



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

March 2, 2023

Joyous celebration of Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion involved 160 people from 30 parishes



After going to church regularly for more than 20 years, Jerry Garner of Lenox Township is now consciously making a decision to join the Catholic faith.

“I think it’s time right now for me to join the church,” he explained. “There has always been an open invitation. I just think it was the right time, the right calling.”

Garner will receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist) during the Easter Vigil Mass at Saint Patrick Parish in Nicholson. He has been participating in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and feels fully prepared for the faith journey ahead.

“I have been able to get more in touch with Jesus and God and really focus,” he explained. “The process has been terrific. I’m learning a lot more about the church than what I previously knew and it’s been a spiritual journey for me to go through this.”

Garner is one of 160 people from parishes around the Diocese of Scranton who participated in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Feb. 26, 2023, the First Sunday in Lent.

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

Bishop Bambera's Reflection for the Second Week of Lent



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

The story of the Transfiguration of the Lord as proclaimed each year on the Second Sunday of Lent is a “mountain top” moment, one in which the disciples encounter the magnificence and glory of God, but in an instant are brought back down to reality.

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

Hundreds attend first two Lenten Holy Hours, next stop is Montoursville



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

LENTEN HOLY HOUR

with Bishop Bambera



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

WILLIAMSPORT DEANERY | **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8**
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish | **7:00 p.m.**

800 Mulberry Street, Montoursville, PA 17754

Faithful from around the Diocese of Scranton have responded with great joy at the first two Lenten Holy Hours that have been held since the beginning of Lent.

In conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Bambera is traveling to parishes in all 12 deaneries to help foster a deep devotion and love for the Holy Eucharist.

The first Lenten Holy Hour was held on Thursday, Feb. 23 at Saint Rose of Lima Parish in Carbondale. The second was held on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco. Between the two Holy Hours, several hundred people have already participated.

The next Lenten Holy Hour will be held on Wednesday, March 8 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Montoursville, Lycoming County at 7 p.m.

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

Catholic Television is providing video features from each Lenten Holy Hour



**Saint Rose of Lima Parish
Carbondale**



**Most Holy Trinity Parish
Cresco**

Saying Rosary as family seen as one way to fulfill Lenten pillar of prayer



Tom Lyman, director of Family Rosary, hopes that especially during Lent — which calls Catholics to commit more time to the Lord in prayer — families will pray the rosary together and take part in the ministry’s “At the Foot of the Cross” Lenten campaign.

Family Rosary is part of Holy Cross Family Ministries, which continues the mission of Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, known for the adage “The family that prays together stays together.” Because he urged families to say the rosary together, he was aptly dubbed “The Rosary Priest.”

The Holy Cross organization also includes Family Theater Productions, Catholic Mom, the Museum of Family Prayer, Father Peyton Family Institutes and the Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life.

“The rosary is really an ideal family prayer and a way to fortify the domestic church,” which is the family, Lyman told OSV News.

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

Bishop Bambara announces dispensation for Saint Patrick's Day



During the penitential season of Lent, Catholics age 14 and over are required to abstain from eating meat on Friday. This ecclesiastical law helps us to commemorate as a community the Passion and Death of the Lord and to practice the self-restraint called for by this holy season.

The memorial of Saint Patrick falls on a Friday this year, March 17, the Friday of the Third Week of Lent. Given the importance of this feast in the

life of the Diocese of Scranton and in the lives of many local Catholics, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, is granting a dispensation from the Friday Lenten abstinence on Friday, March 17, 2023, to those who wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

Code of Canon Law No. 87 states, “A diocesan bishop, whenever he judges that it contributes to their spiritual good, is able to dispense the faithful from universal and particular disciplinary laws issued for his territory or his subjects by the supreme authority of the Church.”

This dispensation applies to celebrations in parishes, fraternal organizations and families. It is not required that anyone make use of this dispensation. The dispensation does not apply to any other celebrations of Saint Patrick that might take place on any other Fridays in Lent.

All the faithful who take advantage of this dispensation are encouraged to abstain from meat on some other day as part of their penitential practices during Lent and/or perform an act of service, prayer or sacrifice in keeping with the character of the Lenten season.

[Read this Story on the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

Make time this Lent to love the excluded, defenseless, despised, Pope Francis says

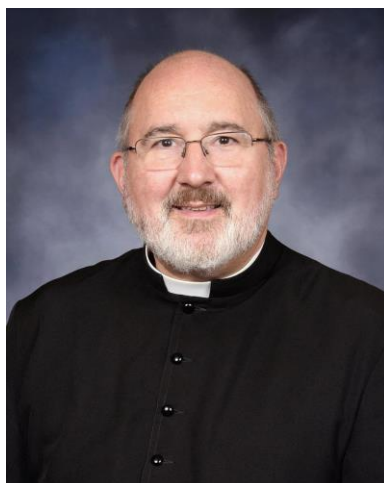


The call to make sacrifices for others out of love remains urgent as so many people continue to suffer from war, violence, exclusion and poverty, Pope Francis said.

“Let us put into practice the call to do good to everyone, taking the time to love the least and most defenseless, the abandoned and despised, those who are discriminated against and marginalized,” he said during an audience with members of the “Pro Petri Sede” Association Feb. 24 at the Vatican.

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

Indianapolis Priest named Director of USCCB's Institute on the Catechism



The recently formed Institute on the Catechism will carry out the U.S. bishops' vision of the importance of "connecting evangelization and catechesis," according to Father Daniel J. Mahan, an Indianapolis archdiocesan priest just named as the institute's director.

The institute is housed within the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' headquarters in Washington.

Father Michael J.K. Fuller, USCCB general secretary, appointed Father Mahan Feb. 27 to the post, effective July 1.

This "evangelizing catechesis," a focus of the church as a whole, aims to teach the beliefs of the Catholic faith in a "compelling and inviting" way to help young Catholics foster a "deeper relationship with the Lord and help them see their place within the body of Christ, the church, and in turn, reach out to others to share the Good News," Father Mahan told OSV News.

[Read More from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

**All are invited to "True Presence" Night in
Lackawanna County**



TRUE PRESENCE

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH
704 MONTDALE RD. , SCOTT TOWNSHIP

NIGHT

MARCH 10

6:30PM
LIVE MUSIC DYNAMIC SPEAKERS
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

HOSTED BY
St. John Vianney
PARISH COMMUNITY


THE VIGIL PROJECT

 **DIOCESE OF SCRANTON**





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

