

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates the Palm Sunday Vigil Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton with no members of the public present. Video cameras at the Cathedral are used to broadcast the Mass on CTV: Catholic Television and social media. (Photo: Eric Deabill)

## HOLY WEEK AT HOME

*Due to COVID-19 pandemic, liturgies are being live-streamed or broadcast across the Diocese*

SCRANTON – Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrated Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton with no public assembly in place.

The Mass began a series of Holy Week liturgies that will be celebrated without the presence of the faithful from the Diocese of Scranton.

Broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television and over a wide range of media, including Facebook and YouTube, the bishop preached his homily to cameras instead of people packing the pews.

“Brothers and sisters, we stand on the threshold of a Holy Week unlike any that we have ever before experienced. For all of our wisdom and knowledge, this liminal moment finds us overwhelmed by a crisis that is beyond our capacity to control,” Bishop Bambera said. “At the same time, this moment has

miraculously called forth from each of us a mindfulness of the blessings of life, family, love and faith. It beckons us to reflect on the heart of our faith as Christians – the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus – and to seek to find a place for ourselves within that great mystery.”

The bishop encouraged those watching and listening to his homily remotely to find themselves in the scriptures that recount Jesus’ Passion.

“As we grapple with the unsettling and painful realities that are enveloping our world and our lives, perhaps we see ourselves like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, begging the Father to allow the cross to pass Him by,” the bishop said. “Haven’t we pleaded with God to let the cross of suffering pass us by, to stop this pandemic, to cure our illnesses and to lift from us the grief that comes from the loss of all that is familiar and comforting? Of course we

have! But have we ever gotten to the point of trust, as Jesus did in the midst of His prayer in the Garden: ‘Not my will, Father, but yours be done?’”

Even as the coronavirus continues to spread locally and nationally, the Bishop said people can still find hope in Jesus.

“With all of the different feelings that we bring to this moment of prayer at the beginning of Holy Week, every one of us comes with the same hope: We come seeking God’s mercy, strength and peace,” Bishop Bambera said. “Despite all that seems to overwhelm us, the good news of the Gospel of Jesus is that we will not be disappointed in our seeking – for God is faithful, even when we are not!”

Bishop Bambera ended his Palm Sunday homily by encouraging the faithful to put their lives in the hands of God.

*Continued on Page 2*

### Holy Week/Easter Services Schedule

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, will broadcast the following Holy Week and Easter services from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton.

- ✦ Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, April 9, at 5:30 p.m.
- ✦ Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion, April 10 at 12:10 p.m.
- ✦ Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 11 at 8:00 p.m.
- ✦ Easter Sunday Mass, April 12 at 10:00 a.m.; encore at 5:30 p.m.

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DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



# The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

## POLICY STATEMENT

*The Catholic Light* is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

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## Pope on Palm Sunday: Life, measured by love, is meant to serve others

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – With a small procession down the vast and empty central nave of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis began the first of a series of Holy Week liturgies on Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Palm Sunday Mass, the liturgy that begins with a commemoration of Jesus entering Jerusalem among a jubilant crowd, was celebrated without the usual outdoor procession and blessing of the faithful's palm fronds.

A small number of pews were set out, with 13 people -- each holding a woven palm frond -- sitting one per pew; just eight people sang in the choir. The basilica was decorated with a potted olive tree and greenery. Also displayed were the "Salus Populi Romani" (health of the Roman people) icon and what Romans call the "Miraculous Crucifix," normally housed in the Church of St. Marcellus; over the centuries, both the icon and crucifix have been associated with miraculous interventions to save the city and its people.

Broadcast and livestreamed, the pope preached in his homily about the betrayal and abandonment Jesus experienced before and during his Passion.

He was betrayed by a disciple who "sold him" and one who denied him, betrayed by people who sang "hosanna" to him and then shouted "crucify him," betrayed by "the religious institution that unjustly condemned him and by the political institution that washed its hands of him," the pope said.

Then, on the cross, Jesus asked God "the most excruciating question, 'Why.' 'Why did you, too, abandon me?'"

"Why did all this take place?" the pope asked. "It was done for our sake, to serve us."

"God saved us by serving us" and by taking upon himself all the punishment for people's sins "without complaining, but with the humility, patience and obedience of a servant, and purely out of love," he said.

"The Lord served us to the point of experiencing the most painful situations of those who love -- betrayal and abandonment," he said.

The reason, the pope said, was so "when we have our back to the wall, when we find ourselves at a dead end, with no light and no way of escape, when it seems that God himself is not responding, we should



**Pope Francis holds palm fronds while celebrating Palm Sunday Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 5, 2020. The Mass was celebrated without the presence of the public as Italy battles the coronavirus. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)**

remember that we are not alone."

Jesus experienced total abandonment, he said, "in order to be one with us in everything. He did it for me, for you, to say to us, 'Do not be afraid, you are not alone. I experienced all your desolation in order to be ever close to you.'"

"Today, in the tragedy of a pandemic, in the face of the many false securities that have now crumbled, in the face of so many hopes betrayed, in the sense of abandonment that weighs upon our hearts, Jesus says to each one of us, 'Courage, open your heart to my love. You will feel the consolation of God who sustains you,'" Pope Francis said.

Inspired by the Lord's example of love and service despite the cost, the faithful are also called to "refuse to betray him for whom we were created and not abandon what really matters in our lives."

"We were put in this world to love him and our neighbors," the pope said. "Everything else passes away; only this remains."

"The tragedy we are experiencing summons us to take seriously the things that are serious and not to be caught up in those that matter less; to rediscover that life is of no use if not used to serve others," he said. "For life is measured by love."

So with the start of a Holy Week with people in their homes, "let us stand before the crucified one, the fullest measure of God's love for us, and before the God who serves us to the point of giving his life, and let us ask for the grace to live in order to serve."

The pope asked that people reach out to those who are suffering and most in need, and be concerned less with "what we lack, but what good we can do for others."

"Loving, praying, forgiving, caring for others, in the family and in society, all this can certainly be difficult," he said. "It can feel like a 'via crucis.' But the path of service is the victorious and life-giving path by which we were saved."

Also marking the day when World Youth Day is celebrated on a diocesan level, the pope called on young people to not be afraid of devoting their lives to God and others and putting "your lives on the line."

"Dear friends, look at the real heroes who come to light in these days: they are not famous, rich and successful people; rather, they are those who are giving themselves in order to serve others," he said.

"Life is a gift we receive only when we give ourselves away, and our deepest joy comes from saying yes to love, without "ifs" and "buts." As Jesus did for us," he said.

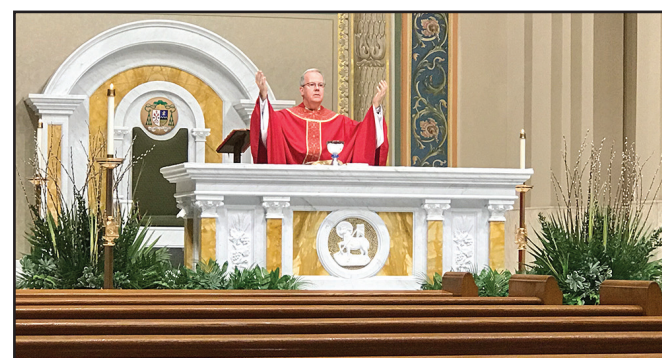
## Bishop: During darkest of days, trust in God

*Continued from Page 1*

"Our way forward in the midst of these darkest of days, brothers and sisters, is found in the very crosses that have enveloped our lives. These crosses, by their nature, prompt us to do the one and only thing that has the power to save us. They compel us to trust in God -- because the crosses that we face these days are beyond our ability to fix, resolve or rationalize away on our own. When we are humble enough to trust -- as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane -- when we have

nowhere else to turn -- it is then that Jesus is given room in our lives to carry us to a place of life and peace.

"Make no mistake -- our experience of Holy Week will not take away the harsh realities of life that we face during these challenging days. But our authentic embrace of the example of Jesus -- particularly in the midst of the crosses that we carry -- has the power to open our lives to the mystery of God's saving grace. Only by placing our lives in the hands of God and by trusting in Jesus'



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates the Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday with no members of the public in attendance.**

powerful example of selfless love will any of us truly be able to face each day -- and even these most unsettling of days -- with hope and peace."



Dear Friends,

On Ash Wednesday, none of us could have imagined the degree to which our world and our lives would be turned upside down during the five weeks of Lent. “Coronavirus,” “social distancing” and “sheltering in place” – terms that for most of us were unheard of two months ago – have become a regular part of our vocabulary. Sadly, underneath the surface of these terms, we come face to face with unimaginable loss, grief, uncertainty, loneliness and fear.

In so many ways, death and dying seem to have enveloped our lives. Some of us, tragically, have lost loved ones to this dreaded virus. Many are battling the physical consequences of this disease. Most every one of us is faced with an unexpected and challenging “new-normal” that has entombed us in our homes and even, in some instances, in rooms within those homes. Like so many of you, I visit my own mother weekly with a delivery of groceries and am forced to engage her at a distance and most often behind the glass of a storm door. This moment simply doesn’t make sense, does it?

All of these challenges and so many more have prompted many to ask where we find hope in the midst of these dreadful times. While most have confronted the message of Good Friday and the cross of Jesus like never before, many of us are struggling to discover the blessing of Easter.

If that’s where you find yourselves, my friends, I’d suggest that we reflect a bit more thoughtfully on the Easter mystery of Jesus. In the Gospel passage from Saint Matthew that will be proclaimed during this year’s Easter Vigil, we read that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb of Jesus at dawn on the first day of the week. There was a great earthquake and an angel rolled back the stone that had closed up the tomb and sat upon it. The angel then spoke these words to the women, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.”

In his Easter homily delivered last year, Pope Francis reflected upon the experience of that first Easter morning and the loss, grief and fear that permeated the lives of Jesus’ closest followers. His words spoken a year ago speak to our hearts more today than ever before, “Why do you think that everything is hopeless, that no one can take away your own tombstones? Why do you give into resignation or failure? Easter, brothers and sisters, is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside. God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness. Human history does not end before a tombstone, because today it encounters the “living stone” (cf. 1 Pet 2:4), the risen Jesus. We, as Church, are built on him, and, even when we grow disheartened and tempted to judge everything in the light of our failures, he comes to make all things new, to overturn our every disappointment. Each of us is called to rediscover in the Risen Christ the one who rolls back from our heart the heaviest of stone.”

While so many stones seem to hem us inside of the tombs that are enveloping us these days, may we have the courage – with the help of the lives God sends into our midst – to look beyond our confines to discover signs of hope and resurrection. They truly abound, if we take the time to look carefully and are humble enough to discover them.

From those checking on the well-being of elderly neighbors, to volunteers helping to feed the hungry poor, to thoughtful phone calls to those who are distant, to grocery store and pharmacy workers who risk their own health to serve us, to the countless numbers of public servants, first responders and health care workers who selflessly place themselves in harm’s way to care for the sick and suffering among us – each of these examples and so many more are signs to us of hope in the midst of a dark and unsettling time. And for us as Christians, who believe in the incarnation of Jesus and his abiding presence in the lives of his people, these are also signs of nothing less than the Resurrection and its power to save.

To our catechumens and candidates who await baptism and full communion in the Catholic Church, please know of our prayers for you. Your openness to the Spirit of God in your lives gives us great consolation. Welcome to our Catholic family. In so many ways, you are witnessing the Church at its best as so many selflessly serve their brothers and sisters.

My friends, we are blessed in more ways than we might believe or imagine. May we trust in God’s promise to sustain us and dispel our deepest fears. And with God’s grace, may we push aside those stones that imprison us, allowing the love and mercy of the Risen One to envelop our hearts and grant us peace.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Faithfully yours in the Risen Christ,

+ *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.  
Bishop of Scranton



Queridos Amigos,

El Miércoles de Ceniza, ninguno de nosotros podría haber imaginado el grado en que nuestro mundo y nuestras vidas se pondrían patas arriba durante las cinco semanas de Cuaresma. “Coronavirus”, “distanciamiento social” y “refugio en el lugar”, términos que para la mayoría de nosotros no se conocían hace dos meses, se han convertido en una parte regular de nuestro vocabulario. Y tristemente, debajo de la superficie de estos términos, nos encontramos cara a cara con una pérdida inimaginable, dolor, incertidumbre, soledad y miedo.

