

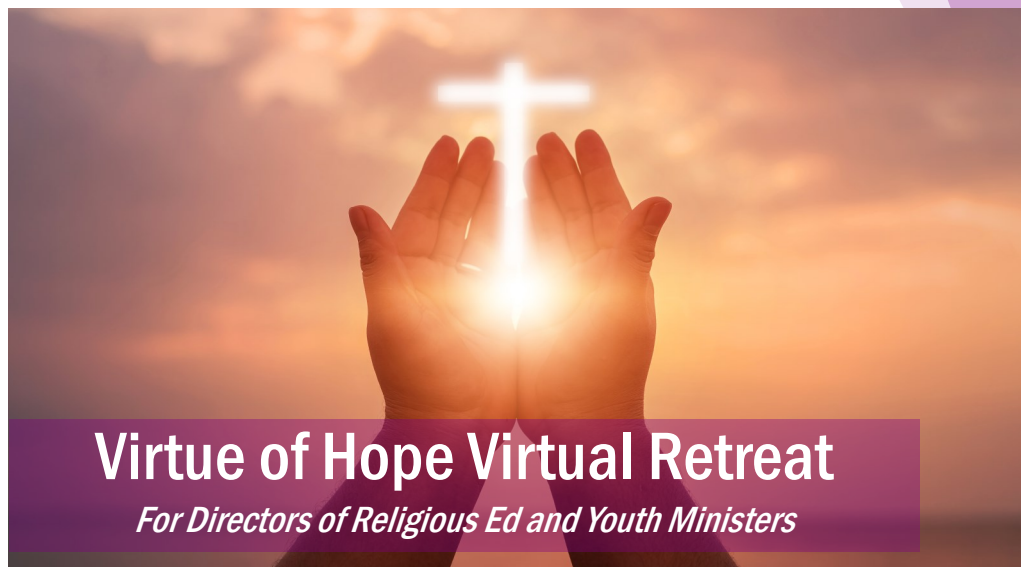


GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

This Issue

Edmodo Updates	p. 2
"Ever Changing, Ever Growing" Day of Reflection	p. 2
Liturgical Guidelines for Holy Week 2021	p. 3
Liturgical Updates	p. 3
It's Never Too Late to Enrich Your Marriage	p. 4
The Year "Amoris Laetitia Family"	p. 4
Young Adult Evening Prayer and Social	p. 5
Parish Social Justice Grants	p. 5
Young Adult Virtual Retreat	p. 5



Virtue of Hope Virtual Retreat

For Directors of Religious Ed and Youth Ministers

Calling all Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministers: come and join Erin O'Leary for a special retreat of fellowship, rest and conversation. Erin 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. Watch your email for information on how to sign up.

The Virtue of Hope Virtual Retreat

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: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

**Contact Jacki Douglas, Director for Word and Lifelong Faith Formation
at 570-207-2213 or at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org
for more information.**

**The Light Is On for You
Mondays in Lent
from 5:30 to 7:00PM**

**Year of Saint Joseph
Closing Mass
Friday, March 19
at 12:10PM
Cathedral of St. Peter**

**Chrism Mass
Tuesday, March 30
at 4:00PM
Cathedral of Saint Peter**



Edmodo Product Updates

A Digital Agenda for Classes

We are excited to share a new feature called Agenda! Your teachers can now create an organized lesson plan in an Edmodo Class and make it easier for students to see what they need to do. Best of all, teachers can even see who has viewed it, so they can track participation!

What's New with Groups

Great news, Edmodo has released new Group discoverability features for enterprise customers! Your teachers can now find Groups at every level of your organization to find what fits their professional development needs and interests.

Library Storage Updates (and Upgrades!)

One of the benefits of being an enterprise customer is unlimited storage for all your users in their Edmodo Library (teachers) or Backpack (students). Later this month, we will upgrade your accounts by removing the 100MB file size limit, so that you can upload video recordings or other large files.

For information on how to utilize any of these updates, email jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org.

Holy Week and Easter Family Kit from Sadlier

Holy Week is a time-honored rite that celebrates life arising from death and the brilliance emerging from places of desolation and despair. It is the sacred time, beginning with Passion (Palm) Sunday and moving into the Triduum. Share resources that families can use at home to mark Holy Week and begin a hopeful and joy-filled Easter season.

Resources are available in English and Spanish. If you are interested in these resources contact jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org

Remote Networking Meetings

Save the Dates—We are excited to continue our Remote Network Meetings for DREs and Youth Ministers. We have spent quite a bit of time lately sharing what great things are being accomplished at our parishes. It is impressive to the creative steps being taken to help families and continue the mission of religious education across the Diocese of Scranton.

We would love to have every parish represented. We invite each of you to join us every other Wednesday at 11AM. Our upcoming meeting dates are March 10 & 24, April 7 & 21. For more information on how to stay connected, please contact Jacki Douglas at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org or at (570)207-2213 x-1100.



