

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

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## Nearly 180 people prepare to join the Catholic Church this Easter



Godparents place their hands on the shoulder of the catechumens preparing to join the Catholic Church this Easter during the Rite of Election on Feb. 18, 2024.

SCRANTON – 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.”

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## Catholic Foundation established to support spiritual, educational, and charitable needs of the Diocese of Scranton

SCRANTON – In an effort to sustain and nurture its spiritual, educational, and service ministries, the Diocese of Scranton today proudly announces the creation of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton.

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton will provide a trusted way for individuals to provide meaningful and lasting impact to sustain Diocesan parishes, schools, and agencies for years to come. Donors may contribute cash donations, estate gifts, IRA contributions, and gifts into endowment funds that will provide long-term support for the work of the Church in our 11-county Diocese.

Unlike the Diocesan Annual Appeal that is used immediately to support the annual needs of our Diocesan ministries, the Catholic Foundation will offer everlasting support for Diocesan ministries, parishes and schools through

the development and growth of endowment funds.

Endowment funds in the Catholic Foundation will be invested to earn revenue to fund Diocesan ministries. The principal value of an endowment fund is kept intact, while the investment earnings are distributed for charitable purposes as determined by donors.

Abiding by Christian principles and a high ethical standard, the Foundation will invest in accordance with Catholic teachings using a morally responsible investment policy.

“Foundations have become the preferred giving mechanism for many people who appreciate the transparent and professional way that resources are managed,” the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said. “The formation of the Catholic Foundation for the

Diocese of Scranton represents a significant milestone in ensuring our local Church remains a compassionate and caring leader in service to our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

The Catholic Foundation operates in support of the Diocese and is managed by a Board of Directors, with its members consisting of Catholics throughout the Diocese from all walks of life and reflecting many professional fields of expertise. The Board of Directors will meet quarterly.

The day-to-day management of the Foundation will be led by the Executive Director. Bishop Bambera is announcing today

**CATHOLIC  
FOUNDATION**  
*for the Diocese of Scranton*



that James Bebla will serve as the first Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton. Bebla has served as Diocesan Secretary for Development for the past ten years.

“I am honored to be appointed by Bishop Bambera to this new role as Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation. The vision

of the Bishop, the wonderful generosity of our donors, and the dedicated commitment of our Board of Directors will serve as the foundation of this transformational effort in support of our Diocesan ministries, parishes, schools, kitchens, shelters, and food pantries,” Bebla said.

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# The Catholic Light

(ISSN 0164-9418)

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

## POLICY STATEMENT

*The Catholic Light* is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

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**You're Invited to Attend this Special Celebration!**

# Chrism Mass

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

**4:00 p.m. Cathedral of Saint Peter**

During the Mass, Bishop Bambera will bless the sacred oils used for sacramental purposes in parishes throughout the Diocese.

The priests of the Diocese of Scranton will also renew their commitment to the priestly ministry.



# On Holy Thursday, all parishioners are encouraged to "Get Up and Pray!"

*"Why are you sleeping?" he asked them.  
"Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation" (Luke 22:46)*

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Church celebrates the institution of the Eucharist and Christ giving the Twelve Apostles and their successors the authority to be ministers of the Sacrament. At the end of Mass, the Eucharist is taken in solemn procession to an Altar of Repose.

At the Altar of Repose, parishioners keep vigil in silent prayer and adoration, recalling our Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and his rebuke to his disciples: "What? Could you not watch one hour with me?"

On Holy Thursday in particular, Catholics are encouraged to pray for priests and seminarians – that they be holy messengers of hope, reconciliation and peace.

This Holy Thursday, March 28, the Diocese of Scranton is inviting you to participate on a prayer journey and is asking you to share that journey on social media.

