

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG

VOLUME 121 NUMBER 2 ISSN-0164-9418

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2021

*Be Converted! Return to me with all your heart!*

## 2021 LENTEN MESSAGE BISHOP JOSEPH C. BAMBERA



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A year ago, as we prepared to celebrate Ash Wednesday and our annual observance of Lent, we were just beginning to come to terms with the COVID-19 pandemic that was quickly enveloping our world. By the end of the Third Sunday of Lent – barely mid-way through this season of conversion and hope – life seemed to come to a standstill. We were forced to embrace traditional Lenten observances in unique ways from our homes instead of in our churches. We struggled to find a way forward in the midst of global suffering, pain and uncertainty.

For me, one of the first glimmers of hope that we experienced during those initial days of the pandemic emerged from a unique and singular moment in the life of our Church that you may recall. On the evening of Friday, March 27, 2020, on the threshold of the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Pope Francis walked alone into an empty, rain-slicked Saint Peter's Square for an extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* Eucharistic Blessing of the people of the City of Rome and of the entire world.

Reflecting upon the passage from Saint Mark's gospel that found the disciples in a boat that was being tossed about by an intense storm and Jesus, asleep, with them in the boat, Pope Francis recounted the words of our Savior, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?"

The Holy Father continued, "Lord, you are calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. Your call reverberates urgently: 'Be converted!' Return to me with all your heart."

Brothers and sisters, this Lent the Lord extends the same invitation to us: "Be converted! Return to me with all your heart! Do not be afraid!"

*Continued on Page 3*



Pope Francis receives ashes, which are sprinkled on his head, from Cardinal Jozef Tomko as he celebrates Ash Wednesday Mass at the Basilica of Santa Sabina in Rome in this Feb. 26, 2020 photo. Because of ongoing COVID-19 precautions, parishes in the Diocese of Scranton can either sprinkle ashes this year or impose ashes on individual foreheads by using a Q-tip cotton swab. More on both Ash Wednesday distribution methods can be found on Page 2.



For an Ash Wednesday schedule for parishes across the

**DIOCESE OF SCRANTON**

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

## ***During pandemic, parishes providing substantial aid to those in need***



**Volunteers from Epiphany Parish in Sayre prepare dozens of meals to be distributed to the community in 2020.**

SCRANTON – For the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has created struggles and hardship for many people. Parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton have responded compassionately to that need in an overwhelming way.

Parishes across the Diocese formed nearly 50 new ministries since the beginning of the pandemic, including youth ministry outreach to essential workers, volunteer programs that serve free meals to the community and outreach efforts to the homebound.

In December 2020, *The Catholic Light* sent a survey to all parishes, looking for the ways that they are responding to community needs during the coronavirus.

An overwhelming response from 93 parishes provided great clarity on the impact our parishes are having in our community – and how parishioners have provided selfless service to their brothers and sisters in need.

Here are just a few of the survey highlights:

- Thirty-percent of responding parishes operated their own food pantry in 2020. Together, these pantries helped more than 2,000 families/individuals each month during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- For parishes that did not operate their own food pantry, 94-percent collected food for another local agency or food bank. The food collected benefitted tens of thousands of additional local residents during the coronavirus.

- Despite the challenges of organizing volunteers on a large-scale basis, 23% of parishes hosted a free community meal during the pandemic. Another 20% provided meals directly to seniors or the homebound.

- Nearly two-thirds of parishes provided direct help to families struggling with food, fuel, utilities or rent. Often unadvertised, many parishes reported that the number of requests received in 2020 rose due to people facing unexpected layoffs or a reduction of hours.

- Currently, 75% of Diocesan parishes are now streaming Mass to the faithful. This effort comes after Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has stressed the importance of keeping the faithful connected during the pandemic.

*Continued on Page 6*



# 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.

## Published monthly by:

Catholic Light Publishing Company  
300 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503-1287

## Offices:

300 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503-1287  
Phone: (570) 207-2229  
Fax: (570) 207-2271

## Publisher:

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

## Secretary for Communications/Editor-in-Chief:

Eric M. Deabill

## Managing Editor:

Kevin G. McDonnell

## Advertising Coordinator:

Eileen Manley

## Circulation Coordinator:

Pamela Haeefe

## Yearly Subscription Rates:

Resident: \$10  
Foreign: \$12

Your donation to the Diocesan Annual Appeal helps support *The Catholic Light*

Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

## Postal Information:

*The Catholic Light* (ISSN 0164-9418) is published monthly by the Catholic Light Publishing Company, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503-1287. Periodicals postage paid at Scranton PA and additional mailing offices.

## POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to *The Catholic Light*, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503-1287

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

# Ash Wednesday message the same, despite COVID changes Bishop Bambera to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass

SCRANTON – Due to COVID-19 precautions, Ash Wednesday will look different in the Diocese of Scranton this year, but the significance of the day will not change.

In liturgical directives published on the Diocese of Scranton website in January, the Diocese announced that ashes could be distributed to the Catholic faithful as long as there is no direct contact. Parishes can decide between one of two forms of distribution of ashes on Feb. 17.

In the first, the call to repentance (“Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return”) is spoken once to all by the priest before the blessed ashes are then silently sprinkled on top of individuals’ heads.

In many parts of the world, the sprinkling of ashes is the normal way in which ashes are distributed.

The second possible distribution method is for ashes to be given on foreheads by using an individual Q-tip type of cotton swab. With the cotton tip, a cross would be traced upon the recipient’s forehead. A new Q-tip must be used for each person and afterwards the swabs need to be placed in a receptacle for burning.

No matter the method of distribution, the wearing of masks by everyone must be maintained.

Ashes’ symbolism comes from Old Testament descriptions of wearing sackcloth and ashes as signs of penance.

The Catholic Church incorporated this practice in the eighth century when those who committed grave sins known to the public had to do public penance and were sprinkled with ashes.

By the 12th century, the practice of penance and either sprinkling or marking of ashes became something for the whole church at the start of Lent.

Although not a holy day of obligation, Ash Wednesday is traditionally one of the highest days for Mass attendance throughout the entire year.

Parishioners are reminded that their own internal disposition and intention to repent is the importance of Ash Wednesday and the ashes are an external sign of that internal reality. Individuals who cannot receive ashes can still enter into Lent with a repentant heart.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will celebrate the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is open to the public with COVID-19 precautions, which include

wearing masks and proper physical distancing. The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and all social media platforms.

## Regulations for Lent 2021

All faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded of Diocesan Statute No. 41, which addresses the penitential aspect of Lent:

“The season of Lent is penitential in nature and during Lent penance should be not only internal and individual, but also external and social (Sacrosanctum Concilium, No. 5, 109). Pastors are obliged to avoid scheduling activities in the parishes which in any way could possibly detract from the external and social penance required by Lent.”

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, marks the beginning of Lent. The following fast and abstinence regulations are observed:

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, April 2, 2021, are days of fast and abstinence.
- Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence.
- All Catholics who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays during Lent.
- All Catholics over 18 years of age to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to the obligation of fasting. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal and two smaller meals unless dispensed or excused.

## Lenten Reminders

Lent is a time for sacrifice and for spiritual renewal as we reflect upon our baptism and the call given to each of us to walk as disciples of the Lord.

As faithful followers of Jesus, we are traditionally encouraged to honor the sacred season of Lent by embracing the three pillars of Lenten observance:

- Almsgiving – generously giving to those in need
- Fasting – practicing self-discipline and self-denial
- Prayer – reading, hearing and reflecting on the Word of God

Lent is also a penitential season. It is a time to seek forgiveness, to look inward, and to admit our shortcomings and failures. It is a time to regroup and to prepare. How can you spend your time during Lent?

- By “giving up” things you hunger after, such as sweets or alcohol; or activities you desire, such as vacations, concerts or movies.
- By “doing” things to help others, such as offering an extra donation to the poor or helping those in need by providing food or clothing.
- By “adding” to our normal routine, such as going to daily Mass, praying the Stations of the Cross and going to confession.

One of the greatest opportunities given by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord’s invitation to conversion is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Once again, the Diocese of Scranton is participating in *The Light Is On for You*.

While ensuring that every effort is made to follow safety guidelines during COVID-19 (including proper distancing, masking and sanitization), beginning on the first Monday of Lent, February 22, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, March 22, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit the Diocesan website at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).

Monsignor Thomas M. Muldowney  
Vicar General of the Diocese

## EL MENSAGE DE CUARESMA DEL OBISPO BAMBERA

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Hace un año, mientras nos preparábamos para celebrar el Miércoles de Ceniza y nuestra observancia anual de la Cuaresma, apenas estábamos comenzando a aceptar la pandemia de COVID-19 que estaba envolviendo rápidamente nuestro mundo.

Al final del tercer domingo de Cuaresma, apenas a la mitad de este tiempo de conversión y esperanza, la vida pareció detenerse. Nos vimos obligados a abrazar las observancias tradicionales de la Cuaresma de formas únicas desde nuestros hogares en lugar de en nuestras iglesias. Luchamos por encontrar un camino a seguir en medio del sufrimiento, el dolor y la incertidumbre globales.

Para mí, uno de los primeros destellos de esperanza que experimentamos durante esos primeros días de la pandemia surgió de un momento único y singular en la vida de nuestra Iglesia que tal vez recuerden. En la noche del viernes 27 de marzo de 2020, en el umbral del quinto domingo de Cuaresma, el Papa Francisco entró solo en una plaza de San Pedro vacía y resbaladiza por la lluvia para una extraordinaria Bendición Eucarística Urbi et Orbi de la gente de la ciudad de Roma y del mundo entero.

Reflexionando sobre el pasaje del evangelio de San Marcos que encontró a los discípulos en una barca que estaba siendo sacudida por una intensa tormenta y Jesús, dormido, con ellos en la barca, el Papa Francisco relató las palabras de nuestro Salvador: “¿Por qué tienes miedo? ¿No tienes fe?”

El Santo Padre continuó: “Señor, nos estás llamando a la fe. Que no es tanto creer que existes, sino acudir a ti y confiar en ti. Tu llamado resuena con urgencia: ‘¡Convertíos!’ Vuelve a ti con todo tu corazón.”

Hermanos y hermanas, en esta Cuaresma el Señor nos hace la misma invitación: “Convertíos; Vuélvete a mí con todo tu corazón; ¡No tengas miedo!”

Esta invitación es aún más convincente, dado lo que hemos experimentado durante el año pasado. Si bien innumerables de nosotros hemos conocido un dolor físico y emocional incalculable, la soledad y, en algunos casos, el dolor que proviene de la pérdida de aquellos a quienes amamos, nuestra misma capacidad para reflexionar sobre los últimos doce meses es una señal poderosa de la presencia de Dios en nuestras vidas. Jesús ha estado y sigue estando con nosotros en medio de la tormenta, consolándonos, sosteniéndonos y asegurándonos de su amor y misericordia perdurables.

¡Cuán vital es que usemos estos días sagrados de Cuaresma para profundizar nuestra relación con Jesús, quien primero nos llamó a caminar con él a través de la fe! En su mensaje de Cuaresma de 2021 a la Iglesia, el Papa Francisco reflexiona sobre este momento único en la historia humana: “En estos tiempos de problemas, cuando todo parece frágil e incierto, hablar de esperanza puede parecer un desafío. Sin embargo, la Cuaresma es precisamente el tiempo de la esperanza, cuando nos volvemos al Dios que sigue cuidando pacientemente su creación.”

Nuestra esperanza se fortalece y nuestra relación con Jesús se profundiza de manera particular a través de nuestro abrazo de las disciplinas tradicionales de la Cuaresma, como se señala en el capítulo sexto del evangelio de San Mateo, proclamado cada año el miércoles de ceniza. Las sencillas prácticas de ayuno, oración y limosna se convierten en reflejos profundos de nuestros esfuerzos por abrazar el ejemplo del amor desinteresado de Jesús en nuestras propias vidas.

El primer domingo de Cuaresma, una vez más daremos la bienvenida a los catecúmenos a las filas de los elegidos; aquellos de entre nosotros que han comenzado el camino de la conversión y que pronto experimentarán el poder salvífico de Jesús en los misterios pascuales del Bautismo, la Confirmación y la Eucaristía. Su “sí” al llamado del Señor nos da esperanza y debería animarnos a volver a comprometernos con los votos que hicimos en nuestros propios bautismos. Su “sí” nos recuerda que nosotros también estamos llamados a mirar más allá de nosotros mismos hacia algo más en la vida.

Finalmente, uno de los grandes dones que nos ha dado la Iglesia para ayudarnos en nuestra respuesta a la invitación del Señor a la conversión y renovación se encuentra en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Para facilitar la celebración de este Sacramento de manera generosa, una vez más, todas las parroquias de la Diócesis de Scranton participarán en *The Light Is On For You*. Mientras nos aseguramos de que se hagan todos los esfuerzos posibles para mantener a nuestra gente segura, todos los lunes por la noche durante la temporada de Cuaresma, comenzando el primer lunes de Cuaresma, 22 de febrero, y continuando hasta el lunes de la última semana completa de Cuaresma, 22 de marzo, las confesiones se escucharán en cada parroquia de 5:30 pm a 7:00 pm, o en el horario que mejor se adapte a las necesidades de una comunidad parroquial en particular.

Amigos míos, la Cuaresma nos llama durante estos tiempos desafiantes a reconocer que Dios es siempre fiel y presente, particularmente en medio de las tormentas que envuelven nuestro frágil mundo y nuestras vidas quebrantadas. Que seamos lo suficientemente humildes para abrir nuestras vidas a la presencia misericordiosa de Dios y caminar con él en un viaje vivificante de conversión y renovación.

Por favor, conozca mis oraciones por una fructífera observancia de la Cuaresma.

Fielmente tuyo en Cristo,

+ *Joseph C. Bambera*

Reverendísimo Joseph C. Bambera, DD, JCL  
Obispo de Scranton



*Continued from Page 1*

This invitation is even more compelling, given what we have experienced during the past year. While countless numbers of us have known untold physical and emotional pain, loneliness and, in some instances, the grief that comes from the loss of those we love, our very ability to reflect upon the past twelve months is a powerful sign of God's presence in our lives. Jesus has been and continues to be with us in the midst of the storm, consoling, sustaining and assuring us of his abiding love and mercy.

How vital it is that we use these sacred days of Lent to deepen our relationship with Jesus, who first called us to journey with him through faith! In his 2021 Lenten message to the Church, Pope Francis reflects upon this unique moment in human history, “In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet, Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to the God who patiently continues to care for his creation.”

Our hope is strengthened and our relationship with Jesus is deepened in a particular way through our embrace of the traditional disciplines of Lent, as noted in the sixth chapter of Saint Matthew's gospel, proclaimed each year on Ash Wednesday. The simple practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving become profound reflections of our efforts to embrace the example of Jesus' selfless love in our own lives.

On the First Sunday of Lent, we will once again welcome catechumens into the ranks of the elect; those from our midst who have begun the journey of conversion and who will soon experience the saving power of Jesus in the Easter mysteries of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Their “yes” to the Lord's call gives us hope and should encourage us to recommit ourselves to the vows that were made at our own baptism. Their “yes” reminds us that we too are called to look beyond ourselves to something more in life.

