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DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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Diocese unites in prayer and faith for peace in Ukraine

SCRANTON — As the situation facing our suffering brothers and sisters in Ukraine becomes more dire by the hour, parishioners across the Diocese of Scranton lifted their voices and hearts to God to pray for peace this week.

At the request of the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, churches in all 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton held special Holy Hours for Peace and other prayer opportunities.

The bishop led a Holy Hour for Peace on Tuesday, March 15, at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

“No war ever makes sense, no war and this war in which we find ourselves — not a military action but a war — makes no sense. It is borne out of greed, envy and a lack of understanding and appreciation and respect for the lives that God has given to our world,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, an estimated 3 million refugees have fled the country. Billions of dollars in damage has been done to infrastructure, which includes maternity hospitals, schools, churches and apartment buildings.

Many in Ukraine say the psychological, social and economic devastation will take decades to heal.

“These past three weeks have destroyed families, they have torn apart towns and villages and have made no distinction between a disregard for an infant child in the womb and elderly, aged people, who can barely walk who are just trying to find some way to safety,” the bishop noted.



Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, holds a Holy Hour for Peace at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on March 15, 2022. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

Dozens of people attended the Cathedral Holy Hour for Peace. Many more watched as the service was broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

For those attending in person, the Holy Hour was especially meaningful.

“When I watch what is happening in Ukraine, it is heartbreaking and I thought the very least I could do is to come out and share my prayers,” Kathy Bolinski of Clarks Summit said. “I think anytime we all get together for a singular purpose —

which is prayer — it is extremely powerful and God will certainly be there listening to us and hopefully we can see the impact of it.”

“Coming together at the Cathedral is a great sense of unity that we all share,” Sister Mary Alice Jacquinot, I.H.M., added.

Chester Klobukowski of Duryea and his wife brought more than 200 rosaries to the Holy Hour. They gave them to the bishop in hopes of getting them to the people of Ukraine.

“My wife and I have been making rosaries for about 40 years and we send them all over to prisons and we wanted to send some to Ukraine,” Klobukowski explained. “We hope for an end to the war. This is unreal.”

Bishop Bambera acknowledged receiving the rosaries during his homily — emphasizing it is one of many signs of “good” and “hope” that has come from all the heartbreak and devastation.

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DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

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Pope Francis on Ukraine: 'Stop this massacre'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Appealing again for an end to the war in Ukraine, Pope Francis said those who invoke God to promote or justify violence “profane his name.”

“In the name of God, I ask: Stop this massacre,” the pope said March 13 at the end of his Sunday Angelus address.

With thousands of people gathered under the bright sunshine of a Roman spring day to pray the midday Marian prayer, Pope Francis turned their attention to Mariupol, Ukraine, a city named in honor of Mary; it has been besieged by Russian troops for two weeks.

The city, he said, “has become a martyred city of the heart-wrenching war that is destroying Ukraine.”

“Before the barbarity of the killing of children, of innocents and unarmed civilians, there are no strategic reasons that hold up,” the pope said. The only thing to do is “to stop the unacceptable armed aggression before it reduces the cities to cemeteries.”

“With pain in my heart, I unite my voice to that of ordinary people who implore an end to



Pope Francis gives his blessing after leading the Angelus at the Vatican March 13, 2022. Appealing again for peace in Ukraine, Pope Francis said those who support violence profane the name of God. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

the war,” he said. “In the name of God, listen to the cry of those who are suffering and stop the bombings and attacks.”

Negotiations to end the war must begin seriously, he said, and the humanitarian corridors agreed upon to evacuate civilians and to bring basic necessities to people in besieged towns must be respected and secure.

With the U.N. Refugee Agency reporting that millions



People hold Ukrainian flags as Pope Francis leads the Angelus from a window overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 13, 2022. Appealing again for peace in Ukraine, Pope Francis said those who support violence profane the name of God. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

of refugees have already fled Ukraine since Feb. 24, Pope Francis thanked all the individuals and agencies in the neighboring countries who have welcomed them, and he encouraged continued generosity.

He also asked Catholic parishes and religious orders around the world “to increase moments of prayers for peace.”

“God is the God only of peace, he is not the God of war,”

he said. “Those who support violence profane his name.”

Pope Francis led the people in the square, including several carrying Ukrainian flags, in a moment of silent prayer that God would “convert hearts to a firm desire for peace.”

After the Angelus, the Vatican used the pope's English-language Twitter account to send, in 10 tweets, his entire appeal in Russian and Ukrainian.

Parishes across the Diocese of Scranton unite in Prayer for Ukraine



A woman clutches Rosary beads during the Holy Hour for Peace at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

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“For as sophisticated a people as we are, for as bright and as brilliant as we have become, for as ingenious as we are, for as capable as we have become, our world is still filled with evil, hatred and sin,” the bishop noted. “When we turn away from God, we find ourselves in the midst of where we are today.”

The bishop also encouraged people to continue sharing three things: prayer, information about what is happening in Ukraine, and financial and material assistance.

“Somehow, in God's wisdom,

in God's time and in God's way, peace will come and peace will most especially touch the lives of those suffering souls in Ukraine for whom we pray,” Bishop Bambera ended his homily by saying.

Video from the Holy Hour for Peace is available on the Diocese of Scranton YouTube channel and website for anyone that would like to watch the service.



More than 50 people participated in the Holy Hour for Peace in Ukraine at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on March 15, 2022.

Ukrainian Catholics seek spiritual, humanitarian aid for war-ravaged homeland

SCRANTON — For Ukrainian Catholics, their Holy Season of Lent began under a massive dark cloud of destruction, desolation and death associated with all-out war — just a mere four days after their homeland was maliciously attacked by Russia in late February.

Rev. Myron Myronyuk has served as pastor of Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in downtown Scranton for the past ten years, which happens to be the amount of time since he last visited those he left behind in his beloved Ukraine.

These days, more than ever, Father Myronyuk's heavy heart lies thousands of miles away as he along with his congregation agonize over the bitter suffering of their fellow countrymen and women. Included among those currently embattled by invading Russian forces are the priest's 80-year-old mother, his sister, and a twin brother, who is a college professor in Ukrainian capital city of Kyiv after having served in the nation's military for ten years.

Occasional calls to keep in touch with loved ones now occur daily.

"With the situation, I talk to my family every day and they let me know how they are managing and what is most needed," the audibly shaken and exhausted Ukrainian churchman said, having endured sleepless nights as he continues to orchestrate incessant shipments of vital supplies for his besieged nation.

"They have nothing. They are in need of everything," Father Myronyuk told *The Catholic Light* in a late-night conversation less than a week after the foreign invasion began. He had just arrived back in his rectory after helping load 500 pounds of medical supplies to be shipped to a New Jersey agency, with the hopes of eventually reaching Ukraine through the generous support of the Polish government.

The beleaguered pastor stated the civilian population has been hit especially hard, with the number of casualties climbing each day along with the massive exodus of war refugees.

Father Myronyuk speaks for his parish and Ukrainian faithful everywhere in pleading for spiritual and material assistance.

"Monetary donations, medical and baby supplies and all types of non-



Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church is located at 430 North 7th Avenue in Scranton. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

perishable items are urgently need," he noted while imploring his brothers and sisters in faith to offer fervent prayers for the Ukrainian people.

The day before the Diocese of Scranton joined the global Catholic Church in offering Ash Wednesday sacrifices of prayer and fasting for an end to the Soviet aggression, Father Myronyuk urged, "I encourage everyone to keep praying and praying as you enter Lent."

"We are doing our best and we let God do the rest," the distraught priest said.

As a lifelong member of Saint Vladimir Church, Paul Ewasko remarked that since the hostile attacks began he has incredulously asked himself and his Ukrainian-born wife, Helen, "Is this really happening?"

"It all seems so unreal, yet I must fully accept it because it is real," he said. "It is the kind of tragedy that occurred many years ago, not today."

For Dr. Helen Chandoha Knott, a first generation Ukrainian-American, the images and news coming out her native land are reminiscent of her father and family fleeing Ukraine during World War II in the early 1940s.

"They walked for miles and took

a train when they could until they came to a DP (displaced persons) camp in Germany," she explained. "Eventually my father and his family came to America,

but always stressed to us to never forget our Ukrainian culture and religious beliefs because it helps us to connect to our ancestors who always had to fight for basic freedoms that we in America take for granted every day."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Jean Stasyszyn Pedley, a longtime faithful member of Saint Vladimir's, who recalled how her mother and father had to flee Ukraine because of Communist rule many years ago.

"They would be heartbroken over these events," she said. "But during these days of horror I've been reminded of what is good in the world — that there are people in this community ready to help strangers."

Pedley added, "The people of Ukraine with their deep faith in God and the Blessed Mother are inspiring all of us to do better, to be better. The outpouring of prayer and support, both financial and emotional, have been overwhelming. But as always God's hand is guiding us."

"The cruel and evil invasion just doesn't fit in today's world, or does it?" Ewasko passionately concluded. "As a Ukrainian Catholic, I look to Jesus and His Mother Mary who are real and who will see us through. Ukraine forever!"



War hits home for Ukrainian Orphan Ministry in the Poconos

BRODHEADSVILLE — “War is hell!” is the oft-repeated refrain of those who know first-hand about the brutality of international conflict.

Some say it is even worse than hell, since war also claims innocent victims along the way. None are more innocent than children, especially those already suffering from severe disabilities.

As war continues to rage in Ukraine, Sandie Flannery has been a much-sought after voice greatly valued by news media outlets throughout our region, given her closeness to the ever-devolving crisis.

Seven years ago, Flannery established the Ukrainian Orphan Outreach Ministry at her parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Brodheadsville. Since that time the ministry has provided much-needed aid to destitute Ukrainian orphan children and young adults — many greatly challenged physically and emotionally, and, under normal circumstances, subject to deplorable conditions.

Visit Plans Canceled

The ministry’s humanitarian efforts have led Flannery many times to the Eastern European country, which she had planned to visit once more at the beginning of this year.

“I wanted to spend Ukrainian Christmas with the orphans in January, but friends and family begged me not to go due to the threat of war,” she recalled. “I reluctantly canceled my plans and disappointed my friends and the orphans. In hindsight, I wish I had gone as it saddens me that I may never be able to visit with them again!”

During the first days of the war, Flannery reached out to the director of the orphanage in Zulachchia in Western Ukraine regarding the safety of the children. “A dear friend, Anton, who has helped our ministry coordinate some of our projects, together with Sister

Metodyia, and a Ukrainian parent of a child with Mowat Wilson syndrome — like my daughter — who was now living in Poland, developed an evacuation plan,” she noted.

“The orphans from Zulachchia are near and dear to my heart and I pray for their safety,” Flannery continued. “If necessary, our ministry will help with the costs of evacuating them safely over the border and supporting them where they are. We will also help with food and basic supplies.”

She remarked that the ministry is also committed to paying for gasoline for the buses, if necessary, to evacuate the most involved and medically complicated orphans in Znamenka. The Ukrainian Catholic Church of New Jersey has been supporting Znamenka for more than 20 years and has evacuated 30 of the higher functioning children and adults.

Desperate Cries for Help

Recently, Flannery received an urgent message from one of the directors of the Baby House in Vorzel, north of Irpen in Ukraine. The Baby House was home to 55 children from infancy to age five, many of whom were disabled with severe medical complications.

“The town was bombed and surrounded by the Russians,” Flannery explained. “She was pleading for my help. As the days went on, her cries became more desperate. She talked of having no heat, electricity, and water. She was not in the building with the babies when the military invaded.”

Flannery noted there were 23 babies with two staff in one building, and 27 children and five workers in another.

