



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

This Issue

DRE Network Meetings	p. 2
Virtual Learning	
Community for Faith Formation	p. 2
NCYC Group Leader Information Meeting	p. 2
Scranton Chapter of NPM 2019 Events	p. 3
Advent & Christmas Liturgical Resource	p. 3
Advent Resource for Married Couples	p. 4
2019 PreCana Schedule	p. 4
Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Applications	p. 5
Disability Ministries	p. 5
Advocacy Team	p. 5
Theology on Tap Series	p. 5
Stewardship Initiative	p. 6

The OPL Team would like to wish all pastors, assistant pastors, deacons, parish life coordinators, parish staff and parish leaders a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas season!



**Come,
Lord
Jesus!**

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
[Holy Day of Obligation]
December 8, 2018

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
[Holy Day of Obligation]
January 1, 2019



WORD

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."

DRE Network Meetings—January 2019

The 2019 January DRE Network Meetings will focus on Confirmation in 2019. Every parish is invited to send its DRE and/or a parish catechetical representative to one of the following Network Meetings. Meetings will be held in five locations, and every parish should be represented. Please choose one of these dates/locations and plan to join other parish DREs for an evening of prayer, fellowship, formation and information. Each meeting will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 17—Christ the King Parish
429 Church Street, Archbald 18403

Tuesday, January 22—Our Lady of Fatima Parish
134 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre 18701

Thursday, January 24—St. Matthew Parish
78 Ridgeway Street, East Stroudsburg 18301

Monday, January 28—Holy Family Academy
601 N. Laurel Street, Hazleton 18201

Tuesday, January 29—Resurrection Parish
75 Musser Lane, Muncy 17756

R.S.V.P. to Mary Anne Malone (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100 or mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org.

Echoes of Faith

Do you want to know more about your faith? Are you a catechist or DRE who is looking for a way to earn a certificate in catechesis? Can you spare an hour a week? The Echoes of Faith 3.0 is for YOU!

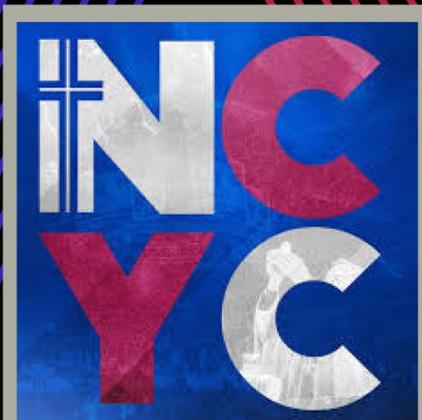
Created by the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) and published by RCL Benziger, *Echoes of Faith* is an online education program offering basic adult formation in the Catholic Faith.

With fourteen modules divided into three categories, the Echoes of Faith Learning Center can be used for parish Adult Faith Formation and for Basic Catechist Certification. It is also one way to complete the pre-requisites for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry.

Contact Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org for information on how to get started for an affordable \$15 a year.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Looking to learn more about your faith, or gain enrichment for your parish ministry? Members of the faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider taking a course through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation! Cycle 1 (2019) Session dates run from January 20 through February 23. Registration is now open and closes January 16, 2019. [Click here](#) to view the Course Calendar for 2019 or visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> and click 'calendar.'



November 21-23, 2019
Indianapolis

GROUP LEADER
INFO MEETING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
10:30AM
DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER
330 WYOMING AVE, SCRANTON



For More Information,
Contact Shannon Kowalski at 570-207-2213 x1155



Echoes of Faith 3.0
The BEST Basic
Formation for
Catechists and Catholic
School Teachers!

SAVE THE DATE!!
ISLI
FEBRUARY 15-17, 2019
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS JOIN US FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE AT CAMP LADORE!
REGISTRATION INFO COMING SOON!

“CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church.”

WORSHIP

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training

The Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on **Saturday, January 26 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM** at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton.



Candidates for the training should have the approval of his or her pastor/parish life coordinator. There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided. To register, please fill out the [EMHC Training Registration Form](#) or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 and be sure to include your mailing address, phone number and the name of your parish.

Resources for Atonement and Healing

Resources for ongoing prayer for atonement and healing for victims of sexual abuse in our diocese, including a sample rosary with reflections on the Sorrowful Mysteries, sample intercessions and prayers can be found on the [diocesan website](#). The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has also provided a resource which can be found on its website, [fdlc.org](#) under 'resources.'



