026

**Sunday**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

**Monday**

Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30;  
Jn 6:22-29

**Tuesday**

Acts 7:51-8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a;  
17 and 21ab; Jn 6:30-35

**Wednesday**

Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a; Jn 6:35-40

**Thursday**

Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51

**Friday**

Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59

**Saturday**

**Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist**

1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

**Sunday**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6;  
1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

## Charismatic Mass

On Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Charismatic Mass with prayers for healing at St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus Church, 1300 Bridge St., New Cumberland. Reverend Arokiaraj Amalorpava, m.ss.cc, (Fr. Raj), Parochial Vicar, at St. Theresa, will be the celebrant. All are welcome. For more information, please call Mary Ann at 717-512-3628 or Vicki at 717-364-6260.



### ~ In Memoriam ~

**~Terry Murray~**

**Parishioner and husband of Susan**

*"Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him, O Lord, and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him. May All of the Faithful Departed, Through the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen."*

## Caring for the Caregiver

This workshop is sponsored by the Columbia Catholic Mental Health Ministry and will feature guest speaker

**Matt Brown, MA, LPC, CAADC**

Therapist at Ellie Counseling in Lancaster, PA



At this month's workshop - *Care for the Caregiver* - we will be looking at the caregiver of those who care for someone with a mental, emotional, or other significant health issue that affects a "whole" person. We will learn how caregivers can fight burnout; work through guilt; incorporate healthy self-care; and explore available local resources to aid caregivers navigate their care-giving and self-care journey.

Our guest speaker, Matt Brown, is well versed in presenting this topic as his expertise is in creating lasting behavioral change and supporting individuals with co-occurring mental health concerns.

Matt's professional background includes extensive experience in aiding those grappling with behavioral and substance addiction, trauma, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.

Matt's ultimate goal is to witness positive transformations within individuals and families, empowering them to evolve into their best selves.

**Location:** St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, 121 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Columbia PA 17512 Social Hall

**When:** Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7 PM



**Columbia Catholic  
Mental Health Ministry**

CCMentalHealthMinistry@gmail.com



## Stewardship

**April 11/12, 2026**

<b>SUNDAY ONLINE</b>	<b>\$ 7,541.00</b>
<b>SUNDAY ENVELOPES</b>	<b>\$ 11,214.00</b>
<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>\$ 27.00</b>
<b>TOTAL SUNDAY GIVING</b>	<b>\$ 18,782.00</b>
<b>EASTER</b>	<b>\$ 1,365 (\$9,224)</b>
<b>SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL</b>	<b>\$ 282.00</b>

### April Second Collections

April 26 Catholic Home Missions Appeal

### 2026 DAC "Faithful Stewards"

**Goal: \$81,743**

**Total gifts & pledges: \$ 62,219**

**Need: \$ 19,524**

*Do not let a day pass without doing some good during it.*  
- St. Philip Neri

## UNAFRAID OUT OF THE UPPER ROOM

### DIocese OF HARRISBURG YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Join young adults ages 18-39 for a weekend of reflection, formation, community, and rest. Celebrate Pentecost as we learn how to let the Holy Spirit dwell in us and move us out of our own Upper Rooms and into service of God's people, just as He did with the original disciples. The retreat includes spiritual talks, Mass, community prayer, Confession, small group discussions, fellowship, and fun!



Friday, May 22 7:00PM -  
Sunday, May 24 12:00PM



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Standard (Closes May 8th)  
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**Register Now!**

[www.hbgdiocese.org/lyaretreat](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/lyaretreat)

**Questions?**

Contact [zhaney@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:zhaney@hbgdiocese.org)



## Retrouvaille

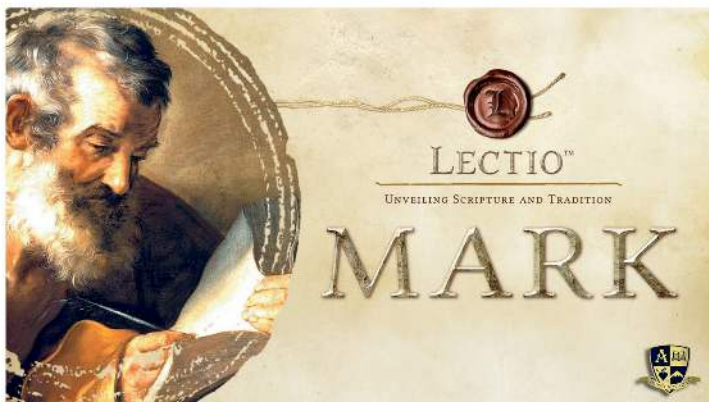
Hope for a Better Marriage

Does your marriage feel distant, strained, stuck, or even in crisis? Do you look perfect on the outside, but are not perfect on the inside? Retrouvaille can help. The Retrouvaille Marriage Program has helped thousands find new hope, better communication, and a deeper connection. Talk to someone now at 717-356-2185 or visit [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org) You can have a better marriage. Don't wait. Our next weekend will be May 1st-3rd, 2026.