“During this time, a mother whom I knew, reached out to me. I knew her from when she adopted two babies with Down syndrome from there 12 years ago,” she said. “Through my contacts with the orphanage personnel, and



Boxes of donated baby diapers are loaded in Brodheadsville, ultimately destined for Ukraine.

my friend’s contacts at the UN and the International Red Cross, God moved mountains and the babies were evacuated. At the bridge crossing in Irpen, they were met by the Ukrainian Red Cross and transported to a hospital in Kyiv where they were treated, bathed and fed.”

The following day all were transported by train to Lviv and then to Chernivsti in Western Ukraine, and just days ago the head educator met up with them and they were ready to depart the war-torn country.

“Our ministry is ready to support the babies and staff financially once a secure connection is made. Many of the staff sacrificed their own safety and could have abandoned the children, but they did not,” Flannery noted. “Currently, we have no idea how the Department of Social Policy will be handling the situation and I want to be sure that the babies and staff have what they need.”

Nadiia’s Plight

Prior to the war’s outbreak on Feb. 24, Flannery shared that she had been “begging” her translator Nadiia to leave Ukraine, along with her husband Yarek and their baby daughter Ivanka, due to the buildup of the Russian military in the north in Belarus.

“Like most other Ukrainians,

they thought that I was overreacting and that they were under the threat of war since 2014 and were not concerned,” she explained. “I pushed her to get her baby’s passport which they received only the week before the war!”

Ultimately, Nadiia and Ivanka had to leave their husband and father behind as they were about to cross the border into Romania.

Flannery currently is sponsoring Nadiia for her visa and has even offered her home 5,000 miles away to provide comfort and love to her and her baby daughter. As of now, Nadiia’s application for an “emergency visa” appointment was denied and she now must wait until May 23 for an appointment in Lithuania

“She has been my travel companion and translator and has kept me out of trouble numerous times,” Flannery said. “She is a dear friend and like a daughter to me.”

Donations, Prayers Needed

Flannery has been effusive in her praise and gratitude for the support she has received from her fellow parishioners. With the blessing of Queen of Peace pastor Father Bob Simon, a massive parish and community drive is well underway to collect over-the-counter medications and baby formula.

“Our church office is starting to fill up. All donations will be sorted and transported to the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee in Philadelphia who will ship it to Ukraine,” she indicated.

Suggested medications include but are not limited to: pain relievers, antibiotic ointments, anti-diarrhea medications, cold and allergy formulas, pedialyte, first aid supplies, vitamins, baby formula (premade) and diapers.

All donations can be dropped off at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish office at 1402 Route 209, Brodheadsville. Donors can also

aid the effort by mail at: P.O. Box 38, Brodheadsville, PA.

“I am worried about the orphans, all the orphans in Ukraine,” Flannery passionately stated. “I’m afraid that once abandoned by their parents, they will be abandoned once again without someone to advocate for them. I am trying to be their voice!”

She has been uplifted and gladdened by reports that numerous humanitarian groups are providing crucial aid to the orphans; however, many older and neurotypical orphans have been left on their own. She further noted that quite a few orphans have been hosted by American families during the summer and at Christmastime, and these families are willing to adopt them. Unfortunately, all adoptions have been halted.

“This war has affected me on a very personal and emotional level,” Flannery shared. “I have been scared, worried, angry, sad, frustrated and confused. I have spent days with only minimal amounts of interrupted sleep. Parishioners have dropped meals off for me because I couldn’t remember if I had eaten.”

Joining the chorus of religious faithful and their leaders crying out for constant prayer and supplication, Flannery also pleaded for prayerful intercessions for divine help.

“This evil will only end through prayer and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” she implored. “We all need to pray the Rosary as our Mother Mary requested at Fatima. Pray to defeat the enemy and bring an end to the evil acts of an atheistic leader. We need to pray for the conversion of Russia. Pray the Rosary!”

Flannery also urged concerned citizens to contact their legislators to advocate for the establishment of official Ukrainian refugee status in America.

Catholic Relief Services leader concerned by growing needs of refugees fleeing Ukraine

BALTIMORE (CNS) — In response to more than 2 million refugees, primarily women and children, fleeing the conflict in Ukraine in recent weeks, the president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services said it is “alarming to see the scale of the suffering” in the region.

In a statement, Sean Callahan said CRS partners and staff inside Ukraine and in Moldova and Poland have “heard of children dragging bulky luggage, their faces wet from tears” and also have heard of “crowds huddling inside bus terminals for shelter, knee-deep in their belongings.”

“The weight of the trauma lives on the faces of young and old alike,” he added.

Callahan also noted that CRS, the U.S. bishops’ relief and development agency, has seen “tremendous acts of solidarity and generosity” from countries receiving refugees and from those donating to CRS and Caritas Romania.

“With all of this in mind, we join the pope in calling for an immediate end to the fighting,” he said, adding that wars in Syria and elsewhere have demonstrated that “people will continue to suffer until there is peace.”

During this time of conflict in Ukraine, CRS has been supporting Caritas agencies in Eastern Europe who are

helping Ukrainian refugees with the following:

- Field kitchens providing hot lunches and snacks.
- Reception services at Caritas offices, train stations and other locations for displaced people with clothing, information, referrals, food, water, hygiene items and counseling services.
- Transportation of displaced families to friends, families and local social services.
- Evacuation centers providing shelter, food and counseling services for displaced families.

CRS is assisting Caritas Moldova in providing food and relief items to refugees at government-run reception centers and plans to establish additional centers.

The Baltimore-based agency also is helping transport refugees from the Ukraine border and mobilizing hosts to provide homes for refugee families.

In Romania, Caritas agencies with CRS support have mobilized volunteers, equipped facilities and helped refugee centers, currently at capacity, in serving hundreds of refugee families crossing the borders.

Caritas Poland is similarly providing assistance to arriving Ukrainians at multiple border-crossing points and supporting the shipment of relief supplies into Ukraine.

CRS is assisting the agency to prepare a cash assistance program to reach an estimated 300,000 households. It also is providing shelter to refugee orphans in coordination with the Polish government.

Generosity in action: Crisis unites Hungarians to common cause

BUDAPEST, Hungary (CNS) — As thousands of refugees from Ukraine continue to cross over the Hungarian border, Budapest’s Keleti train station has become a central hub on their paths to escape violence and search for some sense of normalcy amid the chaos.

For the past two weeks, religious and other charitable organizations such as Caritas Hungary, the Knights of Malta and the Red Cross have distributed food, clothing and other items to the continuous waves of refugees coming through the station, which is always crowded.

The hustle and bustle at the station was no different March 12, as the various charities distributed much-needed food and basic materials not only to refugees from Ukraine, but also to the city’s poor and homeless who arrived at the station seeking help.

“No one is denied help here,” said Mark, a volunteer working at the station for Caritas Hungary, who preferred to give only his first name.



Volunteers from Caritas Hungary give food to people at the Keleti train station in Budapest, Hungary, March 12, 2022. The Knights of Malta and the Red Cross also were participating in efforts to distribute food, supplies, clothing and toys to Ukrainian refugees. (CNS photo/Junno Arocho Esteves)

A group of volunteers speedily handed out bags of food and other goods to those who approached. A young Roma girl standing near the table, however, had her eye on a small plush toy but remained silent. Noticing the girl, one volunteer smiled and handed her the toy along with some candy that

she happily accepted.

Mark told Catholic News Service that the crisis was far from being a burden for Hungarians who stepped up to help those in need. Volunteers who offered to help, he said, “have to wait their turn because every job is taken until the end of March.”

Kyiv mayor invites pope to visit as sign of solidarity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Mayor Vitali Klitschko of Kyiv, Ukraine’s besieged capital, has invited Pope Francis and other religious leaders to come to the city and witness for peace.

“The Holy Father has received the letter from the mayor of the Ukrainian capital and is close to the suffering of the city, its people, those who had to flee from it and those who are called to administer it,” said Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office.

“He prays to the Lord that they will be protected from violence,” Bruni said March 15, adding that the pope repeats his call for an end to “the unacceptable armed aggression before it reduces cities



An aerial view shows a residential building destroyed by shelling Ukraine’s Kyiv region March 3, 2022. (CNS photo/Maksim Levin, Reuters)

to cemeteries.”

In a letter to the pope dated March 8, Klitschko said, “We believe that the world religious leaders’ presence in person in Kyiv is key for saving lives and

paving the path to peace in our city, country and beyond.”

The mayor offered “help on whatever might be needed” to get the pope to Kyiv, and said, “if a journey to Kyiv is not possible, we kindly ask for a joint video conference to be recorded or broadcast live,” including with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

“We appeal to you, as a spiritual leader, to show your compassion, to stand with the Ukrainian people by jointly spreading the call for peace,” the letter said.

Klitschko wrote to the pope three days after appealing in a video on Twitter for religious leaders to come to the beleaguered city.

Catholic Schools collect more than \$16,000 to help families in Ukraine

Like many people, the students, staff and administration of the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System have been touched by the stories of the Ukrainian people who have been forced to flee their homes.

In addition to offering daily prayers, our school communities have honored them by spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, saying the Rosary with their safety in mind and creating posters of support to act as a reminder of their struggles.

“Students at Saint Clare/Saint Paul School were happy to lend a helping hand to their Ukrainian brothers and sisters, because they feel a deep sense of connection to the families, families just like theirs, that are caught in a terrible situation that is beyond their control,” principal Kara Ware said.

Students in several Diocesan Catholic Schools, including Saint Clare/Saint Paul School, also made a difference by participating in school “Dress Down Days for Ukraine.” This most recent campaign has collected more than \$16,000, which will go to help the people most in need.

Students were happy to participate.

“Because Ukraine is in a war and people need help over there, I feel like it is the right thing to do,” Saint Clare/Saint Paul first grader Anthony Donato said.

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Holy Rosary School in Duryea



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton



Holy Family Academy in Hazleton



Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore



All Saints Academy in Scranton



Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green

Where to give to help Ukraine

Various Catholic agencies are collecting donations to aid with the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, as people flee to escape Russian bombing and shelling. Here are some places to donate. This list is not exhaustive.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton

Catholic Social Services in Hazleton, 200 W. Chapel Street, is serving as a collection drop-off site for material donations to help our brothers and sisters impacted by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The items will be passed along to one or more organizations in Philadelphia that are providing assistance to those in need.

In conjunction with the group, “City of Hazleton Outreach to Ukraine,” Catholic Social Services is accepting nonperishable items, including dry rations, such as freeze-dried or dehydrated foods, granola or energy bars, and other non-liquid items. Baby food is also needed, but it must be in pouches and not jars.

Medical supplies and personal hygiene items, including new underwear, thermals, bras, socks, diapers, wipes, blankets, linens, pain relievers, and medical aids, such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, walkers, are being accepted.

Donations can be made weekdays (Monday-Friday) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

In addition to Catholic Social Services, which is a member agency of the Greater Hazleton United Way, other collection sites include Hazleton City Hall, Northeast Counseling Services and the Lackawanna College Campus.

International Caritas Confederation

The international Caritas confederation is collecting funds to help Caritas Ukraine. In the United States, that is through Catholic Relief Services: <https://bit.ly/3LWtOKa>. Internationally, you can donate through <https://www.caritas.org/>.

Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, led by Archbishop Borys Gudziak, who shepherds ten Ukrainian Catholic parishes in the territory of the Diocese of Scranton, recently established an online donation page for Ukrainian War Victims and the Humanitarian Crisis, which can be found at <https://ukrarcheparchy.us/donate>.

Pontifical Agencies

Two pontifical agencies are taking donations for Ukraine: Catholic Near East Welfare Association, <https://cnewa.org/campaigns/ukraine/>, and Aid to the Church in Need, <https://www.churchinneed.org/>.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus launched the Ukraine Solidarity Fund, and donations can be made at kofc.org/secure/en/donate/ukraine.html. On Feb. 25, the Knights of Columbus announced a commitment of \$1 million for immediate distribution to support Ukrainian refugees and will match all funds raised up to an additional \$500,000. The relief funding will be used to provide shelter, food, medical supplies, clothing and religious goods, as well as other humanitarian needs as identified, both directly in Ukraine and through refugee sites in Poland.



Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City is one of several parishes showing its support for the people of Ukraine by displaying blue and yellow lights.

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“The Ukrainian people need food and shelter, this money can help them buy what they need,” third grader Jack Kennedy added.

“It is truly amazing to see the support that our schools have provided to Ukraine, both financially and spiritually. We all continue to pray for an end to this senseless war and hope this support from our schools provides the intended relief,” Catholic Schools Superintendent Kristen Donohue said of the efforts being made.



La Salle Academy in Jessup



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore

Vision 2030 confronts changing realities in the Diocese of Scranton

SCRANTON – A Greek philosopher once said that change is the only constant in life. As local communities, schools and businesses are all forced to change, the Diocese of Scranton must adapt as well.

In 2019, well before the approaching COVID-19 pandemic, the Diocese of Scranton began a long-range pastoral planning process with clergy and parish leaders. The Vision 2030 Blueprint Process aims to look proactively at the realities of our local church in the present moment, while striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade.

The goal of Vision 2030 is to create vibrant parish communities rooted in the life of Jesus Christ.

“As we strive to be a mission-driven church, we must all work together in a way that we best live out our baptismal calling in both a world – and local environment – that continues to change,” Bishop Joseph C. Bambera said. “Our Church faces significant challenges, among which

are a fewer number of parishioners, financial sustainability questions, facility infrastructure needs and a diminishing number of ordained priests.”

A 12-page document entitled ‘Vision 2030’ was released in January in all parishes of the Diocese of Scranton. The document provides information on real and significant factors – known as priority drivers – which the Diocese of Scranton and its parishes must confront. The priority drivers will prompt the need for change in the coming years.

Among the most significant priority drivers is a declining number of parishioners supporting the mission of the Church. More than four decades ago, the Diocese of Scranton had well over 300,000 practicing Catholics. Due to numerous factors, including an aging population, young people leaving the area for employment and reaction to the sex abuse crisis in the church, Diocesan statistics show there are now only 224,075 registered in parishes.

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VISION 2030

Creating Parish Communities Rooted in the Life of Jesus Christ

APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments as indicated:

Monsignor John J. Bendik, from Retirement to Administrator *pro tem*, Saint Andre Bessette Parish, Wilkes-Barre, effective March 8, 2022.

Rev. Helias De Oliveira, to Assistant Pastor, St. John Neumann Parish and St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Scranton, effective February 18, 2022.

Rev. J. Duane Gavitt, to Chaplain, Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, effective March 8, 2022. Father will remain Pastor at St. Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek and St. Rita Parish, Gouldsboro.

Rev. Arun Lakra, to Administrator *pro tem*, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and St. Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, effective February 27, 2022 to March 8, 2022. Father will remain Assistant Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and St. Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale.

Reverend Alex J. Roche, S.T.L., to Administrator *pro tem*, Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin, effective March 8, 2022. Father will remain Director of the Office for Vocations and Chaplain, Misericordia University.

Rev. Seth D. Wasnock, from Chaplain, Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre, effective March 8, 2022. Father will remain Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and St. Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale, effective March 8, 2022.



BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

March 17-18 - Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Meeting, Chicago

March 19 - Welcome for Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

March 19 - Saint Joseph's Feast Day Mass
Oblate of St. Joseph Seminary, Laflin, 11:00 a.m.

March 20 - Masses at Our Lady of Victory Parish
Tannersville, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

March 26 - Lenten Day of Reflection for Deacons & Wives
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton, 8:30 a.m.

March 27 - Cathedral Seminary Visit
Little Neck, N.Y.

March 28 - Bishop's Youth Awards
Saint Matthew Church, East Stroudsburg, 7:00 p.m.

March 30 - Bishop's Youth Awards
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.

April 2 - March Madness Fundraiser for Catholic Youth Center
Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre, 6:00 p.m.

April 4 - Bishop's Youth Awards
Saint Jude Church, Mountain Top, 7:00 p.m.

April 6 - Bishop's Youth Awards
Saint Joseph the Worker Church, Williamsport, 7:00 p.m.

April 7 - Mass for Survivors of Abuse
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

April 10 - Palm Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

April 12 - Chrism Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 4:00 p.m.

April 14 - Mass of the Lord's Supper
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 5:30 p.m.

April 15 - Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.

April 16 - Easter Vigil Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 8:00 p.m.

April 17 - Easter Sunday Mass
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

Rite of Election celebrates newcomers to the faith

SCRANTON – At the age of only 17, Deborah McDonald of Stroudsburg found herself in need of God’s love and assistance last September.

With her mother in the hospital, she turned to prayer and it opened her eyes to the beauty of the Catholic faith.

“Before that it was not something I thought about very often,” McDonald said.

McDonald is one of several dozen people who came to the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton to take part in the Rite of Election on Sunday, March 6, 2022.

The Rite of Election is a prayer service in which those who are enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) take an important step on their journey toward becoming full members of the Catholic Church. The individuals, who have never been baptized, publicly state their desire to receive the sacraments of initiation – baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation – at the Vigil Mass of Easter in April.

“I’m a little nervous, but mostly excited,” the teenage said.

With her Godmother, Pat Bauer of Saylorsburg, by her side, McDonald proudly expressed her intention to join the Catholic Church.

“Her mom is my best friend and when she went to the hospital, she almost died. When she came home with some hefty medical conditions, Deborah was there 24-7 to help with anything her mom needed,” Bauer explained. “I just kept saying to her, ‘pray, pray, pray.’ She was praying like crazy and I really think through that prayer for her mom, not even thinking about herself, is where the Holy Spirit grabbed her!”

In addition to the Rite of Election, the Call to Continuing Conversion was celebrated the same day. That involves candidates who have already been baptized and are preparing to receive the sacraments of confirmation and First Holy Communion in their parishes during the Easter Season.

In all, more than 100 people in the Diocese of Scranton are preparing to join the church this year.

Desiree Prell of Hawley will receive all three sacraments at her parish, Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Wayne County.

“It’s something that I’ve wanted to do for a while,” she explained. “I just felt like now is the time to do it.”



After each catechumen was called by name, and their name written in their ‘Book of the Elect,’ Bishop Joseph C. Bambera went around the Cathedral of Saint Peter to sign each Book of the Elect.

Having had her 10-year-old son baptized when he was born, Prell said she learned a lot from the RCIA classes.

“Every time we had class, there was always stuff that somebody brought that made you think,” she said. “Not only am I getting closer to what I didn’t understand before, but it’s also being a part of the community and we just want to help as much as we can.”

Leah Dunnells of Pike County will also receive her sacraments at the Hawley church. With all of the troubles in the world, from the pandemic to the conflict in Ukraine, she believes putting her trust in God is the only appropriate action.

“Where else do we need to go?” she questioned. “We need religion and hope He helps us and guides us in the direction we need to go.”

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, presided at the Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion. During his homily, he thanked each person for saying “yes” to Jesus.

“My sisters and brothers, and especially you, our catechumens and candidates, today Jesus is calling you. He’s inviting you to walk a path with him that ultimately will lead you to a life of meaning, purpose and peace,” Bishop Bambera said. “He is saying,



During this year’s Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on March 6, more than 100 catechumens (an unbaptized individual who has never been officially initiated into a church community) and candidates (a previously baptized person, either in the Catholic faith or in another Christian faith) publicly professed their intention to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. (Photos/Mike Melisky)



Desiree Prell, left, and Leah Dunnells of Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Hawley participate in the Rite of Election.



Deborah McDonald, 17, of Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg participates in the Rite of Election at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

through his invitation, that your life – with all of its struggles and joys, with all of its blessings and challenges – has a unique place and role to play within his plan.”

While fully recognizing that some people are turning away from religion, Luis Martinez of East Stroudsburg said God is calling him to participate in the life of the Church. He will join Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tannersville at Easter.

“Everybody has their own journey. God is calling me and I’m here!” he said joyfully.

The same is true for Sokieu Brutico,

who will join the Church of Saint Gregory.

“My parents raised me as Buddhist but we were never really strong into our religion and I always felt like a free spirit growing up,” she said.

After being in a serious relationship with a Catholic man, she realized the beauty of prayer and the Catholic faith. She knows this Easter will be special.

“Everyone in my family is making it a huge deal. I’m a very ‘backseat’ person where I don’t like the attention so I’m very nervous but it’s very exciting,” she added.

Parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend Holy Week observances

Lay faithful welcome to attend Chrism Mass on April 12

SCRANTON – Parishes around the Diocese of Scranton are busy preparing for Holy Week Masses and services. The faithful are invited and encouraged to attend Holy Week and Easter Masses in-person to experience the joy, hope and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With a dramatic drop in the number of new COVID-19 infections in the 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton recently, almost all safety protocols have been relaxed and pre-pandemic practices have been encouraged.

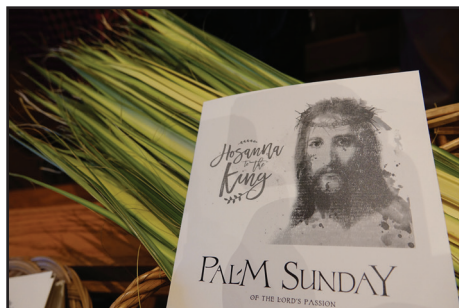
The faithful are not required to wear masks while attending Mass, but are certainly welcome to wear one if they wish.

As of March 11, Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are also no longer required to wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion. In changing that requirement, Bishop Bambera noted that many people with underlying medical conditions found comfort in their priest or Extraordinary Minister of Communion wearing a mask during the distribution of Holy Communion over the last several months, so he encouraged priests to get feedback and communicate with their people.

While prudence and common sense are always encouraged, the only major

COVID-19 liturgical protocol that remains in place is that the distribution of the Precious Blood from the cup continues to remain suspended at this time.

The faithful are encouraged to participate in all of the Holy Week Masses and services.



PALM SUNDAY
Sunday, April 10, 2022

On this day, the Church remembers Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. This commemoration, with the blessing of palms, is not a historical re-enactment; rather it is a ritual action that marks our own entry into Holy Week.

The giving out of palms and blessing them during the liturgy may take place as usual. Three forms are given for the

beginning of the liturgy (The Procession, the Solemn Entrance, and the Simple Entrance). A parish may select from any of these forms.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Pontifical Mass for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion on Sunday, April 10, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocesan website and social media platforms.



CHRISM MASS
Tuesday, April 12, 2022

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, at 4

p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Bishop Bambera cordially invites the presbyterate, permanent deacons and lay faithful to participate in this joyous celebration.

During the Chrism Mass, the bishop will bless three oils—the oil of catechumens, the oil of the infirm, and holy chrism—which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year.

Every parish in the Diocese is invited to send representatives to the Cathedral to attend the Chrism Mass. The Chrism Mass will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocesan website and social media platforms.



HOLY THURSDAY
Thursday, April 14, 2022

Lent ends with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the principal liturgy of this day. In the Sacred Triduum, the Church celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of her Lord, crucified, buried and risen.

The tabernacle is emptied before the liturgy begins. Enough bread should be consecrated at this Mass for the liturgy of Good Friday as well.

The oils blessed and consecrated at the Chrism Mass may be carried into church either before the Mass or during the entrance procession or at the offertory.

The washing of feet ("mandatum") is an act of humility and service, which inspires the community to do the same. The washing of the feet may be done safely and with minimal contact this year. Parishes should use individual towels for the wiping and drying of each person's feet.

Holy Week/Easter Services Schedule

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, will broadcast the following Holy Week and Easter services from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton.

- ◆ Palm Sunday Mass, April 10 at 12:15 p.m.
- ◆ Chrism Mass, Tuesday, April 12 at 4 p.m.
- ◆ Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 14, at 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Good Friday Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, April 15 at 12:10 p.m.
- ◆ Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, April 16 at 8:00 p.m.
- ◆ Easter Sunday Mass, April 17 at 10:00 a.m.; encore at 5:30 p.m.



