



# ***The Catholic Light***

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## **Weekly E-Newsletter**

**December 16, 2021**

### **Prepare for Christmas by serving others, Pope Francis says**



With Christmas just over a week away, Christians should prepare for Jesus' birth by serving those in need rather than focusing on what awaits them under the Christmas tree, Pope Francis said.

"We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass," the pope said Dec. 12 during his Sunday Angelus address. "But let's ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others! What should we do?"

In his main address, the pope reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading from St. Luke which recalled the crowds of people who, after being moved by St. John the Baptist's preaching, asked him, "What should we do?"

Their question “does not stem from a sense of duty” but from their hearts being “touched by the Lord,” and their being enthusiastic for his coming.

Just like the preparations people make to welcome a guest to their home by cleaning and preparing “the best dinner possible,” Christians must do “the same with the Lord,” he said.

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

## **Bishop Bambera's Video Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent**



The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, is providing video reflections each week during the Season of Advent 2021.

The video above will be released for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

While the first weeks of Advent are marked by preparing for the second coming of Christ, the fourth and final Sunday of Advent showcases the peace that Jesus brings our hearts and world.

## **As Christmas approaches, faithful are reminded of COVID-19 protocols**



With Christmas quickly approaching, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera reminds the faithful about the COVID-19 protocols that remain in place for parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton. Christmas often brings many visitors to churches throughout the Diocese, so the bishop has encouraged parishes to share the protocols in bulletins and via other communication methods.

While all of the protocols have been in place since August, in recent weeks the number of new, daily COVID-19 infections throughout the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton has continued to be high.

The Diocese of Scranton strongly recommends that all parishioners wear a mask while attending Mass, regardless of vaccination status. The bishop encourages everyone to remain vigilant and not let their guard down, using our best judgment to protect our own health and the health of our neighbors.

**[COVID-19 Protocol Reminders for Christmas 2021](#)**



## Large crowds celebrate Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Masses and special processions were held throughout the Diocese of Scranton on Dec. 12 to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

More than 300 people took to the streets of Wilkes-Barre for a procession that started on Old River Road and ended up at Saint Nicholas Parish on South Washington Street. Throughout the entire procession, a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe was hoisted high on a rose-covered platform as the faithful danced, sang and threw rose petals in her honor.

Andrea Perez, who is originally from Mexico, calls the procession a beloved tradition.

“The Virgin Mary is the mother of Jesus and that is why we love her,” she explained. “We are from Mexico and she appeared in Mexico.”

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

## 'Miracle of Bethlehem' presented at Nanticoke parish



A beloved holiday tradition at Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish in Nanticoke returned this year with an in-person audience – much to the delight of a thankful community.

On Dec. 3 and 4, the parish presented the play “Miracle of Bethlehem,” depicting the birth, life and death of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at the Saint Faustina Cultural Center. In 2020, the production took place virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The reviews of this year’s performance were quick and immediate.

“I think it was wonderful. I had a great time. I have a great time every year,” Christie Davison said.

“I had the goosebumps and the tears,” Dorothy Hudak added. “It was extraordinary. It just brings Christmas into your lives. The ending is breathtaking.”

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

## Three parishes collaborate for annual Advent Service of Word and Song



Musicians from three local parishes came together once again this year to the delight of crowds in two counties.

This year marks the twelfth year that Holy Family Parish in Luzerne, Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Dunmore have collaborated for an Advent Service of Word and Song.

This year's theme was "Light and Life to all He brings."

The first service was held Dec. 9 at Holy Family Parish in Luzerne while the second service was held Dec. 12 at Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Dunmore.

"Separately, we're all pretty good but together we're really great," Linda Houck, music director, Holy Family Parish, said. "It brings the Gospel message and the Advent message of hope to so many more people than we could reach independently."

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



## **Catholic Social Services distributes toys to families in need for Christmas**



Nearly 1,200 children in the greater Scranton area will have presents under the tree Christmas morning thanks to the generosity of the community and an ongoing partnership between Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, Friends of the Poor and the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program.

“It is truly an honor to be able to serve families and their children,” Mary Theresa Malandro, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services & Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services, said. “We do not want to see any child go without a gift on Christmas.”

On Dec. 14 and 15, more than 500 families who pre-registered were able to visit LCBC Church on the Scranton Carbondale Highway to select toys for their children as part of the “Christmas Gifts for Kids” program.

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



*Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen*

**CHRISTMAS  
FOOD  
DISTRIBUTION**

**December 20, 2021**

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9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

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AND

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4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

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No pre-registration  
is required. Anyone  
in need is welcome!

39 E. Jackson Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA





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edition of  
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Diocese of Scranton  
300 Wyoming Avenue,  
Scranton, PA 18503-1279  
(570) 207-2238  
[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)