



April 2019

GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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Asking God's Blessings on All of Our Parishes during the Paschal Triduum *from the staff at OPL*



Chrism Mass
Tuesday, April 16
at 4:00PM
Cathedral of Saint Peter



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."

Annual Diocesan Scout Mass

The annual Scout Mass will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Scranton. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the celebrant. Scouts who have earned the *Ad Altare Dei*, *Pope Pius XII*, *I Live My Faith*, *Mary the First Disciple* and *Spirit Alive* religious emblems will be invited to this Mass. In addition, we will send invitations to those scouts who have achieved the rank of Eagle. Family members and scout leaders are also welcome to join in this celebration.

Boards of Review for the *Ad Altare Dei* and *Pope Pius XII* Awards are planned for:

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Gate of Heaven Church
40 Machell Avenue
Dallas, PA 18612
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, 2019

St. Nicholas Catholic Church Community Room
(downstairs beneath the church)
226 S. Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

If you would like to register for either of these dates, or if you need a Board of Review at another time or location, please do not hesitate to contact Mary Anne Malone by return e-mail: mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org or by phone: 570-207-2213.

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 3 runs April 28th-May 18th. Registration is open until April 24. [Click here](#) to view the Course Calendar for 2019 or visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/> and click 'calendar.'



Ministry of Presence: Group Dynamics and Boundaries in Ministry

Saturday, May 11, 2019,

9:00AM-3:00PM

**Our Lady of the Snows Parish
Clarks Summit**

Group Dynamics: Drs. LeeAnn Eschbach, Ph.D., NCC, LPC and Julie Cerrito, Ph.D., NCC, NCSC, will explore communication within groups as it is enhanced by knowledge of personality types.

Boundaries in Ministry: Dr. Fauve Luckey, Psy.D., will introduce workshop participants to techniques for mediation of relationships, conflict resolution, and boundaries within ministry, and offer resources for addressing a variety of interpersonal encounters.

**For more information
contact Kitty Scanlan at
570-207-2213, ext. 1157,
or kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org.**

**To register, visit the Office for Parish Life page
at www.dioceseofscranton.org**

****All Parish Ministers Are Welcome to Attend!****

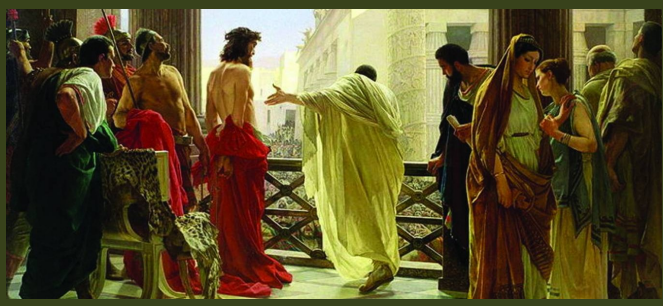
"What is truth?"

Catholic Men's Conference

Saturday, April 27

Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre

Visit www.beamanconference.com to register.



Child Abuse Prevention Month

For several years the Diocese of Scranton has joined in the efforts to prevent child abuse by participating in special activities during the month of April. All parishes, schools and diocesan organizations are encouraged to implement an event/activity to support prevention. You are welcome to design a unique project to meet your needs. Parish resources for the healing and protection of children from abuse can be found on the [USCCB website](http://www.usccb.org). The following suggestions are offered for your consideration:

- Celebrate a Mass for the intentions of victims/survivors and the protection of youth. (See Sample Intercessions)
- Offer a rosary for the intentions of victims/survivors and the protection of youth.
- Dedicate the last Sunday of April to prayers for the prevention of abuse. This campaign has been called Blue Sunday. To register and obtain resources see www.bluesunday.org
- Include one or more of the bulletin inserts during the month of April.
- Add a prayer for healing during Mass or feature the prayer in the bulletin.
- Host a speaker to address a topic concerning child safety.
- Create or purchase blue ribbon pins to be distributed to parishioners at all Masses on a designated weekend. *(Since 1989 the symbol of a blue ribbon has been utilized to create national awareness of the issue of child abuse. It was initiated by a Virginia grandmother named Bonnie Finney whose 3 year old grandson died after severe abuse by his mother's boyfriend.)*
- Create a blue ribbon tree and display prominently with a sign indicating its significance.
- Participate in a fundraising campaign for an organization focusing on prevention. Collect a small donation from participants in your workplace who will wear blue ribbons and blue clothing on a designated day.
- Support healthy family relationships by hosting a movie, game night or other family-friendly event. Provide literature promoting positive family connections.