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

At the end of the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is transferred to the place of reposition following the prayer after Communion. The faithful should be encouraged to spend time in adoration throughout the remainder of the evening.

After Mass, the altar is stripped, and the sanctuary is cleared of flowers and adornments.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Pontifical Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocesan website and social media platforms.



GOOD FRIDAY **Friday, April 15, 2022**

On this day, the Church does not celebrate the Sacraments at all, except for Penance and the Anointing of the Sick.

The faithful are encouraged to participate in the Liturgy of the Hours, particularly Morning Prayer.

The altar should be completely bare: without Cross, without candles, without cloths.

During the veneration of the Cross, only one Cross should be used. This year, the faithful may reverence the Cross with either a bow or a genuflection. Due to continued concerns about the COVID-19

virus, the faithful are asked not to kiss or embrace the Cross.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will commemorate Good Friday of the Lord's Passion on Friday, April 15, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The Liturgy will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocesan website and social media platforms.



HOLY SATURDAY **Saturday, April 16, 2022**

By most ancient tradition, this is the night of keeping vigil for the Lord in which, following the Gospel admonition, the faithful, carrying lighted lamps, should be looking for the Lord when he returns, so that at his coming he may find them awake and have them sit at his table.

The faithful are encouraged to participate in the Liturgy of the Hours, particularly Morning Prayer.

The Easter Vigil begins at a time that allows the new fire to break the darkness of night. The end of civil twilight on this evening is 8:19 p.m.; therefore, so that it can begin in total darkness, the Vigil should not be scheduled before 8 p.m. Also, the Easter Vigil is to be the only liturgy celebrated on this evening.

The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Paschal Candle may take place with the assembly and congregational tapers are welcome to be used.

Adults and children of catechetical age (the Elect) being initiated during the Easter Vigil are to receive all three sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) together at this liturgy. If there

are multiple catechumens and candidates in a parish, care should be taken that the priest celebrates these rites safely including the use of fresh water for each baptism.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the Vigil Mass of Easter on Saturday, April 16, at 8:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocesan website and social media platforms.

EASTER SUNDAY **Sunday, April 17, 2022**

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It marks the end of Holy Week, the last day of the Easter Triduum and is the beginning of the Easter

season of the liturgical year.

Jesus' resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead. Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important day on the Christian calendar.

Parishes are encouraged to sprinkle the faithful with holy water following the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Pontifical Mass of Easter on Sunday, April 17, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocesan website and social media platforms.

Season of Lent is an "opportune time" to do good, Bishop Bambera says on Ash Wednesday

SCRANTON – On Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as celebrant and homilist for the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

As the Season of Lent began, the bishop reminded the faithful that our Lenten journey draws us to the very heart of what it means to be a Christian by entering this time for sacrifice and spiritual renewal.

Bishop Bambera invited those in attendance to reflect on Pope Francis' Lenten message, which takes root from Saint Paul's words in his letter to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (Galatians 6:9-10).

"In quoting Saint Paul, the Holy Father invites us to reflect upon the urgency of using the time that God has given to each of us to sow goodness in our lives and in our world with a view to a future harvest," Bishop Bambera said.

The bishop also explained how Pope Francis asked the faithful to use Ash Wednesday as a time of prayer and fasting for our suffering brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

"May our prayers rise to the heavens as we implore our God to sustain these good and innocent people and bring an end to the senseless aggression that is being laid upon them. May we sacrifice for their sake and may we give from our bounty to generously support them in their fight against evil," the Bishop explained.



At joyous Ordination Mass, Bishop Walsh becomes Sixth Bishop in Diocese of Gaylord

GAYLORD, Mich. — Seventy-three days after Pope Francis appointed Father Jeffrey J. Walsh as the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord, the Scranton native was ordained and installed at a Mass at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Hundreds of family, friends, clergy, religious and lay faithful attended the joyous Cathedral Mass.

“What was once a gift in Scranton is now a gift in Gaylord,” said the Most Rev. Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, who served as principal ordaining bishop and celebrant. “He is a remarkably accomplished parish priest and he brings all of that to you.”

Drawing upon the parable of the owner and vineyard workers from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, which was proclaimed during the Ordination Mass, Archbishop Vigneron said Bishop Walsh is now being sent into a



The Most Rev. Allen H. Vigneron, right, anoints the head of Bishop Jeffrey J. Walsh with the Oil of Chrism, signifying the full share in the priesthood of Christ which he has received through the Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination.

new vineyard – in the Diocese of Gaylord – which is near to Jesus’ heart. “Bishop Walsh does not come to you as some sort of mere generic laborer. He is the man who he is with individual gifts and talents, with a history of discipleship, all of which receives a new quality, a new character, a new consecration, a new stamp today,” he said.



Bishop Jeffrey J. Walsh shows the Apostolic Mandate of Pope Francis appointing him as the new Bishop of Gaylord. It was read aloud at the March 4 installation Mass by the pope’s ambassador to the United States, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley, Apostolic Administrator of Gaylord, were co-ordinating bishops.

Concelebrants were the many bishops and priests in attendance, including Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.

Several of Bishop Walsh’s brother priests from the Diocese of Scranton also made the trip to Michigan for the Ordination Mass.

In his homily, Archbishop Vigneron encouraged everyone in the Cathedral to immerse themselves in the grace being poured forth by the Holy Spirit.

“We are here, in the Cathedral today, not as witnesses, not as spectators, but as participants in something that the Holy Spirit accomplishes beyond any human agency,” the Archbishop explained. “We want our hearts to be on fire with praise and thanksgiving.”

The Archbishop used the closing moments of his homily to speak to Bishop Walsh directly, saying he was chosen for episcopal office because he is a friend of Jesus – and urged him to “seize this grace, this hour.”

The homily followed the presentation of Bishop-elect Walsh and the reading of the apostolic letter from Pope Francis by Archbishop Pierre, calling the Bishop-elect to episcopal ministry.

The homily was followed by the Promise of the Elect in which the Bishop-elect declared his resolve to uphold the faith and to discharge his duties with fidelity, and the Litany of Supplication where the Bishop-elect laid face down in the Cathedral as names of saints were sung in prayer.

In the Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination, Archbishop Vigneron placed his hands on Bishop-elect Walsh without speaking and was followed by all of the other bishops present doing the same to signify the unity of the Apostolic College.



Hundreds of people, including several priests from the Diocese of Scranton, attended the Episcopal Ordination & Installation Mass at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Gaylord on March 4, 2022.



Bishop Jeffrey J. Walsh lies prostrate before the altar during the Litany of Supplication.



The Book of the Gospels is held over the head of the new bishop during the ordination rite.



Bishop Jeffrey J. Walsh poses with several family members who attended the Ordination Mass on March 4, including his parents, Nancy and Jerome Walsh of Scranton. (Photos Courtesy the Diocese of Gaylord)



The three current bishops who are natives of the Diocese of Scranton. Pictured in addition to Bishop Bambera, right, and Bishop Walsh is Bishop Joseph Kopacz, who is serving as the Eleventh Bishop of Jackson, Mississippi.

Archbishop Vigneron also anointed the head of Bishop Walsh, presented him with a Book of the Gospels, placed a ring on his right hand and presented him with a miter and crosier.

“Receive the Gospel, and preach the word of God with all patience and sound teaching,” the Archbishop said in presenting the Book of Gospels.

After the closing prayer, the newly ordained bishop walked through the aisles of the Gaylord Cathedral to offer blessings to all before delivering his first remarks as bishop.

Calling the Mass “uplifting,”

he expressed gratitude to everyone for attending.

“The Church has what the world needs,” Bishop Walsh said. “Prayer and the Sacraments are what make our faith come alive and help us stay close to Christ and be the best that we can be.”

Bishop Walsh said he is eager to go around the Diocese of Gaylord with “missionary zeal,” saying he is looking forward to not only enjoying the beauty of his new diocese but also getting to know its people and pray with them.

“As we pray, we have the

life of Christ grow in us and we realize that we can take a backseat and let his spirit work through us,” Bishop Walsh explained.

The new Bishop concluded his remarks with one of the petitions in the Liturgy of the Hours on the day of the Mass, “Teach us to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Church, that it may be more effective for ourselves and for the world as the Sacrament of Salvation.”

Pope Francis appointed Bishop Walsh to serve the Diocese of Gaylord Dec. 21, 2021, with the announcement coming from Archbishop Pierre.

Bishop Walsh, ordained a priest in 1994, was serving as pastor at Saint Rose of Lima Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, both in Carbondale, at the time of his appointment. The 56 year old is a native of Scranton and a graduate of Scranton Central High School. He graduated from the University of Scranton in 1987 and went on to complete his priestly studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md., earning a Master of Divinity. Bishop Walsh also received a Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in 1999 and

a Master of Social Work from Marywood University in 2010.

During his 27 years as a priest in the Diocese of Scranton, Bishop Walsh also served in various positions in the Diocese of Scranton from Assistant Pastor and Pastor, Sacramental Minister, Episcopal Vicar and Episcopal Vicar for Clergy. He also served in a variety of diocesan positions, including Director of Religious Formation in high schools, Chaplain to the Deaf Community, Diocesan Vocations Director and also Diocesan Deputy Secretary for Catholic Human Services.

Bishop-elect Walsh takes oath of fidelity on eve of Episcopal Ordination

Gaylord, Mich. - On the eve of his Episcopal Ordination and Installation as the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord, Bishop-elect Jeffrey J. Walsh professed his Catholic faith and swore an oath of fidelity to the pope and the Church.

Bishop-elect Walsh, along with several bishops from Michigan, participated in Solemn Vespers at Saint Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Gaylord on March 3, 2022.

During the ceremony, Bishop-elect Walsh stood before the altar, faced a crowd of family, friends and new parishioners, and publically professed his fidelity to the Catholic Church and all of its teachings and his fidelity and loyalty to the Holy Father. The oath that is taken is canonically and morally binding on the Bishop.

The presider at the Solemn Vespers was the Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Gaylord. The Most Reverend Steven J. Raica, Bishop of the Diocese of Birmingham, Ala., served as homilist. Prior to his installation in Birmingham, Bishop Raica served as the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord.

"Today, we are honored to join together in prayer for you my dear brother, and we pray for an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit on your episcopal ministry," Bishop Raica said during his homily.

In the coming months and years, Bishop Raica told Bishop-elect Walsh that he would face times of joy, anxiousness, difficulty and joy. Through it all, he emphasized, "You are not alone. Christ is with you. He promised he would be."

Having served the Diocese of Gaylord from 2014 to 2020, Bishop Raica also spoke of the "spectacular beauty" of Michigan's upper-lower peninsula, calling it a "glimpse of paradise."



Bishop-elect Jeffrey J. Walsh participates in the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity during Solemn Vespers March 3, the eve of his Episcopal Ordination Mass. Bishops are required by canon law to make a profession of faith of the Church and swear an oath of fidelity to the Holy See. The oath that is taken is canonically and morally binding on the bishop.

Bishop Raica ended his homily by thanking Bishop-elect Walsh for saying "yes" to God's calling.

"Tonight and tomorrow and in the next months, you will meet many new friends of Christ, companions on the journey with you and you will be enriched in ways you never imagined through God's providential grace. You will not be alone."

Following the Concluding Prayer, Bishop-elect Walsh made brief remarks, expressing his gratitude to everyone.

"I can't tell you how overwhelmed I feel with the sense of gratitude," Bishop-elect Walsh said, referring to the many text messages, emails, phone calls and letters he has received since his appointment was announced in December 2021.

Reflecting on his Episcopal Motto, "Divine Providence," Bishop-elect Walsh reminded those participating in the service in-person and via livestream that, "We are created to do the Father's will."

The bishop-elect added that he hopes the Grace of God will bless everyone who participates in his Ordination Mass.

