



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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**Come,
Lord
Jesus!**

*Wishing all
pastors,
assistant pastors,
deacons,
parish staff
and
parish leaders
a blessed
Advent
and
a joyous
Christmas
season!*

**Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception
of Mary**
[Holy Day of Obligation]
December 8, 2017

**Solemnity of
Mary, Mother of God**
*[NOT a Holy Day of
Obligation this year]*
January 1, 2018





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."

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 prerequisites for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry.

Contact Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org for information on getting started for only \$15 a year.

Ministry Skills Workshop

Save the Date for the new series of 2018 Ministry Skills Workshops, starting February 3rd! **'Rules and Regs': An Exploration of Canon Law, and Administrative Strategies for Ministry** will be presented by Fr. Jeffrey Tudgay and Catherine Butel on Saturday February 3, 2018 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton.

All parish ministers are welcome to attend! Stay tuned to the OPL *Good News Notes* and the Diocese of Scranton website in January for more information on registration, and other upcoming workshop opportunities!

DRE Network Meetings—January 2018

Every parish is invited to send its DRE and/or a parish catechetical representative to one of the January DRE Network Meetings. Meetings will be held in four 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.

Wednesday, January 17

St. Ann Basilica
Shrine Dining Room
1250 St. Ann Street
Scranton 18504

Tuesday, January 23

Holy Family Parish
828 Main Street
Sugar Notch 18706

Thursday, January 25

St. Joseph the Worker Parish
Fleming Center
720 West Fourth Street
Williamsport 17701

Wednesday, January 31

Holy Rosary Parish
240 S. Poplar Street
Hazleton 18201

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

ISLI
FEBRUARY 16-18
FOR GRADES 9-12
 CAMP LADORE - WAYMART, PA



REGISTRATION
OPENS
DECEMBER 21
 CALL (570) 207-2213 FOR INFO



Cantor & Accompanist Workshop Day

Cantors and accompanists: does your ministry help the assembly and YOU to pray? Many of us love to sing, but what skills are needed to transform us from mere singers into the musical leaders of the assembly's song? The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) will hold a workshop for cantors and accompanists on **Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM at McCormick Campus Ministry Center at King's College, Wilkes-Barre.** This day session entitled, "Yours Is a Share...That Draws us Together into One" will cover the techniques, preparation, and skills necessary to be an effective cantor. Cantoring requires good vocal technique coupled with posture, presence, awareness and teamwork with your accompanist. There is no fee, but a free-will offering will be take up to help offset the cost of lunch. To register, please contact David Baloga, Scranton NPM Program Director at 570-207-2213, ext.1158 or visit the Scranton Chapter of NPM website at ScrantonNPM.com. Please join us, bring music, and be prepared to sing!



Advent & Christmas Liturgical Resource

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, [click here](#).



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.

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 27 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.

Anticipating the *Misal Romano*

The final text of the *Misal Romano, Tercera Edición* was received from the Holy See in August 2017 and the mandatory implementation date has been set for the First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018. A first-use date has also been set for Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. There will be three publishers of the ritual edition: Catholic Book Publishing Co., Liturgical Press, and Magnificat. For resources to help your Hispanic/Latino community receive the new Misal Roman, visit the [FDLC website](#).



Bold Choices Retreat
FINDING YOUR PASSION AND LIVING IT FULLY

Friday, January 5 -Saturday, January 6

Young Adults (18 and older)

PRAYER
MAKING CHOICES BASED IN FAITH
FINDING YOUR PASSION
THE ART OF DISCERNMENT
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
& MORE!

Cost: \$65.00

St. Gabriel's Retreat Center
631 Griffin Pond Road
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

REGISTER ONLINE:
VOCATIONS.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG

Diocese of Scranton
Vocation Office
570-207-1452



COMMUNITY

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who build COMMUNITY through hospitality, respect, inclusion and holiness."

New Program to Support "Earlyweds" in Your Parish

Looking for a way to support young married couples (those married 5 years or less)? Offer them a chance to walk through Pope Francis' wise exposition of 1Cor 13 in The Joy of Love. Host this new 6-session program written by Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, in consultation with Ann Perrin, cnd, lmft, that features individual reflection, couple discussion and group activities. Because Millennials like to construct their own knowledge, leading the program simply means that a more seasoned married couple facilitates the discovery process. (Support for setting up the program is provided.) Help young couples to understand more deeply the reading so many of them choose for their wedding ceremony and to grow in their ability to love. Contact the Office for Parish Life to discuss starting this in your parish.

