



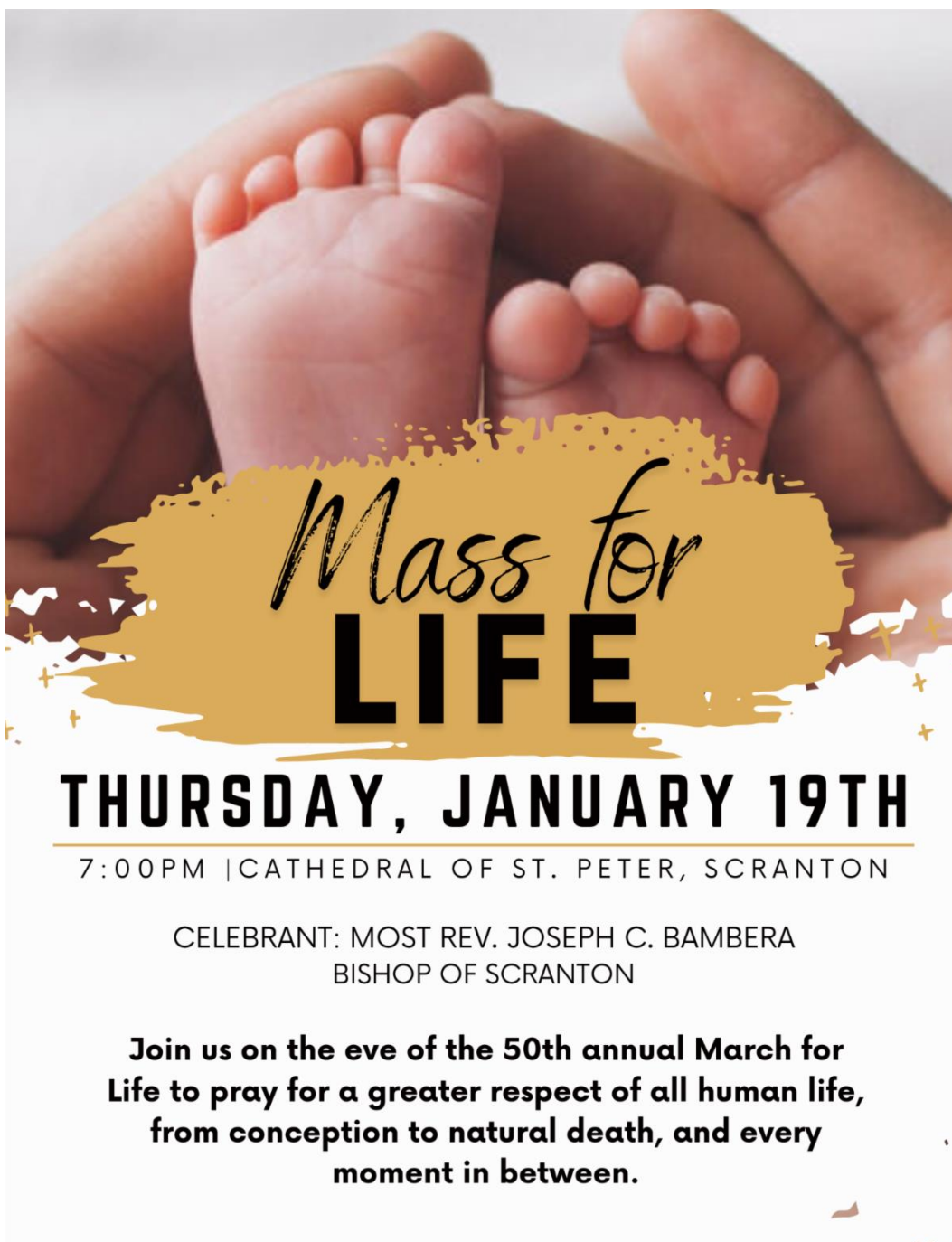
The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

January 12, 2023

**Diocese of Scranton to hold Mass for Life
Jan. 19 at Cathedral of Saint Peter**



Just hours before the annual March for Life is expected to take place in Washington, D.C., the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton will join together for a Mass for Life at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass, which is being celebrated for a greater respect of all human life, from conception to natural death, and every moment in between.

Even with Roe v. Wade being overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022, which allows more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, the necessary work to build a culture of life in the United States is not finished. Sadly, the number of abortions annually is still well over 900,000 each year, and that number is only expected to decrease by roughly 200,000 each year in a post-Roe America.

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

Bishop Bambera's 2023 March for Life Letter



As many faithful Catholics prepare to head to Washington next week for the National March for Life, Bishop Bambera has released his annual Letter for the March for Life.

The letter begins:

"In 1973, the United States Supreme Court issued its infamous Roe v. Wade decision, legalizing abortion throughout our land. For 50 years, committed Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, those of other faith traditions and some with no religious affiliation have labored, marched and prayed to overturn this decision in an effort to protect the lives of the most vulnerable among us – unborn infants in the womb. On June 24, 2022, just seven months ago, these noble efforts of so many bore fruit as the Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to abortion in its Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision.

"This year has given us all hope. Yet, brothers and sisters, for as encouraging as the past year has been, more than ever, we need to cling to this hope! For the task that we have engaged to build a culture of life in our land remains unfinished..."

[Read Bishop Bambera's Full March for Life Letter](#)

**Looking for a bus trip to the
March for Life?**



The Hazleton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life will sponsor a bus trip to the annual March for Life on Friday, Jan. 20, in Washington D.C.

