



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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World Day of the Sick
Tuesday, February 11
at 12:10PM
Cathedral of St. Peter

**Mass for Developmental
& Intellectual Disabilities
Awareness**
Sunday, February 23
at 10:00AM
Cathedral of St. Peter

Ash Wednesday
February 26

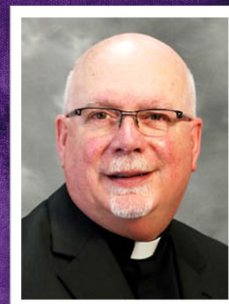
2020 LAY MINISTRY OVERNIGHT RETREAT:

“Preparing Our Hearts for Lent: Journey Together in Ministry”

February 7 - 8, 2020

Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
1000 Seminary Rd, Dalton, PA 18414

Fr. Michael Bryant, Facilitator



*A Gathering for All Certificate in Ministry Studies participants,
Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry candidates
and Pastoral Associates*

Retreat Cost: \$100.00

Payable to ‘Diocese of Scranton’
(pricing includes retreat program, meals, and lodging)

Please confirm your attendance with Kitty Scanlan
no later than Wednesday, February 5, 2020
570-207-2213 or kitty-scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org

****Retreat begins on Friday evening (arrival between 5-6PM),
and will conclude no later than 3PM on Saturday****



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 announce the upcoming Network Workshops for DREs and Youth Ministers. These meetings will continue to focus on bringing new life to our ministries as we 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 DRE and Youth Minister or another parish catechetical leader 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

Tuesday, March 17 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
Southern Region-Parish TBA

Thursday, March 26 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)
Western Region-Parish TBA

For Lent, For Life

Through the **Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl**, we share the journey with members of our human family around the world, and commit our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving to deepening our faith and serving those in need. To begin the Rice Bowl collection in your parish this Lent and to view all of the resources that Catholic Relief Services offers to assist your parish collection, please visit crsricebowl.org/begin. Resources include sample intercessions, a short video series, Stations of the Cross and social media kit.



Catechist Camp 2020

Save the Dates

We are happy to announce that the Office for Parish Life has heard your requests! We are moving our annual Catechist Camp for everyone involved in catechetical ministry or family-oriented faith formation to weekend days. The one-day camp will be presented in the four regions at different parishes of our Diocese. The dates for the Camps are as follows:

Saturday, August 1, 2020 (1:00pm-7:00pm)
Western Region

Sunday, August 2, 2020 (1:00-7:00pm)
Eastern Region

Saturday, August 8, 2020 (1:00-7:00pm)
Southern Region

Sunday, August 9, 2020 (1:00-7:00pm)
Northern Region

Religious Education Awards

Save the Date

These awards celebrate the dynamic mission of gifted Catechists, Parish Catechetical Leaders, and Directors of Religious Education/Faith Formation. Each of these catechists/DRE/DFP demonstrate the importance of passing on the faith and their example inspires us into mission!

With this in mind, the Office for Parish Life has scheduled a Mass at Saint Peter's Cathedral on **June 17, 2020 at 7PM** for the all recipients of these awards. Please watch for more information to follow.

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

WORSHIP

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 are now available on the diocesan website under [Parish Life/Worship/Christian Initiation and Sacraments](#).



Names of catechumens and candidates who will be participating in the Rite of Election must be submitted no later than Friday, February 14, 2020. Parishes with new RCIA Coordinators are asked to contact David Baloga at the Office for Parish Life and provide their new contact information.

Lent & Easter Liturgical Resource

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has compiled a liturgical resource to assist parishes in preparing liturgies for the Lent and Easter seasons. This resource includes a complete presider's text for the *Rite of Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution* with readings, sample penances, and music suggestions, as well a liturgical calendar advisory for Lent, Triduum, and the Easter Season, preparation worksheets for the Paschal Triduum and Evening Prayer for Easter Sunday. To download this resource, [click here](#) or visit www.fdlc.org and click on "resources."

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). A list of publishers who are producing the new ritual book can be found on the diocesan website under [Parish Life/Worship/Liturgical Updates](#).

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](#).



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, February 8 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.

Evening of Reflection on Lent

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will hold an Evening of Reflection on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 beginning at 6:00PM at St. Eulalia Parish, located at 214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township, PA. Fr. Jeffrey Tudgay, pastor of St. Eulalia Parish, will be leading the Evening of Reflection.