Invite your family, friends or assemble a group of people from your parish (young adults are especially encouraged to participate) to visit the Altar of Repose in several different churches in your community. Below are a listing of parishes that invite you to visit the Altar of Repose:

## Bradford County

### Saint Michael Parish

107 N. Washington Street  
Canton  
8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

## Lackawanna County

### Blessed Sacrament Parish

215 Rebecca Street  
Throop  
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Cathedral of Saint Peter

315 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton  
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### Christ the King Parish & Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish

411 Church Street  
Archbald  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Holy Cross Parish

200 Delaware Avenue  
Olyphant  
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Immaculate Conception Parish

801 Taylor Avenue  
Scranton  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Mary Mother of God Parish

316 William Street  
Scranton  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

322 Chestnut Street  
Dunmore  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Saint Ann Basilica Parish

1233 St. Ann Street  
Scranton  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Saint Eulalia Parish

214 Blue Shutters Road  
Roaring Brook Twp.  
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

### Saint John Vianney Parish

704 Montdale Road  
Scott Township  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Saint Patrick Parish

1403 Jackson Street  
Scranton  
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

### SS Anthony & Rocco Parish

303 Smith Street  
Dunmore  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### SS Peter & Paul Church

1309 West Locust Street  
Scranton  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

## Luzerne County

### Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish

420 Main Road  
Hanover Township  
8:30 p.m. - 10:15 p.m.

### Gate of Heaven Parish

40 Machell Avenue  
Dallas  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Good Shepherd Parish

87 S. Hunter Highway  
Drums  
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### Holy Family Parish

574 Bennett Street  
Luzerne  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Nativity of Our Lord Parish

127 Stephenson Street  
Duryea  
7:50 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

### Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish

535 North Main Street  
Pittston  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish

898 Centre Street  
Freeland  
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### Our Lady of Victory Parish

16 Second Street  
Harveys Lake  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

215 Lackawanna Avenue  
Dupont  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Saint Elizabeth Parish

5700 Bear Creek Blvd.  
Bear Creek  
8:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

### Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish

339 North Maple Avenue  
Kingston  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Saint John the Evangelist Parish

35 William Street  
Pittston  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Saint Joseph Marella Parish

237 William Street  
Pittston  
8:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Saint Maria Goretti Parish

42 Redwood Drive  
Lafin  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
VOCATIONS OFFICE



## "Get Up and Pray"

Luke 22:46

Join us in praying for our priests and seminarians  
Holy Thursday, March 28th!

1. Assemble a group to visit the Altar of Repose in as many churches as you can

2. Look for the "Add Yours" sticker on @Scrantonvoc stories Thursday night

3. Share photos using the sticker & tell us which priests and/or seminarians you're praying for!



@Scrantonvoc

### Saint Therese Parish

64 Davis Street  
Shavertown  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

## Lycoming County

### Immaculate Conception & Saint Luke Parishes

5973 Jacks Hollow Road  
Bastress  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

800 Mulberry Street  
Montoursville  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

## Monroe County

### Saint John Parish

5171 Milford Road  
East Stroudsburg  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### Saint Matthew Parish

78 Ridgeway Street  
East Stroudsburg  
8:00 p.m. - Midnight

## Tioga County

### Saint Peter Parish

47 Central Avenue  
Wellsboro  
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

## Wayne County

### Saint John the Evangelist Parish

414 Church Street  
Honesdale  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



*Editor's Note: All parishes were invited to submit their times prior to press time. If additional parishes add times, that information will be available on dioceseofscranton.org*



# Catechumens, candidates welcomed at Rite of Election liturgy

*Continued from Page 1*

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

“What we do here today represents the most important thing we can do as Church, to call one another to a deeper relationship to Christ,” Bishop Bambera said in welcoming those in attendance to the Cathedral.

During the homily, Bishop Bambera spoke directly to the catechumens (those who are not baptized) and the candidates (those who are baptized but have not received Holy Communion or Confirmation).

