



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
 OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service

Wednesday, January 22, 2020
at 12:10p.m.
Cathedral of Saint Peter

Sunday of the Word of God

January 26, 2020

Social Justice Trust Fund Grant Reception

JANUARY 22, 2020 - 6 PM
DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER
330 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA

Last year, the Diocese of Scranton offered over 40 Social Justice Trust Fund Grants to parishes across Northeast and North-Central Pennsylvania. On January 22, we will be celebrating these grants with a reception for recipients of Social Justice Grants, and for any parishioners who are interested in learning more about our program. We hope to learn more about the wonderful things that your parish is doing to support social justice, and to look forward to better ways of supporting your ministry in the future!

If your parish currently benefits from a Social Justice Trust Fund Grant, or if you are just looking to learn more about the program, you are invited to the Diocesan Pastoral Center on **Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:00p.m.** for our reception. Even if your parish has not participated in the past, this might be a great chance to learn about it and get started! The evening will begin with presentations from parishes who are currently receiving the grants, and will continue with a conversation about the best ways to expand and improve the grant program and application process.

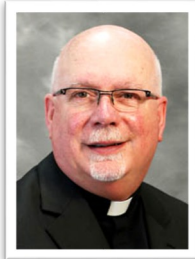
Please RSVP to Katy Windels (kwindels@dioceseofscranton.org) to confirm your attendance. Please RSVP by January 15 if you are interested in offering a short (3-5 minute) presentation on your parish's work with the SJTFG. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



For more information or to register for any of the events on this page, please contact Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation, at 570-207-2213, ext. 1100 or at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org.

Preparing Our Hearts for Lent: Journey Together in Ministry

The Office for Parish Life will be holding "Preparing Our Hearts for Lent: A Journey Together in Ministry" Retreat. This is a retreat for Pastoral Associates, Participants in Lay Ministry Formation, DREs, Youth Ministers and other catechetical leaders who will gather for prayer, reflection and fellowship. The retreat 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. Father Michael Bryant will be the retreat facilitator.



Building on the relationships created among parish leaders, DREs and Youth Ministers will be better equipped to nurture the young people and families entrusted to them.

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.



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.

Ash Wednesday Retreat

The Office for Parish Life will offer a Retreat on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 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.

The day will include the 12:10 p.m. Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Cathedral. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass, and lunch will be served after Mass. More details to follow. The fee is \$30, which includes lunch. To register, call Jacki Douglas at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213 x-1100 or e-mail jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org.

Networking Meetings

Save the Dates

We are excited to begin our second round of Network Workshops for DREs, catechists, Youth Ministers, those on parish WORD Commissions, and anyone engaged in Ministry of the Word and Lifelong faith formation. These meetings will keep with the focus that we began at our Meet and Greet and first Network Workshop. 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:



- More Ideas to Keep Families Involved
- Catechesis in the Hispanic Community
- Religious Education Curriculum-Let's Share
- Keeping families connected between Baptism and Religious Education
- Remember the Kerygma- Pope Francis tells us that without the proclamation of the kerygma all our evangelization and discipleship efforts will not be fruitful
- Keeping us Connected-Slack.com-How is Slack working?

We would love to have every parish represented. So we invite each of you to one of the following meetings:

Thursday, March 5 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Eastern Region-Parish TBA

Thursday, March 12 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Northern Region-Parish TBA

Thursday, March 19 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Southern Region-Parish TBA

Thursday, March 26 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)

Western Region-Parish TBA

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

WORSHIP

Sunday of the Word of God

On September 30, 2019, Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter, *Aperuit Illis: Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God*, announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the **Sunday of the**



Word of God. This year, that Sunday will fall on **January 26, 2020.** The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions have prepared resources to help parishes observe this feast. The [USCCB resource](#) has catechetical, ecumenical, liturgical and prayer resources available, and the [FDLC resource](#) includes the text of *Aperuit Illis*, pastoral suggestions, sample intercessions, and music suggestions. Links to these resources and also be found on the diocesan website under [Parish Life/Worship](#).

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 is now available:



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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed from Saturday, January 18 through Saturday, January 25, 2020. A sample ecumenical celebration of the Word of God is available through the [Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute website](#) at www.geii.org.

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 this new 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 is 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.

National Migration Week

On January 5-1, 2020, the Catholic Church in the United States observes National Migration Week. The theme for this year, "Promoting a Church and a World for All," draws attention to the fact that each of our families have a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. [Click here](#) for resources to observe National Migration Week in your parish, or visit www.usccb.org.

World Day of the Sick

A Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera for the twenty-eighth World Day of the Sick on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 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](#).

Rite of Election

The Rite of Election will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera on **Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 2:30PM** at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. RCIA Coordinator Information and Enrollment forms will available after January 15, 2020 on the diocesan website under [Parish Life/Worship/Christian Initiation and Sacraments](#). Parishes with new RCIA Coordinators are asked to contact David Baloga at the Office for Parish Life and provide their new contact information.

