



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

November 30, 2023

Bishop Bambera's Reflection for the First Week of Advent

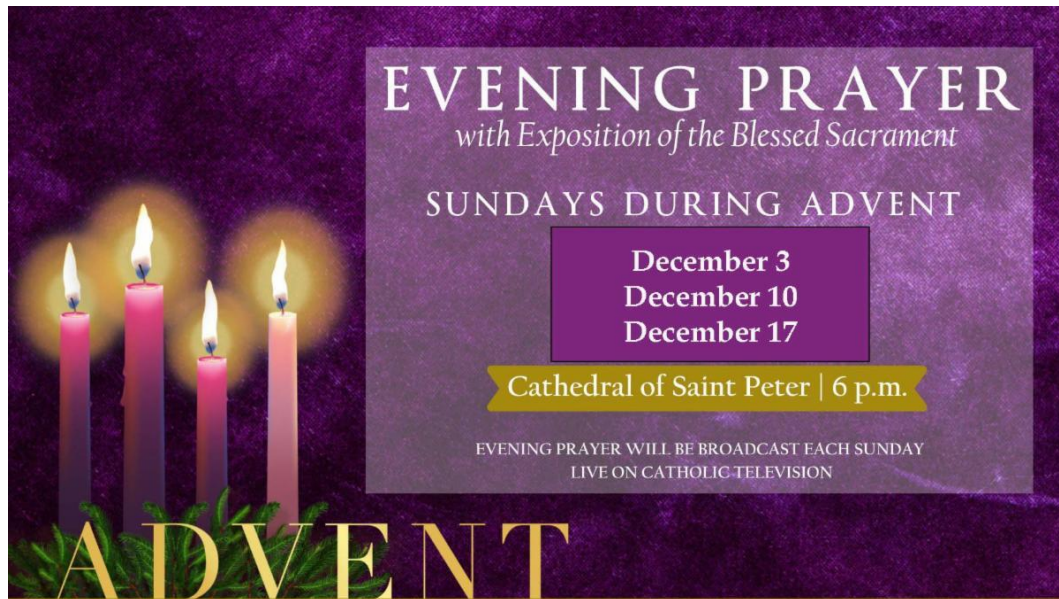


Bishop Bambera will once again offer video reflections for the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton this Advent Season.

The First Sunday of Advent is this coming weekend, Dec. 3, 2023.

We will provide a video each week here in The Catholic Light Weekly E-Newsletter, as well as on our Diocesan social media platforms. We encourage you to watch them and share them - to spread the Good News of the Coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ!

In addition, all people are invited to join in Evening Prayer during the Sundays in Advent at the Cathedral of Saint Peter as indicated below. These Evening Prayer Services will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.



Masses, processions, and celebrations for Feast of
Our Lady of Guadalupe



Through the intercession of “Virgen de Guadalupe,” plans for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December are proceeding in many different parishes.

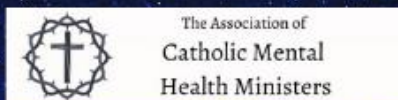
Particularly in the areas of large Latino populations in the Diocese of Scranton, the annual observance commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to a Mexican Indian peasant — now venerated as Saint Juan Diego — in December 1531 in Tepeyac, near present-day Mexico City.

The Blessed Mother's appearance is believed to have resulted in millions of conversions to Catholicism, and her message of hope continues to inspire those of Hispanic descent. In 1946, Pope Pius XII declared Our Lady of Guadalupe as Patroness of the Americas.

The Our Lady of Guadalupe feast is officially held on Dec. 12 but many celebrations and Novenas will be held in parishes leading up to that day - in which everyone is welcome to join!

[Click Here for a Full listing of Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebrations in Both English and Spanish](#)

**Blue Christmas Service to be held at Saint Ann
Basilica Parish Dec. 21**



The Association of
Catholic Mental
Health Ministers

NEPA CMHM chapter invites you to

Blue Christmas

a welcoming service of prayers, words and music
for those who are grieving, sad, or lonely this
holiday season

Thursday December 21 2023
5:45 p.m.

Saint Ann's Monastery

1233 Saint Ann Street
Scranton PA



The Seasons of Advent and Christmas are filled with joy and anticipation for many people - but they can also be a challenging time of year for others.

All people of good will are invited to a Blue Christmas Service on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 5:45 p.m. at Saint Ann's Basilica in Scranton.

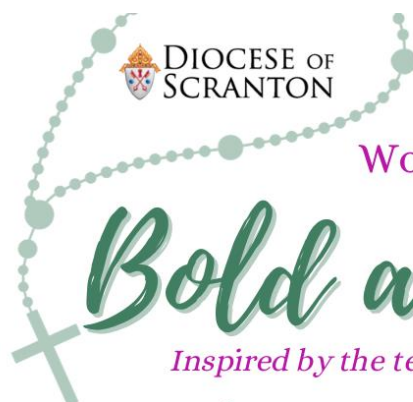
This service, which is being put together by the NEPA Parish Mental Health Ministries, will be a contemplative prayer service of peace, healing and hope for anyone who is mourning or experiencing hurt of any kind. Whether you are feeling blue or not, this gathering service unites us together to support one another as we express the fullness of God's goodness, faithfulness, and love.