En muchos sentidos, la muerte y el morir parecen haber envuelto nuestras vidas. Algunos de nosotros, trágicamente, hemos perdido seres queridos por este temido virus. Muchos están luchando contra las consecuencias físicas de esta enfermedad. Y la mayoría de nosotros enfrentamos una inesperada y desafiante “nueva normalidad” que nos ha sepultado en nuestros hogares e incluso, en algunos casos, en habitaciones dentro de esos hogares. Como muchos de ustedes, visito semanalmente a mi propia madre con una entrega de víveres y me veo obligada a involucrarla a distancia y muy a menudo detrás del cristal de una puerta de tormenta. Este momento simplemente no tiene sentido, ¿verdad?

Todos estos desafíos y muchos más nos han llevado a no pocos de nosotros a preguntar dónde encontramos esperanza en medio de estos tiempos terribles. Si bien la mayoría se ha enfrentado al mensaje del Viernes Santo y la cruz de Jesús como nunca antes, muchos de nosotros estamos luchando por descubrir la bendición de la Pascua.

Si es ahí donde se encuentran, mis amigos, les sugiero que reflexionemos un poco más cuidadosamente sobre el misterio de Pascua de Jesús. En el pasaje del Evangelio de San Mateo que se proclamará durante la Vigilia Pascual de este año, leemos que María Magdalena y la otra María fueron a la tumba de Jesús al amanecer del primer día de la semana. Hubo un gran terremoto y un ángel hizo retroceder la piedra que había cerrado la tumba y se sentó sobre ella. El ángel luego dijo estas palabras a las mujeres: “¡No tengan miedo! Sé que estás buscando a Jesús el crucificado. Él no está aquí, porque ha sido levantado tal como lo dijo.”

En su homilía de Pascua pronunciada el año pasado, el Papa Francisco reflexionó sobre la experiencia de esa primera mañana de Pascua y la pérdida, el dolor y el miedo que impregnaron las vidas de los seguidores más cercanos de Jesús. Sus palabras pronunciadas hace un año hablan hoy a nuestros corazones más que nunca: “¿Por qué crees que todo es inútil, que nadie puede quitarte tus propias lápidas? ¿Por qué cedes ante la resignación o el fracaso? La Pascua, hermanos y hermanas, es la fiesta de las lápidas quitadas, las rocas rodadas a un lado. Dios quita incluso las piedras más duras contra las cuales chocan nuestras esperanzas y expectativas: muerte, pecado, miedo, mundanidad. La historia humana no termina antes de una lápida, porque hoy se encuentra con la “piedra viva” (cf. 1 Pedro 2: 4), el Jesús resucitado. Nosotros, como Iglesia, estamos contruidos sobre él e, incluso cuando nos desanimamos y nos sentimos tentados a juzgar todo a la luz de nuestros fracasos, él viene a hacer todas las cosas nuevas, a anular todas nuestras decepciones. Cada uno de nosotros está llamado a redescubrir en Cristo Resucitado el que hace retroceder desde nuestro corazón la piedra más pesada.”

Si bien muchas piedras parecen encerrarnos dentro de las tumbas que nos envuelven en estos días, que tengamos el coraje, con la ayuda de las vidas que Dios envía a nuestro medio, para mirar más allá de nuestros confines y descubrir signos de esperanza y resurrección. Realmente abundan, si nos tomamos el tiempo de mirar cuidadosamente y somos lo suficientemente humildes como para descubrirlos.

Desde aquellos que controlan el bienestar de los vecinos mayores, pasando por voluntarios que ayudan a alimentar a los pobres hambrientos, hasta llamadas telefónicas reflexivas a los que están lejos, a los trabajadores de supermercados y farmacias que arriesgan su propia salud para atendernos, a los innumerables números de servidores públicos, socorristas y trabajadores de la salud que se ponen desinteresadamente en peligro para cuidar a los enfermos y los que sufren, cada uno de estos ejemplos y muchos más son signos de esperanza para nosotros en medio de un tiempo oscuro e inquietante. Y para nosotros, como cristianos, que creemos en la encarnación de Jesús y su presencia permanente en la vida de su pueblo, estos también son signos de nada menos que la Resurrección y su poder para salvar.

A nuestros catecúmenos y candidatos que esperan el bautismo y la comunión plena en la Iglesia Católica, por favor sepan nuestras oraciones por ustedes. Su apertura al Espíritu de Dios en sus vidas nos da un gran consuelo. Bienvenido a nuestra familia católica. De muchas maneras, eres testigo de la Iglesia en su mejor momento, ya que muchos desinteresadamente sirven a sus hermanos y hermanas.

Mis amigos, somos bendecidos en más formas de las que podríamos creer o imaginar. Que confiemos en la promesa de Dios de sostenernos y disipar nuestros miedos más profundos. Y con la gracia de Dios, hagamos a un lado esas piedras que nos encierran, permitiendo que el amor y la misericordia del Resucitado envuelva nuestros corazones y nos conceda paz.

Este es el día que hizo el Señor sea nuestra alegría y nuestro gozo.

Fielmente en Cristo Resucitado,

+ *Joseph C. Bambera*

Reverendísimo Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.  
Obispo de Scranton



# As pandemic grows, impact upon Diocese of Scranton increases

During this challenging and unprecedented time, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera and Diocesan leadership have been meeting daily to make sure the needs of our local Church, schools and ministries continue to be met. Over the weeks that this current health crisis has played out, Bishop Bambera has also had a significant amount of consultation with Diocesan Deans, Episcopal Vicars and pastors who have shared their thoughts.

Information has continually been shared and communicated with Pastors, Deacons and Parish Life Coordinators on a daily basis. Resources for the faithful have also been made available on the Diocese of Scranton’s website, through secular media and social media platforms.

The Diocese of Scranton has been monitoring all information and updates being provided by federal, state and local government officials and has taken several prudent measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of our parishioners and the community.

While information has been subject to change, as of Tuesday, April 7, 2020, the following directives are in place:

## CELEBRATION OF MASS AND PARISH INFORMATION

- All Masses that are open to the public have been suspended in the Diocese of Scranton since Monday, March 16, 2020. This directive includes Masses and all public gatherings in parishes, worship sites, college campuses, chapels and health care facilities in the eleven counties of the Diocese of Scranton.
- All parish events, including fundraisers and dinners are to be postponed or cancelled.
- The decision to maintain access to a parish for private, individual prayer remains a decision of the Pastor or Parish Life Coordinator. The time frame for each parish would be determined by its Pastor or Parish Life Coordinator. While many Pastors and Parish Life Coordinators have made the decision to close their doors, any that remain open must regularly assess the usage by members of the faithful. The Pastor or Parish Life Coordinator must make sure the building is properly sanitized and cleaned and no more than ten people can be gathered inside at one time. If a church is unable to reasonably sanitize areas that parishioners visit or follow CDC guidelines for gatherings, it should be closed immediately.
- Priests are still directed to celebrate Mass non-publicly on a daily basis for the good of the People of God, the Church and the intentions of the day.
- Parishes are encouraged to livestream Masses on their website and social media platforms. Offering online Masses has provided the opportunity for the faithful to remain connected to the Sacrifice of the Mass during this difficult time. A Pastor may request the assistance of a Deacon, lector or music minister to help at a private Mass if it is to be broadcast but specific attention needs to be paid to CDC guidelines regarding the number of people that may gather.

## FUNERALS

- No funeral Masses or services, inclusive of those at funeral homes, are to be conducted. Priests, Deacons and Parish Life Coordinators may conduct grave-side burial services when appropriate for immediate family members only, mindful of the CDC guidelines for public gatherings.
- Provisions are to be made for the celebration of Memorial Masses after the current healthcare crisis subsides.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

- All public gatherings for the celebration of Confessions or the Anointing of the Sick, indoors or outdoors, have been suspended.
- In the gravest circumstances, priests may make themselves available for these sacraments, taking care to follow CDC guidelines for personal protection.
- The faithful are encouraged to follow the directives of the Holy See regarding perfect contrition. This information is located on the following page.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

- The celebration of Baptism is to be suspended for the health and safety of all. In case of emergency (danger of death), the sacrament may be administered.

## SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

- All weddings scheduled in the Diocese of Scranton are to be postponed until further notice. While churches may “hold open” the date of a scheduled wedding, whether the sacrament can be celebrated on that date will depend entirely on whether the restrictions for gatherings have been lifted. Priests, Deacons and Parish Life Coordinators are encouraged to speak to each couple and share this information with them and if necessary assist them in the rescheduling of the wedding.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS

- While it is currently unknown how long the current health crisis will continue, it is highly likely that many of these celebrations will need to be postponed due to the suspension of public Masses and religious education programs.

## DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

- The Chancery and Diocesan Pastoral Center are currently closed to the public. Diocesan leadership and employees continue to work remotely and are available by email and phone. In the event of an emergency, Diocesan leadership is still available to assist pastors, parishes and the public with any needs. If you are unsure of which department you need to contact, call (570) 207-2238 and leave a voicemail in the general mailbox. All messages are being received and will be tranferred to the appropriate department.



# COVID-19 is not God's judgment, but a call to live differently, pope says



**Pope Francis holds the monstrance as he delivers his extraordinary blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world) during a prayer service in the portico of Saint Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 27, 2020. The service was livestreamed in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)**

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— The worldwide coronavirus pandemic is not God’s judgment on humanity, but God’s call on people to judge what is most important to them and resolve to act accordingly from now on, Pope Francis said.

Addressing God, the pope said that “it is not the time of your judgment, but of our judgment: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.”

Pope Francis offered his meditation on the meaning of the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for humanity March 27 before raising a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament and giving an extraordinary blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

Popes usually give their blessing “urbi et orbi” only immediately after their election and on Christmas and Easter.

Pope Francis opened the service – in a rain-drenched, empty St. Peter’s Square – praying that the “almighty and merciful God” would see how people are suffering and give them comfort. He asked to care for the sick and dying, for medical workers exhausted by caring for the sick and for political leaders who bear the burden of making decisions to protect their people.

The service included the reading of the Gospel of Mark’s account of Jesus calming the stormy sea.

“Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives,” the pope said. “Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them.”

Like the disciples on the stormy Sea of Galilee, he said, “we will experience that, with him on board, there will be no

shipwreck, because this is God’s strength: turning to the good in everything that happens to us, even the bad things.”

The Gospel passage began, “When evening had come,” and the pope said that with the pandemic and its sickness and death, and with the lockdowns and closures of schools and workplaces, it has felt like “for weeks now it has been evening.”

“Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void that stops everything as it passes by,” the pope said. “We feel it in the air, we notice it in people’s gestures; their glances give them away.

“We find ourselves afraid and lost,” he said. “Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm.”

However, the pandemic storm has made most people realize that “we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented,” the pope said. And it has shown how each person has a contribution to make, at least in comforting each other.

“On this boat are all of us,” he said.

The pandemic, the pope said, has exposed “our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities.”

In the midst of the storm, Pope Francis said, God is calling people to faith, which is not just believing God exists, but turning to him and trusting him.

As Lent and the pandemic go on, he said, God continues to call people to “convert” and “return to me with all your heart.”

## THE APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY OF THE HOLY SEE HAS ISSUED DIRECTIVES TO BE USED IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

### 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

### PLENARY INDULGENCE

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has also 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

It is a time to decide to live differently, live better, love more and care for others, he said, and every community is filled with people who can be role models – individuals, “who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives.”

Pope Francis said the Holy Spirit can use the pandemic to “redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines,” but are serving others and making life possible during the pandemic.

The pope listed “doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and

order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.”

“How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility,” he said. And “how many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer.”

“How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all,” he said. “Prayer and quiet service: These are our victorious weapons.”

# CTV: Catholic Television airing Holy Week and Easter Services



CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton broadcasts 24 hours a day and is carried on seven cable systems covering most of the Diocese of Scranton. Despite the suspension of public Masses at this time, a private Mass is still celebrated daily in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton and made available for broadcast on television, social media platforms and the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube channel.

**On weekdays, the Mass is broadcast at 12:10 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**  
**On weekends, the Saturday Vigil Mass is broadcast at 4:00 p.m. and rebroadcast on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.**

CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the following Holy Week and Easter services live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton. These services will also be available on the Diocese of Scranton's website and all social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The readings for the services are located on the following pages.

**Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, April 10, 2020, at 12:10 p.m.**  
**Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 11, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.**  
**Easter Sunday Mass, April 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. (Encore at 5:30 p.m.)**

## CTV will also carry EWTN's coverage of the following Holy Week services from Rome and Washington, D.C.

### SOLEMN MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER FROM ROME

Thursday, April 9, 11:00 a.m.