Finally, one of the great gifts given to us by the Church to assist us in our response to the Lord's invitation to conversion and renewal is found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To provide for the celebration of this Sacrament in a generous manner, once again, all of the parishes of the Diocese of Scranton will participate in *The Light Is On For You*.

While ensuring that every effort is made to continue to keep our people safe, on every Monday evening during the Lenten season, beginning on the first Monday of Lent, February 22, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, March 22, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – or at a time that best suits the needs of a particular parish community.

My friends, Lent calls us during these challenging times to recognize that God is ever faithful and present, particularly amid the storms that envelop our fragile world and broken lives. May we be humble enough to open our lives to God's merciful presence and walk with him on a life-giving journey of conversion and renewal.

Please know of my prayers for a fruitful observance of Lent.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

+ *Joseph C. Bambera*

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

**Bishop Bambera will once again provide weekly video reflections during Lent. The videos will be available on all Diocese of Scranton social media platforms as well as broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television**



# The Light is ON for You.



*Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation*

“The Light is On For You” campaign was created by the Archdiocese of Washington and has since been implemented by dioceses throughout the United States. The Diocese of Scranton is proud to join this effort once again in 2021 and offer extended hours for confessions during Lent.

Beginning on **Monday, February 22, 2021**, (the first Monday in Lent) and continuing through the last full week of Lent on **Monday, March 22, 2021**, confessions will be heard on each Monday of Lent in parishes across the Diocese of Scranton from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

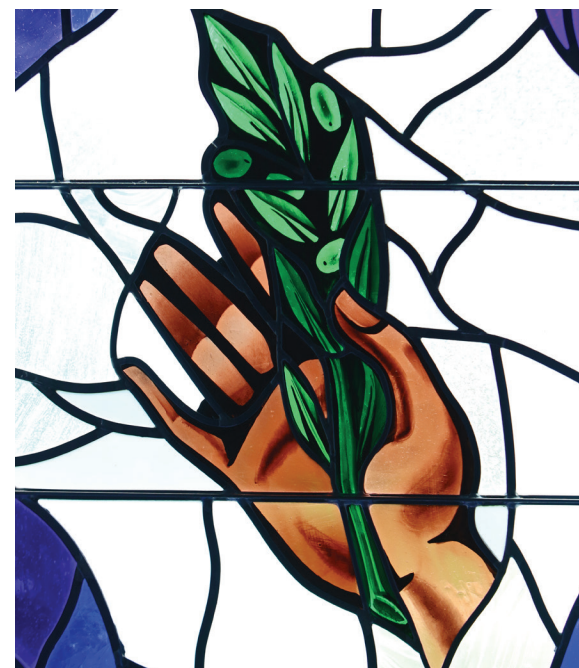
## Why Go To Confession?

God loves each of us. We have been created by God and placed in this world to know, love and serve Him. Unfortunately, we do not always show our love for God in our words and actions. There are times when we turn away from God. These moments when we chose to do wrong and avoid what is good are sins. The good news is that God has given us a way to turn back to Him with our whole heart. He has given us the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament, we meet Christ in the person of the priest, ready and eager to absolve us and restore us to new life. We confess our sins to God through his minister, the priest, who absolves us in the name of Christ.

## How to Make a Good Confession

Before going to confession, take some time to examine your conscience. This might be done by reviewing your life in comparison to the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the example of Christ’s life. Think about both the times that you have intentionally done something wrong and the times that you chose not to do something for the good of another person. Pray to God for forgiveness.

1. The priest will welcome you and you both will make the sign of the Cross:  
*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*
2. You continue with these traditional words:  
*Bless me Father, for I have sinned. My last confession was....(give weeks, months or years)*  
You can also add any other background that will allow the priest to be most helpful to you in the circumstances of your everyday life.
3. Confess all your sins to the priest.  
Speak freely and honestly - nothing you say in confession will ever be repeated by the priest. The priest may talk with you about how to make up for the sins you confess. If you are unsure or uneasy, tell him and ask for help. Feeling guilt or embarrassment about your sins is normal. It is also a sign that your conscience is letting you know that you have done something wrong. The priest is there to listen to you with the heart of Jesus. Jesus came to love and forgive and never seeks to embarrass us.
4. When finished, say, *“I am sorry for these and all my sins.”*
5. The priest will give a penance and might offer advice to help you become a better Catholic. The Act of Penance may take the form of prayer, self-denial or service to another.
6. Say an Act of Contrition, expressing your sorrow for your sins and resolving not to sin again. You may say this in your own words or use this traditional prayer:  
*My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.*
7. The priest, acting in the person of Christ, then absolves you from your sins. As the priest concludes the prayer, he will make the sign of the cross over your head. You bless yourself and respond, *Amen*. The priest will then invite you to go in peace.



*You are invited.*

*Please come and experience Christ's healing love!*



During Lent, the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton will offer several ways in which the faithful can deepen their relationship with Jesus and come to know him in a more intimate way.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Fridays, the Stations of the Cross are prayed following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

The Stations will air live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton on Feb. 19 after the 12:10 p.m. Mass and then be rebroadcast on succeeding Fridays at 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

On Good Friday, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5:00 p.m.

## LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

Every Sunday during Lent, beginning on Feb. 21, the Cathedral will hold Lenten Evening Prayer beginning at 6:15 p.m.

The Lenten Evening Prayer services are open to the public in accordance with COVID-19 safety precautions.

The Evening Prayer services will also be livestream on the Cathedral's social media channels as well as the Diocese of Scranton's social media platforms. The

services will also be broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television following the 6:00 p.m. rebroadcast of the Sunday Mass.

Evening Prayer is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus' command to "pray always."

Through this prayer, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world.

## CONFESSION SCHEDULE

The Cathedral will continue to hold confessions on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. During Lent, the Cathedral will also offer the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday evenings from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

## SOCIAL MEDIA REFLECTIONS

During Lent, Monsignor Dale Rupert, pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter, will also release short, inspirational reflections and prayers on Lent, the Saints and other spiritually topical subjects. The reflections will be released on the Cathedral's social media channels.

PITTSTON — Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish announces Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell will serve as guest celebrant and speaker for the parish's "Road to Resurrection" Lenten series beginning the week after Ash Wednesday.

"A Journey toward Hope and Love" will serve as the theme for the Eucharistic gatherings being hosted this Lent by the Pittston parish community at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church on North Main St. in North Pittston.

Father McDonnell, who currently

serves as rector of the Saint Joseph Oblates Seminary in Laflin, will celebrate Mass and offer the homily for the "Road to Resurrection" liturgies, to be held on five consecutive Wednesday mornings during Lent, from Feb. 24 thru March 31 (Holy Week), at 8 a.m. in Saint Mary Church.

All faithful are welcome to attend, following the COVID-19 guidelines.

Masses during the series will be livestreamed on the parish's Facebook page and posted to the Our Lady of the Eucharist website: [eucharist-pittston.org](http://eucharist-pittston.org).

## APPOINTMENT

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointment, effective as follows:

**Reverend Charles P. Connor**, from faculty, Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md, to Leave of Absence for reasons of health, effective January 26, 2021.



## BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

- February 11** - Installation Mass for Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick  
Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg  
Greensburg, 2:00 p.m.
- February 14** - Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- February 17** - Ash Wednesday Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- February 20** - Rite of Election  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
- February 21** - Rite of Election  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 2:30 p.m.
- February 24** - Lenten Day of Recollection for Priests & Deacons  
Virtual Meeting
- February 28** - Masses at Saint Leo Parish, Ashley  
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- March 1** - Saint Mary's Seminary Board Meeting  
Virtual Meeting
- March 7** - Mass at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop  
9:30 a.m.
- March 7** - Mass at Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant  
11:00 a.m.



# DEVELOPMENTAL & INTELLECTUAL

## *Disabilities Mass*



### Sunday, February 14 at 10:00 A.M. Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

Mass is open to the public with COVID-19 precautions, including wearing face masks and remaining physically distanced

---

The Mass will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and made available on the Diocese of Scranton website and social media platforms

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the Diocese of Scranton's annual Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Mass on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The liturgy prayerfully celebrates the many gifts those with developmental or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community. The Mass will be sign-language interpreted for the hearing impaired.

The Mass will be open to the public following COVID-19 guidelines and will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and across all social media platforms.



# Catholic parishes provide assistance to tens of thousands during COVID-19

Continued from Page 1

## FOOD ASSISTANCE

Nearly every parish responding to *The Catholic Light* survey indicated that food assistance for the community was a main priority of their social ministry programs.

That includes the widespread outreach of Saint Ann Parish in Shohola and its sister parish of Saint John Neumann in Lords Valley, both of which are located in Pike County.

According to Carol Laput, administrative manager at Saint Ann's, the parish coordinates no less than a four-prong effort in providing social services to the area's less fortunate, especially with regard to food assistance.

The Saint Ann's Bridgepoint Food Pantry opens its doors on the first and third Thursday of each month, with 45 families registered as patrons, but serving many more.

Supported by the generosity of parishioners and assisted by several community grants, including those provided by the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the food pantry recorded 620 food distributions in 2020.

Located near the bank of the Delaware River in the eastern most part of the Diocese, the food pantry and other parish charitable giving programs are "interstate," whereby also providing for their neighbors in need across the New York state border in Sullivan County.

"Our parish is literally in walking distance of the bridge that takes you across the river into New York," Laput said. "We are so proud to provide assistance to those who make the trip into Pennsylvania for help. The fact we can serve all who arrive at our doorstep is a true tribute to the generosity of our community."

The "Food for Families and Friends" program operated by Knights of Columbus Council 12571, which is based at Saint John Neumann Parish, provides a nutritious, home-cooked meal every month for families and individuals experiencing financial difficulties.

Dinners are distributed on the second Sunday of the month and it is estimated the Knights and their army of volunteers provided nearly 1,400 meals last year.

"This is most impressive when you keep

in mind the program was shut down for two months due to COVID precautions," Laput added.

Between 150 to 180 meals are typically served each month and the food assistance effort estimates that it may provide nearly 2,000 dinners in 2021.

Holiday assistance programs providing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets are also a hallmark of Saint Ann Parish.

"We make available grocery bags with one of four shopping lists," Laput explained. "Parishioners shop for the items on their list and return the bags to the church."

She also noted that special collection envelopes are distributed for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, which allow parishioners to donate funds to purchase extra food.

Finally, the parish's "Lorenzo's Lunch" program, recently highlighted in *The Catholic Light*, was launched to give out-of-school children a healthy meal during the summer months. The project has since expanded to include anyone in need.

Laput noted that with the pandemic postponing students return to the classroom, the program extended into the first week of October. Operating every Thursday from June through Oct. 1, "Lorenzo's Lunch" distributed more than 1,900 afternoon meals during 2020.

In addition, nearly 1,300 lunches were served as part of Saint Ann's "Grab 'n Go" program to ensure area students had access to nutritious food while schools were closed due to the coronavirus.

## NEED IS EVER PRESENT

The food pantry sponsored by Saint Paul Parish in Scranton's Green Ridge section has been a mainstay for providing help to working families and senior citizens facing a food shortage.

"For a long time (Saint Paul) parish has always felt a need to support as broad a clientele as possible," Barbara Burkhouse said of the program, which operates out of the basement of Saint Clare Church, a nearby worship site of Saint Paul Parish. "People



**The food pantry operated by Saint Paul Parish in Scranton provides assistance to clients twice a month on Friday afternoons.**

would be surprised, and just don't realize, how many individuals count on a place like this to meet their food needs."

The Scranton food pantry welcomes clients twice a month on Friday afternoon from 3 to 4:30 p.m., with plenty of volunteers to serve the incoming patrons.

Burkhouse explained the assistance program is unique in that it features "client choice," or a la carte service, where clients can pick between various items based on their needs, rather than being given an assortment of pre-packaged or bundled food.

"Volunteers are absolutely critical," Burkhouse said of the operation. "Parishioners are always there to help, along with students from The University of Scranton," who volunteer while in school during their fall and spring semesters. "Every year, they also recruit new volunteers among their college peers."

In Luzerne County, Holy Family Parish helps roughly 50 to 75 families in need on a monthly basis. Its food pantry provides non-perishable meal items on the last Saturday of every month.

According to pantry coordinator Carol Cardoni, bags of food are distributed based on family size and no one is ever turned away.

"We give food to anyone in need from the surrounding areas, so we do not only serve members of our parish," Cardoni explained. "In fact, almost all of the people who come for food are not members of the parish."

Cardoni credited former pastor Father Dave Cappelloni for launching the parish food pantry nearly 20 years ago. She and her husband Louis have served as coordinators for the past six years after taking over the reins from longtime directors Kathy and Ken Long.

"We have a loyal group of volunteers who faithfully come to work at the pantry every month," Cardoni noted. "Some are members of our parish and some are from Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Swoyersville," which holds food drives on a regular basis to support the pantry.

According to the Holy Family pantry coordinator, the program receives tremendous support from local groups and businesses that

often run food collections to donate to its operation. Faithful parishioners donate food via receptacles at the church's entrance, and a parish envelope is distributed four times during the year for monetary donations in support of the pantry.

"All of the volunteers love their work at the pantry," Cardoni concluded. "We feel that the pantry is such a worthwhile endeavor. It feels good to be able to help our community out in this way."

## HOSPITALITY FOR HOSPITALIZED

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been significant focus on individuals who are hospitalized with the virus. Numerous parishes, including Saint Therese Parish in Shavertown, have established ministries to make sure people know someone in their parish is thinking about them.

"We have a program in place where if we know a parishioner is home from a recent hospital stay, we give them a call to see how they are doing," Saint Therese staffer Terri Besecker, who heads up the parish ministry support team, explained. "We ask if they are in need of assistance by way of meals or transportation to a follow-up visit with a doctor."

According to Besecker, the unique apostolate is part of the Pastoral Outreach and Hospital Ministry at the parish in Luzerne County's Back Mountain region, and has adapted with the changing times over the years.

One parishioner who knows that better than anyone is Terry Brown, who has been contacting area hospitals to reach out to Saint Therese patients every weekday morning since the program's inception in the late 1990s.

"That information is given to the Hospital Visitation Volunteer for that week, as well as the pastor," Brown said. "If allowed, the volunteer would personally visit any patients and pray with them for their health and healing."

Once the patient is released, Brown alerts the next volunteer to offer any assistance the parish can provide.

Due to HIPAA regulations and the current COVID restrictions, Besecker said, "Things are much different these days."

"We now rely on family members or the parishioners to tell us when they or a loved one is in the hospital, because we can't always get the information we need by calling the hospital," she continued.

Meals and transportation are considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on volunteer feasibility.

"This program has had to change with the times," Besecker remarked. "Even though we cannot visit anyone in person for the time being, we still want to know when someone is sick and in need of prayers."

"We know how important a phone call can be or a kind word to say we care. Of course, prayers for someone who is going through a tough time are most appreciated."



