



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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**Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity
January 18-25, 2022**

**Day of Prayer for
the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children
Saturday, January 22, 2022**

**Sunday of the Word of God
January 23, 2022**

A New Year's Reflection from Our New Secretary for Parish Life

*M*y first Mass in the Diocese of Scranton was on January 2 at Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton. Still in the Christmas season, we recalled the story of the Wise Men, who spent their lives in anticipation of finding the Christ. They watched vigilantly for evidence, alert to the signs of his coming. Having seen a bright star, the wise men consciously followed the light, orienting their lives in a particular direction. Finding Jesus, they offered their adoration and their most precious gifts.

This familiar story illustrates the Christian journey, the life of every Catholic, actively seeking Christ and worshipping Him. Fr. Pauselli concluded the opening rites with the Collect: "O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory." It's easy to get caught up in the business of life and forget that the goal of our lives is not to make money, or be successful, or even to be good people. Our lives are a journey toward God, so that we may behold his glory.

As we begin a New Year, it's a perfect time to think about the *big questions* that determine how we live our lives. Questions like, How do I find happiness? What is my purpose in life? Why am I here? The wise men must have tossed these same questions around, and come up with an answer that determined the trajectory of their lives: the search for Jesus.

With 2022 on the horizon, may we orient ourselves and our parishes toward the person of Jesus, seeking Him and revealing Him, a light for all to see.



Mary Hallman
Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life

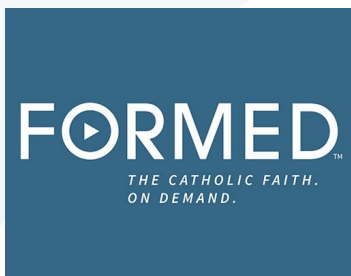


FORMED

Unlimited Access to Life-Changing Catholic Content

We are excited to announce our third webinar with FORMED. Don Walter will join us as the host of "Journey Into Lent With FORMED." We all know that Lent is a time of sacrifice, but have you considered that one of the best sacrifices we can make can be to devote ourselves to growing in the Faith and in relationship with Jesus Christ? Find out how you can make this happen this Lent for the people you serve. FORMED is filled with options to bring your people together around the Faith. Please join us! This webinar will take place on Wednesday, January 26th at 11:00AM.

For more information about FORMED, please contact Jacki Douglas at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570) 207-2213 x-1100.



Rooted in the Cross Retreat

Save the Date—April 1-2, 2022

"Rooted in the Cross" is a retreat for DREs, Lay Ministry Candidates, Youth Ministers and other catechetical leaders. As you work to provide meaningful experiences for the faithful of your parish, it is the desire of the Office for Parish Life to accompany you on your journey. We want to provide you with retreats, resources, workshops, and support to help encourage you as you work to make disciples of Christ. At the retreat we will gather for prayer, reflection and fellowship. More details to follow. For questions, contact Jacki Douglas at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100.

Remote Networking Meetings

We are excited to continue our Remote Network Meetings for DREs, and Youth Ministers. These meetings will keep with the focus that we began at the onset of the pandemic. We will center on Lifelong Faith Formation through Catechesis, youth ministry and parish life whether virtually or in person. Members of the Office for Parish Life team will be on hand to lead our discussions and to keep all parishes well-informed of upcoming events. We would love to have every parish represented. So we invite each of you to join us every other week at 11AM. Our upcoming meeting dates are Wednesdays, January 12th and January 26th. For more information, please contact Jacki Douglas.

Bishop's Youth Awards

March will be here before we know it and it is time to request your nominations for the Bishop's Youth Awards. Please take the time to carefully consider which **students in your eighth and twelfth grade programs** will best represent the spirit and intent of this award for your parish or school community.



The awards will be celebrated at a host parish in the four different regions of the diocese listed below.

- **Monday, March 28 at 7:00pm**—Eastern Region— St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg
- **Wednesday, March 30 at 7:00pm**—Northern Region— Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton
- **Monday, April 4 at 7:00pm**—Southern Region— St. Jude Parish, Mountain Top
- **Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00pm**—Western Region— St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport

Watch your email the week of February 14th for the four nomination links to each region for you to nominate your students for this award. Nominations will be due in by March 7th.

Family Faith Formation Workshop

Build your own family faith formation program with our help.

Announcing a New Family Faith Formation Program for Diocese of Scranton Parishes:

Leading Families Home Through Faith Formation

Designed for Catechetical Leaders

Presented by **Tom East**

Join **Tom East** for the second workshop for catechetical leaders and teams to promote the vision and practice of Family Lifelong Faith Formation in the Diocese of Scranton. This workshop will provide instruction for lifelong faith formation, an experience of a faith festival, and all the tools for implementation in your parish.



This second of three workshops is scheduled for **Saturday; February 26, 2022 from 9:00AM-3:00PM** at the **Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton**. It is going to be a great day! Watch your email to sign up for the registration link. The cost for the day is \$30. Lunch and all necessary materials will be provided.

For more information, please contact Jacki Douglas at jdouglas@dioceseofscranton.org or (570)207-2213 x-1100.

