



# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 28, 2023

## Bishop Bambera to celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 1 at Cathedral

*Respect Life  
Sunday Mass*

Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton



MASS TO BE BROADCAST LIVE ON CTV:  
CATHOLIC TELEVISION

RESPECT LIFE



The Catholic Church recognizes the month of October as Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October is designated as Respect Life Sunday.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 1 at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

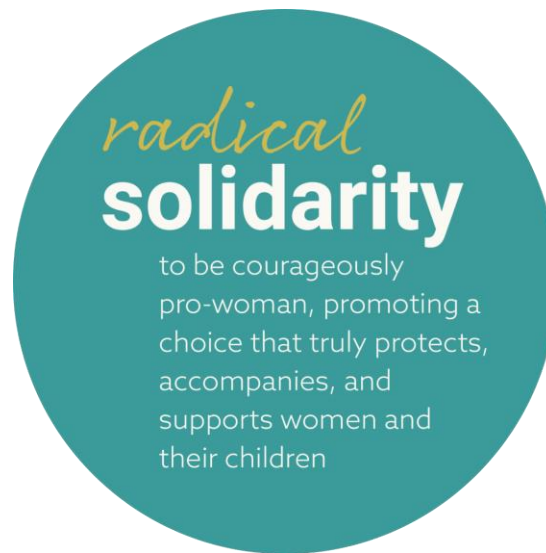
The Mass is open to the public. Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the Respect Life Sunday Mass and focus on

God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Catholics are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

[Click Here for More Information on How to Watch the Respect Life Sunday Mass](#)

## **Bishops' Pro-Life Chair calls for 'Radical Solidarity' with pregnant, parenting women**



U.S. pro-life efforts “must remain strong to end legalized abortion” in this nation, but all Catholics have a personal responsibility to accompany women facing difficult or challenging pregnancies, said the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, invited Catholics into “radical solidarity” with pregnant women in a Sept. 18 statement commemorating the 50th anniversary of Respect Life Month in October. The U.S. bishops set aside the month “as a time to focus on protecting God’s precious gift of human life,” he said.

“While ending legalized abortion remains our preeminent priority, the most immediate way to save babies and mothers from abortion is to thoroughly surround mothers in need with lifegiving support and personal accompaniment. This is radical solidarity,” Bishop Burbidge said.

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

**Community invited to participate in  
Eucharistic Procession throughout the streets  
of Hazleton on Sunday, Oct. 1**



# Hazleton Eucharistic Procession

Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023

Saint Gabriel Church  
122 South Wyoming St, Hazleton

12:15-12:30 p.m.  
(following 11 a.m. bilingual Mass)



Hundreds of people are expected to participate in a large Eucharistic Procession throughout the streets of South Hazleton on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, as part of a three-day celebration at Annunciation Parish in honor of Saint Gabriel, patron of the parish church.

Following the 11 a.m. bilingual Mass at Saint Gabriel Church, 122 South Wyoming Street, members of both the English and Spanish-speaking communities will come together to begin the procession outside of the church at approximately 12:15-12:30 p.m.

Those participating in the procession will walk for approximately a half mile, ending with Solemn Benediction back on the steps of the historic Saint Gabriel Church, recently rejuvenated through the great generosity of many benefactors and parishioners.

“The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. We believe it is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ,” Father Kevin Miller, pastor, Annunciation Parish, said. “We are looking to bring awareness to the Eucharist, to the importance of it and how sacred it is in the church.”

[Click Here to Read More About the Eucharistic Procession Planned for Hazleton This Weekend](#)

## **CARA study shows positive signs of Catholic belief in the Eucharist, but underscores need for revival**



Almost two-thirds of Catholics believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, but only 17% of adult Catholics physically attend Mass at least once per week, according to a newly published survey from Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. The survey also revealed a high correlation between belief in the Eucharist and weekly or even monthly Mass attendance.

The 2022 survey of self-identified Catholics published Sept. 26 and titled "Eucharist Beliefs: A National Survey of Adult Catholics" found 64% of respondents provided responses that indicate they believe in the Real Presence, that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine in the Eucharist.

That conclusion was drawn from both open-ended and closed-ended questions respondents were asked about their understanding of church teaching about the Eucharist and additional questions to clarify their beliefs.

According to the CARA study, 49% of respondents correctly identified that the church teaches that "Jesus Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine." The other 51% incorrectly identified the church's teaching as "Bread and wine are symbols of Jesus' actions at the Last Supper, meaning that Jesus is only symbolically present in the consecrated bread and wine."

[Click Here to Read More About the Results of the New CARA Study from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

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**Red Mass to be celebrated at Cathedral of  
Saint Peter on Oct. 6**



The Diocese of Scranton's annual Red Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 6, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God's blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. Its traditional name is derived from the color of vestments worn by the celebrants of the Mass, symbolizing the tongues of fire, which indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the robes of the attending royal judges were, in ancient days, bright scarlet.

The public is invited to the Red Mass to pray for those in the legal profession. Members of the county bar associations from across the 11-county Diocese and the Diocesan Tribunal staff are also invited to participate.

[Click Here for More Information on How to Watch the Red Mass on Oct.](#)

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**Papal commission asks synod to make safeguarding a bigger priority**



The synod on synodality should dedicate substantial discussion to addressing sexual abuse in the church and include the voices of survivors, the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors said.

“We ask that sexual abuse in the church permeate your discussions as they address teaching, ministry, formation and governance,” the commission said in a written “Call to Action” released Sept. 27.

“While at times it may seem like a daunting set of questions to face, please rise to the challenge so that you may address, in a comprehensive way, the threat posed by sexual abuse to (the) church’s credibility in announcing the Gospel,” it added.

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

**Pope condemns child pornography:  
'Criminality available to everyone'**



Child pornography is “criminality available to everyone through their phones,” Pope Francis said.

Discussing abuse prevention with representatives of a safeguarding research and formation center from Latin America Sept. 25, the pope put aside his prepared remarks to address “a problem that is very serious on this matter of abuse, the filming of child pornography.”

“Unfortunately, by paying a small fee, one can have it on their phone,” he said. “Where is this child pornography made? In which country is it made? Nobody knows. But it is criminality available to everyone through their phones.”

“Please let us talk about this, too,” Pope Francis urged the group of professionals from a variety of fields working to combat abuse in the church across Latin America. “These children who are recorded, are victims, sophisticated victims of this consumer society.”

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



## Your support of the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal helps to support seminarians and retired or ill priests



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