**Members of Knights of Columbus Council 12571 at Saint John Neumann Parish in Lords Valley prepare one of the home-cooked meals they offer every month to those in need as part of the "Food for Families and Friends" program.**



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Every parish in the Diocese of Scranton is responding to community needs during COVID-19*



## FOOD ASSISTANCE

**30%**

**Diocesan parishes that operate their own food pantry**

*Together, these pantries helped more than 2,000 families/individuals **each month** in 2020*

**94%**

**Parishes without food pantries that collected food for another local agency or food bank**

**23%**

**Parishes hosting free community meals**

**20%**

**Parishes providing meals for seniors/homebound**

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

**63%**

**Parishes providing direct help to families struggling with food, fuel, utilities or rent**

**63%**

**Parishes providing assistance to families or others during the holidays**

**53%**

**Parishes collecting clothing for children and families**



## KEEPING CONNECTED

**75%**

**Parishes that began livestreaming Masses**

**58%**

**Parishes utilizing a phone calling ministry**

**33%**

**Parishes started new ministries during the pandemic**

*New ministries included: Pandemic hospitality teams, youth ministry outreach to essential workers, virtual ministries, small faith sharing groups, health ministries and summer lunch programs*



# Young adults 'March for Life' through East Stroudsburg

EAST STROUDSBURG – Bundled up in jackets, hats and gloves, dozens of people took to the streets of Monroe County on Jan. 29 to call for an end to legalized abortion.

After youth groups from Saint Matthew Parish and Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish determined they could not make their annual trip to Washington for the 2021 March for Life, they decided to co-organize a local 'March for Life' throughout East Stroudsburg.

"I feel like it's more powerful to do local things sometimes," Kyli Ramsay, 17, a parishioner of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville, said.

Ramsay has made the trip to the March for Life in Washington five times. While she calls each of those experiences powerful, she admitted holding this year's march locally would likely have a greater impact.

"It has been cool to see the different people that get involved across churches, the kids that I know from school," Ramsay said. "Sometimes it's not always people that you would expect."

The local 'March for Life' in East Stroudsburg lasted for more than an hour. Marchers started at Saint Matthew Parish and followed a pre-determined route that took them near the community's hospital, university and other landmarks. Participants created signs and offered prayers along the way.

The 'March for Life' in East Stroudsburg was the first big pro-life event for David Mierzwa, 16, a parishioner of Saint Matthew Parish. Even though temperatures for the walk were barely over 12 degrees, he marched in order to spread a pro-life message to his peers.



**Megan Chechel and Marcellina Cavalier from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish help to kick off a 'March for Life' along Ridgeway Street in East Stroudsburg on Jan. 29, 2021. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

"God intended us to have new life and Jesus was a part of that. Mary was a virgin and God gave her the blessing to have Jesus. Jesus was a great example that all babies should have a chance," Mierzwa said.

The cold weather also didn't bother marcher Andrew Lafuira, 16, a parishioner from Our Lady of Queen of Peace Parish.

"It could be in the negatives (temperatures) and there would be the same amount of people," the Effort teenager said. "I think it's astonishing that people are doing this locally."

Local marchers acknowledged that it has been 48 years since two Supreme Court decisions removed protections for the unborn.

On Jan. 22, 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that a fetus was not

a person but a "potential life" without constitutional rights of its own, and limited state regulation of abortions according to each trimester. That same day, the court's *Doe v. Bolton* decision prohibited state regulation of abortion during all trimesters if the procedure was sought for reasons of maternal health, including "physical, emotional, psychological, familial" factors or the woman's age.

For teenagers, the abortion debate can be a sensitive subject and difficult to talk about.

"It is really hard. My generation very much advocates for pro-choice, a lot of them do and I think a lot fail to understand what they really mean when they say that," Ramsay explained.

Lafuira agreed that discussing abortion



**Anna Clark from Saint Matthew Parish holds a homemade sign before a local 'March for Life' kicked off on Jan. 29, 2021.**

is not a "light-hearted" topic, he says seeing so many people take part in the local march will help facilitate those talks.

"To see so many people understanding each other for this huge topic is amazing," he said.

In addition to people from the two parishes organizing the local 'March for Life' taking part, parishioners and friends from many other parishes, including Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines, Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tannersville and Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top also participated.

Boiling his experience up in just a few words, Mierzwa said, "We want people to know that a life is a life and that abortion is never the right way."

## Sacred scriptures command people to revere life, bishop says at Mass for Life

SCRANTON – The sacred scriptures are filled with words that command all people to revere life, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said during a *Mass for the Protection of Human Life* Jan. 22 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

"What they expect from us as Christians is clear and unambiguous," Bishop Bambera said.

The bishop provided context on all three readings from the Mass to reinforce his message.

"The prophet Isaiah challenges us in our first reading (Is 49:1-6) to recognize the unique relationship that we have with God from the moment of our conception: 'The Lord called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name.'

"Through the apostle Paul in our second reading (Col 1:12-20), we're reminded to embrace our unique identity in Christ, 'the image of the invisible God...in whom were



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates a Mass for Life at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton Jan. 22, 2021. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

created all things in heaven and on earth.

"And in Matthew's gospel (Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14), 'whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me,' sets a powerful stage for the description of our judgment," Bishop Bambera explained.

Dozens of people filled the Cathedral for the *Mass for the Protection of Human Life*, which marked the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions that legalized abortion. Since 1973, more than 60 million abortions reflect the heartbreaking magnitude of the Supreme Court decisions.

During his homily, the bishop emphasized words from Pope Francis saying, "Our defense of the innocent unborn needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of the human person, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her age or stage of development."

Last year, the U.S. Bishops affirmed that the threat of abortion remains a preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself. The Bishops did not, however, conclude their teaching on the value of human life with a focus solely on life in the womb.

"The Bishops went on to propose a more comprehensive perspective," the bishop said quoting from the statement, "'at the same time, we cannot dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty and the death penalty.'"

In addition to the Mass at the Cathedral, Bishop Bambera asked all parishes to celebrate a *Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life* on Jan. 22 as well.

"If we have learned nothing else during this very difficult year in which we have had to confront the deadly coronavirus pandemic, most of us have come to appreciate the value of human life as never before," Bishop Bambera said.

Anyone interested in viewing the Mass or reading Bishop Bambera's full homily can go to the Diocese of Scranton's website at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).



# Keep fighting, pro-life advocates told during March for Life

WASHINGTON (CNS) – It was the coldest national March for Life in years, it was the smallest, and it also may be remembered as the bravest.

A little over 200 people, tightly flanked by members of the Knights of Columbus, endured subfreezing temperatures and wind as they sang hymns and trudged a zigzag route with Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, from the Museum of the Bible to the Supreme Court Jan. 29.

Mancini acknowledged “that we’re all symbolically marching, and we’re all in solidarity with each other.”

Before they stepped off, she told the marchers, originally a group of 60, that although this year was a deeply somber occasion, “let’s be prayerful” and to fulfill the event “in the best way we can.”

Marchers included Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Coffey of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. “Never despair, never give up and keep fighting,” Bishop Coffey told EWTN while marching.

Others included former NFL player Benjamin Watson and Abby Johnson, the former Planned Parenthood clinic director who operates the pro-life ministry *And Then There Were None*.

The march, lasting about 90 minutes, was considerably quieter than the placard- and flag-filled processions of thousands up Constitution Avenue in previous years. Moreover, there were no counter protesters.

Tim Saccoccia, a March for Life board member and a senior policy director for



**March for Life participants make their way to the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington Jan. 29, 2021, amid the coronavirus pandemic. (CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn)**

the Knights of Columbus, said the original group was joined halfway through the route by more than 100 others who seemed to be mostly from the Washington area.

There was a brief moment of concern, but the additional marchers turned out to be well behaved. “They were very respectful,” Saccoccia told *Catholic News Service* in a phone interview from the march.

“We had a fantastic partnership with the D.C. police,” he added. “The Capitol Police also came out to help us.”

It was tough, even with a diminished event, “to stay socially distanced at times,” Saccoccia acknowledged. “Not everyone is a professional marcher.”

The 48th annual march, a continuing protest of the court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion nationwide,

already was hampered by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, and Mancini, announcing a virtual event, told people to stay home and participate in smaller local marches.

But the aftermath of the violent Jan. 6 insurrection – 5,000 National Guard troops are still protecting members of Congress, House and Senate office buildings and the fenced-off Capitol building – and fears of more unpredictable violence by random individuals increased the symbolism of the moment. It was the first street event in Washington since Jan. 6.

In a callback to a former March for Life tradition, Mancini and others in the core group carried single red roses, which, she announced, would “symbolize the profound grief pro-life Americans

feel over the deaths of 62 million unborn children through legal abortion.” They laid those on the sidewalk behind the fenced-off Supreme Court building as marchers broke into the “Ava Maria” and “God Bless America.”

In its early years, the march had sent individual roses to every member of Congress.

The smallest previous march, during a 1987 snowstorm, was officially estimated at 10,000. The U.S. Park Police stopped issuing crowd counts after disputes arose over the size of the Million Man March in 1995, and the agency’s estimates were always considerably lower than that of march organizers.

Last year, with President Donald Trump speaking at the pre-march rally at the National Mall, well over 100,000 were believed to be in attendance. Future restrictions on Washington protest marches of any size will be the topic of debate in the coming months.

The first march was held Jan. 22, 1974, organized by Nellie Gray, a government lawyer, and the Knights of Columbus. The idea was to form a “circle of life” around the Capitol and Supreme Court. Mancini assumed leadership after Gray died in 2012.

This year’s theme was “Together Strong: Life Unites.”

Saccoccia pronounced the event a success. “We represented tens of millions of Americans who have suffered and lost their lives from abortion.”

## POPE ESTABLISHES WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis announced the establishment of a World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly as a reminder of the important role they play as a link between generations.

During his Sunday Angelus address Jan. 31, the pope said the day will be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of July to coincide with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus’ grandparents. The first celebration of this day will be July 25.

“It is important for grandparents to meet their grandchildren and for grandchildren to meet their grandparents because – as the prophet Joel says – grandparents, before their grandchildren, will dream and have great desires, and young people – taking strength from their grandparents – will go forward and prophesy,” he said.

Highlighting the Feb. 2 feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the pope said the recognition of Christ as the Messiah by the elderly Simeon and Anna is a reminder that “the Holy Spirit still stirs up thoughts and words of wisdom in the elderly today.”

“Their voice is precious because it sings the praises of God and safeguards the roots of peoples,” he said. “They remind us that old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the young.”

## POPE ADDS MARTHA, MARY AND LAZARUS, CHURCH DOCTORS TO UNIVERSAL CALENDAR

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Recognizing their welcome of and witness to Christ, Pope Francis has approved changing the liturgical feast of St. Martha to include her sister and brother, Mary and Lazarus, on the church’s universal calendar of feast days.

The names of Mary and Lazarus will be added to the July 29 feast on the General Roman Calendar, the universal schedule of holy days and feast days for the Latin rite of the Catholic Church.

The Vatican Feb. 2 published the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments’ decree ordering the change in calendars.

Signed by Cardinal Robert Sarah, the congregation’s prefect, the decree said Pope Francis approved the memorial for Martha, Mary and Lazarus after “considering the important evangelical witness they offered in welcoming the Lord Jesus into their home, in listening to him attentively, (and) in believing that he is the resurrection and the life. In the household of Bethany, the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that he loved them,” it said. “Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the one who humiliated death.”

## IN IRAQ, POPE HOPES TO ENCOURAGE CHRISTIANS, BUILD BRIDGES TO MUSLIMS

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) – On his historic visit to Iraq in March, Pope Francis hopes to encourage his Christian flock, badly bruised by sectarian conflict and brutal Islamic State attacks, while building further bridges to Muslims by extending fraternal peace.

The trip’s papal logo reflects this, depicting Pope Francis with Iraq’s notable Tigris and Euphrates rivers, a palm tree and a dove carrying an olive branch over the Vatican and Iraqi flags. The motto: “You are all brothers,” is written in Arabic, Chaldean and Kurdish languages.

The first-ever papal visit to the biblical land of Iraq March 5-8 is significant. For years, the pope has expressed his concerns publicly for the plight and persecution of Iraq’s Christians and its mosaic of many religious minorities, including the Yazidis, who have suffered at the hands of Islamic State militants and have been caught in the crosshairs of Sunni and Shiite Muslim violence.

Tensions persist between Iraq’s majority Shiite and minority Sunni Muslim communities, with the latter now feeling disenfranchised following the 2003 downfall of Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Muslim who marginalized Shiites for 24 years under his minority rule. “I am the pastor of people who are suffering,” Pope Francis told *Catholic News Service* at the Vatican ahead of his visit.



# Biden's inaugural address calls for Americans to work for unity

WASHINGTON (CNS) – 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.”

The nation’s second Catholic president also urged the nation to recognize that the American story is one of hope, not fear, light, not darkness, and said “democracy has prevailed” despite efforts to shut it down just two weeks previously in the Capitol riots, which took place when Congress was confirming the election results.

On a cold, breezy but sunny day, he spoke with a somber sense of urgency reminding the crowd present – which was small due to both the pandemic and the security lockdown – that “we have come so far, but still have far to go.”

Mixing realism with hope, he said there is much to repair and much to restore but added: “We will press forward.”

Referring to the deep divide within the country, the 46th president said sternly: “We have to be better than this” and promised that democracy will not be driven out as Americans strive to end this “uncivil war that pits us against each other.”

The president called for a moment of silence for all those

who had died during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also spoke of the destructive nature of racism and the need to reject political extremism and manufactured facts.

“I will be president for all Americans,” he added, referring to those who voted for him and those who didn’t.

This very different presidential inauguration was obvious from the start with attendees wearing face masks and greeting one another with elbow bumps because of the coronavirus but also because of the increased security presence a stark reminder of the Jan. 6 violence.

Also, although former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton were in attendance, now-former President Donald Trump was not.

Biden was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts using the family Bible he has used many times before: twice when being sworn in as vice president and seven times as senator from Delaware. It also was used by his son Beau in his swearing-in ceremony as Delaware’s attorney general.

He said in an interview in December with talk show host Stephen Colbert that this Bible has been a family heirloom since 1893.

The inauguration’s invocation was led by Jesuit Father Leo O’Donovan, former president of Georgetown University and current director of mission for Jesuit Refugee Service. The priest, a friend of the Biden family, was the main celebrant at the funeral Mass for Biden’s son Beau in 2015.

In his prayer, the priest quoted Pope Francis, stressing the need to care for others “in word and deed, especially the least fortunate among us.”



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

Another Jesuit priest, Father Kevin O’Brien, president of Santa Clara University in California, gave the homily at a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington just before the inauguration. The Mass was attended by Biden, now-Vice President Kamala Harris, family members and some members of Congress from both sides of the aisle.

## USCCB PRESIDENT PRAYS GOD GRANTS BIDEN ‘WISDOM, COURAGE’

As Joe Biden prepared to be inaugurated, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressed hope the incoming administration “will work with the church and others of goodwill” to “address the complicated cultural and economic factors that are driving abortion and discouraging families.”

“If the president, with full respect for the church’s religious freedom, were to engage in this conversation, it would go a long way toward restoring the civil balance and healing our country’s needs,” Archbishop Gomez said.

