



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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World Day of the Sick
Monday, February 11
at 12:10PM
Cathedral of St. Peter

Mass for Developmental
& Intellectual Disabilities
Awareness
Sunday, February 24
at 10:00AM
Cathedral of St. Peter

Ash Wednesday Retreat with Fr. Joseph Sica



The Office for Parish Life will offer a Retreat on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The faithful of the Diocese are invited to share in this day of prayer.

Fr. Joseph F. Sica, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton for over 36 years currently serving as Senior Priest at Immaculate Conception Parish in Scranton, will lead the retreat. He is the author of several books including *Embracing Change: 10 Ways to Grow Spiritually* and *Forgiveness: One Step at a Time*. He has also published booklets of daily prayer and reflection for Advent and Lent. Fr. Sica is a well-known speaker and retreat leader. The Ash Wednesday Retreat will be planned around this theme:

Unhappy with Life? Change It!

It takes a combination of confidence and courage to step away from what isn't adding to your life or isn't working and change it! Do it now! Ignore the critics who will tell you, "You'll never change – you were always this way." "People will laugh at you." This is not for you." Whether it's your relationships, family, career, or simply yourself – unhappy? Change it! You can!

Fr Sica will offer the retreat in three parts with time for reflection and personal prayer. The day will include the 12:10 p.m. Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Cathedral with distribution of ashes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass, and lunch will be served after Mass.

The fee is \$30, which includes lunch. To register, call Mary Anne Malone at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213, or e-mail Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org.



Echoes of Faith Information Night

Mary Anne Malone will offer an **introduction to the Echoes of Faith program on Wednesday, March 27 from 6:30 to 8:00p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton** for anyone who is interested in online Adult Faith Formation. It is especially valuable for parish catechists who want to earn a Certificate as a Master Catechist. You will learn how easy it is to get started in Echoes of Faith. You will be able to preview the modules that are offered, and learn how to navigate through the program.

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: Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213, ext. 1100, to register for the Echoes of Faith Information Night.



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 2 Session dates run from March 10—April 13, 2019. Registration is now open and closes March 6. [Click here](#) to view the Course Calendar for 2019 or visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> and click 'calendar.'



Encounter Lent: Companions on the Journey

Through the **Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl**, we share the journey with members of our human family around the world, and commit our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving to deepening our faith and serving those in need. To begin the Rice Bowl collection in your parish this Lent and to view all of the resources that Catholic Relief Services offers to assist your parish collection, please visit crsricebowl.org/begin. One of the resources is a DVD that includes 3-5 minute videos to inspire and enrich your Lenten journey of encounter.



Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Accepting Applications

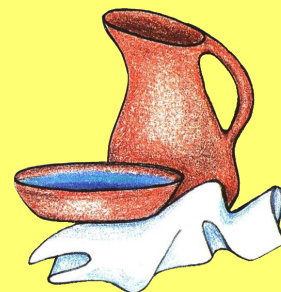
The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry!

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.

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.



Rite of Election

The **Rite of Election** will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera on **Sunday, March 10 at 2:30PM**

(please note the change in time from previous years). This ritual marks the beginning of a period of intense preparation for those catechumens anticipating the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter.



During the liturgy, the Church judges the catechumens' readiness and then the catechumens enroll their names as a pledge of fidelity to this call. The bishop then declares their "election" or admission to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Candidates (those already baptized) are also invited to attend this liturgy as they participate in the Call to Continuing Conversion.

The RCIA Coordinator Information and Enrollment forms are now available on the diocesan website under Parish Life/Christian Initiation. 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 will 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](#)

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!



The Light Is On for You

The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Again this year, parishes are participating in a Lenten initiative called *The Light Is On for You*. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 11, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 8, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God's grace, mercy and healing. Look for new resources for *The Light Is ON for You* in mid-February on the diocesan website.

Evening of Reflection on Lent

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 beginning at 6:00PM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish located at 116 Hughes St., Swoyerville. The topic for the evening will be "Making Music in a Beautiful yet Wounded World: An Evening of Reflection on the Season of Lent" led by Sr. Chris Kohllhoffer, IHM.



The season of Lent invites us to accompany Jesus as he lives today in a world both beautiful and broken. He calls us to create with our lives new art, songs that speak to both the pain and the promise of our times. Join us this evening with Sr. Chris as we reflect together on being bearers of hope and healing in a world full of madness and mayhem, but also music.

The meeting begins with dinner at 6:00PM, followed by the presentation at 7:00PM, and concludes with Night Prayer. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost for the event, but a free-will offering will be taken up to help offset the cost of dinner. To register, please [click here](#) or visit www.ScrantonNPM.com or contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 ext. 1158 by March 7th.

