



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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Thursday, December 12
Feast of
Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday, December 25
Nativity of the Lord
[Holy Day of Obligation]

Wednesday, January 1
Solemnity of Mary,
the Mother of God
[Holy Day of Obligation]

*The OPL Team would like to wish all
pastors, assistant pastors, deacons,
parish life coordinators,
parish staff and parish leaders
a blessed Advent
and a joyous Christmas season!*



DRE & Youth Minister Network Workshop

The last Network Workshop for DREs, catechists, Youth Ministers, those on parish WORD Commissions, and anyone engaged in Ministry of the Word and Lifelong faith formation will be held on **Wednesday, December 11 from 6:00 to 8:00p.m. at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish** located at 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines. We will center on Lifelong Faith Formation through Catechesis, youth ministry and parish life. Members of the Office for Parish Life team will be on hand to discuss:

- Diocesan focus for Lifelong Faith Formation
- What we need to "move beyond" to bring this to your parish
- Practical ways of bringing Lifelong Faith Formation to your Parish
- Upcoming formation opportunities for DREs and Youth Ministers
- Open forum for what you would like to see in the future
- Keeping us Connected-Slack.com

To register, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570-207-2213, ext. 1100.

Full Involvement in Intergenerational Faith Formation

Parishes desire for all members to be engaged in the life and ministry of the church. This workshop presents five easy steps to consider and demonstrates how to bring people of all ages together. To help bring the lukewarm members of your church community to full active members in ministry. To learn more, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life. jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570)207-2213, ext. 1100.

Family—A Journey of Faith

Pope Francis has called on Church leaders to accompany youth on their journey of faith. This is not enough, we also need to accompany their parents. This workshop looks at ways catechetical leaders can journey with parents, reinforcing them in spreading the faith to their children at home and in the parish. Since most parents feel unsure or inadequate when it comes to teaching the faith, we will look at ways to help parents to grow their own faith, before we move to concentrate on useful approaches for helping the family grow together in their faith lives. To learn more, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life. jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100.

Renewing Religious Education (RE)

At the core of catechesis, we find Jesus Christ. Catechesis has to be more than textbooks and tests to determine if one is prepared for the sacraments. Lifelong faith formation that leads to salvation should be our focus. Religious Ed, with its emphasis on our teaching, has to be placed within the context of an overall inclusive ministry and seen as a piece in the practice of evangelization. We need to form a community of learners by creating a program that is centered on the events of parish life. We have to be enthusiastic about moving away from the things that need to change. Let's come together and discuss our programs-both the successes and the failures. To learn more, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life. jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570)207-2213, ext. 1100.



A Journey Together In Ministry—February 7th-9th

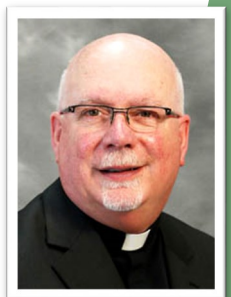
"A Journey Together in Ministry" is a retreat for DREs, Youth Ministers and other catechetical leaders who will gather for prayer, reflection and fellowship. Building on the relationships created among parish leaders, DREs and Youth Ministers will be better equipped to nurture the young people entrusted to them. More details to follow. For questions, contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, Office for Parish Life jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100.

Lay Ministry Overnight Retreat

The Office for Parish Life will be holding the 2020 Lay Ministry Overnight Retreat entitled, "Preparing Our Hearts" from Friday, February 7 to Saturday, February 8, 2020 with Fr. Michael Bryant as the retreat facilitator.

This gathering is offered for all Certificate in Ministry Studies participants, Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Candidates and Pastoral Associates, and will be held at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center, 1000 Seminary Rd., Dalton, PA. The retreat begins on Friday evening with arrival between 5:00-6:00p.m. and will conclude by 3:00p.m. on Saturday. The cost is \$100 and includes the retreat program, meals and lodging.

Please confirm your attendance with Kitty Scanlan no later than Wednesday, January 29, 2019 at 570-207-2213 or kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org.



Advent & Christmas Liturgical Resource

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has compiled a liturgical resource to assist parishes in preparing liturgies for the Advent and Christmas season. This resource, available both in English and Spanish, includes a Penance Service with alternate readings, music suggestions, sample penances, a liturgical calendar advisory for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, and more. To download this resource, please [click here](#) or visit fdlc.org and click on 'resources.'



