



# GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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**Solemnity of  
the Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
August 15, 2021  
Sunday Mass Obligation  
Is Reinstated  
in the  
Diocese of Scranton**

*Through the wind and waves, we can place our faith, hope, and trust in Christ: This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm, which reaches into the interior behind the veil, where Jesus has entered on our behalf as forerunner, becoming high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

—Hebrews 6:19-20

The Office for Parish Life is planning a one-day **Catechist Camp** for everyone involved in catechetical ministry or family-oriented faith formation. The one-day camp will be presented in three locations of our Diocese, August 17–19:

**Tues., August 17, 11:00AM—5:00PM**  
St. Lawrence Parish, Williamsport

**Wed., August 18, 10:00AM—4:00PM**  
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton

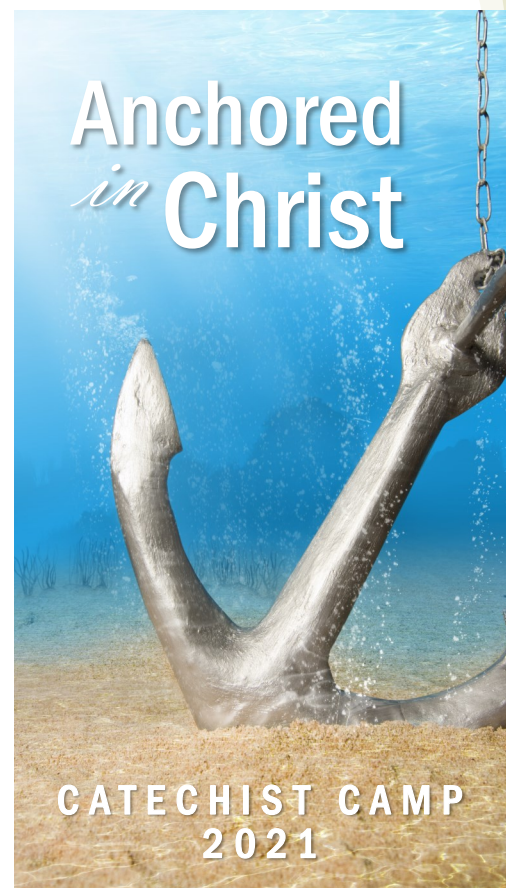
**Thurs., August 19, 10:00AM—4:00PM**  
St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg

### FORMAT:

- Welcome Prayer followed by the general session: “*Reclaiming the Light*” by Jen Housel
- Camp-inspired Lunch
- “*Reclaiming the Value of Catechesis*” by Jacki Douglas
- Creating the “*Perfect Faith Formation Experience*” by Ruth Fried/Kristin Travis
- Interactive Prayer Stations for All Ages

*In the great sea of life, we will be tossed around by the wind and waves. We are a tiny boat in a large sea, and on our own, we will not survive. Our only hope is to place our trust in Christ, the anchor of the soul.*

**Please join us at the location that is most convenient for you. Cost for the day is \$20. For more information, contact Jacki Douglas at (570) 207-2213 ext. 1100, or at [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org).**



## Bishop's Youth Awards 2021

September will be here before we know it and it is time to request your nominations for the Bishop's Youth Awards. Please take the time to carefully consider which **students in your eighth and twelfth grade programs** will best represent the spirit and intent of this award for your parish or school community.

The awards will be celebrated at a host parish in the four different regions of the diocese listed below.

**September 20 at 7:00PM—Western Region**  
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport

**September 28 at 7:00PM—Southern Region**  
St. Jude Parish, Mountain Top

**October 7 at 7:00PM—Northern Region**  
Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

**October 14 at 7:00PM—Eastern Region**  
St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg

Nomination emails will be sent to all Pastors, Parish Life Coordinators, Principals, Directors of Religious Education and Youth Ministers the week of August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**When we receive your nominations, a list of nominated students will be compiled and sent to pastors, principals and parish life coordinators to affirm the students as active parish members.**

Deadline for nominations is Wednesday, September 1, 2021. Please honor the deadline. This will allow us to properly congratulate each recipient and to send the families the instructions they need for the evening gathering, both through email. In addition, it will ensure that we have time to prepare for a smooth and meaningful liturgical celebration for all participants.

