BACK TO CHURCH

Rev. Ron Baker
Church of the Good Shepherd-Tyrone
Warriors Mark Methodist Church

Every year, as winter begins to recede and we look forward to spring, the Christian calendar offers us a season—Lent—that is unlike any other. This is forty days of reflection, honesty, and renewal that lead us towards the joy of Easter morning—the glorious Day of Resurrection. Lent is a time in the church year that invites us to slow down, to breathe, and to rediscover what matters most.

For many people in our community, church was once a very familiar place. This was where you met your brothers and sisters in Christ, where you learned about God, where you grew closer to God. But at some point—for whatever reason—you walked away from church—and you have not returned. You are not alone and you are not being judged. Know that the doors of our churches are still open, the lights are still on, and the Lord is being worshipped by forgiven sinners every Sunday.

You see, Lent is not about judgment. Lent is not about guilt or shame. It is about clarity. Lent is a time for us to step back, take stock of our lives, and determine what is truly important. Our relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important thing in the world. It is the only thing we take with us when we leave this world—and church is where that relationship will be nurtured.

In church you can ask honest questions. You can bring your grief. You can celebrate your joys. You can be reminded that you are part of something far larger than yourself. Church is a place where community is not just a buzzword but a lived reality—where people pray for one another, show up for one another, and walk with one another through the ups and downs of time on earth.

As we move toward Easter—the celebration that is the very heart of the Christian faith—there is no better time to return. You see, Easter is not just a holiday. It is a declaration that hope is stronger than despair, that life is stronger than death, and that our Omnipotent God is still in the business of making all things new. Easter is the story of a great love that refuses to let darkness have the final word—and it is a story meant to be experienced in community.

You may be thinking, "But I'm out of the habit…" or, "I'm not sure I'd know anyone anymore…" or, "I'm not sure I'd fit in." Here is the simple truth. Every person you meet in church has felt—or still feels—the exact the same way. Every person you meet in church has struggled with sin—struggled with their faith. Christianity is not about having everything figured out but about taking one small step at a time. If you have been away for a while, Lent is the perfect moment to take that step. I do not say this because the church needs you in the pews, but because you may need what the church offers—a place to reconnect with God, with others, and with your own sense of purpose.

If you are seeking for a deeper sense of peace, if you are carrying grief that feels too heavy to bear alone, if you are searching for meaning in a world that often feels chaotic, if you miss the music, the prayers, the familiar rhythms of worship, now is the time for a fresh start. Churches across our area are preparing special services, studies, and gatherings during this season. They are ready to welcome newcomers, returning members, and anyone who is simply curious. You will find friendly faces, warm greetings, and a genuine desire to help you feel at home.

So, consider coming home for Lent. Step through the doors. Sit in the quiet. Sing the hymns. Hear the story again—the story of a God who loves us so much that he came to earth and died for us. Let this be your moment to return—not out of obligation, but out of hope—not because you have everything together, but because none of us do—not because the church is perfect—none of them are—but because God is.

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

Reverend Father Michael Pleva
623 E. 3rd Street, Bellwood
Masses: Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday 3:30 p.m.
& By Request

Saint Matthew Roman Catholic Church
1105 Cameron Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686 • (814) 684-1480
Reverend Father Michael Pleva
COME HOME TO THE CHURCH

We open our doors for all to celebrate with us God's gift of faith in His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. To have a spiritual family is a blessing so no matter how long you have been away and no matter what the reason, we invite you to start or to renew your relationship with the Catholic Church. Please join our parish family as we worship our good and gracious God.

OUR MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday - 7:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday 12:30 p.m.
Make this year of your earthly journey a life-changing experience.

Church Of The Good Shepherd
1650 Clay Ave., Tyrone • 814-684-2472
goodshepherdtyrone@gmail.com
www.goodshepherd-tyrone.org
Find us on Facebook:
"Church of the Good Shepherd Tyrone"
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9 A.M.

Warriors Mark Methodist Church
1840 Centre Line Rd., Warriors Mark • 814-632-6906
warriorsmarkmethodistchurch@gmail.com
www.warriorsmarkmethodistchurch.org
Find us on Facebook: Warriors Mark Methodist Church
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.
Pastor Ron Baker

First English Lutheran Church
17 West 13th Street • Tyrone
814-684-1430

Worship Schedule
Saturday Evening 5 p.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Morning 10:15 a.m.

www.tyronelutheran.org
Interim Pastor Peter Naschke

Tyrone Church Of The Brethren
"Sharing The Savior"
500 West 18th Street, Tyrone
814-684-4940
www.Tyronechurch.org

Join us Sunday mornings for a great time of worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a welcoming family, friendly atmosphere.

Passionately Proclaiming The Truth Of God's Word, One Verse At A Time

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.