You are welcome to come alone or invite a friend to this service of comfort.

[Click Here for More Information on the Blue Christmas Service on Dec.](#)

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Registration is open for "Bold and Beloved" Women's
Retreat in January



Women's Retreat



Bold and Beloved

Inspired by the teaching of St. Thérèse of Lisieux

January 26-28, 2024

Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
1000 Seminary Rd, Dalton, PA 18414



Kara Kardell

Sinner striving for sainthood.
Wife and mother of 3.



Fred Shellabarger

Husband. Father. Spiritual Arsonist.
Big Kid Who Loves Jesus.

Women from throughout the Diocese of Scranton are invited to join us for a weekend of fellowship and spiritual refreshment!

The "Bold and Beloved" Retreat will feature reflections and discussions on the teachings of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, led by Kara Kardell and Fred Shellabarger, founders of *Draw Near*, a movement that draws people close to Christ and one another.

The weekend retreat will be held Jan. 26-28 at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton.

The cost is \$75 student (18-23); \$125 for a shared room; \$175 for a single room.

For more information or to register for the retreat, please click on the link below!

[Click Here for More Information or to Register for the "Bold and Beloved" Women's Retreat](#)

Pope says he has serious bronchial infection



“As you can see, I am alive,” Pope Francis told a group of health care managers Nov. 30.

At the brief meeting with participants in a seminar on the ethics of health care management, the pope said he was suffering from a “bronchial condition. Thank God it was not pneumonia,” but he said it was a very serious bronchial infection.

“I no longer have a fever, but I am still on antibiotics and things like that,” he told the group.

He had canceled his appointments Nov. 25 because of “flu-like symptoms” and went that afternoon to a Rome hospital for a CT scan of his chest. In the following days, he canceled some appointments and had aides read his prepared texts at other events.

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

Collection for Religious Retirement Fund to take place Dec. 9-10



The Diocese of Scranton will hold the Retirement Fund for Religious collection Dec. 9-10. The parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, D.C. Proceeds help religious communities across the country to care for aging members.

Last year, the Diocese of Scranton donated more than \$72,800 to the collection.

"We are privileged to support those who have dedicated their lives to tireless service," NRRO Executive Director John Knutsen said. "We are immensely grateful for the continuing generosity of U.S. Catholic donors to this vital cause."

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

Evangelization includes caring for the poor and the
earth, pope says



An effective proclamation of the Gospel must speak with hope to the real-life problems of the poor, to the need to protect the earth and to the ability of people of good will to change the social and financial systems that harm the poor and the environment, Pope Francis said.

“Ten years after the publication of ‘Evangelii Gaudium’ (‘The Joy of the Gospel’), let us reaffirm that only if we listen to the often-silenced cry of the earth and of the poor can we fulfill our evangelizing mission, live the life Jesus proposes to us and contribute to solving the grave problems of humanity,” the pope wrote to a conference marking the anniversary of his first exhortation.

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

Ave Maria University offers free Catholic online courses highlighting the true, good, beautiful



Ave Maria University is now offering “The Pursuit of Wisdom,” a series of free online courses presented by university faculty that provides practical wisdom and insights on interesting topics and themes to help Catholics contemplate the true, good and beautiful.

The series so far consists of seven courses, which can also be accessed at thepursuitofwisdom.org and via apps, and covers a variety of subjects with broad appeal. Each video course is between one to three hours and broken down into segments for ease of viewing, addressing such themes as artificial intelligence and computer science; motherhood and relationship; stewardship and environment; scholars and saints; and the foundations of America.

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

**Abortions increased during the last year
with Roe still in place, CDC report says**



The number of abortions in the U.S. increased in 2021, according to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. national public health agency, and the agency's last report of such data with Roe v. Wade still in place.

For nearly 50 years following the Jan. 22, 1973, Roe decision, abortion was legally considered a constitutional right. The Supreme Court later overturned the Roe decision in June 2022 with its decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, allowing both recent and long-established state laws restricting abortion access to take effect.

Since the Dobbs decision in 2022, states across the country have alternately moved to restrict or expand access to abortion.

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

Have you answered "Our Call to Serve?"



Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org



Your Gift to the *Diocesan Annual Appeal*
helped to provide 16,172 nights of emergency
shelter to people in need last year.

Gifts to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal are needed to help support life-changing ministries across the Diocese of Scranton.

From helping to support seminarians and retired priests, to supporting Catholic education and Communication efforts, to helping Catholic Social Services serve thousands of our neighbors - the work supported by the Annual Appeal is more than any one parish can do on its own!

Please prayerfully consider a gift today and click on the link below or call (570) 207-2250.

[Click Here to Give a Gift to the 2023 Diocesan Annual Appeal Now!](#)

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