



GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

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*The OPL Team would like to wish all
pastors, assistant pastors, deacons,
parish life coordinators,
parish staff and parish leaders
a blessed Advent
and a joyous Christmas season!*



Thursday, December 8
Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception
of Mary
[Holy Day of Obligation,
Diocesan Offices Closed]

Diocesan Offices
Closed on
December 23, 26, 30
and January 2
in observance of the
Christmas and
New Year's Holidays



WORD

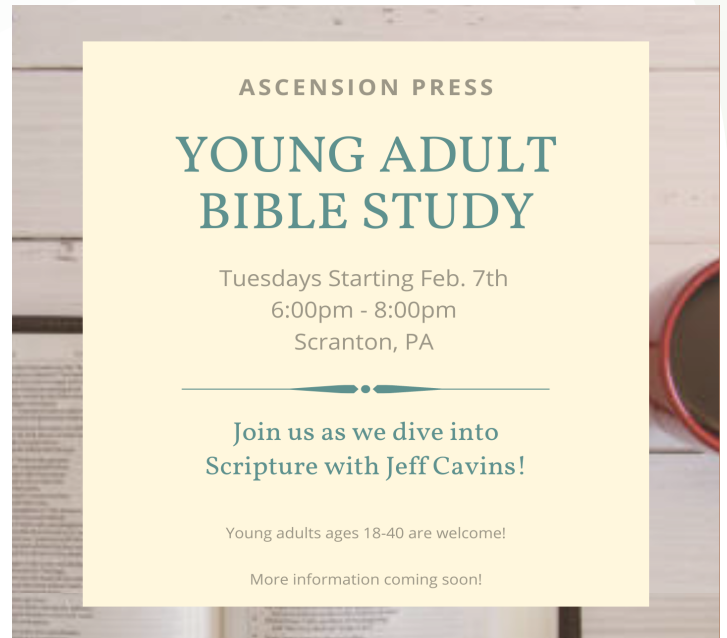
"I CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

Start the new year off fresh by enrolling in a new learning session through the University of Dayton's



Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation! Cycle 1 classes run January 9 - February 12, 2023 (Registration closes January 4). Courses include many options in English and Spanish, such as: *Basic Catechist Formation*; *Disabilities in Parish Life: An Overview*; *Introduction to Scripture*; *Music in Liturgy*; *Prayer and Worship with Adolescents*; *Survey of Catholic Doctrine*; *RCIA: A Process of Conversion, Catechesis and Community*; *Who Is Mary of Nazareth and Why Do We Care?* Visit <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/> to view the calendar of courses and to register!



Advent: A Season of Hope

"Advent," says Pope Francis, "is a journey toward the horizon of hope." The hope of Advent, the pope says, "does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!"

The world is yearning for hope. The last few years have been very challenging for us as individuals, as families, and as parishes. We live in a culture in which choices once unanimously considered criminal and rejected by the common moral sense are gradually becoming socially acceptable (Pope John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life*). As Catholic Christians, we are in the world, but not of the world, called to be salt and light and leaven in a world in need of the Truth, Goodness and Beauty of God and his plan for our salvation.

From the beginning of time, all of history has been ordered to the simple but overwhelming fact that God never stops pursuing us. Even when we were dead in our sins, He revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ, his beloved Son. Baptized into the family of God, we are sisters and brothers of Christ, with a rich inheritance: an invitation into the very life of the Trinity, now and for all eternity.

God reveals himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. "To come to know God—the true God—means to receive hope," Pope Benedict XVI taught in his encyclical *Spe salvi* (*Saved in hope*). "In this sense it is true that anyone who does not know God, even though he may entertain all kinds of hopes, is ultimately without hope, without the great hope that sustains the whole of life (cf. Eph 2:12)."

As we embrace this holy season of expectation, Pope Francis reminds us, "Advent is a continuous call to hope; it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to its fullness, which is the Lord Jesus Christ."

"The one who has hope lives differently," Pope Benedict XVI wrote. "The one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life." Let us show the world what it means to live with the Hope of the Savior. May your Advent journey be one of joyful expectation, and may you witness to the hope that is in Christ, who shows us the face of love.



