



# ***The Catholic Light***

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**February 29, 2024**

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**'May our prayers for peace never lose their intensity,' Bishop says on two-year anniversary of Russia-Ukraine War**



On the weekend when the war between Ukraine and Russia reached its two-year mark, more than 100 people came together in prayer at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and Father Myron Myronyuk, Pastor, Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church of Scranton, held a special Prayer Service for Peace on Feb. 25, 2024.

“We pray today for our brothers and sisters and all who are burdened by such unjust aggression,” Bishop Bambera said in welcoming those in attendance. “We ask God’s mercy and peace, God’s presence and an end to war.”

Sitting in a wheelchair near the front of the Cathedral, Serhii Railian knows first-hand the atrocities of war. He was severely injured while fighting in Ukraine and is now receiving rehabilitation in the Philadelphia-area.

With the help of a translator, Railian expressed gratitude for the crowd that attended the prayer service.

“He said he’s very grateful for the people of this community for remembrance and bringing this issue up because it helps the boys and girls on the frontlines, knowing all the support from America,” the soldier said.

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

## Pope makes brief trip to hospital for unspecified tests



Pope Francis paid a brief visit to Rome's Gemelli Isola Hospital Feb. 28 for "diagnostic tests," the Vatican press office said, without providing specifics.

After telling people at his general audience, "I'm still a bit sick," and having aides read most of his prepared remarks, "Pope Francis went to the Gemelli Isola Tiberina Hospital for some diagnostic tests. Afterward, he returned to the Vatican," the statement said.

The 87-year-old pope had canceled his appointments Feb. 24 and Feb. 26 because of what the Vatican press office described as "mild flu-symptoms," but Pope Francis led the recitation of the Angelus prayer Feb. 25 without obvious difficulty. The Vatican provided no health update Feb. 27 since Tuesdays are his usual day off and he did not have to cancel any appointments.

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

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**Save the Date!**  
**Wedding Anniversary Mass scheduled to**  
**take place June 23**





# WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Sunday, June 23rd, 2024

2:30pm

Cathedral of St. Peter

315 Wyoming Ave, Scranton PA 18503

To register, please visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)  
or call the Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213

Are you celebrating a milestone wedding (25 or 50 years) anniversary in 2024?

If so, we encourage you to participate in the Diocese of Scranton's annual Wedding Anniversary Mass this June.

Every summer, the diocese holds its Wedding Anniversary Celebration for couples. This year's Mass will be held on June 23, 2024, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Mark your calendar if you are celebrating your 25th or 50th Anniversary in 2024, or share this news with others who may be doing so. Stay tuned for additional information about this year's Wedding Anniversary Mass.

[Click Here to Register for the 2024 Wedding Anniversary Mass on June 23, 2024](#)

Registration deadline approaching for 'ISLI' high school retreat

- Support
- Awareness
- Self-Confidence
- Positive Thinking
- Values



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

*A Peer-Facilitated Leadership Retreat for High School Students*

**MARCH 8-10, 2024**

@ Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center, Dalton



Scan the QR  
code for  
Registration  
Information

Further details and  
applications are available  
online at  
[Dioceseofscranton.org](https://Dioceseofscranton.org)

or call (570)207-2213  
x1155 for more info.

The registration deadline is quickly approaching for a faith-based leadership retreat for high school students.

'ISLI,' which stands for the International Student Leadership Institute will take place from March 8-10 at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton.

The retreat is designed to help high school students gain the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in both the leadership and membership roles of task-oriented groups. It is believed that leadership can be learned and will enhance a student's education and life by improving his or her interpersonal relationships.

It is open to high school students who wish to learn about leadership and improve their already existing decision making and problem-solving skills through the teachings of the Catholic faith.

During the weekend, the students participate in activities that help them learn about positive communication, develop self-motivational skills, learn problem solving and decision making skills, practice leadership behavior, and examine different leadership styles. The students also celebrate Mass together and participate in Eucharistic Adoration.