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God
and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

WORSHIP

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training Session

The Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton on **Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton.** There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided. To register, please fill out the [EMHC Training Registration Form](#) or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

Rite of Election

The Rite of Election will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera on **Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 2:30PM** at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. RCIA Coordinator Information and Enrollment forms will be available after January 12, 2022 on the diocesan website under [Parish Life/Worship/Christian Initiation and Sacraments](#). Parishes with new RCIA Coordinators are asked to contact David Baloga at the Office for Parish Life and provide their new contact information.



Introduction to the R.C.I.A. Course Weekends

The Permanent Diaconate Formation Program of the Diocese of Scranton is opening its Introduction to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Course weekends to any parish RCIA Coordinators or parish RCIA team members who would like to deepen their understanding of the Christian Initiation process. The dates of the course weekends are:

- **Friday, February 11 from 7:00PM to 9:30PM and Saturday February, 12 from 8:30AM to 3:00PM**
- **Friday, March 4 from 7:00PM-9:30PM and Saturday, March 5 from 8:30AM to 3:00PM.**

This course will present the historical, liturgical and theological foundations of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and the Catechumenate in the Early Church. The session will also cover the proposed revisions to the RCIA text, as well as setting up a parish catechumenate, practical considerations and lectionary catechesis. Particular emphasis will be placed on the RCIA as an apprenticeship to the Christian way of life. The cost of each weekend is \$12 per participant to cover lunch and refreshments. There are also required texts for the course.

For more information, or to register, please contact David Baloga at david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org or call 570-207-2213 ext. 1158 by **Friday, February 4.**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed from Tuesday, January 18 through Tuesday, January 25, 2022. The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate a Christian Unity Service on **Wednesday, January 19 at 12:10PM** and will be live-streamed on CTV and diocesan social media. A sample ecumenical celebration of the Word of God is available through the [Graymoor Ecumenical and Inter-religious Institute website](#) at www.geii.org.



Online Liturgy Network Meetings

The Office for Parish Life and the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) is offering monthly online liturgy network meetings on the first Monday or Tuesday of each month. These virtual meetings are open to anyone interested in promoting the celebration of the sacred liturgy. The sessions will give participants the opportunity to share best practices, express concerns, ask questions, and receive updates on diocesan, national and universal liturgical norms.

The next online liturgy network meeting will take place on **Monday, February 7 at 6:30PM.** There is no need to register for the meetings as parishes will be sent a link to the monthly meeting along with summary of the liturgical updates. For more information, or to be added to the email list, please contact David Baloga at david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org or at 570-207-2213.

Sunday of the Word of God

On September 30, 2019, Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter, *Aperuit Illis: Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God*, announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the **Sunday of the Word of God.** This year, that Sunday will fall on **January 23.** The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has published a [free resource](#) for your use. It contains the Pope Francis' document *Aperuit illis*, the readings for Year C, as well as best pastoral practices, sample intercessions, and suggested music.

World Day of the Sick

A Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bambera for the thirtieth Annual World Day of the Sick on Friday, February 11, 2022 at 12:10PM at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Parishes around the diocese are encouraged to offer a Mass for the Sick that includes the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick either on February 11 or another convenient day near it. Resources for World Day of the Sick can be found on the [diocesan website](#) or on the [National Association of Catholic Chaplains website](#).

COMMUNITY

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who build COMMUNITY through hospitality, respect, inclusion and holiness."

National Marriage Week

February 7-14, 2022

This year's theme, *Marriage: Called to the Joy of Love!*



Additional information about this year's observance, and resources for celebrating it, will be available in early January. Please check the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops webpages](#) for more information after January 7, 2022. For questions or for ideas about how your parish or you might celebrate this observance, contact [Jen Housel](#), Director for Community and Family Development.

Wedding Anniversary Mass 2022

Many of our Jubilarian Couples eagerly anticipate their 25th and 50th Anniversaries, and the opportunity to gather with Bishop Bambera for our Wedding Anniversary Mass. This year's Mass will be held on June 26, 2022, at 2:30PM, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Stay tuned for additional information about this year's Wedding Anniversary Mass. For questions, please contact [Jen Housel](#), Director for Community and Family Development.

PreCana Days of Reflection 2022

With the emergence of new variants of the coronavirus, coupled with rising case numbers in our region, we will continue to evaluate on a month-by-month basis whether our PreCana Days will be held in-person or whether they will occur via an online format. Please contact [Jen Housel](#), Director for Community and Family Development with questions or concerns.

"Amoris Laetitia Family" Year

March 19, 2021- June 26, 2022

As we progress through our "Amoris Laetitia Family" Year of observance, please continue to consider the ways in which your parish and you can walk with families in earnest and intentional ways. We encourage you to reach out to our Office for Parish Life with any questions or concerns, or for assistance in implementing opportunities at your parish.

Click [here](#) to read the twelve proposals and suggestions for a commitment to family pastoral care in the light of the apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia". (From the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life: "12 ways to walk with families following 'Amoris Laetitia'".)