For the U.S. bishops, the “continued injustice of abortion” remains the “preeminent priority,” he said, but “‘preeminent’ does not mean ‘only.’ We have deep concerns about many threats to human life and dignity in our society.”

Archbishop Gomez also said in a Jan. 20 statement that he was praying for Biden, the country’s second Catholic president, as he enters office so that God grants “him wisdom and courage to lead this great nation and ... to meet the tests of these times.”

“As with every administration, there will be areas where we agree and work closely together and areas where we will have principled disagreement and strong opposition,” he said.

While the bishops work with “every president and every Congress,” they can find themselves on some issues “more on the side of Democrats, while on others we find ourselves standing with Republicans,” he said.

“Our priorities are never partisan,” he explained. “We are Catholics first, seeking only to follow Jesus Christ faithfully and to advance his vision for human fraternity and community.”

Working with Biden will be “unique,” the archbishop said, because he is the first president in six decades who is Catholic.

“In a time of growing and aggressive secularism in American culture, when religious believers face many challenges, it will be refreshing to engage with a president who clearly understands, in a deep and personal way, the importance of religious faith and institutions,” the prelate said.

However, Archbishop Gomez cautioned that Biden has “pledged to pursue certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity, most seriously in the areas of abortion, contraception, marriage and gender.”

“Of deep concern is the liberty of the church and the freedom of believers to live according to their consciences,” he added.

The archbishop also pointed out the USCCB’s quadrennial election document, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States” tries to help Catholics and others of good will in their reflections on political issues.

## Statement of the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on Inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.



“As our Nation inaugurates its 46th President, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Vice President Kamala D. Harris, I encourage the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton and all people of goodwill to join me in praying for our Nation and its new leaders.

“At a time when our country is facing not only a global pandemic, but also division and hostility, we must all pray for peace and unity. No matter our differences, we are one human family, our brothers and sisters keepers.

“As Catholics, we are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. May our Merciful God grant all of our leaders the wisdom, courage and compassion to protect and defend religious freedom, the sanctity of human life and the rights of all citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

“Together, let us pray to our Heavenly Father that President Biden, a native son of Scranton, may have the strength and courage to carry out his duties and lead our nation in ways of peace.”

## Pope prays Biden works to heal divisions, promote human dignity



VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis prayed that President Joe Biden would work to heal the divisions in U.S. society and promote human dignity and peace around the globe.

“Under your leadership, may the American people continue to draw strength from the lofty political, ethical and religious values that have inspired the nation since its founding,” the pope wrote in a congratulatory message Jan. 20 as Biden was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States.

Popes traditionally have sent such messages and assurances of prayer to a new U.S. president upon his inauguration and have included mention of issues of concern, particularly about the dignity of every human life.

“At a time when the grave crises facing our human family call for farsighted and united responses,” Pope Francis wrote to Biden, “I pray that your decisions will be guided by a concern for building a society marked by authentic justice and freedom, together with unfailing respect for the rights and dignity of every person, especially the poor, the vulnerable and those who have no voice. I likewise ask God, the source of all wisdom and truth, to guide your efforts to foster understanding, reconciliation and peace within the United States and among the nations of the world in order to advance the universal common good,” he said.





The chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee called it "deeply disturbing and tragic" that any U.S. president would mark the Jan. 22 anniversary of the *Roe* decision that legalized abortion by praising it and committing to codifying it in law.

The U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling "denies unborn children their most basic human and civil right, the right to life, under the euphemistic disguise of a health service," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Catholic teaching affirms "the moral evil of every procured abortion, and this 'has not changed and remains unchangeable,'" the archbishop said in a statement released late Jan. 22 in response to a statement on *Roe* by President Joe Biden, a Catholic, and Vice President Kamala Harris. They said their administration "is committed to codifying *Roe v. Wade* and appointing judges that respect foundational precedents like *Roe*."

## Environmental Protection



Presidential executive orders related to environmental protection and climate change have gained the support of Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

President Joe Biden's actions "resonate deeply with an integral ecology that listens to the 'least of these,' as expressed in Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, on Care for Our Common Home," the archbishop said in a Feb. 3 statement.

He added that Biden's steps to restore regulations governing automobile emission standards, hazardous air pollutants and the integrity of the Environmental Policy Act, all of which the USCCB previously supported, "speak of a commitment to restoring public health and the common home."

Archbishop Coakley also urged the president to emphasize other steps: environmental justice, climate adaptation and resilience, the need for clean air, clean water and the conservation of land, ecosystems and agriculture, among other measures.



The heads of two U.S. bishops' committees said President Joe Biden's memo rescinding the so-called "Mexico City policy" Jan. 28 is a "grievous" action that "actively promotes the destruction of human lives in developing nations."

"(It) is antithetical to reason, violates human dignity, and is incompatible with Catholic teaching. We and our brother bishops strongly oppose this action. We urge the president to use his office for good, prioritizing the most vulnerable, including unborn children," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Illinois, chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace.

The policy, first announced in 1984, blocked U.S. funding for nongovernmental organizations that perform or actively promote abortion as a form of family planning in other nations. Republican presidents since then have upheld the policy and Democratic presidents have overturned it.

## Housing & Hunger Actions



The chairman of the U.S. bishops' domestic policy committee welcomed the extension of the federal eviction moratorium and an increase in nutrition assistance to families struggling through the coronavirus pandemic.

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, who chairs the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said Jan. 27 that the steps by the incoming President Joe Biden administration were necessary for anyone experiencing hardship as the pandemic continues.

The Centers for Disease Control announced Jan. 20 that it was extending its order temporarily halting residential evictions until at least March 31.

On Jan. 22, the Department of Agriculture announced a 15% increase in food stamp benefits at least through June under the coronavirus aid package passed by Congress in late December. About 29 million people, including as many as 12 million children, live in households struggling to afford food, the department said.



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.

Biden also pledged Jan. 20 to produce immigration reform legislation. Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, USCCB president, and Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Migration, said they were prepared to work with the president and Congress on such an "urgent matter of human life and dignity" for immigrants.

In a statement released Jan. 21, the prelates said action on DACA was particularly important for about 800,000 young people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children. They said the young people who benefit from the program, known as Dreamers, deserve the opportunity to continue working legally in the U.S., access educational opportunities and not fear deportation.

## LGBTQ Protections



President Joe Biden's wide-ranging executive order to extend existing federal nondiscrimination protections to LGBTQ people exceeds the U.S. Supreme Court's June 2020 ruling on the issue in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, said the chairmen of five U.S. bishops' committees. In so doing, they said, the Jan. 20 order has implications for religious freedom.

"Every person has a right to gainful employment, education and basic human services free of unjust discrimination. That right should be protected," the committee heads said in a joint statement.

However, Biden's order on "sex discrimination exceeds the court's decision," they said. "It threatens to infringe the rights of people who recognize the truth of sexual difference or who uphold the institution of lifelong marriage between one man and one woman."

Biden's order "may manifest in mandates that, for example, erode health care conscience rights or needed and time-honored sex-specific spaces and activities," the prelates said.



President Joe Biden's executive orders aimed at rebuilding the U.S. immigration system, restoring due process and recognizing the dignity of newcomers illustrate his "commitment to prioritize assisting our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters," said the head of the U.S. bishops' migration committee.

These orders "will help to ensure that immigrants and refugees are treated humanely and in accordance with their God-given dignity," said Auxiliary Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville of Washington, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration.

On Feb. 2, the president signed orders to address root causes of migration from Central America and expand opportunities for legal migration; create a task force to reunify families separated by policies of the Trump administration; and strengthen integration and inclusion efforts for new Americans.

"The Catholic Church teaches that each person is created in the image and likeness of God," Bishop Dorsonville's statement said.

## Racial Equity



The chairmen of two U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committees welcomed recent executive actions by President Joe Biden to address racial equity in housing and the use of private prisons by the federal government.

One order directs the Department of Housing and Urban Development to review the Trump administration's repeal of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule, a plan to tackle housing discrimination and segregation. Put in place by President Barack Obama's administration, the rule required cities and towns to examine their housing patterns for racial bias, report the findings and set goals for addressing segregation.

The second order directs the Department of Justice to phase out the use of private prisons, which hold about 14,000 of the 2 million people incarcerated in the U.S. "To decrease incarceration levels, we must reduce profit-based incentives to incarcerate by phasing out the federal government's reliance on privately operated criminal detention facilities," Biden's order said.





# Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen campaign to feed needy



SCRANTON – While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our community, one of the realities that hasn't changed is the fact that many people don't have the resources to feed themselves or their families.

Fortunately, the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton remains able to alleviate this need. Since 1978, the Kitchen has been serving a free, hot, nutritious meal to approximately 250 men, women and children each day. In addition to the traditional daily midday meal, the Kitchen has also provided an evening meal on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5-6 p.m.

In recent years, the Mid Valley Outreach Program launched in conjunction with several parishes to offer weekly meals in Carbondale, Archbald and Olyphant. The Kitchen also operates the Saint Francis Client-Choice Food Pantry and the Saint Francis Free Clothing Store.

The Kitchen has been able to do all of this via the dedicated service of staff and volunteers, and with financial support from the community – primarily through the annual Host-for-a-Day campaign. The 2021 campaign is



**Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen has continued to feed hundreds of people on a daily basis. For the safety of guests and volunteers, daily meals are being served in take-out containers.**

now underway.

The Host-for-a-Day campaign seeks contributions of \$100 or more. This helps the Kitchen provide the daily meal.

In effect, each contributor becomes a "host" for a day. Contributors may then select a date on which they, or someone they designate, will be recognized as the provider for that meal.

During the pandemic, the Kitchen modified its program by providing the daily midday meal in Scranton in take-out containers. The evening meals were suspended for a time but resumed at the end

of July, also as take-outs. The Mid Valley Outreach Program also had to be suspended, but meals in Carbondale resumed in December. The food pantry and clothing store are open, with safety precautions in place.

"Naturally this has been a challenging time and we have made changes to ensure the safety of our guests, staff and volunteers," Rob Williams, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen Executive Director, said. "Throughout this period, however, we have provided a meal in some fashion every single day. We are truly blessed!"



**Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen has launched its 2021 Host-for-a-Day campaign, which is the primary means of financial support for the Kitchen's mission to provide a free daily meal to area needy. Pictured are Kitchen Advisory Board member Michele Bannon, campaign chair; and Kitchen Executive Director Rob Williams.**

Michele Bannon, a member of the Kitchen's Advisory Board, is chairing the campaign and leading the effort with her fellow board members.

"The community has always supported this campaign in a wonderful way," she said. "This year the need is greater than ever, and we are hopeful that our supporters will again join with us to sustain the mission of the Kitchen."

This year's Host-for-a-Day campaign is being conducted with safety precautions in place. Traditionally the members of the

Kitchen's Advisory Board contact supporters they have sold tickets to over the years. This year the majority of the past contributors to the campaign are receiving an appeal directly from the Kitchen through the mail.

Out of concern for the health and safety of benefactors and board members, the typical Appreciation Reception that concludes the campaign will not be held in a gathered way. Instead, the culmination of the campaign will be marked with a Virtual Celebration consisting of a pre-recorded program. The release date will be Wednesday, April 28, at 6 p.m. Information on how to view the program will be announced as details are finalized.

Anyone who does not receive an appeal through the mail can make a Host-for-a-Day gift by calling the Kitchen at (570) 342-5556, or sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509. Donations can also be made online at: [www.stfranciskitchen.org](http://www.stfranciskitchen.org) or [facebook.com/stfranciskitchen](https://facebook.com/stfranciskitchen).

Those who would like to sponsor the Virtual Reception are asked to call the Kitchen at (570) 342-5556.

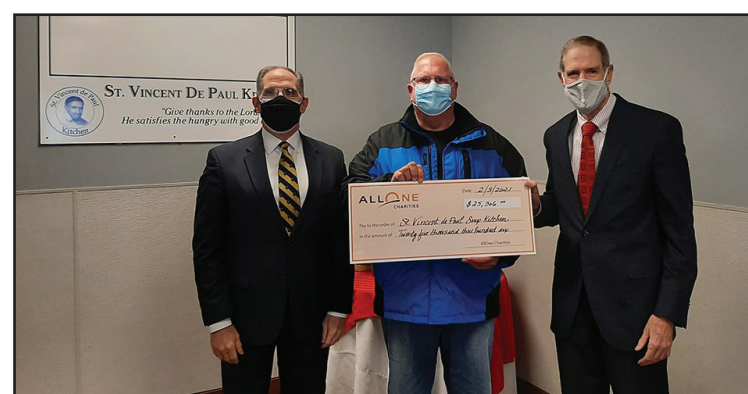
## AllOne Charities grant to Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen to address food insecurity

WILKES-BARRE – Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre has been awarded a \$25,306 grant from the AllOne Charities Collaborative Philanthropy Fund. The John and Josephine Thomas Foundation contributed \$12,653 that was matched by AllOne Charities to help meet the continuing need for food during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant will be used to continue offering hot, nutritious meals to individuals and families in need in the greater Wilkes-Barre area on a daily basis. Throughout the pandemic, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen has continued to meet the needs of its community, transitioning its traditional sit-down meals to meals served to-go in order to adhere to physical distancing and safety protocols.

"The Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen is on the front-lines of providing consistent and nutritious meals to those of our neighbors who find themselves most in need. As importantly, the kitchen and their volunteers directly represent the compassionate concern of our entire community in service to others. AllOne Charities is pleased to support their invaluable work," John Cosgrove, Executive Director, AllOne Charities, said.

During the 2020 calendar year, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen served more than 56,000 meals to the less fortunate of the Wyoming Valley. In addition to providing warm meals daily, kitchen staff has also provided extra food, vegetables and desserts for clients to take home as well. In addition, the Saint Vincent de Paul Food



**Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre received a \$25,306 grant from the AllOne Charities Collaborative Philanthropy Fund. The John and Josephine Thomas Foundation contributed \$12,653 that was matched by AllOne Charities. Participating in the check presentation, left to right: John W. Cosgrove, Executive Director, AllOne Charities; Mike Cianciotta, Director, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen and John Graham, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen Advisory Board Member.**

Pantry assisted more than 4,100 households during the pandemic.

"The grant from AllOne

Charities and the John and Josephine Thomas Foundation will have a tremendous impact on

making sure all of our neighbors and friends continue to receive a nutritious meal each day," Mike Cianciotta, Director of Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, said. "During the pandemic, we have seen many new people looking for help, whether they lost jobs, had their hours reduced or have struggled to get unemployment assistance."

Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen is a part of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton. Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen operates every day of the year and is traditionally staffed almost entirely by volunteers. During the pandemic, dedicated staff members have filled all the necessary roles to make sure all meals are prepared and served with dignity and respect.





# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

January 31 - February 6, 2021

National Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Now in its 47th year, Catholic Schools Week helps schools connect with prospective families, donors, educators and other community members.

In the Diocese of Scranton, our elementary and high schools are eager to share what makes them the best choice for educating faith-filled Catholic citizens and life-long learners. To take a virtual tour of any Catholic School, visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org).



Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter held a Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service, where eighth grade students were presented with their Bishop's Youth Awards.