Blue Christmas Mass

St. John Neumann Parish, Nativity of Our Lord Church, located at 633 Orchard St. Scranton, will offer a "Blue Christmas Mass" on Christmas Day, December 25 at 9:30a.m. This celebration of the Eucharist will be offered for anyone who might feel at odds with or estranged from the general feeling of joy and happiness at this time of the year. There may be people among us who are suffering a personal loss: death of a loved one, divorce, illness, family trauma, abuse or job loss. Maybe others are simply stressed because of the holiday expectations. This Mass seeks to comfort people by reminding them that they are not alone. Invite anyone you know who may be experiencing these feelings, no matter where they are from, to enter the stable with the shepherds at Nativity of Our Lord Church. This calm, peaceful liturgy is not meant to give neat answers to anyone's suffering, but to assure people of Christ's message of HOPE at Christmas. The message is simple, but remarkable: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it,' no matter how much it might seem the darkness is winning over our lives and our world.

For more information, please contact St. John Neumann Parish at 570-344-6159 or check out the parish website at stjnparish.org or on Facebook.

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training Sessions in 2020

Need to invite more faith-filled parishioners to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion in your parish during the upcoming year? Mark your calendars now because the Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton on the following dates:

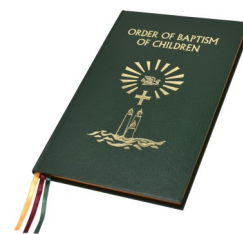
- Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM
- Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM
- Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM
- Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM

There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided.

Would you prefer to have training in your parish? Contact David Baloga at the the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 or at David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org to discuss arrangements.

Order of Baptism of Children

A revised translation of *The Order of Baptism of Children* was recently approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and confirmed by Rome for use in the dioceses of the United States America beginning on February 2, 2020 (Presentation of the Lord) with mandatory use on April 12, 2020 (Easter Sunday). The following publishers have been authorized to produce the new ritual book and will be available on January 6, 2020. Preorders are being taken now, with some publishers offering discounts for ordering early.



Catholic Book Publishing
(catholicbookpublishing.com)
English only edition— \$27.95
Bilingual edition—\$32.95

Liturgy Training Publications (ltp.org)
English only edition—\$39.95
Bilingual edition—\$54.95

Liturgical Press (litpress.org)
English only edition— \$39.95
Bilingual edition—\$49.95

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
(usccb.org) \$44.95

Magnificat (magnificat.net) \$29.95



COMMUNITY

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

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. If your marriage is in distress, even if you are currently separated or divorced, Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track.

Retrouvaille weekends are currently held in the nearby Dioceses of Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. The next weekend occurring in PA will be held on January 17, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Express, Harrisburg East. For more information, contact the registration team @ 717-356-2185 or visit the website: HelpOurMarriage.org

We are working to bring Retrouvaille back to the Diocese of Scranton in 2020! The tentative date for the Retrouvaille Weekend to occur in our diocese is May 29-31; the location is yet to be decided. If you or any other Retrouvaille couple you know would like to help with the nuts and bolts of restarting the ministry, help is needed with some of the following activities: weekend and post-weekend supplies; weekend welcoming couples; prayer letters; weekend and post-weekend setup couple; new banners for the weekend and post-weekend sessions, etc.

To learn more about attending the weekend in May, or to learn more about bringing this weekend to life in our diocese, please contact: Phil and Sue Milazzo, philmilazzo@outlook.com, 631-338-5413 or Jen Housel, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104.

Early 2020 Offerings

The New Year will be upon us in the blink of an eye! Below are some items of note for early 2020:

- **NFP PRESENTATION, March 28, 2020 at St. John Parish, East Stroudsburg:** Hayley and John Michelin, long-time Diocesan NFP Trainers, will share their witness.
- **FOCCUS Facilitator Training, early spring 2020 (date yet to be determined), at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Wyoming Avenue, Scranton:** become a certified FOCCUS Premarital Inventory Facilitator. (This training can also be helpful in using the ReFOCCUS Marital Inventory as part of a marriage enrichment ministry at your parish.)
- **Living Your Strengths for Marriages Parish Workshops or Living Your Strengths Parish Workshops:** consider scheduling one or both of these workshops at your parish in spring 2020

To learn more about these offerings, please contact Jen Housel, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x 1104

World Marriage Day: February 9, 2020

Consider beginning planning now to celebrate this occasion in your parish!

February is only a few months away! With Advent, Christmas, and New Year's all still to come, now may be a good time for your pastoral council, ministry coordinating team, marriage program ministers, etc. to begin considering ways to observe this important date.

