

MOUNTAIN TOP – A new academic year is underway for thousands of Catholic school students across the Diocese of Scranton.

As children and young adults return to their studies, they are returning to 19 schools that prioritize strong academic programs, a commitment to faith and a family-centered community where love and respect abound.

At Saint Jude School in Mountain Top, students, faculty and families work together to create a special environment.

“The kids that are in my class, that have been here since kindergarten, are all very close,” seventh grader Hannah Fauerbach said.

Dedicated teachers play an important role in the success of each school.

They plan interactive STREAM activities, connecting science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math, in lessons for all grade levels.

“We have a lot of activities in social studies, literature, English

and science,” seventh grader Leah Smith said.

“I feel like they know each kid individually and they get to know their kids and they care about their children and my kids see that and they connect with the teachers and

they have a special bond,” parent Rebecca Cabrera explained.

It is clear Christ is the reason for Saint Jude School.

Through artwork on display in the hallways, He is the unseen – but ever present – teacher in each classroom. Students are invited to become His disciples by praying daily and celebrating Mass weekly in neighboring Saint Jude Church.

“In the morning and in the afternoons we have prayers and then after lunch we have prayers,” seventh grader Elizabeth Bilbow said. “They really emphasize just how much religion means to us.”



Students from Saint Jude School in Mountain Top walk through the halls of their school.

“During Lent, every Friday, we do the Stations of the Cross and not many schools do that kind of stuff anymore so that just sets us apart,” fifth grader Robert Marcalus added.

Parents are also actively involved in the school.

Take for instance Saint Jude’s Field Day at the end of the 2022-23 academic year. More than 70 parents volunteered to participate. There is never a project too big or too small that parents will not tackle.

“Things get done. Things come together. People want to make things happen and make a

great place for our kids,” parent Jill Carone said.

The Diocesan Annual Appeal directly benefits all 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton, including Saint Jude School.

Your gifts help each student learn that God is present and active in their lives.

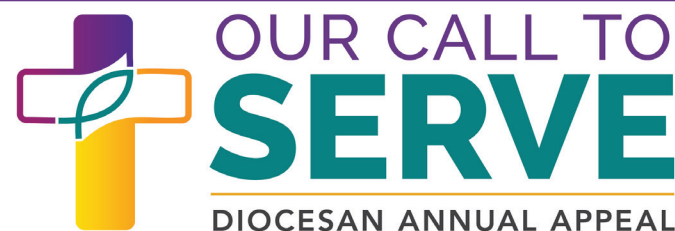
With enrollment growing at Saint Jude School, Sister Ellen Fischer, school principal, says so do requests for tuition assistance.

“The (Diocesan Annual) Appeal is so important because the reality is, there are other families who want a Catholic

education for their children, and the reality is sometimes they can’t quite afford it,” Sister Ellen said. “Donations to the school in various ways assists with making that a reality. We have to serve all God’s people.”

By your financial support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal, Saint Jude School can continue to be that warm, welcoming environment where even more students can come together to learn about and glorify God.

“We’ve got Saint Jude Spirit and we’re not afraid to show it and no one else can copy it!” sixth grader Rachel Atwal said.



The Diocesan Annual Appeal helps provide funding for all 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton each year. In all, funding from the Appeal will benefit the more than 4,400 students who attend a Catholic school in the Diocese of Scranton.

Doreen Dougherty, Holy Redeemer principal, remembered as a “fierce advocate for Catholic education”

SWOYERSVILLE – As the funeral Mass for Doreen Dougherty began Aug. 25 inside Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Holy Redeemer students honored their principal’s memory and commitment to Catholic education by lining the main aisle of the church.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, her faculty and peers did the same, celebrating and paying respect to the long-time educator’s kindness, love and grace.

“Doreen Dougherty was a great servant leader,” Monsignor David Tressler said during the homily of the Mass. “Her passion

for Catholic education was evident each and every day as she interacted with the students, faculty, staff and parents.”

Dougherty, 54, passed away on Aug. 20, 2023, at home, surrounded by her loving family.

Born April 15, 1969, Dougherty was the valedictorian of Bishop O’Reilly High School, Class of 1987. She had a passion for education, working first as an instructional aide at Regis Elementary and then Good Shepherd Academy. She helped to develop the Individualized Instruction Program at All Saints Academy in Scranton and later



became the school’s principal. In 2019, Dougherty became principal of Holy Redeemer High School.

“She was unwavering in her faith, a fierce advocate for Catholic education, an inspiring mentor to

her colleagues, a warrior for those requiring someone dependable, a caring friend for anyone seeking a companion, a listening ear for those needing a voice, a champion for her students and a superhero to her family,” her daughter, Shaina Aquilina, said in offering words of remembrance at the end of Mass.

Both Aquilina and Msgr. Tressler stressed that family was everything to Dougherty. While Doreen might have had about 20 immediate family members, her daughter said she always counted her school communities in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties as family as well.

“Our mom was the epitome of the sunshine. She radiated warmth, light and happiness to everyone she encountered,” her daughter said. “She was inviting, generous and always knew how to make your day brighter than it was before.”

Aquilina said her mother saw each day as an opportunity to shower those around her with love and compassion.

“She had a special talent for creating a family in whatever community she interacted with and prided herself on fairness, empathy and equity,” she added.