Presided over by Pope Francis from the Velletri Correctional Facility in Rome.

### PRAYING WITH JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF OLIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2:00 p.m.

A Holy Hour with the Franciscan Custodians of the Holy Land. From the Basilica of the Agony at the Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem, Israel.

### MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Thursday, April 9, 10:30 p.m.

Live from Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, and celebrated by the Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann.

### LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Friday, April 10, 2:30 p.m.

Celebration of the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion from the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

### THE WAY OF THE CROSS FROM ROME

Friday, April 10, 8:00 p.m. (Encore: Saturday, April 11, at 5:30 a.m.)

Pope Francis presides over the Stations of the Cross, from the Coliseum in Rome.

### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION FROM ROME

Saturday April 11, 12:00 a.m.

His Holiness presides over the Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion, from Vatican City.

### POPE FRANCIS CELEBRATES EASTER VIGIL MASS FROM ROME

Saturday, April 11, at 2:30 p.m. (Encore: Sunday, April 12, at 12:00 a.m.)

### EASTER VIGIL MASS

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

Live from Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, and celebrated by the Most Reverend Kevin W. Vann.

### POPE FRANCIS CELEBRATES SOLEMN MASS OF EASTER FROM ROME

Sunday, April 12, at 4:00 a.m. (Encore: Sunday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m.)

### EASTER SUNDAY MASS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sunday, April 12 at Noon from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

### 'URBI ET ORBI' — EASTER MESSAGE AND BLESSING

Sunday, April 12, at 6:00 a.m. (Encore: Sunday, April 12, at 9:00 p.m.)

From Saint Peter's Square in Vatican City, Pope Francis gives the traditional Easter message and blessing, urbi et orbi, to the city of Rome and to the world.

## Holy Week Services Available in Spanish

La celebraciones de la Semana Santa serán celebrada por el Pa. Jaime Alberto Pérez Restrepo de la parroquia de San Mateo en East Stroudsburg. Esto son los horarios:

**Jueves de la cena del Señor 6:00 pm**

**Viernes Santo 6:00 pm misa 7:00 via crucis**

**Sábado Vigilia de Pascua 8:00 pm**

**Domingo de Pascua 10:30 am**

## Trouble seeing local broadcasts on CTV: Catholic Television? Comcast Xfinity customers should try the following steps

1. On your Xfinity remote, click on the Xfinity button.  
On the bottom of your screen a guide should pop up with choices like search, etc, and a small gear symbol on right.
2. Click on the gear icon, it should turn blue, or become highlighted.  
Hit OK, and a new page should come up.
3. Select my account.  
(NOTE: You may not need to select my account. If not, go directly to step 4)
4. Select preference, hit OK, and a new screen appears. Go to Account Details.
5. Select General. Hit OK.
6. Select "Auto Tune to HD channels." If ON is selected, change it to OFF.  
(or Select "Prefer Best Resolution," when highlighted it automatically changes to off)
7. Select Exit.
8. Turn TV/cable box off for a few minutes to allow the TV to reset these settings.
9. Turn TV/cable box back on.
10. Tune to channel 12. It should now be on the local CTV channel.

**Directions for Xfinity X1 HD Comcast customers can be found at the Diocese of Scranton's website ([www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org))**





# HOLY THURSDAY

## Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

### FIRST READING

EXODUS 12:1-8, 11-14, 39

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall stand at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon it the first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household. If a family is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join the nearest household in procuring one and shall share in the lamb in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it. The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight. They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb. That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

“This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the LORD. For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you.

“This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution.”

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18

**Response: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

How shall I make a return to the LORD  
for all the good he has done for me?

The cup of salvation I will take up,  
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

**R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

Precious in the eyes of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful ones.

I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;  
you have loosed my bonds.

**R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

My vows to the LORD I will pay  
in the presence of all his people.

**R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

### SECOND READING

I CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

Brothers and sisters: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

### GOSPEL READING

JOHN 13:1-15

Deacon (or priest):

**Assembly:**

Deacon (or priest):

**Assembly:**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Master, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well.” Jesus said to him, “Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all.” For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”

## Spiritual Communion Prayer

*It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.*

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.**

**I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment 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.**



# GOOD FRIDAY

## Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 52:13-53:12, 40

See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him so marred was his look beyond human semblance and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man so shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.

Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by people a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity. If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him.

Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 31: 2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25

**Response: Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.  
In your justice rescue me.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

**R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

For all my foes I am an object of reproach,  
a laughingstock to my neighbors, and a dread to my friends;  
they who see me abroad flee from me.  
I am forgotten like the unremembered dead;  
I am like a dish that is broken.

**R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

But my trust is in you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my God.  
In your hands is my destiny; rescue me  
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors."  
**R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your kindness.  
Take courage and be stouthearted,  
all you who hope in the LORD.

**R. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

### SECOND READING

HEBREWS 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Brothers and sisters: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

In the days when Christ was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

JOHN 18:1-19:42

The symbols of the following passion narrative represent:

+ Christ; N. narrator; V. voice; C. crowd.

N. The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

N. Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas, his betrayer, also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them,

+ "Whom are you looking for?"

N. They answered him,

C. "Jesus the Nazorean."

N. He said to them,

+ "I AM."

N. Judas, his betrayer, was also with them. When he said to them, "I AM," they turned away and fell to the ground. So he again asked them,

+ "Whom are you looking for?"

N. They said,

C. "Jesus the Nazorean."

N. Jesus answered,

+ "I told you that I AM. So if you are looking for me, let these men go."

N. This was to fulfill what he had said, "I have not lost any of those you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

+ "Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?"

N. So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound him, and brought him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in. Then the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter,

C. "You are not one of this man's disciples, are you?"

N. He said,

V. "I am not."

N. Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. Jesus answered him,



"I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in the synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said."

N. When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said,  
V. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?"  
N. Jesus answered him,  
+ "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

N. Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.  
Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And they said to him,  
C. "You are not one of his disciples, are you?"  
N. He denied it and said,  
V. "I am not."  
N. One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said,  
C. "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?"  
N. Again Peter denied it. And immediately the cock crowed.  
Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and said,

V. "What charge do you bring against this man?"  
N. They answered and said to him,  
C. "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."  
N. At this, Pilate said to them,  
V. "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law."  
N. The Jews answered him,  
C. "We do not have the right to execute anyone,"  
N. In order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die. So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him,

V. "Are you the King of the Jews?"  
N. Jesus answered,  
+ "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?"  
N. Pilate answered,  
V. "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

N. Jesus answered,  
+ "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here."

N. So Pilate said to him,  
V. "Then you are a king?"  
N. Jesus answered,  
+ "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."  
N. Pilate said to him,  
V. "What is truth?"  
N. When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them,  
V. "I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

N. They cried out again,  
C. "Not this one but Barabbas!"  
N. Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said,  
C. "Hail, King of the Jews!"  
N. And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them,  
V. "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him."

N. So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And Pilate said to them,  
V. "Behold, the man!"  
N. When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out,  
C. "Crucify him, crucify him!"  
N. Pilate said to them,  
V. "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him."  
N. The Jews answered,  
C. "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

N. Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus,  
V. "Where are you from?"  
N. Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him,

V. "Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?"  
N. Jesus answered him,  
+ "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."  
N. Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out,  
C. "If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."  
N. When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge's bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews,  
V. "Behold, your king!"  
N. They cried out,  
C. "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!"  
N. Pilate said to them,  
V. "Shall I crucify your king?"  
N. The chief priests answered,  
C. "We have no king but Caesar."  
N. Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews." Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

C. "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'"  
N. Pilate answered,  
V. "What I have written, I have written."  
N. When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another,  
C. "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,"  
N. In order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says:

They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots.  
This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother,

+ "Woman, behold, your son."  
N. Then he said to the disciple,  
+ "Behold, your mother."  
N. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said,

+ "I thirst."  
N. There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,  
+ "It is finished."  
N. And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

***Here all kneel and pause for a short time.***

N. Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Assembly: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



# HOLY SATURDAY

## The Easter Vigil

### FIRST READING

GENESIS 1:1-2:2

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said, “Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other.” And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome “the sky.” Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear.” And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land “the earth,” and the basin of the water he called “the sea.” God saw how good it was. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it.” And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said: “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.” And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Then God said, “Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.” And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.” Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.” And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.” God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.” God also said: “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.” And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 104:1-2A, 5-6, 10, 12 13-14, 24, 35C

**Response: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

OR

PS. 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20, 22

**Response: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

### SECOND READING

GENESIS 22: 1-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you.” Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him his son Isaac and two of his servants as well, and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust, set out for the place of which God had told him.

On the third day Abraham got sight of the place from afar. Then he said to his servants: “Both of you stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over yonder. We will worship and then come back to you.” Thereupon Abraham took the wood for the holocaust and laid it on his son Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham: “Father!” Isaac said. “Yes, son,” he replied. Isaac continued, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?” “Son,” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust.” Then the two continued going forward.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he tied up his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD’s messenger called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” “Here I am!” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.” As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh; hence people now say, “On the mountain the LORD will see.”

Again the LORD’s messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing-- all this because you obeyed my command.”

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

**Response: You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

### THIRD READING

EXODUS 14: 15:15:1

The LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.”

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel’s camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive.



## SIXTH READING

BARUCH 3:9-15, 32—4:4

Hear, O Israel, the commandments of life: listen, and know prudence! How is it, Israel, that you are in the land of your foes, grown old in a foreign land, defiled with the dead, accounted with those destined for the netherworld? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom! Had you walked in the way of God, you would have dwelt in enduring peace. Learn where prudence is, where strength, where understanding; that you may know also where are length of days, and life, where light of the eyes, and peace. Who has found the place of wisdom, who has entered into her treasuries?

The One who knows all things knows her; he has probed her by his knowledge-- The One who established the earth for all time, and filled it with four-footed beasts; he who dismisses the light, and it departs, calls it, and it obeys him trembling; before whom the stars at their posts shine and rejoice; when he calls them, they answer, "Here we are!" shining with joy for their Maker. Such is our God; no other is to be compared to him: he has traced out the whole way of understanding, and has given her to Jacob, his servant, to Israel, his beloved son.

Since then she has appeared on earth, and moved among people. She is the book of the precepts of God, the law that endures forever; all who cling to her will live, but those will die who forsake her. Turn, O Jacob, and receive her: walk by her light toward splendor. Give not your glory to another, your privileges to an alien race. Blessed are we, O Israel; for what pleases God is known to us!

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 19: 8, 9, 10, 11

**Response: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

## SEVENTH READING

EZEKIEL 36:16-17A, 18-28

The word of the LORD came to me, saying: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefore I poured out my fury upon them because of the blood that they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols. I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations wherever they came, they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: "These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave their land." So I have relented because of my holy name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came. I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when in their sight I prove my holiness through you. For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

ISAIAH 12:2-3, 4BCD, 5-6

**Response: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

OR

PS. 51: 12-13, 14-15, 18-19

**Response: Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

## EPISTLE

ROMANS 6:3-11

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we

With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

Then the LORD told Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst.

As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians.

When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

EXODUS 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18

**Response: Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.**

## FOURTH READING

ISAIAH 54:5-14

The One who has become your husband is your Maker; his name is the LORD of hosts; your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, called God of all the earth. The LORD calls you back, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, a wife married in youth and then cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back. In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; but with enduring love I take pity on you, says the LORD, your redeemer. This is for me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; so I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you. Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, my love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you. O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsolated, I lay your pavements in carnelians, and your foundations in sapphires; I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of carbuncles, and all your walls of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. In justice shall you be established, far from the fear of oppression, where destruction cannot come near you.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 30: 2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12A, 13B

**Response: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.**

## FIFTH READING

ISAIAH 55: 1-11

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

ISAIAH 12:2-3, 4BCD, 5-6

**Response: You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23

**Response: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**



# EASTER SUNDAY of the Lord's Resurrection

### FIRST READING

ACTS 10: 34A, 37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23

**Response: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!**

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

**R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

"The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.  
I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD."

**R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
By the LORD has this been done;  
it is wonderful in our eyes.

**R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.**

### GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 28: 1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.

### SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

OR

I CORINTHIANS 5: 6B-8

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

### GOSPEL READING

JOHN 20: 1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

**This Worship Aid for the Liturgies of the Paschal Triduum  
is also available on the Diocese of Scranton website**

[www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life)



# Parishes transition to livestreaming Masses during pandemic

LARKSVILLE – From Passion plays to pierogi sales, time-honored Lenten traditions enjoyed by the faithful throughout the Diocese of Scranton over the years came to a halt due to the ever-widening spread of the coronavirus.

