



January 2019

GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God

Thursday, January 24, 2019
at 12:10PM
Cathedral of Saint Peter

Director of Religious Education/ Youth Minister Network Meetings



The January DRE/Youth Minister Network Meetings will focus on Confirmation in 2019. Members of the Office for Parish Life team will be on hand to discuss:

- ◆ Diocesan-wide Confirmation Liturgies to be held on Pentecost Sunday, June 9
- ◆ Transition from Confirmation preparation to Youth Ministry
- ◆ Current issues in Safe Environment
- ◆ Upcoming formation opportunities for DREs and Youth Ministers including a retreat in April and Catechist Camp in August

Every parish should be represented, so we invite each DRE and Youth Minister or another parish catechetical representative to one of the following Network Meetings. Please choose one of these dates/locations and plan to join other parish DREs and YMs 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.**



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."

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](https://vlcff.udayton.edu/) to view the Course Calendar for 2019 or visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> and click 'calendar.'

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.



2019 YOUTH EVENTS

Save the Date!

ISLI: FEB 15-17 & JULY 8-11

DAYBREAK: APRIL 26 - 28

UP&OVER: MAY 31 - JUNE 2

LIGHT THE FIRE: JUNE 26

NCYC: NOVEMBER 20-24

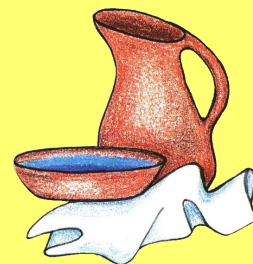
FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT SHANNON KOWALSKI
AT 570-207-2213 X 1155

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.

Save the Date:

Intercultural Music Ministry Workshop

Mark your calendars now and invite your music directors, instrumentalists, cantors and choir members to join us for an **Intercultural Music Ministry Workshop on Saturday, March 30 at St. Nicholas Parish, Wilkes-Barre.** Damaris Thillet, Associate Director of Worship & Christian Initiation for the Diocese of Camden, Director of Liturgy and Music at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Camden, will be leading the day-long workshop that will focus on the liturgical formation of music ministers serving in parishes with Hispanic and Latino populations. More details to come!



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.’

LTP Catholic Liturgy Courses

Liturgy Training Publications in collaboration with the National Association of Pastoral Musicians is offering a series of training courses entitled *The Essentials of Catholic Liturgy*, offered in three tracks to provide instruction and formation in the fundamentals of Catholic liturgy and the essential liturgical documents. These tracks will be offered online throughout the year and in person at the NPM National Convention. Register for the first track of six weekly sessions, “The Basics of Liturgy,” by January 14, 2019. For more information, visit [www.ltp.org](#).

Rite of Election

The **Rite of Election** will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera on **Sunday, March 10 at 2:30PM**. RCIA Coordinator Information and Enrollment forms will be available after January 15, 2019 on the diocesan website under [Christian Initiation Resources](#). Parishes with new RCIA Coordinators are asked to contact Nancy Valtos at the Office for Parish Life and provide their new contact information.

World Day of the Sick

A Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera for the twenty-seventh World Day of the Sick on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 12:10PM at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Parishes around the diocese are encouraged to offer a Mass for the Sick that includes the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick either on February 11 or another convenient day near it. Resources for World Day of the Sick can be found on the diocesan website or on the [National Association of Catholic Chaplains website](#).



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed from Friday, January 18 through Thursday, January 25. A sample ecumenical celebration of the Word of God is available through the [Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute website](#) at [www.geii.org](#).

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](#).

COMMUNITY

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

A Simple and Meaningful Way to Support Engaged Couples

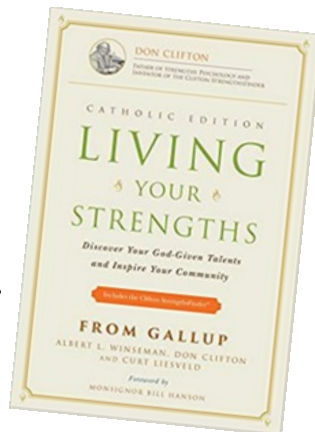
Is your parish looking for an opportunity to support parishioners who are involved in the PreCana process? One simple way to show an engaged couple your care is to send a personal letter of prayer and support to them on their PreCana Day of Reflection. The Marriage Sponsor Couple Ministry at St. Therese's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

Living Your Strengths Workshops Coming Soon!

