



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 12, 2023

Local religious leaders stand in solidarity of Israel following deadly Hamas attack



Praying for peace and standing in solidarity with the victims of a surprise attack by Hamas in southern Israel, local religious leaders and elected

officials gathered at the Jewish Community Center in Scranton Oct. 9, 2023.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, spoke on behalf of the Roman Catholic community and joined faith leaders of several other religious traditions in expressing his grief and sorrow for the events that have been transpiring since the weekend.

“On behalf of the Catholic community of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania and well beyond, please know that we stand with the nation of Israel and the Jewish communities both locally and throughout the world,” Bishop Bambera said. “We pray with, and for you, this night for God’s peace. I think it is fair to say that our hearts, like yours, are broken.”

Bishop Bambera said he grieves the loss of every life that has been taken so brutally and senselessly.

“We call upon the power and presence of God to heal the land of Israel and the lives of all who suffer this day,” the bishop continued.

Nearly 200 people attended the interfaith gathering organized by the the local Jewish Federation.

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

Pope condemns terrorism, expresses concern for Gaza civilians



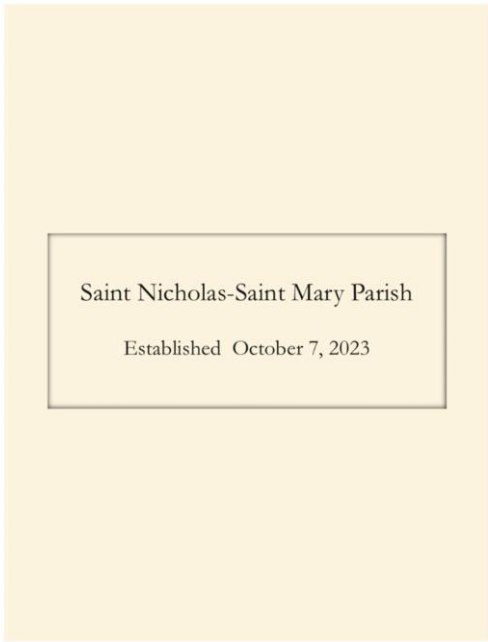
Pope Francis condemned Hamas' terrorist attacks on Israel and pleaded with the militants to free their hostages unharmed, but he also expressed concern about Israel's tightening siege on Gaza and its impact on innocent civilians.

"I continue to follow with sorrow and apprehension what is happening in Israel and Palestine. So many people killed, and others injured," the pope said Oct. 11 at the end of his weekly general audience.

As the pope spoke, the Israeli Defense Forces website was reporting more than 1,200 Israelis killed by Hamas and more than 2,800 Israelis injured. At the same time, the Gaza Ministry of Health was reporting a death toll of more than 950 Palestinians and said 5,000 others were injured as Israel continued its airstrikes on Gaza.

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

**Two downtown Wilkes-Barre parishes
consolidate to form one new parish: Saint
Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish**



Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish

Established October 7, 2023

We are stronger together.

That is the message that Father Joseph Verespy hoped to instill in his parishioners on the weekend of Oct. 7 & 8, 2023, as the new parish he now leads, Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish, was officially formed.

After two years of discussion and consultation using the Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process, the parish communities of Saint Nicholas and Our Lady of Fatima were officially brought together in a consolidation.

“I said this is a chance for us to hit the reset button, to take a good look at who we are,” Father Verespy said. “We are located right downtown (in Wilkes-Barre) and it is a chance to bring new life together as one parish and look at the talents that we have and examine how welcoming we are.”

Saint Nicholas Parish and Our Lady of Fatima Parish were originally linked in 2021 under the leadership of a single pastor, Father Verespy. After examining many of the priority drivers in the Vision 2030 Process, including demographic changes in the community, Mass attendance, sacramental participation, financial obligations and the availability of clergy, the recommendation was brought forward to create one parish out of the previous two independent entities.

“When people see us now, hopefully it will be a parish people want to be a part of, but that is only going to be because we’re in this together,” the long-time pastor said.

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

Faithful encouraged to participate in 'America Needs Fatima' Rosary rallies Oct. 14



Catholics throughout the Diocese of Scranton will unite with faith communities around the nation on Saturday, Oct. 14, at noon, to lend their prayerful pleas to the chorus of intercessions of supplication and reparation as part of this year’s “America Needs Fatima” Rosary Crusade.

Each year since the “America Needs Fatima” campaign was founded in 1985, faithful gather at noontime on a Saturday in October to send their Rosary prayers and petitions heavenward, seeking the Blessed Mother’s intercession on behalf of the United States.

The unified, simultaneous prayer effort coincides with October’s designation by the Catholic Church as the Month of the Holy Rosary and Respect Life Month.

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

At Diocesan Youth Rally, young adults encouraged to 'Be an Original'



In a world where many people try to be copycats, every person is uniquely made in the image and likeness of God. That is what more than 200 young people heard as they filled the Diocesan Pastoral Center Oct. 7, 2023, to participate in a Diocesan Youth Rally.

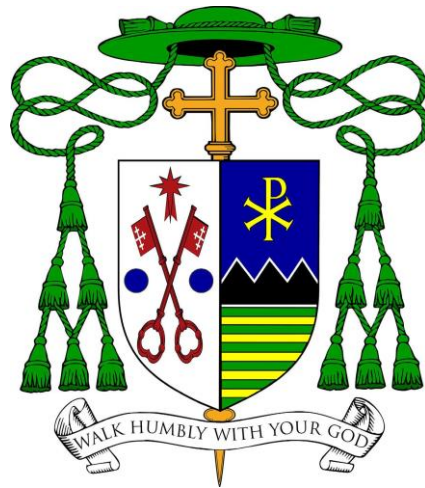
Focusing on the theme of 'Be an Original,' the day-long event featured interactive workshops, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass with Bishop Bambera at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, and a keynote address from Steve Angrisano.

"God is so near to us, so close. I can't put it on a piece of paper, I can't take it to a court of law, but it's as real as real can be," Angrisano told the crowd of young adults.

Angrisano is an internationally recognized Catholic composer, presenter, and passionate music missionary. He has been featured at 10 World Youth Days, emceed three National Catholic Youth Conferences, and served as emcee when Pope John Paul II visited Saint Louis in 1999.

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

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera announces clergy appointments



On October 10, 2023, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced several clergy appointments that will take effect at varying times throughout the coming months.

[Click Here for More on the Clergy Appointments Announced on October 10, 2023](#)

Independent Audit determines Diocese of Scranton in full compliance with Charter for the Protection of Children & Young People

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

The independent auditing firm of StoneBridge Business Partners recently conducted a thorough on-site audit of the child protection policies of the Diocese of Scranton and determined the Diocese to be in full compliance.

The audit period covered the time period of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2023.

Auditors examined the Diocese's protocols regarding training, reporting, and ensuring safe environments for young people according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' mandated Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

The Diocese of Scranton has passed audits of its child protection procedures, policies and records every year since the policy was adopted by the USCCB in 2002.

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

Next Theology on Tap is TONIGHT!

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

THEOLOGY ON TAP

A Young Adult Speaker Series for 21-40 year olds


THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH
7:00PM | \$5 COVER
@ SABATINI'S BOTTLESHOP

**Qualifying the Called:
Figuring Out God's Plan for Your Life
Guest Speaker: Addie Rocco**



From detective to theologian.. Addie has plenty of experience discerning where God is calling her! She and her husband, Deacon Nick, live in the North Pocono area with their four daughters. Addie currently serves as her township supervisor, and in her spare time she enjoys volunteering with her parish community.


Your support of the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal helps to educate more than 4,400 students in Catholic Schools



OUR CALL TO
SERVE
DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org





Your Gift to the *Diocesan Annual Appeal* helps to educate more than 4,400 students in Catholic Schools

Your financial gift to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal helps to support the 19 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Scranton that educate more than 4,400 youth and young adults. The Diocese is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making.

Funding from the Diocesan Annual Appeal supports each school in its effort for every student to become a faith-filled leader and lifelong learner.

[Click Here to Answer "Our Call to Serve"](#)

Follow Us



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