“My sisters and brothers, don’t discount for an instant the power of this moment in your lives. Jesus is speaking to you today, inviting you to a relationship with him, calling you by name to follow Him,” Bishop Bambera said. “He is inviting you to walk a path that leads to a life of meaning, purpose, and peace. He is saying, through His invitation, that your life – with all its struggles and joys, with all its blessings and challenges – has a unique place and role to play within His plan.”

Each of the catechumens and candidates then demonstrated 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.

The catechumens also inscribed their name in the Book of Elect for their home parish.

“Getting baptized is going to be a rebirth,” Stephane Enot of Pleasant Mount said.

After going through a number of hard times recently, including losing his mother-in-law and having his wife diagnosed with cancer, the parishioner of Saint Mary Parish in Waymart found solace in his faith.

“I found so much peace in going back to church and starting back reading the bible and all that, and then all of a sudden, it was obvious that I had to do it (join the Church). I’ve been postponing it for so long,” Enot explained.

Jolene Drum of Jersey Shore, Lycoming County, and two close friends, made the decision to go through the process together.

“My fiancé is a cradle Catholic; he was brought up Catholic, and his dad is my sponsor. My fiancé is our friend’s



**Surrounded by the catechumens looking to join the Catholic Church at Easter, Bishop Bambera invites each person to sign their name in their individual parish ‘Book of the Elect.’ (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

sponsor, and his wife is being sponsored by my future mother-in-law, so we’re just going all together,” she explained. “We go to church every weekend and go to class on Mondays together. We’re just doing this as a group. It makes it a lot easier.”

During all the preparatory classes, Drum says they were able to ask questions without judgment, because everyone has each other’s best interests at

heart. They say they have found strength and purpose being on this journey together.

“It does bring a deeper, further discussion on why things are the way they are and the history behind it,” she explained.

Timothy Langan of Mountain Top, a parishioner of Saint Jude Parish, was baptized as a baby and received the Eucharist in second grade – but never received Confirmation.

That will all change at the end of the month.

“I’ve always had a very strong relationship and strong faith with God, but I let it get away from me,” he explained. “It’s one of the things that I wanted to make sure I finish in my life. It is important. I have two young daughters – one in college and one in high school – and it is important to bolster that part of my faith.”

John Hodle, who also attends Saint Jude Parish, will receive both the Eucharist and Confirmation.

“I’ve learned a lot and it really opened up my mind,” Hodle said. “It’s been a very positive experience. I’ve learned a lot about the faith and the classes helped me understand things during the Mass and why things are done the way they are.”

Anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church or coming into full communion with the Church can contact their local parish to learn more about the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) program.



**Shawn Gingerlowski signs the ‘Book of Elect’ for Saint Gregory Parish during the Rite of Election on Feb. 18, 2024.**



**Jolene Drum and Alex Boughter, center, stand when their names are called.**



**Katelyn Haytko, right, and her godmother Chris, step up into the Cathedral sanctuary.**



## Williamsport Deanery's 'Road to Resurrection' series to feature The Vigil Project March 13

THE WILLIAMSPORT DEANERY PRESENTS:  
**THE VIGIL PROJECT**

**TRUE PRESENCE NIGHT**

**LENT 2024**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13TH | 7PM**

LIVE MUSIC. DYNAMIC SPEAKING. EUCHARISTIC ADORATION.

Saint Lawrence Catholic Church  
800 W Central Ave  
South Williamsport, PA 17702

For more information, contact Becky Goonan  
music.stannrcc@gmail.com

THEVIGILPROJECT.COM

**WILLIAMSPORT** - The Catholic parishes of Lycoming County are thrilled to announce that The Vigil Project will be making its third visit to Lycoming County later this month.

In celebration of our Lenten journey, the group will hold a 'True Presence Night' on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. at Saint Lawrence Church in South Williamsport.

The night will feature Eucharistic Adoration, live music, and dynamic speakers.

"The group previously held events at Church of the Resurrection in Muncy for Advent 2019 and Lent 2020," Becky Goonan, Communications

and Technology Coordinator at Saint Ann Parish in Williamsport, said. "This year's event will be held at Saint Lawrence Church in South Williamsport, as part of the Williamsport Deanery's 'Road to Resurrection' series."