#PROMISETOPROTECT

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

Provide love, support & healing to abuse survivors.

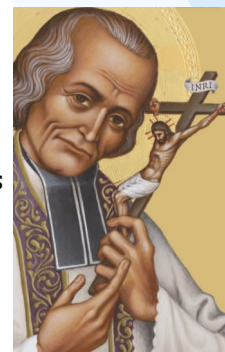
Relic of St. Jean Vianney

The incorrupt heart of St. Jean Vianney will be visiting the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on **Saturday, April 13, 2019**. The Shrine of Ars, France, has made this major relic available for a national tour in the United States.

The Knights of Columbus are hosting this tour and welcome this special opportunity to offer for veneration this relic of the patron of parish priests, whose holiness and integrity is a model for clergy and laity alike.

The relic will be welcomed to the Cathedral of Saint Peter with Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. It will remain on display for private prayer and veneration through 3:00 p.m. The Daily Mass will also be celebrated by Bishop Bambera at 12:10 p.m.

For more information about St. Jean Vianney and the relic tour, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.



Adult Confirmation

Pastors and Parish Life Coordinators are reminded that since Bishop Bambera has granted the faculty to pastors and sacramental ministers to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation in their own parishes, there is **no longer a need for pastors or sacramental ministers to request the faculty to confirm a baptized Catholic adult**. For this reason, the Adult Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton has been discontinued.

Although past practice in the Diocese of Scranton has been to confirm baptized Catholic adults at the Easter Vigil, it would be more suitable to have them receive Confirmation with the eighth grade students in your parish on Pentecost (see *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* #26).

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, May 4, 2019 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 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 complete the [Extraordinary Minister of Communion registration form](#) or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 by Tuesday, April 30th.



COMMUNITY

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

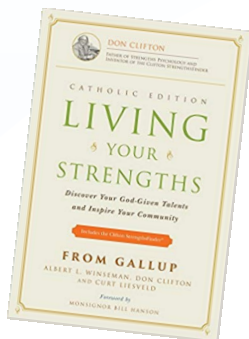
Living Your Strengths Workshops Available Now

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 is now offering Living Your Strengths Workshops. 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.

Living Your Strengths can also be used to foster communication and appreciation between spouses, for a parish marriage enrichment event.

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



Grief Support Ministries

Parish Grief Support Ministries are an invaluable resource and a blessing in the lives of those grieving. To find a grief support ministry near you, as well as other grief support resources, please visit our diocesan website at <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/grief-support/>. If you would like us to include information about a grief support ministry at your parish on our website, or if you would like to inquire about beginning a grief support ministry at your parish, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, 570-207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

Natural Family Planning, 2019 and Beyond

The Diocese of Scranton has begun a new collaboration with Couple to Couple League International (CCL) in order to better promote the use of Natural Family Planning (NFP) in our Diocese. This organization is doing great work in bringing the teaching and practice of NFP forward through the use of modern technology. Our Diocese is blessed to have a number of individuals and couples trained to teach NFP in person. Through CCL, couples are also able to access flexible learning options online. To learn more please visit the website for Couple to Couple League at www.ccli.org for a wealth of NFP related information and training options. For additional information about Natural Family Planning, or to access our Diocesan NFP Training Providers, please visit our diocesan website at www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/natural-family-planning/ or 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, 2019 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.