The meeting begins with dinner at 6:00PM, followed by the presentation at 7:00PM, and concludes with Night Prayer. All are welcome to attend. There is no cost for the event, but a free-will offering will be taken up to help offset the cost of dinner. To register, please [click here](#) or visit www.ScrantonNPM.com or contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 ext. 1158 by Friday, February 28th.

The Light Is On for You

The Church encourages us to make confession a regular part of our spiritual life, especially during the holy season of Lent, as we reflect on our baptism and repentance. Again this



year, parishes are participating in a Lenten initiative called *The Light Is On for You*. Every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 2, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, March 30 confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. so that Catholics can come to or return to this incredible source of God's grace, mercy and healing. Look for new resources for *The Light Is ON for You* in mid-February on the diocesan website.

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, and 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 go to www.foccusinc.com to register. Once you reach the site, choose "Training" and then "Find a training event to become a FOCCUS Facilitator. For those interested in a refresher training, or in obtaining more information, 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.

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.

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 at the Office for Parish Life.

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.

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. Please consider the ways in which your parish can recognize, support, and celebrate the vocation and sacrament of marriage. 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

Pennsylvania March for Life

The Office for Parish Life will be organizing buses to the Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg, PA on Monday, May 18, 2020. The rally takes place at 11:00AM at the State Capitol, with the March for Life taking place at 12 Noon. If you are interested in attending the March, please contact Katy Windels at kwindels@dioceseofscranton.org by February 28. Please visit PAMarchforLife.org for more information.

Mass for Persons with Disabilities

The Annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2020 at 10:00AM at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. If you or someone you know is interested in participating at this liturgy, 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.

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

VLCFF Cycle 2 registration is now open until February 26 (Ash Wednesday). Class dates are March 1-April 4. Prepare for Lent by enriching your faith through online courses, ranging in topics such as "Catholic Beliefs", "Sacraments", "Conscience", "Images of Jesus", "Understanding Culture in Ministry: Building Bridges" and more! To register or to learn more about the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, please visit vlcff.udayton.edu.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT FACILITATOR TRAINING

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Diocesan Pastoral Center
330 Wyoming Ave
Scranton, Pa 18503

9:00AM TO 12 NOON

Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, Catechists, & Volunteers are encouraged to come learn the practicalities of facilitating a confirmation retreat. Tips, tricks, and tools of an effective retreat will be explored and free resources will be offered.

Call (570) 207-2213 x1155 to
Register By March 17th

THEOLOGY ON TAP

MARCH 18
RIVERS, NOT RESERVOIRS:
CHANNELING YOUR GRACE
TO SERVE OTHERS

APRIL 22
FEET ON THE GROUND, HEARTS IN HEAVEN:
HOW DETACHMENT LEADS US TO INNER PEACE

MAY 13
TIME, TALENT, TREASURE:
GIVING THE GIFT OF SELF

SAVE THE DATES
7:00PM
SABATINI'S BOTTLESHOP
EXETER, PA
\$7 COVERS PIZZA
AND SOFT DRINKS

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

Planning for Effective Ministry



Certificate in Ministry Studies™

Join us for the next Certificate in Ministry Studies course to network with others working in youth ministry and faith formation, and learn the latest techniques and strategies needed for successful ministry. This course specifically addresses:

- Developing a foundational understandings that will assist leaders in setting and implementing a vision for dynamic ministry and catechesis.
- Growing skills for advocacy, planning and organizing ministry efforts.
- Methods for collaborative leadership among ministries and within ministry teams.

Course: Practices of Ministry explores the development of comprehensive youth ministry through the collaborative sharing of the resources in the community. Rooted in a theological and pastoral vision of community life, this course develops foundational understandings that will assist leaders in setting and implementing a vision for dynamic ministry with youth. This will include skills for advocacy, planning and organizing youth ministry efforts. Methods for collaborative leadership among ministries and within ministry teams will also be developed.



Instructor: Tom East, *Director of the Center for Ministry Development*

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 9:00am to 5:00p.m

Location: Diocesan Pastoral Center—330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

Cost: \$35 Individual enrolled in the full two-year certificate process (*Cost for course materials*)

\$85 Guest Participant– taking a single course, or coming from another Diocese

Register online at www.dioceseofscranton.org

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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