The current health crisis, punctuated by the suspension of all public Masses and large gatherings for church services, has created a “new normal” for pastors and parishioners of the Diocese of Scranton and put an exclamation point on the sacrifice associated with this penitential season.

“Our greatest challenge is to ensure the safety of our parish family members and provide them with the same quality of spiritual care in a world turned upside down,” Father Jerry Gurka, pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish in Larksville, said. “I keep reminding myself that with Jesus’ Cross comes Resurrection, believing that Resurrection will come after carrying the weight of this ‘world cross.’”

The Diocesan priest of 40 years stated the biggest adjustment for everyone is the feeling of isolation “on the island of our homes amid a sea of invisible, evil infection,” as the disease continues its incessant march across the Scranton Church’s borders.

“The key is being proactive rather than reactive,” Father Gurka said in regard to future scheduling of sacramental celebrations and necessary parish functions.

With the assistance of the Diocesan Office of Communications and “tech-savvy” parish members, Father Gurka began the process of streaming the Sunday Mass at



**Monsignor Dale Rupert, pastor, Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, delivers a homily to an empty church on Friday, March 20, 2020. Masses from the Cathedral are still being televised daily on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, streamed on the Diocese of Scranton’s social media platforms and made available anytime on YouTube. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

Saint John’s on the parish’s Facebook page and other websites.

Other disruptions are not so easily solved as evidenced by the mandated canceling of the Larksville parish’s popular Easter play. This year’s presentation was to be “Witness Portraits of the Passion.”

The live drama is one of two – the other being a Nativity play at Christmastime – originally scripted and directed by the Saint John’s pastor each year. “I told the cast and crew to think of it as a year-long intermission,” Father Gurka said in reference to this year’s show being scratched.

“Most important for us is to be flexible in scheduling our own lives and trusting in how God continues to recreate everything,” he continued. “The parishioners have shown such kind understanding and prayerful support. What I am hearing is that, yes, everyone is afraid and wants this to end, but also (the crisis) has led to a greater trust in

God, more need for Him in our society and a reassessment of what is important in life.”

Livestreaming of Masses on Facebook began in mid-March at Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea, according to Father John Polednak, V.E., Nativity pastor and Episcopal Vicar of the Diocese’s Southern Region.

“We are also planning to tape the Stations of the Cross and post the service on our website and Facebook,” he said. “We are working to set up classes online for religious education, with teachers to help guide the parish students.”

The cancellation of the parish’s well-known and ever-popular Lenten Friday food sales has been a disappointment to area faithful, Father Polednak indicated, adding that parishioners are eager about keeping up with their church contributions through various means, in light of not being able to attend weekly Masses.

The health and protection of parishioners

has also been of utmost concern for Father Bob Simon, pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow.

“At every step,” Father Simon said, “I feel that we, as pastors, need to help our parishioners to cope with this change in their lives.”

The pastor explained that on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the first day public celebrations of Masses ceased in the Diocese, a video of his private Mass was uploaded for airing on YouTube.

Stating that initial broadcast had more than 180 views, Father Simon continued by commenting, “Our parishioners have been expressing gratitude for this celebration of Mass, this connection with the parish, and the preaching which encourages them during this time.”

Father Simon said the number of parishioners viewing his private Masses has grown week after week.

“More than ever, I believe this a time for prayer and intercession. It is a time to be on our knees,” he said. “It is also a time to experience the compassionate love of our God.”

According to the Saint Catherine’s pastor, the food pantry operated by the local ecumenical ministerium continues to be very busy providing for the many in need, as the operation has transitioned to offering bags of food via drive-thru service.

“With a lot of necessary restrictions and safeguards, we are finding new ways to be God’s Holy Church and to serve our people in (this) critical moment,” Father Simon said.

## Diocese of Scranton launches Coronavirus Emergency Fund

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has announced the establishment of the Coronavirus Emergency Fund in the Diocese of Scranton to help support public ministries, parishes and school families amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

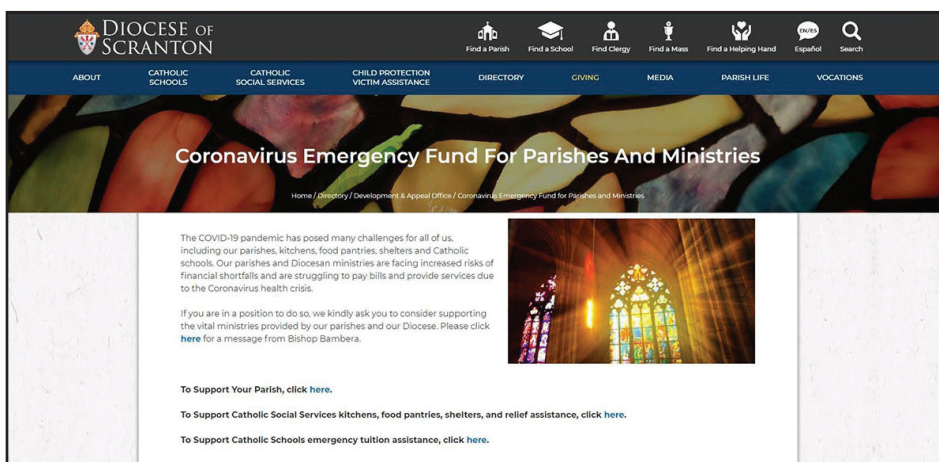
The Coronavirus Emergency Fund will allow individuals to financially support any parish in the Diocese, assist public ministries that operate food pantries, kitchens and shelters, or provide emergency tuition assistance for Diocesan Catholic School families. People interested in supporting the fund can make a gift to a specific parish, school, pantry, kitchen, shelter or relief assistance program.

“While this is a time of great challenge, I am encouraged to see so many people wanting to reach out in support of our families, our neighbors and our parishes,” Bishop Bambera said. “Due to the suspension of Masses, which

was necessary to protect the health and safety of our community, our parishes and the Diocese now face the increased risk of financial shortfalls.”

Catholic Human and Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton operates five food pantries in Carbondale, Hazleton, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. It also provides hundreds of warm meals daily to people at its kitchens in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre and operates three homeless shelters in Hazleton, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre.

As the COVID-19 virus began to spread in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania, Catholic Human and Social Services has seen a significant increase in the number of people in need of help. During the month of March 2020, more than 1,000 individuals visited the Carbondale food pantry, which far exceeds the monthly average of 500 visitors. There has also been at least a 50-percent increase in



homeless individuals seeking assistance at the agency’s three shelters.

The Coronavirus Emergency Fund is also expected to help Catholic school families who cannot afford tuition after a parent loses a job or any of the Diocese’s 118 parishes that struggle to pay their expenses with no public Masses scheduled.

Interested donors are encouraged to make gifts to the Coronavirus Emergency Fund online at [www.dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund). If donors prefer, they

can mail gifts to Coronavirus Emergency Fund, Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503. Checks should be made to the Diocese of Scranton and list the gift designation – either the parish name, Catholic Human and Social Service program or specific Catholic School they wish to support.

**To donate:**  
[dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund](http://dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund)



# Vocation ministry continues in full force using online opportunities

Even while working remotely in the midst of the coronavirus crisis, the Diocesan Vocation Office continues its ministry and mission on a daily basis.

For the past several weeks, Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, and Dominick Costantino, Vocation Program Coordinator, have been facilitating five different video conference groups using the Zoom conference platform. High school students, college students, young adults, seminarians and assistant vocation directors all have been involved in this new avenue of ministry.

The first Zoom discernment group was launched in January 2020, long before social distancing guidelines were put into effect. The Zoom discernment group was established as a way to keep college students who are at school outside of the Diocese connected with the Vocation Office.

Scott Williams, a student at the University of Notre Dame and a parishioner at Saint Therese Parish in Shavertown, enjoyed the opportunity to connect when he was away at school and is enjoying it even more now that he is home.

“Participating in this group is a nice way to connect with priests and young adult men in the Diocese,” Williams said. “Joining was an easy decision. It was a convenient platform to meet with Father Don and other priests in the Diocese who are interested in fostering vocations. Being able to meet while at Notre Dame – and now from home – is extremely convenient. It’s also a great way to keep the faith alive because we know we are not alone on our journey.”

The Vocation Office meets with high school juniors and seniors twice a month at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre and Holy Cross High School in Dunmore. The “God Squad” lunch discernment groups talk about our Catholic faith, events going on in the schools and Diocese and vocational discernment. Both groups are now meeting on a weekly basis through Zoom conferencing.



**Father Don Williams, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, upper left, helps lead a Zoom conference call with young adults who were involved in *Quo Vadis Days*. (Photo/Dominick Costantino)**

*Quo Vadis Days* is a summer camp for high school young men and includes dynamic talks, a visit from Bishop Bambera, sports and activities, prayer, small group discussion, interaction with priests and seminarians, and a lot of fun. Bringing together young men who are serious about their Catholic faith empowers them to live as intentional disciples and supports their ongoing vocational discernment. Past participants are now part of a weekly Zoom group as well.

One of the past participants who is participating in the online group is Tyler Osipower, a senior at Dallas High School. He looks forward to connecting weekly during these difficult times.

“Participating in the *Quo Vadis* Zoom group is a very refreshing experience,” Osipower said. “In these difficult times, it’s very important to not lose sight of what God wants for us and the Zoom group enables us to keep that focus. I chose to join the group because I want to remain connected with my friends from *Quo Vadis* and meet new people as well. The group allows us to keep the spirit of faith alive, despite all the challenges of this current situation. Even though we are currently unable to be physically present for the Sacraments, *Quo Vadis* allows us to be spiritually and mentally connected with God.”

Paul Binner, a high school senior and member of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock, participates weekly in the *Quo Vadis* Zoom group as well. He said the meetings provide him with hope.

“The *Quo Vadis* meetings are very enriching,” Binner said. “It helps my mood being able to see all of my friends even if it’s not in person. It also gives me hope knowing that I have support and I can also support others in this dark time. I decided to join because I thought that it would be nice just to see everyone, but I get much more out of it than that. I’m now able to increase not only my fellowship with everyone, but also able to increase my spiritual growth by reading and reflecting on the Sunday Gospel and talking about faith with the rest of the Zoom participants. These Zoom meetings certainly have given me hope and faith that we can make it through this coronavirus situation. It certainly keeps the *Quo Vadis* spirit alive by giving everyone the opportunity to be able to see each other and talk through our problems together.”

For more information:  
Contact the Diocesan  
Vocation Office

[vocations@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:vocations@dioceseofscranton.org)

## COVID-19 impacts Transitional Deacon just a few months before priesthood ordination



**A personal reflection by  
Deacon Shawn Simchock**

It is hard to believe that just one month ago, our lives seemed to be routine and normal. I served in my parish assignment on Ash Wednesday at Saint Agatha Parish in Milton, Massachusetts, not realizing that it would be the last time I would be with the priests and parishioners of this amazing parish community. Pope Saint John XXIII Seminary would go on spring break a few days later and I was traveling around the Caribbean enjoying some rest and relaxation. As I was watching the news unfold during that week, it was hard to imagine the scope of what was to come from COVID-19.

Shortly after my return from break, we were informed that Masses in the Archdiocese of Boston would be suspended for the upcoming weekend. The news would get worse for us, as COVID-19 began its run across the United States. Masses were suspended indefinitely here in the Archdiocese. We would no longer be allowed to travel to our assignments for the health and safety of all living here at the seminary. Tougher decisions would follow, including canceling Easter break, and having us remain in session through what would have been the Easter break. This decision was made for the health and safety off all priests and seminarians who live under one roof.

We quickly had to re-educate ourselves in our daily lives here at the seminary. There were many adjustments to daily life and to the class structure. By this time, most universities were transitioning to online classes, and other seminaries were closing and following the same path. Our seminary decided to stay open and we too had to adjust. Outside, adjunct faculty members were asked not to come into the building for our safety, so we had to adjust to classes via Zoom or Skype, discussion board learning, and we still had some traditional classes

from those who lived here.