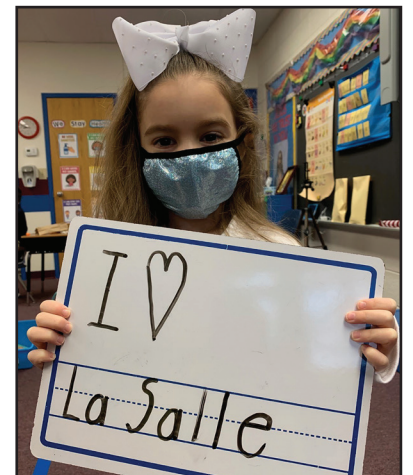
Students at All Saints Academy in Scranton designed and created their own tie dye t-shirts as part of their Catholic Schools Week celebration.



Lights! Camera! Action! The sixth grade class at Epiphany School in Sayre wrote, directed and starred in a virtual video tour of their school so prospective families can visit from the comfort of their own homes.



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore honored its 12<sup>th</sup> grade Bishop's Youth Award winners during their Catholic Schools Week Mass, which due to snow days, coincided with "Wear Your Favorite Jersey Day."



Sometimes the best messages are short and to the point; a lesson learned by this student from La Salle Academy in Jessup.





Father Ryan Glenn, chaplain at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, works with the Student Liturgy Committee as they set up for the school's Catholic Schools Week Mass.



Alex Johnson, a third grade student at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda**, dresses as Saint André Bessette as part of Catholic Schools Week festivities.



Max Rosen, a senior at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre**, proudly shows off his legacy as a Catholic school family, wearing his dad's Bishop O'Reilly letterman jacket for Catholic Schools Week "Decade Days."



Students celebrated "Crazy Sock Day" as part of the Catholic Schools Week festivities at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre**.



Second grade students who attend the **Diocesan Virtual Academy** pose for a remote photo by their teacher, Ms. Angelina Gucu, to show off the "Wearing of the Green" — their class color during Catholic Schools Week.

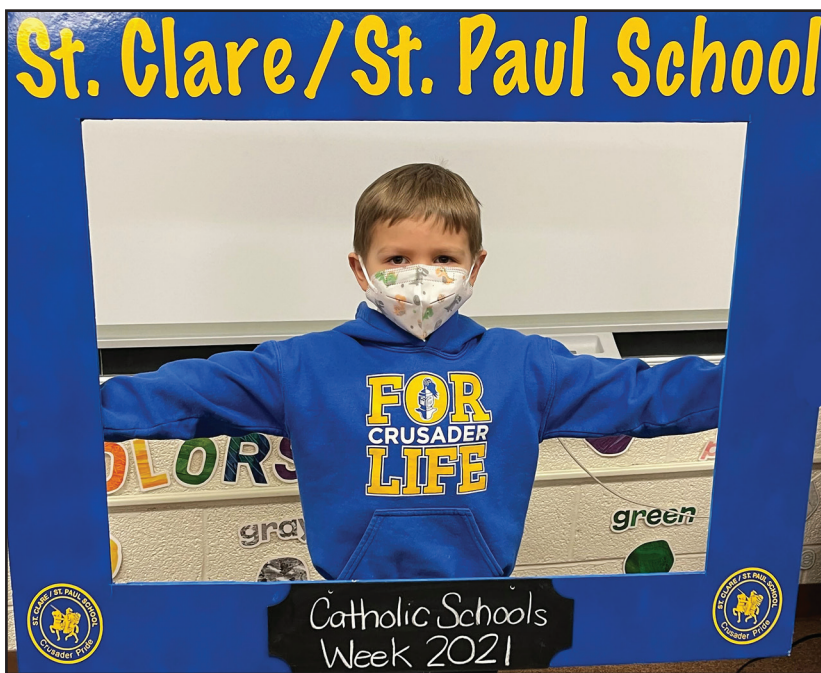


Students at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** celebrated Catholic Schools Week by creating heart chains where they described all the things they love about their school.





Kindergarten students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** were excited to show off their favorite hat during the school's Catholic Schools Week "Crazy Hat Day."



Smile! Students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** stepped into frame for great Catholic Schools Week keepsake photos.



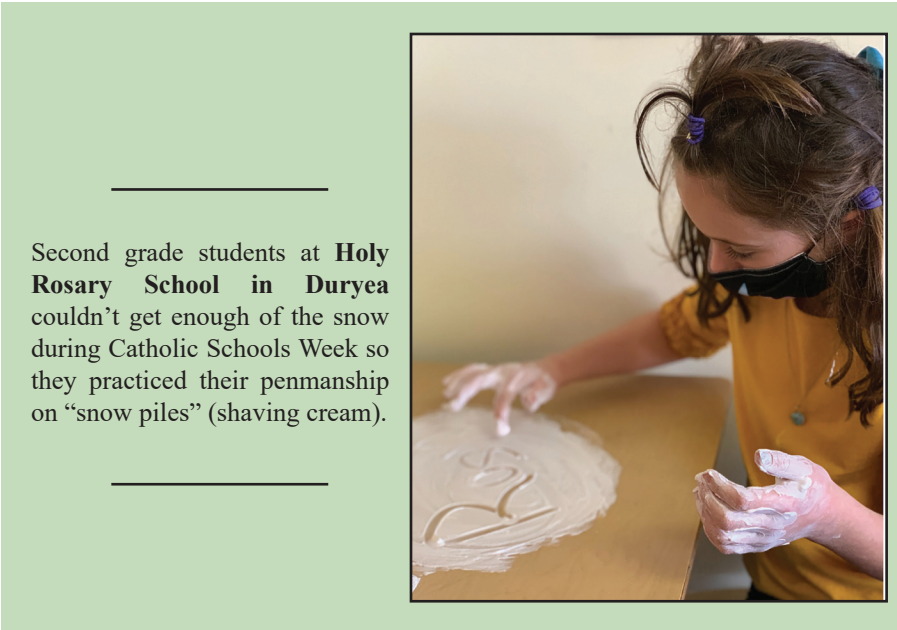
Chloe Duhaime, a kindergarten student at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport**, dresses up for Catholic Schools Week "Mismatch Clothes and Crazy Hair Day." She is holding up her rainbow fish that she combined with Goldfish crackers and presented to one of the area priests as a thank you for all they do for the school.



Matthew Mursch, a third grade student at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**, suffers from HLHS, a heart defect. In his honor, the school had a "Wear Red" dress down day during Catholic Schools Week with the proceeds going to Jack of Hearts PA, a non-profit that assists families with sick children.



Angelo Fernandez and Lily Reid, 10<sup>th</sup> grade students at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**, hold up posters that students made during Catholic Schools Week to thank area first responders.



Second grade students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** couldn't get enough of the snow during Catholic Schools Week so they practiced their penmanship on "snow piles" (shaving cream).



# Love is clearest sign of faith, popesays in homily for Christian unity

ROME (CNS) – Abiding in God’s love means nurturing one’s relationship with him and with all those whom God loves, Pope Francis wrote in his homily for the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

“If our worship is genuine, we will grow in love for all those who follow Jesus, regardless of the Christian communion to which they may belong, for even though they may not be ‘one of ours,’ they are his,” the pope wrote for the prayer service Jan. 25 at Rome’s Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

While a flare-up of sciatica, a painful nerve condition, prevented the pope from presiding over the ecumenical vespers, his homily for the service was read by Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The theme for the 2021 celebration, chosen by the World Council of Churches and the Vatican, was “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit.”

Because of the COVID-19 precautions, only invited guests—Catholic, Orthodox, Oriental



**Anglican Archbishop Ian Ernest, director of the Anglican Centre in Rome; Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity; and Romanian Orthodox Bishop Atanasie Rusnac, vicar for the Diocese of Italy, pray at the tomb of St. Paul during vespers to close the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome Jan. 25, 2021. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)**

Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Waldensian, Salvation Army and other Christian representatives – were able to gather for prayer at the basilica built over the tomb of St. Paul.

In his homily, Pope Francis noted that Jesus’ admonition to his disciples, “abide in my love,” is part of Jesus’ discourse on “the

vine and the branches.”

“The Lord himself is the vine, the ‘true’ vine, who does not betray our expectations, but remains ever faithful in love, despite our sins and our divisions,” the pope said. And all people who are baptized are grafted on to that vine.

Each Christian, he said, is called to maintain and strengthen

his or her adherence to God, his or her place on the vine, through prayer.

“In today’s fast-paced and complex world, it is easy to lose our compass, pulled as we are from every side,” he said, but “Jesus tells us that the secret of stability is to abide in him.”

“Personal prayer, spending time with Jesus, adoration – these are essential if we are to abide in him,” the pope wrote. “In this way, we can place our worries, hopes and fears, joys and sorrows in the Lord’s heart.”

But an individual’s connection to Jesus also is the source of the “vitality” needed to live the Christian faith and to love others, he said.

“To the extent that we abide in God, we draw close to others, and to the extent that we draw close to others, we abide in God,” the pope wrote.

“Prayer unfailingly leads to love; otherwise, it is empty ritual,” he said. “It is not possible to encounter Jesus apart from his body, made up of many members, as many as are the baptized.”

And like the branches that

Jesus said would need to be pruned sometimes, each Christian will have defects or shortcomings that will need to be pruned away, he said.

“Let us ask the Father, then, to prune our prejudices with regard to others, and the worldly attachments that stand in the way of full unity with all his children,” Pope Francis wrote. “Thus purified in love, we will be able to be less concerned about the worldly obstacles and stumbling stones from the past, which nowadays distract us from the Gospel.”

And while unity among Christians is essential, it is not enough, he said. God “impels us to love not only those who love us and think as we do, but to love everyone, even as Jesus taught us.”

Strengthened in unity, he said, Christians will work together to love all their neighbors and to be “good Samaritans to a humanity that is frail, poor and, in our own time, suffering so greatly.”

“A tree is known by its fruits,” the pope wrote. “By our gratuitous love it will be known if we are part of the vine of Jesus.”

## Path to unity begins with intimate relationship with God, Bishop Bambera says

SCRANTON – The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, presided over an Ecumenical Service of Prayer that was broadcast Jan. 19, 2021 on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

The annual event, which highlights the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Diocese of Scranton, took place virtually this year because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In welcoming viewers to the prayer service, Bishop Bambera said that Christ calls each of us to abide in His love.

“The path of unity begins in our intimate relationship with God. Abiding in His love strengthens the desire to seek unity and reconciliation with others. God opens us up to those who are different from us. This is an important fruit, a gift of healing for the divisions within us, between us, and in the world,” the bishop said.

The theme of this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was

“Abide in my love...you shall bear much fruit” (John, 15). Reverend Russell McDougall, C.S.C., served as homilist for the prayer service.

In beginning his homily, Rev. McDougall used metaphors from Saint John and Saint Paul to explain how all people are meant to experience the one undivided personhood of Christ.

The rector of the Holy Cross Community at King’s College then explained that in the Epistle to the Galatians, Saint Paul succinctly summarizes the characteristics that are visible in a community in which the spirit of Christ is present: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

“Here in northeastern Pennsylvania, the churches of Christ are engaged in numerous ministries that reflect such kindness and generosity of spirit,” Rev. McDougall said. “Offering food and shelter to the homeless, counsel and support to single mothers, action on behalf of racial justice, outreach to those who are



**Rev. Russell McDougall, C.S.C., delivers the homily during a virtual Ecumenical Service of Prayer broadcast Jan. 19, 2021 on CTV: Catholic Television.**

dealing with addictions, support and advocacy for immigrants and ministry to those who are sick, aged or imprisoned.”

In the same Epistle, Rev. McDougall said Saint Paul also explained ways that societies have closed their spirits to the working of God: idolatry, strife, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition and envy.

Rev. McDougall said many of those characteristics

were on display Jan. 6 when violence erupted at the Capitol in Washington.

Pointing out that Jan. 6 is the traditional date for celebrating the Epiphany, Rev. McDougall noted, “what was manifest on that day, unfortunately, was anything but a spirit of unity.”

“In the light of these recent events, were we to offer an honest answer to the question that opens Saint Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians – is Christ divided – we would have to answer yes. Not only because of the issues that continue to be sources of tension among us as churches, whether we’re talking about properly theological questions or about moral problems, but also because of the issues that divide us as Americans,” he explained.

Rev. McDougall, however, said the path forward is clear.

“If we want to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ, then our first priority must be the healing of the ‘body.’ Christians everywhere, not only

in this land, must work together for the healing of the body of Christ and join with other people of faith to help bring about the healing of our body politic,” he said.

“The task won’t be easy. If we are to help bring healing to the divisions and wounds that are all too transparent, we have to do more than simply point out the ways that others are wrong. We have to look inside ourselves and at our own communities of faith, asking ourselves if the stories we share about ourselves and the stories that we share about others are helpful or not, whether they build up or tear down,” he continued.

As he concluded his homily, the former rector of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem reminded viewers that the journey into Christ is a journey of repentance.

“If we hope to behold Christ in his second coming, we too have much to let go of,” Rev. McDougall said.



CHARLOTTE (CNS) – U.S. dioceses are crying foul over an investigative report on coronavirus relief funding they say grossly mischaracterized the Catholic Church’s finances and unrestricted cash flows, leaving the crass impression the church used the 2020 CARES Act to hoard cash.

Officials of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, said their diocese was among several first contacted by The Associated Press last December in advance of an investigative-style report headlined, “Sitting on billions, Catholic dioceses amass taxpayer aid,” and the Charlotte Diocese provided the AP with detailed written responses and financial data related to the Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP.

The CARES Act, passed in March 2020, initially authorized some \$350 billion in loans to small businesses through PPP, a program intended to allow them to continue to pay their employees.

The recent AP story alleges that “scores of Catholic dioceses across the U.S. received aid through the Paycheck Protection Program while sitting on well over \$10 billion in cash, short-term investments or other available funds,” and that “even with that financial safety net, the 112 dioceses that shared their financial statements, along with the churches and schools they oversee, collected at least

\$1.5 billion in taxpayer-backed aid.

“A majority of these dioceses reported enough money on hand to cover at least six months of operating expenses, even without any new income,” the AP report states, noting at the top of the report that the Charlotte Diocese received some \$8 million in Small Business Administration emergency federal funding despite sitting on “\$100 million of their own cash and short-term investments available last spring.”

It continued, “When the cash catastrophe church leaders feared didn’t materialize, those assets topped \$110 million by summer.”

William Weldon, a certified public accountant, who is chief financial officer and chief administrative officer for the Diocese of Charlotte, told *Catholic News Service* Feb. 7 the AP story mischaracterizes the financial reality in Charlotte, incorrectly conflating its finances with assets owned and controlled by more than 100 separate Catholic parish and other entities within the diocese.

The report, Weldon said, also grossly overstates available assets, ignores financial liabilities, and erroneously suggests that restricted donations and funds designated for specific purposes could have been diverted to cover payroll, rent and utilities for other entities.

“That would be like shifting money parents pay in fees for school construction

to cover salaries at the central office of the diocese, or taking a parish’s hard-earned savings that are set aside for a new parish hall or youth program to pay for another ministry’s rent and utilities,” Weldon said.

“This would be unethical. Our parishioners and donors rightfully expect that we will honor the purpose for which funds are given to our parishes, schools and ministries.”

