



# ***The Catholic Light***

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**January 6, 2022**

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**Vigil Mass for Life to take place in  
Diocese of Scranton Jan. 20**



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022**  
**6:00PM | ST. MARIA GORETTI CHURCH, LAFLIN**

**CELEBRANT: MOST REV. JOSEPH C. BAMBERA**  
**BISHOP OF SCRANTON**

Join us in prayer on the eve of the 48th annual  
March for Life 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***

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG**

All the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are welcome to participate in a Vigil Mass for Life at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, at Saint Maria Goretti Church, Laflin, as we pray for a greater respect for human life.

January 22, 2022 will mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States. As Catholics, we are called to stand up for all human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”: “In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.”

Many parishes around our diocese have answered this call by attending the annual March for Life in Washington DC. While the March for Life is scheduled to take place on Friday, January 21, 2022, we invite you to participate in our own Vigil Mass for Life celebrated by Bishop Bambera.

[For More Information on the Vigil Mass for Life on Jan. 20](#)

## **Annual March for Life still on this year in Washington**



The annual national March for Life — with a rally on the National Mall and march to the Supreme Court Jan. 21 — will go on as scheduled this year amid a surge in the omicron variant in the nation’s capital.

Outdoor events are not affected by the District of Columbia's vaccine mandate for indoor gatherings, but participants should expect to wear face masks. Indoor events associated with the annual march will have to comply with city COVID-19 restrictions.

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

## **Bishop Bambera celebrates Mass for Our Lady of the Cloud, an Ecuadorian tradition, in East Stroudsburg**



On New Year's Day, Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant at the Our Lady of the Cloud Mass which was held at the Notre Dame High School Theater in East Stroudsburg.

The annual event draws hundreds of faithful parishioners.



"Through the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of the Cloud, may we be blessed with the wisdom and courage to embrace not merely the story of Jesus' birth but the example of his life, death and resurrection – at the heart of which we discover the surest means of achieving life and lasting peace," Bishop Bambera said in his homily.

[Read Bishop Bambera's Full Homily in both English and Spanish](#)

## **Jesus is star guiding people to joy, Pope Francis says on Epiphany**



Just as the Magi were guided by a shining star, Christians can rest assured that the light of Christ will guide them to a happy and meaningful life, Pope Francis said on the feast of the Epiphany.

"The Magi teach us that we need to set out anew each day, in life as in faith, for faith is not a suit of armor that encases us; instead, it is a fascinating journey, a constant and restless movement, ever in search of God," the pope said.

Pope Francis celebrated the feast day Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6.

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

## **Priest continues to counsel police one year after Capitol insurrection**



A year since the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Msgr. Salvatore A. Criscuolo continues to see the physical pain and mental stress among officers of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department.

A volunteer chaplain serving the department for 36 years, Msgr. Criscuolo, 72, regularly hits the streets, where he hears from officers who continue to struggle having fought with fellow Americans bent on blocking the peaceful transition of the presidency.

“Many officers are still not able to get back to work,” he told Catholic News Service.

Every chance he gets, Msgr. Criscuolo takes to the streets to talk with officers. At times he'll ride a police motorcycle. Most of the time he seeks out officers on the beat to see how they are doing, whether they were involved in the Capitol riot or not. They talk about family, their careers and their daily struggles.

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

## **PenFed Credit Union supports mission of Saint Francis Commons in Scranton**



In December 2021, PenFed Credit Union made a \$5,000 donation to support the work and mission of Saint Francis Commons in Scranton.

Saint Francis Commons, located at 504 Penn Avenue, is an affordable, transitional housing facility for homeless veterans which is operated by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

Pictured at the check presentation, from left: Drew Nat, PenFed Valor Advisory Council member; Ryan Pollock, Saint Francis Commons Program Supervisor; Ann Super, PenFed Valor Advisory Council member; Larry Catanzaro, PenFed Valor Advisory Council member; and Tony Parise, PenFed Valor Advisory Council member.

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## **Support your Parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal directly from your IRA**

If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional individual retirement account, you can use all or part of your required minimum distribution to support your parish or the Diocesan Annual Appeal without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

Distributions must be sent directly to your parish or the Diocese by the plan administrator of your IRA.

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For more information, please contact Jim Bebla,  
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