It has not been an easy adjustment, but I think we are all doing well with it. For me, the hardest adjustment has been not being able to go back to Saint Agatha Parish, where I have been assigned on weekends since last September. As a Transitional Deacon, I was truly loving my weekends in the parish and I loved being with the people. I was very active in the parish and was even working with the teens who would have received Confirmation on March 22, 2020. Unfortunately, that has been postponed until a later date, in which I will not be able to attend, since it will be after my return to Scranton. It has been extremely difficult knowing that I cannot go back to the parish, to offer one more homily, one more smile, or a heartfelt thank you to the wonderful priests, staff, and parishioners of Saint Agatha. I feel that I have been left with a huge void in my heart and will not be able to fill it until I get that opportunity to say “thank you.”

The uncertainty and craziness of this COVID-19 pandemic has given me a lot of time to reflect upon my upcoming Ordination to the Priesthood. Now more than ever, the faithful will need priests. They are missing the Sacrament of Reconciliation, missing receiving the Eucharist, and missing the ability to attend daily or Sunday Mass. I believe that when this is over, the faithful will once again be flocking to the Church. I believe many who have fallen away for one reason or another will once again return. With all of this weighing on my mind, I am ready to be ordained. I am ready for what God has in store and I am ready to hit the trenches and get to work for the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton. God called me to the Priesthood, and I am ready to serve and help His people, in any way that I can, when this pandemic comes to an end and God willing for many years to come.



SCRANTON – During the COVID-19 outbreak, employees and volunteers with Catholic Human/Social Services have been working harder than ever to meet the needs of people in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Due to rising unemployment, the agency has quickly seen an increase in the number of people looking for assistance at its food pantries. As a result, the Saint Francis Food Pantry in Scranton expanded its hours and added an additional day of service this week to serve the community.

“Rather than people coming into the food pantry and being able to shop, we are now handing grocery bags to people at the door,” Rob Williams, Saint Francis Food Pantry Executive Director, said.

In Scranton, the number of families seeking assistance at the pantry rose 27-percent between March 2019 and March 2020.

In Hazleton, the Saint Joseph Food Pantry saw a similar increase. Before the coronavirus pandemic, the facility served an average of 450 families a month. In March 2020, the agency saw 560 families looking for assistance.

KITCHENS BEGIN TAKE-OUT MEALS

On March 17, 2020, following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, both Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre and Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton closed their dining rooms to guests to prevent large gatherings of people. Both agencies quickly transitioned

to providing take-out meals outside of the buildings to continue serving our brothers and sisters in need.

“We had been preparing for the change but it was amazing to see how quickly our staff and volunteers adapted to the new directives,” Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, said. “We remain committed to providing a hot, nutritious meal, seven days a week, for our guests.”

SHELTERS TAKE SAFEGUARDS

Catholic Human/Social Services also remains committed to providing critical services to the homeless during this pandemic. As of April 7, 2020, all three of the agencies homeless shelters in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton remain open.

During this crisis, each shelter has already reported an average increase in occupancy of at least 50 percent.

Staff members are working to ensure the safety and well-being of both staff and the members of the community that are served. Additional cleaning and sanitation measures have been instituted at each facility.

“Homeless clients are being assessed for any symptoms of the virus upon arrival and during the duration of their time with us,” Malandro said. “If someone presents with symptoms of the virus, they will be denied access and encouraged to seek medical advice. We are also prepared to call an ambulance to have them taken to a local hospital should the need arise.”



A volunteer distributes a meal outside Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen on March 17, 2020 after the agency began serving take-out containers of food.

FOOD PANTRY INFORMATION

SCRANTON

Saint Francis Food Pantry  
500 Penn Avenue  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Nativity Place Food Pantry  
640 Hemlock Street  
Tuesday and Thursday  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CARBONDALE

Catholic Social Services Office  
34 River Street  
Monday: 9:00 a.m. – Noon  
Tuesday and Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – Noon and  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – Noon

WILKES-BARRE

Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry  
39 East Jackson Street  
Tuesday and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

HAZLETON

Saint Joseph Food Pantry  
214 West Walnut Street  
Monday: 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. and  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

KITCHEN INFORMATION

SCRANTON

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen  
Meals served daily 11:00 a.m. to Noon

WILKES-BARRE

Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen  
Meals served daily beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Emergency food distribution events help hundreds

CARBONDALE – As the coronavirus began to impact northeastern Pennsylvania, volunteers from Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton jumped into action to help their neighbors in need.

Volunteers handed out food to hundreds of families at two emergency food distribution events in Lackawanna County in March.

“We know many of our neighbors in the community are struggling to make ends meet as it is and we wanted to alleviate some of their concerns and just let them know that we are here to help,” Stephanie Miller, Program Manager of Community Services for Catholic Social Services, said.

Recognizing the pressing need to help families because of job losses and the closure of schools, Catholic Social Services held its first emergency food distribution on Thursday, March



Workers with Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton distribute food to members of the South Scranton community during a special event on Thursday, March 19, 2020. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)

19, in South Scranton. It held a second emergency distribution event on Saturday, March 21, in Carbondale.

“I’m very grateful for the food,” Suzanne Moncrief, 68, of Carbondale, said. “We need it, especially during this crisis.”

Recipients lined up outside of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, the

site of the Carbondale distribution, long before the first food bags were given out.

“This is awesome,” Beverly Mills, 57, of Jermy, said. “I don’t have a car and I can’t get around. My daughter brought me here. I take care of my grandkids so their mother can work and the food (that we buy) doesn’t

go as far as it should. This is wonderful, especially now.”

It took dozens of dedicated volunteers to make both emergency food distribution events a reality.

Carrie DiGregorio is a regular volunteer at the Catholic Social Services Food Pantry in Carbondale and had no hesitation to help give out the additional food.

“With the panic going on right now, a lot of the stores are emptying, so this is a very good thing to do,” DiGregorio said. “This helps people out quite a bit.”

Stephen Kania, another regular volunteer for Catholic Social Services, was more than happy to help with the event.

“This is phenomenal,” Kania said. “There are people in Carbondale that would not survive without what we do. This is what I do if somebody is less fortunate than me and they need the help.”

Both food distributions in Carbondale and Scranton were

open to anyone in the community that was in need.

“What we’re seeing is an extreme need of people,” Miller said. “We just wanted to start helping people as soon as possible. Many of the families aren’t able to get out to get the food that the schools are distributing. We just want to let everybody know we are here to help. We understand that providing an extra few meals to your kids can be a lot so if we can alleviate some of that burden, we are happy to.”

The Commission on Economic Opportunity/Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank partnered with Catholic Social Services for both emergency food distributions.

As she left the Carbondale food distribution, one woman who asked not to be identified, offered her thanks in the simplest form.

“This is God’s blessing,” the woman said.

# Prayers Against Coronavirus

## Pope Francis' Prayer with Mary for COVID-19

O Mary,  
you always shine on our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People,  
know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide  
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection.

Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not  
disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every  
danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

## COVID-19: A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus,  
We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,  
We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,  
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public  
safety,  
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,  
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,  
We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,  
We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers,  
We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.  
Grant peace.  
Grant comfort.  
Grant healing.  
Be with us, Lord.

Amen.

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## Religious Education at Home Resources

- **Loyola Press** (loyolapress.com)
  - **At-Home Editions:** These guides allow parents to conduct catechesis with their children in the home.
  - **Interactive Session Reviews:** Session reviews allow children, parents, and instructors to gauge learning objectives. Results can be emailed to a teacher or catechist along with student questions.
  - **Study Guides:** Single page study guides outline important faith topics in each session.
  - **Raising Faith-Filled Kids:** For parents who may not have the time or confidence to teach a full lesson, this resource provides background on the session and encourages parents to discuss faith topics with their children.
- **Pflaum** – Children 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.
- **RCL Benziger** – Highly recommended resource that 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 [rclblectionary.com](http://rclblectionary.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://rclblectionary.com/classroom-sessions-year-2019-2020>. Username is SadlierStudent, Password is ReadyToLearn!

## Care for Marriages

The stresses being experienced in marriages due to the coronavirus pandemic can be minor irritations caused by spending so much time together in a confined space. However, 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, you can begin to make progress in addressing the issue at hand.

For additional ways to help sustain marriage and family relationships, visit the Diocese of Scranton website. On the website you will be able to read, *“Building Family Bonds During COVID-19.”*

## 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 resources related to grieving, including an option for video streaming resources from Paraclete Press, visit the “Parish Life” section of the Diocese of Scranton's website.

Stay Connected to Diocesan News:

[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)



# Keeping a commitment to growth and instruction

## Diocesan Catholic School System transitions to distance learning

SCRANTON – It is now quickly approaching one month since all schools in Pennsylvania closed at the direction of Governor Tom Wolf, but for students in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System, the learning process continues.

When the governor made the initial announcement to shut down schools on March 13, 2020, teachers had already been preparing to transition to distance learning and instituted the change on the next school day, Monday, March 16, 2020.

“The Novel Coronavirus has created unusual and uncertain times for all of us,” Superintendent Kristen Donohue said. “We have been working diligently to fulfill our promise in this new environment and we continue our dedication to growth and instruction for our students.”

Instead of traditional face-to-face instruction, teachers now email daily lessons to the parents of students in each of their classes. Over the last three weeks, educators have been able to assess that work and are now beginning to transition into the fourth marking period for students.

“With schools statewide closed indefinitely at this time, each of our schools have been sharing plans with parents for the instruction of new material as well as due dates for assignments and assessments,” Donohue added.

All school buildings are currently closed. Each building has undergone a deep cleaning and sanitization process in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition to teachers working remotely, administrators are also working from home but are still accessible by email.



**Brother and sister Dominick and Victoria Ferrentino, students at Holy Rosary School in Duryea, work on their daily online lessons together while the Diocesan Catholic School System is in the middle of distance learning due to the COVID-19 virus.**

“We appreciate the cooperation and patience of every family during this unusual time,” Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer, said. “We have always believed that our Catholic school parents are partners in their child’s education and they have truly risen to the occasion to help the educational process continue.”

During the last few weeks, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System has been sending out regular communications to families. Individual schools have been using their websites and social media platforms to spread important messages as well.

Many faculty and administrators have relied on Zoom video conference

technology to continue instruction. Some schools across the Diocese have also held “virtual spirit weeks” to maintain student engagement.

Epiphany School in Sayre has even created a “Daily Facebook Challenge” where students of all grade levels can connect and share their creativity. For example, this week students were asked to share pictures of their Easter decorations or share a picture of an Easter art project from their family.

While these unusual times have directly impacted students, they’ve also impacted school administrators and faculty.

“I miss the kids terribly,” Jim Jones, principal of Good Shepherd Academy in

Kingston, told Father Alex Roche during a podcast posted on the Good Shepherd Academy website.

During the 30 minute recording, Jones and Father Roche talked about ways to keep kids motivated and positive while schools are closed. They also discussed what it is like teaching and administering a school virtually.

“I want to thank the teachers that have been going above and beyond the call of duty and helping provide some normalcy in this really abnormal time,” Jones said.

Jones urged parents to tap into their child’s known schedule and what they are familiar with. For example, Catholic School students are familiar with starting their school day with prayer.

“Have them start their day with prayer, let them follow their routines,” Jones said.

Jones added that it is important to make sure kids continue doing physical activities. Having dinner together and creating conversation are also positive ideas.

“It’s okay to not have answers because there’s not a lot of answers to be had. We’re learning hourly through this pandemic. I think it is okay for parents to not have the answers,” Jones added.

While some parents may still be working a normal schedule and struggling to find a “new normal,” Jones added, “you are not alone. Reach out to those of us that might be able to help you through a tough time.”

For the latest information on how Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools are impacted by the coronavirus, visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org/catholic-schools](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/catholic-schools).

## Parents share ideas on how to make sudden onset of home schooling work

CLEVELAND (CNS) -- With kids at home because schools are closed and online education on tap for at least several more weeks, parents are wondering how to ensure that learning continues.

For Catholic home-schooling families though, having kids learn at home is the norm.

Longtime home-schoolers told Catholic News Service the current moment gives parents the chance to spend more one-on-one time with their children while teaching skills and creating memories to cherish for a lifetime.

“You have to look at this as a blessing of the gift of time and opportunity for (parents) to reclaim the responsibility as primary educators of their children,” said Aimee Murphy of Holy Family Catholic Homeschoolers in Orange County, California. She began teaching her children at home 11 years ago. Two daughters are in college while sons, 6, 12 and 16 years old, are home-schooled.

Murphy and other parents in the Orange County group acknowledged that

as rewarding as home schooling is, it still requires “petitioning for the grace from God you need to carry on,” as well as patience and perseverance.