[Click Here for More Information on ISLI or to Register for the March 8-10 Retreat](#)

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**Bishop Bambera to visit Pittston, Honesdale and  
Sayre Deaneries this coming week for Lenten  
Holy Hours**





*A Lenten Holy Hour was held on Feb. 28, 2024, at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport.*

During this Lenten season, Bishop Bambera will visit all 12 deaneries of the Diocese of Scranton to celebrate special Holy Hours with the faithful.

To date, six Lenten Holy Hours have taken place and a seventh is scheduled for this evening at 7 p.m. for parishioners of the Clarks Summit Deanery at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock.

Next week, Bishop Bambera will visit three more communities.

Next week, Lenten Holy Hours are planned at Saint Joseph Mareello Parish, Pittston on March 5; Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley on March 6; and Epiphany Parish, Sayre on March 7.

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



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
PITTSTON DEANERY

# LENTEN HOLY HOUR

*with* Bishop Bambera

**Tuesday, March 5  
at 7:00 P.M.**

**Saint Joseph Mareello Parish**  
237 William Street  
Pittston, PA 18640



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Revival**



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
HONESDALE DEANERY

# LENTEN HOLY HOUR

*with* Bishop Bambera

**Wednesday, March 6  
at 7:00 P.M.**

**Saint John Neumann Parish  
705 Route 739  
Lords Valley, PA 18428**



NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Revival





DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
SAYRE DEANERY

# LENTEN HOLY HOUR

*with* Bishop Bambera

**Thursday, March 7  
at 7:00 P.M.**

**Epiphany Parish  
304 South Elmer Avenue  
Sayre, PA 18840**



NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Revival

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

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After two weeks, Rectory, Set, Cook! III has raised  
\$117,000

# A NOVEL WAY TO GIVE ALMS THIS LENT!



VOTE FOR ANY PASTOR CHEF BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH 26,  
AND BE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED TO WIN  
GROCERY GIFT CARDS!

PRIZES AWARDED VIA RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR ON  
THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON'S  
FACEBOOK LIVE FEED THROUGHOUT THE COMPETITION.  
EACH \$10 VOTE GETS YOU ONE RAFFLE ENTRY.

SCAN TO VOTE FOR YOUR  
FAVORITE COLLARED COOK  
OR VISIT  
DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG

PRESENTED BY:

**HawkFamily**  
FOUNDATION



Thanks to the generosity of more than 1,165 donors (to date), Rectory, Set, Cook! III has raised more than \$117,000 to support anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives throughout the Diocese of Scranton.

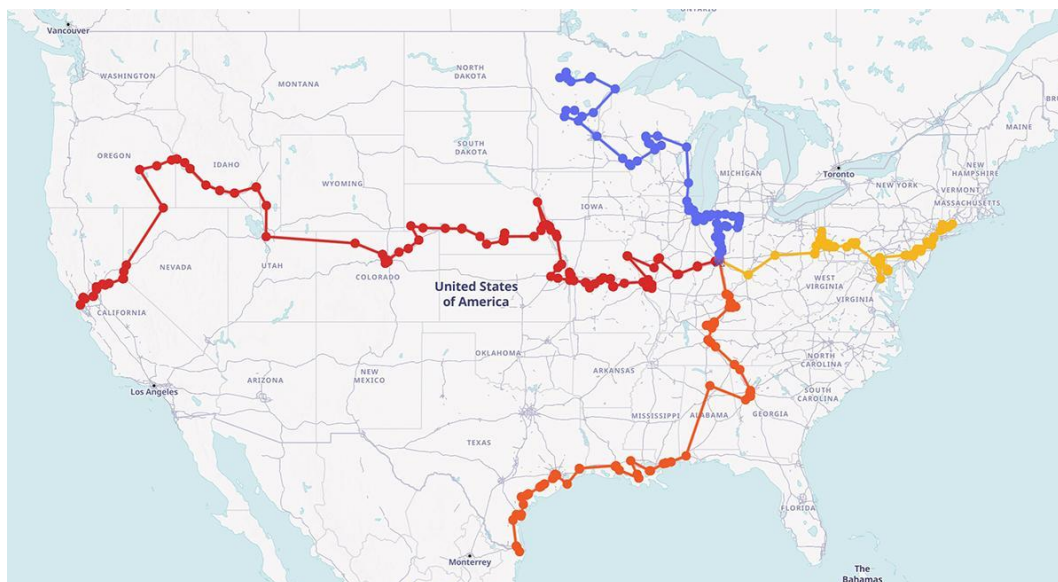
The culinary cooking competition, which features pastor chefs from all across the Diocese of Scranton, is raising money for anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives of Catholic Social Services.