When the pandemic hit last spring, the PPP was a lifeline for many parishes, and without that assistance, parishes, schools and ministries would have had to consider layoffs, furloughs and pay cuts. Those were the very impacts the PPP was designed to help employers avoid, he added.

The recent AP report and a previous AP report on churches and PPP funding published in July implied the Catholic entities’ success in procuring the emergency pandemic funds may have come at the expense of other community needs, faith groups and charitable agencies.

All applicants were subject to the same criteria, application process and forgiveness process, Charlotte’s Weldon pointed out. Applicants were required to provide supporting documentation to substantiate that they spent the loan funds on qualifying expenditures.

In Kentucky, the Archdiocese of Louisville, singled out in the AP report, noted last year salaries were frozen for all employees of the archdiocese, parishes, and schools until Jan. 1, 2021, and there likely would have been layoffs and furloughs throughout the system without the PPP loans.

According to an archdiocesan statement Feb. 5, Louisville Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz recommended parishes apply for the funding, and all but two of our parishes applied.

Each parish applied individually and has its own unique financial strengths and weaknesses. Parish loans ranged from relatively small amounts of under \$10,000

up to about \$850,000. The archdiocesan loan was \$1.2 million, and Catholic Charities was \$800,000, according to the statement.

“We disagree with the analysis of the audited financials of the archdiocese and note that a June 30 report reflects the situation only a few months into the pandemic,” the Louisville statement said.

It added, “More than half of the assets reflected in the archdiocese’s audited statements include funds for the Catholic Cemeteries reserve fund, parish funds on deposit (which is not archdiocesan money and by canon law, cannot be used by the archdiocese) as well as designated and restricted funds that cannot be used for the general fund or to fund payroll.”

“In short, these parish, restricted, and otherwise encumbered funds are not liquid assets that can be used by the archdiocese for purposes other than for which they are intended,” it said.

In Massachusetts, the chancellor for the Archdiocese of Boston, John Straub, told CNS the archdiocese and AP reporters had several rounds of information sharing.

He said he and other archdiocesan officials went back and forth with AP about their responses to questions in an effort to clarify the justification for getting the PPP funding and demonstrate that separate entities such as the statewide Catholic Schools Foundation are not an unrestricted source of funds for the archdiocese as the article implied.

“It is grossly misleading at best,” Straub said in a Feb. 8 phone call.

“It ends up being very misleading to the reader,” he said. “The overall assumption the article makes that is the Catholic Church should not have participated in the PPP program, but if folks go back to imagine what things were like at the start of the pandemic the need increased almost immediately after people started losing jobs or were not able to work full time.”

## Even in virtual settings, safety must remain a priority



*A Safe Environment Message*

By Kathleen Bolinski

**Safe Environment Coordinator**

Out with the old and in with the new. Never did that phrase have more meaning. Most, if not all of us, are pleased to have seen the end of 2020. We associate the “New Year” with new beginnings. However, before we totally dismiss 2020, let us examine what we have learned from this exceptional year.

If someone had told us in early 2020 of what was to come, we never would have believed it. It still seems like a bad sci-fi movie. When the shutdown occurred, I thought it would be for a couple weeks, perhaps a month at most. I was never more wrong. As a result, our parishes, schools and diocesan organizations were forced to initiate new strategies. I take this opportunity to say we have risen to the challenge. Churches created safe ways to worship. The faithful continued to support our parishes financially. Faith formation programs developed new educational methods. Schools adjusted the environment to remain socially distant but physically

present. Catholic Social Services increased efforts to meet basic human needs.

Through all these activities, we demonstrated concern for the well-being of others. Parishes established safety guidelines. Religious education programs assured that, even though a lesson may be offered in a virtual context, adults completed requirements such as background checks, safe environment and mandated reporter training. Facilitators adhered to best practices of maintaining transparent communications and appropriate boundaries.

Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your cooperation. Thank you for staying true to the practices that keep all of us protected. Whether we are interacting on a virtual platform or in a live setting, it is vital that we keep safety our first priority. My wish for 2021 and the future is that we never again take our blessings for granted. Here is to a healthy, kind and safe New Year!

Questions about the Diocese of Scranton’s Safe Environment Program may be directed to Kathy Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator, at (570) 207-1453 or email [kathleen-bolinski@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:kathleen-bolinski@dioceseofscranton.org)

## Prayer Requests for Priests

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

February 11, Father Brian Kelly; February 12, Father E. Francis Kelly; February 13, Father John Kilpatrick; February 14, Father Shane Kirby; February 15, Father Michael Kirwin; February 16, Father Kenneth Kizis; February 17, Father Michael Kloton; February 18, Holy Cross Father Charles Kocielek; February 19, Father Bert Kozen; February 20, Father Stephen Krawontka; February 21, Holy Cross Father Brent Kruger; February 22, Father Jonathan Kuhar; February 23, Monsignor Alexander Kulik; February 24, Father José Kuriappilly; February 25, Father Andrew Kurovsky; February 26, Father Joseph Kutch; February 27, Father Arun Lakra; February 28, Father John Lambert; March 1, Pope Francis; March 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; March 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; March 4, Father William Langan; March 5, Father John Lapera; March 6, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Victor Leon; March 7, Jesuit Father John Levko; March 8, Father Michael Litcheck; March 9, Holy Cross Father Thomas Looney; March 10, Father Gregory Loughney; March 11, Holy Cross Father Robert Lozinski; March 12, Father Edward Lyman; March 13, Monsignor Peter Madus; March 14, Jesuit Father Ryan Maher; March 15, Father Thomas Major; March 16, Jesuit Father Richard Malloy.





# Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 14, 2021



## FIRST READING

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

"The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11

**Response: I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

## SECOND READING

1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Brothers and sisters, Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## GOSPEL READING

Mk 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning the him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.



# Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021



## FIRST READING

Jl 2:12-18

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God.

For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing. Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation; Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, And say, "Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17

**Response: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

## SECOND READING

2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to

be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

For he says:

*In an acceptable time I heard you,*

*and on the day of salvation I helped you.*

Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

## GOSPEL READING

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."



# First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2021



## FIRST READING

Gn 9:8-15

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth."

God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

**Response: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

## SECOND READING

1 Pt 3:18-22

Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water.



This refigured baptism, which saves you now. It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."



## Second Sunday of Lent, February 28, 2021



### FIRST READING

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

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."

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. 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.

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 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

**Response: I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**



## Third Sunday of Lent, March 7, 2021



### FIRST READING

Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. [You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.]

"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.

"Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. [Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.]

"Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11

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

### SECOND READING

Rom 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died - or, rather, was raised - who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

### GOSPEL READING

Mk 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.

Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

### SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:22-25

Brothers and sisters: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

### GOSPEL READING

Jn 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.



**VOLKSWAGENS**  
SALES - SERVICE - PARTS

**KELLY MOTOR CO.**  
AUTHORIZED VOLKSWAGEN DEALER

S. Main at Elm, Scranton  
**570-347-5656**

PONTIFICAL MISSION  
SOCIETIES  
IN THE UNITED STATES

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
Missionary Childhood Association  
The Society of St. Peter the Apostle  
Missionary Union of Priests and Religious

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

**MULDOON WINDOW, DOOR & AWNING CO.**

Joe Bunevicius & Doug Kneiss  
- Over 45 Years Experience -

Specializing in Awnings, Canopies, Carports, Patio and Porch Enclosures, Custom Storm Doors, Storm Windows, Replacement Windows, and Screen and Glass Repair.

Office Hours:  
8:00 to 4:30 M-F  
8:00 to 12:00 SAT

1230 Sanderson Ave., Scranton • 570-347-9453 • Fax: 570-347-3074

**A Different Kind of Lawyer**

Real Estate  
Living Wills  
Estate Planning & Administration  
Municipal Law

**JONATHAN A. SPOHRER**  
Attorney at Law

279 Pierce Street, Kingston  
570.287.1156



**ROBERT RITTERBECK**  
*Church Painting and Decorating*  
**(570) 343-2899**

Please visit our website at [www.Ritterbeck.com](http://www.Ritterbeck.com)

STATUES • STENCILS • GOLD LEAF • MURAL RESTORATION

Mission Message

**Go Forth**

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



Recently, a dear friend — a mother of twin boys and an overall healthy woman — had a seizure. Understandably concerned and burdened with worry, I was one they turned to for prayers. In addition to my prayers to Our Lord and our Blessed Mother, I turned to the Internet to search for the patron saint of those who suffer from seizures. To my great surprise — and with his feast day looming — I found that the patron is none other than Saint Valentine.

With not much reliably known about this “romantic” saint, the Church suspended the celebration of this feast within the liturgical calendar of our worship. He is believed to have been a physician-priest who in the third century healed the daughter of a Roman prison guard. The healing led to the family’s conversion to Christianity and would lead Valentine to his martyrdom. Though we know very little about Valentine, he is

still recognized as a saint in the Church’s martyrology.

What is known about Saint Valentine does demonstrate that his life clearly had an impact on the Church and that his example has given him a special place of honor and devotion, especially for married couples and those who are courting.

Who can forget being children and exchanging Valentines at school or special dances to mark what has become an all-too-secular celebration? In department stores and supermarkets we quickly move from Halloween to Christmas and then Christmas to Valentine’s Day. Heart-shaped boxes of candy, flowers abounding and, in the ninth hour, the sad sight of men who have procrastinated swarming the stores for anything left to take home to their loved one.

Once again, it seems we’ve missed the mark. Each of these gestures is and should be a part of this great day in our culture, but let’s add something more. What better way to mark a day that has as its very center love than by turning to God for direction on how to honor those we love the most. Surely, those of you who are married hold this day with particular solemnity; for those of us who are not married or courting, this is a day to reach out to those

we love and thank them for who they are and thank God for these relationships we treasure.

In addition to the flowers and candy, the romantic meal at one of our fine local restaurants and the sappy card from the store, dig deep to offer something more spiritual. Offer a prayer for your loved one, light a candle at church for him/her, call your local parish and offer a Mass for his/her intentions. Better yet, go to Mass together and place yourselves before the altar of God in humble thanks for the love that you share, a gift we believe is divinely given.

Just as I never knew that Saint Valentine was the patron saint of epilepsy and of those who suffer seizures, imagine how else he can assist you as he prays before the throne of God for us.

Maybe your spouse or another loved one is struggling with depression, loss of work, hopelessness, or some crippling illness; perhaps they’ve lost someone to death. This great saint will intercede on your behalf and theirs. Turn to him in an act of love for all the good that is evident in your relationships, for those who suffer, and in gratitude for the gift of love that makes life worth living. We thank God for this unique saint.

*Saint Valentine, pray for us!*

***Apostleship of Prayer***

Papal Intention for February 2021

***Violence Against Women —***

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



Father Patrick Peyton ~ 'The Rosary Priest'

## Italian statue honoring famed Irish priest finds its rightful place



Father Wilfred Raymond, CSC, president of Holy Cross Family Ministries in North Easton, Mass., which pays tribute and carries on Father Peyton's mission, blesses the new bronze statue representative of the iconic "Rosary Priest" at the Family Ministries' headquarters.

EASTON, Mass. — More than 90 years after a young Patrick Peyton arrived in America from Ireland to unwittingly begin an improbable journey resulting in him becoming one of world's most celebrated modern-day priests, an impressive bronze sculpture bearing a remarkable likeness of the now-venerated "Rosary Priest" recently arrived from Italy to fittingly greet visitors to the Father Peyton Center at the home of Holy Cross Family Ministries in Easton, Mass.

The towering image of Venerable Father Patrick Peyton was crafted by the finest of Italian artisans and pays homage to the humble Irish clergyman whose universal ministry — drawing faithful ever closer to God through devotion to His Blessed Mother — reached the four corners of the globe and has placed him on the threshold of sainthood.

Along with his brother Thomas, Father Peyton left Ireland for the United States in 1928 at the age of 19, initially landing the job of sexton at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. He and his brother eventually joined the seminary and were ordained priests for the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

Renowned for coining his timeless credo, "The family that prays together stays together," Father Peyton embarked on a Catholic media ministry in the 1940s that featured Hollywood stars and other celebrities to promote family prayer. His ministry produced more than 600 radio and television programs, and his fabled Rosary crusades attracted millions of people in dozens of countries around the world.

Father Peyton's incredible priestly journey came full circle with the recent release of a full-length feature presentation, "Pray: The Story of Patrick Peyton," documenting his life's work. The film, seen on movie screens in theaters throughout America this past fall, has proven to be "Oscar-worthy," having recently been nominated for two of this year's Academy Awards in the categories of "Best Documentary" and "Best Original Score."

# PRAY

THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON

**Watch PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON today!**

Experience the power of faith and prayer on digital download now with **PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON**, the true story of the man behind the famous phrase, *"The Family That Prays Together Stays Together."* Arriving in Scranton from Ireland in 1928, Father Peyton eventually became a priest on a mission to promote the Rosary and family prayer, whether through mass media in Hollywood or with huge Rosary rallies around the world. This film will amaze and inspire you! **PRAY** is available for digital purchase on Amazon Prime Video, Apple iTunes, and Google Play. Learn more or watch the trailer at **PrayTheFilm.com**.

*Message provided by The Scranton Chapter of the Order of Malta*



## SOME THINGS GET BETTER WITH AGE!



DOING IT ALL  
FOR  
SEVENTY FIVE  
YEARS!

"We Do It All"  
...For your home  
...For your car  
...For your workplace

**MESKO GLASS** **1-800-982-4055**

HOME • AUTO • COMMERCIAL

SCRANTON • WILKES-BARRE • HONESDALE • ALLENTOWN

## BENNINGTON AND SON

### CHURCH SPECIALISTS INC.

PO Box 845 • Scranton, Pa 18501  
570-342-8878 • Fax 570-344-0541  
www.benningtonandson.com  
e-mail: bennington90@verizon.net

#### INTERIOR

- ◆ Plastering
- ◆ Painting
- ◆ Stencil Work
- ◆ Gold Leafing
- ◆ Refinishing of Woodwork and Pews
- ◆ Professional Wall Washing
- ◆ Marbleizing
- ◆ Stained Glass Work  
(Restoration and New)

#### EXTERIOR

- ◆ Steeple Work  
(Restoration and New)
- ◆ Painting
- ◆ High Pressure Cleaning
- ◆ Masonry Restoration
- ◆ Water Proofing/Caulking
- ◆ Roofing and Flashing
- ◆ Metal Fabrication
- ◆ Fiberglass Work

*Providing church restoration services for 75 years.*

## The University of Scranton Names 28th President

SCRANTON – Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J., provost and vice president for academic affairs at Le Moyne College, Syracuse, N.Y., will serve as the 28th president of The University of Scranton.

James M. Slattery, chair of the University's Board of Trustees, made the announcement to the University community on Feb. 9. Father Marina, who will take office in the summer, will succeed Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., whose second term as president ends at the close of the 2020-2021 academic year.

"Father Marina brings to Scranton his unique experience as teacher, pastor, scholar and school administrator with more than 20 years of experience in higher education," Slattery said. "On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank the members of the presidential search committee for their careful work in leading us through the search process to its successful conclusion."

