

Diocesan schools plan 'Catholic Schools Week 2022' celebrations



CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2022

January 30 - February 5

#CSW22

In addition to holding fun events for students, numerous Diocesan schools celebrate Catholic Schools Week by engaging students in selfless service to others — a central aspect of Catholic education.

Catholic schools offer academic excellence and a faith-filled education for their students. National test scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance and other data show that Catholic schools frequently outperform schools in both the public and private sectors.

Based on the average public school per pupil cost of nearly \$13,000, Catholic schools also provide \$22 billion in savings

SCRANTON — As has been a tradition for nearly 50 years, the Diocese of Scranton looks forward to joining with Catholic schools across the country to celebrate Catholic Schools Week this month.

Customarily observed during the last week of January, the 2022 edition of Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated Jan. 30-Feb. 5. Each of the 19 schools in the Scranton Diocesan education system is planning numerous activities for students, families, parishioners and community members to mark this year's celebration.

Schools typically celebrate the weeklong observance with liturgies, open houses and other programs and events focusing on the value of Catholic education, which benefits not only young people but churches, communities and the nation itself.

"While we invite and welcome families at any time throughout the year, Catholic Schools Week is a time when our current and prospective families join together to experience what sets our schools apart," Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer, said. "Our unwavering commitment to serving students, particularly throughout the pandemic, ensures

that we excel at providing the optimal environment to grow and achieve one's God-given potential. We welcome you to be a part of the Catholic school difference."

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) continues to emphasize the central theme that has highlighted recent Catholic Schools Week celebrations: "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."

The week's theme calls attention to the purpose of Catholic schools — to form disciples, to grow the whole person and encourage students to be witnesses to Catholic social teaching.

"As we approach Catholic Schools Week we are reminded of the incredible dedication of our teachers, staff and administration who provide

the most excellent education in the most compassionate, safe and welcoming atmosphere," Superintendent of Schools Kristen Donohue said. "Our steady delivery of instruction stretches beyond academic excellence; it

very naturally includes a focus on the spiritual, emotional and social well-being of our students, faculty, staff and administrators. We are proud of the commitment of our Catholic schools to this vitally important mission."

Carolers spread Christmas cheer in Nanticoke



Members of Nanticoke's Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish and its Youth Ministry partnered with the Greater Nanticoke Area Marching Band to treat residents of local nursing homes to Christmas carol programs during the holiday season. Pictured at left, the Christmas musical entertainers perform at the Birchwood Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center in Nanticoke. Shown right, the carolers sing their Christmas songs outside the Guardian Elder Care Center in the city.

Christmas pageants staged by parish children in Moscow & Milford



Students in the Children's Faith Formation Program at Saint Patrick Parish in Milford participated in a colorful pageant retelling the Nativity Story, from Jesus' birth to the Visitation of the Magi. Directed by Laurie Barcia, who is also a fifth grade catechist in the Children's Faith Formation Program, the pageant was staged on Christmas Eve at the Pike County parish and featured Rachel Swinton and Angelica Barcia as narrators. Shown in the above photo are, from left: Joseph Barcia, Paul Barcia, Cassidy Lentoni, Joellen Nielsen and Dominic Lake.

CCD students from Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow are pictured portraying the characters for a live presentation of "The Christmas Story," which aired on the parish website during the Christmas season.

Diocese of Scranton
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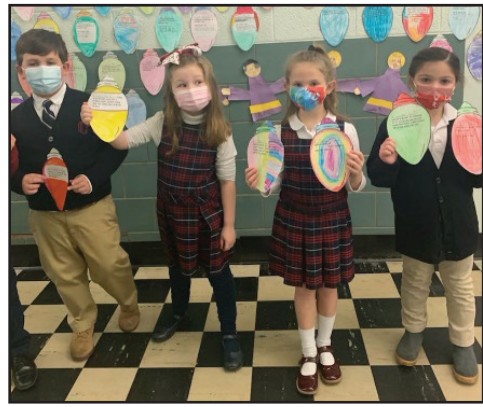
The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.



Sixth grade students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** craft a vehicle to protect their egg during a STREAM engineering experiment.



Students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** presented the sounds of the season – the waiting and then the celebrating of our Lord's birth. Pictured are second graders, dressed in their Christmas finest, performing a selection for their family and friends.



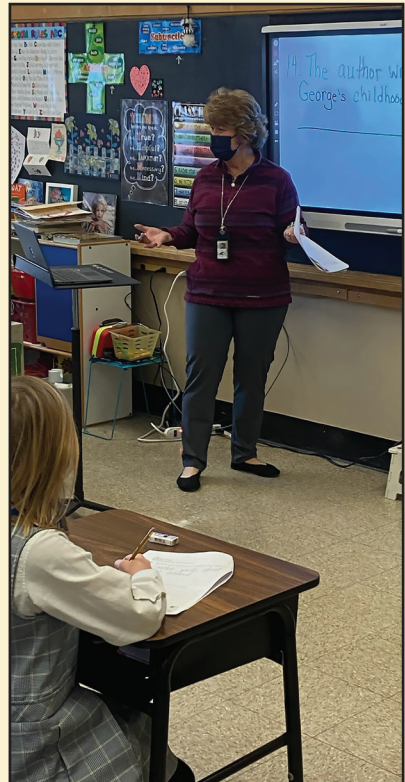
Burke Davis, Cecilia LoRusso, Maeve Morrison and Scarlett DeNaples, first grade students at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green**, completed 117 acts of kindness as their gifts to the Christ Child.



While preparing for their annual Christmas pageant and concert, students from **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** take a moment to pose for an official photo in commemoration of the 2021 presentation.



The choir from **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** practice for the Saint Paul Parish Virtual Concert.



There's a lot of excitement at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston**! The school recently had 20 new SmartBoard Interactive Learning Panels installed, thanks to state grant monies. Pictured is Mrs. Janet Lyons using the new panels to teach a reading lesson to her second grade class.



The pre-K class at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus with a special cake and classroom party.



Epiphany School in Sayre recorded a Christmas Concert for families. Pictured are Epiphany students participating in the Live Nativity part of the concert.



Students at **All Saints Academy in Scranton**, eagerly awaiting the birth of Christ, were treated to a Christmas carnival by the school's PTO.



PreK-3 and PreK-4 students from **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** present a Christmas pageant for their families at Saint Boniface Church.



Seniors at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** continue the tradition of visiting community organizations to spread Christmas cheer along with their principal, Mr. Benjamin Tolerico. One stop they made was at the Dunmore Fire Department.



Guilanna Zenga and Addalynn Lilley, sixth grade students at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport**, enjoy Ugly Sweater Dress Down Day before Christmas Break.



Students at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** presented the Living Nativity, reminding all of the true meaning of Christmas.



Freshman James Malone, juniors Dina and Gina Florentino, and senior Ryan Cabrerra, students at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, prepare for the school's annual Advent Liturgy.



The Advent Reflection Nativity was held the week before Christmas at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**.



"Students of Service," a community-focused group at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**, recently collected \$500 for Catholic Social Services' Divine Providence Shelter in Hazleton.