We appreciate all that you do to encourage the young people of your parish as they grow in missionary discipleship!

## Remote Networking Meetings

*Save the Dates*—We are excited to continue our Remote Network Meetings for DREs and Youth Ministers. Over the last few weeks, we have looked at many publishers/programs for the upcoming year. Next meeting we will continue to network about next year and discuss Catechist Camp, Bishop's Youth Awards and much more.

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 August 11, September 1 & 15. Please note that because we will all see each other at Catechist Camp, there is only one date in August for our meetings. For more information, contact Jacki Douglas at [jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org) or at (570) 207-2213 ext. 1100.

## Faith Formation in a Post-Pandemic World

### *A Webinar Program for Designing Faith for 2021 and Beyond*

The resources and services of Lifelong Faith Associates are focused on helping pastors and faith formation leaders to create the future of lifelong faith formation in their churches by Imagining, Innovating, and Inspiring.

- **Imagine:** imagining a new vision of forming faithful disciples in today's world
- **Innovate:** Designing innovative faith formation for all ages, families, and generations
- **Inspire:** Inspiring people to grow into a faith for a lifetime

For more information on these webinars, [click here](#).

## Catechetical Sunday

The USCCB has posted the theme for Catechetical Sunday (Sept. 19, 2021)—"Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed." Resources for this year's observance of Catechetical Sunday can be found on the [USCCB website](#).

## Faith Alive! Powered by Edmodo

Since the pandemic, it is clear that brick and mortar religious education attendance is not the only way to drive engagement and communication using various channels with members, guests and the entire church community. Because of the global pandemic, significant transformations have transpired and will continue to occur in today's church and religious education.

The Office for Parish Life will continue to deploy our technology platform "Faith Alive! Powered by Edmodo" to engage families/students in person, online or anywhere in-between.

*The benefits of using Edmodo as a parish:*

- Edmodo provides a flexible classroom space that lets DREs/teachers/catechists and their families connect—no matter where they are.
- Your faith formation resources are just a few clicks away in your private resource library.
- Quickly build interactive weekly lessons using Edmodo's suite of religious education tools.
- Use Edmodo Classes and Small Groups to deliver instruction and content, whether your class meets in person, online, or both.
- Deliver live instruction online with Zoom.
- Fuel ministerial development with Edmodo Groups.
- Assessments to make sure we are meeting the Faith Formation needs of our students and families.
- Measure sacramental students' progress.

For more information, contact [Jacki Douglas](#) at (570) 207-2213 ext. 1100.



"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God  
and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

# WORSHIP

## Encore Presentation of RCIA 101: A Crash Course on Christian Initiation

Have new leadership with your parish RCIA team? Never had the RCIA process in your parish and don't know where to begin? Been doing RCIA for years but want to learn more?

The Office for Parish Life will offer an encore presentation of a virtual "crash course" day on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults on **Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.**

The goal of this offering for priests, deacons, parish life coordinators, RCIA coordinators, RCIA team members is to provide a overall sense of what the Church asks of parishes in responding to seekers and preparing them for Initiation. This course day would be ideal for anyone new to the RCIA as well as seasoned veterans who are looking to deepen their understanding of the process.

To register, please [click here](#) and complete the online registration or for more information, please contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 ext. 1158 or at [David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org).

## Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training Sessions in 2021-2022

Need to invite more faith-filled parishioners to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion in your parish? Mark your calendars now because the Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training session for new Extraordinary



Ministers of Communion at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton on the following dates in 2021-2022:

- [Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM](#)
- [Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM](#)
- [Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM](#)
- [Saturday, July 16, 2022 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM](#)

You can register by clicking your choice of date above. There is no fee for the training and lunch is provided.