"Everyone, I pray, will have their heart touched with the Holy Spirit, for whatever is important in your life, whatever you are struggling with or might need help with, I pray that this time together will be something that leads you closer to the mystery of God's love and to what is the true nature of our celebration," Bishop-elect Walsh said.

Names of the Diocese of Scranton Who Have Become Bishops

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, native of Carbondale; current bishop of Scranton since 2010.

Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran, native of Ashley; served as bishop of the Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma, from 1978 to 1992, then archbishop of Oklahoma City from 1993 until his retirement in 2010.

Bishop Andrew J. Brennan, native of Towanda; served as first auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Scranton from 1923 to 1926; then bishop of Richmond, Virginia, from 1926 until his resignation for health reasons in 1945.

Bishop Cletus J. Benjamin, native of Old Forge; served as auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia from 1960 until his sudden death less than a year later.

Bishop Henry Cosgrove, native of Williamsport; served as bishop of Davenport, Iowa from 1884 until his death in 1906.

Bishop John M. Dougherty, native of Scranton; served as auxiliary bishop of Scranton from 1995 until his retirement in 2009.

Bishop Joseph A. Ferrario, native of Scranton; served as auxiliary bishop of Honolulu, Hawaii, from 1977 to 1982, then bishop until his retirement for health reasons in 1993.

Bishop Eugene A. Garvey, native of Carbondale; served as bishop of the newly erected Diocese of Altoona from 1901 until his death in 1920.

Bishop Henry T. Klonowski, native of Scranton; served as auxiliary bishop of Scranton from 1947 until his retirement in 1973.

Bishop-Elect Joseph R. Kopacz, native of Dunmore; currently serving as the Eleventh Bishop of Jackson, Mississippi since February 6, 2014.

Bishop George L. Leech, native of Ashley; appointed auxiliary bishop of Harrisburg in 1935 and later that same year was named bishop, serving until his retirement in 1971.

Bishop Justin J. McCarthy, native of Sayre; served as auxiliary bishop in Newark, New Jersey from 1954 to 1957, then bishop of Camden, New Jersey until his death in 1959.

Bishop Edward P. McManaman, native of Wilkes-Barre; served as auxiliary bishop of Erie from 1948 until his death in 1964.

Bishop Joseph M. McShea, native of Lattimer Mines; served as auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia from 1952 to 1961, then first bishop of the newly erected Diocese of Allentown until his retirement in 1983.

Bishop Robert C. Morlino, native of Dunmore; served as bishop of Madison, Wisconsin, from 2003-2018. Previously served as bishop of Helena, Montana, from 1999 until his appointment to Madison.

Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle, native of Scranton; served as first archbishop of Washington, D.C. from 1948 until his retirement in 1973.

Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor, native of Scranton; served as auxiliary bishop of Scranton from 1943 to 1946; then rector of the North American College in Rome; apostolic nuncio to Malta; and president of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications at the Vatican.

Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara, native of Scranton; served as auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia from 1929 to 1935; then bishop of Savannah, Georgia until his resignation for health reasons in 1959.

Bishop Jeremiah F. Shanahan, native of Silver Lake; served as first bishop of the newly erected Diocese of Harrisburg from 1868 until his death in 1886. His younger brother John also served as bishop of Harrisburg (see next entry).

Bishop John W. Shanahan, native of Silver Lake; served as bishop of Harrisburg from 1899 until his death in 1916.

Bishop James C. Timlin, native of Scranton; served as auxiliary bishop of Scranton from 1976 until his appointment as bishop of Scranton in 1984; served until his retirement in 2003.

Bishop Jeffrey J. Walsh, native of Scranton; current bishop of Gaylord, Michigan.

Bishop Stephen S. Woznicki, native of Wilkes-Barre; served as auxiliary bishop of Detroit from 1938 until 1950, then bishop of Saginaw, Michigan, until his retirement in 1968.



Take the Synod on Synodality Survey!

The Diocese of Scranton continues to listen to your voice as we answer the call of Pope Francis to participate in the local listening phase of the 2023 Synod on Synodality. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider each question and offer feedback about your experience as a member of the Diocese of Scranton.

You can take the survey online at **dioceseofscranton.org** or use this paper copy (Pages 15 & 16) and send your answers to:

Diocese of Scranton
Attention: Synod on Synodality Reponse
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

Question 1: *In the Church and in society, we are called to walk together, side-by-side, as we journey through life.*

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is inclusive, meaning every person has the ability to participate as equals?

Circle One: Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree No Opinion

We invite you to provide any thoughts on groups or individuals who you feel the Catholic Church may be leaving on the margins:

Question 2: *Listening is one of the most powerful and deeply human experiences we can have. The act of listening respects and validates the voice that is being heard.*

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton listens to all people?

Circle One: Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on those that the Catholic Church does/does not listen to:

Question 3: *Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are encouraged to speak up, be brave and boldly trust we are loved by God.*

Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are provided with the opportunity to speak candidly with their parish priest and our bishop?

Circle One: Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on what enables or hinders people from speaking up about their hopes/concerns:

Question 4: *One of the foundations of the Catholic faith is the belief that God is alive in each and every human person. For Christians, we are baptized and anointed with the Holy Spirit and are nourished by Christ in the Eucharist.*

The celebration of the Mass inspires me toward a more joyful and holier life?

Circle One: Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on how prayer and/or Masses do or do not inspire you:

Question 5: *Every Catholic has a responsibility to participate actively in the mission of the Catholic Church, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ*

The Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is succeeding in the following areas of its mission? (Use SA, Agree, Disagree, SD or No Opinion for Each)

Leading People to a Deeper Relationship with God: _____

Educating People of All Ages in the Faith: _____

Helping the Poor, Lonely and Vulnerable: _____

Welcoming Immigrants, Refugees and Other Newcomers: _____

Being Compassionate to those in Prison: _____

Ensuring Racial Equality: _____

Promoting Pro-Life Issues: _____

Protecting Human Rights: _____

Caring for the Environment: _____

Supporting Families: _____

Question 6: *From Pope Saint Paul VI to Pope Francis, successive popes have actively called the People of God to be a Church in dialogue. Through dialogue, all of the Christian faithful shape the way the Church achieves her mission.*

Catholics in the Diocese of Scranton are provided with the opportunity to discuss, debate and dialogue about the future direction of the church?

Circle One: Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on places and opportunities that our church does/does not offer for constructive dialogue:

Question 7: *Christ calls all His disciples, united by Baptism, to work side-by-side with diverse groups and other faith communities.*

It is a priority of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton to work with other faith communities in promoting the well-being of all?

Circle One: Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on the way the Catholic Church could interact with other Christian denominations:

Question 8: *Through Baptism and Confirmation, the mission of the Catholic Church belongs to all the Christian faithful. Everyone is called to play an active role.*

All Catholics, including young people, lay men and lay women, are challenged to use their gifts and talents in the life of the Church?

Circle One: Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on how people are/are not invited to participate in the life of the Church:

Question 9: *The Christian faith is accessible to everyone. Because the mission of the Catholic Church belongs to the Church’s members, every voice has a right to be heard.*

In making important decisions, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is transparent and accountable in its decision-making processes?

Circle One: Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on how people are/are not invited to participate in the life of the Church:

Question 10: *The Church’s Tradition, received from the Apostles, carries the Christian faith through history. A synod is meant to identify the needs, challenges and opportunities of the present moment.*

While respecting Tradition, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Scranton is responsive to the needs, challenges and opportunities at the present moment?

Circle One: Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree No Opinion

We invite you to provide any additional thoughts on how the church listens and engages in dialogue:

Demographic Information:

Gender: _____ Age: _____ Ethnicity: _____ Parish: _____

Catholic Women's Conference returns to Marywood in June



Hundreds of women attended the 2021 Catholic Women's Conference at Marywood University. This year's conference will be held June 11.

SCRANTON – The “Refresh Your Faith” Conference for Catholic Women is coming back this summer!

The conference, “Full of Grace,” is an opportunity for women to explore their faith and deepen their relationship with Mary, the Mother of God.

All women are invited to participate in this year's conference on Saturday, June 11, beginning at 8 a.m. on the campus of Marywood University.

Keynote speaker, Colleen Carroll Campbell, an award-winning author, journalist, and former presidential speechwriter will share her spiritual journey with the Saints and her special devotion to Mary.

Another featured speaker is Debra Hadley, who will share how unfathomable tragedy struck her family not once, but twice. She will share her journey from the depths of despair to rediscovering her faith and restoring her will to live and to reach out to others.

Featured speaker Father Jeffrey Kirby will address our Catholic devotion to Mary, our Mother, as our powerful intercessor and as a model of discipleship.

Dunmore native Megan Murphy, a Catholic speaker, teacher, and evangelist will talk about the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, which all focus on Our Mother, Mary. As each prayer of the rosary is said, a candle will be lit. When the rosary is completed, the room will be aglow with an illuminated candlelit rosary.

Guiding the participants through the day will be Olyphant native, Natalie Gubala-Magdon, founder of the “15 Minute Rosary.”

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, and worship artist Molly McManus will provide inspirational music throughout the day.

Participants can also enjoy a continental breakfast, lunch and shopping at the Catholic Vendor Marketplace.

Early-bird registrations are now available at \$45 per person (the price increases to \$50 after May 29). Student tickets are \$20, and women religious are welcome free of charge.

Volunteers are always needed and those who sign up for four hours at the conference will receive a free ticket. For more information and to register, visit cwcnepa.com.

Catholic Women's Conference

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Marywood University*

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Stephanie Westington, Treasurer

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Info: 570-430-2735

ASH WEDNESDAY

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools spend the 40 days of Lent with students strengthening their faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It all begins with Ash Wednesday where students receive the tangible symbol of the beginning of Lent during the school day.



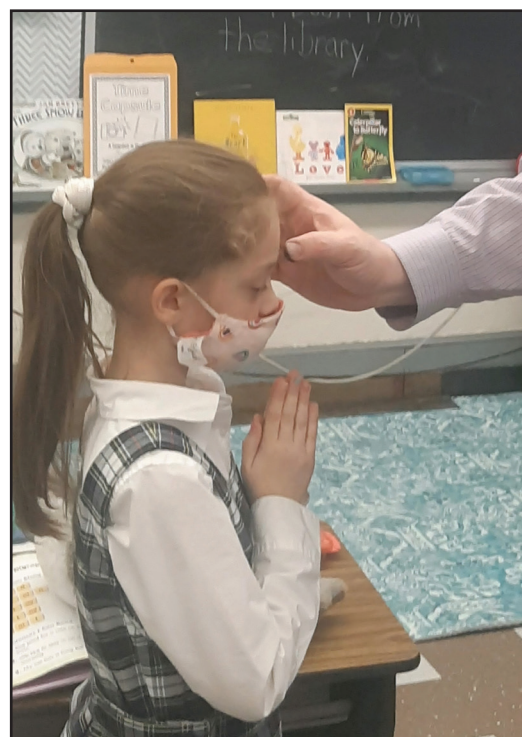
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg



Holy Redeemer High School
in Wilkes-Barre



Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School
in Wilkes-Barre



Epiphany School in Sayre



Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

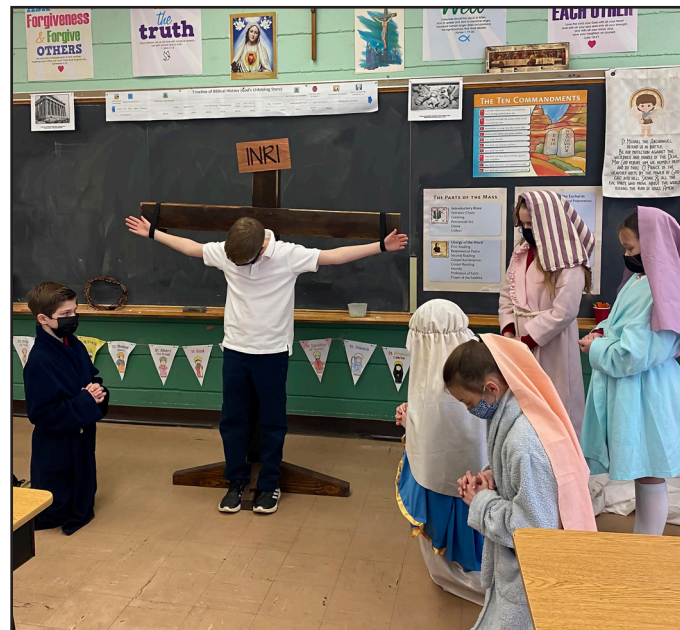
Our students are learning that spiritual growth during Lent can take many forms. Some students participated in the “The Jared Box Project”, by delivering 81 boxes of “smiles” to children who are in local hospitals. Other students collected items for the guests at “House of Hope”, part of the Sojourner Truth Ministries in Williamsport. Blessing Bags were filled with socks, crackers, tissues, tooth brushes and paste and delivered personally by students. At another school, students are preparing for their annual Living Stations presentation.



Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston



Saint John Neumann High School in Williamsport



Saint Agnes School in Towanda

Mueller Family McDonalds donate \$10,000 to Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation



Pictured at the check presentation on Feb. 28, 2022, are, from left: Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools; the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton; Christina Curran, Mueller Family McDonalds; and Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)

SCRANTON – Christina Curran of the Mueller Family McDonalds presented a \$10,000 check to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation on Feb. 28, 2022.

The donation was a result of the fifth annual Fry Fundraiser that kicked off National Catholic Schools Week January 31, 2022 and ended February 20, 2022. All sixteen Mueller Family McDonald's participated by donating a portion of every large order of french fries sold during that period.

“We are so grateful to the Mueller family for their generosity and continued commitment to supporting families in need. The Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation helps students in our 19 schools experience a Catholic Education and achieve their God-given potential in an academically excellent, safe, and spiritual environment,” Jason Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Chief Executive Officer, said.

With restaurants located in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Shavertown, Mountain Top, Old Forge, Clarks Summit, Dickson City, Eynon, Carbondale, Tunkhannock, Honesdale, Allentown and Bethlehem, the Mueller Family McDonalds restaurants are deeply invested in their communities.

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Who are your heroes? Which person stands out to you as deserving such standing in your life? When I think of heroes in our midst and in the life of the Church, I think of missionaries, these men and women who often leave the comfort and familiarity of their homeland and step into places and circumstances foreign and radically new to them. At times, these missionaries willingly go to places that are beleaguered by war, violence, and persecution, all in the name of Christ and His Church.

The date of the publication of this latest blurb from me coincides with the commemoration of Saint Patrick, patron of Ireland (and Nigeria, believe it or not). Saint Patrick was, by all accounts, a prolific figure, but sadly his legacy has been one that redounds to the

acknowledgement that he drove snakes from Ireland and that we have parades and drink green beer on his feast day. There is so much more to this saint, this saint who was a missionary.

The story of his life begins somewhere in the British Isles where he was born around 385 AD. An interesting and controversial piece of trivia of Patrick's life is that he was not born in Ireland. Shh, don't tell my father. I know, this is tragic. But what brought him to Ireland, brought him back to Ireland, and what sustained him as one who served the Irish as a priest and bishop is much more profound than the "scandal" or his actual ancestry.

From his autobiography entitled *Confessio*, we learn that at the age of 16, Patrick was captured by pirates and sold into slavery. Enslaved on the Emerald Isle, Patrick was a farmhand that cared for animals until his brave escape which eventually found him reunited with his family. Sometime later, Patrick became a priest and returned to Ireland as a missionary. Herein lies the heroism of this saintly man.

Imagine the personal trauma and heavy wounds that would have festered years after being kidnapped, sold into slavery, and living the life of an enslaved farmhand and then agreeing — after escaping — to return to the very place, to the very people that ignored the beauty of his own inherent goodness, who abused him and used him for personal and financial gain. Patrick wanted to tell the message of salvation to the Irish people. And tell it he did.

Patrick would then spend the remainder of his life and ministry in Ireland preaching of the kingdom of God, a missionary far from his family and homeland, among a people who initially maltreated him. Once again, this is a time for introspection. Remember the "Children Go Where I Send Thee" image of a few articles back where we reflected on the power of God to send us to people and places we would not ordinarily design for ourselves?

Well, that's what Patrick did and did with a loving and open heart to the will of God and out of love for the people whose very hearts he would direct to the Almighty. So we are sent, to neighbors and coworkers, to friend and foe, to places familiar and foreign, to stations far and near. All to bring the message of the kingdom, hopefully realizing that Christ paves our path and walks with us along the way.

If that's intimidating or hard to accept, worry not. Offer the very prayer of Saint Patrick which speaks of the ever-present companion we have in Christ. He may send us to people and places difficult to imagine, but He goes with us:

"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. Amen."



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STATUES • STENCILS • GOLD LEAF • MURAL RESTORATION

Continued from Page 8

Likewise, a diminishing number of clergy is another significant priority driver. In 2003, the Diocese of Scranton had 226 active priests. In 2021, that number had dropped below 100 priests. Because of retirements, the Diocese projects that there will only be 81 priests in 2025 and 62 priests by 2030 without a significant increase in vocations to the priesthood.

In recognition of all the Church of Scranton faces, the Diocese has been working with Pastors and Parish Pastoral and Finance Council members in several communities to establish new parish linkages to confront the changing times. There are various reasons why a linkage may be established – from the retirement of a pastor, to demographic, financial or infrastructure reasons, or even the overall needs of the diocese in regards to where clergy are most needed.

Announcements regarding new linkages planned for 2022 have been communicated to parish communities in the last several weeks. The announcement of a new linkage is just the very first step in a process that will involve the engagement of the laity. Whenever a linkage is established, there are many questions that will need to be examined and choices that will need to be made – and that is where the involvement of each church's parishioners will be relied upon.

Among the parish modifications recently announced are:

- Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, will enter into a linkage with Saint Barbara Parish, Exeter, in May 2022. This linkage will have a single pastor and will become effective upon the planned retirement of Father Michael E. Finn, Pastor of Saint Barbara Parish.

- Saint Mary of the Lake Parish, Lake Winola, will join the

current linkage of Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish, Dalton, and Saint Patrick Parish, Nicholson, in August 2022. All three parishes will share one pastor.

- Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Towanda, will enter into a linkage with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing, in August 2022. This linkage will have a single pastor.

- Saint Joachim Church, which is currently a worship site of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Wyalusing, will become a worship site of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Tunkhannock, in August 2022.

- All Saints Parish, Plymouth, will enter into a linkage with Saint John the Baptist Parish, Larksville, in August 2022. This linkage will have a single pastor.

- The Pastoral and Finance Councils of Saint Andre Besette Parish, Wilkes-Barre, have begun participation in a consultative process to determine the best path forward given changing demographics in its community which have resulted in decreased

Mass attendance and Sacramental participation, as well as a large debt which has been transparently shared with the faithful each week in the parish bulletin.

Whenever the need for a new linkage occurs, the Diocese makes available professionals in pastoral formation, financial planning, engineering and communication to help the new linkage in any way that is necessary.

As the Diocese of Scranton continues to confront changing realities, the bishop told each of the parish communities that will be involved in a new linkage, "While I know change is never easy, be assured of my deep gratitude for all that you and your families have shared, and continue to share, in furthering the mission of the Church. As you know, our mission is to take Christ into the world. I am confident that by working together we can 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.'"

For more information on Vision 2030, visit dioceseofscranton.org.

Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

March 17, Father Jeffrey Tudgay; March 18, Father John Turi; March 19, Father Anthony Urban; March 20, Father Brian Van Fossen; March 21, Monsignor Neil Van Loon; March 22, Father Joseph Verespy; March 23, Father John Victoria; March 24, Father James Walsh; March 25, Bishop Jeffery J. Walsh; March 26, Passionist Father Mark Ward; March 27, Monsignor William Ward; March 28, Monsignor Christopher Washington; March 29, Father Seth Wasnock; March 30, Holy Cross Father Jarrod Waugh; March 31, Father Donald Williams; April 1, Pope Francis; April 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; April 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; April 4, Father Bryan Wright; April 5, Holy Cross Father Michael Wurtz; April 6, Father Clement Kwabena Amankwah Yeboah; April 7, Father Daniel Yenkevich; April 8, Father Michael Zipay; April 9, Father Joseph Adonizio; April 10, Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter Father Zachary Akers; April 11, Father Patrick Albert; April 12, Father John Albosta; April 13, Father James Alco; April 14, Father Robert Antonelli; April 15, Father Stephen Asomah; April 16, Monsignor Thomas Banick; April 17, Father David Bechtel; April 18, Father Richard Beck; April 19, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Mariusz Beczek; April 20, Jesuit Father John Begley.

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Lackawanna County parish enters Lent with '40 Faith Filled Days Celebration'

SCOTT TOWNSHIP – As parishioners of Saint John Vianney Parish entered the Season of Lent this year, they were invited to go deeper in their faith by attending a “40 Faith Filled Days Celebration.”

Dozens of families turned out on March 6 to witness the parish’s seventh and eighth grade students present the Stations of the Cross, present a food donation to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen as well as enjoy a family craft activity with an act of fasting, prayer, and giving for each day of Lent.

The “40 Faith Filled Days Celebration” is just one in a series of family-oriented events the parish has hosted since its faith formation program resumed in-person classes last year.

“It’s all about gathering God’s children together, in love and in



Seventh and eighth grade students at Saint John Vianney Parish in Montdale presented ‘Shadow Stations of the Cross’ during a ‘40 Faith Filled Days Celebration’ on March 6, 2022. (Photo courtesy CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton)

faith and in trust,” Kristin Travis, Director of Faith Formation at Saint John Vianney Parish, explained. “It’s just so important to get our families involved in the faith journey of their children.”

Students who participated in the Stations of the Cross – which were presented as “Shadow Stations” behind a screen – say it was a moving experience.

“It’s important to show the

real presentation of what happened to Jesus,” student Gianna Wech said.

Travis encouraged the crowd to reflect on the Stations of the Cross as they were presented.

“As we begin our solemn journey of Lent as a parish community, this is a time to reflect, reconcile and renew our spiritual lives and our relationship with Jesus,” she said.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the parish collected more than 600 food items to be donated to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton.

Rob Williams, Executive Director of Saint Francis Kitchen, attended the event to thank the faith formation students and parents for their efforts.

“The main reason that a food collection like the one here at Saint John Vianney means so much to Saint Francis Kitchen is that we’re engaging and involving young people in the mission of the church,” Williams said. “Secondarily, we certainly have a need of food – like the jelly, tuna and sauce they collected – so we definitely have people that are in need and can use these items.”

Williams spoke to the students about the mission of Saint Francis Kitchen and the agency’s goal to treat each person that walks through the doors with dignity and respect.

“It’s very moving for me to be here and to see these young people that are taking their faith seriously and that are acting on that faith,” Williams added.

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'Road to Resurrection' Lenten series traveling through Pittston area

PITSTON — The long-standing Lenten tradition of the "Road to Resurrection" series of Eucharistic celebrations continues to be offered in the Greater Pittston Deanery each week during the Church's solemn season.


Designated Catholic parishes in the area host prayerful stops every Wednesday along the annual devotional journey, with the weekly Masses offered at 6 p.m. in the various churches.

The remainder of the "Road to Resurrection" schedule is as follows: March 23, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Dupont; March 30, Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca; and April 6, Saint Joseph Marello Parish, Pittston.

Parish deacons in the Pittston Deanery also are leading Sunday Evening Prayer every week throughout the season of Lent. The evenings of prayer are hosted at a different church each Sunday at 5 p.m. and include a Lenten meditation and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The remaining schedule for the Sunday Evening Prayer services includes: March 20, Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, North Pittston; March 27, Queen of the Apostles, Avoca; and April 3, Saint Joseph Marello.

