

**150th Anniversary**

**Liturgical Resource**

**Overview of Resource**

*This resource has been compiled to assist parishes in observing the Diocesan 150th Anniversary Year during their weekend Masses. There are three major Pontifical Masses being celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter to commemorate the Anniversary Year, and each parish in the diocese is invited to use the texts and homily points for each of the corresponding weekends to unite their prayers with those of the diocesan celebration. This resource also includes intercessions for the Universal Prayer that can be used periodically throughout the various liturgical seasons, as well as hymn suggestions and information regarding a hymn being commissioned for the Diocesan Anniversary.*

**For the Weekend Masses of December 3, 2017—First Sunday of Advent**

***Opening Celebration to the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton***

**Introduction to the Mass:**

Celebrant: On this First Sunday of Advent, we are united in heart and mind with all of the faithful throughout the local Church, as we mark the beginning of the 150th Anniversary Year of the Diocese of Scranton. In today’s First Reading, the prophet Isaiah offers us imagery that “we are the clay, you are the potter.” During this anniversary year, we pray that we may be mindful of the many ways that the Lord has molded the Church of Scranton during its rich history, and pray that God will continue to sustain us and shape us as the work of his hands.

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *[The liturgy continues with the Penitential Act.]*

**Readings and Homily Points:**

* Is 63: 16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7
* Ps 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 “Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.”
* 1 Cor 1:3-9
* Mk 13: 33-37

The opening of the 150th Anniversary Year suggests a reflection on the heritage of faith and faithfulness across the generations. Surely each parish can bear witness to the “grace of God bestowed in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way.” The rich imagery of the Isaiah reading – “we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands” – could prove to set the theme for this liturgy. How could this awareness of being the “work of God’s hands” invite the community into the watchfulness of Advent with the dual awareness both of the revelation of God in past eras of the Church, as well as the vigilance in our time that he might “meet us doing right”? How has God’s grace shaped the Church of Scranton over the past 150 years, and what do we hope he finds in us in this new Advent?

**Universal Prayer**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Celebrant: As a people of faith and hope at the coming of the Lord Jesus, let us pray for our diocese during this 150th Anniversary Year and for all those in need.

*Intercessions*

1. For the Church throughout the world: That, united under our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we may be fully engaged in the task Christ has entrusted to us and be found awake and alert for the coming of the Lord, we pray to the Lord.
2. For the Diocese of Scranton, its bishop, Joseph, and all its people: May this year-long observation of the 150th Anniversary of its founding help renew our commitment towards our unity in Christ and charity towards all people, we pray to the Lord.
3. For all immigrants and refugees: that by recalling the diverse ethnic background of our diocese during this Anniversary Year, we may come to empathize with the struggle of the stranger and strive to welcome all people in the Church and in our land, we pray to the Lord.

*Additional parish intercessions are included here.*

*Conclusion*

Celebrant: Through all generations, O Lord, your faithfulness endures. Since you are the potter and we are the work of your hands, we ask you to hear our humble petitions. During this 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton, may we work eagerly to build your Kingdom so to be found blameless at the advent of your Son. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For the Weekend Masses of March 4, 2018—Third Sunday of Lent**

***Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton***

***(using the optional readings for the Third Sunday of Lent, Year A)***

**Introduction to the Mass:**

Celebrant: Our Lenten journey brings us to this Third Sunday of Lent when we also commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Scranton. United by the living water of our Baptism, the faithful from all over the eleven counties of our diocese come together to offer a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to God for a century and a half legacy of faith, hope and love. We know that God’s providence that sustained the past generations of faithful from our diocese continues to inspire us today, and, like the Samaritan woman at the well, impels us to go forward to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *[The liturgy continues with the Penitential Act.]*

