



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

February 2, 2023

Amid fun of Catholic Schools Week, importance of faith and religion play significant role



While students at Saint Jude School in Mountain Top enjoyed motivational speakers and dress-down days as part of Catholic Schools Week 2023, they also focused on the importance of faith and religion.

The entire student body of more than 250 kids gathered for a special Mass on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at neighboring Saint Jude Parish. While the students regularly gather for Mass each week, many say the Catholic Schools Week liturgy is among their favorite.

“This school gives students an opportunity to learn not just academics but also faith and the understanding of what is real and what is truth in life,” eighth grader Connor Hillard said.

The church came alive during the Mass as the children recited prayers and sang several hymns including, ‘Here I Am, Lord.’

“Growing up in a community that is based on faith and going to Mass has really taught me on the weekends how to behave in Mass and has brought all the moral beliefs of religion into my life,” seventh grader Clare Grandzol said.

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

Oblates to return administration of Annunciation Parish to Diocese on June 30



After serving the Annunciation Parish community in Hazleton for nearly 14 years, the Oblates of St. Joseph have announced their intention to return the administration of the parish back to the Diocese of Scranton on June 30, 2023.

The announcement was shared with parishioners of Annunciation Parish during all Masses on the weekend of Jan. 28 & 29, 2023, in a letter from Fr. Matthew Spencer, O.S.J., Provincial, Oblates of St. Joseph (Holy Spouses Province).

“It is never easy for us as Oblates to make such a significant decision. When we agree to work at a parish, we do so knowing that we will invariably form friendships with the faithful and become part of the parish family itself,” Fr. Spencer wrote in his letter. “I wish we had more vocations and more active priests to assign, in order to maintain all of our ministries in our Province, but instead we find ourselves having to accept what Divine Providence allows us to do with the limited personnel we have.”

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

**Bishop Bambera to celebrate Mass for
World Day of the Sick on Feb. 10**



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 Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Mass for the 31st World Day of the Sick on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The commemoration of the World Day of the Sick not only provides an opportunity to devote special attention to those who are ill, but is also a celebration of God's works of mercy, especially through those who work tirelessly in the healthcare field.

The World Day of the Sick Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter will feature the Liturgy of the Anointing. Any infirmed person who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be invited to approach the bishop/priest with their hands open and palms facing up. The bishop/priest will anoint both the forehead and hands of the sick person.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will provide a live broadcast of the Mass. It will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and YouTube channel and links for the Mass will be provided on all Diocesan social media platforms.

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

**Mass for Persons with Disabilities to be held
Feb. 12**

Diocese of Scranton



MASS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
10:00AM

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER
315 WYOMING AVE. SCRANTON, PA. 18502

CELEBRANT: BISHOP JOSEPH C. BAMBERA

All are welcome to join us as we honor
the many gifts those with physical,
developmental, or intellectual disabilities
bring to the Church and the community.

**For more info, contact
Shannon Kowalski at
(570)207-2213**

All people, including those with special abilities, have gifts to contribute to the life of the Church. The Diocese of Scranton embraces and welcomes the talents of all individuals in building up the Kingdom of God.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant for the Diocese of Scranton's Mass for Persons with Disabilities on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is open to everyone. It will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and links will be provided on all Diocesan social media platforms.

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

Rectory, Set, Cook! II approaches \$120,000 raised for anti-hunger programs and parishes



Dinner is Ready!



As it hit the halfway point, the Rectory, Set, Cook! II culinary competition featuring pastor chefs from around the Diocese of Scranton has raised nearly \$120,000 for anti-hunger programs and parishes.

Three weeks after its launch, the "fun"draiser has already had 1,357 donors. More than two dozen priests filmed themselves cooking in their rectories for this virtual fundraiser which was established to support anti-hunger programs of Catholic Social Services.

People can vote for their favorite recipe (or video) by making a \$10 donation on a secure website. The pastor with the most votes will be named this year's "top pastor chef" when the competition closes on Feb. 21 (Fat Tuesday).

There are still **THREE MORE WEEKS** to support this effort. Half of all of the voting dollars will benefit Catholic Social Services and the other half will stay with the parish of the participating pastor.

[View All of this year's Rectory, Set, Cook! videos and Vote For Your Favorite](#)

Victims of violence in Congo share their grief with Pope Francis



Ladislav set a machete under the crucifix. Bijoux laid a wicker mat there. And Emelda dropped military fatigues.

The three of them and other victims of violence in eastern Congo told Pope Francis horrifying stories of watching their families be slaughtered or of being kidnapped or raped repeatedly by militia members.

Pope Francis had planned to go to Goma in the violence-torn North Kivu province, but increased fighting forced him to cancel the trip to the East to protect the crowds that would gather to see him.

Instead, the pope invited about 40 victims of violence in the East to the apostolic nunciature in Kinshasa Feb. 1.

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

After Biden comments, U.S. Bishops say they have 'united position' on abortion



The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops affirmed its “united position” in opposition to taxpayer funding for abortion procedures, invoking the teaching of Pope Francis, following recent remarks by President Joe Biden.

During a Jan. 30 gaggle with reporters on the South Lawn of the White House, a reporter said to Biden, “Catholic bishops are demanding that federal tax dollars not fund abortions.”

Biden replied, “No, they are not all doing that,” adding, “nor is the pope doing that.”

The USCCB’s president, Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, refuted the president’s remarks in a Feb. 1 statement. He said the U.S. bishops are united in their opposition to both abortion and the use of taxpayer funds to finance those procedures.

“As we are taught by Jesus, human life is sacred,” Archbishop Broglio said. “God calls us to defend and nurture life from the moment a new human being is conceived. The Catholic Church has been clear and consistent in this teaching.”

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

Catholic pro-life activist Mark Houck acquitted of federal charges



A Catholic pro-life activist has been found not guilty of charges that he violated a federal law protecting access to abortion clinics, thereby avoiding a possible 11-year prison sentence.

Mark Houck, known for his sidewalk counseling outside a Philadelphia abortion facility, was tried in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on two charges under the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, or FACE Act, for allegedly assaulting an abortion clinic volunteer in October 2021.

[Read More from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Diocese of Scranton's

International Student Leadership Institute

A Peer-Facilitated
Leadership Retreat
for High School
Students

**FEBRUARY
17-19, 2023**

@ Holy Transfiguration
Retreat Center, Dalton

For More Information:

Further details and
applications are
available online at
Dioceseofscranton.org

or call (570)207-2213
x1155 for more info.



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