

Diocese of Scranton News Briefing



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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.

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SCAMMERS TARGET DIOCESAN STAFF, IMPERSONATE PRIEST BY TEXT MESSAGE

The Diocese of Scranton is warning its parishioners to be on alert, and not fall victim, to a new scam that has popped up.

On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, two employees from the Diocese of Scranton received text messages on their cell phones from someone claiming to be one of our priests and asking that the recipients buy gift cards for him.

While neither employee fell victim to the scam, a similar situation was also reported in the media in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia where some Diocesan parishioners reported getting text messages as well.

The Diocese of Scranton reminds everyone if you are ever concerned about a message that you receive, whether by text message or email, verify it before you take any action. In the instances reported this week, the person impersonating a priest asked each recipient to purchase \$500 in gift cards for his niece as a birthday present because he was checking on a friend in the hospital.

Additional reminders for the public to not fall victims to a scam include:

- Don't click on any links or open attachments in unsolicited texts or emails
- Be extremely cautious when dealing with anyone you've only met by social media or text message if you don't know who they are
- Don't be pressured to act immediately

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON TO HOST RELIC OF SAINT JEAN VIANNEY ON APRIL 13



There are now just two days until the Diocese of Scranton hosts the incorrupt heart of Saint Jean Vianney at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Saturday, April 13.

The major relic of Saint Jean Vianney's incorrupt heart is currently in the midst of a nationwide tour, visiting cathedrals, churches and chapels throughout the United States through June 2019.

The Diocese of Scranton will host the relic on Saturday, April 13, 2019. The Shrine of Ars, France, made the relic available for its national tour.

The relic will be welcomed to the Cathedral of Saint Peter with the celebration of Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. It will remain on display for private prayer and veneration through 3:00 p.m. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant for the Daily Mass which will be celebrated at 12:10 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be offered from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

The Knights of Columbus is hosting the nationwide tour. Before stopping in Scranton, the relic will have already visited Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles.

Born in France in 1786, Jean Vianney suffered through the dark years of the French Revolution. He undertook a life of penance and prayer to draw people away from sin and closer to God. Known for his wise spiritual counsels, Father Vianney would hear confessions for up to eighteen hours a day. Jean Vianney died on August 4, 1859. Saint Jean Vianney was canonized by Pope Pius XI on May 31, 1925.

As the patron of parish priests, the faithful are asked to pray for their most heartfelt needs and intentions, as well as for healing within the heart of the Church.

For more information about St. Jean Vianney and the relic tour, visit:

www.dioceseofscranton.org

2019 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE AT CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14

The solemn observances of Holy Week, which recall the passion and death of Jesus Christ, begin on Palm Sunday, April 14. The Masses on Palm Sunday will include the blessing and distribution of palm branches, which play a symbolic role on this day since they were first used to commemorate the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into the city of Jerusalem.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Pontifical Liturgy at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. Weather permitting, this Mass

will begin in the Cathedral Prayer Garden with a blessing of palms and a Gospel reading, followed by a procession into the Cathedral.

Palm Sunday Masses at the Cathedral will also be celebrated at 4 p.m. on Saturday and 6:30 a.m., 10 a.m., and 5 p.m. on Sunday. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6 p.m., followed by Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6:30 p.m.

SOLEMN PONTIFICAL CHRISM MASS, APRIL 16

Priests serving throughout the Diocese will gather at the Cathedral on Tuesday, April 16, at 4 p.m. for the Solemn Pontifical Chrism Mass, at which the Holy Oils used during the conferral of sacraments throughout the Church year will be blessed.

Bishop Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist. Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus John M. Dougherty will concelebrate the Mass along with all priests from the Diocese.

During this Mass, priests and deacons, along with lay representatives from Diocesan parishes, acknowledge the Bishop's role as the unifying symbol for Church governance and pastoral guidance. Priests will renew their ordination promises.

After Mass, they will receive the Sacred Chrism, Oil of the Sick, and the Oil of Catechumens, which are used in the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, the Anointing of the Sick, and the Rites of the Catechumenate. The deacons of the Diocese will assist in the blessing of the holy oils.

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 18

The three most sacred days of the Church's liturgical year, known as the Sacred Paschal Triduum, begin on Holy Thursday, April 18, with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. During the Triduum (Latin for "three days"), the Church solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of the Lord, crucified, buried and risen.

Holy Thursday marks the day on which Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist and the priestly Order and gave us the commandment concerning fraternal charity.

At the Cathedral, Morning Prayer will be at 8 a.m. The Pontifical Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will begin at 5:30 p.m., with Bishop Bambara serving as the principal celebrant.

During the Mass, there will be the rite of the Washing of Feet, which re-enacts Christ's washing of the feet of his apostles at the Last Supper. Following this Mass there will be the transfer of the Most Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose. Adoration will continue until 10 p.m., when Night Prayer will be celebrated.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19

On Good Friday, April 19, and the following day (up to the Easter Vigil Mass), by a most ancient tradition, the Church does not celebrate the sacraments at all, except for Penance and Anointing of the Sick. At the Cathedral, Morning Prayer for Good Friday will be at 8 a.m. The Commemoration of the Passion and Death of the Lord celebrated by Bishop Bambara will begin at 12:10 p.m. This solemn liturgy consists of three parts: the Liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. In addition, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5 p.m. Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Holy Saturday, April 20, is the day that the Church waits at the Lord's tomb in prayer, meditating on his passion and death, and awaiting his resurrection. Morning Prayer will be at 8 a.m. at the Cathedral, followed by a retreat for those preparing to be baptized and received into full communion with the Catholic Church. The blessing of Easter Baskets will take place at 1 p.m. in the Cathedral.

The Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord (*Exodus* 12:42), in which following the Gospel admonition (*Luke* 12:35-37), the faithful, carrying lighted candles in their hands, should be like those looking for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find them awake and have them at his table. This night's vigil is the greatest and most noble of all solemnities in the Church. Although celebrated entirely at night, this Mass of the Vigil is the first Mass of the Sunday of the Resurrection, and it is the center of the Sacred Paschal Triduum.

Bishop Bambara will be the principal celebrant and homilist of the Easter Vigil Mass at the Cathedral, beginning at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 20. This liturgy is arranged in four parts: 1) the Lucernarium (a service of light) and Easter Proclamation; 2) the Liturgy of the Word, in which the Church meditates on the wonders God has done for his people from the beginning, trusting in his word and promise; 3) the Liturgy of Baptism and Confirmation in which new members of the Church are reborn; and 4) the Liturgy of the Eucharist, in which the Church is called to the table the Lord has prepared for his people, the memorial of his death and resurrection until he comes again.

On the Holy Night of Easter, 174 people who have participated in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will become fully initiated Catholics by the celebration of their Baptism, Confirmation, and reception of the Eucharist for the first time. This will take place during Easter Vigil Masses celebrated in parishes throughout the Diocese. They join tens of thousands of other individuals throughout the world who will become members of the Church that night.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord is the most joyous day in the Church year. This joy overflows into the 50 days of the Easter season, which concludes on Pentecost Sunday. On Easter Day, April 21, Bishop Bambera will celebrate a Pontifical Mass at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral. Additional Masses during the day will be at 6:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Since Christ accomplished his work of human redemption and of the perfect glorification of God through his Paschal Mystery, in which by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life, the Sacred Paschal Triduum shines forth as the high point of the entire liturgical year. Therefore the preeminence that Sunday has in the week, the Solemnity of Easter has in the entire year.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will provide live broadcast coverage of the following Holy Week services from Saint Peter's Cathedral: Palm Sunday Mass, April 14, 12:15 p.m.; Chrism Mass, April 16, 4 p.m.; Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 18, 5:30 p.m.; Good Friday service, April 19, 12:10 p.m.; and Easter Vigil Mass, April 20, 8 p.m.

MASS FOR THOSE TOUCHED BY ADDICTION



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.

Drug and alcohol addictions have long been in the fabric of our communities. The opioid epidemic has drawn international attention throughout the last several years, partly because it has had a tremendous impact on rural communities, including northeastern and north-central Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, May 4 at 11:00 am, the Diocese of Scranton will host a Mass in support of anyone struggling with addiction, as well as for any family members, friends or community members who have been affected by this struggle.

The Mass will be held at Saint Andrew's Church in Wilkes-Barre and will be followed by a reception with some resources offered.

All are welcome and anyone who has information or might be interested in participating in the liturgy can call Katy Windels, Coordinator for Service & Social Justice in the Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213, extension 2213.



April XLT

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

Friday, April 26

6:30 PM

Annunciation Parish, 122 South Wyoming Street, Hazleton

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

OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE EVENTS

2019 MINISTRY FORMATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

2019 Ministry Formation Skills Workshop Series

Ministry of Presence:

Group Dynamics and Boundaries in Ministry

Saturday, May 11, 2019 9:00AM-3:00PM

Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit

Group Dynamics: Drs. LeeAnn Eschbach, Ph.D., NCC, LPC and Julie Ger-rigo, 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!****

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

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

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, Scranton. If your spouse and you have ever attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, gathering with a WWME Share Group can 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 AVAILABLE



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FROM GALLUP

ALBERT L. WINSEMAN, DON CLIFTON
AND CURT LIESVELD

Foreword by
MONSIGNOR BILL HANSON

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 to 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 .

What is the FOCCUS© Pre-Marriage Inventory?

The FOCCUS© Pre-Marriage Inventory is a comprehensive, user-friendly tool for use by lay individuals, couples or professionals who are helping couples prepare for marriage, and who become trained as FOCCUS Facilitators. The FOCCUS© Inventory is designed to help engaged couples appreciate their unique relationship, learn more about themselves, and discuss topics important to their lifelong marriage.

If you would like to discern whether you are called to be a FOCCUS Facilitator, please speak to your pastor about this ministry in your parish.

FOCCUS FACILITATOR TRAINING AND REFRESHER COURSE 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

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.

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. An Introduction to the Echoes of Faith Program will be held on Wednesday, March 27 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton for anyone who is interested in online Adult Faith Formation.

Contact Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org for information on how to get started for an affordable \$15 a year.

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:

¢ 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/>

LENTEN SOUP SALES & WEEKLY BINGO

There is always a lot going on in the 118 parishes and 20 schools of the Diocese of Scranton...Get Involved!

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

Follow the Diocese on Social Media

www.facebook.com/DoS150/

www.twitter.com/BishopBambera

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!