All area faithful are welcome and encouraged to attend the Lenten program offerings.



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PHL Chapter provides pro-life education programming

HAZLETON — As schools begin their spring semesters, the Hazleton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, in conjunction with their “Voice of John” pro-life initiative, is delivering its respect life message to area students.

PHL Chapter President Maryann Lawhon produced video podcasts geared for elementary students as she put a pro-life spin on her presentations when she took part in the annual “Read Across America” school reading

campaign celebrating the birthday of beloved children’s author Dr. Seuss.

Lawhon plans to present the podcasts during upcoming guest visits at Catholic schools in the region, and said the pro-life educational programming is also available to home school and CCD classes through the Voice of John website.

“The message of respecting life can be geared to any age group as we talk about kindness, fairness, and respect as building blocks to affirming the sacredness of life,” she expressed.

Catherine Riley, a member of the Hazleton PHL Chapter who has Down syndrome, is featured in several of the podcasts, stressing to students the importance of acceptance and recognizing the “other abilities” of those with mental and physical disabilities.

“It is a great starting point to reach out to our youth with messages of traditional values and affirming the sanctity of all human life,” Lawhon stated.

She further encouraged parents and grandparents to use the podcasts as an opportunity to engage children in the dialogue of respect for life.

Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.

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Oblates celebrating Saint Joseph feast day

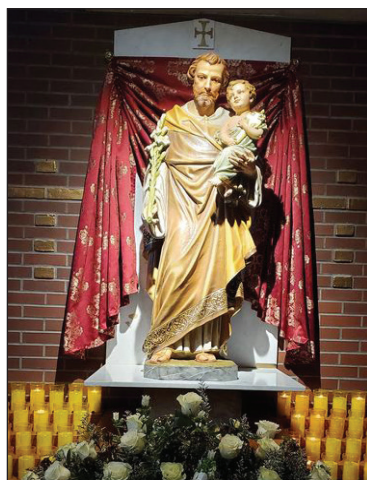
LAFLIN—The Oblates of Saint Joseph religious congregation will host their annual celebration of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on Saturday, March 19, with Eucharistic liturgies and novena devotions in the chapel of Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, 1880 Route 315, Laflin.

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant of a concelebrated solemn Saint Joseph feast day Mass at 11 a.m. An earlier liturgy commemorating the patron saint's feast will be offered at 8 a.m. in the Oblates chapel.

The annual nine-day Novena to Saint Joseph hosted by the OSJ community continues daily at the seminary chapel in anticipation of the solemnity celebration on March 19.

Novena Masses and devotions are offered each day at noon and 7 p.m. by the Oblate priests serving in the Diocese of Scranton.

Prior to the liturgical celebrations, the Rosary is recited and sacramental confessions are heard. Masses are followed by novena prayers and include a



blessing with the relic of Saint Joseph Marello, founder of the Oblate religious order.

The daily noon Mass is livestream on the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary Facebook page and broadcast on JMJ Catholic Radio (98.9 FM).

All faithful are invited to participate in the novena devotions and feast day celebrations honoring Saint Joseph as Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the Universal Church.

For more information, contact the seminary office (570) 654-7542.

Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services listed

Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton is dedicated to promoting prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Holy Rosary.

Prayer rallies and Rosary evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted Scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

Lenten Day of Reconciliation honoring the Feast of Saint Joseph—March 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Saint Patrick Church, Milford. Program will be led by Capuchin Franciscan Father Pio Mandato with music ministry

provided by Marian Devotion Ministries.

Lenten Monday Rosary—March 21, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. Service also includes Fatima prayers, Lenten hymns, litany and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Easter Monday Rosary—April 18, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. Service also includes Fatima prayers, hymns, litany and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

To host an event or for more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or email: singtomary@aol.com.



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Hazleton 'Road to Resurrection' begins March 21

HAZLETON — The Southern Luzerne County Deanery will present a "Road to Resurrection" Lenten retreat during four consecutive evenings next week.

Serving as guest celebrant and homilist for the retreat Masses will be Very Rev. Richard Burke, CP, rector of Saint Ann Passionist Monastery and pastor of Saint Ann Basilica Parish, both in West Scranton.

The "Road to Resurrection" series of Eucharistic liturgies and homiletic themes will be offered Monday through Thursday, March 21-24, at the Deanery's Hazleton Church of Saint Joseph on Laurel Street.

The Masses will be celebrated each night at 6:30 p.m. and will livestream on the parish website at www.sscmparish.com. The entire devotional retreat will remain

posted throughout the season of Lent for additional viewing.

All faithful are welcome to attend this special regional Lenten spirituality series. Following each evening's service, several priests will be available for sacramental confessions in preparation for Easter.

Collection offerings will also be accepted at the church entrance at all Masses.

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551.

Aviso al Respetto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570) 862-7551.

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Avoca parish hosting Lenten Reflection Day

AVOCA — Father Phil Sladicka, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Parish, announces Knights of Columbus Council 12967 will sponsor a Lenten Day of Spiritual Reflection at the Avoca parish on Saturday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Serving as guest priest-presenter and leader for the day will be Vincentian Father Sylvester “Sy” Peterka of the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

The program for the spiritual Lenten Day opens with a breakfast reception at 9 a.m. A morning talk will follow, after which there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and opportunity for

private prayer/meditation and sacramental confessions.

A hoagie lunch will be served at noon, followed by the afternoon presentation at 2 p.m. Recitation of the Rosary will follow, and quiet time and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be offered.

The day will conclude at 3 p.m. with benediction and a closing reflection. Participants are welcome to remain for the celebration of Holy Mass at 4 p.m. in the parish church.

All faithful are invited to attend the Lenten Day of Reflection by contacting the parish rectory at (570) 457-3412, or Grand Knight Bob Ryzner at (570) 855-2096.

IHM Sisters prayer evening on April 6

SCRANTON — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters will continue their monthly “Evenings of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM” on Wednesday, April 6.

The ongoing series of prayer devotions celebrates a specific theme each month relating to IHM history and the religious community’s charism.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Evenings of

Prayer are offered on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. via videostreaming.

Participants may access the devotions at: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/ihm-tv>.

The theme for the April prayer service is: “Our Relationship to the Earth.”

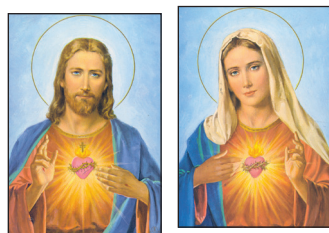
For more information, contact the IHM Sisters at (570) 346-5404 or communications@sistersofihm.org.

Blue Army Reparation Vigil

The next monthly First Friday Reparation Vigil, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and sponsored by the Blue Army, will be held **April 1** at Saint Joseph’s Oblate Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin (Pittston).

Devotions begin Friday evening at 8 p.m. with recitation of the Rosary, during which time confessions are heard. Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated at 8:55 p.m., followed by benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and consecration to the Sacred Heart.

The vigil continues with the crowning of the Blue Army



Pilgrim Virgin Statue, the Blue Army Pledge, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns, followed by litany and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The vigil concludes with scapular enrollment at 10:15 p.m.

Music for the First Friday devotion is provided by Marian Devotion Ministries, led by Ernie Pappa.



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The Scranton Half Marathon Foundation recently presented Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton with two large monetary donations, the first being a check for \$13,691 derived from the proceeds of the city's Fall 2021 Half Marathon. Shown in the top photo, Saint Francis Executive Director Rob Williams receives a \$5,000 contribution from Scranton Half Marathon committee members to support the apostolate's annual Host for a Day Campaign. Pictured with Williams are, from left: Tim Rowland, Pat Fricchione, Jim Moran, Gary Jones, Dr. Tom Minora, Matt Byrne, Ted Zwiebel, Owen Worozbyt, Saint Francis Advisory Board President Melissa Pavlowski, Mike McCormick, Matt Hunter and Jason Geadrities. The bottom photo depicts members of the administrative staff of State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Waymart who recently volunteered their time and efforts to serve a day's meal for the Saint Francis Kitchen patrons.

Slovak Lenten program March 27 in Kingston

KINGSTON — The Slovak Stations of the Cross in Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA will on Sunday, March 27, at Saint Ignatius Loyola Church, 339 Slovak Hymn Sing & Traditional Maple Ave., Kingston.

All faithful are welcome to join in the congregational singing of Slovak Lenten hymns that will open the program at 2 p.m., followed by prayerful mediation of the sorrowful Stations in the Slovak language.

The words and translations of the rich hymnology, along with program booklets for the Stations of the Cross, will be provided to those in attendance.

Facial masks are encouraged for all participants, and the church is wheelchair accessible via elevator. Refreshments will be available following the service.

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Cherubic Cantor debuts
'...and a child shall lead them'



Deacon Bill Behm said his homily for a recent weekend liturgy at Saint Andrew Parish in Wilkes-Barre “didn’t stand a chance” as soon as he was upstaged by 18-month-old parishioner Eleanor Carr. Little Eleanor, much to the delight of the Mass-goers, just had to join Mom — Saint Andrew cantor Ashley Carr — on the altar during the deacon’s sermon. Later, with her baby girl in one arm while leading the congregation in song with the other, the parish’s newest cantoring duet made their debut. As the perfectly timed photo above reveals, Eleanor relished her new role and certainly got into the act. None in attendance enjoyed the performance more than Deacon Bill — especially since he was the one who baptized the “toddler cantor” a year and a half ago.

Catholic Men’s Conference October 8



The seventh “Be A Catholic Man” Catholic Men’s Conference in the Diocese of Scranton is planned for Saturday, Oct. 8, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre. “Be Not Afraid” will be theme for this year’s conference, dedicated to the patronage of Saint Joseph. The event will feature national Catholic speakers who will challenge all men – single, married and ordained – to live virtuous lives in a secular world. For more information, contact Michael Kilmer at (570) 746-0100 or michaelkilmer71@gmail.com. Further details will be forthcoming.

Conference organizers pictured above are, first row from left: Jim Bondo, Ed Niewinski, Bill Leandri, Mike Kilmer, Father Brian Van Fossen, Dennis Shovlin, Joe Adcroft and Raphael Micca. Second row: Henry Pospieszalski, Dr. Lou Guarnieri, Tony DePaola, Ralph Marino, John Witkowski, George Hayden and Joe Alinoski.