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!](#)



## National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to include Shrines, Secular landmarks, Diocesan events



On May 18-19, groups of eight young adults will leave San Francisco; New Haven, Connecticut; San Juan, Texas; and Itasca State Park in Minnesota.

For eight weeks they'll travel, mostly on foot, along four routes through major U.S. cities, small towns and countryside toward Indianapolis, where they're expected to arrive July 16, the day before the opening of the National Eucharistic Congress.

Together, they'll cover more than 6,500 miles over 27 states and 65 dioceses. With them every step of the way will be the Eucharist, held in a specially designed monstrance, or reserved in a support vehicle's tabernacle.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is a major prelude to the National Eucharistic Congress, which expects to bring together tens of thousands of Catholics July 17-21 in Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium for worship, speakers and Eucharist-centered events. The pilgrimage and the congress are part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative of the U.S. Catholic bishops that began in 2022 with the aim of deepening Catholics' love for the Eucharist.

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

## Urge Your U.S. Senator to pass Bipartisan Anti-Trafficking Legislation



On February 13, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted to pass the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2023 (H.R. 5856). This bipartisan measure would do several things to combat the scourge of human trafficking, including:

- Reauthorize various programs under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 through Fiscal Year 2028 (which lapsed September 30, 2021), with approximately \$1 billion in funding for anti-trafficking efforts over the next five years;
- Authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a Human Trafficking Survivors Employment and Education Program to prevent the re-exploitation of eligible individuals with services that help them to attain life skills, employment, and education necessary to achieve self-sufficiency;
- Authorize grants for programs that prevent and detect trafficking of school-age children in a “linguistically accessible, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed fashion”; and
- Require the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to encourage integration of activities to counter human trafficking into its broader programming.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Migration formally endorsed the bill with other Catholic organizations during the previous Congress, stating at the time that “this legislation is

critical for continuing and bolstering our nation's efforts to eradicate human trafficking and assist human trafficking survivors."

More recently, in a press release reaffirming the USCCB's support for the bill, Bishop Mark Seitz, current chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, emphasized that it "is incumbent upon all of us to unite in promoting efforts that prevent the evil of human trafficking. I join our Holy Father in inviting the faithful and all people of good will to uphold and affirm human dignity and grow in solidarity with those who are vulnerable to exploitation and have been impacted by this terrible evil of modern-day slavery."

We encourage all Catholics to send a message to their U.S. Representatives - and you can do so by following the information in the link below.

[Click Here For an Easy Way to Send a Message to Your Member of Congress](#)

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**Diocesan Annual Appeal is at 84% of goal,  
will you help to ensure funding for all  
Catholic ministries this year?**

