



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

March 30, 2023

Doctors report 'marked improvement' in pope's condition



**Pray for
Pope Francis**



More than 24 hours after he entered the hospital, Pope Francis' doctors reported a "marked improvement" in his condition, which they attributed to treatment with intravenous antibiotics.

The tests the pope underwent after entering Rome's Gemelli hospital with difficulty breathing revealed he had bronchitis, said a medical bulletin released by the Vatican press office March 30. "Based on his expected progress, the Holy Father could be discharged in the coming days."

Earlier in the day, the Vatican said the pope "rested well" his first night in the hospital and was "steadily improving" from what it described as a respiratory infection.

He spent the morning reading some newspapers, eating breakfast and had "resumed working," the Vatican had said. Before lunch, he went to the chapel near his hospital room to pray, and he received Communion.

[Read More from Catholic News Service](#)

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Holy Week & Easter Masses at Cathedral of Saint Peter



Parishes across the Diocese of Scranton, including the Cathedral of Saint Peter, are busy preparing for Holy Week and Easter. The faithful are invited and encouraged to attend Masses in-person to experience the joy, hope and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate several Pontifical Liturgies at the Cathedral of Saint Peter for this holiest time of the year. The dates and times are available at the link below.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will provide live coverage of all of the Pontifical Masses from the Cathedral of Saint Peter. In addition to being broadcast, the Masses will also be available via livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and all Diocesan social media platforms.

[Click Here for the Pontifical Mass Schedule for Holy Week & Easter 2023](#)

Bishop Bambera's Reflection for Holy Week 2023



As we approach the beginning of Holy Week, Bishop Bambera has released another video reflection on Diocesan social media channels as well as Catholic Television.

At the beginning of Holy Week, we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, a commemoration of the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as well as his suffering and death on the cross. At the beginning of the Passion proclaimed on that day, however, we hear Matthew's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus institutes the Holy Eucharist.

On the night before his death, Jesus gives us, in a sense, his last will and testament — he gives us his very self under the appearance of bread and wine and commands us to do this in memory of what he was about to undertake in his own passion, death, and resurrection.

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

Bishop's homily from Lenten Holy Hours is now available on Diocesan website



The Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera concluded on Wednesday night at St. John the Baptist Parish in Larksville, bringing to a close 12 different Holy Hours held all across the Diocese of Scranton.

After nearly every stop, Bishop Bambera was asked privately to share his homily on the importance of the Holy Eucharist - and he has now made that text available more broadly in both English and Spanish on the Diocese of Scranton website.

For those that might be unfamiliar, Bishop Bambera makes all of the homilies from his Pontifical Masses available online.

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambera's Homily for the Lenten Holy Hours in both English and Spanish](#)

Catholic Television is providing video features from each Lenten Holy Hour



**SS Cyril &
Methodius Parish**

Thursday, March 23



**Queen of Peace
Parish**

Monday, March 27

Video features from SS Anthony & Rocco Parish and St. John the Baptist Parish will be available soon on the Diocese of Scranton website and YouTube channel.

**Scranton parish holds collection for
individuals experiencing homelessness**



Parishioners of Mary, God Parish in North Scranton have spent the last several weeks collecting items to donate to individuals experiencing homelessness and their efforts are nearing a conclusion on Palm Sunday.

"For Lent, we wanted to do a special project to help those in need," Jennifer Pitts, member of the parish's community and service committee, said. "We have worked with Keystone Mission in the past, providing meals and we've done underwear and boxer drives for them. We wanted to do something special for Lent. We had a great idea about getting tents and filling them with items that homeless people need right now."

The parish put a list of items in its bulletin, which included umbrellas, backpacks, tarps, tents, plastic cutlery and disposable coffee cups, and the faithful responded in a big way.

"Whatever we ask for here, people are very generous. They are just wonderful and people love to give, especially at this time of year," parishioner Donna Zupp added.

[Click Here To Watch a Video about the Donation of Mary, Mother of God Parish](#)

Vatican official asks Catholics to give to Good Friday collection



The desecrated face of a statue of the crucified Christ in a Jerusalem church should move Catholics around the world “to recognize the pain of so many of our brothers and sisters” in the Holy Land, who have

experienced the tragedy of violence and natural disasters, said a top Vatican official.

Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, prefect of the Dicastery for Eastern Churches, has written to bishops around the world asking them to urge their people to generously support the traditional Good Friday collection for the Holy Land.

Customarily, 65% of the funds collected goes to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, which ministers to Christians throughout the Middle East and is responsible for most of the shrines connected with the life of Jesus, including the Church of the Flagellation where a Jewish tourist attacked a statue of Christ in early February.

The remaining 35% of the collection goes to the Dicastery for Eastern Churches and funds seminaries, advanced education for priests and nuns and Catholic schools in the Middle East, including Bethlehem University.

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

Pope issues updated 'Vos Estis' text for handling abuse cases



Pope Francis has updated the procedures for investigating allegations of sexual abuse or the cover up of abuse, specifying that the leaders of Vatican-recognized international Catholic lay associations and movements have the same responsibilities over their members that a bishop has over the priests of his diocese.

The updated version of “Vos Estis Lux Mundi” (You are the light of the world), published March 25, also expanded the categories of victims covered by the regulations to include vulnerable adults.

The original text spoke of the crime of “sexual acts with a minor or a vulnerable person.” The updated text read, “a crime against the Sixth Commandment of the Decalogue committed with a minor, or with a person who habitually has an imperfect use of reason, or with a vulnerable adult.”

“Anything that expands the categories of those who should be protected is to be welcomed,” Oblate Father Andrew Small, secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, told Catholic News Service March 25.

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

'God showed up in a very powerful way': Archdiocese of Hartford investigating possible Eucharistic miracle



The Archdiocese of Hartford is investigating a possible Eucharistic miracle at one of its parishes, where Communion hosts seemingly multiplied during a March 5 Sunday Mass.

Father Joseph Crowley, pastor of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Thomaston, Connecticut, said in a YouTube livestream of his March 12 homily that an unnamed extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at the previous week's liturgy had begun to run out of Communion hosts — only to find that “all of a sudden there (were) more hosts in the ciborium.” The St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish is comprised of three church locations — St. Thomas, Immaculate Conception and St. Casimir — and the alleged multiplication of Communion hosts took place at St. Thomas.

The minister continued to distribute the hosts to some “100, 150 people in the congregation,” after which “there was the same amount, if not more

hosts” in the ciborium, said Father Crowley, who had celebrated the March 5 liturgy. “What happened is Our Lord multiplied himself. ... I have no doubt. I know what I gave the person. I know what (was) returned (to the tabernacle). It was just very obvious and plain to me as to what happened.”

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

Suicide Grief Support Series

WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES BY SUICIDE



Offered at two locations beginning in April 2023

St. Ann's Basilica Parish, Scranton

To learn more contact deaconed@stpeterscathedral.org

Ascension and Saint Katharine Drexel Parishes, Forest City and Pleasant Mount

To learn more contact carl.albright49@gmail.com

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