**Readings and Homily Points:**

* Ex 17:3-7
* Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9 “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”
* Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8
* Jn 4: 5-42 *or* 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Pope Francis, in *The Joy of the Gospel*, says: “In the desert we rediscover the value of what is essential for living; thus in today’s world there are innumerable signs of the thirst for God, for the ultimate meaning of life. And, in the desert people of faith are needed who, by the example of their own lives, point out the way to the Promised Land and keep hope alive. We are called to be living sources of water from which others can drink.” (*EG* # 86) During this desert journey of Lent, the People of God of the Church of Scranton are invited to not only look back over the past 150 years, but also to look at this very immediate moment in which we are living the gospel. How is God calling us to testify to the “love of God poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit”? What story would you tell, like the woman who encountered Jesus at the well, about how God proves his love for you, for us? In a world still asking - like the thirsty desert travelers in today’s first reading from Exodus: “Is the Lord in our midst or not?” - what are the words and actions by which we can demonstrate to others that “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand”?

**Universal Prayer**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Celebrant: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the love of God has been poured into the hearts of many generations of faithful in the Diocese of Scranton. During this anniversary weekend, let us pray to God for our diocese and all those in need.

*Intercessions*

1. That the Church, united under our Holy Father, Francis, our bishop, Joseph, and all of the bishops, may proclaim the mighty deeds of God to all nations and in every language, we pray to the Lord.
2. That, on this 150th Anniversary of its founding, the Diocese of Scranton may be the rock of God, a foundation for all who believe in Christ Jesus, and the source providing the waters of life to all who thirst, we pray to the Lord.
3. That our observance of this Diocesan Anniversary may help us appreciate the gift of faith that has been entrusted to us by our parents and grandparents, and that we may inspire future generations to embrace their call born in the living waters of baptism, we pray to the Lord.

*Additional parish intercessions are included here.*

*Conclusion*

Celebrant: Just as you gave the Samaritan woman the gift of faith at the well, O God, so do you make your gift of faith known in the well of the baptismal water. Hear our prayers, and during this Diocesan Anniversary weekend, may we appreciate our unity that comes from faith so that we may profess you with courage and conviction, for it is the journey that makes us one. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For the Weekend Masses of November 25, 2018—Christ the King**

***Concluding Celebration to the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton***

**Introduction to the Mass:**

Celebrant: Our liturgical year draws to a close with this Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Also this weekend, we join our prayers with parishes throughout the eleven counties of the local Church in bringing to a close the 150th Anniversary Year of the Diocese of Scranton. During this past year as a diocese, we have commemorated our rich heritage, celebrated our presence as the Body of Christ in the world today, and now we look forward to our participation in the coming Kingdom of God.

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *[The liturgy continues with the Penitential Act.]*

**Readings and Homily Points:**

* Daniel 7: 13-14
* Ps. 93: 1-2, 5 “The Lord is King; he is robed in majesty.”
* Rev 1:5-8
* Jn 18:33b-37

The Biblical image of the “Kingdom of God” is a portrait of unity and harmony, where “all peoples, nations and languages” know and serve the one true God “who is, and who was and who is to come, the almighty.” We are offered this image in today’s readings, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King and as we bring to a close the Diocesan 150th Anniversary commemoration. The conviction and the hope which sustains us is in the promise that Jesus Christ has “made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father” in order to express the glory and power of God in a world still praying “thy kingdom come.” In what ways during this year have we recognized that “the journey makes us one?” How have our parishes made ”increasingly true and obvious our response to God in Christ” (Bishop Bambera’s Pastoral Letter)?

**Universal Prayer**

*Invitation to Prayer*

Celebrant: As we draw this Diocesan 150th Anniversary Year to a close, let us offer prayers to God in the name of Jesus, ruler of the kings of earth, whose dominion is vast and whose kingship shall never be destroyed.

