



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 17, 2023

President Biden visits Cathedral of Saint Peter to privately pay his respects to the family of Mrs. Ellen Casey



President Joe Biden visited the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Thursday afternoon to privately pay his respects to the family of Ellen Casey, the former first lady of Pennsylvania and mother of U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, who died last week at age 91.

The president arrived at the Cathedral at 1:08 p.m. and departed at 1:48 p.m.

Talking to reporters both before and after his flight which departed Joint Base Andrews, Biden said he wanted to attend Mrs. Casey's funeral Friday but had previously been scheduled to be at a summit at Camp David and didn't want other funeral attendees to have to go through Secret Service security.

"I just want to show my respect to the family," Biden said after arriving at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport in Avoca.

Biden said Mrs. Casey loved with a fierceness and a tenderness that was "just incredible."

"She played an enormous role, not just in my life but everyone's (life). There is a quote my sister always uses about Michelangelo, 'He saw the angel in the marble, and he carved till he set it free.' That's who she was. This was an incredible woman – decent, honorable. Her values were amazing and every time I'd go to Scranton over the years, I'd stop and see her. She was a friend," Biden said.

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

New year to begin for Diocese of Scranton Catholic Schools



After a renovation project that took several months, Our Lady of Peace Catholic School in Clarks Green has two new classrooms for third grade students to learn in this year.

Over the next two weeks, the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System will proudly welcome back thousands of students for the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education and Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said dedicated faculty and staff at all 19 Diocesan Catholic schools are excited about the upcoming year and the opportunity to help each student grow spiritually, academically, emotionally and socially.

“We are going to have a great year,” Donohue emphasized.

The long-time educator admits the “back to school” season comes with a variety of emotions.

“For some families, it is their first opportunity to enter our school system and it’s a very exciting time. For others, it might be their 12th grade year and it will be the last ‘first day’ that they will have in our school system,” Donohue said. “Regardless of where our students are starting their journey this year, it is a time of excitement.”

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



'Miraculous' survival of Maui Catholic Church seen as sign of hope amid wildfire destruction

“For us, it’s like a miracle,” Msgr. Terrence Watanabe, the Honolulu Diocese’s vicar of Maui and Lanai, said about Maria Lanakila Catholic Church in the town of Lahaina being seemingly untouched by the fierce Maui wildfires Aug. 8-9.

The blaze burned Lahaina to the ground in the deadliest natural disaster in Hawaii’s history and the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century.

“When we saw the news and saw the church steeple rise above the town, it was a great sight to see,” the priest said in an interview with the Honolulu Star-Advertiser daily newspaper Aug. 10.

There were conflicting news reports on the fate of the church – whose name translates as “Our Lady of Victory” – and its parish

school, Sacred Hearts School, which had lost half of its roof to heavy winds Aug. 7. The parish's priests, women religious and staff were safe and accounted for.

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

Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance to be held Sept. 17 in Scranton

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Mass for Suicide Healing & Remembrance

*To remember loved ones lost to suicide
and healing for those who still grieve their passing*

Sunday, September 17, 2023
at 12:15 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Peter
315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton

Principal Celebrant
Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

The Mass is open to the public.
The Mass will also be broadcast live on CTV:
Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton
and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton
website, YouTube channel and Facebook.



September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and to offer healing and to increase awareness about the Church's mercy and care for those who have died by suicide, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of

Scranton, will celebrate a Mass for Suicide Healing and Remembrance on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

During the Mass, those attending will be invited to bring forward a flower in remembrance of those lost to suicide. No registration is necessary and all are welcome.

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

Mass in Italian to be celebrated Sept. 3 in Scranton



The annual Mass in Italian will be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with La Festa Italiana, which occurs over the Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Sept. 1-4, on Courthouse Square, one block away.

Reverend David P. Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa Chaplain, and pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Dunmore, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

Concelebrants will include Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, La Festa Chaplain Emeritus, and priests from the Diocese of Scranton. Deacons from the Diocese will also participate.

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

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera announces clergy appointments



His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announced a series of clergy appointments on Aug. 16, 2023. For the announcements, please click on the link below.

[Click Here for the Clergy Appointments Announced Aug. 16, 2023](#)

American Sign Language Mass to begin at The University of Scranton Sept. 10



Being deaf or hearing-impaired can be a barrier for Catholics who want to attend church on a weekly basis.

That is why campus ministry members at The University of Scranton are excited to announce they will begin offering a regular American Sign Language Mass next month.

“At World Youth Day, Pope Francis said the Church is open to ‘everyone, everyone, everyone.’ This is a perfect way to make the doors of the Church open to even more people and help more people feel welcome and at home,” Dr. Daniel Cosacchi, Vice President for Mission and Ministry at The University of Scranton, said. “If folks aren’t able to hear the Gospel, they can’t know it.”

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

New stewardship efforts helping parishioners respond to call to discipleship



For the last several months, Father Seth Wasnock has used one phrase more than most others when talking about the two parishes he leads.

The saying, ‘Building Disciples, Sharing Love,’ has been gaining traction amongst his parishioners in Lackawanna County’s Up Valley.

During Lent, the pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish launched a new stewardship program focused on that theme. In just a short amount of time, the success has been noticeable!

“We would like to change the mentality that you just have to come to Mass on Sunday,” Father Seth said. “It is about having a relationship and encounter with Jesus Christ every day and how we go out and share that love and be the disciples that we are called to be through the gift of our Baptism.”

With the help of Our Sunday Visitor, a resource company that partners with parishes and dioceses, Father Seth spoke at Masses of the many ways people can use their time, talent and treasure to better both parishes. He also sent mailings to parishioners and posted videos on his parish website.

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

Wayne County church to celebrate its 185th anniversary this weekend

THE FAMOUS ROCK LAKE PICNIC



SAT. AUGUST 19, 2023 – 10 am-7 pm

ST. JULIANA'S CHURCH

Pastor Arun Lakra

Route 247 Rock Lake – (GPS) 2048 Creamton Drive, Pleasant Mount, PA
Sponsored by: ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

TURKEY & HAM DINNER

NOON - 3 pm

OUTDOOR DINING or TAKE OUT

MASS 5:30 pm

Live Music throughout the day

GIANT FINDER'S MARKET

10 am - 5 pm

✦ Refreshment Stand ✦ Pierogi, Pie & Bake Sale ✦
✦ 50/50 Raffle ✦ Basket Raffle ✦ Big 6 ✦
✦ Children's Games plus Art Fun ✦

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 570-798-2107

Saint Juliana Church in Rock Lake, Wayne County, will celebrate its 185th anniversary this weekend.

The community is invited to come out and celebrate.

Blessed Sacrament Parish in Throop will also celebrate its 16th annual Family Festival on Aug. 19 and 20. There will be both ethnic and traditional foods, bingo and games for the whole family.

[Click Here for the Full Listing of Summer Festivals, Picnics and Bazaars Webpage](#)

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