Evening of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

St. Leo Parish in Ashley will be holding an Evening of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on Wednesday, April 3 beginning at 6:00PM. The theme of the evening will be "*The Body of Christ: Our Identity and Purpose*" and will be led by David Baloga, Director for Worship in the Office for Parish Life. To register, please contact St. Leo Parish at 570-825-6669.

COMMUNITY

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

World Marriage Day: February 10, 2019

World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

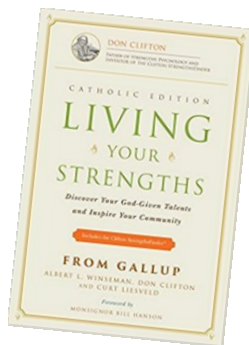


Consider planning a parish celebration, or a special date night with your spouse, to celebrate this important occasion. It falls conveniently close to the Feast of St. Valentine! For ideas about how to celebrate as a parish community, please [click here](#).

For other ideas for parishes or couples, contact Jennifer Housel, Office for Parish Life, Director for Community & Family Development, 570-207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org

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 Strengths 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

"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

Diocese Celebrating Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday

The Diocese of Scranton is celebrating Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday with a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist. The Mass will be sign-language interpreted for the hearing impaired.



This liturgy prayerfully celebrates the many gifts those with developmental or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community. Partners in this celebration include Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton, the Diocesan SPRED community (Special Religious Education) and the Catholic Deaf Community of the Diocese of Scranton. All are welcome. CTV: Catholic Television will also broadcast the Mass.

Postcard Campaign

We have concluded our pro-life postcard campaign and are now looking for volunteers to help deliver them to our senators and representatives! If you are interested in joining our Advocacy Team in delivering these postcards to your Congressional Representative in District 7, 8, 9 or 12, please contact Katy Windels at the Office for Parish Life. We are also hoping to meet with staffers from the offices of Sen. Casey and Sen. Toomey. Especially during this important month for Respect Life, we thank you for your personal advocacy efforts on these issues!



Theology on Tap

The next Diocesan Theology on Tap event will be held on Tuesday, February 11 from 7-9 PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Emma Gallagher, Associate Campus Minister at King's College, will be speaking on the topic of "New Year, New Me: Creating Healthy Resolutions and Healthy Expectations." All young adults ages 21-40 are welcome to attend. There will be a suggested donation of \$7 to cover food and soft drinks. Contact Katy Windels or Shannon Kowalski for more information.

Senior Isolation Workshop

The Scranton Area Ministerium will be hosting a Senior Isolation Workshop at the Diocesan Pastoral Center on Saturday, March 30 from 10 AM to 1 PM. The morning will begin with a presentation from Prof. Jim Siberski of Misericordia University addressing the challenge of senior isolation in our communities. Lunch will be provided with an opportunity for fellowship and discussion of pastoral solutions.

We encourage any community member to attend this event. All pastors, youth ministers, and advocates of any faith tradition who are interested in combatting this serious challenge in our communities are welcome.



2019 YOUTH EVENTS

Save the Date!

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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
SPEAKER
PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC
RECONCILIATION
SOCIAL

Monday, March 25—6:30-8:30PM

**Saint Boniface Parish
326 Washington Boulevard, Williamsport**

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

Lenten Resources for Ongoing Atonement and Healing in the Church

Each parish in the Diocese of Scranton is encouraged to pray continuously for atonement and healing for victims of sexual abuse, especially during the Lenten season and during the month of April which is “National Child Abuse Prevention Month.” The diocesan website has several resources for parishes to offer prayers for victims of sexual abuse that include:

- ♦ **A rosary for Atonement and Healing using the Sorrowful Mysteries**
- ♦ **Day of Atonement and Healing**—Family Participation Ideas for Home and Church
- ♦ **Intercessions for the Universal Prayer**
- ♦ **Prayer Booklet for Atonement and Healing**—for individuals or small groups
- ♦ **Pieta Prayer Card** (in English and Spanish)
- ♦ **Prayer Resources from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**—includes a sample prayer service, a rosary for Healing and Protection of the Vulnerable among us, litany for healing, sample intercessions and songs
- ♦ **Liturgical Resources from the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions**—suggested Mass preparations, sample Word service within Eucharistic Adoration, sample intercessions, psalmody, hymnody, and talking points



Look for additional resources for Lent in mid-February including **new *The Light is ON for You* resources** and a **Stations of the Cross booklet** focused on healing in the Church.

During the season of Lent, parishes are also asked to **set aside one Sunday Mass intention** for the victims of sexual abuse by clergy in our diocese.

Parishes are also invited to burn a **candle before an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary** during the season of Lent as a reminder of Our Lady’s intercession and of our constant prayers for those victims of abuse.

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**



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