



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

February 11, 2021

Ash Wednesday message the same, despite COVID changes



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.

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be principal celebrant and homilist for the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass will be open to the public following COVID-19 safety protocols, including wearing face masks and physical distancing. The Mass 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.

Due to the pandemic, Ash Wednesday will look different this year but the significance of the day will not change. Ashes can be distributed to the Catholic faithful as long as there is no direct contact. Parishes have been asked to select one of two possible options for the distribution of ashes. The first involves sprinkling ashes on top of an individual's head. The second involves distributing ashes using an individual Q-tip type of cotton swab.

[For More Information and a Listing of Ash Wednesday Services Across the Diocese](#)

Bishop Bambera's 2021 Lenten Message

As the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton prepare to celebrate Ash Wednesday and the annual observance of Lent, Bishop Bambera has released his 2021 Lenten Message.



[Read Bishop Bambera's Lenten Message](#)

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

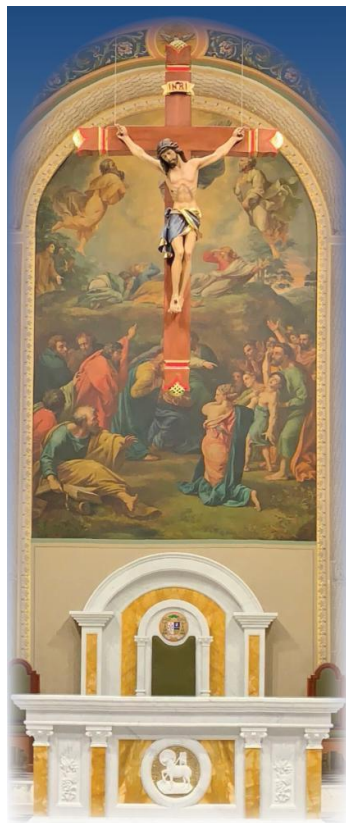
During COVID-19 pandemic, parishes providing substantial aid to those in need

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.

The Catholic Light recently sent a survey to all parishes, looking for the ways that they are responding to community needs during the coronavirus. The responses provided clarity on the impact that our parishes are having in our community on a daily basis and the overall effort parishioners have provided selflessly to their brothers and sisters in need.

[Read the Full Story](#)



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.



National Marriage Week USA

MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! • EVERY FEB 7-14



*May we who are joined by the Sacrament
of Matrimony ... grow in faith ... and enrich
your Church with faithful offspring.*

-Order of Celebrating Matrimony, 2nd edition

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Will You Give Your Marriage the Gift of Two Hours this Valentine's Day?

The Diocesan Office for Parish Life invites couples to join the finale of National Marriage Week on Sunday, Feb. 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Two virtual marriage enrichment events (one with Chris and Linda Padgett and the other with Joel and Nora de Loera) will take place. There is still time to register!

Marriages are one of the cornerstones of our church and we need the witness of your sacramental vocation now more than ever!

For More Information or to Register for the Feb. 14 Virtual Events



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.

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton has launched its annual Host-for-a-Day campaign, which is the primary means of financial support for the kitchen.

[For More Information](#)



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.

[For More Information](#)

**Bishop Bambera's
statement on the
appointment of Rev.
Joseph G. Marina, S.J., as
President of The
University of Scranton**

On Tuesday, The University of Scranton announced Rev. Joseph G. Marina, S.J., will serve as its 28th president. In a statement, Bishop Bambera said Father Marina has a "proven track record of being a knowledgeable and respected voice in higher education."

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



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