



# GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
 OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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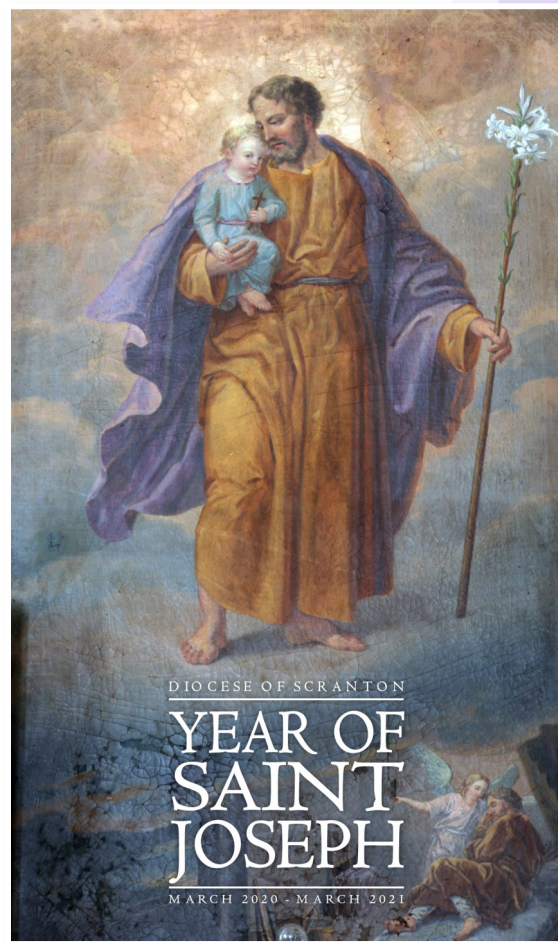
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## Year of Saint Joseph

**T**his year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pope Pius IX's decree, *Quemadmodum Deus*, naming Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus, as the Patron of the Universal Church. In commemoration of this anniversary and recognizing the fitting time for the Church to invoke the intercession of this guardian, **His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has declared this year as a "Year of Saint Joseph" to be observed in the Diocese of Scranton from March 19, 2020 to March 19, 2021.** Bishop Bambera states, "Just as Saint Joseph watched over

and protected the Lord Jesus while he was on earth, we need Saint Joseph to watch over and provide for the Church today. His intercession on behalf of the Universal Church is vital as the world faces so much upheaval and pain, and particularly as it confronts the uncertainty and pain of the coronavirus epidemic."

Bishop Bambera invites all of the faithful to renew their devotion to Saint Joseph during this commemorative year, and to seek his powerful intercession to safely guard the Church from all evils, just as he protected the Holy Family from harm. Resources including the decree, *Quemadmodum Deus*, prayer cards, novena, sample intercessions and song suggestions can be found on the [diocesan website](#).



**The Light Is ON for You  
Mondays in Lent  
from 5:30—7:00PM**

**Chrism Mass  
Tuesday, April 7, 2020  
at 4:00PM  
Cathedral of Saint Peter**

***Saint Joseph, our guide and patron, pray for us!***



## Networking Meetings

We are excited to announce the upcoming Network Workshops for DREs and Youth Ministers. 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 12 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)**

Northern Region-St. Gregory Parish, Clarks Green

**Tuesday, March 17 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)**

Southern Region-Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Plains

**Thursday, March 26 (6:00 – 8:00 pm)**

Western Region-Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Dushore

To register, contact Jacki Douglas at 570-207-2213 x-1100 or [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org).



## 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

These awards celebrate the dynamic mission of gifted Catechists, Parish Catechetical Leaders, and Directors of Religious Education/Faith Formation. Each of these catechists/DREs/DFFs 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 the Cathedral of Saint Peter on **Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 7:00PM** for the all recipients of these awards. Please watch for more information.

## Full Involvement in Intergenerational Faith Formation Workshop

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](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) (570)207-2213 x-1100.

## Instant Access to New Resources

For compassionate understanding and spiritual support through some of life's most difficult challenges, the Office for Parish Life is happy to offer much-needed resources available instantly, online. These videos range from faith formation to biblical teachings to a full selection of grief and social issues from Paraclete Press.

Parishes can benefit from Instant Access to the Complete Video Streaming Library — a collection of more than 50 full-length videos. Each parish can share access with staff members, small group leaders, pastoral care coordinators, teachers, and church members who serve in a variety of ministries!

