Catholic Social Services providing additional help to individuals and families this Easter

With Easter quickly approaching, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is working to make sure that all families, children and seniors have enough food.

Over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many households with unexpected job losses and reduced hours.

On Tuesday, March 23, the Catholic Social Services Office in Carbondale will host a special food distribution from 2:00-3:30 p.m. outside the Catholic Social Services Office, 34 River Street, Carbondale. Individuals and families can either drive-up or walk-up to receive assistance. The distribution is open to everyone in need, no pre-registration is required.
On Tuesday, March 30, Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen & Food Pantry in Wilkes-Barre is also planning a special food distribution for individuals and families in need. For additional information, please contact (570) 829-7796.

In cooperation with the United Way of Greater Hazleton and several other community partners, the Catholic Social Services Office in Hazleton is helping to coordinate a Community Easter Dinner on Wednesday, March 31. Requests for the meal, for homebound residents who reside in the Hazleton Area School District or Weatherly Area School District, is needed by March 24 by calling 211.
Bishop Joseph C. Bambera to celebrate two public Masses tomorrow on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for two Masses tomorrow on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, March 19, 2021.

First, the Diocese of Scranton will conclude its own special observance of the “Year of Saint Joseph” with a Pontifical Mass at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The Mass is open to the public, following COVID-19 precautions which include 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 social media platforms.

In the evening, Bishop Bambera will also serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the concluding celebration of the Feast of Saint Joseph at Saint Joseph’s Oblate Seminary in Laflin at 7:00 p.m.

For More Information
Faith leaders recognized as having vital role in world's pandemic response

Faith leaders have an important role to play as the world continues to respond to the coronavirus pandemic and the ups and downs of vaccine distribution, participants in a webinar heard this week.

That role is based on trust and accurately sharing information, said Kathryn Kraft, senior research adviser for faith and development at World Vision International.

She described the findings of a World Vision report that identified faith leaders as being as important as health care workers in providing information and modeling appropriate behavior in the pandemic response.

Volunteers gather at Diocesan Pastoral Center to spread Irish cheer

A Saint Patrick's Day tradition continued in Lackawanna County this year despite the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
No One Can Be Excluded from the Care, Love of the Church

While the Catholic Church cannot bless unions that are not sacramental marriages, the church will always welcome and accompany everyone, no matter their situation in life, said the prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

“Nobody must ever be excluded from the pastoral care and love and concern of the church,” said the prefect, Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, March 18 during an online Vatican news conference, presenting details of the “Amoris Laetitia Family Year,” which starts March 19.

The cardinal’s comments were in response to a question about the “disappointment” expressed in parts of the world regarding a recent statement by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which said any form of blessing a same-sex union is “illicit.”

Read the Full Story from Catholic News Service
'Ever Changing, Ever Growing'  

Virtual Day of Reflection to be held March 26

The Office for Parish Life invites Directors of Religious Education, Lay Ministry Formation Candidates and everyone involved in parish ministry or family faith formation to take part in a Virtual Lenten Day of Reflection later this month.

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?

For More Information on How to Register
Mueller Family McDonald's donates $10,000 to Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation

Mrs. Carol Mueller and Christina Mueller of the Mueller Family McDonald’s recently presented a check for $10,000 to Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation.

The donation was a result of the fourth-annual Fry Fundraiser that kicked off National Catholic Schools Week Jan. 31, 2021 and ended Feb. 21, 2021.

All sixteen Mueller Family McDonald’s participated by donating a portion of every large order of french fries sold during that period.
Shrine welcomes treasured items that belonged to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Several rarely seen artifacts from the first American-born saint were displayed for the first time since 1822 last week.

The faded black bonnet, rosary, wedding brooch and other items of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton were unveiled in Emmitsburg, Md. on March 11.
The Diocesan Office for Parish Life invites our Spanish-speaking faithful to participate in a special online Retreat just prior to Holy Week. The event will take place on Saturday, March 27 from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m.

For more information on the online event, you can contact Jose Flores, Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry, at (570) 207-2213, x 1130.
CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the following Holy Week and Easter services from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton.

- Palm Sunday Mass of the Lord’s Passion on March 28 at 12:15 p.m.
- Chrism Mass on March 30 at 4:00 p.m.
- Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, April 1, at 5:30 p.m.
- Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion, April 2, at 12:10 p.m.
- Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 3, at 8:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Mass, April 4, at 10:00 a.m.

For additional resources and information on the season of Lent, including a "Daily Inspirational Calendar," information on the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl 2021 and additional tools from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, visit the Diocese of Scranton website.

Visit the Diocese of Scranton website