"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

WORSHIP

Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training Session

The next training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion will take place on **Saturday, January 21 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM** at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. Please [click here](#) and complete the online form or call 570-207-2213 to register.

Don't forget, you can always use the [Diocesan Liturgical Ministry Resource](#) to offer formation for your new liturgical ministers, or contact David Baloga at 570-207-2213 or at david-baloga@dioceseofscranton.org to have a training session offered in your parish.



Revised Order of Penance

The **revised translation for the Order of Penance** was approved by the Bishops of the United States on June 17, 2021. It was confirmed by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments on April 25, 2022. The rite may be used in the liturgy as of Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Its use is obligatory in the dioceses of the United States on April 16, 2023 – The Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday.

Four publishers will produce ritual editions – Catholic Book Publishing (www.catholicbookpublishing.com), Liturgy Training Publications (www.ltp.org), Magnificat (www.magnificat.com), and Midwest Theological Forum (www.theologicalforum.org). Pre-sales have already begun and publishers will begin shipping January 25, 2023.

If you missed the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions webinar on the new *Order of Penance*, you can view the recording of it [here](#) or by visiting www.fdlc.org.

FDLC Webinars on the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

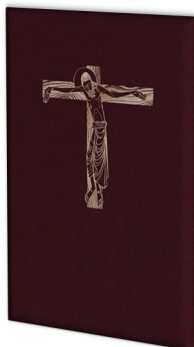
The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions continues its FREE series on the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* (OCIA) through February. Topics cover different aspects of the Christian Initiation process such as recovering the vision, canonical issues, preaching the rites, and many more! All webinars will be offered in both English and Spanish. Join them live or by viewing the recording! Visit www.fdlc.org/ociawebsinars to register or to learn more.

Advent & Christmas Liturgical Resource

Once again, the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has provided a liturgical preparation aid for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. This annual, seasonal resource is now posted on the public pages of our FDLC website, in English and Spanish and can be found at this link: www.fdlc.org/adventchristmas2022.

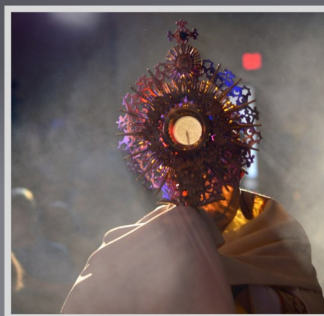
The thirty-one page booklet contains:

- a full text for the Rite of Reconciling Several Penitents with individual Confession and Absolution
- Alternate readings, sample penances, music suggestions
- A liturgical calendar advisory
- A list of Lectionary readings for Sundays and solemnities
- The Proclamation of the Nativity of the Lord (to be used at the Christmas Vigil)
- The Proclamation of the Moveable Feasts (to be used on Epiphany)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations



Thursday,
January 6th

7:00 PM

St. Maria Goretti Church
42 Redwood Drive - Laflin

**SPEAKER,
RECONCILIATION,
AND SOCIAL.**

LIVE MUSIC BY JOEL KANKIEWICZ



PreCana Days of Reflection

Because Christian marriage is a sacrament, the Catholic Church wants couples to be well-prepared. Dioceses and parishes offer marriage preparation to help couples develop a better understanding of the sacrament; to evaluate and deepen their readiness to live married life, and to gain insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple.



Marriage preparation programs take different forms. Some couples attend a weekend retreat; others are matched with a "sponsor couple"; and others participate in a series of marriage preparation classes offered by their parish or diocese. The important thing for engaged couples to keep in mind as they check numerous items off their pre-wedding "to-do" list is the well-known adage, "Your wedding lasts a day, but your marriage lasts a lifetime." The Church encourages couples to invest time and energy into the all-important work of preparing for their married life together. (USCCB)

The Office for Parish Life offers PreCana Days of Reflection to help couples prepare for marriage. Couples spend a day working through a series of topics, including Marriage as a vocation, the blessing of children, communication and conflict, finances, and setting shared expectations for a fruitful and faithful life together.

For more information, [click here](#) or email PreCana@dioceseofscranton.org. Below is a list of dates for PreCana Days of Reflection in 2023. To register, [click here](#).

