



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

March 16, 2023

Carmelite nuns arrive in Diocese, plan new Monastery in Pleasant Mount



On behalf of the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, welcomed a community of ten Carmelite nuns to northeastern Pennsylvania on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023, the First Sunday of Lent.

“I speak on behalf of the people of the Diocese of Scranton in saying ‘welcome Sisters,’” Bishop Bambera said while celebrating Mass with them. “We are so, so honored and blessed to have you be a part of this local church, a part of this Christian community of believers.”

Earlier in the month, the cloistered Carmelite nuns from the Monastery of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Joseph relocated from Brooklyn, N.Y., to a temporary home at the former Saint Gabriel’s Retreat Center near Clarks Summit.

Their current location is expected to be only temporary because the Carmelite nuns have plans to build a new monastery on land in Pleasant Mount in Wayne County.

“This place has had a tradition of being a real refuge for many people. I know it may not be part of your tradition but many people have had retreats here. It has been a place of prayer, a place of discernment and just a wonderful place where God’s people have come together,” Bishop Bambera explained to the nuns prior to blessing their current home.

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

Bishop Bambera's Reflection for the Fourth Week of Lent



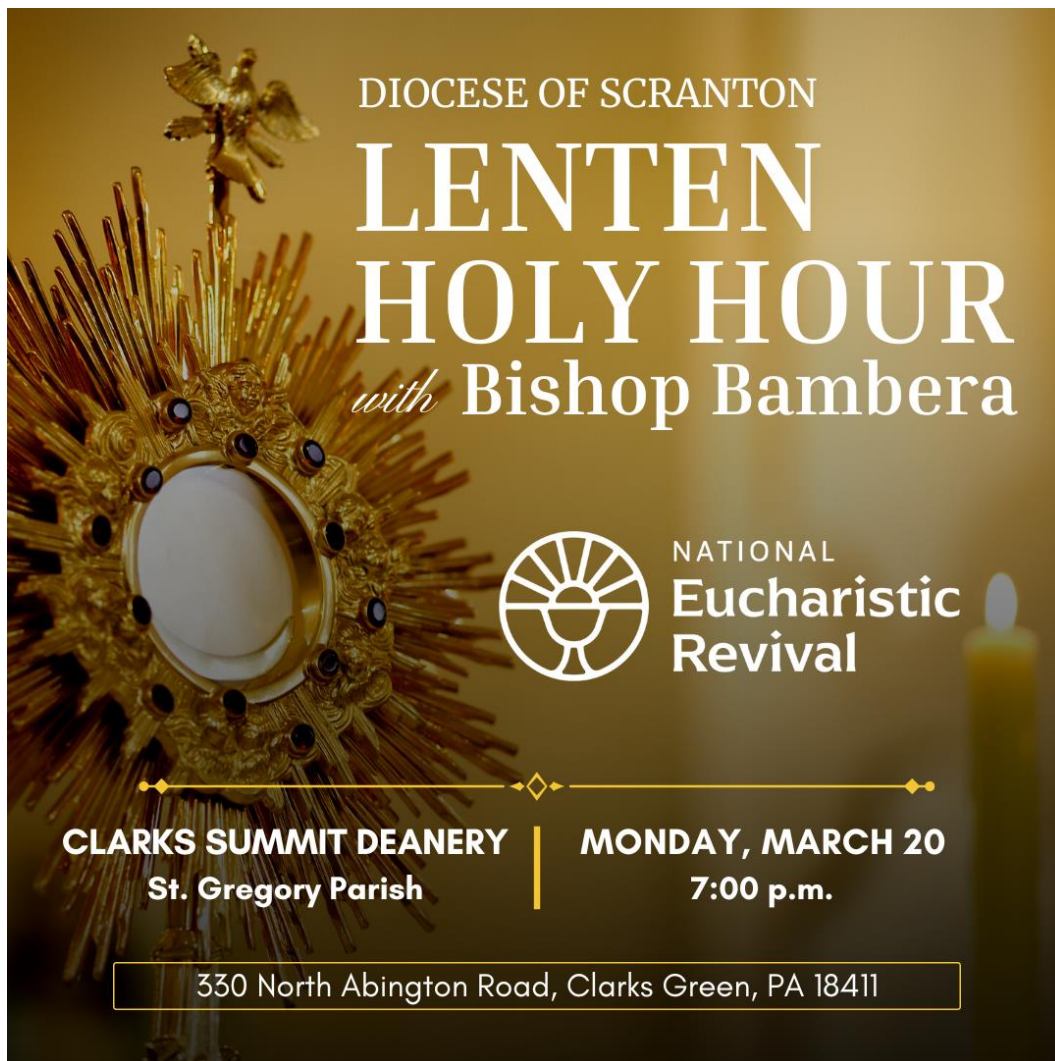
During Lent, Bishop Bambara is releasing weekly video reflections on Diocesan social media channels as well as Catholic Television.

In the gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of Jesus healing the man who had been blind since birth and the aftermath of Pharisees questioning the man about his healing and his eventual expulsion out of the temple. Upon revealing his true identity to the man born blind, Jesus says, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

We know that this passage is about seeing through the eyes of faith. The Pharisees, religious leaders of their time, should have seen Jesus for who he is but are blind because of their own righteousness. While the man born blind - interrogated, abandoned and rejected - now sees Jesus and believes in him.

To hear Bishop Bambara's full video reflection, click the box above.


Lenten Holy Hours scheduled for Clarks Green, West Pittston and Hazleton this week



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

LENTEN HOLY HOUR

with Bishop Bambera



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

CLARKS SUMMIT DEANERY
St. Gregory Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 20
7:00 p.m.

