



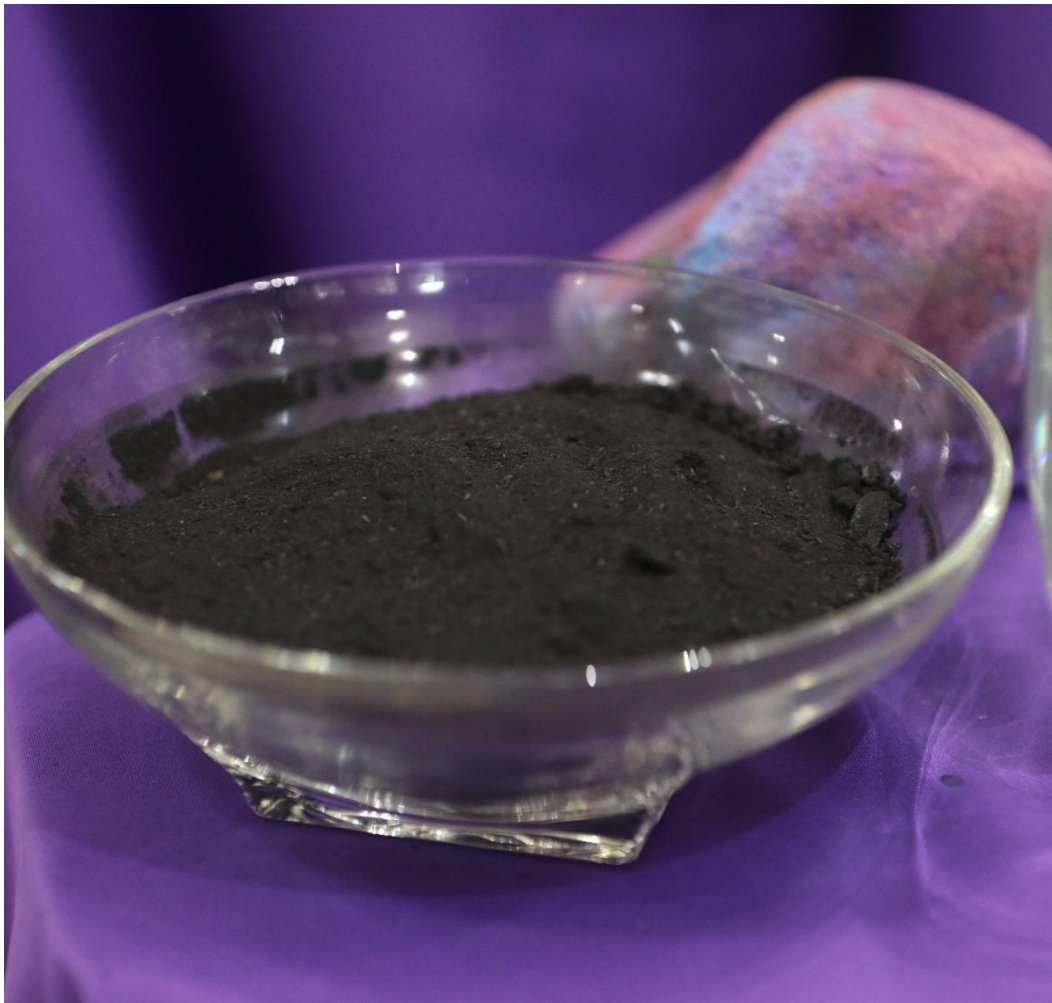
The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

February 8, 2024

**Bishop Bambera to celebrate Ash
Wednesday Mass on Feb. 14 at
Cathedral of Saint Peter**



On Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be principal celebrant and homilist for the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a 40-day season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

During Lent, the following fasting and abstinence regulations are observed:

FASTING is to be observed on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14, 2024) and Good Friday (March 29, 2024) by all Catholics over 18 years of age to the beginning of their 60th year. On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken

according to one's needs, but together should not equal another full meal, unless dispensed or excused.

ABSTINENCE from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age or older. Ash Wednesday, all of the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on the same day as Valentine's Day. While there have been inquiries if a dispensation from the obligations to fast and abstain from meat will be given this year, the Diocese of Scranton explains that the significance of Ash Wednesday takes precedence over Valentine's Day, just like in 2018.

"Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a season of grace that challenges us to deepen our relationship with Jesus through prayer, penance and works of charity. The obligations of fasting and abstinence are naturally the priority in the Catholic community. Its spiritual importance is evidenced by the large number of faithful choosing to attend Mass on this day," Bishop Bambera said. "Valentine's Day can appropriately be celebrated on another day, such as the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which happens to be Mardi Gras, a time of celebration prior to the Lenten journey. That will allow Ash Wednesday to retain its appropriate significance."

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

[Click Here for a Parish-by-Parish Listing of Ash Wednesday Masses & Services](#)

Bishop Bambera to celebrate 'World Day of Prayer for the Sick' Mass on Feb. 12

A photograph of a church altar. In the center is a large, ornate silver chalice. To its left and right are two tall, ornate silver candlesticks, each holding a white candle. In front of the chalice are two small, shallow silver bowls. The altar is covered with a white cloth. The background shows a stained glass window with colorful patterns.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK MASS

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER
12:10 P.M.**

*Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera
and will include the Liturgy of the Anointing*

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a special Mass in recognition of the 'World Day of Prayer for the Sick' on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The liturgy will be held at 12:10 p.m. and will feature the Liturgy of the Anointing.

