



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter
September 30, 2021

Diocese of Scranton's Respect Life Sunday Mass to take place Oct. 3

RESPECT LIFE
MONTH

October 2021

*St. Joseph, defender of life,
pray for us!*

respectlife.org/celebrate



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Respect Life Sunday Mass

Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton



Principal Celebrant and Homilist
The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday.

As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 3 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is open to the public. Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the Respect Life Sunday Mass and focus on

God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

For those unable to attend in-person, the Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and social media platforms.

[Read Bishop Bambera's Message for Respect Life Month 2021](#)

Thousands gather for first-ever Pennsylvania March for Life



More than 3,000 pro-life supporters gathered at the Pennsylvania Capitol on Sept. 27 to send a strong message to state lawmakers, urging them to protect unborn children by passing legislation to further restrict abortion.

Many elected leaders in attendance say the crowd was among the largest they have seen in recent memory.

The people in the crowd came from every corner of the Commonwealth, including many from the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton.

The rally was so large that the group not only filled the Capitol steps and surrounding lawn, anti-abortion activists spilled out onto North 3rd Street. The Pennsylvania Family Institute, based in Harrisburg, partnered with March for Life to host the rally.

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

Hispanic Heritage Month Mass celebrated at Cathedral of Saint Peter



The Cathedral of Saint Peter was filled with people on Sept. 25 as a special Mass in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month took place.

Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant for the liturgy but was joined by numerous priests from parishes across the Diocese of Scranton.

The bishop said members of the Hispanic community in the Diocese of Scranton are a treasure beyond words.

"You give us all hope as we look to you to share your unique and blessed gifts with our Church and do your part in supporting the mission of the Diocese of Scranton," Bishop Bambera said.

[Read Bishop Bambera's Full Homily from the Hispanic Heritage Month Mass](#)

[View a Facebook Photo Album from the Sept. 25 Hispanic Heritage Month Mass](#)

Educators receive Saint John Paul II Award for dedicated service



Six educators in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System were honored for their commitment to being faith-filled examples to young people on Sept. 27, 2021.

The honorees each received the Saint John Paul II Award for 25 or more years of dedicated service to Catholic education in the Diocese at the

Diocesan Teachers Institute Mass which was celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The award recipients included: Robert Andrews, Holy Cross High School in Dunmore; Daniel Banicky, Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green; Ann Innocenti, La Salle Academy in Jessup; Jennifer Jones, Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston; Mary Elizabeth “Betsy” Kozak, Holy Rosary School in Duryea; and Janice Puhak, Holy Family Academy in Hazleton.

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

House OKs abortion bill called 'Far Outside the American Mainstream'



In a 218-211 vote Sept. 24, the U.S. House passed what opponents consider one of the most extreme abortion bills ever seen in the nation — the Women’s Health Protection Act.

“This bill is far outside the American mainstream and goes far beyond *Roe v. Wade*,” Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., co-chairman of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, said in remarks ahead of the vote. “This bill constitutes an existential threat to unborn children and to the value of life itself.”

H.R. 3755 codifies the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide. The measure establishes the legal right to abortion on demand at any stage of pregnancy in all 50 states under federal law.

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

Three groups hope to have a million people pray the rosary in October



The leaders of three U.S. Catholic organizations hope to have a million people pray and promote the daily rosary during the month of October for “the end to legal abortion in America and an outpouring of support for expectant mothers,” according to their announcement on the joint effort.

The three leaders – Michael Warsaw, CEO of EWTN; Father Francis J. Hoffman, CEO of Relevant Radio; and Tim Busch, CEO of Napa Institute – launched the joint effort on their organization’s respective websites.

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

Parish festivals to continue well into fall

A colorful poster for the St. Nicholas Harvest Festival. The background is light blue with several autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow scattered around. The text is arranged in a dynamic, overlapping manner. At the top, 'St. Nicholas' is written in a blue, cursive font. Below it, 'HARVEST' is in large, bold, red letters with a white outline, and 'FESTIVAL' is in large, bold, orange letters with a white outline. The date 'Saturday October 2, 2021' is written in a blue, cursive font. Below the date, the time 'Noon-8:00pm' and the location 'St. Nicholas Church Grounds 226 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre' are written in a blue, sans-serif font. On the left side, 'Featuring: Hispanic, German, and other food and beverages' is written in a white, sans-serif font. On the right side, 'Entertainment: DeeJay Ed, Emerald Isle Step Dancers, The Sperazza Band' is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, '50-50 Tickets for Sale Dec 6, 2021 Drawing' is written in a blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, 'fun for all!' is written in a blue, cursive font with a white outline.

Even though it is almost October, a number of parishes across the Diocese of Scranton are still holding events to bring their communities together.

The Diocese of Scranton's Communications Office has a list of all remaining bazaars and fall festivals that have been submitted.

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

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