"Father Marina has a special dedication to Catholic and Jesuit higher education, and a pastoral approach to leadership that is grounded in his faith, in Ignatian spirituality and in a call for justice. He will further Scranton's commitment to provide a transformative education, rooted in the liberal arts, and will guide our students to become 'men and women for and with others,'" said Father Pilarz.

"I am humbled and honored to be chosen as The University of Scranton's next president and to succeed Father Pilarz who has with



**Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J.**

his colleagues on campus fostered such a strong foundation on which to build Scranton's future success," said Father Marina. "From day one as a Jesuit I have heard time and again how seriously Scranton takes its mission and identity. What strikes me most is how students excel with the help of the authentic commitment of faculty and staff. As we take this journey together beginning this summer, the wonderful truth remains that anything and everything we do at Scranton should be and will be done for our students first. Our shared focus is precisely where it belongs, on our students and their success."

Father Marina was selected following a national search, which began in August with the appointment of a broadly representative search committee that included trustees and representatives from the faculty, staff, student body and alumni.

Since 2016, Father Marina has served as provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor

of education at Le Moyne College, where he oversees the Jesuit college's three academic schools, honors program, library, campus life, student housing, conduct and Title IX compliance, diversity and inclusion programming, global education, student success and support services, disability services, and several other areas. Previously at Le Moyne, he held positions as associate provost, interim chair of the education department and special assistant to the president.

His prior experience includes serving as the dean of the School of Continuing Education at Providence College, assistant dean for the College of Science and Mathematics at Montclair State University, and assistant dean for Metropolitan College at St. John's University. In addition, he taught religious studies at Providence College and mathematics at St. John's University. He served as pastor of the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City and as associate pastor of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, also in New York City.

Father Marina is currently a trustee at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, New York, and Canisius High School in Buffalo, New York, where he is chair of the board's governance committee. He previously served on the boards of St. Thomas Aquinas College, Regis University, Canisius College, Xavier High School and Le Moyne College.

Father Marina entered the Society of Jesus in 2004 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2012.

## LOOKING FOR A CD ALTERNATIVE?

6 Year Fixed Annuity  
6 Year Term

**3.35%**

\$5000 Minimum  
Tax Deferred  
Surrender Charge (Yr1-6%, Yr2-5%, Yr3-4%  
Yr4-3%, Yr5-2%, Yr6-1%)  
Form Nos. AA-09, ASQ-1

Park 2 Annuity  
2 Year Term

**2.35%**

\$1000 Minimum  
Tax Deferred  
Surrender Charges (Yr1-6%, Yr2-5%)  
10% Free Withdrawal per Year  
Form Nos. AA-09, ASQ-1, 12012010



"FOR GOD  
& NATION"

**FIRST  
CATHOLIC  
SLOVAK  
UNION**

Plans provide full withdrawal at the end of the stated term.  
Rates are subject to change. Annuity contracts issued by First Catholic Slovak Union, a fraternal benefit society founded in Cleveland, OH in 1890. Not available in all states. Not FDIC or NCUSIF Insured.

**Michael J. Ricci, CRPC**  
P.O. Box 100, Olyphant, PA 18447  
**800-324-2890**

### Statement of the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on the appointment of Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J., Ph.D., as President of The University of Scranton

"I take this opportunity to congratulate Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J., Ph.D., on being selected to serve as the 28th president of The University of Scranton. As we welcome him to northeastern Pennsylvania, I also ask everyone to join me in praying for God's continued grace and health for Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., who will conclude his remarkable second tenure as president.

"Father Marina brings a vast array of experience that will affirm the Catholic and Jesuit values upon which The University of Scranton has already been built. We are blessed that he has chosen to share his unique gifts and experiences with the students, faculty and staff of The University of Scranton.

"With a proven track record of being a knowledgeable and respected voice in higher education, Father Marina's presence will serve The University of Scranton well as it continues to distinguish itself as an academically rigorous, socially responsible learning community where students become men and women for others.

"Rooted in Our Lord's love and mercy, we ask God's blessing on Father Marina, that he be filled with the strength, wisdom and courage needed to take on this new role."



‘The Virtue of Hope’ Virtual Retreat

Calling all Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministers, come and join Erin O’Leary for a special retreat of fellowship, rest and conversation. O’Leary will break open the “Virtue of Hope” and why it is so important for us to keep hope in our hearts. The information for the retreat is below.

We all face difficult moments of darkness and anxiety when things can become difficult. Some may become disillusioned with life and lose hope. During these challenging times, hope can also be misunderstood. We may think that it is having a positive attitude or being optimistic. We may place our hope in things of this world, such as our work or charitable projects, thinking they will bring us happiness. Pope Francis reminds us that true hope is not built on human words or assurances, but on God’s Word and His promise of salvation and eternal life. Join Erin O’Leary as she unpacks the truth about the “Virtue of Hope.”

Date: Friday, March 5, 2021; Time: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

‘Ever Changing, Ever Growing’ Virtual Day of Reflection

Designed for Directors of Religious Ed, Lay Ministry Formation Candidates and everyone involved in catechetical ministry or family faith formation. Join Dr. Joseph White and Katy Maier from *Our Sunday Visitor* for reflection and practical ways for each of us to hear God's voice more clearly.

**Listening for God in Everyday Life – Dr. Joseph White:** God speaks to us in many ways – through Creation, through significant people and events, through our talents and interests and more. This session will offer stories and reflections on the various ways God speaks to us and practical strategies for hearing and responding to God’s voice in our daily lives so we can gain a clearer sense of God’s vision for ourselves and our ministry.

**Courage Within – Katy Maier:** Katy will explore ways in which we can discover the courage within ourselves to live faithfully. In this ever-changing world we will discover the joy that comes through connecting to ourselves and to life with courage to meet the changes that life throws our way. Those of us engaged in ministry know the challenge of sustaining ourselves and our commitment to deeply held values and beliefs. The more passionate we are about our work, the more vital it is that we take time to renew our own spirituality, to reconnect who we are with what we do. And to find the courage to do so.

Date: Friday, March 26, 2021;Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



**LISTEN TO CATHOLIC RADIO!**

SCRANTON & WILKES BARRE  
**750 AM & 98.9 FM**

HAZLETON  
**1490 AM & 100.1 FM**

DUSHORE  
**91.7 FM**

ALTOONA  
**91.9 FM**

Pro-Life Gathering

**“40 Days for Life” Pro-Life Rosary Gathering** — Feb. 17 to March 26, offered for the special intentions of ending abortion and closure of Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre (across from King’s College). Pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

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									
FEBRUARY SCHEDULE									
CTV LOCAL ORIGATION IS BOXED IN BOLD BORDER, OTHER PROGRAMMING IS FROM EWTN									
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
12:00: AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)						
1:00 AM	FR SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS		
1:30 AM							GK CHESTERTON		
2:00 AM	ICONS SPOTLIGHT	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)						
2:30 AM	GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR A HAPPY LIFE		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY		
3:00 AM	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	SPECIALS	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	SPIRITUAL DIRECTION		
3:30AM		DEFENDING LIFE		PAPAL AUDIENCE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)		AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	REFURBISHING THE SOUL	SWEAR TO GOD		BOB AND PENNY LORD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH		
4:30 AM		(4:35)SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	COMMUNITY TREANSFORMED	(4:40)ANGELUS FROM NAZARETH	FORGOTTEN HERITAGE	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	MATTHEWS TESTIMONY TO JESUS		
5:00 AM	EXTRAORDINARY FAITH	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	SUFFERING AND WHAT TO DO WITH IT	EWTN SPECIALS	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS		
5:30 AM	FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	APOSTOLATE FOR FAMILY CONSECRATION	GENESIS TO JESUS			CATHOLICS COME HOME		
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS							
6:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	MATTHEWS TESTIMONY TO JESUS	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE		
7:00 AM	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL		
7:30 AM	THE HOLY ROSARY	HOLY LAND ROSARY							
7:50 AM		LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE HOLY ROSARY		
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)							
9:00 AM	(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	HOLY ROSARY WITH THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE ETERNAL WORD							
9:30 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	MY TIME WITH JESUS		
10:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	RELIGIOUS CATALOG		LIVE WITH PASSION	FOCUS	STATIONS OF CROSS (CTV)	HERMIE AND FRIENDS		
10:30 AM		LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE				WE ARE CATHOLIC		
11:00 AM	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	OFOD OR SPECIALS	ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA	CHOICES WE FACE	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY CALL IN	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT		
11:30 AM	VATICANO	SPEAKING OF SAINTS	ST PIO	ST JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA AND OPUS DEI	EUCCHARISTIC JOURNEY	JP II : THE MAN THE POPE THE MESSAGE			
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	WOMEN OF GRACE					EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE		
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE / OFOD	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	EWTN BOOKMARK		
2:00 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME		EWTN ON LOCATION		
2:30 PM					STATIONS OF CROSS				
3:00 PM		THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG							
3:20 PM	LIVE ADORATION FROM EWTN CHAPEL								
3:30 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					ROSARY FOR LIFE		
4:00 PM	LENTEN REFLECTIONS	THE HOLY ROSARY					SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL		
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK							
5:00 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT	GOD'S BLUEPRINT	BECOMING CATHOLIC		
5:30 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST PETERS CATHEDRAL	SPECIALS					SWEAR TO GOD		
6:00 PM	(6:15) LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE, ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)					THE JOURNEY HOME		
6:30 PM		CATHOLICS COME HOME	REAL LIFE CATHOLICS	CHURCH UNIVERSAL	VATICANO	WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?			
7:00 PM		THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)					DAILY MASS		
7:30PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE HOLY ROSARY		POPE'S AUDIENCE	THE HOLY ROSARY				
8:00 PM		DIOCESAN DATEBOOK					EWTN CINEMA		
8:30 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	OFOD OR SPECIALS (CAN BE 90 MINUTES)	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	SPECIALS			
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME		MUSIC AND SPOKEN WORD						
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)							
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	STATIONS OF THE CROSS(CTV)	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	LONG RIDE HOME	CROSSING THE GOAL	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	WEB OF FAITH 2.0		
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE					GENESIS TO JESUS		

23 THE CATHOLIC LIGHT • FEBRUARY 11, 2021



# AAA BUYERS

Buying Antiques and Estates, Furniture, Wicker, Toys, Linens, Quilts, Old Sewing Machines, Old Light Fixtures and Lamps, Railroad and Mining Items, Bookcases, Bedroom and Dining Rooms, French Doors, Radios, Books, Cedar Chests, Anything Old

**OUR 40th YEAR • 570-343-5628**

# S&K ANTIQUES

We buy old Christmas & Halloween items, as well as old toys, old advertising, military, mining & railroad items, musical instruments, sewing machines, watches, jewelry & more.

**WE BUY ANYTHING OLD!**

**570-954-4023 • FREE APPRAISALS**

## MCDADE - CHICHILLA APARTMENTS

230 Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

### ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

- 62 or older, handicapped or disabled
- Apartments designed for the mobility handicapped

Rent based on 30% of your income.  
Includes all utilities except cable and telephone.

Telephone: (570) 489-4756

• CLOSE TO ALL AMENITIES •

## ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES WANTED

### 1 ITEM OR COMPLETE ESTATES

Post Cards	Guns	Sewing
Books	Sporting Items	Machines
Military	Glassware	Light
Mining Items	Toys	Fixtures
Tools	Clocks	Magazines

**570-430-2370**

## Looking for the Perfect Monument?

Stop by to see why we are the preferred memorial provider.

**SELECTION**

- Tri-state area's largest • Over 400 memorials on display • More than 25 color choices

**QUALIFICATION**

- Family owned and operated for over 130 years • Recommended by more than 15 funeral homes • Superior workmanship

**PRICE**

- Buy direct from the manufacturer • NO MIDDLEMAN!

*Serving All Catholic Cemeteries in NE PA*

*The clear choice for all your memorial needs*

**Martin Caufield Memorial Works**  
249 Sunrise Ave., Honesdale, PA 18431  
1-800-824-5293 • 570-253-3300 • FAX: 570-253-3360  
www.martinaufieldmemorialworks.com  
mcmwphil@ptd.net  
Full Service Granite Company Since 1877

# Lenten Special Offer

Rosary CDs with Sung Scriptural Mysteries Prayers over soft music:

- 1) Sorrowful Mysteries Rosary CD
- 2) Luminous Mysteries Rosary CD
- 3) Glorious Mysteries Rosary CD
- 4) Joyful Mysteries Rosary CD
- 5) Sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy CD
- 6) \*\*NEW Stations of the Cross CD

*by St. Alphonsus Liguori*

**\$6.95 EA • 3 for \$15 • All 6 for \$24.95**

**FREE SHIPPING**

Please make checks payable to:  
**ERNIE PAPPAS PRODUCTIONS**  
P.O. Box 324, Chinchilla, PA 18410

## 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 Respecto 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.

Classifieds • Classifieds • Classifieds • Classifieds • Classifieds

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Mountain Top, Dorrance Twp. - 3B/1.5B on 2.5 acres. **\$199,000.** Contact: [amdarski@ptd.net](mailto:amdarski@ptd.net) for more info.

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

**AMUST SEE!** 1st FL Apt. N. SCRANTON 5 Large rooms + 2 full baths, spacious kitchen w/Island & desk area open to a large family room w/fireplace. Plenty of closet/storage space, Wash/Dry on site. Hardwood throughout. No pets/smoking, trash incl. \$675 + util's. Sec/Ref call **570-343-3578.**

### VACATION RENTAL

**BRIGANTINE, NJ** - 5 minutes from Atlantic City. Sleeps 4 comfortably. Bath and a half, ocean view and pool. Call for rates. **570-839-8694** or **570-460-9012.**

### MOLD REMOVAL & CLEANUP

**TekPure Environmental LLC**  
Professional mold remediation. Comprehensive site evaluations. Sampling/testing. Skilled personnel. Insured. PA license #140395  
**570-446-5700** [www.TekPure.com](http://www.TekPure.com)

### WANTED TO BUY

Buying Antiques and furniture. If you are settling an estate, or have any: Gold; Silver; Coins; Mining or RR items; Old Sewing Machines; Bookcases; B/R or D/R Furniture - **ANYTHING OLD**, please give us a call. We have been in the estate furniture business since 1972 (*no other antique dealer in this valley has been in business longer*) and we do it full time. **Complete Estate Cleanup Service-Keystone Antiques**, Paul L. Cicon. **570-498-6068.**

### WANTED TO BUY

Old books, postcards, cigarette lighters, mining & railroad items, match box toys, all antiques & anything old. **570-430-2370.**

### HAULING

**WEDOCLEANOUTS.com**  
Attics to Basements. You Call - We Haul. Junk Removal - No job too large or small. 1 item or entire estate. Cheaper than a dumpster. Senior citizen and Veteran discounts. Free estimates. Insured. PA license #112108 **570-687-7687**

Advertise in

## The Catholic Light

**570-207-2229**

[Eileen-Manley@DioceseofScranton.org](mailto:Eileen-Manley@DioceseofScranton.org)



## Marian Devotion Rosary Prayer Services Listed

Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton is dedicated to promoting prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Rosary.

