



# GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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## VISION 2030

### The Drivers for Decision Making

In January we began to implement the process of "right sizing" our parishes as illustrated in the Vision 2030 Communication Booklet. The Office for Parish Life is currently supporting Transition Teams in 18 parishes to eventually create nine new "Linked Parishes". Those nine new "Linkages" will each share a pastor.

#### How were the parishes selected for the new linkages?

There are four "Drivers" that were studied in the decision-making process. They are:

- **Fewer Parishioners** - Prior to the pandemic we saw that regular weekend Mass attendance had been on the decline. The total number of parishioners who are registered in all parishes in the Diocese of Scranton dropped by more than 16% between 2014 and 2020. The total number of Registered Parishioners was 268,949 in 2014 and was 224,075 in 2020.
- **Financial Challenges** - In early 2021, 19 parishes had been identified to have significant bills, insurance premiums and or medical premiums that needed to be paid to the Diocese of Scranton. Like our households, our parishes are much more expensive to maintain. With fewer parishioners supporting the church overall, parish offertories have not been able to keep pace with the current financial realities.
- **Parish Infrastructure Needs** - Many of our wonderful parish buildings were built in a different era. There are countless facilities with deferred maintenance needs and no planned funding stream for necessary repairs.
- **Diminishing Number of Priests** - The number of Diocesan priests in active ministry has decreased significantly over the last several decades. In 2021 there were 97 priests in active ministry. In 2030 we are projected to have 62 priests in active ministry.

Please know that this first set of parishes is simply the first set. As we anticipate retirements and respond to any unexpected departures from ministry we will again utilize the Drivers For Decision-Making to guide future decisions.



**Mother's Day  
Adoption Mass**  
Sunday, May 8 at 10:00AM  
Cathedral of Saint Peter

**Solemnity of the  
Ascension of the Lord**  
Thursday, May 26  
(Holy Day of Obligation)

**Transitional Diaconate  
Ordination**  
Saturday, May 28  
at 10:00AM



## Thank You, Jacki Douglas!

The Diocese of Scranton would like to acknowledge Jacki Douglas for all of her hard work and countless hours during the last three years in serving as the Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation in the Office for Parish Life. In addition to coordinating the annual Bishop's Youth Awards, retreat days, biweekly networking meetings, and serving as a resource for Religious Education programs, Jacki began several new initiatives to assist parish catechists, Directors of Religious Education and youth ministers reimagine faith formation for the 21st century especially with virtual and hybrid learning in the midst of the pandemic. We thank Jacki for all that she has done in sharing her gifts and experience with our diocese and offer our prayers and support as she begins a new chapter in her life!



## Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Registration for cycle 4 of the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is now open until May 25. Consider enriching your faith and ministry through study with courses found at [this link](#) through University of Dayton, available in English and Spanish.

## Family Faith Formation Workshop

*"Mary as Disciple and Companion for Prayer"*  
May 21, 2022

Announcing our third Family Faith Formation Program for Diocese of Scranton Parishes:

**Leading Families Home Through Faith Formation:**

***Mary As Disciple and Companion for Prayer***

Designed for Catechetical Leaders

Presented by **Tom East**

The third workshop designed for Catechetical Leaders presented by Tom East will be offered on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 9:00AM-3:00PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. Tom will provide instruction for lifelong faith formation processes, an experience of a faith festival, and all the tools for implementing the faith festival in your parish. Cost for the day is \$30.00 and lunch and all necessary materials will be provided. Register online on the diocesan website at [this link](#) by May 16.

Even if you have not been present for other workshops in the series, we look forward to you and your faith formation leaders joining us for this great day! For more information, please contact Kitty Scanlan at [Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:Kitty-Scanlan@dioceseofscranton.org) / 570-207-2213 x1157.

## Rectory, Set, Cook!

Our first-ever *Rectory Set Cook!* showdown of pastor chefs was a smashing success, raising a grand total of \$170,907! Proceeds will be split 50-50 between our participating parishes and our Catholic Social Services' anti-hunger efforts. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the 31 priests and one seminarian who participated and, of course, to our 2,733 donors! *Rectory, Set, Cook!* will absolutely be back next year – complete with new twists and turns. In the meantime, we invite all to show their love and support for the Diocese of Scranton in its next competitive (and fun!) fundraising event, which is NEPA Gives, the annual 24-hour fundraising challenge spearheaded by our region's charitable foundations. The Diocese has won the top prizes – Most Dollars Raised By A Large Nonprofit Organization and Most Unique Donors – two years in a row, and we're hoping to keep our streak alive. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Stay tuned for details on how to give and on all the fun activities we have planned for the big day. Our Parish Life team will be participating to raise money to send a contingent to World Youth Day 2023!

## Catholic Women's Conference 2022

*"Full of Grace"*

The annual Catholic Women's Conference will take place on Saturday, June 11, 2022 at Marywood University. Cost is \$45 and you can register online at [cwcnepa.com](http://cwcnepa.com). Here are the list of speakers for the event:



**Colleen Carroll Campbell** – Award winning author, broadcast journalist and former speech writer for George W. Bush. Her books include her critically acclaimed, *The New Faithful*; her spiritual memoir, *My Sisters the Saints* which won two national awards. She has spoken to audiences across America and Europe.

