



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 12, 2021

Bishop strongly recommends masks for parishioners at Mass; issues new guidelines for Distribution of Holy Communion



In a letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton released Aug. 6, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera reinstated several safety precautions due to the spread of the COVID delta variant.

The bishop said all Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be wearing masks while distributing Holy Communion at

Mass, regardless of vaccination status. He has also said that all altar servers should also be wearing masks while performing their duties.

Bishop Bambera is also strongly recommending that all parishioners wear a mask while attending Mass, regardless of their vaccination status. While masks will not be mandated in parishes at this time, the bishop said we all have a responsibility to protect our friends and neighbors.

The letter to the faithful comes as Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton prepare for the Mass attendance obligation to be reinstated this weekend on Aug. 15.

[Read Bishop Bambera's Letter to the Faithful \(in both English and Spanish\)](#)

[PA Catholic Bishops Prioritize Safety as Mass Obligation Resumes](#)

Bishop releases new video to welcome home Catholics as Diocese prepares for Mass attendance obligation to resume Aug. 15



As the Diocese of Scranton prepares for the Mass attendance obligation to be reinstated on August 15, Bishop Bambera is welcoming home Catholics across all 11-counties.

The celebration of the Mass is the center of our lives as Christians. It is where we are drawn close to Jesus and receive His body and blood – his very life – in the Eucharist.

As this Sunday approaches, the Diocese of Scranton continues to prioritize the health, safety and spiritual well-being of all parishioners.

If you need to find a parish or Mass time near you, you can visit the Diocese of Scranton's website at dioceseofscranton.org.

[Watch & Share Bishop Bambera's "Welcome Home" Video](#)

Look to Christ, not the law, to receive new life, Pope Francis says at audience



What made Christian life radically new was the call for those who have faith in Jesus Christ to live in the Holy Spirit, who liberates from the law God handed down to Moses, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience.

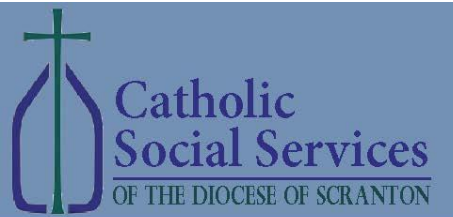
Mosaic law was necessary and important to follow at that time in history, but it served as a path to follow toward an eventual encounter with Christ

and his commandment of love, he said Aug. 11 to those gathered in the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican.

The pope continued with his series of talks reflecting on St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, focusing on the apostle answering the question, "Why, then, the law" if, after all, "there is the Holy Spirit and if there is Jesus who redeems us?"

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

Catholic Social Services to hold food distribution event on Aug. 26 in Carbondale



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

**Thursday, August 26, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Catholic Social Services
34 River Street
Carbondale**



****Drive-Thru or Walk-Up****

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton will hold a food distribution event in Carbondale later this month.

The food distribution is planned for Thursday, Aug. 26 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Catholic Social Services Carbondale Office, 34 River Street.

No pre-registration is necessary and anyone in need is welcome to either drive-up or walk-up for assistance.

Ruling blocking HHS 'transgender mandate' called 'Victory for Conscience'



A U.S. District Court judge's Aug. 9 ruling to block the Biden administration's mandate that doctors and hospitals perform gender-transition procedures despite their own moral or medical objections is "a victory for common sense, conscience and sound medicine."

That is the view of Luke Goodrich, vice president and senior counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, based in Washington. He is the lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the case.

"Today's ruling protects patients, aligns with current medical research, and ensures doctors aren't forced to violate their religious beliefs and medical judgment," he said about the ruling in *Franciscan Alliance v. Becerra*.

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

**Save the Date:
Young Adult Ministry Hike at Ricketts Glen**

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.

**Parish picnics, bazaars and festivals continue
to take place**

67th Annual
**ST. JUDE'S
PICNIC**

Rte. 309 • Mountain Top
SATURDAY • SUNDAY

SATURDAY • 4 PM 'TIL 10PM
SUNDAY • NOON 'TIL 8PM

AUG. 14-15

Saturday 6-9 PM
"Chester Avenue"

SWEET HOUSE ★ THEME BASKETS

Open Pit Chicken BBQ Dinner
Sunday from Noon - 4 PM

★ ★ GREAT FOOD & FUN! ★ ★

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Several parishes across the Diocese of Scranton are in the process of holding or planning summer events now that COVID-19 guidelines are beginning to ease.

The Diocese of Scranton's Communications Office has a list of all summer bazaars, picnics and festivals that have been submitted thus far. The list will continue to be updated as new events are submitted.

[To View the Full Listing of Parish Bazaars, Picnics and Festivals Received So Far](#)

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