Prayer rallies and Rosary Evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

Monday, Feb. 15, 6 to 7 p.m. — Third Monday of the Month Rosary Devotion at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Monday, March 15, 6 to 7:30 p.m. — Lenten Rosary Devotion at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Laflin; includes Lenten songs & prayers and Litany of the Most Precious Blood.

Monday, March 29, 6 to 7:30 p.m. — Holy Week Rosary Devotion at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel Laflin; includes Holy Week songs & prayers and Litany of the Most Precious Blood.

For more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or email: singtomary@aol.com.

## Knights aid therapeutic horse farm



Knights of Columbus Council 12571 in Lords Valley recently made a \$500 donation to the GAIT Therapeutic Riding Center, which offers the gentle and therapeutic nature of horses to help those with ADD, autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, head trauma, PTSD and other disorders. With horse "Joey" looking on, Knight Mike Schul presents a check to Martha Dubensky, founding executive director of GAIT. Also pictured are fellow council members, Grand Knight Victor Presto and Pete Ferris.

## Alhambra announces scholarship program

In recognition of the increasing importance of education for those with special needs, the International Order of Alhambra announces a scholarship program providing financial aid to students pursuing careers in education for persons with disabilities.

The Alhambra Scholarship awards assist college students studying to teach intellectually and developmentally disabled persons. The scholarships are granted on the basis that applicants are dedicated to the field of special education.

The number of scholarships and amounts awarded vary from year to year, based on scholarship program fund levels. The program is open to all eligible U.S. residents.

For information on further requirements and to obtain an application, contact Patrick Umbra, Alhambra Supreme Director for

Region II, at (570) 822-3597 or email: Patrick\_Umbra@yahoo.com. Application deadline is Feb. 23.

## Correction

A photo/news item in the Jan. 14 edition of *The Catholic Light*, regarding the annual tradition of Knights of Columbus Council 7622 in Jermyn sponsoring their "Keep Christ in Christmas" billboard, contained an error of omission.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville, where Father Andrew Kurovsky serves as pastor, was inadvertently omitted among the many generous area contributors who made the billboard project possible during the recent Christmas season.

Want More Diocesan News?

Sign up for  
*The Catholic Light*  
Weekly E-Newsletter!

Sign up for FREE  
at  
[dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)

**BEDWICK'S**  
*Pharmacy & Gifts*

GIFTS & RELIGIOUS ITEMS FOR  
ST. VALENTINE'S DAY & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Patron Saint Medals, Statues, & Prayer Cards  
Rosaries, Scapulars, Bracelets, Lapel Pins, & Auto Visor Clips  
Children's Books, Christening Gifts, & Religious Pictures  
St. Joseph the Homeseller Kits, Last Suppers, & Crucifixes

• Browse our beautiful & diverse selection of Irish gifts and novelties •

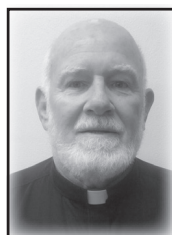
HOURS: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 9 A.M.-6 P.M. • Thurs: 1 P.M.-6 P.M. • Sat: 9 A.M.-2 P.M.

**FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION GIFTS**

452 Hazle Street - Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 - 570-823-3818

## TRAVELWORLD ANNOUNCES TOURS FOR 2021

*The only way to visit the Holy Land is with Fr. Finn!!*



Rev. Michael Finn  
St. Barbara's, Exeter

**11-DAY HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**  
**\$3,795<sub>pp/dble occ.</sub> • May 10-20, 2021** **8 SEATS LEFT**

HIGHLIGHTS: Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Nazareth, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Jerusalem, Mt of Olives, Dead Sea & More!

*This is a complete Package including Airfare!  
1st Class Handpicked Hotels, Meals & All Tours!*

## AMA WATERWAYS PARIS AND NORMANDY RIVER CRUISE

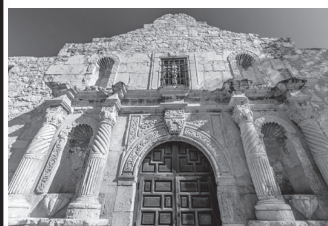


Msgr. Thomas M.  
Muldowney

*7-Day River Cruise plus 1 Night in Paris*

**From \$4,495<sub>pp/dble occ.</sub> • August 10-19, 2021**

**\$1000 per person less  
than our competition!!!**



## 5-DAY SAN ANTONIO TEXAS TOUR

*Trip Escorted by: JOHN MADDEN from TRAVELWORLD*

**\$1299<sub>pp/dble occ.</sub> • May 14-18, 2021**

Includes: Nonstop Flights, Stay 4-Nights at the Drury Inn right on the Riverwalk, 4-Breakfasts, Complete Tour including the Alamo, Ride the River Walk Boat. Special Evening hot & Cold snacks at Hotel with Drinks each evening

*Perfect Spring Time Trip, Everything is Open, Outdoor Dining, Lots of Free Time!*

FOR RESERVATIONS & INFORMATION CALL:

[www.asktravelworld.com](http://www.asktravelworld.com)

**TRAVELWORLD**

[www.asktravelworld.com](http://www.asktravelworld.com)

ATT: JOHN MADDEN, C.T.C., 435 GREEN RIDGE STREET, SCRANTON PA 18508

**(570) 342-5790 • (570) 288-9311 TOLL FREE 1-800-828-6029**



# Glenn G. Yanik

## ATTORNEY AT LAW

- Estate Planning • Estate Administration
- Real Estate • Business Law • Elder Law
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Wills • Guardianships • Trusts

309 Professional Building,  
1501 S. Memorial Highway, Shavertown, PA 18708  
**570-362-0417 • gyaniklaw@epix.net**  
— I make house calls —



# NJC

## INVESTMENTS

Helping to take the mystery out of your financial future

## Nicholas J. Colarossi, CRC®

College Planning ■ Retirement Planning  
www.njcinvestments.com ■ **570-586-5030**

Securities offered through Leigh Baldwin & Co., LLC. Member FINRA/SIPC

## Stucker Tours

570-655-8458  
www.stuckertours.com

### Wildwood Crest

June 6-9 • 3 breakfasts, cocktail pizza party with entertainment. Evening of dinner-dancing & live entertainment. Visits to historic Smithville, Atlantic City with a casino bonus and Cape May.

### Mackinac Island & Frankenmuth, MI

Sept. 12-18 • Accom. at The Grand Hotel & Thunder Bay Elk Viewing Resort, where horse drawn carriages escort you to view majestic Michigan Elk followed by a gourmet dinner. Visit to the Bavarian town of Frankenmuth & Bronner's: the world's largest Christmas Store, horse-drawn carriage tour of Mackinac Island, and 11 meals.

### Queen Esther at Sight & Sound + meal

June 19, Sept. 4 • \$179

### "A Tribute to Elvis" at Silver Birches

July 8 • \$119, Dinner, dancing & open bar

### NASHVILLE & KENTUCKY

### MAINE, VERMONT & NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Atlantic City Pkgs. • 1, 2 & 3 nights

**CALL FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF TOURS**

## Catholic Calendar of Events

**Fourth Annual Lenten Pierogi Sale — FEB. 12-MARCH 22**, sponsored by Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow; homemade pierogi are prepared fresh daily and frozen for pick-up. Featuring potato cheese pierogi: \$8/baker's dozen and \$13/two dozen; cabbage pierogi: \$9/baker's dozen and \$17/two dozen. Orders may be placed Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 26 is the final day for order pick-up. To place orders, call Jan at (570) 499-6193, or Mary Ann at (570) 842-4960.

**Ash Wednesday & Lenten Friday Fish Bakes — FEB. 17, FEB. 26 & MARCH 12**, hosted by St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport; held from 4 to 6:30 on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) and two Lenten Fridays (Feb. 16 & March 12) in the parish's Fleming Center. Sale is take-out only. Cost: adults, \$10; children (age ten & under), \$5. Pre-orders

and payment due Monday before the dinner. For more information and to place orders, call (570) 323-9456.

**Lenten Friday Fish Frys — FEB. 26, MARCH 12 & MARCH 26**, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 12572 in Scranton. Sale is take-out only; available each day at St. Ann Basilica Shrine, West Scranton. Dinners include two pieces of Alaskan cod, fries, tartar sauce and soft drink; cost: \$8 each. Tickets available at the St. Ann Shrine Gift Shop, online at Scrantonknights.com, or by calling (570) 591-1375.

**Take-Out Spaghetti Dinner — MARCH 13**, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 356 in Great Bend; held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Knights' Hall, 65 Kilrow St., Great Bend. Cost: adults, \$8; children, \$4. To reserve advanced orders, call (570) 879-4875. Walk-ins are welcome.

## First Friday Reparation Vigil

The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **March 5** at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass

of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction, litany and consecration to the Sacred Heart.

The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.

## Blue Army continues 'First Saturday' series

ASBURY, N.J. — The World Apostolate of Fatima USA (Blue Army), headquartered in Asbury, N.J., has dedicated 2021 as The Year of Saint Joseph under the title: "The greatest consoler of the Immaculate Heart."

In conjunction with the devotional year, the Blue Army Apostolate is offering a new series being presented virtually on the First Saturday of each month throughout the year.

Virtual presentations are livestream on the First Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the Blue Army Shrine and can be viewed online at: //BlueArmy.

com/YearofStJoseph.

The First Saturday discussion on March 6, entitled "The Nature and Need for Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary," will feature virtual speaker Dr. Mark Miravalle.

The livestream talk at 11 a.m. will be followed by Rosary recitation with a 15-minute meditation at 11:30 a.m.; Holy Mass at 12:15 p.m.; and concluding with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Brown Scapular enrollment.

For more information, contact the Fatima Apostolate at (908) 689-1700 ext. 210, or www.bluearmy.com.

## 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.



## Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

## Estate Administration

### Probate :

Settle all estate matters and distribute inheritances.

### Inheritance Tax :

Utilize all discounts and proper deductions.  
Meet all requirements and deadlines.

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills • Wills
- Trusts Guardianships • Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

## Estate Planning

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills
- Wills • Trusts Guardianships



**Michael J. Bendick**  
Attorney At Law  
**(570) 901-1254**  
www.bendicklaw.com  
Located in Shavertown  
(Covering Luzerne, Lackawanna,  
& Wyoming Counties)



## IHM Sisters continue series of virtual prayer evenings

SCRANTON — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters will continue their monthly “Evenings of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM” on Wednesday, March 10.

The ongoing series of prayer devotions celebrates the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1845.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Evenings of Prayer are offered

## W-B Maronite Church Hosts Weekly Adoration

WILKES-BARRE — The Maronite Catholic Parish of Saint Anthony & Saint George announces Eucharistic adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered every Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m. at Saint Anthony-Saint George Maronite Church, 311 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre.

All faithful are welcome for visitation to participate in the devotion.

on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. via videostreaming. Participants may access the devotions at: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/ihm-tv>.

The theme for the March

10 Evening of Prayer is “Reconciliation.”

For more information, contact the IHM Sisters in Scranton at (570) 346-5404 or [communications@sistersofihm.org](mailto:communications@sistersofihm.org).



**St. Mary's Villa**  
Since 1924

**Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation**

- Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy
- Short Term Rehab, Long Term Care, Respite Care

**Check us out on [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)**

**\*Skilled Nursing**  
**(570) 842-7621** **WWW.STMARYSVILLA.COM**

## For All Your Printing & Copying Needs



27 Stauffer Industrial Park • Taylor, PA 18517  
570-343-0414 or 570-562-2738

**1-888-4-ALL-PRINT**

**[www.pdqprint.com](http://www.pdqprint.com)**



**Home Health, Hospice and Outpatient Therapy**

P.O. Box 103  
750 State Route 93  
Sybertsville, Pa. 18251

[www.maylathhealth.com](http://www.maylathhealth.com)

570-708-2929 phone  
570-708-1010 fax  
1-877-751-0080 toll free

[info@maylathhealth.com](mailto:info@maylathhealth.com) email



- ✓ Skilled Nursing
- ✓ Nursing Aides
- ✓ Social Work
- ✓ Pastoral Care
- ✓ Registered Dietary
- ✓ Physical Therapy
- ✓ Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Speech Therapy

**C.H.A.P. Accredited**

Training Provided in:  
CPR, First Aid and AED

Outpatient Therapy in  
Two Locations:

Sybertsville and The Laurels, Hazleton

## Rewarding careers start here.

Whether you're just starting out, returning to the work or looking for the next step in your career, we're certain you'll find the right fit at Allied Services.

Join the care team at Meade Street or Center City Senior Community today and you'll enjoy competitive rates, great benefits, and generous tuition reimbursement and scholarship programs.

- RNs and LPNs earn up to \$15,000 sign-on bonus.
- CNAs earn up to \$7,500 sign-on bonus.
- CNAs earn up to \$22 hourly starting rates.

**Call Theresa at 570.348.1455 to discuss your interests and availability.**

Learn more at [alliedservices.org/superbonus](http://alliedservices.org/superbonus)

**Allied Services Meade Street Senior Community**  
formerly Little Flower Manor & St. Therese Residence

200 S. Meade Street, Wilkes-Barre  
Call 570.823.6131

**Allied Services Center City Senior Community**  
formerly St. Luke's Villa

80 E Northampton St, Wilkes-Barre  
Call 570.826.1031





# CATHOLIC *Communications*



*The Daily Mass is a big part of my life. It brings our Lord into your home. It connects you with your faith and faith community. It gives me hope and courage! You don't feel so left out when you're homebound.*

*The Catholic Light does the same. I enjoy seeing our school kids putting their faith into action...When you give to the Appeal you can see how the money is used.*

**Karen Magnotta, Dunmore**

**S**haring the Gospel message is the vital mission of Diocesan Catholic Media and Communications, a ministry made possible by the Annual Appeal. Helping people stay connected with their faith has perhaps never been so important as during the isolation of the virus pandemic.

The Diocese delivers the Good News through *The Catholic Light* Newspaper, the Diocesan website, [DioceseofScranton.org](http://DioceseofScranton.org), and CTV broadcasting the Daily Mass from St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, and producing "Our Faith Our Diocese," local programing.



To learn more and make a gift visit [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org)

## The Catholic Light

**MAILING LABEL** - Please be sure to enclose this label with any address changes and mail to The Catholic Light, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503



### Mercy Center Personal Care & Skilled Nursing

301 Lake Street  
Dallas, PA 18612

*Caring. . . Compassion . . . Family. . .*

Short-term, permanent, and  
respite admissions. Open to the public.



(570) 675-2131 [www.mcnu.org](http://www.mcnu.org)  
Located on Misericordia University Campus  
Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy

*Be a Part of a Family. . .the Mercy Family*



## Hospice Center Wilkes-Barre

### Now serving your community

**Allied Services Hospice Center Wilkes-Barre** is now serving the Wyoming Valley. The Center is set on the grounds of our Meade Street Senior Living Community.

The former home of the Carmelite Sisters has been fully renovated to provide a welcoming, home-like setting for patients and their families to receive compassionate care.

From community-based palliative care to home-based and inpatient hospice care, and respite care, trust our experienced team to be here for you when every moment matters.

**Allied Services Hospice Center Wilkes-Barre**  
200 South Meade Street, Wilkes-Barre  
570.341.4320 • [alliedservices.org](http://alliedservices.org)