Recognizing that the parish is the heartbeat of the Catholic Church, The Vigil Project aims to bring together the community to pray, provide inspirational music, and engage parishioners in an active life of prayer and evangelization.

All are welcome to attend.

There is no cost for the event, but a free-will offering will be taken up to benefit The Vigil Project's continued ministry efforts.

## Stroudsburg parish hosting 'Life in the Spirit' seminars during Lent

**STROUDSBURG** - The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Scranton, in partnership with Saint Luke Parish, are holding a series of informative seminars this Lent to help the faithful deepen their connection to the Lord.

The 'Life in the Spirit' seminars began on Tuesday, Feb. 20 and will continue each week until Tuesday, March 19.

The 'Life in the Spirit' seminars are designed to be the beginning, only the first step in a new way of life - living a life open to the Holy Spirit's active participation!

People need to continue to grow and develop in this new life, to come together with others who are living this same way, to receive support, and community.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal has prayer groups in various places within the Diocese of Scranton where people are living this life in the Spirit together and all are welcome.

Those attending the 'Life in the Spirit' seminar on Feb. 27 received a lesson on Salvation:



**Dozens of people attended the second 'Life in the Spirit' seminar at Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg on Feb. 27, 2024.**

Jesus is the way!

Next week, March 12, will be a special time of prayer for the attendees to have a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their very own Lord and Savior and a new infilling with the Holy Spirit.

On the final Tuesday,

March 19, the seminar will be focused on spiritual growth and transformation in Christ.

All people are welcome to attend the 'Life in the Spirit' seminars which begin with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a 7:00 p.m. program.

Saint Luke Parish is located at 818 Main Street in Stroudsburg.

## Lenten retreat for men to take place March 15-16

**DALTON** - There will be a Lenten Men's Retreat March 15-16 at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center.

The theme will be "Spiritual Direction: I'm Not Lost - I'm Wondering."

The retreat will focus on examining the spiritual journey of men in our world and moving from wandering to wondering about God's will in their lives.

The cost of the retreat is \$75 for an overnight stay, including food.

There will be a number of Holy Priests, including Father Pio



Mandato, Father Stan Fortuna, and Father Brian Van Fossen participating in the Lenten retreat with the opportunities for Adoration and Confession. Holy Mass will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on March 16.

Michael Donovan, Leadership Coach for the Catholic Men's Leadership Alliance, will also be participating in the retreat.

This event will be a great way to renew your heart and mind before Easter.

To register for the retreat, visit the "Be A Catholic Man" website at beacatholicman.com.

You can also email Joseph Adcroft at jadcroftkknepa.com or call (570) 380-5070.



# Parishioners describe Lenten Holy Hours as ‘beautiful’ and ‘inspiring’

## Bishop Bambera to visit Wilkes-Barre and Scranton deaneries next week

TUNKHANNOCK — As Christine Aydelotte prayed before our Eucharistic Lord at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish on Feb. 29, she was overcome with emotion.

“I felt like I had a hug from Jesus,” she said.

Aydelotte was one of roughly 100 people who attended a special Lenten Holy Hour with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

“It is such a special occasion to have the Bishop with us and to have him here in our little town. He helps to strengthen our bond with Jesus,” she added. “He’s an inspiration and a reminder that we all play a small part in our one Holy Catholic Apostolic Church.”

For the last four weeks, Bishop Bambera has been traveling to each of the 12 deaneries in the Diocese of Scranton to celebrate a Holy Hour in conjunction with the second year of the National Eucharistic Revival.

“We were stunned tonight at the amount of people who came. It was shocking, actually, so you can tell there is a hunger for this,” Father Pat Albert, Pastor, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, said. “I think it was just great to see ... and I hope they leave filled with a sense of joy.”

