



# ***The Catholic Light***

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

## **Weekly E-Newsletter**

**March 31, 2022**

### **Pope consecrates Ukraine, Russia to Mary**



As Russia's violent monthlong invasion continued to devastate Ukraine, Pope Francis laid the fates of both countries at the feet of Mary in the hopes that peace would finally reign.

"Mother of God and our mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine," the pope said March 25, pronouncing the Act of Consecration after leading a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica.

Praying before a statue of Mary that was loaned by the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima at San Vittoriano on the outskirts of Rome, the pope pleaded with Mary to “accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end, and peace spread throughout the world.”

Sitting in front of the statue, which was placed before the steps of the main altar on a red platform and adorned with white roses, the pope proclaimed the act of consecration. During the prayer, the pope paused at several moments to gaze at the statue of Mary before continuing to recite the prayer.

“To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world,” he prayed.

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

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**Bishop: During times of suffering and war, turn to prayer and the power of God**



The faithful of the Diocese of Scranton joined people around the world in prayer on March 25, placing the people of Russia and Ukraine under the special protection of Mary, the Mother of God, in an act of consecration.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, which included the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Nearly 200 people participated in-person with others taking part by livestream.

“While Saint John Paul II consecrated Russia to Our Blessed Mother in 1984, today’s act renews our trust in God and Mary’s intercession to protect the people of Russia and Ukraine in this time of great hardship and suffering,” Bishop Bambera said during his homily. “It is also a radical call to conversion for all peoples, including me and you, a call that ultimately sets the stage for true and lasting peace in our hearts, our families and our world.”

It has now been more than one month since Russian forces invaded neighboring Ukraine. Thousands of people have been killed and more than three million people have been forced to flee their homes.

“Not one of us in our cathedral has not been heartbroken by the suffering and death of countless numbers of innocent lives, inflicted because of greed, a lust for power and a disregard for the gift of human life,” the bishop added. “We Christians ought never forget that we do indeed have a way to respond to this tragic moment. We have the power of God, won for us through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus and given to us through the gift of faith.”

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

## **Bishop to celebrate Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse April 7**

# HEALING MASS FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

*Celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera*



Thursday, April 7 at 12:10 P.M.  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television and livestream on the  
Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube Channel and social media platforms



The month of April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This important month recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect.

On Thursday, April 7, 2022, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse. The Mass will be held at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

During the annual Mass, the faithful pray for all who work with children and young people to be vigilant in protecting them from harm and also for the Holy Spirit to guide Church leaders as they promote justice and healing for survivors of abuse.

The Mass is open to the public but will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and social media platforms.

[For More Information](#)

## **Children follow the "Way of the Cross"**



Students in the Children's Faith Formation program at St. Patrick's Church in Milford recently followed, in image, word and song, the events of Jesus' Passion and Death, also known as Via Crucis or Via Dolorosa.

Each scene was narrated by Deacon Mike Calafiore, accompanied by Maggie Marley and Rich Gherardi of St. Patrick's Music Ministry in verses from the hymn, "Were You There?"

Poster images of each scene depicting the chief events of the day were exhibited by the students in the catechetical program, which is conducted at St. Patrick's Hall for children, grades 1 through 8.

## **Rectory, Set, Cook! tops 2,200 donors and approaches \$150,000 raised**



On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, the Diocese of Scranton's Rectory, Set, Cook! fundraiser reached another milestone: 2,200 donors!

We sincerely thank everyone who has viewed and voted for their favorite "pastor chef" to date, but there is still plenty of time to participate!

A total of 30 priests in the Diocese of Scranton have filmed cooking videos which range from family recipes to something they found on the internet - as a fundraiser for not only their parishes but anti-hunger initiatives of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton. One vote costs \$10. Half of the money goes to the parish of the participating pastor and the other half will assist Catholic Social Services with their important work!

Voting will remain open until Midnight on April 10 and the winners will be announced on April 11.

To date, the fundraiser is now approaching \$150,000 raised. Will you help us reach that goal by the end of the weekend?

[To View All of the "Pastor Chef" Videos and Vote for Your Favorite](#)

## **Bishop Youth Award Masses begin, highlight service of young adults across the Diocese**



Two of four Masses celebrating the Bishop's Youth Awards were celebrated this week in East Stroudsburg and Scranton.

Several hundred students were presented with the Bishop's Youth Awards at Saint Matthew Parish (representing the Eastern Region) on Monday, March 28 and at the Cathedral of Saint Peter (representing the Northern Region) on Wednesday, March 30.

Two more Masses, representing the Southern and Western regions, are scheduled to take place next week, on Monday at Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top and on Wednesday at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport.

In the above video, three young adults who received the Bishop's Youth Awards in East Stroudsburg talk about the service projects they participate in for their parish and school and reflect on what that means to them.

[View a Photo Album from the Bishop's Youth Award Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton](#)

## **Pope renews call for end to senseless war in Ukraine, blesses ambulance for city of Lviv**





Pope Francis renewed his call for an end to the war in Ukraine and strongly denounced the conflict as a barbaric act used by those in power at the cost of innocent lives.

“We need to reject war, a place of death where fathers and mothers bury their children, where men kill their brothers and sisters without even having seen them, where the powerful decide and the poor die,” the pope told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square March 27 for his Sunday Angelus address.

The consequences of war, he added, especially the displacement of children, “not only devastate the present, but future of society as well.”

“I read that from the beginning of the aggression in Ukraine, one of every two children has been displaced from their country. This means destroying the future, causing dramatic trauma in the smallest and most innocent among us. This is the bestiality of war — a barbarous and sacrilegious act,” the pope said.

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

## **Ukrainian Archbishop tearfully recounts the horrors, heroism of war**



With his voice often trembling and tears sliding down to his beard, the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church spoke via Zoom about the death and destruction Russia is raining down on his people and his country.

Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych repeatedly apologized for the tears and acknowledged the contrast between his daily video messages of encouragement to his people and his talk during the webinar March 29 sponsored by Rome's Pontifical Oriental Institute.

He started the videos to keep in touch with his people and “just to let people know that I am alive, the city of Kyiv lives,” he said, his voice breaking.

“Forgive me for my tears, but I think I can (cry) with you,” he said. “With my people, I feel an obligation to be a preacher of hope, a hope that does not come from military power or from the possibility of diplomacy — we don’t have those hopes yet — but a hope that comes from faith.”

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

## **Confession is more about God's forgiveness than our sins, pope says**



The sacrament of reconciliation “is not so much about our sins” as it is about God’s forgiveness, Pope Francis said.

“Think about it: If our sins were at the heart of the sacrament, almost everything would depend on us, on our repentance, our efforts, our resolve,” but it is about God’s power, mercy and grace, the pope said March 25 during a Lenten penance service in St. Peter’s Basilica.

The service, with individual confessions, preceded the pope’s formal act of consecrating the world, particularly Russia and Ukraine, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Pope Francis went to one of the confessionals in the basilica and, remaining standing because of knee trouble, confessed his sins before joining more than 100 other priests in hearing confessions.

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

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The 12th  
Diocese of Scranton  
**VOCATIONS**  
John Yourishen Memorial Tournament  
**GOLF CLASSIC**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022**

**BLUE RIDGE TRAIL GOLF CLUB, MOUNTAIN TOP, PA  
CAPTAIN & CREW**

Last year's event was a sellout, so don't miss your opportunity to reserve a spot or a foursome now! Early sponsorship commitments and/or raffle prize donations also welcome.

Email [vocationsgolf@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:vocationsgolf@dioceseofscranton.org) or call 570-207-2250.

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