COMMUNITY

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

Wedding Anniversary Mass

On June 14, 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 2020. 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 March 16. Parish lists are due to the Office for Parish Life by March 23.*

Parishes are encouraged to recognize celebrating couples in their home churches too! Please contact Jen Housel to learn more at jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x1104

FOCCUS© Facilitator Training and Refresher Course

The Office for Parish Life will offer a FOCCUS Premarriage Inventory Facilitator Training and refresher option on February 29, 2020. (Snow date 4/4/2020) 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. (Anyone trained in FOCCUS can use the same skills for REFOCCUS.) If you, parish staff, or Sponsor Couples in your parish are interested in this training or refresher, please contact Jennifer Housel at the Office for Parish Life.

What is the FOCCUS© Pre-Marriage Inventory, and what is REFOCCUS? 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. REFOCCUS is an inventory tool very similar to FOCCUS, but is to be used by couples who are already married. It is an easy and effective means of marriage enrichment, helpful at any stage in a marriage.

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

Retrouvaille Returns to the Diocese of Scranton

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.

A Retrouvaille Weekend has been scheduled for May 29-31, to be held at St. Gabriel's Retreat Center in Clarks Summit. If you, or any other Retrouvaille couple you know would like to assist with the nuts and bolts of re-starting the ministry, help is needed!

To learn more about attending the weekend in May, or to learn more about helping to bring this weekend to life, please contact: Phil & Sue Milazzo, philmilaz-zo@outlook.com, (631) 338-5413 or Jen Housel, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, (570) 207-2213 x1104.

Natural Family Planning Presentation

Join us at St. John's Parish in East Stroudsburg for a presentation about Natural Family Planning. John and Hayley Michelin, longtime Diocesan NFP Trainers, will lead a presentation about Natural Family Planning (NFP) on March 28, 2020 at St. John's Parish in East Stroudsburg. The event will begin at 9:30AM and light refreshments will be served.

To learn more, contact Jen Housel, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x1104

World Marriage Day and National Marriage Week

Celebrate World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 9) and National Marriage Week (February 7 – 14) in your Parish! The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ask that we use these opportunities, "...to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. Our theme for 2020 is 'Stories from the Domestic Church.'" Many resources, including those for liturgical recognition of these events, can be found at the USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/national-marriage-week.cfm>

Please consider the ways in which your parish can recognize, support, and celebrate the vocation and sacrament of marriage. Begin planning your parish's 2020 celebration of these occasions today! To learn more, contact Jen Housel, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org, 570-207-2213 x1104

"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

March for Life

The 2020 March for Life will be held on Friday, January 24 in Washington, DC. If you are interested in attending the March, please inquire at your parish or see the list of bus transportation options published in the Catholic Light. We encourage you to attend and join this important mission to defend the sanctity of life. While we are unable to provide transportation to the March in Washington, DC, the Office for Parish Life will be organizing buses to the PA March for Life in Harrisburg, PA on May 18, 2020. If you are interested in attending the March, please contact Katy Windels at kwindels@dioceseofscranton.org by February 28.



Mass for Persons with Disabilities

Save the Date: The Annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2020 at noon at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. If you or someone you know is interested in serving at this mass, please contact Katy Windels at kwindels@dioceseofscranton.org. We hope that many of you will attend to support all members of our community, especially those with special needs. All are welcome!

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)



Virtual Learning Community
For Faith Formation

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

ISLI

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

A Peer-Facilitated Leadership Retreat
for High School Students

February 14-16, 2020

@ Holy Transfiguration
Retreat Center, Dalton

For More Info:
Applications are available online at Dioceseofscranton.org
Call (570)207-2213 x1155

 @SCRANTON_YM
 @ISLIDOS

Advocacy Training Sessions

Learn about Faithful Citizenship, Advocacy, and Parish Engagement with Social Concerns

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8: ADVOCACY 101
FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP IN A POLARIZED WORLD

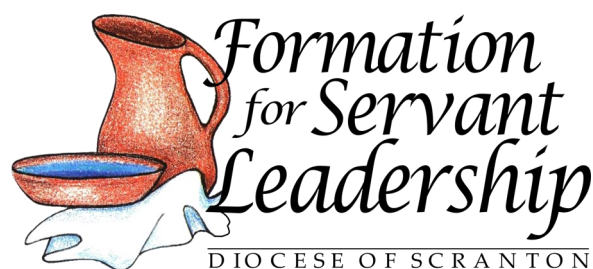
FEBRUARY 22: ADVOCACY 201
PRACTICAL STEPS FOR PARISH ADVOCACY

10 AM TO 1 PM

DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER
330 WYOMING AVENUE

RSVP to Katy Windels (570) 207-2213 x. 1101 by February 1

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.



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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