Ruth Tewksbury described the Lenten Holy Hour as “beautiful” and said she appreciated the moments of silent, contemplative prayer.

“During the Lenten journey, we become closer and closer to Jesus, as He lives His life, suffers, and dies on the cross. This brings it in the forefront of our minds. We have no interference, just the exposure to God,” Tewksbury explained.



**Dozens of faithful from the Williamsport Deanery participate in a Lenten Holy Hour at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport on Feb. 28, 2024.**

Well over 1,000 people have participated in the Lenten Holy Hours since they began on Feb. 15 at Holy Family Parish in Luzerne. Since that time, Holy Hours have taken place at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tannersville, Most Precious Blood Parish in Hazleton, Christ the King Parish in Archbald, Saint Eulalia Parish in Roaring Brook Township, Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport, Saint Joseph Mareello Parish in Pittston, and Saint John Neumann Parish in Lords Valley.

A Lenten Holy Hour is scheduled for this evening (Thursday, March 7) at Epiphany Parish in Sayre and next week in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton. Parishioners in the Wilkes-Barre Deanery are invited to Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, at 7 p.m. on March 18. Likewise, the faithful of the Scranton Deanery will gather together at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, 1217 Prospect Avenue, Scranton, at 7 p.m. on March 20.

“This is great way for all of us to come together for one purpose only – to praise the Lord

– and I think doing this was a great way to bring all the parishes together,” Patricia McAndrew, a parishioner of Christ the King Parish, said after the Lenten Holy Hour for the Carbondale Deanery on Feb. 22.

Ellen Marie Faliskie was particularly touched by the words Bishop Bambera shared during his homily.

“As the leader of our



**Deacon Leonard Jinselli, left, Rev. Richard E. Czachor, V.E., and Bishop Bambera participate in a Lenten Holy Hour at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tannersville on Feb. 20, 2024. (Photo/Kenneth Schurman)**

Diocese, he gives us the words and wisdom, as all priests do, to come closer to that connection with the Body of Christ,” Faliskie said. “He gave us four great steps to what the Body of Christ is, and we continue to reflect on that, especially during this Lenten time to become closer to Christ.”

Father Ryan Glenn, Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Archbald, and Sacred Hearts of Jesus and

Mary Parish, Jermyn, called the Lenten Holy Hour at his parish a “gift” that drew parishioners together.

“The more that we have opportunities to emphasize what we believe ... there will be this growing appreciation and this deepening belief that Christ is truly alive and He’s truly present in the Eucharist,” Father Glenn explained.



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

# LENTEN HOLY HOUR

with Bishop Bambera

**Monday, March 18**  
Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre

**Wednesday, March 20**  
St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Scranton

 NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Revival



# Heading to the National Eucharistic Congress in July? Here's what to expect

(OSV News) - The tens of thousands of Catholics planning to attend the five-day 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in July will experience large-scale liturgies, dynamic speakers, and opportunities for quiet prayer and faith-sharing, with six different "impact session" tracks tailored to their faith journey.

The congress will be held at Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts, and the adjacent Indianapolis Convention Center.

The congress' theme is centered on Luke 24, which describes Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus following his death and resurrection.

Day one, Wednesday, July 17, is themed "From the Four Corners." The congress is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. that day with an opening ceremony. The evening's speakers include Bishop Cozzens; Cardinal Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S.; and Sister Bethany Madonna, a Sister of Life.

Day two, Thursday, July 18, is themed: "The Greatest Love Story." The morning schedule begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass, followed by impact sessions.

The evening includes a three-hour "revival session" with Father Francis "Father Rocky" Hoffman, Relevant Radio's CEO and executive director, leading a Family Rosary Across America live from Lucas Oil Stadium. Father Michael Schmitz, host of the popular podcast "The Bible in

a Year," also will speak.

