



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

December 1, 2022

Bishop Bambera's Reflection for the Second Week of Advent



**Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe to be
celebrated in parishes throughout Diocese**



Through the intercession of “Virgen de Guadalupe,” plans for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe are proceeding in many different parishes.

Particularly in the areas of large Latino populations in the Diocese of Scranton, the annual observance commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to a Mexican Indian peasant — now venerated as Saint Juan Diego — in December 1531 in Tepeyac, near present-day Mexico City.

The Blessed Mother’s appearance is believed to have resulted in millions of conversions to Catholicism, and her message of hope continues to inspire those of Hispanic descent.

In 1946, Pope Pius XII declared Our Lady of Guadalupe as Patroness of the Americas.

[For A Full Listing of Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebrations Across the Diocese of Scranton](#)

"Embrace your call with deep trust"

Eight men ordained Permanent Deacons on Nov. 26



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, ordained eight men as permanent deacons for the Diocese of Scranton on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

During the Mass of Ordination, Bishop Bambera ordained the following men to serve permanently in the Order of Deacon: John F. Bankus, John F. Bubb, Martin J. Castaldi, Matthew R. Eisley, Thomas A. Kostic, Steven J. Miller, Nicholas M. Rocco, and Frank H. Zeranski.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera spoke about the three-fold ministry to which each man has been called: service to the Word of God, service at the altar of the Lord and service to the poor.

"My brothers, God has called you to a vital ministry in service of the Gospel. Set aside your fears. Embrace your call with deep trust in Jesus' promise to walk with you always. Live the truth of the gospel that is rooted in the person of Jesus. Follow always his example of selfless love and mercy. And serve God's people generously as you would serve the Lord himself," the bishop said.

[View a Photo Album from the Permanent Diaconate Ordination Mass](#)

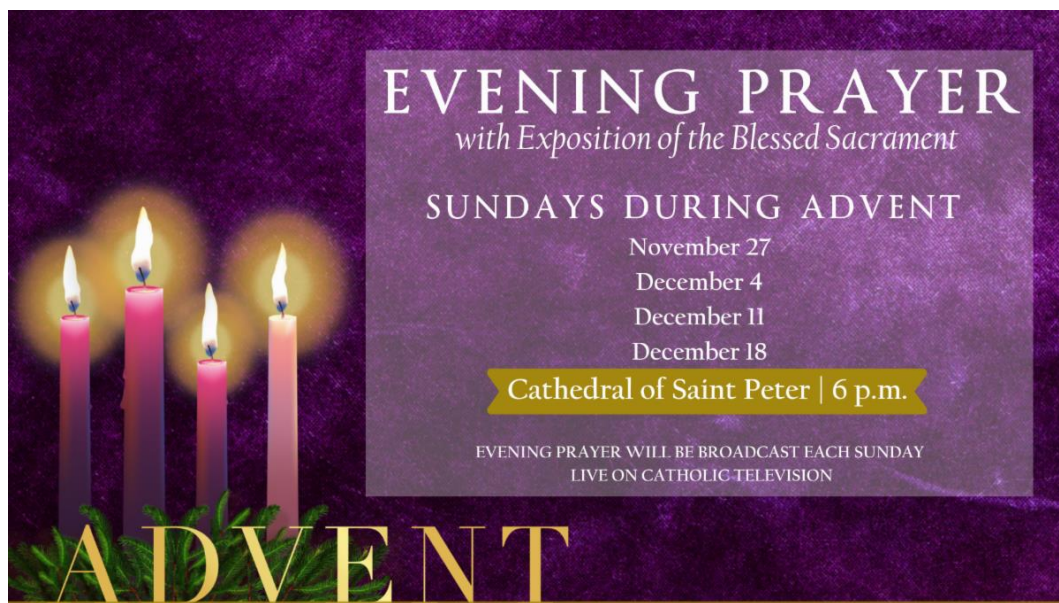
**Bishop announces ministry appointments for
new deacons**



On November 28, 2022, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced which parishes the eight new permanent deacons will serve the People of God.

[Click Here to View the Diaconal Ministry Appointments](#)

**Catholic Television to broadcast Evening
Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter on
Sundays During Advent**



**Peoples Security Bank & Trust contributes
to Diocesan Scholarship Foundation**



On Nov. 29, 2022, Peoples Security Bank & Trust made a significant contribution to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation in support of need-based tuition assistance for students attending a Diocesan Catholic school. The donation is part of the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program operated by Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development.

Peoples Security Bank & Trust presented the Diocesan Scholarship Foundation with a \$25,000 gift through the EITC program. Over the last five years, Peoples Security Bank & Trust has generously donated \$127,500 to Catholic education in the Diocese of Scranton.

"We appreciate the continued generous support of Peoples Security Bank & Trust. This commitment has a significant impact in the lives of our Catholic school families," Jim Bebla, Diocesan Secretary for Development, said at the check presentation.

[View This Story on the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Even a two-minute examination of conscience is helpful, Pope Francis says



A daily examination of conscience is an important tool for recognizing where God is at work in one's life and where "the evil spirit" tries to lead one astray, Pope Francis said.

"Learn to read in the book of our hearts what has happened during the day. Do it. Just two minutes, but it will do you good, I promise," the pope told visitors at his weekly general audience Nov. 30.

After his talk, Pope Francis and the crowd were treated to a performance by the Black Blues Brothers, a group of five acrobats from Kenya. Wearing dark suits and ties, they did handsprings, created human pyramids and did tumbling and dance tricks while jumping rope to songs from the 1980 film "The Blues Brothers."

Continuing his series of audience talks about discernment, the pope spoke again about "spiritual consolation" and about using a daily examination of conscience to distinguish between what just feels good and "genuine consolation," which, he said, "is a sort of confirmation that we are doing what God wants of us, that we are walking on his paths, that is, on the paths of life, joy and peace."

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

Bishop Bambera signs USCCB committee statement decrying rising Antisemitism in U.S.



Saying they are outraged by growing “antisemitic rhetoric” across the country, members of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs urged Christians to decry hate-filled statements and violence aimed at Jewish individuals, homes and institutions.

Committee members also denounced “any rhetoric which seeks to demonize or dehumanize the Jewish people or Judaism as a religious tradition,” in a statement released Nov. 28 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“In unequivocal terms, we condemn any and all violence directed at the Jewish people, whether motivated by religious, racial, or political grievances,” said the committee, chaired by Bishop David P. Talley of Memphis, Tennessee, and has eight other members.

“The rising trend of antisemitic incidents has become even more painful in light of the church’s relationship to the Jewish tradition and our connections to the Jewish people in dialogue and friendship,” the committee said.

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

Vatican announces Pope Francis' end-of-year liturgy schedule



With most of the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic removed, Pope Francis is scheduled to return to a full slate of public liturgies in December and January.

Pope Francis is scheduled to resume joining the public to pay homage to Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception on her feast, Dec. 8. At 4 p.m. he will join the traditional gathering at the Spanish Steps in the center of Rome.

Even though the public event was canceled in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic, the pope still went to the statue of the Immaculate Conception during the early morning to lay a basket of flowers there.

The pope also recites the Angelus prayer at noon Dec. 8 with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

[View the Papal Schedule for Christmas and Into January](#)

**Join us for Eucharistic Adoration this evening
in Laflin!**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sponsored by the Diocesan Offices for Parish Life and Vocations



Thursday,
December 1st

7:00 PM

St. Maria Goretti Church
42 Redwood Drive - Laflin

**SPEAKER,
RECONCILIATION,
AND SOCIAL.**

LIVE MUSIC BY JOEL KANKIEWICZ



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