



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

February 22, 2024

Diocese of Scranton celebrates Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion



After reading the bible for most of her life, Katelyn Haytko, 20, is now ready to fully enter into the life of the Catholic Church.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, the First Sunday in Lent, the Newfoundland native was one of 177 people from the Diocese of Scranton who participated in the Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

“It’s important for me to step into my faith a little bit more,” Haytko said.

After months of preparation at her parish – Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Parish in Hawley – Haytko is preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at this year’s Easter Vigil.

“The program has really opened my eyes to so many things that I didn’t know from reading my bible so I’m very grateful to be a part of the program,” she said.

Her grandmother, Chris Haytko, is serving as her godparent.

“It filled my heart, I cried when she told me she wanted to become Catholic,” Chris said. “It just meant so much to me. I have a strong faith and I’m so glad that she’s now a part of that faith.”

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, presided over the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion liturgy.

During the ceremony, Bishop Bambera welcomed the catechumens (those who are not baptized) and the candidates (those who are baptized but have not received Holy Communion or Confirmation), along with their godparents and sponsors. They demonstrate their wish to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church through a series of questions and responses before the congregation, including pastors, friends, and family.

Read the full story from the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in the March 7th edition of *The Catholic Light*.

[Click Here to View a Facebook Photo Album from the Feb. 18, 2024
Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion](#)

**Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine to be
held Sunday in Scranton**



Prayer Service for Peace and to Commemorate the Second Year of War in Ukraine

Sunday, February 25, 2024 2:30 p.m.
Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton

The Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton will host a special Prayer Service this coming weekend to commemorate the second year of the War in Ukraine.

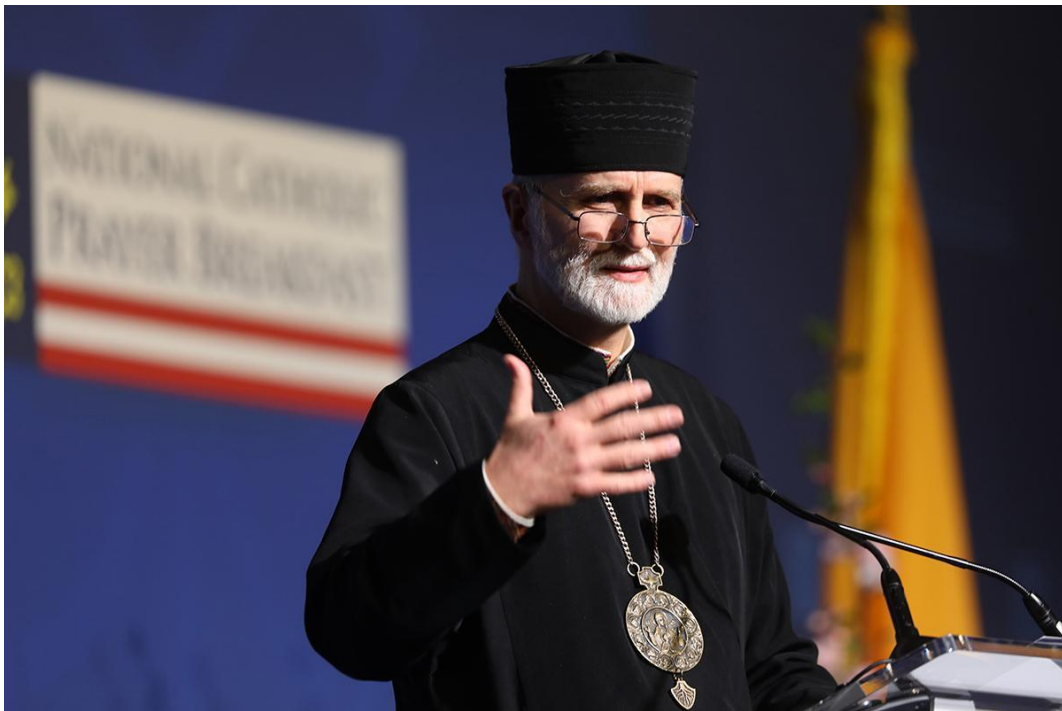
On Sunday, Feb. 25, all people of goodwill are invited to participate in a Prayer Service for Peace beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The Prayer Service will be led by Father Myron Myronyuk, Pastor, Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church of Scranton, and the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

While in-person attendance is highly encouraged, the Prayer Service will also be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, and social media platforms.

[Click Here for Information on the Prayer Service for Peace Planned on Feb. 25](#)

'We'll be killed': Ukrainian Catholic Church faces 'eradication' if Russia wins, Archbishop warns



As Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine reaches the two-year mark Feb. 24, OSV News sat down with Metropolitan Archbishop Borys A. Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, recently returned from his latest visit to Ukraine, for his insights on the war.

Metropolitan Archbishop Borys A. Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia spoke candidly about the overall outlook of the Ukrainian people.

"It's really quite amazing, because there's so much devastation, there's so much death, there's so much displacement, and yet the people are pretty clear in their resolve. ... There are principles we have to defend, and we

really don't have any choice, because wherever there is Russian occupation, there is genocide. So, if we don't defend ourselves, we'll be killed," he said.

To read the full interview, click the link below.

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

**Hazleton theater the only place in PA to
view documentary about Our Lady of
Guadalupe**

ALEJANDRO
MÁRQUEZ

PEPE
VÁZQUEZ

KARYME
LOZANO

ANGÉLICA
CHONG

MARIO ALBERTO
HERNÁNDEZ

EMILIO
LINDER

GUADALUPE

MADRE DE LA HUMANIDAD



Regal Cinema in Hazleton is the only location in Pennsylvania where you can see the new documentary, "Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity," by Goya Producciones.

