



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

December 3, 2021

Justices seem willing to allow Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban



In the Supreme Court's first major abortion case in decades – which looked at Mississippi's ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy – the majority of justices Dec. 1 seemed willing to let that ban stay in place.

But it was unclear if they would take this further and overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

While the justices considered the state law and the possible ramifications of supporting it or not, people on both sides of the issue were on the steps of the Supreme Court revealing the divide on this issue by what they were

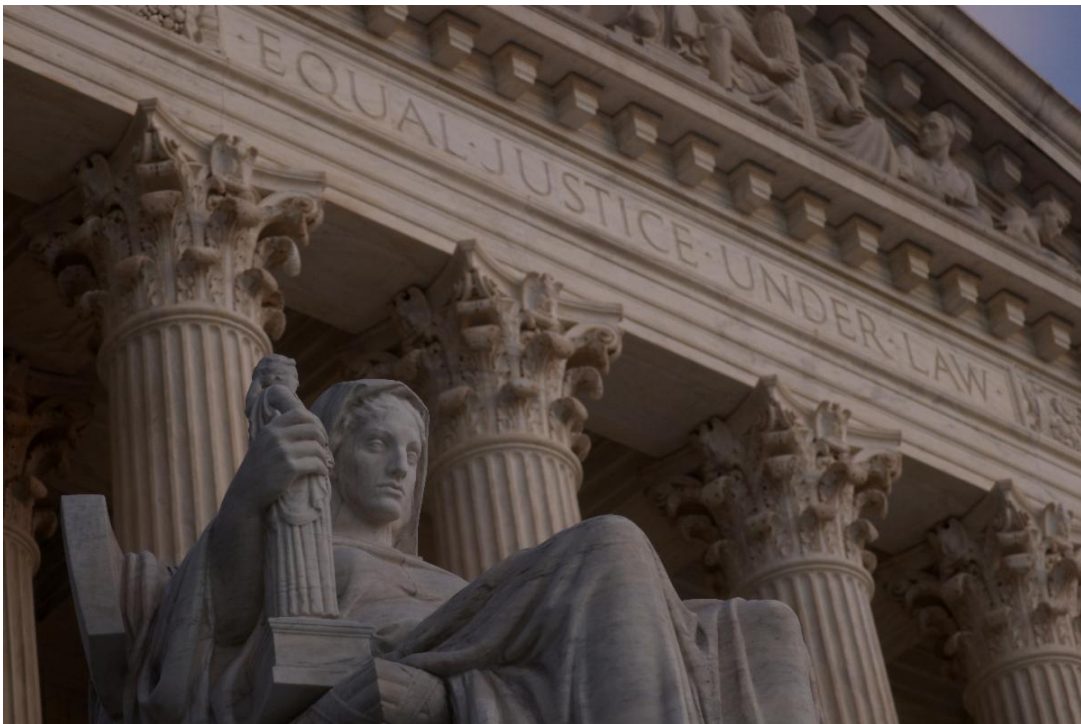
shouting or with their placard messages calling abortion murder or an essential right.

At several points during the argument, Chief Justice John Roberts continued to bring the focus back to the question at hand: the 15-week ban on abortions in Mississippi, which was struck down by a federal District Court in Mississippi in 2018 and upheld a year later by the New Orleans-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit.

A 15-week ban is not a “dramatic departure from viability,” Roberts said.

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

Pro-lifers hopeful about outcome of *Dobbs* case, urge prayers for Court



The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee Dec. 1 urged Catholics, people of other faiths and all people of goodwill to unite in prayer that the U.S. Supreme Court will overturn *Roe v. Wade* in its

eventual ruling on Mississippi's ban on most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

"In the United States, abortion takes the lives of over 600,000 babies every year," said Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health could change that."

"We pray that the court will do the right thing and allow states to once again limit or prohibit abortion, and in doing so protect millions of unborn children and their mothers from this painful, life-destroying act," he added. "We invite all people of goodwill to uphold the dignity of human life by joining us in prayer and fasting for this important case."

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

[Prayer Resources for Catholic Communities While We Await the Court's Decision](#)

Bishop Bambera's Video Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent

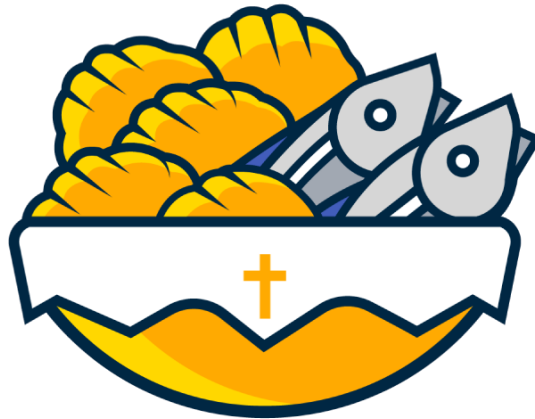


The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, is providing video reflections each week during the Season of Advent 2021.

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

The first weeks of Advent are marked by preparing for the second coming of Christ, while also recognizing His presence among us even now.

Diocese of Scranton raises nearly \$64,000 during inaugural #iGiveCatholic campaign



#iGIVECATHOLIC

For the first time this year, the Diocese of Scranton participated in the nationwide #iGiveCatholic movement in conjunction with Giving Tuesday.

Between the campaign's launch on Nov. 15 and Nov. 30, a total of 511 unique donors made gifts totaling \$63,917. This year, funds were earmarked for the ministries and programs supported by the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

More than 40 dioceses across the country participated in #iGiveCatholic this year. On #GivingTuesday, several parishes from the Diocese of Scranton, including Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish in Hanover Township and Saint Ann Catholic Parish in Williamsport, were ranked on the Top 100 leaderboard for amount of unique donors.

We are thankful to all donors who participated in the #iGiveCatholic campaign.

[To View the Final Results from the Diocese of Scranton's inaugural #iGiveCatholic campaign](#)

**Pike County parish serves 170 meals on
Thanksgiving Day**



Parishioners at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Milford spent their Thanksgiving giving back to the people in their community.

The parish prepared and served 170 takeout meals on Thanksgiving Day to members of their Pike County community.

Using the manta, “many hands make light work,” the parish had a number of volunteers who helped to prepare and package the meals for distribution.

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Guadalupana Torch visits East Stroudsburg



For more than a decade, Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg has received the “Guadalupana Torch,” a burning symbol of hope, in the days leading up to the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12. This year is no exception.

Dozens of people gathered in the Rite Aid Pharmacy parking lot in East Stroudsburg on Dec. 1 awaiting the torch’s local arrival.

“It is our faith, our tradition,” Carlos Albuja, parishioner of Saint Matthew Parish, explained.

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

**Pope, arriving in Cyprus, tells Catholics to
celebrate, welcome diversity**



The Catholic Church is a mosaic of different rites and cultures and must show the world the beauty of welcoming all people as brothers and sisters, Pope Francis told the Catholics of Cyprus.

Beginning his Dec. 2-4 visit to the island with a meeting with bishops, priests and religious rather than with government officials, the pope highlighted the religious value of welcoming and diversity in a nation struggling with migration.

Located on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean and just south of Turkey, Cyprus has a large Orthodox majority, but also centuries-old communities of Maronite and Latin-rite Catholics, whose numbers have grown because of foreign workers, especially from the Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and India.

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Diocese of Scranton

300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org