Do you envision a parish community in which every member is valued for his or her unique gifts and talents? Could your parish benefit from having parishioners serve in ways they enjoy and in which they can do a great job? Would you like to see parishioner engagement move from a 'slots to fill' approach into a strengths-based ministry approach?



When parish members serve in the ministries that are well-suited to their God-given unique strengths and abilities, a dramatic shift in parishioner engagement can occur. In order to help facilitate strengths-based parishioner engagement, the Office for Parish Life will be offering Living Your Strengths Workshops beginning in early 2019. These workshops can help your parishioners identify their unique strengths, and explore the ways in which those strengths can be used to best serve the parish community. A workshop can also serve to help your ministry teams learn how the strengths of each team member can complement and enhance the strengths of those with whom they serve. This knowledge can lead to greater understanding, appreciation, and productivity within ministry teams.

To learn more about Living Your Strength Workshops, or to schedule a workshop for your parish group, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

Couples Invited To Participate in Wedding Anniversary Celebration

On June 30, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the Wedding Anniversary Mass at 2:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, for couples celebrating their 25th or 50th year of marriage in 2019. This is an occasion to recognize the role married couples play in the Church's mission to bring God's faithful love into the world. Couples will have the opportunity to renew their commitment to marriage and to receive a blessing on their marriage from the Bishop. A reception will follow in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, where anniversary couples will be able to have their picture taken with the Bishop. Eligible couples should give their names and an April mailing address to their parish office before April 2. Parish lists are due to the Office for Parish Life by April 9.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Share Group

Have You Attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend?

Would you like to gather with other WWME alumni in a small group sharing community?

Would you like to extend an invitation for others to join a current WWME Share Group?

There is a new WWME Share Group being hosted by John and Joanie Walsh of St. Lucy's Parish. If your spouse and you have attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, gathering with a WWME Share Group could be a great way to extend the benefits of the Weekend for your marriage. If you would like to attend this gathering in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area, please contact John or Joanie at (719) 339-9970, joaniewalsh528@hotmail.com.



If you are already involved with a WWME Share Group in the Diocese of Scranton, and would like your group to be listed on our Marriage Support webpage so that others might join you, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director of Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

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 is 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 at Katy-Windels@dioceseofscranton.org.

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 for more information.

Pro-Life Postcard Campaign



The Diocese of Scranton will be initiating a pro-life postcard campaign throughout the month of January. We hope that all parishes will participate in the weekends of January 13 and January 20. Especially as we look forward to the 2019 March for Life, we would like to emphasize our diocesan commitment to advocating for the protection of life from conception until natural death. A packet with these postcards, Bishop Bambera's letter, and details about how to participate is being sent to each parish by mail and email.

Postcards may be sent to local or national legislators, or can be returned to the Office for Parish Life. We will deliver the postcards to our senators and representatives in Washington, DC in early February. Thank you for participating in this important campaign!

January Theology on Tap

The Office for Parish Life will be hosting **Theology on Tap on Tuesday, January 22 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center**. Emma Gallagher, a campus minister at King's College, will be speaking on the topic *New Year, New Me: Setting Healthy Expectations for 2019*. Dinner will be provided for seven dollars and drinks will be available for purchase. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

ISLI



A peer facilitated faith-based leadership retreat for students in grades 9 -12

February 15-17, 2019
Camp Ladore - Waymart, Pa

For More Info:

Visit Dioceseofscranton.org
or call 570-207-2213 x1155

Applications available online



@ISLIDOS



@SCRANTON_YM



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
SPEAKER
PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC
RECONCILIATION
SOCIAL

Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 6:00PM

Saint Jude Parish
420 S. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top

For more information,
visit www.vocations.dioceseofscranton.org

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, Milford Twp.
Saints Peter and Paul, Plains
Epiphany, Sayre
St. John the Evangelist, Pittston
St. Joseph Marello, 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](https://www.dioocesofscranton.org/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@dioocesofscranton.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 Hvozdoivic**
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**



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