



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
 OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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Resources for a Time of Social Distancing



This edition of Good News Notes features the best resources to help your parishioners, families and individuals, pray and grow in their faith during this current pandemic. Additional resources can be found on the diocesan website under [Parish Life/Resources for a Time of Social Distancing](#).

Holy Week Pontifical Masses Broadcast on CTV

Palm Sunday:

Saturday, April 4 at 4:00 p.m. and
Sunday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Thursday,

Thursday April 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday,

Friday, April 10 at 12:10 p.m.

Holy Saturday,

Saturday, April 11 at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday,

Sunday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Almighty and Compassionate God,
 through your Son, Jesus, you brought healing to the sick and hope to a suffering world.
 We pray for all of those who have died as a result of this coronavirus pandemic,
 and especially everyone infected with this disease now.
 May they receive the strength to persevere through their suffering,
 and may those who care for them, medical professionals as well as caretakers,
 be shielded from this illness.
 May we develop a greater appreciation for the men and women
 who put themselves in harm's way to ensure our safety and sustenance.
 Inspire the hearts and minds
 of those working towards treatment and vaccines for this disease,
 so that through your mercy, our broken world may be again made whole.
 Amen.

Additional prayers during this pandemic can be found at the above link.



Religious Education at Home

The following resources are recommended for offering religious education in your home during the current health crisis:

- **Loyola Press**—Offers At-Home Editions, Interactive Session Reviews, Study Guides and Raising Faith-Filled Kids sessions. Visit loyolapress.com.
- **Pflaum**—Children's Liturgy of the Word lessons are available. Information to download Pflaum's Children Celebrate leaflet and the coloring activity can be found in the video description. [Click here](#) for the instructional video.
- **RCL Benziger**—Highly recommended and can be done in correlation with the book or can be taught on its own. This series offers grade level learning that can be done at home with their parents. Visit rclbletionary.com.
- **Sadlier Connect**—If your school or parish is shifting to an online learning approach, Sadlier is providing, free of charge, eBooks for the Sadlier print programs you are using for the remainder of the school year. To access your FREE eBook Site License for Sadlier Religion programs, log in to *Sadlier Connect* at <http://rclbletionary.com/classroom-sessions-year-2019-2020>. Username is SadlierStudent, Password is ReadyToLearn!

Family Prayer & Mass

- **USCCB Catholic Current**—The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and other Catholic partners have generously made their resources available to support prayer during these difficult days. Visit catholiccurrent.org
- **My Catholic Kids**—During the coronavirus national emergency, My Catholic Kids is making its library of Mass videos for the Children's Missalette available free to all! Check out mycatholickids.com.

Parent Resources

- **National Association of School Psychologists**—Families across the country are adapting to the evolving changes in daily life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes trying to keep children occupied, feeling safe, and attempting to keep up with schoolwork as best as possible. [Click here](#) for resources from NASP.

Sacramental Preparation

The following resources are recommended for sacramental preparation. Resources for retreats can be found on the diocesan website.

Penance/First Eucharist Preparation:

- **Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**—This is a great Penance/Eucharist program for families and will enable them to pick up where their class left off. Visit <https://sacredhearthouston.org/penanceeucharist-activities>
- **Loyola Press**—Offers great resources for First Communion, including a session on the Eucharist and the Mass. Visit www.loyolapress.com.
- **Dynamic Catholic**—There's never been anything like BLESSED in the Catholic world for children. With world-class animation, workbooks that are works of art, and catechist-friendly leader guides, First Communion and First Reconciliation prep finally meets children where they are and leads them, step-by-step, to where God is calling them to be. Visit <https://dynamiccatholic.com/blessed>.

Confirmation Preparation

- **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish**—This parish in Ohio has come up with an online Confirmation series for parents to do with their children. Each DRE can choose what parts of the series they would like their students to utilize beginning with page 4-Confirmation Session on the Holy Spirit. Jim Merhaut narrates. Visit <http://www.ihm-parish.com/apps/search?q=confirmation+introductory+session>
- **Loyola Press**—*Confirmed in the Spirit* is a comprehensive, flexible, fully bilingual Confirmation preparation program that speaks with relevance to the hearts and lives of young people. Through Scripture, prayer, in-depth content, and age-appropriate opportunities for reflective and active experiences, *Confirmed in the Spirit* prepares young people for Confirmation and the next phase of their lives as Catholics. Visit loyolapress.com.
- **Dynamic Catholic**—Are you ready? Most young Catholics are disengaged. Until they are engaged, they won't absorb information about the faith and make it their own. Are you ready to engage the young people of your parish in a life-changing conversation about the genius of Catholicism? Learn more about *Decision Point*. Check out www.dynamiccatholic.com.