330 North Abington Road, Clarks Green, PA 18411

Three more Lenten Holy Hours are scheduled to take place within the next week in deaneries across the Diocese of Scranton.

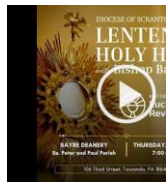
On Monday, March 20, the faithful of the Clarks Summit deanery have been invited to join together at Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green at 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, March 22, the faithful of the Pittston deanery are encouraged to attend the Lenten Holy Hour at Corpus Christi Parish in West Pittston at 7 p.m.

The following night, Thursday, March 23, SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Hazleton, will host the Lenten Holy Hour for the Hazleton deanery at 7 p.m.

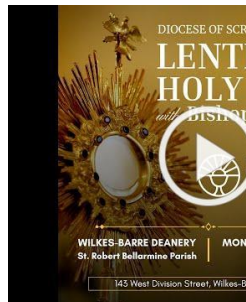
[Click Here for all of the Dates and Locations of the Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambara](#)

Catholic Television is providing video features from each Lenten Holy Hour



**SS.
Peter
& Paul
Parish
Towanda**

**Thursday,
March
9**



**St. Robert
Bellarmine
Wilkes-
Barre**

**Monday,
March 13**



**Mary, Mother of God
Parish
Scranton**

Tuesday, March 14

"I do it to glorify and adore God"

Decorating committee members use talents to beautify churches for Easter



With a little more than three weeks left until Easter, many parish decorating committees will be working overtime to make sure their worship spaces are beautiful.

At Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco, which will celebrate Easter in its brand new home for the first time, volunteers have been preparing for several months.

"I do it to glorify and adore God, to show him that I am thankful for my gifts," parishioner Madeleine Forssell said.

Forssell helps to coordinate a large team of dozens of volunteers who constantly work to keep the church, its narthex and meeting areas properly decorated for each liturgical season.

“We get inspiration from Pinterest and Facebook or we capitalize on ideas or pictures that we see,” she explained. “We try to enhance the beauty that is already here. When we decorate this place, it’ll take your breath away.”

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

Saint Francis Kitchen extends 'Community Outreach' meal to North Pocono region



Saint Eulalia Parish and Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen are joining forces to make sure no one in the North Pocono area goes hungry.

Starting Feb. 7, 2023, a free community meal is now being hosted in the parish hall of the Roaring Brook Township parish every Tuesday from noon until 12:30 p.m.

The warm, nutritious meal is prepared by Saint Francis Kitchen in Scranton and served by parish volunteers. Each week the meal includes meat, vegetables, fruit salad, garden salad, lemonade and dessert.

“It’s local people serving local people. The kitchen provides the food, the van and the driver and a lot of the material things,” Rob Williams, Executive Director of Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, explained. “We send one person from Scranton but they provide 10-12 local volunteers to serve the meal. All of the hospitality and all the meal service happens with local people serving local people.”

More than sixty volunteers from the parish have stepped forward to help.

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

Mayor of Ballina, Ireland, attends St. Patrick's Parade Day Mass in Scranton



Before the 61st annual Saint Patrick’s Parade took to the streets of downtown Scranton March 11, 2023, hundreds gathered to celebrate their faith and devotion to the patron saint of Ireland at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the Parade Day Mass. As he began his homily, the bishop addressed the morning's weather.

“Not a few of us breathed a sigh of relief this morning as we dodged another proverbial bullet and snowstorm,” Bishop Bambera joked.

Between delays and cancellations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and a nor'easter last year that pushed the parade back a week – coincidentally to the Feast of Saint Joseph – there have been a lot of challenges.

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

10 Years as Pope: Pushing the Church to bring the Gospel to the world



For a decade, even when discussing the internal workings of the Vatican, Pope Francis has insisted the church is not the church of Christ if it does not reach out, sharing the “joy of the Gospel” and placing the poor at the center of its attention.

Signals that his papacy would be different started the moment he stepped out on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica the evening of March 13, 2013: He was not wearing a red, ermine-trimmed cape, and he bowed as he asked the crowd to pray that God would bless him.

His decision not to live in the Apostolic Palace, his invitations to Vatican trash collectors and gardeners and other employees to join him for his daily morning Mass, his insistence on going to the Italian island of Lampedusa to celebrate Mass and pray for migrants who had drowned in the Mediterranean captivated the attention of the media.

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

**Tickets for 2023 Catholic Women's
Conference are available now**



Refresh your Faith *With the Holy Spirit*

Catholic Women's Conference
Saturday, June 10, 2023
Marywood University

GET YOUR TICKET TODAY!
www.cwcnepa.com

Planning is already underway for the 2023 Catholic Women's Conference which will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at Marywood University.

The theme for this year's conference is "With the Holy Spirit."

The conference's keynote speaker will be Kathleen McCarthy. McCarthy is a published author, Catholic radio broadcaster and has been a Catholic lay evangelist for more than 40 years.

Johnnette Benkovic Williams, founder and president of Women of Grace, will be the featured speaker at the conference. Women of Grace is a Catholic apostolate for women featuring a number of outreaches including conferences, media, study groups and more.

Music for the conference will be provided by Maria Salamida, a graduate of Franciscan University in 2020, who currently works at the university as Coordinator of Liturgical Music.

In addition to speakers, the annual conference will feature the celebration of Mass with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The registration fee for the 2023 Catholic Women's Conference is \$55. Student tickets (under 22 years of age) are \$20.

[Click Here for More Information or to Register for the 2023 Catholic Women's Conference](#)

Follow Us



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org