**Father Jeffrey Kirby, STD** – Father Kirby is a Papal Missionary of Mercy, the Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Indian Land, South Carolina, an Adjunct Professor of Theology at Belmont Abbey College, a Senior Contributor to the Crux news site, and an author of several books on spiritual, moral, and pastoral subjects. Father Kirby grew up in West Germany, served in the Army National Guard, attended seminary in Rome, eaten breakfast in the White House, and served as a Guest Chaplain to the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Debra Hadley** – Her life story is heart wrenching but her journey of tears is a life full of grace!

**Megan Murphy** – The Joyous Mysteries will be lead by Megan and her divinely inspired reflections.

**Molly McManus** – Her angelic voice will make your soul soar! She is a worship artist from Steubenville, OH. She can be found on Spotify, Apple music and all streaming services.



## Online Liturgy Network Meetings

The Office for Parish Life and the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) is offering monthly online liturgy network meetings. The sessions will give participants the opportunity to share best practices, express concerns, ask questions, and receive updates on diocesan, national and universal liturgical norms. The next online liturgy network meeting will take place on **Monday, May 9 at 6:30PM**. Parishes will be sent a link to the monthly meeting. For more information, please contact David Baloga at [david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org) or at 570-207-2213.

## Eucharistic Revival Kickoff

*"My flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51)*

At their November 2021 general assembly meeting, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops voted to move forward with plans for a national Eucharistic Revival to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. The multi-year Eucharistic Revival begins on Sunday, June 19, 2022, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), and culminates with the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, July 17-21, 2024.

The Diocese of Scranton will begin its local observance of the Eucharistic Revival with a Pontifical Mass followed by a Eucharistic Procession celebrated by Bishop Bambera on the **Sunday, June 19, 2022 at 12:15 P.M.** at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton. Details regarding the Mass and resources, events, and programming for the Eucharistic Revival will follow.

Initial resources for the Eucharistic Revival, including the document issued by the USCCB concerning the Revival, *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church*, can be found on the Eucharistic Revival website at [this link](#).

## Confirmations

Pastors and Confirmation Coordinators are reminded that **all forms and documents related Confirmation** can be found on the [diocesan website](#) under Parish Life, Christian Initiation & Sacraments. These include:

- Confirmations with Bishop Bambera Mass Response Form (must be submitted two weeks in advance)
- Preparations for Confirmations with Bishop Bambera
- Notes for the conferral of Confirmation by Pastors or Sacramental Ministers

Parishes that are not scheduled to have Confirmation with Bishop Bambera this year are to have their celebrations on Pentecost with the pastor or sacramental minister celebrating the sacrament. Please contact David Baloga if you have any questions.

## RCIA 101: A Crash Course on Christian Initiation

The Office for Parish Life will offer its annual virtual "crash" course day on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults on **Saturday, June 25, 2022 from 9:00AM to 3:00PM**.

The goal of this offering for priests, deacons, parish life coordinators, RCIA coordinators, RCIA team members is to provide a overall sense of what the Church asks of parishes in responding to seekers and preparing them for Initiation. This course day would be ideal for anyone new to the RCIA as well as seasoned veterans who are looking to deepen their understanding of the process.

To register, please complete the [online form](#) by Friday, June 17. For more information, please contact David Baloga, Director for Worship, at 570-207-2213, ext. 1158 or at [david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org).



## Scout Mass 2022

*Calling all Scouts!*

The Diocese of Scranton Catholic Committee on Scouting invites you to mark your calendars for the return of the Annual Diocese of Scranton Scout Mass on **Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

All Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Venturing, and Campfire Girls and their troops, packs and families from all Scout Councils across the 11-counties of the Diocese are invited to attend. Please wear your Class A dress uniform, no hats please.

Scouts receiving religious badges and their Scout Leaders will meet at the Pastoral Center at 6:15pm for the entering procession. Other troop members and families should proceed directly to the Cathedral. To confirm your award or for any other questions, please email Amy Huntington, Diocesan Scouting Committee Chair at [dccs@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:dccs@dioceseofscranton.org).



## Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training Session

Mark for calendars now for the next all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. The session will take place on **Saturday, July 16, 2022 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton**. There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided. To register, please fill out the [EMHC Training Registration Form](#) or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213.

# COMMUNITY

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who build COMMUNITY through hospitality, respect, inclusion and holiness."

## Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

Every summer, the diocese holds a Wedding Anniversary Celebration for couples celebrating their 25th and 50th years of marriage in Saint Peter's Cathedral, where couples renew their wedding commitment. This year's Mass will be held on **June 26 at 2:30PM**.

Mark your calendar if you are celebrating your 25<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022, or share this news with others who may be doing so. Visit our [diocesan webpage to learn more](#), or [click here to register \(English\)](#) or [click here \(Spanish\)](#) for this year's event.

