



# ***The Catholic Light***

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**January 19, 2023**

## **Mass for Life celebrated in Scranton on eve of the 50th annual March for Life**



As the Biden administration and state governments look at ways to expand or restrict access to abortion after the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs ruling, Pope Francis prayed that God would strengthen people's commitment to protecting human life at every stage.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said Pope Francis is "deeply grateful for the faithful witness shown publicly over the years by all who promote and defend the right to life of the most innocent and vulnerable members of our human family."

The message was sent to Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, to be read at the National Prayer Vigil for Life Jan. 19 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

The vigil precedes the annual March for Life, which was celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023 under the theme, "Next Steps: Marching into a Post-Roe America," looking at the pro-life work that remains after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and ruled that women do not have a constitutional right to access abortion.

On Thursday evening, Jan. 19, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, also celebrated a Mass for Life at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Look for additional coverage of the Mass for Life in the Feb. 16 edition of *The Catholic Light*.

## Not in Washington for March for Life events? Here's how to participate at home



Not in Washington for the 2023 March for Life? Have no fear. Pro-life advocates from around the country can mark the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision by virtually participating in events being held in the nation's capital in conjunction with the national march.

The opening and closing Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life Jan. 19-20 in the Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the

Immaculate Conception will be livestreamed at [www.nationalshrine.org/mass](http://www.nationalshrine.org/mass).

An all-new morning rally, Life Fest, sponsored by the Sisters of Life and the Knights of Columbus, takes place Jan. 20 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. EST and can be followed at [www.lifest2023.com](http://www.lifest2023.com).

[Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

## Participate in the 9 Days for Life Novena



Today is Day One of the "9 Days for Life." Please join us in Prayer to Protect Human Life from Jan. 19-27.

Today's Intercession:  
May the tragic practice of abortion end.

Today's Prayers:  
Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Today's Reflection:  
At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God's love. The presence of an illness, disability, or other challenging

situation never diminishes the value of a human life. God does not call us to perfection of appearance or abilities, but to perfection in love. Christ invites us to embrace our own lives and the lives of others as true gifts.

Abortion tragically rejects the truth that every life is a good and perfect gift, deserving protection. This violent practice ends the life of a human being at its very beginning and horribly wounds all those involved. But Christ came that we “might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10), taking on human flesh for the sake of our redemption. May our culture experience the power of God’s transforming love, that all eyes may be opened to the incredible beauty of every human life.

Today's Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Take a break from television and movies today. Consider spending some of that time praying with today’s reflection.
- Pray the short prayer “Every Life is Worth Living,” reflecting on the gift of human life.

Heavenly Father, thank you  
for the precious gift of life.  
Help us to cherish and protect  
this gift, even in the midst of fear,  
pain, and suffering.  
Give us love for all people,  
especially the most vulnerable,  
and help us bear witness to the  
truth that every life is worth living.  
Grant us the humility to accept  
help when we are in need,  
and teach us to be merciful to all.  
Through our words and actions,  
may others encounter the  
outstretched hands  
of Your mercy.  
We ask this through  
Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

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**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes on  
'even greater significance' in 2023**





The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as leader of prayer for an Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The annual Prayer Service is held as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which began on Jan. 18 and runs through Jan. 25.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a joint effort of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches.

The 2023 theme is "Do Good; Seek Justice," taken from the first chapter of Isaiah.

[Read a Story from Our Sunday Visitor on How the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is Taking on Even Greater Significance in 2023](#)

**Church's Mission is seen in care for the sick,  
pope says in message**



# **World Day of the Sick Mass**

**FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 2023  
12:10 P.M.**

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER,  
SCRANTON

*Principal Celebrant: Bishop Joseph C. Bambera*

**CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION TO BROADCAST MASS LIVE  
AND LIVESTREAM ON DIOCESAN WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

The way individual Catholics and their parishes care for the sick offers a precise measure of just how much they either are part of or are fighting the “throwaway culture” that ignores or discards anyone seen as flawed or weak, Pope Francis said in his message for the World Day of the Sick.

The care of those who are ill shows “whether we are truly companions on the journey or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to ‘make do,’” the pope said in the message, which was released by the Vatican Jan. 10.

The Catholic Church celebrates the world day Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

“Experiences of bewilderment, sickness and weakness are part of the human journey,” the 86-year-old pope wrote.

Bishop Bambera will celebrate Mass for the World Day of the Sick on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

[Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

## **Pope to confer ministries of lector, catechist at Mass Jan. 22**



Pope Francis will celebrate the fourth annual Sunday of the Word of God Jan. 22 and, like he did last year, will confer the ministries of lector and catechist on several lay people, according to the Dicastery for Evangelization.

The theme for the 2023 celebration is: “We proclaim what we have seen,” a quotation from 1 John 1:3, the dicastery said.

Pope Francis began the Sunday of the Word of God to promote “the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God,” which will help the church “experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.”

[Read More from Catholic News Service](#)

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## **To Be Pastoral, Look to the Good Shepherd, Pope Francis says**





Christians must develop a pastoral heart to care for those who have not heard the Gospel or who have left the fold, Pope Francis said.

“By being with Jesus, we discover that his pastoral heart always beats for the person who is confused, lost, far away,” the pope said at his weekly general audience Jan. 18. “Jesus never said, ‘Let them sort themselves out,’ he went out to find them.”

Pope Francis encouraged Christians to model themselves on Jesus, the Good Shepherd, longing for those who have left the church just as a shepherd longs for lost sheep, rather than treating them as “adversaries or enemies.”

“When we meet them at school, work or on the streets of our city, why don’t we think instead that we have a beautiful opportunity to witness to them the joy of a Father who loves them and has never forgotten them?” the pope asked.

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

## **Sister Andre, a Daughter of Charity and oldest known person in world, dies in France at 118**



Sister André, a Daughter of Charity and the world’s oldest known person, died at age 118, a spokesman of the nursing home where she died told AFP agency on Tuesday.

“There is great sadness but ... it was her desire to join her beloved brother. For her, it’s a liberation,” David Tavella, speaking for the Sainte-Catherine-Labouré nursing home, told AFP.

Sister André, a Catholic convert raised in a Protestant family, was born Lucile Randon Feb. 11, 1904. It was 10 years before World War I, Theodore Roosevelt was president of the United States, New York opened its first subway line and U.S. Army engineers began work on the Panama Canal. She also lived through the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic and through 10 pontificates.

[Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

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