CHECK OUT MORE RESOURCES
ON THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE—PARISH LIFE, RESOURCES FOR A TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

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

WORSHIP

Mass in Time of Pandemic

Pope Francis just approved the new Mass formulary, "In Time of Pandemic." The usual guidelines for the use of Masses for Various Needs and Occasions apply to this Mass, so it may not be used during the privileged days of Holy Week or the Octave of Easter. The Mass texts and readings for this Mass are available in both English and Spanish and can be found on the diocesan website under [Parish Life/Resources for a Time of Social Distancing](#).

Holy Week Directives

All of the [directives](#) issued by Bishop Bambera on March 24, 2020 as well as the update on March 30, 2020 regarding Holy Week during this health crisis can be found on the diocesan website. **Please note that making palm branches available to the faithful is now prohibited.**

Triduum Worship Aid and Easter Basket Blessing

As part of an effort for parishioners remain engaged in their parish's celebration of the Paschal Triduum via live-streamed or recorded liturgies, the Office of Parish Life has prepared a general worship aid for the Paschal Triduum that the faithful can use to participate at home. While it doesn't include music, the resource contains the readings, responses, and explanations of the rites. Readings for the Paschal Triduum will also be printed in the upcoming edition of *The Catholic Light*.

An Easter Basket Blessing adapted for lay-persons as found in the *Book of Blessings* is also available so that families can offer the blessing in their homes.

The [Paschal Triduum worship aid](#) as well as an [Easter Basket blessing adapted for a lay person](#) can be found on the diocesan website under Parish Life.

Free Resources in Time of Crisis

- **Liturgy Training Publications** is currently offering several free resources for prayer during this health crisis. These resources are available in both English and Spanish and can be found on their website, www.ltp.org. LTP is also offering **free virtual retreats** on the various movements of **Holy Week and on the Way of Cross**. [Click here](#) to view the offerings.
- Daily prayer resources such as [Magnificat](#) and [Give Us This Day](#) are currently offering free digital copies of their resources.
- **OneLicense.net** is providing two different gratis license options valid through April 15, 2020—one for reprinting congregation music and the other for podcasts or live-streaming. Visit onelicense.net for more information.

Perfect Contrition

With the increasing difficulty for individuals to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation due to the current health crisis, the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded that by having *perfect contrition* one can receive the forgiveness of sins, apart from going to confession.

Perfect contrition requires the following three things:

- A love of God above all else
- A sincere desire for the forgiveness from sin
- The resolution to go to confession as soon as possible when this health crisis subsides.

Pastors and Parish Life Coordinators should publicize this information as widely as possible.

Plenary Indulgence

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has granted a *plenary indulgence* under specific conditions.

The faithful who qualify for a *plenary indulgence* during the coronavirus pandemic:

- Those suffering from the coronavirus illness
- Health care workers, family members, and others caring for those with the coronavirus (exposing themselves to the virus)

The faithful must do at least one of the following:

- Unite yourself spiritually through the media in the celebration of the Holy Mass
- Recite the Rosary
- Pious practice of the Way of the Cross (or other forms of devotion)
- Recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and a Hail Mary

The faithful must be willing to perform all of the following as soon as possible: (considered the three usual conditions for a plenary indulgence)

- Going to Confession
- Receiving Holy Communion
- Praying for the intentions of Pope Francis

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

When participating in the Mass at home through media, consider offering this prayer attributed to St. Alphonsus Ligouri during Holy Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

COMMUNITY

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

Please share any of the information below from which others may benefit, either directly or via your parish website, parish bulletin, or parish social media. If you are seeking other resources, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding those listed below, please reach out. (jhouse1@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213 x 1104)

Care for Marriages

The stresses being experienced in marriages due to the Coronavirus Pandemic can be minor irritations caused by day upon day of being cooped up together. The stresses can also be much more serious, such as job loss and financial strain, physical illness, death, or new or worsening mental health issues.

It is essential that you safeguard your marriage during these difficult times. One way to begin is to remember that whatever stressors the two of you are facing, you can face them together as a team. It is not "You vs. Me", instead it is "Us vs. this Problem our marriage is currently facing". As a team, working with one another (and with God's help too!), you can begin to make progress in addressing the issue at hand.

For additional ways to help sustain marriage and family relationships, click [here](#) to read, "Building Family Bonds during COVID-19". And for more information, please visit our Diocesan Webpages for [Marriage Enrichment](#) and [Marriage Support](#).