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MARCH SCHEDULE									
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
12:00: AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)						
1:00 AM	FR SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH		
1:30 AM		EWTN GALLERY							
2:00 AM	LIVING DIVINE MERCY		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY		
2:30 AM	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS		SPECIALS	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	FINDING ALL THINGS IN GOD		
3:00 AM	LENTEN PARISH MISSION			DOMINICAN SISTERS	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)		AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY		
3:30AM		EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	METANOIA	SIGNS OF LIFE	GOSPEL GLIMPSES	BOB AND PENNY LORD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH	
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	JOURNEY THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES	PAPAL AUDIENCE(4:15)	MATTHEW'S TESTIMONY TO JESUS	METANOIA	ICONS		
4:30 AM		EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	REFLECTIONS (5:15)	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	EWTN SPECIALS	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS		
5:00 AM	THE REFORMATION	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	CATHOLIC SPHERE			CATHOLICS COME HOME		
5:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS							
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	LENTEN REFLECTIONS	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE		
6:30 AM	THE HERESISIES	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL					STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL	
7:00 AM	THE HOLY ROSARY	HOLY LAND ROSARY					THE HOLY ROSARY		
7:30 AM		LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	LITANY OF SACRED HEART			
7:50 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	DAILY MASS (Live)							
8:00 AM		(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	HOLY ROSARY WITH THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE ETERNAL WORD						
9:00 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	THE ROAMIN' CATHOLIC		
9:30 AM	SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL	RELIGIOUS CATALOG					IMAGE OF GOD		
10:00 AM		CHOICES WE FACE	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	LIVE WITH PASSION	FOCUS	CTV STATIONS OF THE CROSS	LENTEN REFLECTIONS		
10:30 AM	OFOD/LENTEN EVENING PRAYER	ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA		MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	LENTEN EVENING PRAYER	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY			
11:00 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	EUCCHARISTIC JOURNEY	THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS	THE EUCCHARIST	SACRAMENTS THROUGH THE AGES	PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT		
11:30 AM		THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m.							EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	"DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.						EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	
12:30PM	(1:20PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	WOMEN OF GRACE							DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MERCY
1:00 PM	IN CONCERT	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	CHOICES WE FACE/OFOD	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	STATIONS OF CROSS	EWTN ON LOCATION	
1:30 PM		CALLED TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME	CTV STATIONS OF THE CROSS	EWTN ON LOCATION		
2:00 PM	LENT:A SEASON OF GRACE	THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG							
2:30 PM	LIVE ADORATION FROM EWTN CHAPEL								
3:00 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)							ROSARY FROM LOURDES
3:20 PM	VATICANO	THE HOLY ROSARY							SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL
3:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	IMAGE OF GOD	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY	TRUTH IN THE HEART	CAT CHAT	MY TIME WITH JESUS			
4:00 PM	SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	POLISH CATHOLIC	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM		
4:30 PM	SUNDAY MASS FROM ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL	SPECIALS							SIGNS OF LIFE
5:00 PM	(6:15) LENTEN EVENING PRAYER FROM ST.PETERS CATHEDRAL	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)							THE MIRACLE HUNTER
5:30 PM	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	CATHOLIC SPHERE	LIVING DIVINE MERCY	VATICANO	THE WILL OF GOD	WALSINGHAM STORIES			
6:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)							DAILY MASS
6:30 PM		THE HOLY ROSARY					CTV STATIONS OF THE CROSS		
7:00 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	OFOD OR SPECIALS (CAN BE 90 MINUTES)	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH	EWTN CINEMA		
7:30PM		LIFE ON THE ROCK	LENTEN EVENING PRAYER						
8:00 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)							
8:30 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	FOCUS	LIVE WITH PASSION	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY		
9:00 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK			
9:30 PM	EWTN SPECIALS	BATTLE READY	LONG RIDE HOME	LENTEN REFLECTIONS	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	LENT: A SEASON OF GRACE		
10:00PM		CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	WOMEN OF GRACE					EWTN BOOKMARK	
10:30 PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE							



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Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Final "40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gathering — **MARCH 17-APRIL 8**, offered for the special intentions of an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

Fifth Annual Lenten Pierogi Sale — **MARCH 17-APRIL 8**, sponsored by Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Moscow; homemade pierogi are prepared fresh daily and frozen for pick-up. Featuring potato cheese pierogi: \$8/baker's dozen (13) and \$15/two baker's dozen; cabbage pierogi: \$9/baker's dozen and \$17/two baker's dozen. Orders may be placed and picked up after all weekend Masses and weekdays, Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Final day for order pick-up is April 8. To place

orders, call Jan at (570) 842-2325, Mary Ann at (570) 842-4960, or Betty Ann at (570) 842-6195.

Gift Card Raffle Fundraiser — **MARCH 17-APRIL 17**, sponsored by the Youth/Young Adult Ministry of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish in Hanover Township; numbered tickets on month-long raffle calendar matching the PA Lottery Evening drawing win \$75 or \$25 in gift cards. Raffle tickets cost \$20 each; all tickets are eligible to win 16 special drawing prizes. Easter Sunday grand prize drawing includes \$750 in gift cards. Raffle drawing chances may be ordered online at www.exhc.org or by calling (570) 328-4004.

Lenten Fridays Fish Fry — **MARCH 18, APRIL 1 & 8**, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 12572 in Scranton; take-out sale of fish dinners held on designated Fridays in Lent from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Ann, 1233 Saint Ann St., West Scranton. Dinner cost: adults, \$10; children, \$8. Tickets may be purchased at Scrantonknights.com or the St. Ann's gift shop.

Annual Saint Joseph Day Breakfast — **MARCH 20**, hosted by the Women's Society of St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 N. Saint Frances Cabrini Ave., West Scranton (off lower Jackson Street); breakfast is take-out only from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Menu includes eggs, homemade pancakes, home fries,

olives, honey-baked ham, and breads. Cost: adults, \$10; children (ages six to 10), \$6. Traditional St. Joseph Bread available in two-loaf packages for \$5. Pre-orders preferred by contacting melkite.scranton@gmail.com or by calling (570) 343-6092 or (570) 468-0529. Walk-ins welcome; tickets at the door.

Sunday Parish Breakfast — **MARCH 20**, hosted by St. Eulalia Parish, 214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township; serving from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the parish hall. Cost: adults, \$10; students, (ages six to 12), \$7; and children (ages five & younger), \$5. All payment types accepted.

Weekly Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua — **MARCH 22-JUNE 7**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; 13-week Saint Anthony Novena devotion held on consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "Life & Spirituality of Father Walter Ciszek, S.J., Servant of God." All faithful are welcome; for more information, call (570) 824-7832.

Lenten Taizé Prayer — **MARCH 24**, hosted by St. Joseph Marelo Parish at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 237 William St., Pittston; Lenten prayer service in song begins at 7 p.m. Performance will feature Cantores Christi Regis of King's

Continued on next page

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Apostleship of Prayer Papal Intention for April 2022

For Health Care Workers —

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.



Members of Knights of Lithuania Council 143 in Pittston celebrated the recent Feast of Saint Casimir with a Mass on March 6 at Saint John the Evangelist Church. A luncheon in the Monsignor Bendik Center followed the service. Council 143 members and clergy pictured are, front row from left: Saint Joseph Oblate Father Jackson Pinheiro, celebrant; Ron Voveris, Mary Claire Voveris, Judy Stodolny, Marilyn Fitzgerald, Janice Perfetto, Amelia Schultz (junior member), Eileen Kelly, Janet Palladino, Jean Mihalick, Rob Kiska and Rosemarie Butera. Second row: Joe Francik, Mike Loncoski, Dennis Palladino, Cathy Shulna, Mary Portelli and Camille Stanis. Third row: June Supey, Ruth Wnuk, Sylvia Waxmonsky, Deacon Dave Marx, Don Waxmonsky and Greg Wolovich Jr.

Catholic Happenings

Continued from previous page

College, Wilkes-Barre, under the direction of Robert Yenkowski. All are invited to attend.

Marywood Chamber Singers Concert — **APRIL 1**, hosted at St. John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St., Pittston, as the first performance of a concert series sponsored by the Pittston parishes of St. John's and St. Joseph Marelo; concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church. Musical program will include Samuel Barber's "Agnus Dei" and the choral arrangements of other classical composers; Marywood Chamber Singers are under the direction of Dr. Rick Hoffenberg. All are invited to attend.

Lenten Friday Fish Dinner — **APRIL 1**, sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport; dinners are take-out only and cost \$12 each.

Dinners sold and available for pick-up at 720 West Fourth St., Williamsport, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Take-Out Lenten Food Sale — **APRIL 8**, sponsored by Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood, Hanover Township; take-out only sale held from 2 to 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Menu items include: pagach, \$3 per slice; Manhattan clam chowder, \$10/quart; and halushki, \$7/quart. All orders must be placed in advance and pre-paid by April 1. Contact www.exhc.org or call (570) 824-5941.

Designer Purse Bingo — **APRIL 30**, sponsored by St. Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton; doors open at 5 p.m. at St. Stanislaus PNCC Youth Center, 530 E. Elm St., Scranton. Games begin at 6 p.m.; event includes 20 games, specials, theme basket and cash raffles. Tickets cost \$25, in advance; \$30, at door.

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YOU Can Feed People In Need!

Up to 200 men, women and children rely on Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen for a daily meal, food for their household, and clothing to keep warm.

These services include the daily midday meal and three evening suppers at the Kitchen in Scranton as well as weekly meals in Carbondale and Olyphant at parish locations and high-rise housing buildings. The Kitchen also operates the Saint Francis Client-Choice Food Pantry and the Saint Francis Free Clothing Store.

All of this is only possible through the dedicated service of our staff and volunteers, and your generous financial support for the annual Host for a Day campaign. For a donation of \$100 or more, an individual, a family, a business, a community organization or faith-based group can help sponsor a day's meal at the Kitchen and be recognized as a "host" of that meal.



Now more than ever, our brothers and sisters in need are relying on us for help. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations in our community, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen continues to serve the most needy among us with hot, nutritious meals each day.

All past contributors to the campaign are receiving an appeal directly from the Kitchen through the mail. Donations can also be made by:

Calling the Kitchen at 570-342-5556, online at
www.stfranciskitchen.org
or sending a check to: Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen,
500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The culmination of the campaign will be marked with a Virtual Celebration consisting of a pre-recorded program. The release date will be Wednesday, April 27, at 6 p.m. on www.facebook.com/stfranciskitchen. Those who would like to sponsor the Virtual Reception are asked to call the Kitchen at 570-342 5556.



Rectory, Set, Cook! highlights priests' culinary talents



Father Joseph Mosley, pastor of Saint Peter Parish in Wellsboro and Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkland, is one of 30 'pastor chefs' participating in Rectory, Set, Cook!, a virtual fundraiser for parishes and hunger programs of Catholic Social Services. Father Mosley made homemade pierogi for his recipe. (Photo/Eric Deabill)

SCRANTON – The competition in the kitchen is heating up!

Less than two weeks after the launch of 'Rectory, Set, Cook!' – a culinary clash featuring 30 "pastor chefs" from the Diocese of Scranton – more than \$100,000 has already been raised.

Each participating priest has a video featuring himself preparing a treasured family recipe or something he swiped off the internet. All of the videos are available to the public – and anyone can vote for their favorite recipe or pastor.

Each vote costs \$10, with \$5 going to the parish of the pastor chef and the other \$5 going to anti-hunger initiatives sponsored by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton.

At the beginning of his video, Monsignor David L. Tressler, pastor of Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish in Kingston, noted the importance of supporting the work of Catholic Social Services. With the help of his niece, Monsignor

Tressler made Pineapple Upside-Down Cake.

"We continue to be so conscious of wanting to serve those who are less fortunate and in need of food. The Diocese of Scranton has a rich heritage of taking care of those in need," Monsignor Tressler said. "We're very happy to be a part of this."

Donors are able to vote for as many recipes or pastors as they wish. They can also contribute any dollar amount they wish, as long as it is over \$10.

"We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of community and corporate generosity that has already taken place in the first few days of this event," Sandra Snyder, Director of Foundation Relations and Special Events, said.

Each of the "pastor chef" videos is unique and engaging.

After explaining several times that "fat is flavor" while cooking up an hour-long meat sauce, Father Seth Wasnock showed his culinary prowess by using several-foot-high-flames

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Father John C. Lambert, pastor of Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Plains, cooked up one of his favorite recipes, an Irish Guinness Stew for his participation in the Rectory, Set, Cook! fundraiser.

in his recipe for cream puffs.

In addition to donor participation, support for Rectory, Set, Cook! is provided by the program's Executive Chef Sponsor, The Hawk Family Foundation, and 14 other sponsors who helped the program get off to a strong start. Sponsorships are still being accepted and sponsors can also be featured in a commemorative cookbook that is expected to come out in May.

To view all of "pastor chef" videos, visit diocesescranton.org and click on the "Rectory, Set, Cook!" icon on the homepage.

Voting will continue through midnight April 10, with winners announced April 11.

when making bananas Foster for dessert.

Some, on the other hand, didn't have as much success. Father Brian J.T. Clarke not only

burned bread crumbs but missed ingredients for a salad dressing he attempted to make. Father Jonathan Kuhar didn't fare any better by mistaking salt for sugar