"Ever Changing, Ever Growing" Virtual Day of Reflection

Friday, March 26, 2021—10:00AM to 2:00PM

*For Directors of Religious Ed, Lay Ministry Formation
Candidates and everyone involved
in catechetical ministry or family faith formation*

Are you seeking to grow in your relationship with God? Searching for more direction in a time of uncertainty? God is always speaking to us. But in today's hectic world, do we know how to listen? In *Listening for God in Everyday Life*, you will find engaging stories and thoughtful reflections about the many ways God speaks to us every day - in nature, relationships, silence, struggle, and more. 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. God has a message for you - are you ready to listen?

"Listening for God in Everyday Life" by 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" by 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.

The cost of this event is \$15.00 payable to 'Diocese of Scranton'. For questions or more information, contact Jacki Douglas or Kitty Scanlan. Register by March 19 by emailing Jennifer Andres at jan-dres@dioceseofscranton.org.

Conclusion to the Year of Saint Joseph

The Diocese of Scranton will conclude its observance of the Year of Saint Joseph with a Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Bambera on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Friday, March 19, 2021 at 12:10PM at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV. Let us continue to implore the intercession of Saint Joseph, foster-father and guardian of Mary and Jesus, in protecting our Church and our world, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.



For resources compiled by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, please visit www.fdlc.org/joseph.

Lent & Easter Liturgical Resources

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has compiled a liturgical resource to assist parishes in preparing liturgies for the Lent and Easter seasons. This resource, which is available in English and Spanish, includes suggested pastoral practices during the pandemic; an article on the Year of Saint Joseph; a liturgical calendar advisory for Lent, Triduum, and the Easter Season; preparation worksheets for the Paschal Triduum and Evening Prayer for Easter Sunday. To download this resource, visit www.fdlc.org and click on "resources" and then "public resources".

The Association of Catholic Publishers has also collated a list of Lenten Resources from all their member publishers. The list highlights books and music which will be meaningful to a wide variety of ages. You may wish to visit their site at <https://www.catholicpublishers.org/lent-2021-resources>.

Confirmations with Bishop Bambera

As you know from previous messages, Bishop Bambera intends to celebrate Confirmations in the Spring as scheduled. Because of social distancing requirements, **the planned combined parish Confirmations will need to be adjusted**, with Bishop celebrating the sacrament with as many Confirmandi and guests as a given space will allow safely. Some parishes previously scheduled for these combined celebrations will now celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with your Pastor.

The dates already published are still reserved for these celebrations, with a few minor changes or additions for larger parishes needing more than one gathering. **Letters confirming the adjusted date and time of the Confirmation will be mailed soon.**

All other parishes **who were not scheduled to have Confirmations with Bishop Bambera in 2021** will proceed, as planned, with celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation with your Pastor on the **Feast of Pentecost**.

Liturgical Guidelines for Lent and Holy Week

In response to the pandemic, the Diocese of Scranton has issued liturgical directives for the liturgies of Holy Week. These guidelines can be found on the diocesan website at [this link](#). To access the liturgical guidelines for Lent, please [click here](#).

Liturgical Updates

- **Collect Prayers**—As of Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, priests and deacons are to omit the word "one" when concluding the Collect prayers, so that the prayer ends, "...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
- **Obligatory Memorial**—On January 26, 2021, a CDWDS Decree indicated that July 29—the Obligatory Memorial of Saint Martha—will hereafter include her sister and brother, Saints Mary and Lazarus. (They had already been included on this date in the 2004 Roman Martyrology.) Moreover, in some particular calendars, the three are already celebrated together. The Memorial should appear under this title in all calendars and Liturgical Books for the celebration of Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. New prayers have been issued, but must be translated by the various episcopal conferences worldwide.
- **Optional Memorials**—In addition, a February 2, 2021 Decree by the same Congregation announced that the following are to be inscribed in the General Roman Calendar as Optional Memorials:
 - St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church (27 February)
 - St. John De Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church (10 May)
 - and St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church (17 September).

Even though these additions to the sanctoral calendar take effect immediately, approved translations of the prayers are still forthcoming.

COMMUNITY

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

It's Never Too Late to Enrich Your Marriage

Our live, virtual National Marriage Week presentations on St. Valentine's Day were terrific! If you were unable to participate that evening, you can now watch the recordings of both sessions anytime. The presentation recordings from Chris and Linda Padgett (English) and for Joel and Nora de Loera (Spanish) are available on our diocesan website: <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/enrichment/>

Chris and Linda Padgett are popular speakers, teachers and authors who have traveled around the world for over two decades, giving presentations, lectures, parish missions, and retreats to all ages on many topics dealing with faith, marriage and family life. Converts to Catholicism, Chris taught at Franciscan University of Steubenville and currently teaches with Catholic Distance University. Linda has completed certification for Spiritual Direction and does this within the Diocese of Syracuse.