Would you prefer to have training in your parish? Contact David Baloga at the the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 or at [David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:David-Baloga@dioceseofscranton.org) to discuss arrangements.



## Liturgical Resource for the Twentieth Anniversary of the 9-11 Attacks

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has prepared a twenty-three-page resource booklet for parishes and schools to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. It includes a full presider text for a prayer service, Scripture suggestions, music suggestions, sample intercessions, Mass preparation sheets and more. The resource can be found on the [FDLC website](#).

## LTP Virtual Workshops

Liturgy Training Publications is offering several different series of online workshops for cantors, lecturers, extraordinary ministers of Communion, liturgists, teachers and catechists throughout the year.



These virtual workshops are different than other webinars in that they invite participants to engage with the presenter and one another in providing feedback, reflections on the topic at hand, and discuss best practices and strategies for enhancing engagement in their ministries.

New to the LTP Virtual Workshop catalog are virtual retreats designed for liturgical ministers to renew their ministry following the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are just some of the upcoming virtual workshops:

- **Virtual Retreat for Liturgical Ministers (in English and Spanish)**—September 20 at 7:00PM (in English)/ Sept. 21 at 7:00PM (in Spanish)
- **The Parish Initiation Team**—October 4, 11, 18 at 7:30PM
- **A Virtual Retreat for Cantors**—November 9-11 at 7:30PM

For more information or to register for any of these sessions or to see what other sessions are available throughout the year, please visit [www.ltp.org/virtualworkshops](http://www.ltp.org/virtualworkshops).

## Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

As we anticipate a new ministry year, prepare your heart and your hands for serving your parish community through study with the University of Dayton VLCCFF during Cycle 6 (August 22-September 25; registration is open now until August 18). Consider courses offered on topics such as: *Directory for Catechesis 8686: A General Overview* ; *The Mass; Collaboration and Community; Vocación y Espiritualidad del Líder Cristiano; Introducción a la Catequesis; La Alegría del Evangelio* and more! Courses are offered in both English and Spanish! [Click here](#) to see more class listings or to register.

# COMMUNITY

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

## Amoris Laetitia Year of the Family

We continue to celebrate *Amoris Laetitia* Year of the Family throughout our Diocese. There are so many ways to celebrate this beautiful event! Please share your parish ideas with us, and we will make them available for others to review on our [diocesan page](#) dedicated to this yearlong celebration.

Earlier this summer, treasure chest themed Year of the Family "Starter Kits" were sent from OPL to all parishes. These kits contain some interesting ideas and resources to get your parish celebration started.

To learn more about the Year of the Family, please see the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life [web-site](#). Additionally, you may contact Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development. 570-204-2213 x 1104, [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org).



## PreCana Days of Reflection Continue to Be Offered

We continue to offer our diocesan PreCana Days of Reflection once each month. A return to in-person classes began in May 2021, and we will continue to offer PreCana Days of Reflection



throughout 2021 and into the future. If pandemic conditions require a return to exclusively online classes, we are able to accommodate that need.

Due to the popularity of our diocesan online classes, we will continue to offer some PreCana Days of Reflection via an online platform during the remaining months of 2021 and going forward. The 2022 PreCana Day schedule will be published in early fall 2021.

To learn more about PreCana options, please visit our [Marriage Preparation webpage](#), or reach out to Jen Housel ([jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org), 570-207-2213 x 1104).

**\*Special note:** certain of our PreCana class sizes are still somewhat limited due to pandemic considerations. Please encourage and help the engaged couples with whom you are working to register for their PreCana Class as early as possible.



## Natural Family Planning and Fertility Awareness

In addition to NFP training offered through our own local [diocesan NFP Trainers](#), the Couple to Couple League (CCLI) offers a wide array of NFP and Fertility Awareness resources, training, etc.

"Founded in 1971, [Couple to Couple League](#) is the largest provider of natural family planning in the United States. Our mission- to inspire, educate, and support couples in family planning that is natural, effective, healthy, and consistent with God's plan for life, love, and marriage.