FOCCUS Facilitator Training & Refresher

Spanish Translator Available

The Office for Parish Life will offer a FOCCUS Premarriage Inventory Facilitator Training and refresher option on Saturday, May 11, 2019. The training will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center from 9AM to 3PM, a light lunch will be included. The Full Training fee is \$100 for an individual or \$150 for a couple. For those who have already taken the 5-hour training and have a FOCCUS Facilitator Manual and a Certification number, but want to refresh their knowledge about FOCCUS Facilitating, the refresher option fee will be \$50 per person. If you, parish staff, or Sponsor Couples in your parish are interested in this training or refresher, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, (570) 207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

"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

Bold Choices Retreat: Finding Your Passion and Living It Fully

A 24-hour retreat for young adults (18-35) that includes presentations and interactive sessions on prayer, making choices based in faith, finding your passion, the art of discernment, small group discussions & more.

Friday, April 12-Saturday, April 13

Registration: \$65

For more information and/or to register, visit vocations.dioceseofscranton.org.

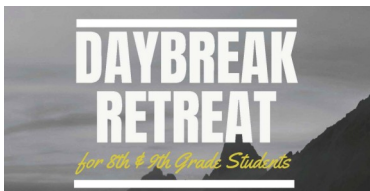
Daybreak Retreat

The Daybreak Retreat is a peer-facilitated retreat designed specifically for 8th & 9th grade students that will take place from **Friday, April 26 to Sunday, April 28, 2019** at Camp Orchard Hill in Dallas, PA.

The weekend will focus on forming good communication skills and healthy relationships with oneself, with family, and with friends. Students will

come away with a better understanding of who they are as a child of God and will have formed new friendships and developed the tools needed to make old friendships even better.

Registration Fee: \$180 per student covers program materials, lodging, meals, and a t-shirt. Register online at www.dioceseofscranton.org. For more information, please call 570-207-2213 ext.1155.



Postcard Campaign Update

During the months of January and February, we collected more than 2,000 postcards from more than 50 parishes across the diocese. During these months, we have met with several staffers in district offices to deliver our postcards and talk about our pro-life commitments on behalf of the Diocese. There are only a few more meetings left! If you are interested in joining our Advocacy Team in delivering these postcards to your Congressional Representative in District 7 or 8, please contact Katy Windels at the Office for Parish Life. Thank you for your personal advocacy efforts on these issues!

Parish Social Justice Trust Fund Grants

The Social Justice Trust Fund Grant Application for 2019-2020 are now available under the Parish Life/Service section on the diocesan website.

Whether or not your parish has applied for a grant in the past, please consider applying this year. Grants may benefit any program based on service or social justice activities. In the past, parishes have used the Social Justice Trust Fund to benefit food pantries, run educational programs, and serve marginalized communities.

We especially encourage you to apply for a grant (up to \$5,000) if you have members of your parish who are interested in advocacy, social justice/environmental education, or ministries to persons with disabilities. We have recognized these needs in our communities and hope that parishes will prioritize some of these causes in their applications.

Applications are due on June 14, 2019. Finally, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Katy Windels at 570-207-2213 or at kwindels@dioceseofscranton.org for more information.



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

TOUCHED BY ADDICTION?

Join us in prayer for all those who have been affected by a struggle with addiction.

**MAY 4, 2019 | 11 AM
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
316 PARRISH STREET | WILKES-BARRE**

Mass with Reception to Follow

Contact Katy Windels at (570) 207-2213 ext. 1101 for more information or if you would like to participate in the liturgy.



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

Friday, April 26—6:30-8:30PM

Annunciation Parish

122 S. Wyoming Avenue, Hazleton

**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:

- ♦ **Stations of the Cross Booklet for Atonement and Healing**
- ♦ ***The Light Is ON for You* resources focused on Healing in the Church**
- ♦ **Intercessions for the Universal Prayer**
- ♦ **Pieta Prayer Card** (in English and Spanish)
- ♦ **A Rosary for Atonement and Healing using the Sorrowful Mysteries**
- ♦ **Day of Atonement and Healing**—Family Participation Ideas for Home and Church
- ♦ **Prayer Booklet for Atonement and Healing**—for individuals or small groups
- ♦ **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



During the season of Lent, parishes are also asked to set aside one Sunday Mass intention on the Fifth Sunday of Lent 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.

Other group discussion resources are *The Wounded Body of Christ* by Matthew W. Halbach, Ph.D. ([Twenty-Third Publications](#)) and *Healing Our Church* by Jerome Herauf and Charles Paolino ([RENEW International](#)).

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**
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