Joel and Nora de Loera have been joyfully married for 12 years and are blessed with six amazingly curious and extremely energetic children (so far). Joel has a Bachelor's Degree in Theological Studies and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology. He has traveled all over the nation and abroad sharing his powerful testimony of conversion and leading discipleship retreats. Nora is a stay-at-home wife and a fulltime mother. She is also involved with "Amor y Cafe : Anecdotes de Una Familia Católica," an online marriage and family enrichment ministry they co-founded.



FOCCUS

The FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory continues to be a wonderful tool for marriage formation. (And RE-FOCCUS can be a helpful tool for those already married!) If your parish is seeking FOCCUS credits, requests can be made via the form located on our diocesan FOCCUS webpage: <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/marriage/marriage-preparation/foccus/> If you have any questions regarding FOCCUS or REFOCCUS, please contact Jen Housel, 570-207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org

Virtual Grief Support Group

Winter can be a difficult time to navigate grief, particularly during an ongoing period of social distancing. Please consider joining the virtual grief support group offered by Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish in Scranton. Anyone is welcome; you do not have to be a member of the parish to participate. The group will convene online, Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 7:30. The dates of the virtual meetings will be April 7, 14, 21 and 28. For more information, please contact Deacon Ed Shoener at 570-814-5133 or at 570-344-7231.

Marriage Preparation

Many couples who had postponed their weddings in 2020 are now planning to wed in 2021. Our Diocesan PreCana Days of Reflection are taking place each month. Classes are being conducted through an online platform, at least through April. As we emerge out of spring and into the summer months, we will continually assess the safety of returning to in-person classes. If you have questions regarding PreCana Days, please contact Jen Housel, 570-207-2213 x 1104, jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org.

The Year "Amoris Laetitia Family"

Pope Francis will inaugurate the Year "Amoris Laetitia Family," on March 19, 2021. That will be the fifth anniversary of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia*, on the joy and beauty of familial love.

The yearlong celebration will conclude on June 26, 2022 on the occasion of the X World Meeting of Families in Rome. Stay tuned for opportunities for your parish and you to participate in this celebration! To learn more from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life : <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html>.



Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Registration for VLCFF Cycle 3: registration opens February 24 until April 7; Course Dates are April 11-May 1, 2021. Enter in to the Easter season by going deeper into your faith! All members of the faithful across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to consider praying and studying through the University of Dayton's VLCFF-course options include "Theological Reflection/ Reflexión Teológica," "Images of Jesus," "On Bended Knee," "La Espiritualidad del Discípulo Misionero," "María Madre de la Iglesia" and more! [Click here](#) for the calendar and registration information.

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

SERVICE

Parish Social Justice Grants

Pastors and those interested in learning more about the Diocese of Scranton's Parish Social Justice Grant are welcome to join us for a virtual information night. On Tuesday, March 16th at 6:30pm via Zoom, parishes who were awarded the grant in the past will present on their experiences and give some ideas of how you can utilize the grants in the future. This will be an excellent opportunity to get updated information and ask questions.

If you would like to attend the info night, please email Shannon Kowalski at Shannon-kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org.

Young Adult Virtual Retreat

Sunday, March 21-28, 2021

Spring 2021 Topic: Diving Deeper Into Scripture

A 'go at your own pace retreat' for young adults (18-40) with 3 retreat sessions lead by Father Alex Roche, Father Brian J.T. Clarke, and Father Ryan Glenn. There will be opportunities for small group discussion, prayer and spiritual direction throughout the week. Opening session: Sunday, March 21 at 8:30pm. Closing session: Sunday, March 28 at 8:30pm.

For more information and/or to register, visit www.dioceseofscranton.org.

Diocese of Scranton Young Adult's

EVENING PRAYER AND SOCIAL

Join Other Young Adults Ages 18 -35
For Evening Prayer and Social Time.
This Event is Free of Charge. But
Registration is Required to Receive
the Meeting Link.

**MARCH 15
APRIL 12**

7:00pm via Zoom. Email Shannon at
shannon-kowalski@dioceseofscranton.org to register

Asking God's Blessings on All of Our Parishes during the Celebration of Holy Week

from the staff at the Office for Parish Life



OPL Month At A Glance

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NCYC Meeting 6:30PM The Light Is On for You 5:30-7:00PM	2	3	4	5 Virtue of Hope Virtual Retreat 11:00AM–12:30PM	6
7	8 The Light Is On for You 5:30-7:00PM	9	10 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	11	12	13
14	15 Young Adult Evening Prayer and Social 7:00PM The Light Is On for You 5:30-7:00PM	16	17	18	19 Solemnity of Saint Joseph Year of Saint Joseph Closing Mass Cathedral 12:10PM	20
21	22 The Light Is On for You 5:30-7:00PM	23	24 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	25	26 Ever Changing, Ever Growing Day of Reflection 10:00AM-2:00PM	27
28 Palm Sunday	29	30 Chrism Mass 4:00PM	31			

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Jacki Douglas**

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Director for SERVICE and Mission: **Shannon Kowalski**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**

Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**

Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**

Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry: **José Flores**

Consultant for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center:

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Andres**



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