Saturday, January 7, 2023	Online
Saturday, February 18, 2023	Dickson City
Sunday, March 19, 2023	Scranton
Saturday, April 15, 2023	Online
Saturday, May 13, 2023	Wilkes-Barre
Saturday, June 10, 2023	Duryea
Sunday, July 23, 2023	Online
Saturday, August 12, 2023	White Haven
Saturday, September 23, 2023	Montoursville
Saturday, October 14, 2023	Online
Saturday, November 4, 2023	Dickson City
Sunday, December 10, 2023	Scranton

Dan Schutte Concert and Workshop Retreat

St. Joseph Mareello and St. John the Evangelist Parishes in Pittston are proud to announce a **concert performance** by renowned composer Dan Schutte at St. Joseph Mareello Parish, 237 William Street in Pittston, PA. The concert will be held on **Friday, December 2 at 7:00 P.M.** Dan is the writer of countless beloved and cherished hymns, including "Here I Am, Lord," "City of God," "Sing a New Song," and the popular Mass Setting *Mass of Christ the Savior*. His decades-long career has brought music and joy to liturgical celebrations worldwide. This is his second-visit to our churches, and this performance will be a special event tailored to the Season of Advent including additional hymns selected to help us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ



at His birth. Tickets for this concert will cost \$15 each reservations can be made by calling the St. Joseph Mareello Parish Office at 570-654-6902, emailing brandon@sjmparish.org, or filling out the [online form](#). Tickets can be picked up from the Parish Office prior to the event or can be mailed to recipients.

Dan will also present a **Workshop Retreat** for interested individuals on **Saturday, December 3 from 9:00AM to approximately Noon** at St. Joseph Mareello Parish. This is an inspiring morning of reflection led by Dan, as well as unique music focused on a morning of prayer. All are welcome to participate in this event and must register in advance. Registration will cost \$15 per person and includes light breakfast refreshments upon sign-in. You can reserve your space in this retreat by calling the St. Joseph Mareello Parish Office at 570-654-6902, emailing brandon@sjmparish.org, or filling out the [online form](#).

NUEVO HORARIO

MISMA MISIÓN - COMPARTIR & CRECER EN LA FE

CONOCE, AMA & VIVE TU FE

CRECIENDO

+ fortaleciendo nuestra

FE CATÓLICA

MINISTERIO HISPANO - DIOCESIS DE SCRANTON

Sábados 9 am - 10 am

94.9 FM Scranton
95.3 FM Wilkes Barre/ Nanticoke/ Hazleton

Ministerio Hispano - Diócesis de Scranton

LIVE

LA MEGA 94.9 FM 95.3 FM

"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

Chosen: Finding Our Identity in Christ

January 27-29, 2023

Holy Family Center, Nanticoke

Calling all young women ages 21 – 40! The Chosen retreat is designed with the intention to help young women begin to root their identity in Christ and find a community of other women pursuing their faith. The retreat starts at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, January 27th and wraps up with 11:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday, January 29th. The weekend will include Mass, guided personal prayer, talks from speakers, small group discussion, rest/fellowship, and ending Saturday night with prayer teams and Adoration. Loved ones, spouses, and children are welcome to join us for the closing mass on Sunday morning!

Please email Kylie Ballinger (kballingstjc@gmail.com) or Shannon Kowalski (skowalski@dioceseofscranton.org) with any questions. Scan the QR Code below, or [click here to register](#).



THE
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE
(ISLI)

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**FEBRUARY
17-19
2023**

For High School Students

Holy Transfiguration Retreat
Center - Dalton, Pa

Sign Up: Respect Life Prayer & Action

When you sign up for Respect Life Prayer and Action, you will receive:

- Prayers action alerts to contact Congress and government leaders
- service opportunities for at-risk women
- and more to help **protect the innocent** against attacks on human life.

Join **thousands of Catholics** as we seek to transform our **culture**. Together, we are powerful!

[Click Here to Sign Up](#) [Click for Monthly Prayer Guide](#)



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

THEOLOGY ON TAP


A Young Adult Speaker Series for 21-40 year olds

"Catholic Through Chaos"

JUGGLING WORK, FAITH, FAMILY, & FRIENDS.

