



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

April 6, 2023

Happy Easter!

Bishop Bambera's Easter Message:
Turn to the Risen Jesus for hope and peace



Dear Friends,

“Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.”

These words from Saint Matthew's gospel proclaimed during the great Vigil of Easter, confronted the first followers of Jesus on the day of His resurrection and boldly affirmed God's promise to save his people.

Despite such powerful words of faith that we read in the scriptures and proclaim whenever we gather for the celebration of the Eucharist, the reality of life at times can consume us with grief, pain and fear. These days are no exception.

From devastating earthquakes in Syria and Ecuador – to tornadoes that ravaged parts of Mississippi, Arkansas and far too many areas of our land – to once unimaginable school shootings that continue to shatter the security and peace that every child should enjoy – to a senseless war in Ukraine that has raged on for more than a year, leaving death, destruction and shattered dreams in its wake – to our own stories of loss – the scope of suffering and pain that has enveloped our world and our lives is difficult to comprehend.

And so as we have done countless times before in the face of such heartbreak, these sacred days of Holy Week and Easter beckon us to turn to the only place that enables our broken world and lives to find forgiveness, healing, hope and peace: the Paschal Mystery – the Easter miracle – the promise won for us through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus!

But how does a mystery fraught with suffering and death provide us with hope?

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambara's Full Easter Message](#)

**Chrism Mass symbolizes oneness of clergy,
religious, faithful in Christ**



A brilliant spring afternoon was matched by the radiant joy emanating from the Cathedral of Saint Peter for the celebration of the Diocese of Scranton's Chrism Mass on April 4, 2023 – Tuesday of the holiest week of the Christian calendar year.

While the heavens provided a most comfortable day for the venerable gathering, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, as principal celebrant and homilist, warmly welcomed to the Mother Church of the Diocese the hundreds of worshippers of all ages who turned out for the annual Eucharistic liturgy concelebrated by the priests ministering in the 11-county local Church.

The traditional Holy Week observance and gathering of the priests of the Diocese — customarily the largest of its kind each year — celebrates their clerical brotherhood and shared divine vocation.

During the Mass, priests and deacons, along with lay representatives from Diocesan parishes, acknowledge the Bishop's role as the unifying symbol for Church governance and pastoral guidance.

All of the priests also recommit themselves to their office by renewing the promises they made on the day of their ordination to the priesthood, including their vow of obedience to the Bishop.

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

Catholic Television to provide live coverage of Paschal Triduum liturgies from Cathedral of Saint Peter

Paschal Triduum Broadcasts on CTV

Thursday, April 6

5:30 p.m. – Mass of the Lord's Supper

9:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer

Friday, April 7

8:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

12:10 p.m. – Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

5:00 p.m. – Way of the Cross

Saturday, April 8

8:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer

8:00 p.m. – Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 9

10 a.m. – Easter Sunday Mass

All broadcasts will come from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton

While the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are encouraged to attend services for the Paschal Triduum in person, to experience these most Holy Days in community with their brothers and sisters, for those unable to attend in person because of illness - Catholic Television will once again provide live coverage of all of the liturgies taking place at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Bishop Bambera will serve as principal celebrant for the Mass of the Lord's Supper this evening at 5:30 p.m. He will also be present for the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday at 12:10 p.m. and

will be the principal celebrant and homilist for both the Easter Vigil Mass at 8 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning.

[View the Paschal Triduum Services on the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Join us this evening at the Altar of Repose to pray for priests and seminarians



“Why are you sleeping?” he asked them.

“Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation” (Luke 22:46)

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Church celebrates the institution of the Eucharist and Christ giving the Twelve Apostles and their successors the authority to be ministers of the Sacrament. At the end of Mass, the Eucharist is taken in solemn procession to an Altar of Repose.

At the Altar of Repose, parishioners keep vigil in silent prayer and adoration, recalling our Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and his rebuke to his disciples: “What? Could you not watch one hour with me?”

On Holy Thursday in particular, Catholics are encouraged to pray for priests and seminarians – that they be holy messengers of hope, reconciliation and peace.

Tonight, the Diocese of Scranton is inviting you to participate on a prayer journey and is asking you to share that journey on social media.

Invite your family, friends or assemble a group of people from your parish (young adults are especially encouraged to participate) to visit the Altar of Repose in several different churches in your community.

[Click Here for a Parish-by-Parish Listing of Where to Visit the Altar of Repose](#)

Holy Week is time for spring cleaning, including spiritually, Pope Francis says



During Lent this year, residents of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where Pope Francis lives, decided to clean out their closets and give away things

other people could use. “You can’t imagine how much stuff there was,” the pope said.

Leading his weekly general audience April 5, the pope said Holy Week is the perfect time to simplify one’s life and let go of things, especially of wounds, sin and past offenses that keep one from living in hope.