Murphy, Tomi Carroll, of the VERITAS Homeschool Support Association in Bedford, Indiana, and Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur of Western Massachusetts Catholic Homeschoolers in Springfield, Massachusetts, recommended that parents step back and realize that there is no need to recreate the classroom at home.

And while teaching kids at home can be challenging, Fagnant-MacArthur said, “it’s an enjoyable challenge.”

Kids of all ages can learn through everyday activities, said Fagnant-MacArthur, who writes the Today’s Catholic Homeschooling blog. It’s important to recognize, she added, that even though a student’s school may have set requirements to complete certain assignments, learning is not limited to a computer screen.

Creativity is important, the parents also stressed. For example, younger children

especially can learn by joining in just about any home activity; they can learn about fractions by following a recipe or can better understand biology by observing wildlife in a backyard or a park.

The three mothers offered a series of suggestions to make learning enjoyable for the entire family:

- **Prayer and faith formation.** For students in public school, there is no chance to pray during the day. Murphy’s family starts each day with prayer. Short breaks are built in for the Angelus prayer, Chaplet of Divine Mercy or to read about a saint whose feast day is being observed.
- **Establish a routine.** “Don’t let it be ad hoc” without specific guidance for a child, Murphy said. “But also be flexible. It’s a learning curve for you and for them.”
- **Reading.** Reading is an important part of schooling at home. The families read aloud with children by their side and silently. Any reading time can then be

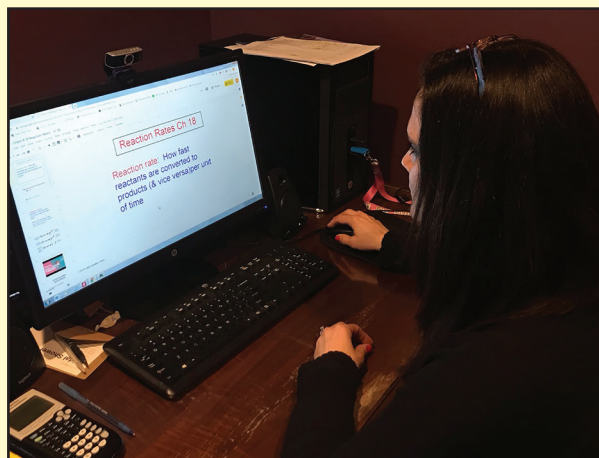
followed by a discussion that reviews what was read, the message an author was trying to convey, or to build anticipation for the next part of a book.

- **Experiences.** Some kids learn best through experiences, observing or creating art. Murphy encouraged parents to provide plenty of new experiences outside of book or screen learning to their children.
- **Writing.** Children can compose a story or a play. For young children just learning to write, have them dictate a story as a parent writes it down. Kids can illustrate the story or act out a play. Costumes can be made from old clothing and materials.
- **Virtual museum tours.** Although museums and other public buildings are closed, many continue to offer virtual tours highlighting displays and exhibits. Parents can take advantage of such offerings because they are rich in information and are free.

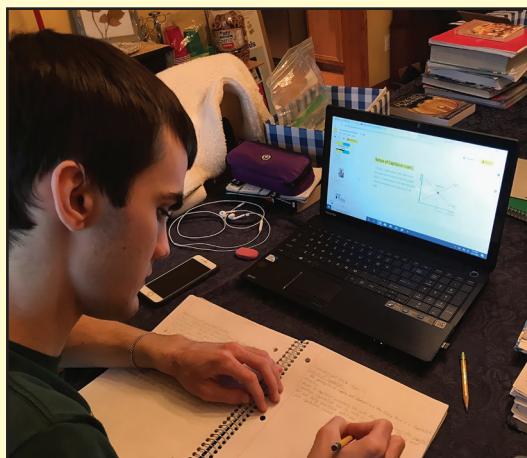


Diocese of Scranton  
**CATHOLIC**  
SCHOOL SYSTEM  
FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

*The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.*



Mrs. Nicole Peeney, science teacher at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, creates distance learning material for her students while her son, Notre Dame senior Justin Peeney, works on his online lessons.



The kindergarten class at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** is trying to make the world a little brighter with their rainbow project. Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Fadyen, kindergarten teachers, challenged their students to create a colorful rainbow and an inspirational message to help spread cheer during the school closure.



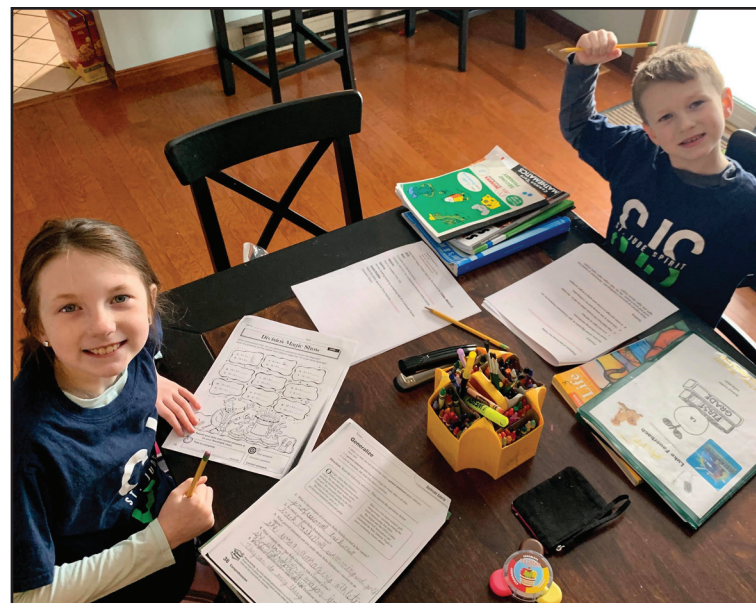
Students at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** enjoyed a "Virtual Spirit Week" to help boost student morale. Timothy Moore, a second grader, participates in "Dress to Impress Day."



The O'Shea family, whose students attend **Good Shepherd Academy** in Kingston, celebrates their own GSA Spirit Day donning Guardian Blue and Gold. Grant is in kindergarten and Emmie is in fourth grade.

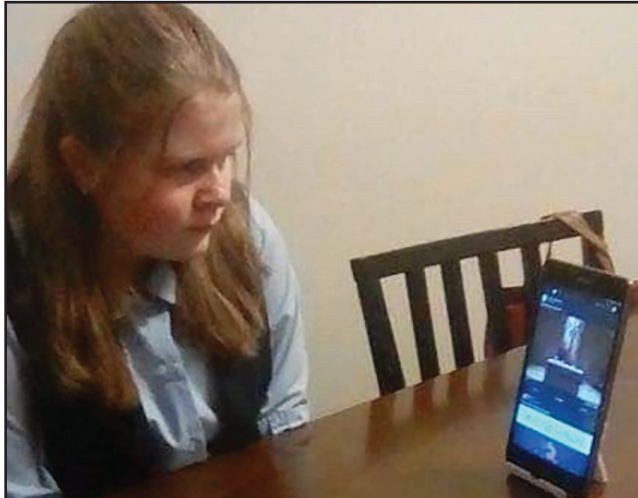


Madelyn Weigle, a second grade student at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport**, and her brother Joey Pontious, a seventh grader at the high school, show off their artistic ability on a stained glass window art project at home.

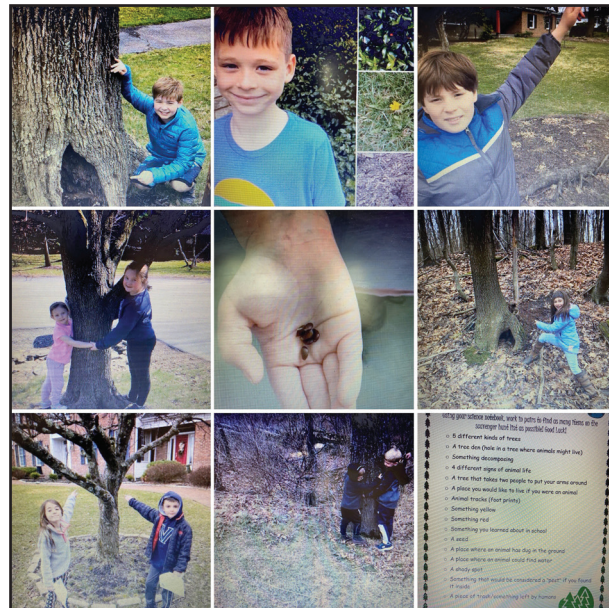


Hannah and Luke Fauerbach, third and first graders at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**, work on assignments as part of the school's distance learning program.





Wearing her school Mass uniform, Brooke Allen, a fifth grade student at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**, attends online Sunday Mass.



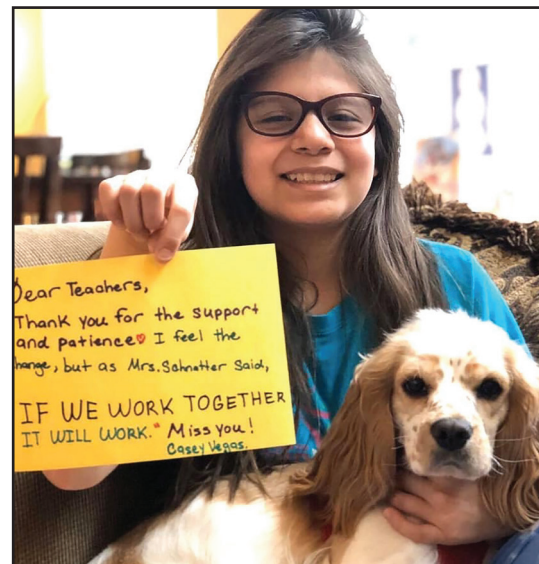
Second and third grade students from **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** share pictures of their ecosystem scavenger hunt.



The DeCosmo Family dressed up for "Virtual Career Day" at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**. Melia is in kindergarten, Gia is in third grade and Michael will be in Pre-K next year.



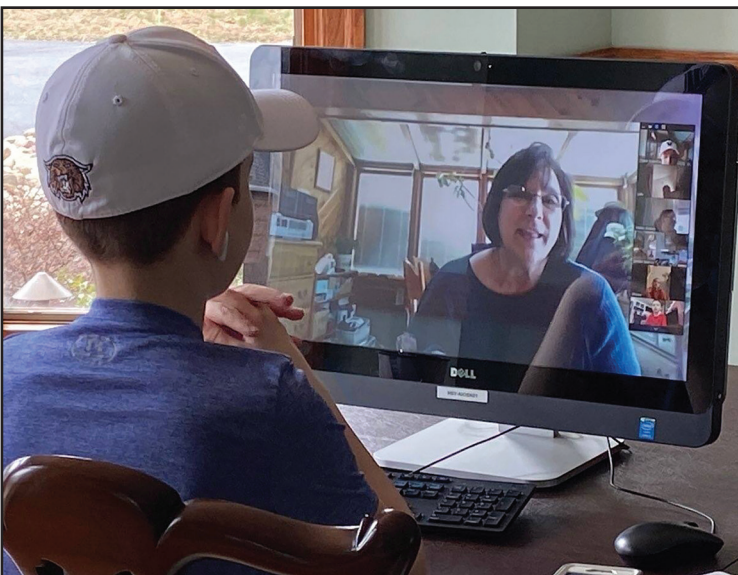
Mrs. Paula Mohutsky, music teacher at **Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre**, presents a music lesson about instruments to kindergarten students using Zoom Conference technology.



Casey Vegas, a sixth grade student at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg**, shares a message of hope and support to her teachers.



Kane Wright, a ninth grade student at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**, works on a distance learning project on his laptop.



Chase Sciandra, a fifth grade student at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea**, participates in a Zoom classroom get together with his classmates and teacher, Mrs. Betsy Kozak.

The faculty and administration at **Epiphany School in Sayre** are using a variety of internet platforms to keep families connected during distance learning. One example is their "Daily Facebook Challenge" where students in all grade levels are asked to perform tasks that can enrich their learning such as creating thank you notes to medical professionals and costumes to become a "Reading Super Hero." In this photo, students display their entries for "Epiphany's Tallest Tower Engineering Challenge."





# Across Europe, churches offer empty facilities to help fight COVID-19

ROME (CNS) – In addition to expanding shelters for the homeless during Italy’s COVID-19 lockdown, Catholic dioceses and parishes are offering rooms to medical personnel exhausted by long hours at work or who will not go home to avoid the danger of spreading the virus to their loved ones.

The Italian bishops’ conference is posting, and updating daily, a list of actions and activities carried out by diocesan Caritas organizations.

