



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 9, 2021

Cathedral of Saint Peter to toll bells Saturday for 9/11 anniversary



On Saturday, September 11, our nation and the world will mark the passage of two decades since the day that changed our lives forever.

The Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton will commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with a memorial bell toll, commencing at 8:46 a.m., the time at which American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into 1 World Trade Center in New York City, NY. The toll will conclude at 10:03 a.m., the time at which Flight 93 crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pa.

A portion of the bell toll will be available on the Cathedral's Facebook page.

[For More Information](#)



Prayer of Remembrance

(Given at Ground Zero by His Holiness Pope Francis on Sept. 25, 2015
and His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on April 20, 2008)

*O God of love, compassion, and healing,
look on us, people of many different faiths
and traditions,
who gather today at this site,
the scene of incredible violence and pain.*

*We ask you in your goodness
to give eternal light and peace
to all who died here—
the heroic first-responders:
our fire fighters, police officers,
emergency service workers, and
Port Authority personnel,
along with all the innocent men and women
who were victims of this tragedy
simply because their work or service
brought them here on September 11, 2001.*

*We ask you, in your compassion
to bring healing to those
who, because of their presence here that day,
suffer from injuries and illness.
Heal, too, the pain of still-grieving families
and all who lost loved ones in this tragedy.
Give them strength to continue their lives
with courage and hope.*

*We are mindful as well
of those who suffered death, injury, and loss
on the same day at the Pentagon and in
Shanksville, Pennsylvania.
Our hearts are one with theirs
as our prayer embraces their pain and suffering.*

*God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world:
peace in the hearts of all men and women
and peace among the nations of the earth.
Turn to your way of love
those whose hearts and minds
are consumed with hatred.*

*God of understanding,
overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy,
we seek your light and guidance
as we confront such terrible events.
Grant that those whose lives were spared
may live so that the lives lost here
may not have been lost in vain.*

*Comfort and console us,
strengthen us in hope,
and give us the wisdom and courage
to work tirelessly for a world
where true peace and love reign
among nations and in the hearts of all.*

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Prayer used by His Holiness Benedict XVI at Ground Zero, April
20, 2008, and His Holiness Pope Francis at the Ground Zero
Memorial, September 25, 2018

The Holy Father:

O God of love, compassion, and healing,
look on us, people of many different faiths
and religious traditions,
who gather today on this hallowed ground,
the scene of unspeakable violence and pain.

We ask you in your goodness
to give eternal light and peace
to all who died here:
the heroic first-responders:
our fire fighters, police officers,
emergency service workers
and Port Authority personnel,
along with all the innocent men and women
who were victims of this tragedy
simply because their work or service
brought them here on September 11, 2001.

We ask you, in your compassion,
to bring healing to those who,
because of their presence here fourteen years ago,
continue to suffer from injuries and illness.
Heal, too, the pain of still-grieving families
and all who lost loved ones in this tragedy.
Give them strength to continue their lives
with courage and hope.

We are mindful as well
of those who suffered death, injury, and loss
on the same day at the Pentagon
and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.
Our hearts are one with theirs
as our prayer embraces their pain and suffering.

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world:
peace in the hearts of all men and women
and peace among the nations of the earth.

Turn to your way of love
those whose hearts and minds
are consumed with hatred,
and who justify killing in the name of religion.

God of understanding,
overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy,
we seek your light and guidance
as we confront such terrible events.
Grant that those whose lives were spared
may live so that the lives lost here
may not have been lost in vain.

Comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope,
and give us the wisdom and courage
to work tirelessly for a world
where true peace and love reign
among nations and in the hearts of all.

New York fire chaplain says there are days when 9/11 'feels like yesterday'



Father Kevin M. Smith, a veteran fire chaplain, trauma counselor and loyal friend to scores of active and retired firefighters in the New York metropolitan area, receives more phone calls in early September than any other time of the year.

Most of the calls are from firefighters who served amid the carnage and chaos in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York City's World Trade Center.

A fire chaplain with 30 years of service, Father Smith, 60, is commissioned by Nassau County, New York, to minister to members of the county's 71 volunteer fire departments, many of whom work full time with the New York Fire Department.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Parish groups and individuals encouraged to participate in "Scranton Serves"



Parish and school groups are being invited to organize special service projects next month.

"Scranton Serves" is a challenge for groups and individuals to serve our brothers and sisters in need throughout the Diocese of Scranton on Saturday Oct. 2 and/or Sunday, Oct. 3.

Parish and school groups are encouraged to arrange a service opportunity in their local community at either a nonprofit organization, their parish/school, local cemetery or some other location. Although participants will be spread throughout the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton, everyone will be united in a spirit of service. The Diocese will provide free t-shirts for all participating groups who register.

This effort is being sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations.

[For More Information about "Scranton Serves"](#)

Through baptism, all Christians are united and equal in Christ, Pope Francis says



There is no place for discrimination or divisive distinctions among people who believe in Christ, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience.

That everyone is made new and equal in Christ overcomes all ethnic, economic and social differences, even between the two sexes, “establishing an equality between man and woman which was revolutionary at the time and which needs to be reaffirmed even today,” he said Sept. 8 to those gathered in the Paul VI audience hall at the Vatican.

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

**Diocese of Scranton Family Fun Day planned
at Knoebels on Sept. 18**



**Family Fun Day!
Saturday, September 18th
12pm to 8pm**

As part of the "Year of the Family" observance, the Diocese of Scranton Office for Parish Life is sponsoring a Family Fun Day at Knoebels Amusement Resort on Saturday, September 18th.

Groups or individuals are welcome to enjoy all that Knoebels has to offer from 12pm to 8pm and take advantage of our discounted ticket offer!

You can choose from a Lunch and Ride Package (\$25 per person includes a bagged lunch and \$20 worth of ride tickets) or a Discounted Tickets Only option (\$20 worth of ride tickets for \$17). Regardless of the package you choose, you are welcome to take advantage of our reserved pavilion for lunch or to simply gather with your family and friends.

All ticket orders must be paid in advance.

[For More Information on How to Purchase Advance Tickets](#)

Vatican releases guidance for dioceses to begin Synodal Path



The Vatican has issued the preparatory document and a “handbook” for dioceses as part of the global church’s preparation for the 2023 assembly of the Synod of Bishops, discussing the theme, “For a synodal church: communion, participation and mission.”

“Pope Francis invites the entire church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: ‘It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the church of the third millennium,’” the new document said.

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

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.

USCCB launches initiative to address polarization in U.S. society



Polarization across society has prompted the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to launch an initiative that looks to bring people together to serve the common good.

Called “Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics,” the initiative is designed to “move forward the kind of conversations that we need to be having to overcome our divisions,” said Jill Rauh, director of education and outreach in the USCCB’s Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, which is coordinating the effort.

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

Parish picnics, bazaars and festivals continue to take place



Even though it is September, 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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