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# ***The Catholic Light***

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## **Weekly E-Newsletter**

### **May 20, 2021**

## **Diocese of Scranton updates protocols for the celebration of public Masses**



The Diocese of Scranton issued revised guidelines on May 14 concerning the celebration of public Masses in its 11 counties that parishes can begin to implement.

The changes come after the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention announced Thursday, May 13, that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or keep physical distancing in most settings. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has adopted these recommendations effective immediately.

“The health and safety of our communities continues to be of paramount importance. Given the recent positive trends and widespread vaccinations, we are happy to announce numerous changes that can begin immediately

in parishes,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said in a message to pastors announcing the changes. “As we have all come to realize over the last 14 months, guidelines can change very quickly. I want to express my gratitude to everyone for their flexibility and hard work in putting the changing directives into effect.”

The Diocese of Scranton invites those who have not yet returned to Mass to rejoin us in person to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. Many pastors are reporting an increase in the number of people who are returning to Mass in person now that they have been vaccinated.

[For More Information on the New Guidelines](#)

[Complete Listing of Guidelines for Public Masses Effective May 14, 2021](#)

## **Pennsylvania Catholic Conference urges action on Pro-Life bills coming up for debate**



PENNSYLVANIA  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

*Take Action!*

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference is encouraging everyone to reach out to their state representative and ask them to support a package of pro-life bills that will be considered by the PA House Health Committee next week and then — hopefully — will move on to the full House for consideration. Here are the three bills and what they call for:

- *HB 118, the Final Disposition of Fetal Remains Act*, which would give parents the option of burial or cremation after the death of their unborn baby.
- *HB 1500, the Down Syndrome Protection Act*, which would protect a child from being killed if he or she has been diagnosed with Down syndrome.

- *HB 904, the Fetal Heartbeat Bill*, which would prohibit an abortion once a heartbeat is detected in the unborn baby.

[Use the PCC's Voter Voice Feature to Send A Message to Your Lawmaker](#)

## High court to hear major abortion case from Mississippi in its next term



The U.S. Supreme Court said in a May 17 order that it will hear oral arguments during its next term on a 2018 Mississippi abortion law banning most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The case is *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The court's term opens in October and a decision is expected by June 2022.

Just after then-Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant signed the law March 19, 2018, a federal judge blocked it temporarily from taking effect after the state's only abortion clinic filed suit, saying it is unconstitutional. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the block on the law.

[Read the Fully Story](#)

**SAVE THE DATE: Support the Diocese of  
Scranton on Friday, June 4 as part of  
#NEPAGives Day**

# NEPA♥ GIVES

# JUNE 4

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Diocese of Scranton is participating in the second annual #NEPAGives event, a one-day online community giving rally for nonprofits, on **Friday, June 4.**

Your gift of any size will represent your “vote” for our Diocesan Catholic Schools, Catholic Social Services, the Catholic Youth Center and several other Diocesan ministries, all of which can receive bonus cash awards from our area’s charitable foundations for most donors, most dollars raised and more.



**To make a gift on June 4, visit: [nepagives.org](https://nepagives.org)  
or follow links from Diocesan social media platforms**

*All donors will have a chance to win raffle prizes throughout the 24-hour challenge period!*



## **"Refresh Your Faith" Women's Conference to take place June 19**



Catholic Women's Conference  
Saturday, June 19, 2021  
Marywood University\*  
\$40 In person/\$20 Virtual



Theresa  
Bonopartis



Father  
Chris Alar



Sister  
Virginia Joy



Music  
Taylor Tripodi



Hostess  
Jeannine Lesante

Join this year's Catholic Women's Conference on June 19 at Marywood University and experience Divine Mercy and the restoration of your soul.

The day will include inspirational talks by Theresa Bonopartis, Father Chris Alar, Sister Virginia Joy as well as Eucharistic Adoration, the rosary, and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. Uplifting music will be performed by Christian music artist Taylor Tripodi and her band.

Participants can also enjoy a continental breakfast, lunch and shopping at the Catholic Vendor Marketplace.

Cost to attend the conference is \$40 for in person under the outdoor tent at Marywood University and \$20 for virtual. Student tickets are \$20, and women religious are welcome free of charge.

Volunteers are always needed and those who sign up for four hours at the conference will receive a free ticket.

[For More Information on Registering for the Catholic Women's Conference](#)

## **Bishop Bambera continues celebrating Confirmations across the Diocese of Scranton**



Glorious weather and smiling faces were the picture-perfect backdrop on Ascension Thursday at St. Patrick's Church in Milford as 15 eighth grade students and one RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) candidate received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, Diocese of Scranton, presided.

As the ordinary minister of Confirmation, Bishop Bambera extended his hand over those who were to be confirmed, praying that the Holy Spirit

would fill their hearts, minds and souls with the grace to become perfect Christians and witnesses of Christ.

In addition to Milford, during the month of May alone, Bishop Bambera has also recently celebrated Confirmations with parish communities in East Stroudsburg, Scranton, Ashley, Hazleton, Carbondale and Plains Township.

[Meet the Newly Confirmed Students from Saint Patrick's Church in Milford](#)

## **Pope appeals for peace in Holy Land, says death of children 'unacceptable'**



The injury and death of so many innocent people, especially children, caused by escalating violence between Israel and the Gaza Strip is “terrible and unacceptable,” putting the area at risk of sinking into “a spiral of death and destruction,” Pope Francis said.

The pope launched an appeal for calm and asked leaders of both sides “to put a stop to the roar of weapons and to follow the paths of peace, even with the help of the international community,” he said May 16 after



reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer with hundreds of people in St. Peter’s Square.

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

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