The Diocese of Crema, in Italy’s devastated Lombardy region, said it was preparing to host “35 Chinese doctors who will come to assist at the Crema hospital and a field hospital that will be built over the next five or six days” on the grounds of a former convent now owned by the diocese.

The diocese also has offered “25 places for health workers who cannot return to their families after work so as to not place their relatives at risk.”

The Diocese of Bergamo, also in Lombardy, has set aside 50 single rooms with bathrooms in the diocesan seminary

for doctors and nurses coming to help from outside the region.

In fact, the bishops’ conference said, Crema and Bergamo are just two of the 23 dioceses that have informed the national civil protection service that they can provide accommodation for up to 500 medical personnel.

Another 18 dioceses have made more than 300 beds in 25 seminaries, convents, retreat houses or clinics available to the government for people who are in quarantine or recently released from the hospital, it said. And 21 dioceses, the statement said, have expanded the number of beds they offer to the homeless as well as expanding their normal operating hours to 24 hours a day, given that people are not supposed to go outside.

Across Europe, Catholic dioceses and religious orders are offering to turn church facilities into spaces needed for health care or housing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The German Catholic news agency KNA reported the Archdiocese of Cologne is treating coronavirus patients flown in from Italy and has opened its seminary to provide



**Women wearing protective masks walk in front of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris during the coronavirus pandemic. (CNS photo/Raphael Lafargue, via Reuters)**

food and showers for homeless people.

Catholic clinics in the archdiocese were providing urgently needed intensive care beds for six patients from Italy, Cologne Archbishop Rainer Maria Woelki said. The archdiocese has 43 catholic hospitals with a total of 12,000 beds.

“It is an act of charity to provide fast and unbureaucratic help,” he said. The state government of North Rhine-Westphalia arranged the transfer from northern Italy

where hospitals are stretched beyond their limits in the crisis.

In Germany, one southern diocese said it had opened a telephone hotline for needs ranging from shopping to child care, while Benedictine nuns in Bavaria said March 26 they were manufacturing 100 reusable respiratory masks daily for local hospitals.

In Portugal, dioceses offered seminary rooms and other facilities to health professionals and civil protection teams.

The Catholic Ecclesia news agency reported March 26 Portugal’s Guarda Diocese had turned over its apostolic center for “emergency care,” while the Jesuit order’s Oficina technical college in Lisbon said it was producing visors with 3-D technology for local medical centers.

“The manufacture of visors immediately aroused interest from other sectors, such as firefighters, municipality officials and security forces,” the school’s director, Miguel Sa Carneiro, told Ecclesia. “Former students whose companies have this equipment are making it available, and we’re creating a network of partnerships.”

## In midst of crisis, Cathedral wedding couple is ‘loving proof’ faith conquers all

SCRANTON – The coronavirus was no match for the love between Brian and Brianna Rogers.

What began as a simple childhood friendship between two kids growing up in the same neighborhood in the Minooka section of Scranton, Brianna Bauer and Brian Rogers eventually realized there may be a little bit more going on and began dating.

The courtship soon blossomed into love and Brian proposed marriage in November 2018.

The young couple “toyed” with the idea of being united in Holy Matrimony on Saint Patrick’s Day, one of their favorite holidays. The one detail they were certain about was that their longtime friend, Deacon Ed Shoener of the Cathedral of Saint Peter, would perform the ceremony.

After deciding that they did not want their special day “to be caught up in the hustle and bustle of the traditional celebrations of an Irish holiday in Scranton,” as Brianna put it, the wedding date was moved from the Feast of Saint Patrick to the Feast of Saint Joseph – March 19, 2020.

As it turned out, the coronavirus outbreak — of all things — would have Brian and Brianna’s original wish come true.

“After opting for a few days later,” Brianna said, “we started making plans for our ceremony and celebration. From the very beginning, the most important part of it all was that we were husband and wife in the eyes of God.”



**Mr. and Mrs. Brian Rogers**

The recent bride recalled the intimate brunch that was planned after the ceremony was to be more of a “thank you for (all those) attending and joining in our union.”

“As absolutely beautiful as all that is, the value of the day was very genuinely placed on our time in the church, exchanging our vows, and officially becoming a family,” she said in reference to also being united with Brian’s two children, Logan, 8, and Zella, 5.

Then a global pandemic reared its ugly head.

As the uncertainty and worry about the unknown became unavoidable due to the incessant spread of the virus, plans began to

unravel, but not the faith of the soon-to-be newlyweds.

“At the time, we put everything in God’s hands and waited to see what was going to happen,” Brian shared.

With the local community beginning to close their doors for business, the couple began examining their options while all the important ingredients for a wonderful day were in place.

“Most importantly, we had the majority of our close family, the kids, Deacon Ed, and, of course, the love between each other and our families,” Brianna explained, “plus the unfaltering desire to be joined in marriage as one.”

However, it quickly became apparent the Thursday wedding plans were impossible.

Dreading losing the opportunity to gather in the majestic Cathedral of Saint Peter in downtown Scranton due to an impending stay-at-home order brought on by the pandemic, Brian and Brianna hastily reached out to family, friends and the Cathedral’s deacon. If health and safety would permit, the wedding would take place — after all — on Saint Patrick’s Day morning at ten o’clock.

With mere hours to spare, Brianna called her best friend and photographer Danielle Edsel. “Her kindness exceeded expectations and she enthusiastically agreed to capture the precious moments leading up to and during the events of our wedding day,” the new bride related.

By 11 a.m. on the Irish feast day, the

couple was blessed as Mr. and Mrs. Rogers to love, honor and cherish each other as husband and wife for the rest of their lives.

“Blessed we were indeed with the overwhelming kindness and support of our family and friends, on the perfect morning, just the way we had originally dreamed of,” Brianna said. “Of course, it was all thanks, absolutely, to God for hearing and answering our prayers.”

The newlyweds are also extremely grateful that through the marvels of modern technology they were able to share their special day with family and friends unable to attend, including the Maid of Honor — Brianna’s sister who had to remain in Florida.

Following a quick photo shoot at the Cathedral, moms Kathy Bauer and Susan Otten prepared the ideal banquet hall in the dining room of the home of Brian’s mother. All shared in dine-out food from local restaurants, and complete with smiles, hugs and tears of joy, the wedding party and guests enjoyed each other’s company and the perfect Saint Patrick’s Day Wedding Cake.

“After all is said and done, Brian and I wholeheartedly agree that our wedding day couldn’t have been more perfect if we had planned it that way from the beginning,” Brianna commented. “Looking back, without a doubt, the most incredible gift we were given was the promise that we made to each other and officially becoming a family. All guided by the hand of God Himself.”



# Bless your Easter food at home

*With basket blessings cancelled, follow this prayer from the Book of Blessings, #1701-1719*

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*All make the sign of the cross and reply:*

**ALL: Amen.**

**Leader:** For our sake Christ became obedient, accepting even death, death on a cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him the name above all other names. Blessed be God for ever.

**ALL: Blessed be God for ever.**

**Leader:** Throughout Lent we have been preparing for the resurrection of the Lord by prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Our Lenten fasting is a reminder of our hunger and thirst for holiness which is satisfied only by Christ who feeds and nourishes us by his word and sacraments. When we gather at our first meal of Easter may this food be a sign for us of that heavenly banquet to which the Lord call us, and as we prepare to celebrate Easter, let us be mindful of all those in our country and throughout the world who are suffering from the coronavirus pandemic.

## READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

*One of those present or the leader then reads a text of sacred Scripture.*

**Reader:** Let us listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: (Isaiah 55:1-11)

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to



me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts. For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

## INTERCESSIONS

**Leader:** The Son of God who invites us to the Paschal feast stands ready to help. Let us call upon him in our need.

**Reader:** That Easter may find us cleansed of sin and ready to live anew our Christian faith, we pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the bread we share may be a reminder of the bread of life we share in the eucharist, we pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That we may be ready to give from our table to those who hunger and thirst, we pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That all those suffering from the coronavirus may be restored to health, and that all those who care for them, especially

hospital workers, may be kept safe from the disease, we pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That quarantines and other preventative measures may help prevent the spread of the coronavirus and that a cure may be found soon, we pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That we may one day enjoy the banquet of the Lord in the heavenly kingdom, we pray to the Lord.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Christ taught us to pray for our daily bread and so we dare to say:

**ALL: Our Father...**

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

*Said with hands joined*

**Leader:** God of glory, the eyes of all turn to you as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. Bless us and this food of our first Easter meal. May we who gather at the Lord's table continue to celebrate the joy of his resurrection and be admitted finally to his heavenly banquet. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL: Amen.**

*The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the Sign of the Cross saying:*

**Leader:** May Christ nourish us and strengthen us in faith and love now and for ever.

**ALL: Amen.**

## Archdiocese to livestream display Shroud of Turin on Holy Saturday

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- With people forced to stay home, even during Holy Week, because of the coronavirus pandemic, the archbishop of Turin has announced a special online exposition of the Shroud of Turin, which many believe is the burial cloth of Jesus.

On Holy Saturday, April 11, as Christians contemplate Jesus lying in the tomb, Archbishop Cesare Nosiglia will lead a liturgy of prayer and contemplation before the shroud at 5 p.m. local time (11 a.m. EDT).

The prayer service will be live-streamed along with live images of the 14-foot-by-4-foot shroud, which has a full-length photonegative image of a man, front and back,



**Archbishop Cesare Nosiglia of Turin, Italy, has announced a special live-stream exposition of the Shroud of Turin on Holy Saturday, April 11, at local time in Turin. Archbishop Nosiglia is pictured in front of the shroud in this 2015 photo. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)**

bearing signs of wounds that correspond to the Gospel accounts of the torture Jesus endured in his passion and death.

As of April 5, the Archdiocese of Turin said it was finalizing the plans and would

publish a list of participating television stations and links to the livestream later in the week.

Announcing the special display, Archbishop Nosiglia said April 4 that he had received "thousands and thousands" of

messages "asking me if, in this time of grave difficulty we are going through, it would be possible to pray this Holy Week before the shroud" and ask God for "the grace to defeat evil as he did, trusting in the goodness and mercy of God."

The archbishop told Vatican News that the online viewing of the shroud could be "much better" than seeing it in person because the cameras will allow viewers to see it up close and to remain at length with the image.

The image of the crucified man on the shroud, he said, "will go to the heart and the sadness of many people who will follow us. It will be like staying with the Lord on the day we await his resurrection."



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Mission Message

**Go Forth**

**By Father Brian J.T. Clarke**  
**Diocesan Director,**  
**Pontifical Mission Societies**



They could not keep their eyes open. No, that's not a remark about my parishioners struggling to stay awake during one of my homilies. Those are the words of Saint Matthew in his account of the Passion of Jesus Christ. In the moments before our Lord's arrest, He asked the disciples to pray with Him. Twice, He found them asleep and Matthew recounts dramatically, "they could not keep their eyes open" (Mt. 26:43).

As you read this, we once again enter into the Sacred Triduum and so enter into the celebration of those pivotal moments in the life of Jesus and His Church. Admittedly, we have already entered into a passion and suffering unlike any we have before as we are distanced from the celebration of the sacraments, our public prayers, and from one another. Make no mistake, Jesus asks us still to hold fast and pray with Him. We will keep our eyes open.

As missionary disciples, we may feel as if our efforts to share the Gospel and to reach out to the margins is somehow thwarted during this time of seclusion and separation. We may feel useless and shackled by the demands to social distance. So much of our socialization now – and our celebrations of the mysteries of our faith – are mediated through technology. Even as we thank God for the marvel of livestream Masses and other Liturgies, we feel deeply and viscerally the need to be with each other.

The Lord shifts our attention not only to His Passion, Death, and Resurrection during this time, but also shifts our eyes to look upon each other and especially upon the very poor and vulnerable during this time of crisis and upheaval. Though our eyes will not yet meet these individuals physically, we must look nonetheless and not grow tired. We will keep our eyes open.

Above all, we look to the Lord, we keep our eyes fixed on Him; for, "the eyes of all look hopefully to You; [and] You give them their food in due season" (Psalm 145:45). As we look upon our God, He looks upon us with love, with pity, with His mercy. As such, He then asks that our eyes be moved to one another with a similar countenance. To love, to pity, to show mercy.

