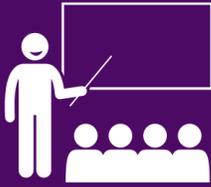




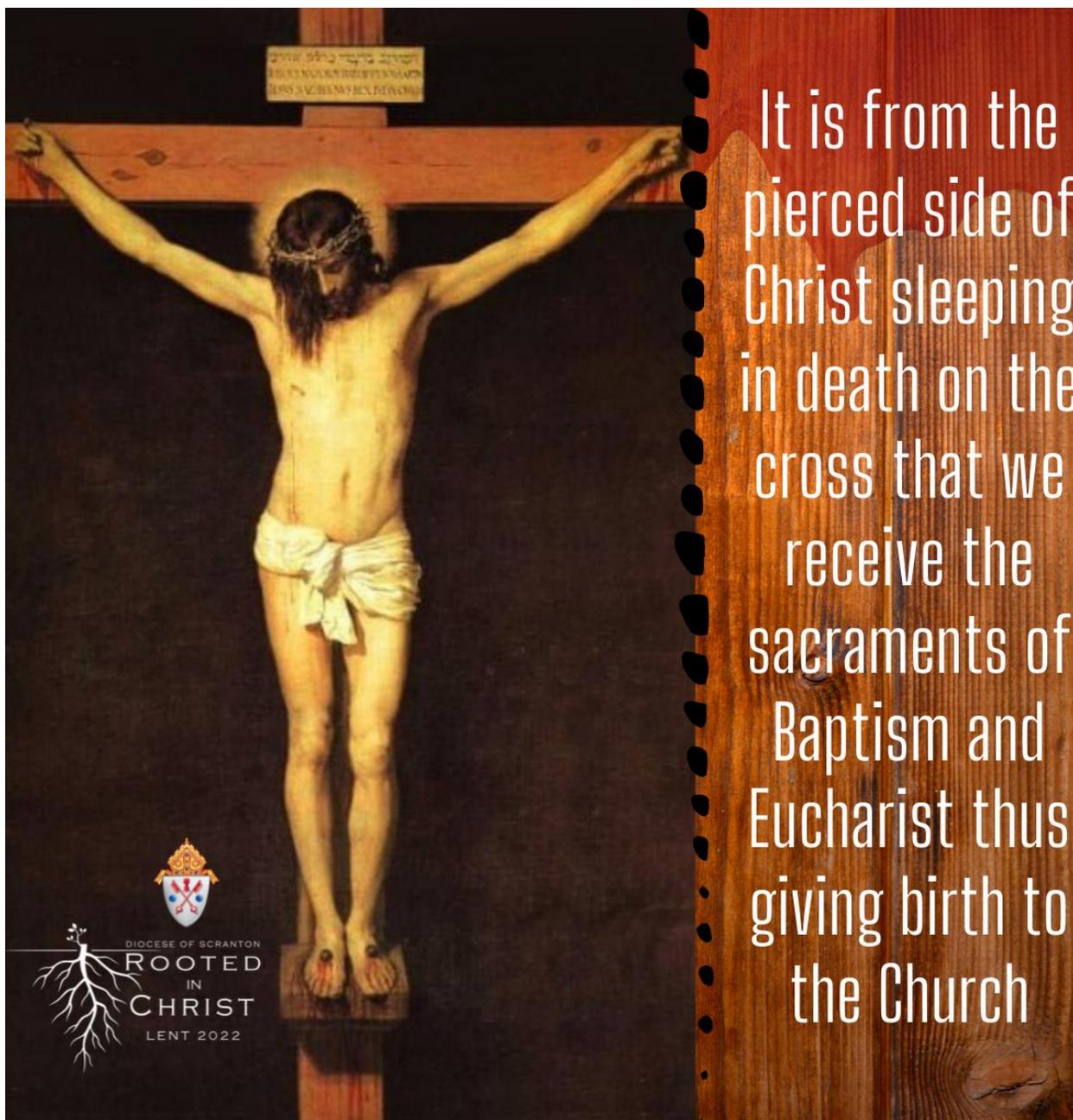
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

# ROOTED IN CHRIST

LENT 2022



# TEACHING *tuesday*



### ***The Church Born from the Side of Christ***

While many Catholics participate in the beautiful liturgies of Holy Week that commemorate the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem to his passion, death and resurrection celebrated in the Paschal Triduum, one liturgy of Holy Week that you may not have experienced is the annual Chrism Mass at which the holy oils that are used throughout the year are blessed. Traditionally celebrated on the morning of Holy Thursday, the Chrism Mass may be celebrated on another day close to Easter. In the Diocese of Scranton, the Chrism Mass is

usually celebrated on Tuesday of Holy Week.

The introduction of *The Order of Blessing the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and of Consecrating the Chrism* tells us: "The Chrism Mass, which [the Bishop] concelebrates with Priests from various regions of the diocese and during which he consecrates the sacred Chrism and blesses the other oils, is among the principal manifestations of the fullness of the Bishop's Priesthood and is considered to be a sign of the close bond of the Priests with him" (1). The Chrism Mass then is a beautiful liturgy that expresses the unity of the local Church. At this Mass, Priests from all over our diocese gather with the Bishop to renew their commitment to priestly ministry, and to pray over, bless, and consecrate the holy oils which will be used to strengthen and support the faithful as they prepare for and receive the sacraments.



While we often hear it said that Pentecost is the "birthday" of the Church, the liturgy of Good Friday teaches us differently. The Passion of the Lord according to John that is proclaimed on Good Friday emphasizes the eyewitness account that blood and water flowed forth from the side of Christ (John 19:34-35). The author emphasizes this point to teach us that it is from the pierced side of Christ sleeping in death on the cross that we receive the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist thus giving birth to the Church (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, §766). How beautifully appropriate that as a Church we celebrate the Chrism Mass around this

same time as Christ's Paschal Mystery to express ritually that all of the sacraments are born from Jesus's total sacrifice on the cross!

## The Diocese of Scranton Chrism Mass will take place today.

**The Diocese of Scranton Chrism Mass will take place today, Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 4:00 P.M. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.**

As we observe these final days of Lent and enter into the Paschal Triduum, consider participating in the Chrism Mass in person, or if you are unable, watch the broadcast on CTV or the livestream on the diocesan website or social media and pray for the priests of our diocese. The following is a reflection on the Priesthood written by the theologian, Fr. Karl Rahner, S.J. that you could also make part of your prayer today:

*The priest is not an angel sent from heaven  
He is a man chosen from among men,  
A member of the Church, a Christian.  
Remaining man and Christian, he begins to speak of you the Word of God.  
The word is not his own.  
No, he comes to you because God has told him to proclaim God's Word.  
Perhaps he has not entirely understood it himself.  
Perhaps he adulterates it.  
But he believes, and despite his fear he knows he must communicate  
God's Word to you.  
For must not some of us say something about God,  
About eternal life; about the majesty of grace in our sanctified being?  
Must not some one of us speak of sin, the judgement and mercy of God?  
So, my dear friends, pray for him, carry him,  
So that he might be able to sustain others by bringing to them  
The mystery of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ.*

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**David Baloga** is the Director for Worship in the Office of Parish Life. He has worked in several parishes in the Diocese of Scranton as the Director of Music and Worship and Coordinator of the RCIA, and also currently serves as the part-time Director of Music at Immaculate Conception Parish in Scranton. Dave has a great passion for the sacred liturgy, musical theatre, Notre Dame, and the Boston Red Sox. He currently resides in Shavertown with his wife, Laura, and two daughters, Alison and Emily.

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Diocese of Scranton  
2021 **DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL 