



# **The Catholic Light**

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## **Weekly E-Newsletter**

**April 8, 2021**

### **During Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse, Bishop Bambera reiterates child protection pledge**



As he acknowledged and again apologized for the pain of survivors of sexual abuse on April 8, 2021, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera recommitted to creating safe environments across the Diocese of Scranton.

“I pledge to continue to do all within my power to keep our Churches and schools safe for our children and for all of our people to worship, to pray, to learn and to grow in their faith,” Bishop Bambera said.

The bishop’s pledge came during a Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse held at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. During the Mass, the bishop prayed for God’s healing and peace for all survivors of sexual abuse and particularly for those abused by members of the clergy and Church workers.

“While we have celebrated this Mass in a very public way for three years now, it is more vital today than ever that we continue to pray for survivors of abuse. Why? Because there is still pain,” the bishop said. “A few years of public prayer can’t change a lifetime of suffering. So many survivors continue to be burdened by nightmares of inhuman behavior on the part of those who should have been trustworthy but were not.”

[Read the Full Story](#)

[Read Bishop Bambera's Homily from the Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse](#)

## **Jesus provides the way forward amid pain and struggle, Bishop Bambera says at Easter Mass**



By defeating death through the power of the resurrection, Jesus provides hope and a way forward amid the pain and struggles in our lives.

That is the message Bishop Joseph C. Bambera provided to the faithful during Easter Sunday Mass, April 4, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

“Through their encounter with the risen Jesus, the lives of those who ventured to his tomb were changed forever,” Bishop Bambera said. “Their lives were changed because God had redirected the course of human history through the resurrection of his Son. By embracing our humanity, Jesus gave us hope by identifying with us in his life, suffering and death.”

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## **Christ's victory over death proclaims a second chance for all, Pope Francis says**



The Easter liturgies — with the fire, sharing of light from the paschal candle, the renewal of baptismal promises and the proclamation that Jesus has risen — assure people that it is never too late to start again, Pope Francis said.

“It is always possible to begin anew, because there is a new life that God can awaken in us in spite of all our failures,” the pope said April 3 during his celebration of the Easter Vigil.

With Italy in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis celebrated a pared-down vigil at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter’s Basilica with an estimated 200 people present and returned the next morning with a similarly small congregation for Easter Mass and to give his blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

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

## **Parish delivers Easter joy to community via loaves of bread and other acts of kindness**





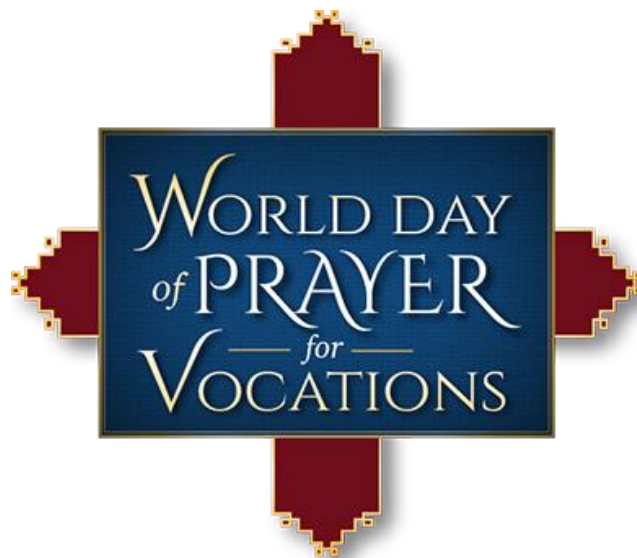
Our Lady of Snows Parish in Clarks Summit has been reaching out and staying connected to its elder population of parishioners since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic with its "Calls of Kindness" program.

Leading up to Easter, the same volunteers delivered surprise Easter "Loaves of Joy" to the senior members of the parish throughout and beyond the Abingtons.

More than 300 parishioners received a fresh homemade baked loaf of bread just before the holiday. A total of 25 volunteer bakers, including many 7th and 8th grade religious education students, helped make the project a tasty success!

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## **Diocese to celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations April 25**



The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25, at 5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as celebrant at the Mass. In addition to the Diocesan celebration, parishes are encouraged to have vocation-

based homilies, vocation-themed youth ministry nights, lessons in religious education programs, recitation of the Rosary for Vocations and Holy Hours.

