



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

March 9, 2023

Nearly 600 young adults are being honored for service in parishes and schools



Over the course of the next two weeks, nearly 600 young adults from parishes and schools across the Diocese of Scranton are being recognized with the 2023 Bishop's Youth Award.

Nominated by their pastors, parish life coordinators, youth ministers, directors of religious education or school principals, the award honors those students in 8th and 12th grade who show exemplary practice of faith and/or commitment to service.

"These young people have been of service to their parish and school communities in a multitude of ways and are worthy of this recognition,"

Marianne Guarnieri, Director of Discipleship in the Diocesan Office for Parish Life, said.

The Bishop's Youth Awards have been handed out annually since 1996.

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

Bishop Bambera's Reflection for the Third Week of Lent



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

This year on the Third Sunday of Lent, we hear the gospel of the Samaritan woman at the well, one of the gospels for the Scrutinies, which are special rites for those catechumens, now called “the elect,” who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. These rites are meant to uncover and heal any weakness or sinfulness that may be keeping the elect from fully embracing God’s grace.

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

Towanda, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre parishes to host upcoming Lenten Holy Hours



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

LENTEN HOLY HOUR

with Bishop Bambera



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

SAYRE DEANERY
Ss. Peter and Paul Parish

THURSDAY, MARCH 9
7:00 p.m.

106 Third Street, Towanda, PA 18848

Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Montoursville was filled with faithful Wednesday night as the third Lenten Holy Hour was held across the deaneries of the Diocese of Scranton.

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 next week will feature three month opportunities to go deeper in your prayer life this Lent. Tonight, Thursday, March 9, Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Towanda will be hosting its Holy Hour for the Sayre Deanery at 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Monday, March 13 at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre and Tuesday, March 14 at Mary, Mother of God Parish in Scranton for the next opportunities. Both of those Holy Hours will also take place 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



**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Montoursville**

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Cathedral of Saint Peter to host Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass on Saturday

Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass



Saturday, March 11, 2023

10 a.m.

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

The annual Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 11, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is traditionally held in conjunction with the city of Scranton's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Following the Mass, the Saint Patrick's Parade is expected to take to the streets of the Electric City beginning at 11:45 a.m.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass. The Mass will be

concelebrated by Rev. Jeffrey D. Tudgay, V.E., Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs and Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter; Rev. Daniel R. Sweeney, S.J.; and priests of the Diocese of Scranton.

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

Pep Rally held at Our Lady of Peace School to send Lady Falcons to State CYO Tournament



Our Lady of Peace Catholic School in Clarks Green held a school-wide pep rally/send off for their Lady Falcons girls basketball team Thursday morning as they departed for Altoona to participate in the State Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Tournament.

The team's first game is scheduled for Friday night at 7 p.m.

The send off began with a blessing by Monsignor Joseph Quinn, featured a bagpipe escort back to the school and then a police escort from the school to the highway.

We wish the best of luck to the Lady Falcons this weekend!

[Click Here to Watch a Video of the Pep Rally on Thursday morning](#)

Pope Francis to open Lenten prayer, penance service at Rome parish



Pope Francis will open a Lenten prayer and penance initiative at a Rome parish March 17 rather than in St. Peter's Basilica as in past years.

The initiative, "24 Hours for the Lord," was begun by the pope in 2014, and invites Catholic parishes worldwide to remain open for adoration and confession for 24 hours from the Friday evening to the Saturday evening before Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. This year, the vigil is scheduled to take place March 17-18.

The Vatican announced March 7 that the pope will open the celebration at a parish near the Vatican “to further portray (its) presence in parish communities.” Typically, he hears confessions during the service.

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

Trusted relationships with priests key to fostering vocations, study says



A new study cites trusted relationships with parish priests as a deciding factor in cultivating vocations and reducing the priest-to-parishioner ratio as essential for making such encounters possible.

The 2023 “State of Priestly Vocations in the United States” by Texas-based Vocation Ministry concludes that “the overall role of priests in fostering vocations is significant,” with “around 70% of those ordained” reporting that they were invited by a priest to consider the calling.

“We know the priest is the number one factor for a young man saying ‘yes’ to the priesthood,” Vocation Ministry founder Rhonda Gruenewald told OSV News.

But as ordination numbers decline while many parishes close or merge, priests are becoming responsible for a greater number of parishioners, Gruenewald said. With increased administrative and pastoral responsibilities, clergy often have little time and energy to mentor teens and young men who might be interested in religious life.

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

Women religious celebrated during Catholic Sisters Week!

Celebrating Traditions Changing the World

Catholic Sisters Week

March 8-14, 2023



CATHOLIC
SISTERS WEEK



CWR | COMMUNICATORS
FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Advancing the Mission of Catholic Sisters

Fifty-two weeks a year women religious stand with the poor and immigrants, teach children, fight injustice, heal the sick, share spirituality, empower women, defend the planet, promote peace, create community, offer hope.

But for one week, March 8-14, we shine the spotlight on women religious and encourage a wide range of campaigns and events that invite all who follow Jesus to:

- expand and support their gospel witness
- grow the service networks they have seeded
- share their spirituality, charisms, and community
- encourage young women to consider a vocation to religious life
- support their pastoral, teaching and prophetic works

- and focus on the new world they call into being.

Please join us in thanking and celebrating all of the women religious throughout the Diocese of Scranton and beyond!

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