We will keep our eyes open in gratitude and in petition for

countless medical and hospital professionals who are caring for the sick and the dying; for those who keep the means of production moving at a steady pace to ensure that we're fed, receive medication, and have our daily needs met; for our first responders who are always ready to assist us in our hour of need; for the unsung and the often forgotten laborers who quietly, yet methodically carry out the work to keep buildings and homes clean, in proper working order, and who are likewise ready to act when their skills are needed.

And we keep our eyes that have looked upon God fixed on the poor, those who are very much alone, and those whose daily needs are not being met. Let our eyes not grow tired of seeing the plight of the vulnerable and acting on it. Victor Hugo – perhaps the most prolific and respected French author – wrote that "to love another person is to see the face of God." We may find this time of trial to be one where the face of God seems to be eclipsed; yet, acting in great love for those in need is a moment to encounter Him, to see His face. As we hear the words of Saint Matthew recount that "they could not keep their eyes open," let us pray for the grace to be vigilant and keep our gaze fixed on High and into the eyes of the poor. Let us keep our eyes open.

***Apostleship of Prayer***

Papal Intention for April 2020

***Freedom from Addiction*** —

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



## Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



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# Father Joseph F. Sica, Beloved Diocesan Priest, Dies

Due to the current health care crisis, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera conducted a private burial ceremony for Rev. Joseph F. Sica, Senior Priest at Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton, who died on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at Commonwealth Health Regional Hospital in Scranton.

Father Sica, son of the late Joseph J. Sica Jr. and Elveria Rossi Sica, was born in Scranton on November 27, 1955. He received his early education at William Prescott #38 and graduated from Bishop O'Hara High School, Dunmore. As a seminary student, Father graduated from the University of Scranton, while in formation at St. Pius X, Dalton, and earned an M.A. degree from the Catholic University Theological College, Washington, D.C. Father Sica was ordained to the priesthood on April 24, 1982 by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, D.D., late Bishop of Scranton.

Father Sica served various assignments in his nearly 38 years as a priest in the



**Rev. Joseph F. Sica**

Diocese of Scranton. He served as Assistant Pastor of Annunciation Parish, Williamsport; Mount Carmel Parish, Carbondale; Our Lady of Snows Parish, Clarks Summit; Saint Aloysius Parish, Wilkes-Barre; Saint Mary's Parish, Scranton and Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton. He served as Director of Religious

Formation at Pocono Central Catholic, Cresco; Bishop O'Hara High School, Dunmore and Bishop Hannan High School, Scranton. Father Sica served as Pastor of Nativity B.V.M. Parish, Tunkhannock and Holy Rosary Parish, Scranton. In addition, Father served faithfully as a Chaplain at Mercy Hospital in both Wilkes-Barre and Scranton. He will long be remembered for his pastoral outreach to the sick and suffering.

Father Sica was well-known as a magnificent author. His books include *Embracing Change and Forgiveness*. In addition, he has published multiple years of Lenten reflections which have been read and enjoyed by millions.

He is survived by a sister, Ann Straneva, Scranton. Their relationship was like few others. They had a bond of mutual respect and adoration. His message of love will live on.

"For 38 years, Father Joseph Sica

served the Diocese of Scranton and its people with incredible love, generosity and laughter rooted in the joy that he had come to know through faith. Whether leading a parish, teaching, working as a hospital chaplain or leading a retreat, Father Sica helped countless people grow spiritually while also making them feel better about themselves. Father Sica was passionate about his service to God and his community," Bishop Bambera said. "Personally, I have known him since the first days in which I entered the seminary. I will miss his frequent texts, his phone calls and especially his deep willingness to go beyond what was expected in service of God's people. As a Diocese, we were richly blessed by his priestly service."

A public memorial mass will be scheduled and announced at a future date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1300 Old Plank Rd., Mayfield, PA 18433.

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## CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as indicated.

**Reverend Phillip J. Sladicka, V.F.**, to Administrator, Pro Tem, Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin, effective March 23, 2020. Father Sladicka will continue to serve as Pastor of Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca.

**Reverend James J. Walsh**, from Pastor, Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin, and Defender of the Bond in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Scranton, effective March 23, 2020.

## Diocese of Scranton Statement regarding Father James J. Walsh

On Wednesday, March 6, 2019, the Diocese of Scranton received an allegation of sexual assault involving Father James J. Walsh, pastor of Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin. Upon receipt of this allegation, the Diocese immediately notified the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office. The Diocese also confronted Father Walsh with the information. Father Walsh adamantly denied the allegation.

The alleged incident took place in 1979 while Father Walsh was serving as Assistant Pastor at the Church of Saint Gregory in Clarks Green. The individual making the allegation was an adult at the time of the alleged assault.

The Diocese followed its established procedure relative to allegations of sexual misconduct not involving minors. In addition to notifying the civilian authorities,

Diocesan outside counsel retained a professional investigator to conduct a thorough investigation. During the course of the investigation, the Diocese received another allegation involving inappropriate behavior with an adult by Walsh. The investigator fully investigated this allegation, as well as two prior reports of possible misconduct. Father Walsh denied each allegation.

Based upon the investigation, the Diocese determined the allegations to be credible. This determination was presented to the Bishop's Advisory Board for Clergy for recommendation and review. Bishop Bambera thereafter informed Father Walsh of his intention to remove him as pastor. After being so informed, Father Walsh submitted his resignation as pastor of Saint Maria Goretti Parish.

## Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule for the upcoming weeks is as follows:

April 9, Father Wilfredo Cusicanqui; April 10, Father Richard Czachor; April 11, Father Vincent Dang; April 12, Monsignor Michael Delaney; April 13, Sulpician Father Daniel Doherty; April 14, Father John Doris; April 15, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus John M. Dougherty; April 16, Father Michael

Drevitch; April 17, Passionist Father Brice Edwards; April 18, Father Cyril Edwards; April 19, Father Joseph Elston; April 20, Monsignor John Esseff; April 21, Father Joseph Evanko; April 22, Monsignor William Feldcamp; April 23, Father Neftali Feliz-Sena; April 24, Father Samuel Ferretti; April 25, Father Michael Finn; April 26, Father Richard Fox; April 27, Father Martin Gaiardo.

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**Please help us feed the hungry. Call the Kitchen at (570) 342-5556, ext. 3**

Or you may send your gift to:

St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen

500 Penn Ave. • Scranton, PA 18509

or you may also donate online at: [www.stfranciskitchen.org](http://www.stfranciskitchen.org)

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Though the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen "Host For A Day" campaign continues, the Appreciation Reception, scheduled for April 22 at Genetti Manor in Dickson City, has been postponed. We will announce a new date for the banquet ASAP. *Thank you for your understanding and continued support.*

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**Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor**

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551).

**Aviso al Respetto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad**

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570-862-7551).

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## Event postponements due to COVID-19 virus

### Catholic Men's Conference on April 25

Organizers have tentatively moved the date to October in the hopes that the virus will be over by fall. Men that had previously registered will be given the opportunity for a refund or getting a reservation credit for the new date that is set.

### Retrouvaille Weekend on May 29-31

The married couples weekend planned for May is being tentatively rescheduled for October. Further info is forthcoming.

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# CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION

Diocese of Scranton, 400 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503 (570) 207-2219

Class A, LPTV Broadcast Station: W07BV-CA, Channel 7, Wilkes-Barre/Pittston;  
Adams Cable Service, Carbondale: channel 16 • Comcast Cable TV, Scranton/Dunmore/Dallas: channel 12  
Comcast Cable TV, Williamsport: channel 16 Metrocast Cable TV, Berwick: channel 20  
Service Electric Cable TV, Wilkes-Barre: channel 18 • Service Electric Cablevision, Hazleton: channel 97

## APRIL SCHEDULE

CTV LOCAL ORIGATION IS BOXED IN BOLD BORDER, OTHER PROGRAMMING IS FROM EWTN

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
12:00 AM	SPECIALS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)						
1:00 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		
1:30 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	EWTN GALLERY					G.K. CHESTERTON		
2:00 AM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN		EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)						
2:30 AM	CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY		
3:00 AM	EWTN ON LOCATION	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	SPECIALS	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	SETTING CAPTIVES FREE		
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE		PAPAL AUDIENCE	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOG	YOU'RE AMAZING		
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	SUDAY VESPERS	HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH		BOB AND PENNY LORD PRESENT	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH		
4:30 AM		PARABLE	THE CHURCH:GOD'S PLAN	(4:40)ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	EXTRAORDINARY FAITH		
5:00 AM	PROPHESY IN SONG	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	LETTER AND SPIRIT	EWTN SPECIALS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS		
5:30 AM	LENT-A SEASON OF GRACE	JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE	APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION	FUNDAMRNTALS OF CATHOLICISM		CATHOLICS COME HOME			
6:00 AM	REGINA CAELI WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS							
6:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	FR. RUTLER: CHRIST IN THE CITY	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	THE CHOICES WE FACE	SAINTS vs. SCOUNDRLS		
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL		
7:30 AM	HOLY LAND ROSARY						THE HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES		
7:50 AM	ROSARY FROM LOURDES	LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	PAPAL AUDIENCE			
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)							
9:00 AM	(9:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	THE FRIAR		
9:30 AM	EWTN BOOKMARK	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE					STORIES FROM THE BIBLE		
10:00 AM	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	LIVE WITH PASSION	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	SALT & LIGHT TV SPECIALS	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY		
10:30 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		SALT & LIGHT TV- THE CHURCH ALIVE			FOCUS	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		
11:00 AM	VATICANO	WOMEN OF GRACE						BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	
11:30 AM	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE CHOICES WE FACE	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	THE ROAMIN' CATHOLIC	CTV STATIONS OF CROSS	HOLY ROSARY FROM LOURDES		
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m.						EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)	
12:30PM		"DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.							
1:00 PM	(1:10PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	THE DOMESTIC CHUR CH	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE		
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT	THE SAINTS OF CHINA	ST.FAUSTINA: DIVINE MERCY	SPECIALS	DOCTORS OF MTHE CHURCH	OUR FATHER'S PLAN	EWTN BOOKMARK		
2:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME	CTV STATIONS OF CROSS LIVE WITH PASSION LENTEN SERIES	EWTN ON LOCATION		
2:30 PM									
3:00 PM								THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG	
3:20 PM	REFLECTIONS								
3:30 PM	THE HOLY ROSARY IN STAINED GLASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)						ROSARY FOR LIFE	
4:00 PM	TBA	THE HOLY ROSARY						CALLED TO COMMUNION	
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK							
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	MASTERPIECE DONUT SHOP	WE ARE CATHOLIC	MY TIME WITH JESUS	CAT CHAT	BUGTIME ADVENTURES			
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	GENESIS TO JESUS	CATHOLIC ANSWERS LIVE		
5:30 PM	PASSIONIST SUNDAY MASS	SPECIALS						LETTER AND SPIRIT	
6:00 PM	SUNDAY VESPERS	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)						FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM	
6:30 PM	THE EUCHARIST	CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	SAVORING OUR FAITH	CHURCH AND POOR		
7:00 PM	THE JOURNEY HOME	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL,, (Encore)						DAILY MASS	
7:30PM		THE HOLY ROSARY			POPE'S AUDIENCE	THE HOLY ROSARY			
8:00 PM		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK							
8:00 PM	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	CTV SPECIAL PRESENTATION	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS	EWTN CINEMA		
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME								
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)		EWTN NIGHTLY NEWS (Encore)					
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	CTV STATIONS OF CROSS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY		
10:00PM	EWTN SPECIALS	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK			
10:30 PM					DEFENDING LIFE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT			
11:00PM	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	BATTLE READY	CROSS TRAINING	CROSSING THE GOAL	LONG RIDE HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WEB OF FAITH 2.0		
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE						PARABLE	

## Help our Friends and Neighbors with a gift to the Diocese Coronavirus Emergency Fund



The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges for all of us. Our parishes and Diocesan ministries are facing increased risks of financial shortfalls and are struggling to pay bills and provide services due to the Coronavirus health crisis.

If you are in a position to help out, we kindly ask you to consider supporting the vital ministries provided by our parishes and our Diocese.

Go to [dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund](https://dioceseofscranton.org/emergencyfund) and make a gift to support:

- One of our 118 parishes
- A specific kitchen, food pantry, shelter or relief assistance program
- Any of our 20 Diocesan Catholic schools

**Thank you for considering a gift at this time so that our parishes and Diocesan ministries may continue to fully serve all those in need.**

For more information, please contact Jim Bebla at 570-207-2250 or [jim-bebla@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jim-bebla@dioceseofscranton.org)

## The Catholic Light

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