The details are as follows: 7 a.m. Mass at Saint Gabriel Church, 212 South Wyoming St., Hazleton, for those wishing to attend. The bus will leave from Saint Gabriel's promptly at 7:30 a.m. Parking is available in the church parking lot.

The bus is expected to arrive at the National Mall in Washington between 11 and 11:30 a.m., where attendees will listen to the rally speakers. The March for Life begins at 1 p.m. Bus pickup for return home will be at 4:15 p.m. at the Indian Museum, located on Jefferson Drive SW between 3rd and 4th streets.

Cost is \$50 for adults and \$30 for students/children. Fee includes water and snacks on the bus and a buffet dinner stop at Mountain Gate Restaurant.

[For Information on How to Make a Reservation](#)

Pennsylvania abortion totals rise in 2021



The number of abortions in Pennsylvania rose during 2021, according to recent figures released by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Statistics show 33,206 abortions took place in Pennsylvania in 2021, an increase of 1,083 abortions over the 2020 total of 32,123. Pennsylvania has been monitoring and reporting on abortion data since 1975.

In 2021, the largest age group having abortions was 25-29, accounting for 9,771 (29.4%). Individuals under age 20 accounted for 7.7 percent of all abortions and individuals under age 18 accounted for 2.1 percent. Comparatively, in 2020, individuals under age 20 accounted for 7.9 percent and individuals under age 18 accounted for 2.4 percent.

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

Ecumenical Service on Jan. 19 to celebrate annual 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'



Faithful throughout the Diocese of Scranton will join with members of various Christian congregations of northeastern Pennsylvania for an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 12:10 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The event highlights the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — celebrated each January since its inception in 1908 — which will be observed this year during Jan. 18-25.

The theme for the 2023 celebration is: “Do Good; Seek Justice.” (Isaiah 1:17)

Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as leader of prayer for the traditional ecumenical prayer service. Past chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, Bishop Bambera was elected to reprise the role during the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops fall general assembly when he was voted chairman-elect of the interfaith arm of the Bishops’ Conference.

Guest homilist for this year’s prayer service is Protodeacon Sergei Kapral of the Orthodox Church in America. Well known for his involvement in ecumenical relations, Protodeacon Kapral attended the renowned Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland and holds membership in numerous organizations promoting ecumenism and concern for the environment.

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

Rectory, Set, Cook! II is underway!



With the help of more than 150 donors, and fueled by corporate sponsors, more than \$50,000 was raised during the first 24 hours of the second annual Rectory, Set, Cook! fundraiser, which launched on Tuesday.

More than 30 priests from across the Diocese of Scranton have once again put their cooking skills to the test, vying to climb to the top of the "collar-nary" leaderboard!

From main entrees to desserts and even with a few surprises in between, there is something to tempt everyone's taste buds!

Rectory, Set, Cook! is a fundraiser for Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton. Half of all the voting dollars go directly to help anti-

hunger programs in our local community. The other half of the voting dollars stay with the parish of the participating pastor.

Voting will be open for a total of six weeks. The competition will end on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023, with the announcement of the "top pastor chefs."

[View All of the Rectory, Set, Cook! II Videos and Vote for Your Favorite!](#)

Oblates of Saint Joseph to celebrate Feast of the Holy Spouses



The Feast of the Holy Spouses will be celebrated at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin, on Sunday, Jan. 22, with a special Eucharistic liturgy at 3 p.m.

Guest celebrant and homilist for this year's feast day Mass will be Father Jeffrey Tudgay, Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Scranton, who also serves as pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The annual celebration of the Holy Spouses honors the spousal role of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, exalting the sanctity of marriage and family life within our modern world.

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

Seminarians gather with Bishop Bambera for Project Andrew Dinner & Evening Prayer



On Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, seminarians from the Diocese of Scranton gathered with Bishop Bambera and other young men for Project Andrew Evening Prayer followed by a reception at the Cathedral Rectory.

The event gives priests from around the Diocese of Scranton the opportunity to invite individuals whom they might think have a priestly vocation or the qualities needed in a good priest to have dinner with Bishop Bambera in a relaxed, “no pressure” atmosphere of discussion and dialogue about the life of a priest.

Pictured above, first row, from left: Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Director of Vocations & Seminarians; Bishop Bambera; Monsignor David Bohr, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation. Second row: Seminarians Cody Yarnall and Jeremy Barket. Third row: Seminarian Harry Rapp and Rev. Mr. Michael Boris. Fourth Row: Seminarians Andrew McCarroll and Jacob Mutchler. Fifth Row: Seminarians Thomas Dzwonczyk and William Asinari.

PRAYER FOR THE SOUL OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

Father, eternal shepherd,
hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict, who
governed your Church with love.

In your mercy, bring him with the flock once entrusted to his
care to the reward you have promised your faithful servants.

May he who faithfully administered the mysteries of your
forgiveness and love on earth, rejoice with you forever in
heaven.

In your wise and loving care, you made your servant teacher of
all your Church. He did the work of Christ on earth.

May your Son welcome him into eternal glory. May your
servant whom you appointed high priest of your flock be
counted now among the priests in the life of your kingdom.

Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness and let your
mercy win for us the gift of your life and love.

We entrust your servant to your mercy with faith and
confidence. In the human family he was an instrument of your
peace and love.

May he rejoice in those gifts forever with your saints. Amen.

Prayer Courtesy: Vatican News



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