Grief Support

We have all lost, and we all continue to lose much, to the Coronavirus Pandemic. From our cherished Catholic community faith practices and gatherings, to family celebrations, to our regular daily routines, these losses can seem endless.

For an informative (albeit secular) perspective on the universal grieving caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic, click [here](#) to read, "Coronavirus Has Upended Our World. It's OK To Grieve". And for additional resources related to grieving, including an option for video streaming (a good alternative during social distancing) please visit our [Diocesan Webpage for Grief Support](#).

Mental Health Support/ Staying Safely Connected

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops recently shared this online mental health support resource with our Office for Parish Life: [Care for your Coronavirus Anxiety](#). This site offers a wealth of resources covering such topics as "Anxiety", "Ask an Expert", and "Isolation".

Social connections are known to be key factors in both good mental *and* in good physical health. Please reach out in safe ways to family, friends, and fellow parishioners and consider making a special effort to contact those you may know who do not regularly benefit from a large social circle. In addition to the pleasures of a simple

phone call, consider connecting via Skype, Facebook, FaceTime (for Apple products) or HouseParty. For an additional resource for Mental Health, visit [The Catholic Institute for Mental Health Ministry](#).

Support Your Parish

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges for all of us, including our beloved parishes. Offertory funds lost due to the suspension of Masses have put a strain on the ability of parishes to pay bills and offer services.

Please consider making a gift and support the vital ministries and services your parish provides through the [diocese website](#). You may select your parish from the drop-down menu on the online form or you may choose "parishes most in need" at the bottom of the list. Gifts of any amount are welcome and all gifts will go directly to the parish you indicate.

Questions or need help making your gift? Contact Jim Bebla at Jim-Bebla@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570-207-2250.

Thank you for your kindness. Please click [here](#) for a message from Bishop Bambera.

Free e-Seminar: *Hope in Times of Crisis*

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation of the University of Dayton is offering a free three-week online seminar to support your ministry in the Church during the coronavirus pandemic. The three-week e-seminar begins April 5, 2020. Visit vclff.udayton.edu for more information or to register.

NFCYM Webinars in Spanish

Friday, April 3, 2020 at 1:00PM

This webinar offered in Spanish is designed for all pastoral leaders ministering among the Hispanic/Latino Catholic community. It will address our current ministerial and economic reality and how it is impacting families and Hispanic Ministry in the United States. Panelists will reflect on the role of the domestic Church and small faith communities during times of crisis and identify practical actions and steps we can take to continue nurturing our faith, strengthening our relationships, and showing solidarity with the most vulnerable.

Panelists include Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, V Encuentro National Coordinator and Assistant Director of Hispanic Affairs- USCCB, Dr. Dora Tobar Director of Family Life & Hispanic Ministry, Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana, Rev. Juan Molina, President of the National Association of Hispanic Priests and Parochial Vicar Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Antonio, TX.

"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

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)

The NFCYM recognizes these are uncharted waters. During this time, we are ALL called to minister to young people and each other. They are here to assist you in light of the changes brought about by COVID-19. Browse their webpage for numerous resources on how to minister virtually to teens during this time. For resources on Ministry during Crisis, Tools and Resources for Virtual Ministry, Messages of Hope, Resources for Parishes and Priests and more, go to nfcym.org/covid19/

Additional Youth and Young Adult Ministry Resources

This is a [crowd-sourced working list](#) of resources to assist in the work of ministering with young adults remotely through federal and state-mandated quarantines. It has been compiled by the USCCB National Advisory Team on Young Adult Ministry (NATYAM), in collaboration with the Loyola New Orleans Institute for Ministry (LIM), and with contributions from Catholic ministry leaders from across the United States.

ProjectYM Live—An Online Catholic Youth Night

It's simple: teens are able to log on Sunday nights from 8:00 to 9:00pm for a free live broadcast! They even have additional resources for parents and youth ministers to have follow up conversations with your teens after the broadcast. Each broadcast is an hour long and includes games, music, and a teaching from one of the top Catholic youth ministry speakers in the country. Teens will be able to watch the live stream from any device and be part of the BIGGEST Catholic youth night ever! **Go to projected.com/live/**



Facebook Live

Is your parish still trying to figure out how to do live-streaming on Facebook? Click on the following link for a step by step guide on how to work Facebook Live: <https://nfcym.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/How-to-Use-Facebook-Live.pdf>

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

Saturday, April 18, 2020 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM —Online Learning Group

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:

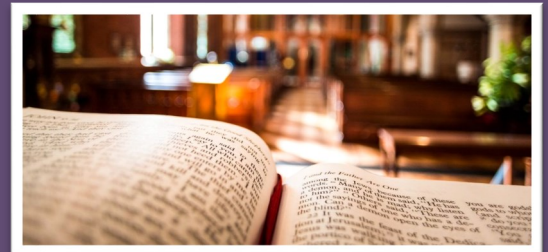
- relevance to the times and to the audience
- opportunities for access
- faithfulness to the gospel and to the Church
- loads of humility

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.