Find immediate, trusted support on a wide range of topics including:

- o [Grief and Bereavement](#)
- o [Social Issues](#)
- o [Faith Formation for Adults](#)
- o [Faith Formation for Children](#)

Paraclete's award-winning line of videos have earned praise from experts in these fields. For more information, contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 or email [jhouse1@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhouse1@dioceseofscranton.org) or [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) To access the Paraclete Video Streaming Library, visit [paracletevideostreaming.com](http://paracletevideostreaming.com).

## Adult Faith Formation Toolkit

With increasing clarity and resolve, voices of the church—both official and unofficial—express time after time of the significance of the faith formation of adults to the life and vitality of the church. One of the parish tool kits offered by the Office for Parish Life is on Adult Faith Formation. You access this toolkit on the diocesan website under 'Parish Life/Councils/Committee or Coordinating Team Tools' or go to <https://scrantontoolkits.weebly.com/adult-faith-formation.html>

If you have any questions call 570-207-2213 Ext. 1100 or email [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org)



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

# WORSHIP

## Health Precautions and the Liturgy

Recently, Bishop Bambera released the following precautionary directives for the celebration of Mass related to widespread flu activity and the outbreak of the coronavirus, which has now surfaced within the territory of the Diocese of Scranton:

- The faithful are strongly encouraged at this time to receive the Body of Christ (via the Sacred Host) in the hand, but the right of each individual to receive on the tongue, as guaranteed by the universal law of the Church, remains in place and is to be respected. This request is made in order to curtail the spread of germs to the communicant, the minister of Holy Communion and other communicants.
- The faithful should refrain from the use of holy water upon entering and exiting our churches. Out of an abundance of caution, pastors should remove holy water from fonts in an effort to reduce the possible transmission of the virus.
- Parishes should make proper provisions for persons with celiac disease who cannot digest the gluten in wheat hosts or have other sensitivities.
- Elderly parishioners who are not sick but are concerned about being in crowded spaces are not bound by the Sunday Mass obligation.

### **These temporary changes come in addition to those announced on March 3, 2020:**

- The distribution of the Precious Blood via the Chalice is temporarily suspended.
- The Sign of Peace will now be exchanged without physical contact.
- Priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should practice good hygiene, washing their hands before Mass begins or even using an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Holy Communion.
- Parishioners are also reminded that if they are sick, especially with flu-like symptoms, they should stay home for their own well-being and that of others. If parishioners are sick or suspect they are sick with a contagious illness, they are not bound by the Sunday Mass obligation.

Undoubtedly, other concerns may be raised as we confront the spread of the coronavirus. We would encourage vigilance and discretion by priests and faithful to use common sense and good hygiene.

We pray for all the sick, in particular those suffering from the flu or from the coronavirus. We pray for the researchers trying to find a treatment and we pray for those who are caring for the sick throughout the world.

## 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, which is available in English and Spanish, 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 as 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](http://www.fdlc.org) and click on "resources."



## Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

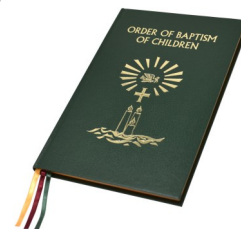
VLCFF Cycle 3 registration is now open until April 15. Class dates are April 19-May 9 (a special three-week cycle!).



## Order of Baptism of Children

The 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](#).



## 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 2 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. Deadline to register is Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

# 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](mailto: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 "The Sacrament of Marriage and the Proper Role that NFP (Natural Family Planning) Can Play" 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. (This presentation is intended for adults.) To learn more, contact Jen Housel at the Office for Parish Life.

## Bereavement & Grief Ministry Event

For those involved in Grief and Bereavement Parish Ministries, a Bereavement and Grief Ministry Event will take place on Saturday, May 23, 2020 from 1:00PM to 3:00PM at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock. Please join us!

- o Hear the compelling witness of Bob Pynzar, who has been active in this ministry for decades
- o Learn of resources available, and share with others the resources that you have found valuable in your ministry
- o Come to listen and ask questions, particularly if you are considering beginning this ministry in your parish

To register for this event, please contact Jennifer Housel, Director for Community and Family Development at 570-207-2213 x 1104 or at [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org)

## 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, [philmilazzo@outlook.com](mailto:philmilazzo@outlook.com), (631) 338-5413 or Jen Housel, [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org), (570) 207-2213 x1104.

## 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



"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."

