



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

January 25, 2024

**Open houses, Masses, special events to
mark local celebrations for Catholic
Schools Week 2024**



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Since 1974, National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year, Catholic Schools Week will take place from Jan. 28 - Feb. 3, 2024.

The theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2024 is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community."

All schools in the Diocese of Scranton will observe this annual celebration week with Masses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members.

Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation.

If you or your family is interested in learning more about Catholic education, we encourage you to take the first step and visit one of our four high schools or 15 elementary schools, by calling the school to schedule a tour or plan on attending one of the scheduled 2024 Open Houses. For the full listing of Open Houses, click the link below.

[Click Here for the Full Schedule of 2024 Open Houses at Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese of Scranton](#)

Students in our schools become critical thinkers and caring leaders, learning how to balance their academic and personal growth as they enjoy a wide variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Catholic Television and The Catholic Light recently visited All Saints Academy in Scranton in advance of Catholic Schools Week to talk with parents, students, teachers and administrators about the importance of Catholic education.

Click the video link below to hear some of their comments.



If you would like to support educational opportunities that Catholic Schools provide, it will be as easy as visiting a local McDonald's location beginning Sunday.

Starting Jan. 28 and continuing through Sunday, Feb. 18, the 19 participating Mueller Family McDonald's locations will provide a portion of the sales of every large fry to the Diocese of Scranton Scholarship Foundation, which supports hundreds of local families each year in their desire to provide a Catholic education for their student.

Among the Mueller Family McDonald's locations participating in this fundraiser are: South Scranton (900 S. Washington Avenue); North Scranton (1236 Wyoming Avenue); Keyser Avenue (1739 Keyser Avenue); Carbondale (160 Brooklyn Street); Eynon (525 Scranton-Carbondale Highway); Dickson City (1511 Scranton-Carbondale Highway); Old Forge (411 S. Main Street); Clarks Summit (1127 Northern Blvd); Hanover (746 San-Souci Parkway); Wyoming (913 Wyoming Avenue); Mountain Top (239 S. Mountain Blvd.); Shavertown (Route 309 & Franklin Street); Honesdale (1187 Texas-Palmyra Highway); Tunkhannock (161 W. Tioga Street); Gibson (Interstate 81 & Route 848); Great Bend (Route 11 & Interstate 81); and Montrose (494 Grow Avenue).

Diocese of Scranton
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL SYSTEM
FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

CELEBRATE NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!

From January 28–February 18th,
purchase a Large Fry
at any Mueller Family McDonald's.
A portion of each sale will benefit
the Diocese of Scranton Catholic
Schools Scholarship Fund!



Only at Mueller Family McDonald's!
For a complete list of locations,
visit MuellerMcD.com



More than 1,000 people attend celebration for Feast of Our Lady of Altagracia in Hazleton



More than 1,000 people joined together on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Altagracia in Hazleton.

All of the parishes in the Mountain City with Spanish speaking parishioners were invited to this special celebration at Holy Family Academy, in which the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

Our Lady of Altagracia is the patroness of the Dominican Republic.

"She is the queen of the Universal Church and the Hispanic people, in particular, have great love for their mother," Rev. Kevin Miller, pastor, Annunciation Parish, said. "You see how mothers are revered and honored in their culture that it falls in line very naturally that the mother of God is the mother of Dominicans and all of us."

Holy Family Academy was filled with both young people and families.

"There were three parishes together but we even got people from other communities that are not Dominican but they enjoy gathering together

here," Rev. Neftali Feliz-Sena, Assistant Pastor, Annunciation Parish, added.

[Click Here to Watch a Catholic Television segment on the Altagracia Celebration in Hazleton](#)

**More than 2,200 diapers collected at
annual Diocesan 'Mass for Life'**



Just two days after the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., the faithful in the Diocese of Scranton gathered together at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton for the annual 'Mass for Life' on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist.

"The overturning of *Roe* has given the Pro-Life cause great hope. It has not, however, ended the work that still needs to be done to create a culture of life in our land. And that, brothers and sisters, is why we pray so intently at this Mass today," Bishop Bambera said during his homily.

The bishop said we all must work to preserve and protect human life at all stages, from conception to natural death.

"Our greatest efforts in building a culture of life are discovered when we courageously speak the truth, as Jesus has proclaimed it, and when we, in turn, respond to those whose beliefs fall short of treating all lives with dignity and respect with respect, dignity and love," he added.