Synod on Synodality

The Diocese of Scranton has officially launched the listening phase of the Synod on Synodality. Details, resources (available in both English and Spanish), as well as informational webinars for this three-pronged approach to listening to the many voices of the faithful in the Church of Scranton can be found on the diocesan website at [this link](#). While the synod survey and phone line can be accessed on the diocesan website, **all parishes are highly recommended to offer a parish gathering** that integrates prayer and reflection in discussing the ten themes of the Synod. The diocesan listening phase will adhere to the timeline on the right.

To help prepare pastors, parish life coordinators and parish delegates for this process, the Diocesan Synod Team will offer

a series of webinars, each lasting approximately one hour, and taking place on the following dates and times:

- Monday, January 10, 2022: Synod Intro/Info Webinar - 2:00PM
- Friday, January 14, 2022: Synod Outreach/Gathering Webinar - 4:00PM
- Wednesday, January 19, 2022: Synod Intro/Info Webinar - 10:00AM
- Thursday, January 20, 2022: Synod Outreach/Gathering Webinar - 6:00PM
- Tuesday, January 25, 2022: Synod Intro/Info Webinar - 6:00PM

To register for any of these webinars, please [click here](#) or visit the Synod on Synodality page on the diocesan website. You **must** register at least one hour before the scheduled session in order to receive the webinar login information.

As always, the Office for Parish Life is ready to assist you every step of the way in the process. Please contact us at synod@dioceseofscranton.org for more information, and pray for the fruitfulness of this synodal journey!



"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

SERVICE

January Is Poverty Awareness Month

During Poverty Awareness Month, join the U.S. Bishops, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and the Catholic community in the United States in taking up Pope Francis' challenge to live in solidarity with the poor! In addition to the [calendar](#), [longer daily reflections](#) are also available. You can sign up [here](#) to have daily reflections emailed to you during Poverty Awareness Month! Additional Resources: [We Are Salt and Light](#) and [Poverty Education](#).



9 Days for Life

Pray to Protect Human Life—January 19-27, 2022

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Sign up or get more information by [clicking here](#).

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Start the new year off fresh by enrolling in a new learning session through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation! Cycle 1 classes run January 17 - February 19, 2022 (Registration closes January 12). Courses include many options in English and Spanish, such as: *On the Call to Holiness (Gaudete Et Exsultate)*; *Our Hearts Were Burning (Sem)*; *RCIA: A Process of Conversion, Catechesis and Community*; *Introducción a la Espiritualidad Cristiana*; *Introducción al Liderazgo para el Ministerio*; *La Familia como Iglesia Doméstica*; *Moral Cristiana*. Visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/> to view the course schedule and to register!



Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00PM
Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin

Principal Celebrant:

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

All are welcome to join us on the eve of the 48th annual March for Life to pray for a greater respect of all human life, from conception to natural death, and every moment in between. We invite you to bring a new pack of diapers to be donated to Shepherd's Maternity House and St. Joseph's Center Baby and Children's Pantry.



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMAGE



Young Adults from the Diocese of Scranton will be heading to World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon!

- July 28th to August 9th, 2023
- Open to 18-35 Year Olds
- Extended Trip to Barcelona Included

For More Information, Please Contact
Shannon Kowalski at
Skowalski@Dioceseofscranton.org

PROGRAMA SEMANAL
Del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Scranton

CRECIENDO & FORTALECIENDO NUESTRA FE CATÓLICA
CONOCE, AMA & VIVE TU FE

SÁBADOS
11 AM - 12 PM

LA MEGA
95.3 FM WILKES BARRE
94.9 FM SCRANTON

DESCARGA LA APLICACIÓN

Ministerio Hispano - Diócesis de Scranton

LA MEGA
94.9FM 95.3FM

CONOCE - AMA & VIVE TU FE
CRECIENDO
& FORTALECIENDO NUESTRA
FE CATÓLICA
MINISTERIO HISPANO - DIOCESIS DE SCRANTON

OPL Month At A Glance

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)
2 Epiphany	3	4 Online Liturgy Network 6:30PM	5	6	7	8
9 Baptism of the Lord	10 Synod Intro Webinar 2:00PM	11	12 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting 11AM VLCFF Registration for Cycle 1 Closes	13	14 Synod Outreach/Gathering Webinar 4:00PM	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day VLCFF Cycle 1 begins	18	19 Synod Intro Webinar 10:00AM Christian Unity Service 12:10PM Cathedral	20 Synod Outreach/Gathering Webinar 6:00PM Vigil Mass for Life 6:00PM St. Maria Goretti, Laffin	21	22 EMHC Training 9:00AM-2:30PM DPC
9 Days for Life						
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022						
23 Sunday of the Word of God	24	25 Synod Intro Webinar 6:00PM	26 DRE/YM Remote Networking Meeting with Don Walter from Formed 11AM	27	28	29
9 Days for Life						
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022						
30	31					

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Mary Hallman**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Jacki Douglas**

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Director for SERVICE and Mission: **Shannon Kowalski**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdivic**

Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**

Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**

Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry: **José Flores**

Consultant for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Diocesan Pastoral Center Manager: **Kitty Scanlan**

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Andres**



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