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# **The Catholic Light**

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**April 29, 2021**

## **New assessment tool changing the way Catholic School teachers teach & students learn**



From a quick glance, Kaitlin Chmielewski's first grade classroom at Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary Catholic School in Wilkes-Barre might not have much in common with Debra Smith's eighth grade literature class at Our Lady of Peace Catholic School in Clarks Green. However, when you look closer at

how each teacher prepares and delivers their lessons, you notice striking similarities.

For the last two years, both teachers have been using a new tool – NWEA Assessments – to deliver differentiated instruction in their classroom, setting each individual student up for greater growth and success.

The assessments from NWEA – which stands for Northwest Evaluation Association – provide educators with valuable data on each student three times a year allowing them to measure a student’s growth over time. That data provides critical information that helps educators understand each student’s skills and abilities.

NWEA Assessments are currently being used at all 19 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton.

[Read the Full Story](#)

## **Catholic Schools serve as benchmark during COVID-19 pandemic**



Healthcare workers and grocery store employees have been widely recognized for being essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Catholic School teachers and administrators should also be among the individuals on that important list.

When all schools in Pennsylvania were ordered closed in March 2020, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System quickly and seamlessly transitioned to distance learning the following school day. In order to resume in-person learning in the fall of 2020, appropriate health and safety protocols were developed. To date, some other local school districts have still not been able to return to in-person instruction for all grades.

“The pandemic challenged us in so many ways but in our Catholic Schools, we’ve taken those challenges and created the opportunities behind them,” Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer, said.

[Read the Full Story](#)

## **Vision 2020 Blueprint Process begins assisting parishes facing changes, challenges and opportunities**



More than a year after the Vision 2020 Blueprint Process was introduced to parishioners in the Diocese of Scranton, the pastoral planning initiative remains underway. In fact, it is currently being used to assist several parish communities facing pastoral retirements and other challenges in the coming months.

Vision 2020 is a long range process aiming to look proactively at the realities of our local Church in the present moment while striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade.

Many factors will prompt change across the Diocese of Scranton in the future. These factors include rapidly shifting population demographics, reduced numbers of parishioners active in their faith, parish financial challenges, parish infrastructure needs as well as a diminishing number of ordained priests to serve existing parishes.

“Our ongoing pastoral planning process in the Diocese is both important and necessary to have vibrant parishes and rich participation in the sacraments,” the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said. “This process, at its very core, is about putting our relationship with Jesus first in our own lives and in the life of our Church. We must desire to help all people meet Christ and build God’s Kingdom – not our own.”

[Read the Full Story](#)

## **Diocese of Scranton to celebrate Mother's Day Adoption Mass May 9**



The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate its annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass on Sunday, May 9, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. This liturgy prayerfully recognizes all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant.

The Mother's Day Adoption Mass is open to the public. No reservations are required. Attendees will be required to wear properly fitting face coverings and follow physical distancing protocols established by the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live. A livestream will also be provided on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

Pope Francis has said that humanity is "built on mothers" and that their love is a cure for a world, which is so often divided and filled with bitterness. On May 9, please join us for the Mother's Day Adoption Mass as we pray for mothers, near and far, including Mary, Mother of the Church.

[For More Information on the Mother's Day Adoption Mass](#)

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**Jesus is constantly calling us to spread His  
love**





Jesus is calling his sheep but unfortunately many are just not listening.

That is the message that Rev. Andrew Kurovsky, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, delivered as homilist for the Diocese of Scranton's World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass on April 25, 2021. More than 150 attended the annual observance held at the Peckville parish.

"Jesus hasn't stopped calling. Maybe we just aren't tuned in enough to respond," Rev. Kurovsky said.

The long-time pastor said Jesus calls his sheep in many ways. Sometimes it is for service to the priesthood or religious life.

"We need sheep that are going to bring Sacraments and the Word of God to people. My friends, I believe Jesus is calling those sheep. He's still calling them today," Rev. Kurovsky said. "Too many times we fail to see the vocations and how Jesus is calling people right here in our midst so we can encourage them more and more."

[Read the Full Story](#)

**Proclaiming God's Word: Seminarians receive  
Ministry of Lector**



Seminarians William Asinari, Thomas Dzwonczyk and Andrew McCarroll received Ministry of Lector at Saint Mary's Seminary on April 14, 2021, by the Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher, Bishop of Buffalo.

The Ministry of Lector calls them to be servants of the Living Word of God. They will proclaim that word in the liturgical assembly, instruct children and adults in the faith and prepare them to receive the sacraments worthily.

Please keep them in prayer as they continue their formation to serve our local Church as a Diocesan Priest!

[For More Information](#)

**Williamsport parish to hold Eucharistic  
Procession in honor of Saint Joseph the  
Worker Feast Day**

# **EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION**



**IN HONOR OF  
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER**



**MAY 1ST  
2021**

**8:00 AM Mass**  
1st Saturday  
Devotions

**9:30 AM Eucharistic  
Procession**

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**Research with fetal tissue from elective  
abortion called 'deeply offensive'**





The chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee April 20 called on the Biden administration to fund research "that does not rely upon body parts taken from innocent children killed through abortion."

"The bodies of children killed by abortion deserve the same respect as that of any other person," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"Our government has no right to treat innocent abortion victims as a commodity that can be scavenged for body parts to be used in research," he said.

His remarks were a reaction to a notice the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, posted April 16 in the grants area of its website announcing the end of a Trump administration ban on research involving human fetal tissue acquired from elective abortions.

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

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