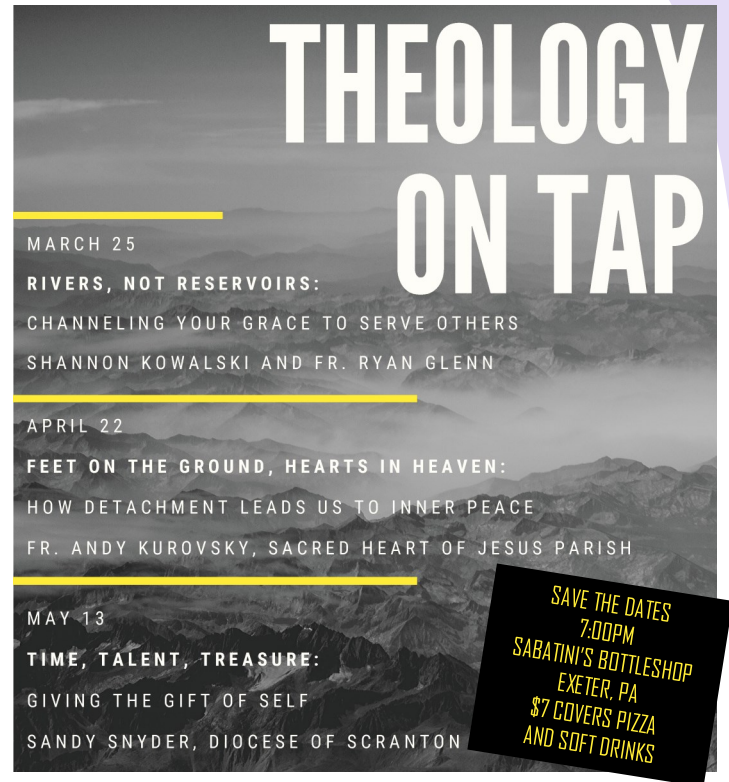
# SERVICE

## Walking with Mothers in Need

March 25 marks the anniversary of *Evangelium Vitae*, the encyclical which reinforces our Catholic teaching on the dignity of the human person from conception until natural death. The document gives us a context for Catholic teaching against abortion under all circumstances.

As we look to these teachings for guidance in a particularly polarized world, we hope to draw people together under the theme of *Walking with Mothers in Need*. The USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat has marked 2020 as a Year of Service, dedicated to this protecting the most vulnerable by caring for mothers and their children.

In this time, we would like to uphold the work of pregnancy care centers, Project Rachel Ministries, and healthcare services for women and children. We encourage you to engage your parishes in service activities directed at these vulnerable groups and to help us in applauding and supporting the work of these organizations. This month, the Office for Parish Life will be publishing a guide to advocacy and service to mothers in need. Please look for more information on this important initiative!



**THEOLOGY ON TAP**

MARCH 25  
**RIVERS, NOT RESERVOIRS:**  
CHANNELING YOUR GRACE TO SERVE OTHERS  
SHANNON KOWALSKI AND FR. RYAN GLENN

APRIL 22  
**FEET ON THE GROUND, HEARTS IN HEAVEN:**  
HOW DETACHMENT LEADS US TO INNER PEACE  
FR. ANDY KUROVSKY, SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH

MAY 13  
**TIME, TALENT, TREASURE:**  
GIVING THE GIFT OF SELF  
SANDY SNYDER, DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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

## Becoming Faithful Curators: Discovering and Evaluating Resources for Serving a 21st Century Church

Saturday, April 18, 2020 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM at St. Gregory Parish, Clarks Green

Parish leaders have the significant responsibility of curating the knowledge and practices of the Catholic Christian religion they provide their parishioners. Recall Jesus' graphic message (Mt 18:6; Lk 17:2) about those who lead the little ones astray suffering a fate *worse than* drowning with a mill-stone tied about their necks? Jesus is so emphatic because at stake is people's ability to have a healthy relationship with God and to live the gospel authentically. This responsibility has perhaps been made even more challenging by the sometimes overwhelming availability of information today, even in the area of faith. How can we acquire religious "information literacy?"

Faithful curation involves discerning:

- relevance to the times and to the audience
- opportunities for access
- faithfulness to the gospel and to the Church
- loads of humility

We will discuss useful yardsticks for measuring the appropriateness of information and practice applying them to typical choices parish leaders make, like deciding on programs and publications, Scriptural interpretations, news sources and prayer experiences.

*Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, has worn many different hats in her lifetime, including teacher, pastoral associate, principal, retreat leader, daughter, sister, mother and wife. She endlessly explores how God is mixed-up in human lives and loves to help others see it as well. From 2012-2017, Bernadette was the Director for Family and Community Development for the Diocese of Scranton. She is currently an instructor in Villanova University's Theology/Religious Studies Department and publishes a weekly podcast, [www.GoodNews4You.net](http://www.GoodNews4You.net).*



For more information please contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213,  
Please visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) to register.

# 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:** Immaculate Conception Parish, 801 Taylor Ave., Scranton (Please note the change in location)

**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](http://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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