Early in 2020, the USCCB will create materials to assist in recognizing this event particularly during the liturgy. (If you would like to have an idea of what those resources will be, you can use this link to see information provided for 2019: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/national-marriage-week.cfm>.) In the meantime, please explore with your parish planning teams the way(s) in which your parish may want to recognize this occasion, in addition to the liturgical celebrations of that weekend. Some examples might be:

- Parish bulletin or parish social media notices relating to marriage, perhaps recognizing some of your parishioners who have witnessed to this vocation within their own lives for 25, 50, or more years of marriage
- A reception or dinner for married couples in your parish; this could include a guest speaker – perhaps one of your own parishioner couples sharing their “3 Best Tips” for a happy marriage

Questions? Interested in learning more? Contact Jennifer Housel for assistance with resources or for additional parish event ideas. 570-207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org

Thank you for all that you do in recognizing the sacrament and vocation of marriage in your parish community!

PreCana Day of Reflection Schedule for 2020

- January 25, Saturday, Dickson City
- February 9, Sunday, Scranton
- March 21, Saturday, Montoursville
- April 18, Saturday, Wilkes-Barre
- May 16, Saturday, Duryea
- June 6, Saturday, Drums
- July 12, Sunday, Scranton
- August 22, Saturday, Dickson City
- September 19, Saturday, Tannersville
- October 10, Saturday, Montoursville
- November 7, Saturday, Wilkes-Barre
- December 6, Sunday, Scranton

"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

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

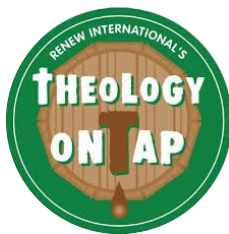
Start the New Year by refreshing your faith with courses from the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation. Courses include "Gaudete et Exsultate: Rejoice and Be Glad -Call to Holiness", "Images of Jesus", "Reflections on Faith and Finance"; "Conscience", "Mercy", and "RCIA". Explore the full range of course offerings and register today at <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/>!

VLCFF Cycles dates for early 2020 are:

- Cycle 1: January 12-February 15 (registration until January 8)
- Cycle 2: March 1-April 4 (registration January 15-February 26)
- Cycle 3: April 19-May 9 (registration March 4-April 15)

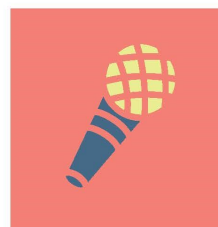
Theology on Tap

The next Theology on Tap will take place on **Wednesday, December 11 from 7:00 to 8:30PM at Sabatini's Bottleshop in Exeter**. December's topic is "From Pagan to Christian: The Origins of Our Most Beloved Christmas Traditions" with Fr. Patrick Rogers S.J., Director of the Jesuit Center of the University of Scranton, as the guest speaker. The series is designed for young adults age 21-40. The \$7.00 suggested donation covers food and soft drinks. Please plan on joining us!



SOCIAL JUSTICE TRUST FUND GRANT RECEPTION

Help us learn from your parish experience.



**JAN
22
6PM**

DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER

4330 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KATY AT (570) 207-2213 X 1101

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry Applications

The Office for Parish Life encourages parish leaders to consider application for the Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry for January 2020!

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 25, 2020, 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, ext. 1157 or by email at Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org for application information, materials, and application submissions.

2019 Our Lady of Guadalupe Services in the Diocese of Scranton

ST. MATTHEW PARISH

200 Brodhead Avenue
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
(570) 421-2342

Wednesday, December 11

7:00-12:00 p.m.
Vigil ending with
the "Mañanitas" at 12 midnight

Thursday, December 12

7:00 p.m.
Mass (Español) followed by
light refreshments in cafeteria

ST. JOHN NEUMANN PARISH

at Nativity of Our Lord Church
633 Orchard Street
Scranton, PA 18505
(570) 344-6159

December 3-11

Novena at 7:00 pm in the church

Thursday, December 12

"Mañanitas" at 4:30 am
with mariachi singers
ending with Mass at 6:30a.m.



ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

226 South Washington Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA
(570) 823-7736

Wednesday, December 11

6:00-9:00 p.m.
"Velación" Vigil Evening Prayer,
traditional Mexican dances,
mariachi band

Thursday, December 12

5:00 a.m.
"Mañanitas" (typical songs for Our Lady)
and breakfast

4:30 p.m.
Procession,
starting at 91 Parish St. to Church

6:00 p.m.
Mass with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

7:00 p.m.
Reception in school cafeteria

ANNUNCIATION PARISH

at St. Gabriel's Church
122 South Wyoming Street
Hazleton, PA
(570) 454-0212

Thursday, December 12

5:00 a.m. – Mañanitas and Mass

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Jacki Douglas**

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**

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: **Bridget Purcell**

Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres**

Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**



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