For more information, please contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

Please visit www.dioceseofscranton.org to register.



Additional Resources

Father MD's Kitchen Table

An invitation to members of our Catholic deaf and hard-of-hearing community—www.frmd.org is the website of a deaf priest who is celebrating Mass and all of the Holy Week Services with ASL.

V Encuentro List of Resources

The V Encuentro has compiled a list of resources provided by partners and Catholic organizations that are meant to assist Hispanic/Latino pastoral ministers, parents, and all Catholics. Included are resources, prayers, webinars, lists of online masses and live streams. Visit vencuentro.org to view these resources.

Online Stations of the Cross

- **Stations of the Cross during COVID-19 Pandemic**—a setting of the Stations of the Cross written by Mari-beth Hopps from the Diocese of Saginaw that connects the suffering of Christ in his passion to the current pandemic. [Click here](#) to read more and to pray this devotion or visit saginaw.org.
- **Stations of the Cross in Spanish**—prayed from St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg. [Click here](#) to view.

Hymns in Time of Crisis

The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada has compiled a free collection of *Hymns in Times of Crisis*, which provides some useful resources for the current coronavirus crisis. The first of these collections was *Hymns in Times of Crisis*, which provides some useful resources for the current coronavirus crisis. The copyright holders of these texts have graciously agreed to allow limited use of these hymns. [Click here](#) for more information.

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

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Coordinator for Youth/Young Adult Ministry: Shannon Kowalski

Director for WORSHIP: David Baloga

Coordinator for SERVICE and Social Justice:

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

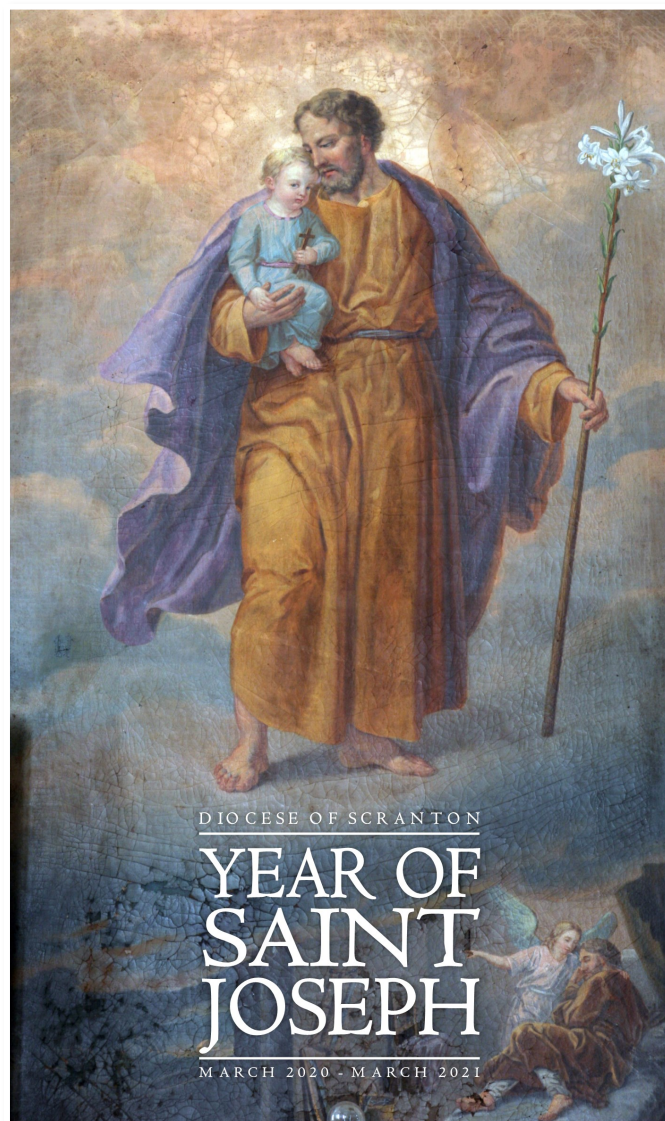
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