*Intercessions*

1. For the Church: that all members may imitate Jesus their king by renouncing worldly power and bearing witness to Christ’s kingdom of justice, love and peace, we pray to the Lord.
2. For the Diocese of Scranton, fashioned by Christ into a kingdom of priests: that, as we conclude this 150th Anniversary Year, our worship may glorify God and our witness announce Christ’s reign, we pray to the Lord.
3. That all who are seeking God or striving to know the truth in their lives may find in the parishes of our diocese the faith, hope, and love that point to Christ, we pray to the Lord.

*Additional parish intercessions are included here.*

*Conclusion*

Celebrant: Eternal God, in every generation you have been our refuge. Hear the prayers we place before you. As this Diocesan 150th Anniversary Year draws to a close, teach us that to serve our brothers and sisters is to reign, and that to dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to you is to proclaim Christ as our king and Lord, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.

**Additional Intercessions for the Universal Prayer**

***Advent Season***

* For all the parishes of the Diocese of Scranton: May this 150th Anniversary Year inspire us to herald the glad tidings of God’s coming to gather and comfort all people, we pray to the Lord.

***Christmas Season:***

* For the Diocese of Scranton, that in this 150th Anniversary Year, parishes may proclaim that “God is with us” by our love for one another and our outreach to the unloved, we pray to the Lord.

***Lenten Season:***

* That all parishes in the Diocese of Scranton may embrace this season of repentance during this 150th Anniversary Year by acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we journey towards a renewal of our baptismal vows, we pray to the Lord.
* For the elect of our diocese: that, during this 150th Anniversary Year, they may know our prayerful support and find in us examples of intentional discipleship as they journey towards the waters of baptism, we pray to the Lord.

***Easter Season:***

* For the parishes of our diocese during this 150th Anniversary Year: that we who have not seen the risen Lord and yet have come to believe may be blessed in sharing the peace and forgiveness we have received, we pray to the Lord.
* That the neophytes of our diocese, born of God in the sacraments of initiation, may be models of enthusiasm and joy for our parishes during this 150th Anniversary of the Church of Scranton, we pray to the Lord.
* [Pentecost] For all who serve the Church of Scranton in a wide variety of ministries: That the Holy Spirit may inspire all of us during this Diocesan 150th Anniversary Year to place the gifts we have received at the service of the common good, we pray to the Lord.

***Ordinary Time***

* That by reflecting on the rich ethnic heritage of our Diocese during this 150th Anniversary Year, we may celebrate our diverse traditions and embrace our unity in Christ Jesus, we pray to the Lord.
* For all of the clergy and religious, living and deceased, that have faithfully served the Diocese of Scranton during its 150 year history: That they may come to know the reward of their goodness, we pray to the Lord.
* That, during this 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton, those who have left the Church may have their hardened hearts softened and straying steps guided home by the touch of God’s hand and the love of parishioners, we pray to the Lord.
* For all who have served the Diocese of Scranton as teachers, catechists, and mentors during its 150 year legacy: That their passing on the Catholic faith through the generations may spark a new fire of renewal and hope in the Church today, we pray to the Lord.
* For those whose labor is hard and whose wages are inadequate: That by remembering the role of coal miners and other labor industries in the 150 year history of the Diocese of Scranton, workers today may receive the sustenance they need and employment worthy of their dignity, we pray to the Lord.

**Commissioned Hymn and Suggested Hymns for the Anniversary Year**

*Karl T. DeBoeser has been commissioned to compose a hymn for the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton. This commissioned piece will be made available to all parishes in early February 2018. Here are other suggested songs to mark the Diocesan Anniversary:*

*Title Composer/Lyricist Publisher*

“Jerusalem, My Destiny” Cooney GIA

*The refrain concludes with the words of the Anniversary theme, “The Journey Makes Us One.”*

“Soli Deo Gloria” Haugen GIA

“Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam” Schutte OCP

“Companions on the Journey” Landry/Kinghorn OCP

“We Are Your People” Stuempfle WLP

“Journey of Faith” Dufner WLP

“Church of God, Elect and Glorious” Seddon Hope