



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

January 21, 2021

Biden inaugural address calls for Americans to work for unity



U.S. President Joe Biden speaks during his inauguration at the Capitol in Washington Jan. 20, 2021. (CNS photo/Patrick Semansky, pool via Reuters)

In his inaugural address Jan. 20, President Joe Biden said he is committed with his "whole soul" to bring this country together.

He pleaded with Americans - having come through a bitter election, a time of racial reckoning and still in the midst of a deadly pandemic - to similarly take up this cause.

"It's time for boldness because there is so much to do," Biden said in a 21-minute speech, urging Americans to work together for unity in this historic moment and stressing that the "American story depends not on some, but all."

[Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service](#)

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera issued a statement on the Inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

The bishop encouraged the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton and all people of goodwill to join him in praying for our Nation and its new leaders.



[Read Bishop Bambera's Full Statement on the Inauguration](#)



New president causes some to celebrate, gives others anxiety

As Joe Biden became the second Catholic to be inaugurated as president of the United States Wednesday, it gave some U.S. Catholics a reason to rejoice and others to fear more access to abortion under his leadership.

[Read the Full Story](#)



Bishops welcome executive order on DACA program

Two leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops applauded President Joe Biden's Inauguration Day executive action ordering the federal government to keep in place and strengthen the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Heavy security in D.C., ongoing pandemic mean March for Life will be virtual



For the first time since 1974, when it first began, the message of the national *March for Life* to participants is: Stay home.

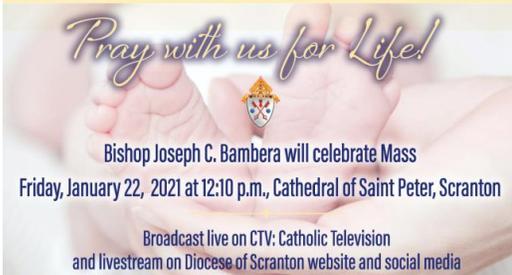
Like the satellite events connected to the annual National Mall rally and march to the Supreme Court, including the Rose Dinner, a youth conference and the Mass for Life, the rest of it will be online only Jan. 29.

March organizers had already hired a production company to make a livestreamed event possible in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and to enforce mask wearing and social distancing.

[For More Information](#)

JANUARY 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children



**Bishop to celebrate
Mass for the Day of
Prayer for the Legal
Protection of Unborn
Children tomorrow**

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Friday to mark the 48th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which legalized abortion.

For people who cannot attend the Mass in person, it will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television.

**For More Information About
Friday's Mass**

PRAY TO PROTECT HUMAN LIFE!

**9 DAYS FOR
LIFE**

JANUARY 21 - 29, 2021

9DAYSFORLIFE.COM

**9 Days for Life Novena
Begins Today!**

The Diocese of Scranton is encouraging all faithful to participate in the *9 Days for Life Novena*.

The *9 Days for Life* is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Today's intention (Day One) is for the tragic practice of abortion to end!

**Daily Intentions Will Be
Available Here**



Diocesan guidelines released for Blessing of Throats during COVID-19

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional Blessing of Throats will look a little different in 2021.

This year, the traditional blessing will not be offered individually, but rather, as a communal blessing. The Blessing of Throats is a sacramental of the Roman Catholic Church, ordinarily celebrated on-or-around February 3, the feast of Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr.

This year, the Blessing of Throats can be given to all who are gathered, with the priest or deacon extending his hands over the people, without the traditional crossed candles, while reciting the prayer for blessing.

Parishioners are reminded that the efficacy of the blessing lies in the intention of the person offering the blessing, not on the proximity of the recipient to that person.

For More on the Liturgical Guidelines for the Feast of Season Blaise and the Season of Lent

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