### Hands of Christ – Creating Hope Benefit Dinner

Join Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Harrisburg for an inspiring evening of fellowship, reflection, and impact at our annual charity dinner. Enjoy a cocktail hour, silent auction, plated dinner, and a meaningful program featuring Dr. Anne DeSantis, with Dennis Owens as Master of Ceremonies. Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 5:00 – 8:00 PM at the Diocese Center, 4800 Union Deposit Rd, Harrisburg, PA. Individual Tickets: \$125. Your support helps provide vital services to individuals and families in need across our community. Reserve your seat today: <https://bit.ly/44VulrO> Together, we are creating hope!



### Saint Mark the Evangelist

Just who is St. Mark, the author of this short but action-packed Gospel? Using outside sources, other books of the Bible, and the Gospel itself, Dr. Gray takes a closeup look at St. Mark, and his connection with St. Peter and the Christians of Rome.

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## Parish Calendar

### Saturday, April 18

6:30 am That Man is You  
10:00 am First Holy Communion

### Sunday, April 19

CCW Hershey Gardens

### Monday, April 20

7:00 pm OCIA (Room 2)

### Tuesday, April 21

### Wednesday, April 22

6:30 pm PK4-6th RE  
7:00 pm Choir

### Thursday, April 23

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus

### Friday, April 24

### Saturday, April 25

6:30 am **LAST** That Man is You

### Sunday, April 26



A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Lenten Dinners. It was another successful year with 1,798 meals sold and sales exceeding \$22,520. We sold 1,174 chocolate Easter eggs for sales of \$2,348. These monies support Catholic education and our youth who attend SSBVM School. We could not do this without all the volunteers. Thank you- St. Peter Men's Club

### SAVE THE DATE



The St. Peter Men's Club Annual Golf Tournament will be Friday, June 26, 2026. The proceeds from the tournament support Catholic Education here at St. Peter Church. **Registration forms are on the board in the Narthex.** Please contact Mike Rider at 717-599-8114 or Steve Cook at 717-609-2972 with any questions.

### 2026 MEN'S CLUB CALENDAR WINNERS

**Jim & Georgann Cornell, Richard Esoldo, Michele Switalski, Jim Thornton, Hailey Figliola, Randy Shank, Monica Balchunas, Daniel Markiewicz, and Wendy Hauck**

Please join the CCW on Sunday, April 19th, for an outing to the Hershey Gardens. Enjoy the beauty of the Gardens and Butterfly House and Art Exhibit. We will car pool from the church parking lot at 1:00pm. Tickets will be purchased on site. Please RSVP to Terry Martin at 223-216-0727 or Jennifer Miller at 717-433-0643. Hope to see you there!



### PARISH PILGRIMAGE MAY 16, 2026

Save the Date! This year we will be travelling to Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. We hope you can join us. If you have any questions please contact Vicky Kern at [kpts@comcast.net](mailto:kpts@comcast.net). More information will be coming soon.

## MARK YOUR CALENDERS

40 HOURS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION  
MAY 17-19

**HOMILIST**  
**Rev. Benjamin Kwaghgba, OP**

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH,  
CHAMBERSBURG, PA

### Mass Attendance April 11/12

4:30 PM = 114  
8:30 AM = 164  
10:30 AM = 163  
**TOTAL = 441**

### God's Housekeepers

**Friday ~ April 24**

**Carole Pickel, Marie Strait, Ann Shank,  
Sue Anstead and Nancy Ritz**




All children entering PK4 through 6th Grade next fall are officially invited to spend a royal week with the King and Queen of Heaven and Earth. Enter through the gates of the kingdom and learn all about Mary and how she leads us closer to her Son, the King of Kings!

This year's Saint Peter VBS, "Cool Kingdom Party," will be held **July 12-16** from 6:00 to 8:00 PM each night.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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**Saint Peter Men's Club**

A parish Ministry dedicated to fostering the spiritual and social development of the men of Saint Peters through fellowship and service to the parish community.

For membership or information, call Mike at 717-367-5370

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