“Look at the wardrobe of your soul: How many useless things do you have, how many silly illusions?” he asked.

Pope Francis said that in his “other diocese,” Buenos Aires, when he would go around the city — “now I can’t do that because they won’t let me” — he would look at people’s faces and always was struck by how many seemed sad or completely distracted, “without peace, without hope.”

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

Parishes may offer Precious Blood beginning Holy Thursday



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has announced that parishes may once again resume the practice of distributing the Precious Blood to the faithful at Masses beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023.

For the last three years during the COVID-19 pandemic, the distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass had been suspended out of an abundance of caution to protect the health and safety of the faithful.

In making his announcement, Bishop Bambera stressed that resuming the practice of distributing the Precious Blood to the faithful is at the discretion of the pastor, administrator or parish life coordinator.

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

Wilkes-Barre parish collects hygiene products for young people in its community



During the Season of Lent, the faithful of Our Lady of Hope Parish have not only been focusing on prayer and fasting – but also almsgiving – and young people in their community will directly benefit.

As Holy Week approached, dozens of bags filled with soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and more filled the side of the Park Avenue church as parishioners continued donating hygiene products for those in need.

“Every Lenten Season, we always have some encouragement for our people to be able to show some form of almsgiving, the sharing of what they have,” Father John Terry, pastor, said. “Over the years, we’ve always tried to figure out who is in need in our area.”

The parish’s Social Concerns Committee helped spearhead the collection – which will benefit local teenagers.

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

Diocese announces "Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future" - a strategic growth planning process for its Catholic Schools



Throughout the Diocese of Scranton's 155-year history, teaching the Catholic faith to its young people has been one of its most fundamental missions.

To ensure Catholic school education will continue for decades to come, the Diocese of Scranton is launching "Our Faith. Our Students. Our Future." – a new strategic growth planning process.

The process will build upon the many successes the 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton have seen over the last few years and proactively address challenges along the way.

"As we examine our current state, we are poised and ready for this planning process and see it as an opportunity to make our extraordinary Catholic school education in the Diocese of Scranton available for generations to come," Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said.

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

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

We all have a role to play in safeguarding our community!



RESPONDING TO YOUTH DISCLOSURES OR CONCERNS OF ABUSE

Children and youth may disclose abuse to you, or you may observe behavior that causes you to have a reasonable belief or suspicion of abuse, which will require you to communicate your concerns. *A safe adult prioritizes the youth's safety and wellbeing. You are called to be a safe adult!*



ACTIVELY LISTEN:

- With all of your attention
- Calmly, without judgment
- Patiently, let them speak at their own pace, with their own words



ASK LIMITED QUESTIONS:

- Ask "what happened," "when did it happen," "where did it happen," and either—"who did it," or, "how do you know them?"
- Question only what's needed for a report



BE AWARE:

- Of your body language and reaction
- Keep your face neutral



BE SUPPORTIVE:

- Believe them
- Let them know you're present to help keep them safe
- Acknowledge the courage it took to share; that telling was the right thing to do
- Tell them what happened isn't their fault, nor is anything that happens later
- Reassure them you'll only share the info to the appropriate people to help



TAKE ACTION:

- After, when alone, list notes and direct quotes to assist in reporting.
- Communicate with child protective services or local law enforcement ASAP.
- Report disclosures, or suspicions and concerns of abuse based on behavior.
- Report even if you aren't sure or feel that you don't have all of the facts.



- Don't be in denial about "what" or "who"
- Don't make assumptions
- Don't put words in the child's mouth



- Don't imply or say it was the child's fault
- Don't interrogate, or ask detailed or leading questions



- Don't show anger, shock, horror or distress



- Don't share your personal experience with abuse
- Don't promise confidentiality
- Don't initiate physically comforting the youth
- Don't make any promises



- Don't attempt to verify or speak to the adult the child spoke about (this could compromise an investigation, and is not your role)

Disclosures occur when a child attempts to discuss abuse (or an uncomfortable situation) that they, or a friend, is experiencing. They may be direct or indirect. Children have great difficulty communicating about abusive behavior they are experiencing (or they may not know what they are experiencing is abuse). They might share in a roundabout way, or tell it as a "story" about someone else. These are always opportunities to ask youth to tell you more. Being a safe person for youth is the most important element during the disclosure process, and then communicating to the appropriate child protection agency. If the possible abuse (including inappropriate or boundary-violating behavior) involves an organization, also communicate concerns to a supervisor.

For more information about reporting abuse in your state: www.virtusonline.org/virtus/Abuse_Reporting.cfm
For more information on child abuse, and possible behavioral indicators: www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/whatiscan.pdf

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