



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 19, 2021

Diocese prioritizes safety as Mass obligation resumes



Days before the dispensation from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation was lifted in the Diocese of Scranton, beginning with the weekend celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 15, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera released a video message to “Welcome Back” faithful to the pews.

Joyfully proclaiming that the doors of all churches throughout the 11 counties of the Diocese are “open wide,” Bishop Bambera announced, “After seventeen months of hardship and struggle, it is time to pray

together again, sing together again, and experience the love of God together again!”

The much-anticipated pronouncement was welcomed with equal joy by parishioners around the Diocese.

“It will be great to see parishioners attending Mass who have not been there since March of 2020,” Joe Hillan said, representing Saint Adalbert Church at Holy Spirit Parish in Glen Lyon. “While livestreaming was a great asset during the pandemic, I truly hope that it will not be used as an excuse for parishioners that are capable of attending Mass.”

[Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

Pope Francis joins the "It's Up to You" campaign to inspire confidence in COVID-19 Vaccinations



When each individual makes a small act of charity, like getting the COVID-19 vaccine, every gesture added together can transform the world, Pope Francis said in a global ad campaign.

“Being vaccinated with vaccines authorized by the competent authorities is an act of love. And contributing to ensure the majority of people are vaccinated is an act of love — love for oneself, love for one’s family and friends, love for all people,” he said in a public service announcement released Aug. 18 in Rome.

The video message was part of a global effort by the U.S.-based nonpartisan, nonprofit Ad Council and the COVID Collaborative's "It's Up To You" campaign to increase people's confidence in COVID-19 vaccines by reminding them that the vaccines are safe, effective and save people's lives. The Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development also cooperated with the educational initiative.

The video in Spanish with English, Spanish and Portuguese subtitles features Pope Francis and six cardinals and archbishops from North and South America. Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, is among them.

[Read More about the Pope's message & Help Share the New Video](#)

Catholic Schools stress safety protocols for beginning of new academic year



With the first day of school quickly approaching, the Diocese of Scranton's Office for Catholic Schools is unwavering in its commitment to protect the health and safety of all students, faculty, staff and administrators.

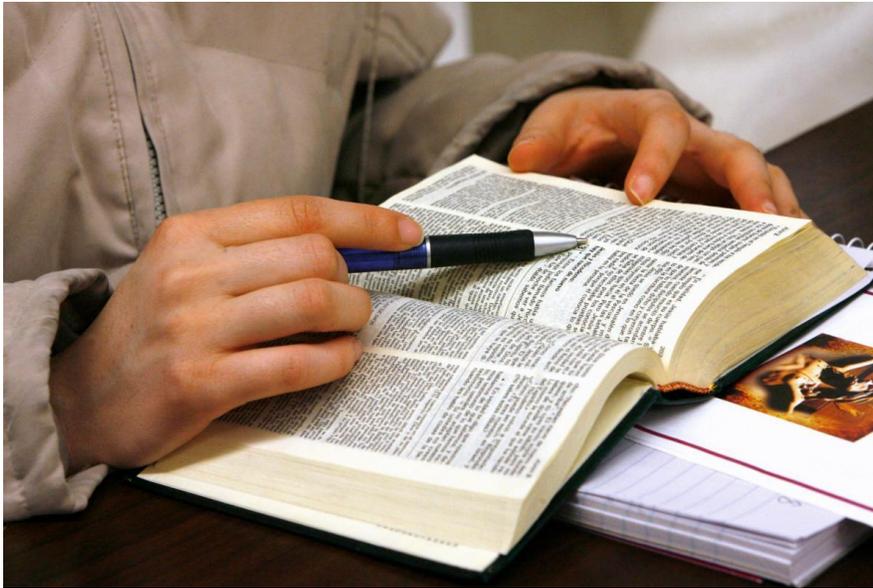
"Last year provided all of us the opportunity to achieve what many others did not – the ability to open our doors and maximize the amount of in-person learning – because we worked together in following thoughtful health and safety protocols that resulted in minimal interruptions," Jason W.S. Morrison, Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer, and Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, wrote in a letter to parents on Aug. 13, 2021.

Using the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania Policy Lab, the Diocese developed protocols for all of its 19 Catholic Schools to follow this coming year for in-person instruction.

[Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

[For More on the 2021-2022 Health & Safety Protocols at the Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools](#)

Diocese releases guidelines for faith formation programs



With parishes across the Diocese of Scranton already planning the 2021-2022 faith formation year, the Diocese of Scranton released guidelines on Aug. 13 that parishes should follow to prioritize the safety and health of all students, parents, staff and volunteers.

Parishes continue to have flexibility in the approach to which they offer faith formation programs during upcoming school year. Parishes can hold

either in-person faith formation classes, virtual classes or a hybrid approach which combines both virtual and in-person elements.

[Read the Guidelines for Faith Formation Programs](#)

Saint Joseph Church in Rileyville celebrating 150th anniversary



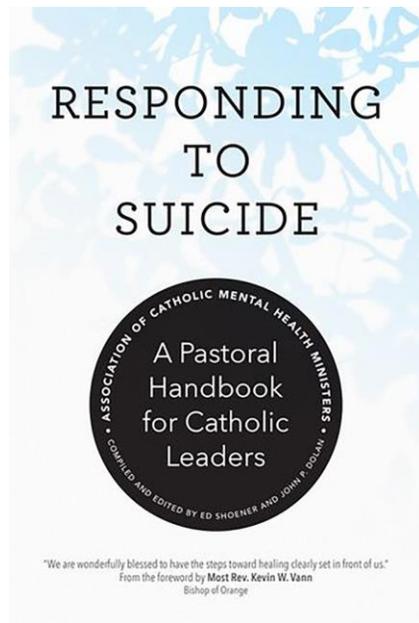
Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will serve as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, Aug. 22, at 9 a.m. at Saint Joseph Church in Rileyville. The celebration marks the 150th anniversary of the mission church of Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale, where Father William Langan serves as pastor.

The sesquicentennial celebration will continue following the jubilee liturgy with a testimonial reception in the church's social hall.

According to a written history of Saint John the Evangelist in Honesdale, compiled by Mary Heaton on the occasion of the parish's 150th anniversary in 1992, the Church of Saint Joseph in Rileyville was established in 1871 as a mission worship site of Saint Juliana Parish at Rock Lake by the presiding pastor, Father Thomas Brehony.

[Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

Deacon's *Responding to Suicide* book named "Resource of the Year"



Responding to Suicide: A Pastoral Handbook for Catholic Leaders, majorly attributed to Deacon Ed Shoener of the Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish, has been named Resource of the Year by the Association of Catholic Publishers.

The book earned a first-place award in resources for ministry in the ACP's 2020 Excellence in Publishing Awards, which qualified it as a Resource of the Year finalist.

Recognized and hailed as an invaluable contribution in the arena of Catholic mental health ministry, particularly with regard to suicide, *Responding to Suicide* was compiled and edited by Deacon Shoener and Auxiliary Bishop John P. Dolan of San Diego, both of whom contributed to the work.

[Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

Parish picnics, bazaars and festivals continue to take place



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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