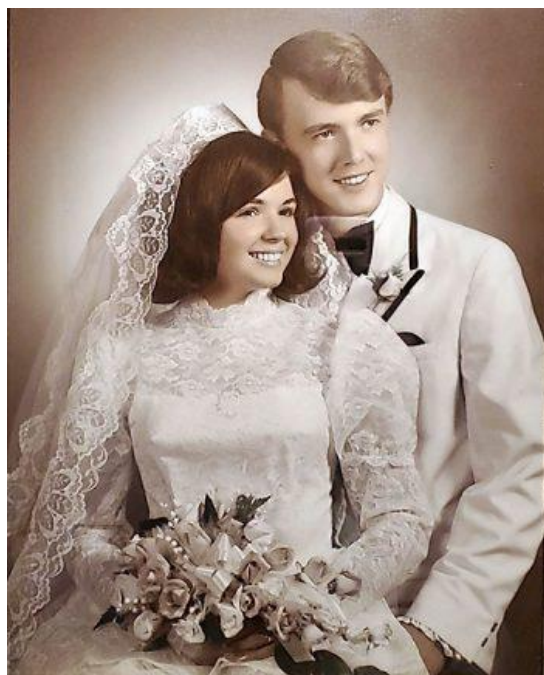
“It is the joy of simplicity, the joy experienced daily by those who care for what truly matters: faithful closeness to God and to our neighbor. How good it would be if the same atmosphere, simple and radiant, sober and hopeful, were to pervade our seminarians, religious houses and presbyteries,” Pope Francis said on the upcoming occasion of the 58th Anniversary of World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

He continued, “I pray that you will experience this same joy, dear brothers and sisters who have generously made God the dream of your lives, serving him in your brothers and sisters through a fidelity that is a powerful testimony in an age of ephemeral choices and emotions that bring no lasting joy. May Saint Joseph, protector of vocations, accompany you with his fatherly heart!”

[For More Information](#)

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**Wedding Anniversary Mass to be celebrated  
June 6**



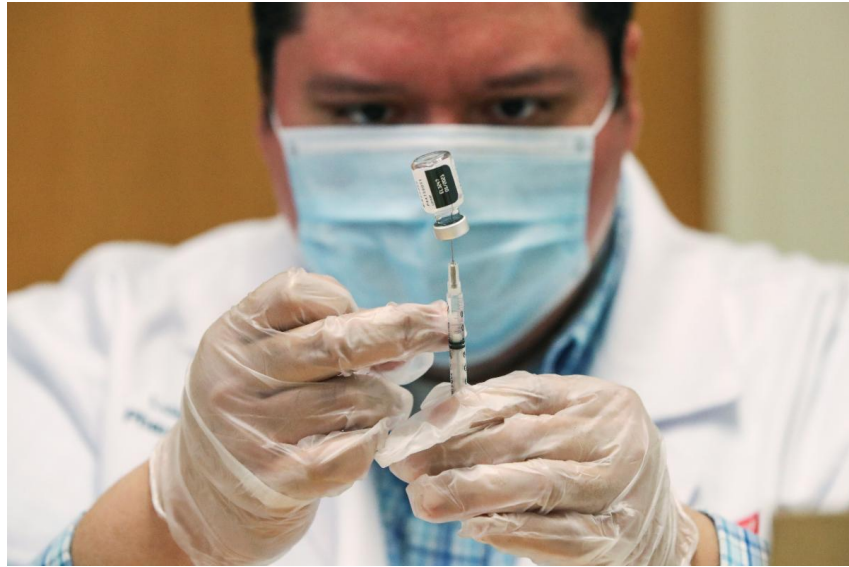
Married couples who are celebrating their 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2021 are invited to the Diocese of Scranton's annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on June 6, 2021 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

This year's celebration will allow for limited attendance due to COVID-19 protocols and there will unfortunately be no reception afterward. The Mass will begin at 2:30 p.m. and attendance will require advance reservation.

[For More Information or to Register](#)

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**Catholic Coalition stresses importance of  
COVID-19 vaccine for all**



On World Health Day, April 7, a new group of 31 U.S. Catholic organizations encouraged people to get the COVID-19 vaccine as an act of charity and solidarity with others.

The group also emphasized the need for vaccine equity in the United States and around the world.

“This is a clarion call for us to act,” said Mercy Sister Mary Haddad, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, noting the significance of announcing formation of the group on World Health Day and stressing the role faith-based providers can play as the world makes initial steps to recover from the global pandemic.

[Read the Full Story](#)





## **Saints accompany, intercede for Christians in prayer, pope says**

Christians are never alone in prayer but instead are accompanied by myriad saints who protect them and seek God's intercession, Pope Francis said.

Whenever men or women open their hearts to God, they will always be in the “company of anonymous and recognized saints who pray with us and who intercede for us as older brothers and sisters who have preceded us on this same human adventure,” the pope said April 7 during his weekly general audience.

Continuing his series of talks on prayer, the pope reflected on the connection between prayer and the communion of saints who are “not far from us” and are a reminder of Jesus Christ because they have also “walked the path of life” as Christians.

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