CCL's recently launched [Live the Love](#) initiative exists 1) to offer reliable, scientific information about natural and Fertility Awareness Based Methods (FABMs) and 2) to provide ongoing support, education, and community for users of **any method**."

### New from CCLI: *Fertility Awareness Based Coaching*

- *Empowering* women with the knowledge they need to understand their fertility cycle- the physiological embodiment of their feminine genius,
- *Equipping* couples with CCL's scientifically proven sympto-thermal method on their journey to responsible parenthood,
- *Encouraging* self-giving love throughout all the cycle transitions of married life."

To learn more about NFP, please visit our [webpage](#) or contact Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, at 570-204-2213 ext. 1104, or at [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org).





"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

## Webinar Series from the Catholic Cares Coalition

Throughout the month of August, the Catholic Cares Coalition will offer virtual formation sessions aimed at providing human, spiritual, and pastoral support for those struggling to understand, affirm, and act on the teachings of Pope Francis, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Catholic Social Teaching.

The remaining sessions for the month of August are as follows:

- **Emerging Data (August 9 at 3:00PM)**  
News of a new variant of COVID-19 seems to be in the news almost weekly. How are we mindful of the different variants and able to make decisions in an ongoing capacity? What is our responsibility, as a Catholic community, for alerting others to emerging data? What role do we play in awareness and support? What are the communal disconnects that prevent others from dialogue?  
[Please click here to register through Zoom.](#)
- **Preparing for Fall (August 16 at 3:00PM)**  
The past 18-months have been filled with uncertainty and change. How do we plan for the Fall while being mindful of the ever-changing dynamics? While some families and young people have thrived during quarantine, others went without the nutrition, financial security, emotional support, or connectivity that was needed to succeed. This session will discuss value based decision making when planning for the Fall.  
[Please click here to register through Zoom.](#)
- **Equity (August 23 at 3:00PM)**  
The pandemic, and the many shadow pandemics that followed, highlight the vast inequity in our world. As a Catholic community, how can we remain focused on those on the margins? What does this mean for vaccine distribution and accompaniment? What is the expectation of my local community, school, or ministry upon reopening? Does it take into consideration the inequitable access to information, transportation, finances, and networking?  
[Please click here to register through Zoom.](#)
- **Our Pastoral Response (August 30 at 3:00PM)**  
Each of us is tasked with guiding others in their discernment and accompaniment of vaccine acceptance. First, we must acknowledge the systemic issues and fears that often prevent others from dialogue and discernment. This session will highlight the stories of others. This session will feature 2 panel discussions and allow for the possibility of live communal participation.  
[Please click here to register through Zoom.](#)



Diocese of Scranton  
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

## Hike at Ricketts Glen

Sunday, September 26th

Meet at 11am for Mass, Lunch, & Hiking!  
Bring your own lunch or order out with us.

TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL OR TEXT (570) 362-0370  
ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23RD.



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON PRESENTS:

## Up&Over Jr High Retreat

at Camp Orchard Hill

October 8-10 | 6pm Registration  
12pm Pick Up

Registration Fee: \$140

- Learn Teamwork & Problem Solving Skills
- New Friends
- New Prayer Experiences
- Outdoor Obstacle Course

Online Registration Opens August 30th!

# OPL Month At A Glance

## August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM	12	13	14 RCIA 101 (virtual) 9AM-3PM
15 Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Sunday Mass Obligation Is Reinstated in the Diocese of Scranton</i>	16	17 Catechist Camp— St. Lawrence Parish, Williamsport 11AM-5PM	18 Catechist Camp— Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton 10AM-4PM Last Day to Register for VLCFF Cycle 6	19 Catechist Camp— St. Luke Parish, Stroudsburg 10AM-4PM	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<i>Deadline for Bishop's Youth Award nominations is September 1.</i>			

### OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life:

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**

Diocesan Pastoral Center Manager: **Kitty Scanlan**

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