



# ***The Catholic Light***

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## **Weekly E-Newsletter**

**January 27, 2022**

### **At local Vigil Mass for Life, hope evident that abortion ruling will be overturned**



As a new mother, Rosemary LaBar of Dallas feels it is important to share her belief that all human life, including that of the unborn, is sacred.

That is why she bundled-up her four-month-old daughter, Josie, putting the infant in a baby stroller to join more than 100 other people at the Diocese of Scranton's Vigil Mass for Life on Jan. 20, 2022, at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin.

“It was important for me to come because I think that being pro-life isn’t just about changing the law, you have to show up and be there for mothers and I wanted to show up and be here,” LaBar said.

Born and raised Catholic, LaBar is hopeful the U.S. Supreme Court might reverse its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion by upholding a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks. A decision in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* is expected this summer.

“I’m definitely hopeful. I’m part of a couple pro-life groups online. It’s not just a religious thing anymore. I see a larger number of secular people who just understand that human life begins at conception and it should be protected,” she added.

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

## **Bishop Bambera celebrates Mass in honor of Our Lady of Altagracia at Hazleton Parishes**





Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated Masses at two Luzerne County parishes on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, in honor of Our Lady of Altagracia.

The bishop celebrated the 10 a.m. Mass at Queen of Heaven Parish and the Noon Mass at Annunciation Parish, both are located in Hazleton.

Our Lady of Altagracia (also referred to as "Our Lady of la Altagracia" and "the Virgin de la Altagracia") is the Patroness of the island of Hispaniola, the island containing the nations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The feast, which falls on Jan. 21 and dates to 1514, is the oldest Marian devotion in the Western Hemisphere.

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**Reverend Leo J. McKernan (1953-2022)**



Reverend Leo J. McKernan of West Wyoming, died on Jan. 23, 2022, at Sacred Heart Hospice, Dunmore, having faithfully served as priest and spiritual director in the Diocese of Scranton for many years.

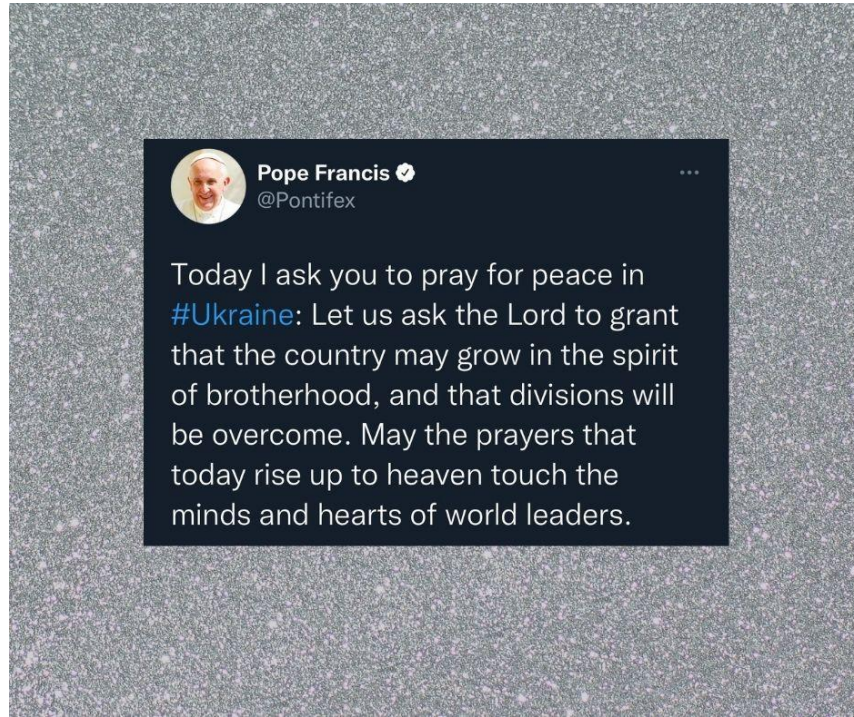
Viewing will take place at St. Leo Church, Ashley on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022, 9:30 a.m. A Vesper Service will be celebrated Friday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Leo Church, Ashley.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Reverend Gerald W. Shantillo, V.G., S.T.L., Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton, on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022 at St. Leo Church, Ashley at 10:30 a.m. Interment will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, Wilkes-Barre.

[Read the Full Obituary of Rev. Leo J. McKernan](#)



## Ukraine deserves peace, Pope Francis says



On the day Pope Francis established as a day of prayer for peace in Ukraine, the pope appealed for an end to all war and prayed that dialogue, the common good and reconciliation would prevail.

“Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome,” he said at the end of his weekly general audience in the Vatican’s Paul VI audience hall Jan. 26.

“May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests,” he said.

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

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## Pope confers ministries of lector, catechist on lay women and men



Highlighting the importance of the Bible in the life of faith and the role of lay women and men in sharing the Gospel, Pope Francis formally installed eight men and women in the ministry of lector and eight others in the ministry of catechist.

During Mass Jan. 23, the church's celebration of Sunday of the Word of God, the pope used a revised rite for formally installing lectors, a ministry he opened to women a year earlier, and the new rite for the ministry of catechist, which he established in May.

In most countries, women and men have long served as lectors and catechists and even have been commissioned for those roles. But those formally installed in the ministries are recognized as having a specific vocation to leadership in their communities and will serve in what the church defines as a "stable" manner.

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

**Pope: People must never forget or repeat horrors of Holocaust**



The cruelty of the Holocaust must never be repeated, Pope Francis said on the eve of the international day of commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

The day, celebrated Jan. 27, falls on the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp complex in 1945.

At the end of his weekly general audience at the Vatican Jan. 26, Pope Francis said, “It is necessary to remember the extermination of millions of Jews and people of different nationalities and religious faiths.”

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**Vatican editorial defends Benedict XVI after  
release of abuse report**



A Vatican editorial defended retired Pope Benedict XVI's record in fighting clerical sexual abuse after the release of a report that accused him of mishandling four cases during his time as archbishop of Munich.

Andrea Tornielli, editorial director for the Dicastery for Communication, said a report on the handling of cases in the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising was an important contribution to “the search for justice in truth and to a collective examination of conscience on the errors of the past.”

However, he warned, “the reconstructions contained in the Munich report, which — it must be remembered — is not a judicial inquiry nor a final sentence, will help to combat pedophilia in the church if they are not reduced to the search for easy scapegoats and summary judgments.”

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

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**Bishop Bambera to celebrate World Day of the Sick Mass Feb. 11 at Cathedral in Scranton**





# World Day of the Sick Mass

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022  
12:10 P.M.  
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER

*Principal Celebrant*  
**Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera**  
**Bishop of Scranton**

*CTV: Catholic Television will broadcast the Mass live*

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