Guest Speaker: Kelley McConnell

7PM | DEC 15TH | \$8 COVER
SABITINI'S BOTTLESHOP - EXETER



Kelley McConnell, PhD is director of data & student assessment at Reach Cyber Charter School. She also is the youth minister at St. Eulalia's in Elmhurst. Kelley is married and has two adorable little boys. In her free time she enjoys reading, boating, and her new puppy - Teddy.

CELEBRACIONES GUADALUPANAS 2022

East Stroudsburg—Parroquia San Mateo

1 de Diciembre al 11 de Diciembre

7:00 p.m. Rosario en la Iglesia (*excepto el 4 y 5 de Diciembre*)

4 de Diciembre

Recibimiento de la Antorcha Guadalupeana

12:30 p.m. Estacionamiento de la Farmacia Rite Aid, 128 N Courtland St, East Stroudsburg

2:00 p.m. Misa con Monseñor Joseph C. Bambera, Obispo de la Diócesis de Scranton

5 de Diciembre

12:00 p.m. Se despiden a la Antorcha Guadalupeana y se lleva al pueblo de Suffern, N.Y. Se proveerá transporte gratuito en autobús para los que gusten acompañar. Se requiere reservar su espacio (570) 236-2012

11 de Diciembre

7:30 p.m. Tradicionales mañanitas y vigilia en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe

12 de Diciembre

7:00 p.m. Misa en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Hazleton—Parroquia Anunciación

2 de Diciembre al 10 de Diciembre

6:30 p.m. Rosario, 7:00 p.m. Misa

11 de Diciembre

12:00 p.m. Misa

12 de Diciembre

5:00 a.m. Mañanitas

Jermyn—Parroquia Sagrados Corazones de Jesus y Maria

11 de Diciembre

12:00 p.m. Misa, Recepción después de Misa

Meshoppen—Iglesia San Joaquin

10 de Diciembre

4:00 p.m. Misa en la Iglesia San Joaquín

6:00 p.m. Recepción en el Salón de la Iglesia de la Natividad de la Santísima Virgen María, 99 E. Tioga St. Tunkhannock

12 de Diciembre

5:00 a.m. Mañanitas en la Iglesia San Joaquín

Scranton

2 de Diciembre al 10 de Diciembre

6:30 p.m. Novena diaria, Iglesia San Pablo de la Cruz, 1217 Prospect Ave. Scranton

11 de Diciembre

Catedral de San Pedro

12:15 p.m. Misa Solemne precedida

por el Monseñor Joseph C. Bambera, Obispo de la Diócesis de

Scranton y concelebrada por varios

sacerdotes/Recepción después de Misa en el Centro Pastoral Diocesano

12 de Diciembre

3:00 a.m. Procesión por las calles comenzando en la Catedral de San Pedro y finalizando en la Iglesia de San Pablo de la Cruz

4:30 a.m. Mañanitas en San Pablo de Cruz

6:30 a.m. Misa matutina

7:00 p.m. Misa en San Pablo de Cruz

Wilkes Barre—Parroquia San Nicolas

11 de Diciembre

6:00 p.m. – 9 p.m. Velación

12 de Diciembre

5:00 a.m. Mañanitas

4:00 p.m. Procesión comenzando en el 607 N. Franklin St. Wilkes Barre, (Familia Fortoso)

Acompañada de Chinelos, Moras y Danza de los Tacuates.

6:00 p.m. Misa Solemne precedida por el Monseñor Joseph C. Bambera, Obispo de la Diócesis de Scranton y concelebrada por varios sacerdotes

7:00 p.m. Recepción en la cafetería de la escuela inmediatamente después de la misa



OPL TEAM MEMBERS

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

Director of Discipleship: **Marianne Guarnieri**

Director for Worship: **David Baloga**

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

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

Director for Community and Family Development:

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

Program Coordinator, PreCana: **Brittain Banull**

Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry: **José Flores**

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

Manager of Parish Renewal: **Dominick Costantino**

Program Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Ana Becerill**

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Andres**



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