The film opens in the United States today (Feb. 22), and will be playing at the Regal Hazleton location, 400 Laurel Mall, at 1:50 p.m., 4:20 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. It will continue playing in Hazleton throughout the next week.

This documentary features scenes recreating the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego in 1531. "The world would not be what it is now without the Virgin of Guadalupe," said Garrigó, speaking of the impact of the mother of God's apparitions on Tepeyac Hill near what is now Mexico City. "The Virgin arrived, and there were impressive effects and millions of conversions, all thanks to her."

The film also includes reflections by priests, analysis by historians and scientists, and testimonies of many of the faithful on whom the "Morenita del Tepeyac" has worked miracles. "Former drug addicts, gang members, drug traffickers and underworld people who at one point had contact with the Virgin and became Marian and Guadalupanos and now go around singing, preaching and praising the Lord," said the director and producer of the documentary.

[Click Here for More Information on the Our Lady of Guadalupe Documentary](#)

Hundreds have attended Lenten Holy Hours held to date in Luzerne, Tannersville and Hazleton



As we continue through the first full week of the Lenten season, hundreds of people have already taken the opportunity to spend time with our Eucharistic Lord at special Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera.

Over the last week, Holy Hours have been held in Luzerne, Tannersville and Hazleton.

The next Lenten Holy Hour is scheduled for 7 p.m. tonight at Christ the King Parish in Archbald.

Next week, Lenten Holy Hours are planned at Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Township on Feb. 27; Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport on Feb. 28; and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Tunkhannock on Feb. 29.

Please feel free to join us at any parish. The location information is located in the graphics below.



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
DUNMORE DEANERY

LENTEN HOLY HOUR

with Bishop Bambera

**Tuesday, February 27
at 7:00 P.M.**

**Saint Eulalia Parish
214 Blue Shutters Road
Roaring Brook Township, PA 18444**



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
WILLIAMSPORT DEANERY

LENTEN HOLY HOUR

with Bishop Bambera

**Wednesday, Feb. 28
at 7:00 P.M.**

**St. Joseph the Worker Parish
702 West Fourth Street
Williamsport, PA 17701**



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
CLARKS SUMMIT DEANERY

LENTEN HOLY HOUR

with Bishop Bambera

**Thursday, February 29
at 7:00 P.M.**

**Nativity of the B.V.M. Parish
99 East Tioga Street
Tunkhannock, PA 18657**



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

[Click Here for a Full Listing of Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera](#)

**Rectory, Set, Cook! III tops \$90,000 raised in
just over one week**



NOW PLAYING!

**YOUR FAVORITE PASTOR CHEFS HAVE TAKEN TO THEIR KITCHENS A THIRD TIME
- MAKING UP OUR LARGEST COLLAR-NARY CREW TO DATE!**

37
collared
cooks
on
30 teams

In an epic
food fight
vs.
hunger and
homelessness!

Which
priests
will
rise
to the
top?



**Support the anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives
of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton
by voting before 5 p.m. on March 26, 2024!
Follow Diocese of Scranton on Facebook
for updates and incentives.**

PRESENTED BY THE
HawkFamily
FOUNDATION

For sponsorship or other information, call Sandra Snyder
at 570-591-5004
or email Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org.



Rectory, Set, Cook! III is off to a fantastic start, having raised more than \$90,000 from 832 donors in its first eight days.

The culinary cooking competition, which features pastor chefs from all across the Diocese of Scranton, is raising money for anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives of Catholic Social Services.

We invite you to view all of the videos and vote for your favorite recipe or pastor chef!

[Click Here to Watch all of the Rectory, Set, Cook Videos and Vote for Your Favorite!](#)

Vatican announces Synod assembly dates; formation of study groups



The second assembly of the Synod of Bishops on synodality will meet Oct. 2-27 and will be preceded by several formal studies coordinated by the synod general secretariat working with various offices of the Roman Curia.

The Vatican announced the dates for the assembly Feb. 17, indicating that the desire of some synod members to spend less time in Rome was not accepted. The fall assembly will be preceded by a retreat for members Sept. 30-Oct. 1, the Vatican said.

And in response to a formal call by members of the first assembly of the synod, Pope Francis has agreed to the establishment of “study groups that will initiate, with a synodal method, the in-depth study of some of the themes that emerged.”

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

Virgin Mary statue vandalized at National Shrine in Washington



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception has once again been targeted by vandals. This time, a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the north lawn of the basilica grounds, located in an area known as Mary's Garden, suffered severe damage.

At approximately 2:30 p.m. Feb. 15, a visitor praying the rosary in the garden discovered the desecrated statue. The individual immediately alerted the basilica staff, prompting an inspection. It appeared that the Blessed Mother's face had been deliberately struck with a hammer, and the surrounding light fixtures, meant to illuminate the path for visitors, were shattered.

According to Msgr. Walter Rossi, the basilica's rector, this act of vandalism seems to have occurred shortly before its discovery, given the routine checks performed by the security staff.

This act of vandalism echoes a disturbing pattern of disrespect towards religious symbols at the national shrine. Msgr. Rossi recalled, in a statement, a similar incident on Dec. 5, 2021, when the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, an image of the Virgin Mary located in the Rosary Walk and Garden across Harewood Avenue from the basilica, was also vandalized.

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

**As Lent enters its second week on Sunday,
we are encouraged to focus on 'almsgiving'**



Please consider a
gift to the *Diocesan*
Annual Appeal



During this second week of Lent, prayerfully discern
ways that you can give to others by sharing your
time, talent and treasure.

During Lent, we are reminded that the foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. We are asked to focus more intently on 'almsgiving,' which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity.

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