Advent & Christmas Liturgical Resource



Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has compiled a liturgical resource to assist parishes in preparing liturgies for the Advent and Christmas season. This resource includes a Penance Service

with alternate readings, music suggestions, sample penances, a liturgical calendar advisory for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, and more. To download this resource, please [click here](#) or visit [fdlc.org](#) and click on 'resources.'

Since 1969, it has been the mission and privilege of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) to provide liturgical formation for the Dioceses of the United States. Many thanks to the Confraternity for Christian Doctrine, to the USCCB, and to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy for their kind permission to use and distribute their copyrighted material.



Scranton NPM 2019 Events

Mark your 2019 calendars now and plan on attending the upcoming spiritual and informative events of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Here is a listing of what's in store:

- **Evening of Reflection on Lent** —Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00PM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Swoyersville
- **Cathedral Art, Music & Architecture Tour** — Monday, May 13 at 6:00PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton
- **42nd Annual NPM Convention**—July 16-19 in Raleigh, NC
- **Resources for Selecting Liturgical Music**—Monday, September 16 at 6:00PM at St. John Neumann Parish (Holy Name site), Scranton
- **Creating Effective Worship Aids**—Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00PM at Holy Name of Jesus, West Hazleton

For more information about any of these events or to download the 2019 Scranton NPM Events flyer, [click here](#) or visit [ScrantonNPM.com](#).

Looking to Have a Workshop for Your Liturgical Ministers?

Are your cantors or choir members in need of training on the basics of the ministry? Could your lectors or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion use a "refresher" course or a day of reflection? Board Members of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians are here to help provide a workshop or session for your parish ministers. Some potential topics include:

- **Choir Basics: Making the Most of Out of What You've Got**
- **The Body of Christ: Our Identity and Purpose**
- **Reading vs. Proclaiming: The Role of the Lector**
- **Fostering Sung Prayer: Synchronizing the Organist, Cantor, Choir and Assembly**
- **Not Just a Pretty Voice: The Cantor as a Leader of Prayer**

Please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org to discuss how we can help address your parish's needs. You can visit the Scranton Chapter of NPM online at [ScrantonNPM.com](#).

A Simple and Meaningful Way to Support Engaged Couples

Is your parish looking for a way to support your parishioners who are involved in the PreCana process? One simple way to show an engaged couple your care is to send a personal letter of prayer and support to them on their PreCana Day of Reflection. The Marriage Sponsor Couple Ministry at St. Therese's Church has recently begun this beautiful practice.

To learn more, please contact Beth Aciukewicz, aciukewicz.beth@gmail.com, at St. Therese's, or Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, Office for Parish Life. jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org (570) 207-2213 x 1104.

An Advent Resource for Married Couples

Waiting Together: An Advent Devotional for Catholic Married Couples is a daily devotional through which married couples can both prepare for Advent and strengthen their marriage.

For those who are already in the habit of praying together as a couple, this may be a newly meaningful way to prepare for Advent together. For those who have not yet begun the practice of regular couple prayer time, this might be a transformative Advent experience for the two of you!

The booklet is a printable digital download; the cost is \$10. It can be purchased at by [clicking here](#).

2019 PreCana Day of Reflection Schedule

- ◆ Sunday, January 27—Scranton
- ◆ Saturday, February 9—Dickson City
- ◆ Saturday, March 16—Wilkes-Barre
- ◆ Saturday, March 23—Duryea
- ◆ Saturday, March 30—Drums
- ◆ Saturday, April 27—Montoursville
- ◆ Sunday, May 5—Scranton
- ◆ Saturday, May 18—Tannersville
- ◆ Saturday, June 1—Wilkes-Barre
- ◆ Saturday, June 15—Dickson City
- ◆ Saturday, July 20—Drums
- ◆ Sunday, August 25—Scranton
- ◆ Saturday, September 21—Montoursville
- ◆ Saturday, October 12—Duryea
- ◆ Saturday, November 9—Wilkes-Barre
- ◆ Saturday, December 7—Scranton

Registration for a PreCana Day of Reflection can be completed on the diocesan website at

www.dioceseofscranton.org.

To learn more, contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, (570)-2078-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

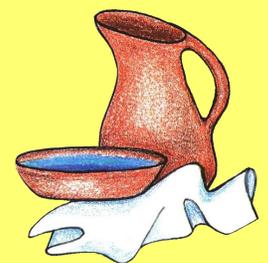


Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting Applications for January 2019

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for January 2019!

The Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry is a ministry formation program designed to equip and advance the servant leadership capacities of individuals serving their parish in areas such as:

- Parish Pastoral Councils,
- Directors of Religious Education and Catechists,
- Liturgical Coordinators,
- Parish Staff,
- Volunteer Ministry teams, and others!



Through independent online study with the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), as well as regional skills workshops and opportunities for prayer and reflection, Diocesan Certificate candidates enrich their knowledge base, while also learning practical tools for effective ministry in their faith communities.

Starting with our New Candidate Orientation Retreat on Saturday, January 26, 2019, the Office for Parish Life anticipates welcoming new candidates into the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry program in the New Year.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Kitty Scanlan, Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation, at 570-207-2213, or by email at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for application information, materials, and application submissions.

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

SERVICE

Advocacy Team

The Diocesan Advocacy Team met for the first time in late November. The team is dedicated to serving the Church by promoting values of Catholic Social Teaching on a local, state, and national level. If you are interested in advocacy (from letter-writing to in-person lobbying) please consider signing up for our listserv. Contact Katy Windels at Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org for more information.

Disability Ministries

In the coming months, the Diocese of Scranton will be hosting Open House opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families. We want to learn more about your experiences and see how we can develop ministries to welcome all members of our parish communities. If your parish is interested in hosting one of these sessions, or would like to offer any suggestions on the development of these ministries here in the Diocese of Scranton, please contact Katy Windels at Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org.

Save the Date: March for Life

The National March for Life will be held on January 18, 2019 in Washington, DC. Some of our local parishes will be sponsoring buses. Other transportation will be organized by Pennsylvanians for Human Life. Information on transportation will be published in the Catholic Light, or you can contact your local parish for more information.

The Diocese is also planning a Scranton March for Life in the (warmer weather of) October, 2019. We hope to visit a number of local sites that are significant to the dignity of life from conception to natural death. If you are interested in being involved in the planning of this event, please contact Katy Windels.



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
SPEAKER
PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC
RECONCILIATION
SOCIAL**

Monday, December 3 at 6:30PM
Nativity of Our Lord Parish
127 Stephenson St., Duryea

For more information,
visit www.vocations.dioceseofscranton.org
or call 570-780-2996.

Friends of the Poor Holiday Program Schedule

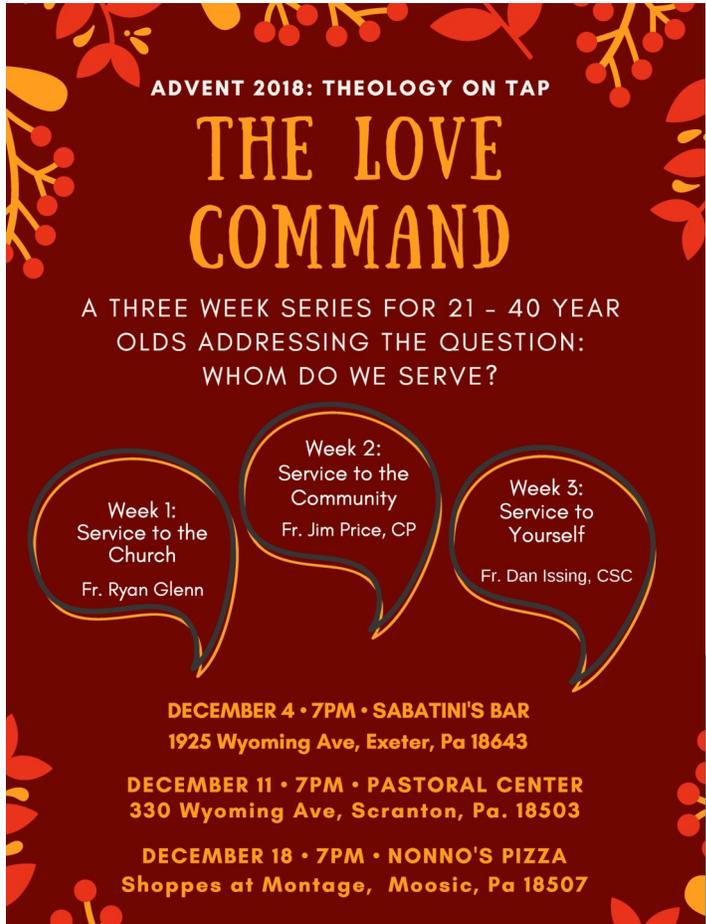
Friends of the Poor will hold its annual holiday programming in November and December. All are welcome; however, pre-registration is required for the Toy Giveaway.