## Educational Series for Families on Mental Health

The Scranton Mental Health Ministry at the Cathedral of Saint Peter is presenting this five-part series for families on mental health and mental illness to reduce stigma and discrimination through education and factual information about mental health conditions. The series will be held on **Tuesday evenings, through May 17 from 6:30-8:00PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center** in Scranton, and it reinforces the core Christian belief that everyone has dignity and value and should be fully welcomed into the Church and the community.

Reservations are not required but appreciated by calling 570-344-7231. [Click here](#) for more information or contact [DeaconEd@StPetersCathedral.org](mailto:DeaconEd@StPetersCathedral.org).

## Schedule a "Night of Hope and Healing" for Your Parish!

Our Diocesan Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion Healing Ministry Team is available to host a "Night of Hope and Healing" event in your parish. Speakers who have personally encountered God in their healing journey from loss through abortion, stillbirth and miscarriage share messages of hope and reconciliation. Music and Prayer conclude with an opportunity to write their children's name in the Book of Life. For information contact [denisemengaklcsw@gmail.com](mailto:denisemengaklcsw@gmail.com) or call 570-239-6173.

## Retroville Weekend Coming to Our Diocese This Summer

**August 19-21**

Retroville helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. Is it designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and misery.

For confidential information about, or to register for the August Weekend, please call 631-338-5413 or email [philmilazzo2@gmail.com](mailto:philmilazzo2@gmail.com). You can also visit the Retrouvaille website at [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com).

## Synod on Synodality

As we near the close of our diocesan phase of the Synod on Synodality, **we thank all those who have participated and contributed to this process. Your efforts and input have been invaluable!**



One of the final steps in our process will be an Afternoon of Listening with Bishop Bambera, to be held on June 5. Our parishes and community ministry partners have selected representatives who will attend this event.

For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

**All are welcome to join us for the Pontifical Mass preceding the Listening Session. The Mass will be held on June 5 at 12:15, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Wyoming Avenue in Scranton.**

## Rachel's Vineyard Post-Abortion Healing

**New Dates—November 4-6, 2022**

This weekend retreat provides a compassionate and confidential opportunity to those suffering from the impact of abortion to encounter our God of Mercy on a journey of spiritual and psychological healing. [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org). For information contact [denisemengaklcsw@gmail.com](mailto:denisemengaklcsw@gmail.com), or at 570-239-6173.



## May Is National Foster Care Month

National Foster Care Month is an initiative of the Children's Bureau. Each May, the organization takes time to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. They also use this time to renew their commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 407,000 children and youth in foster care, and celebrate those who make a meaningful difference in their lives. Please encourage and support those you know who provide foster care, or those who may be gifted to serve in this way in the future. To learn more please [click here](#).



"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

# SERVICE

## Echo Apprentices Return to Campus

As the first year of their apprenticeship comes to a close, we wish Cecilia, Deirdre, and Kylie safe travels back to the University of Notre Dame! During the summer semester, our Echo apprentices will take classes towards their Masters degree in Theology and participate in seminars that will further enhance their ministry in our parishes. We look forward to welcoming them back in August!



Save the Date

UP &  
OVER

Middle School Retreat

September  
23rd to 25th

at Camp Orchard Hill  
in Dallas, Pa.

Registration will open  
on August 1st

### PROGRAMA SEMANAL

Del Ministerio Hispano de la Diócesis de Scranton

CRECIENDO & FORTALECIENDO  
NUESTRA FE CATÓLICA

CONOCE, AMA & VIVE TU FE

SÁBADOS

11 AM - 12 PM

LA MEGA

95.3 FM WILKES BARRE  
94.9 FM SCRANTON

DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON  
MINISTERIO HISPANO

Ministerio Hispano - Diócesis de Scranton

CONOCE, AMA & VIVE TU FE  
CRECIENDO  
FORTALECIENDO NUESTRA  
FE CATÓLICA  
MINISTERIO HISPANO - DIÓCESIS DE SCRANTON

DESCARGA LA APLICACIÓN

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations

Thursday, June 2nd

7:00 PM

St. Maria Goretti Church

42 Redwood Drive - Laflin

SPEAKER,  
MUSIC,  
RECONCILIATION,  
AND SOCIAL.

# OPL Month At A Glance

## May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Educational Series for Families on Mental Health 6:30-8PM, DPC	4	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day Adoption Mass 10AM, Cathedral  World Day of Prayer for Vocations	9 Online Liturgy Network 6:30PM	10 Educational Series for Families on Mental Health 6:30-8PM, DPC	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Educational Series for Families on Mental Health 6:30-8PM, DPC	18	19	20	21 Family Faith Formation Workshop 9AM-3PM, DPC
22	23	24	25	26 Ascension Thursday (Holy Day of Obligation)	27	28 Transitional Diaconate Ordination 10AM, Cathedral
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

### OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Mary Hallman**

Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation:

Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**

Director for SERVICE and Mission: **Shannon Kowalski**

Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**

Director for COMMUNITY and Family Development: **Jen Housel**

Coordinator for Ecumenical/Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**

Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**

Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry: **José Flores**

Consultant for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**

Diocesan Pastoral Center Manager: **Kitty Scanlan**

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Andres**



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