[Read Bishop Bambera's Full Homily from the 2024 Diocesan Mass for Life](#)

Amid cold and snow, National March for Life pledges solidarity with moms and children



Against gray skies and falling snow, thousands of people flocked Jan. 19 to the nation's capital for the national March for Life, gathering them under the theme "With every woman, for every child," showing their resolve amid the piercing cold to make abortion eventually "unthinkable" in the U.S.

"If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" Miguel Ángel Leyva, 21, a Catholic and third-year college student from Detroit, told OSV News.

The March for Life began in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which once legalized abortion nationwide, and gathers pro-life advocates from across the U.S. This year's march — its second year since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe* in 2022 — took place as winter weather put much of the U.S. in a deep freeze, snarling transportation and canceling flights.

While the crowds appeared smaller than in years past, this year's march showed a movement eager to up its game to help American society embrace a culture that affirms and supports the dignity of all human life, and not just for the unborn.

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

Spiritual oasis: 'Year of Prayer' a needed rest stop
on journey to Jubilee



With little fanfare, Pope Francis officially opened the Year of Prayer after Mass for the church's celebration of Sunday of the Word of God.

"Today we begin the Year of Prayer; that is, a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in personal life, in the life of the church and in the world," he said, after praying the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square Jan. 21.

The pope called for the special year last February to help prepare Catholics worldwide for the Holy Year, which begins with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 24.

Preparing for the jubilee is not just about the huge construction projects underway throughout Rome to help welcome and facilitate the flow of an estimated 35 million pilgrims expected for the Holy Year 2025.

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

Parishes in Diocese of Scranton to hold U.S. Bishops' collection for the Church in Latin America this weekend



The U.S. bishops' upcoming Collection for the Church in Latin America helps meet the “myriad spiritual and material needs among the most impoverished people in the Western Hemisphere,” said Bishop Octavio Cisneros, chair of the bishops’ Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America.

“In an era with too much focus on what divides us from our sisters and brothers in Latin America,” he said that U.S. Catholics “continue to strengthen bonds of faith, hope and love” and show solidarity with them.

Bishop Cisneros, the retired auxiliary bishop of Brooklyn, New York, made the comments in a column shared with OSV News by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office of National Collections.

Parishes in most U.S. dioceses take the collection during Masses the weekend of Jan. 27-28. The #iGiveCatholicTogether campaign also

accepts online donations at usccb.givecatholictogether.org, where visitors can give by selecting the “Church in Latin America” campaign.

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

Protecting the environment is part of protecting human life, pope says



The obligation to care for creation is not only about the environment, “it has to do with human life, as the Creator conceived and arranged it,” Pope Francis told a group from northern Italy dedicated to remembering the 1,910 people who died from the Vajont dam disaster.

“One thing is striking,” the pope said; “it was not mistakes in the design or construction of the dam that caused the tragedy, but the very fact of wanting to build a reservoir in the wrong place.”

In October 1963 a landslide on an unstable mountain on the southern side of the reservoir set off a massive tsunami, wiping out entire towns and

villages and killing 1,910 people. The dam, built to generate power, remained intact.

The decision to build and use the dam, despite cautionary studies about its surroundings, put “the logic of profit before the care of people and the environment in which they live,” the pope said during a meeting Jan. 19 with pilgrims from the Diocese of Belluno-Feltre and from the association “Vajont: The Future of Memory.”

The support survivors showed one another and the way people in the region built new towns and have continued to work together to protect the land have set off a “wave of hope” motivated by fraternity whereas the “wave that brought despair was caused by greed. And greed destroys, while fraternity builds,” the pope said.

“This is extremely relevant today,” the pope said. “The care of creation is not simply an ecological factor, but an anthropological issue: It has to do with human life, as the Creator conceived and arranged it, and it concerns the future of everyone, of the global society in which we are immersed.”

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

Join us for the next Theology on Tap TONIGHT!

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

THEOLOGY ON TAP

A Young Adult Speaker Series for 21-40 year olds

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH | 7:00PM
@ SABATINI'S BOTTLESHOP | \$5 COVER

FR. ALEX ROCHE & FR. ANTHONY DILL
OF THE WADI CHERITH PODCAST
DISCUSS THE THEOLOGY BEHIND
THE BARBIE & OPPENHEIMER MOVIES!



**As Catholic Schools Week begins, consider
a gift to Catholic education through the
Diocesan Annual Appeal**



Scan to donate
or visit
annualappeal.org



*Catholic Schools Week
begins this weekend!*

Your Gift to the **Diocesan Annual Appeal** helps
our 19 schools offer an education that combines
Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.

Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal are needed to help support life-changing ministries across the Diocese of Scranton, including Hispanic ministry programs.

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 Diocesan Annual Appeal Now!](#)

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