- Monday, December 3rd - Christmas Dinner for Adults and Elderly at St. Mary's Center 320 Mifflin Ave, Scranton, PA 18503; Doors open at 5PM
- Tuesday, December 18th - Christmas Toy Giveaway in Partnership with Catholic Social Services. Register with Catholic Social Services, 516 Fig Street, Scranton November 12th - 16th
- Thursday, December 20th - Family to Family Christmas Food Basket Program at St. Mary's Center 320 Mifflin Ave, Scranton, PA 18503; Doors open at 9AM



FRIENDS OF THE POOR

To volunteer for or donate towards these events, please call Friends of the Poor at **570-340-6086**.



ADVENT 2018: THEOLOGY ON TAP

THE LOVE COMMAND

A THREE WEEK SERIES FOR 21 - 40 YEAR OLDS ADDRESSING THE QUESTION:
WHOM DO WE SERVE?

- Week 1: Service to the Church
Fr. Ryan Glenn
- Week 2: Service to the Community
Fr. Jim Price, CP
- Week 3: Service to Yourself
Fr. Dan Issing, CSC

DECEMBER 4 • 7PM • SABATINI'S BAR
1925 Wyoming Ave, Exeter, Pa 18643

DECEMBER 11 • 7PM • PASTORAL CENTER
330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, Pa. 18503

DECEMBER 18 • 7PM • NONNO'S PIZZA
Shoppes at Montage, Moosic, Pa 18507

Grateful Disciples:

Building a Culture of Stewardship in the Diocese of Scranton

Since September of this year, eleven parishes have been actively engaged in a pilot process called “Grateful Disciples: Building a Culture of Stewardship in the Diocese of Scranton.” These parishes have been supported by an Integration Team of facilitators and coaches, helping them to study, apply their new learnings to implementation plans for 2019, and ensuring that these plans are integrated with the existing pastoral plan already guiding each participating community. The pilot parishes are:

St. Vincent de Paul, Dingman’s Ferry
Saints Peter and Paul, Plains
Epiphany, Sayre
St. John the Evangelist, Pittston
St. Joseph Marelo, Pittston
St. John Vianney, Montdale

Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton
St. Katharine Drexel, Pleasant Mount
Ascension, Forest City
Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Brodheadsville
St. Joseph the Worker, Williamsport



Pilot participants have gathered monthly all together – in person and through webinar – with our consultant, Leisa Anslinger of *Catholic Life and Faith*. Between these gatherings, each parish group has met to continue developing strategies for integrating the message of Grateful Disciples into their parish activities relative to: Hospitality and Welcome, Communication, Engaging Parishioners, and Annual Renewal of Participation Agreements. The January gathering will be a “show and tell” opportunity for each parish to present their unique approach to this process. From the efforts of this pilot initiative, all of the remaining parishes of the Diocese will benefit with the refined tools and experienced guides. We are currently enlisting parishes to begin this process in late January.

The themes of the Grateful Disciples Pilot process are also the focus of the **2019 Office for Parish Life Calendar**. Parish leaders will appreciate this opportunity to reflect together, share faith, and pray into a parish culture of gratefully tending all of God’s good gifts. Copies of the calendar were sent to each parish this week – let us know how many additional calendars your parish needs. You may also download and print the calendar at this link: [2019 Office for Parish Life Calendar](#). Some parishes use the monthly pages in their parish bulletins.

To further assist those parishes working to more deeply incorporate the spirituality of stewardship into their parish life, the Office for Parish Life will be offering a new toolkit. The **Stewardship Toolkit** will be formatted similarly to those currently offered for Communication, Engagement, Evangelization, Hospitality, and Adult Faith Formation. To access any of these toolkits, go to <https://scrantontoolkits.weebly.com/>. Questions? Contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, 570-207-2213 x 1104, or at jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**
Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**
Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry: **Shannon Kowalski**
Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**
Coordinator for SERVICE and Social Justice: **Katy Windels**
Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**
Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**
Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**
Consultant for Community Connections: **Dominick Costantino**
Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**
Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**
Coordinator for Parish Cultural Integration: **Luis Rivera, OFS**
Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**
Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres** Data Manager/Registrar: **Nancy Valtos**
Administrative Assistant: **Diane Franklin** Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**



Office for Parish Life
330 Wyoming Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503
phone: 570-207-2213
fax: 570-207-2204

oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org
www.dioceseofscranton.org



SUBSCRIBE