

Diocese of Scranton News Briefing



www.dioceseofscranton.org Vol. 15 #1 1/3/2019



MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

[Subscribe to
News Briefing](#)



In This Issue

[Pope Prays for New Year Marked by Tenderness, Brotherhood, Peace](#)

[Join Us at Our Catholic Schools Week Open Houses!](#)

[January XLT](#)

[Diocese to Observe Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#)

[Office for Parish Life](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

[Follow the Diocese on Social Media](#)

Pope Prays for New Year Marked by Tenderness, Brotherhood, Peace

A new year is a chance for a new start, a time to remember that all people are brothers and sisters and a time to nurture amazement that God became human to save all people, Pope Francis said.

The January 1 feast of Mary, Mother of God, also is a time to remember how strong maternal love and care are, and how they are the secret to making life more livable, the pope said during his homily at a feast day Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica.

The Catholic Church also marks January 1 as World Peace Day, an observance the pope spoke about when, after Mass, he recited the Angelus with tens of thousands of people gathered in Saint Peter's Square.

Mary shows to the world her son, the prince of peace, he said. "He is the blessing for every person and the whole human family. He is the source of grace, mercy and peace."

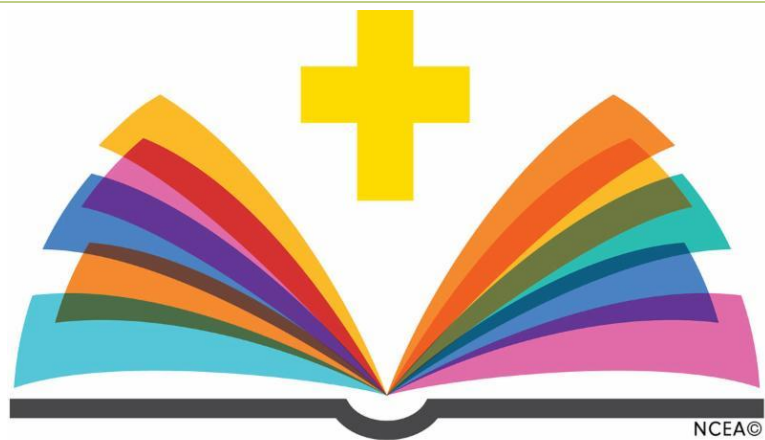
Pope Francis chose as the theme for this year's World Peace Day: "Good politics is at the service of peace."

"We must not think politics is reserved to those who govern," the pope said. "We are all responsible for the life of the community, of the common good, and politics is good to the degree that everyone does his or her part in the service of peace."

After greeting hundreds of people who participated in a march for peace, carrying signs with the names of countries suffering because of violence, Pope Francis prayed: "Through the intercession of the virgin Mary, may the Lord grant us to be artisans of peace - and this begins at home, in the family - every day of the new year."

To read the pope's Message for the World Day of Peace, click here:

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/popes-message-for-the-celebration-of-the-52nd-world-day-of-peace/>



Catholic Schools

Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

Join Us at Our Catholic Schools Week Open Houses!

Students and their families are cordially invited to come experience our academic excellence and communities of faith at our Diocesan Catholic Schools on Sunday, January 27. Visit the buildings, meet our faculty, and learn how our students, challenge their minds, live their faith, serve their communities, and build lifelong friendships. For a full list of times, please visit www.DiocesefofScranton/CatholicSchools or call the Catholic Schools Office at 570-207-2251.

January XLT

*Eucharistic Adoration - Speaker - Praise & Worship Music - Reconciliation
- Social*

Sunday, January 13, 6 PM

Saint Jude Parish, 420 South Mountain Boulevard, Mountain Top

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

Diocese to Observe Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Diocese of Scranton will again participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25. This annual observance gives Christians an opportunity to continue their quest for the unity they already share in Christ. It is also a time to gather in praise of the Triune God and to deepen the understanding of the ecumenical movement.

By joining in this celebration, Christians raise their voices, hands and hearts to God seeking the fulfillment of the prayer of Jesus, the Son of God, "that they all may be one."

The Week of Prayer also invites us to examine the effectiveness of the ecumenical movement in seeking to end the divisions among Christians. From the smallest to the largest communities, from all cultures, races and language groups, from all the baptized to all those in

ordained ministry, the Week of Prayer is also an opportunity to ask and examine the level of support they have given to this important movement in the life of the Church.

The theme for the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is "Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue" (*Deuteronomy* 16:20). This year's observance also coincides with the 55th anniversary of the promulgation of the *Decree on Ecumenism* of the Second Vatican Council, which brought the Catholic Church into the modern ecumenical movement.

The Diocese of Scranton will host an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word on Thursday, January 24, at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. There will be no 12:10 p.m. Mass that day in the Cathedral. All are welcome to attend. CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the service live.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will preside. Reverend Rebecca Tanner, moderator of Ashley Presbyterian Church, will preach.

Reverend Tanner is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Prior to her position at Ashley Presbyterian Church, she served as pastor of Silver Lake Presbyterian Church in Brackney and The Hyde Park Presbyterian Church in Scranton.

She has been the chaplain for Manor Care nursing homes in Kingston and Wilkes-Barre, and for Mercy Hospice and PHCP Hospice. She currently serves as part-time chaplain for the VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre. Reverend Tanner has always been active in ecumenical activities, including serving as president of the West Side Ministerium in Scranton. She was also state president of Church Women United.

Clergy and representatives from various Christian traditions and ecumenical agencies will be present at the prayer service. Liturgical music will be provided by the choir from All Saints Academy, Scranton, under the direction of Anthony Wozinski.

During the week leading up to the ecumenical service, Bishop Bambera will host dinner meetings for members of the local Polish National Catholic, Orthodox, Eastern Catholic and Latin Rite clergy.

For more information and resources, visit the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute at: <http://www.geii.org/>

Office for Parish Life

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 parish 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.

DRE/Youth Minister Network Meetings/January 2019

The 2019 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

March for Life January 18

The National March for Life will be held on January 18, 2019 in Washington, D.C. 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 at Katy-Windels@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.

A SIMPLE BUT 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.

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

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.

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 and are willing to travel to 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**
- **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.

Prayer Resources for Those Suffering from Addiction

The Diocese of Erie is providing a variety of resources for parishes and individuals to help pray for those suffering from addictions. Although designed with the opioid crisis in mind, these resources could also be helpful for those suffering from other addictions as well, including alcoholism and gambling. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/opioid.html> to access the prayer services on the Diocese of Erie website, or visit <https://store.faithcatholic.com/meditations-and-prayers> to order a booklet of Catholic prayers for family members whose loved ones are suffering from addiction.

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

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, <https://fdlc.org/> under 'resources.'

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, visit <https://scrantonnpm.com/>

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

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.

Mark Your Calendar

For a listing of Diocesan and parish events, go to: [Calendar](#)

Follow the Diocese on Social Media

www.facebook.com/DoS150/

www.twitter.com/BishopBamera

www.twitter.com/DioceseOfScr

www.facebook.com/DioceseOfScranton

You are also encouraged to visit the Facebook pages of other Diocesan departments. They are listed on our website at:

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/social-media/>

Thank you for connecting with us!

Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18501

[SafeUnsubscribe™ dan-gallagher@dioceseofscranton.org](#)

[Forward email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by e-newsletter@dioceseofscranton.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

[Try it free today](#)