**PERCENTAGE OF  
GOAL ACHIEVED**

**100%**

**90%**

**84%**

**80%**

**70%**

**60%**

**50%**

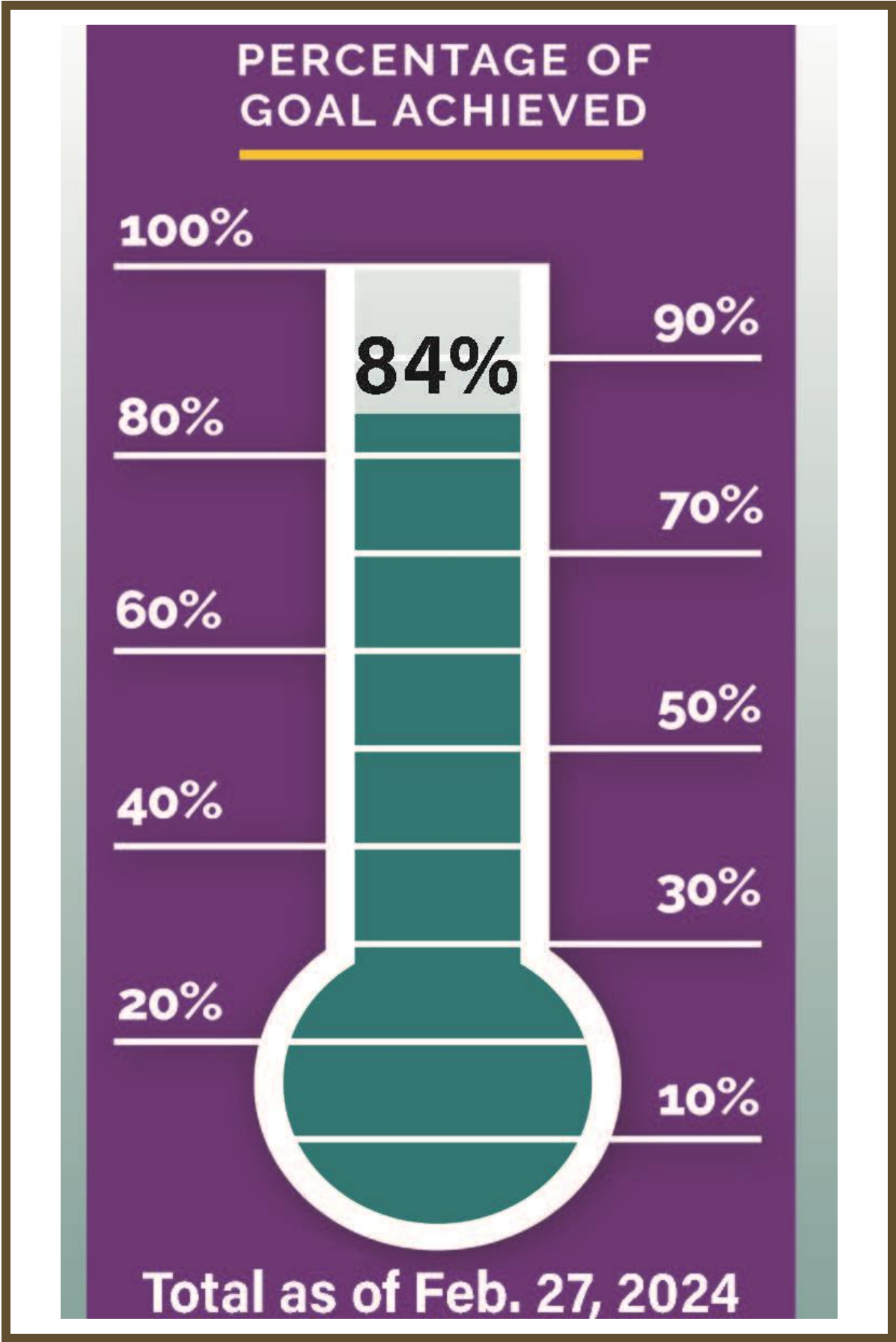
**40%**

**30%**

**20%**

**10%**

**Total as of Feb. 27, 2024**



Thanks to the generosity of so many parishioners, the Diocesan Annual Appeal has raised more than \$3.7 million of its \$4.5 million goal to date.

The Lenten season is a wonderful opportunity to take time to reflect on the gifts given to you by God - and to consider how you might be able to give back to others.

All funding received for the Diocesan Annual Appeal serves Catholic ministries and programs right here in the 11-counties of the Diocese of Scranton.

From serving meals at area kitchens, operating food pantries and emergency shelters, educating our 11 seminarians and 4,400 Catholic School students, spreading the Good News of the Gospel through television and media, and offering retreats and other events - these are all things that no 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!](#)

Follow Us



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