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The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Holy Rosary School in Duryea



Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg



Good Shepherd Academy
 in Kingston



Holy Family Academy
 in Hazleton



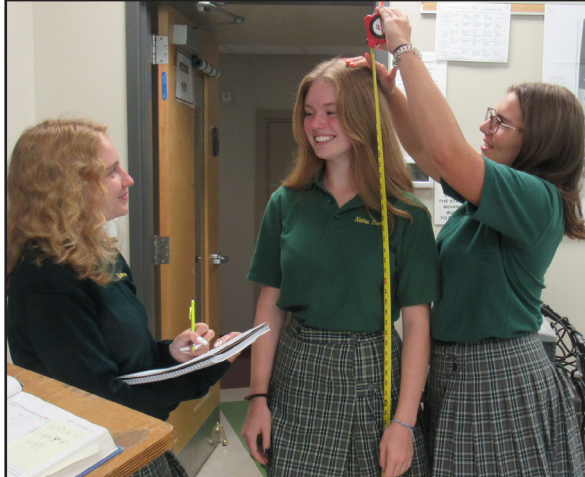
Epiphany School
 in Sayre



Wyoming Area Catholic
 School in Exeter



La Salle Academy
 in Jessup



Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School
in East Stroudsburg



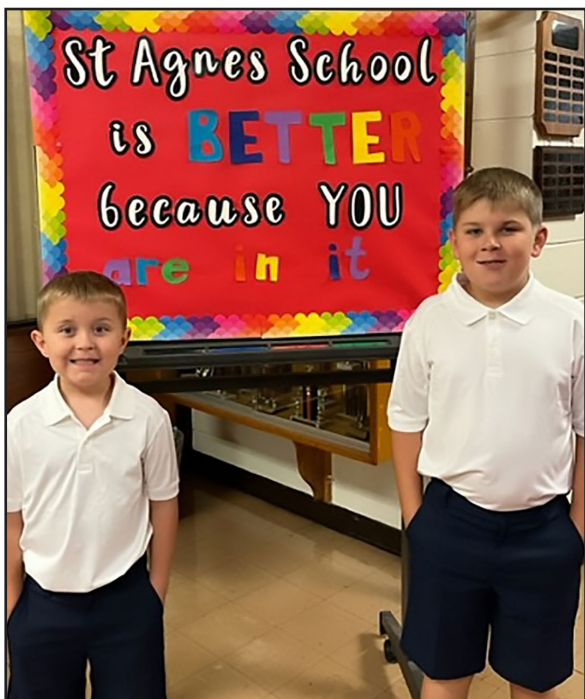
Our Lady of Peace School
in Clarks Green



Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School
in Williamsport



Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary
School in Wilkes-Barre



Saint Agnes School in Towanda



Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore



Saint John Neumann Elementary School
in Williamsport



All Saints Academy in Scranton



Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre



Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton

Memorial scholarship established in memory of Doreen Dougherty, Holy Redeemer principal

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The love and respect that many had for Dougherty was evident by the standing room only crowd that filled the church for the Mass of Christian Burial. Hundreds of others attended a viewing the night before at Holy Redeemer High School, many waiting in line for more than an hour to pay their respects to her family.

"You lost the heart of your family and a part of yourselves," the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said prior to conveying the Rite of Final Commendation. "We lost a dedicated educator and leader. We lost a tireless advocate



Doreen Dougherty takes a selfie with Holy Redeemer High school soccer players. The late principal is remembered for her love of sports and Catholic education.

for the Catholic faith and values and most especially a treasured, trusted and loving colleague and

friend. May God give her the rest she so richly deserves."

Interment with the Rite of Committal followed the Mass in Saint Mary's Cemetery.

Dougherty's family is establishing a memorial scholarship fund in her honor. Donations can be made by visiting the Luzerne Foundation's website (www.luzfdn.org) or mailing a donation to: The Doreen S. Dougherty Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o the

Luzerne Foundation, 34 South River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

Wayne Country church celebrates 185th anniversary

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Biondo let those present know of how the picnic team and parishioners are mindful of, grateful for, and in awe of the sacrifices of those who came before them. He honored the pride and dedication of all the picnic volunteers and thanked the parishioners and friends of Saint Juliana Church who helped to make her "shine again."

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was present at Saint Juliana Church on Sunday, Aug. 27, to celebrate the church's 185th anniversary.

He recalled visiting Saint Juliana's for the Sacrament of Confirmation and commented that his father hunted in nearby Rileyville and had probably attended Mass at Saint Juliana's as a young boy.

The bishop's homily reflected on 185 years of faith being proclaimed and professed in this

little corner of God's kingdom, which was established 30 years before the Diocese of Scranton itself. He urged people to reflect less upon the building and more upon the celebration of the very presence of Jesus.

Bishop Bambera commented upon the fact that the Sacrament of the Eucharist has been celebrated in this area for nearly 200 years and asked parishioners to recall the people who once journeyed with them in faith and those who continue to walk the same journey.

The bishop invited parishioners to give thanks for the opportunity to share in Christ's work by building up the Body of Christ, in living and proclaiming the Gospel message, reminding those in attendance, that as people of faith, they have cared for, consoled and celebrated with each other and have reason to be thankful.

"If we look carefully, we will see the result of Jesus in our hearts

when we see people serving others by becoming the hands, hearts and voice of Christ," Bishop Bambera said. "This church is a blessed opportunity for mercy and forgiveness. The power of Christ is in the church. This celebration reminds us that we gather for a mission. We gather to be fortified and to go forth to proclaim the Gospel and live in peace. The light of Christ has shown brightly in this community for 185 years. The power and presence of God is at the heart of who we are as Christians. We must have gratitude and hope for all that has been and all that will continue to be, in the grace of God present in our midst."

After Mass, Bishop Bambera was warmly received by parishioners at a reception within the walls of the original horse and buggy barn, built in 1855. He graciously visited with all present and in departing, left them with smiles and fond memories.



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