Parish Sponsor Couple Program for Marriage Preparation Available January 2018!

Pairing engaged couples with sponsor couples is an effective way to prepare engaged couples for marriage, because it gives them personal attention, builds a bridge into your parish community and gives them mentors to rely on through the early years of marriage. A parish sponsor couple program also helps the married couple strengthen their own marriage. The Office for Parish Life will offer a program for parish use starting in January 2018. In four sessions, couples will explore and discuss the same topics currently covered in the popular Diocesan PreCana Days of Reflection, with video content featuring John Regula and Bernadette Rudolph. Contact the Office for Parish Life to discuss starting this in your parish.

Books Make Great Christmas Gifts!

Need ideas? Visit the [Little Free Library](#), OPL's collection of good books for parishioners to learn about Catholic spirituality, Scripture, the saints, Eucharist, ecclesiology and more -- all in the spirit of Vatican II! This can be a bridge between good materials and parishioners. You can access the site through Pinterest or by emailing [Bernadette Rudolph](#) for a pdf listing. New books were added in November. Titles are recommended for various uses:



- The Eucharistic adoration chapel library
- Adult catechesis
- Individual enrichment
- Small group study
- "Thank you" gifts for volunteers
- The parish library

Youth RETREATS 2018

HIGH SCHOOL: A leadership retreat for high school students in grades 9-12. A peer-lead experiences that focuses on enhancing, or uncovering existing leadership potential. The goal of ISLI is to empower students to be leaders in their schools, communities, and especially their parishes.

February 16-18
@ Camp Ladore -Waymart, Pa
See page 2 for details.

July 9-12
@ Misericordia University - Dallas, Pa

JUNIOR HIGH: A weekend retreat for 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. Team-building exercises, problem solving skills, and small group processing helps students discover their strengths and inherent goodness. The skills learned during this retreat will help students get 'up & over' their challenges.

UP & OVER

June 1-3
@ Camp Orchard Hill - Dallas, Pa

September 28-30
@ Camp Orchard Hill - Dallas, Pa

"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



150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Scranton

- Be sure to "like" Diocese of Scranton 150th Anniversary on [Facebook](#). This will be the central location on social media with all information about the anniversary, pictures, videos and events going on in the different parishes and schools throughout the Diocese. Help us spread the word by sharing the page!

We encourage everyone to use the hashtag **#DoS150** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram when posting about diocesan, parish and school events related to the 150th Anniversary Year.

- Thanks to the parishes who have been notifying us of your Anniversary related events we can post these on the 150th Anniversary Facebook page. **We are also collecting photos and visual effects** from your various Anniversary activities for an exhibit to conclude the year.
- Orders are still being taken for the **150th Anniversary Banner** (pictured right) to be displayed in the Spring at all Diocesan and Parish institutions. To place your pre-order, call Jennifer at 570-207-2213.
- The **150th Anniversary Parish Participation Kits** were mailed and emailed to all parishes and are also available on the [150th Anniversary page](#) of the diocesan website. This resource includes the Anniversary logo, a calendar of events for the year, suggestions for local parish participation and a parish liturgical resource to help commemorate the Anniversary year.



Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Program, 2018

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider **application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for January 2018!**

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:

- Pastoral Council,
- Director of Religious Education and Catechist,
- Liturgical Coordinator,
- 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 parish ministry in their faith communities.

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. Deadline to apply is Monday, January 15, 2018





Anniversary Year Prayer

Holy Spirit, at work in our lives
and in the lives of our ancestors,
You created the Church at Pentecost
and made it a sacrament of Jesus for the world.

We thank you for creating
the Diocese of Scranton 150 years ago
and rooting it in faith, hope and love.
We marvel at the journey you have traveled
with our bishops, laity, religious, priests and deacons.

Continue to strengthen us as one family.
Give us the clarity to focus on the things that last:
-faith in you and the Gospel,
-hope in the Resurrection
-and the love of our God.

Amen.

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**
 Consultant for Youth and Campus Ministry: **Fred Mercadante**
 Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**
 Coordinator for RCIA: **Fr. Bob Simon**
 Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns:
 Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**
 Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**
 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**
 Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**
 Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres** Data Manager/Registrar: **Nancy Valto**
 Administrative Assistant: **Diane Franklin** Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**



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