All people who are sick, as well as those who provide care for those who are ill, are especially encouraged to attend the Mass.

For those unable to attend in person, the Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and YouTube channel and links will be provided on all Diocesan social media platforms.

The "first therapy" that must be offered to the sick, and to the world, is a dose of closeness, friendship and love, Pope Francis said in his message for the World Day of the Sick.

“We came into the world because someone welcomed us; we were made for love; and we are called to communion and fraternity,” he wrote in his message for the annual observance.

[Read More of Pope Francis' Message for the 2024 World Day of Prayer for the Sick](#)

National Marriage Week begins; 'Love Beyond Words' is theme of 2024 campaign



National Marriage Week, an annual celebration dedicated to promoting the institution of marriage, began on Wednesday, Feb. 7. This year, the 2024 campaign has the inspiring theme “Love Beyond Words.”

This year’s mission encourages couples to put their love into action and raise awareness of the profound positive impact strong marriages have on society.

Director Carl Caton talks about the importance and thrill of leading this campaign, “This is a national campaign and it’s exciting to watch it grow, but the roots are in communities all around the country. We are here to help connect couples with the resources that will help them strengthen their marriages during this special week and throughout the year!”

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

Lackawanna County Ancient Order of Hibernians celebrate the Feast of Saint Bridget



On Saturday January 27, members of the Lackawanna County Mens and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians celebrated the Feast of Saint Bridget of Ireland, at the Parish Community of Saint Patrick Church in Scranton.

LAOH County Board Officer, Maureen Wallace was our Lector at Saint Bridget's Mass.

Symbols associated with Saint Brigid of Ireland were carried up the aisle with the Gifts by members of the LAOH and presented to Father Fox who placed them on the altar.

[Click Here to See More Photos from the Mass on the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

Join us Tuesday for a 'Rectory, Set, Cook!' launch party at Breaker Brewing Company



Here it is...."40 Days" Doppel Bock!

Brewed especially for Rectory, Set, Cook! by our friends at Breaker Brewing Company in Wilkes-Barre Township.

You're invited to be one of the first to try it at our launch party next Tuesday (Feb. 13).

For a price of \$20 per person, you'll be able to enjoy an appetizer/snack buffet and pizza buffet from 5-7 p.m. - and will also get to enjoy one draft of the new beer release. (The best part is \$10 will be returned to the charitable campaign.)

To help us determine how much food is needed, we ask anyone planning to attend to purchase tickets ahead of time at the following link below.

[Click Here to Purchase a Ticket to the Rectory, Set, Cook! Launch Party and Beer Release Event](#)

'Century Club' aids Catholic Social Services in ministering to the Hazleton community



After serving more than 11,000 people in the greater Hazleton area in 2023, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is looking for the support of its community to keep its mission going locally.

Donations to the 'Century Club 2024' are now being accepted. This year's theme is Caring Hearts, Stronger Communities. Since 1982, the annual membership campaign has solicited support for the programs of Catholic Social Services of Greater Hazleton.

"We are grateful for the response from the community to this campaign which is so vital to the support and continuation of the services offered through Catholic Social Services of Greater Hazleton," Sue Farley, Advisory Board President, said.

A community agency and member of the Greater Hazleton United Way, Catholic Social Services reaches out to those in need, providing basic needs and programs supporting young adults with mental health concerns.

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

Collection on Ash Wednesday helps rebuild central, eastern European churches in region scarred by communism



As Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine marks its second year, an annual collection for Central and Eastern Europe's Catholic churches will help "shine the light of Christ" in a region still scarred by the historical effects of communism, said a U.S. bishop.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, faithful across the country are being asked to donate to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

The faithful also may give directly to the campaign by visiting the USCCB's #iGiveCatholicTogether website (usccb.igivecatholictogether.org/) and selecting the "Church in Central and Eastern Europe" collection.

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

God is close, compassionate, not cold, distant, pope says



Christians must let go of the God they think they know and convert every day to the God Jesus presents in the Gospel — the God who is the father of love and compassion, Pope Francis said.

When the faithful discover “the true face of the Father, our faith matures: we no longer remain ‘sacristy Christians’ or ‘parlor Christians,’ but rather we feel called to become bearers of God’s hope and healing,” he said Feb. 4 before reciting the Angelus prayer with about 15,000 visitors in St. Peter’s Square.

During his greetings after the noonday prayer, he also marked the celebration in Italy of the Day for Life.

“I join with the Italian bishops in hoping that ideological visions can be overcome so as to rediscover that every human life, even those most

marked by limitations, has an immense value and is capable of giving something to others,” he said.

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

As Lent begins next week, we are encouraged to focus on 'almsgiving'



*Lent begins on Ash
Wednesday, Feb. 14*

**OUR CALL TO
SERVE**
DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

*“Whoever cares for the poor
lends to the Lord, who will
pay back the sum in full.”*

Proverbs 19:17

Scan to donate
to the Diocesan
Annual Appeal
or visit
annualappeal.org



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

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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