Day three, Friday, July 19, is themed "Into Gethsemane." Friday's schedule mirrors Thursday's, with morning Mass and impact sessions, afternoon breakout sessions and an evening revival session with the Family Rosary Across America's keynote speaker Sister Josephine Garrett of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Day four, Saturday, July 20, is themed "This is My Body." Saturday's morning and early

afternoon schedule follows the order of the previous days but will include a large Eucharistic procession in downtown Indianapolis.

Day five, Sunday, July 21, is themed "To the Ends of the Earth." The morning schedule begins with a revival session with speaker and author Chris Stefanick, founder and president of Real Life Catholic, followed by the revival's closing liturgy celebrated by a papal delegate.

## "A TIME TO MAKE TIME"

- *A Priesthood Perspective by Father Gerald J. Gurka -  
Pastor, All Saints Parish, Plymouth & St. John the Baptist Parish, Larksville*

When the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops called for a "Eucharistic Revival: 2022-2025," my immediate reaction was: here we go again another program to do! If we truly believe that Our Lord is present in the Eucharist, then why do we need this revival?

Curiously, my interior resistance decreased as I read about the shockingly small percentage of Catholics who truly believe in the Real Presence of the Eucharist, the dwindling Mass attendance numbers in many areas of our world and country, along with the growing belief that one need not have any religious affiliation.

Joining this dark menu is the buffet of headlines whose daily entrees include heaping servings of anger, prejudice, hate, violence, war, and greed seasoned with shameless self-promotion, deception, and misrepresentation where dysfunction becomes the new norm.

Amid this ever-expanding buffet of insanity, I realized that my spirit was mourning as well



as starving for a world that needs to re-learn and revive faith, hope, love, forgiveness, and acceptance.

In essence, I came to realize that the National Eucharistic Revival isn't just "another program" but a wonderful opportunity to re-learn and deepen our belief in God's extravagant love for us through His Presence in the Eucharist.

As physical food nurtures our physical bodies, spiritual food nurtures our souls. Without proper nutrition for both, our crosses can crush us and our bodies, hearts and souls grow stale.

Recently, Broadway Radio Host, Christine Pedi, commented,

"When you feed someone, it is an act of love. It says I believe in you."

Scripture reveals that God, the Father, through His Son, Jesus, and the indwelling of the Spirit, believes in us and feeds us with Jesus' act of love at the Last Supper.

Blessed bread and wine, broken and shared, become Jesus' Thanksgiving to His Father as well as our invitation to become one with His act of Thanksgiving.

The Eucharistic Revival is our opportunity to again say, "Yes" to Jesus' invitation and revive our need to make time for Him in worship. For when we truly love, we always make time for them; we always want to be with them.

On a personal note, I fondly remember my parents who were madly in love with each other. Regardless of the hour my dad returned from work, my mom, even though she dined with my brother and me upon our return from school, would have a table set with flowers and candlelight and enjoy supper with him.



**Father Gerald J. Gurka uses incense during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during a Holy Hour at Saint John the Baptist Parish in Larksville in 2023. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)**

And regardless of how little sleep they would get, my parents never missed Sunday Mass. Their words of spiritual nutrition still ring in my ears: "When one doesn't make time for God, it is most arrogant for one to expect God to make time for them. Be grateful. Don't be a taker!"

I think of my parents every time Broadway Radio plays the song from "Pippin" where the elderly matriarch sings, "it's time to make time!"

Indeed, the Eucharistic Revival is a time for us to make time to re-examine what our faith, Our Lord's Eucharistic Presence really means to us. And

if we aren't sure, seek spiritual advice from your pastor, deacon or a faith-filled person who will nurture your faith.

For God calls us to praise and give thanks for everything in our lives. To give thanks for the Light and Darkness, Crosses and Resurrections, Miracles, both great and small, that make us the persons we are.

Eucharist means "Thanksgiving." When we make time and are grateful to God then the world comes to know a God of Life and not Death. For I believe that God is madly in love with us. May we always take time "to dine" with Him.



# National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to include shrines, secular landmarks, diocesan events

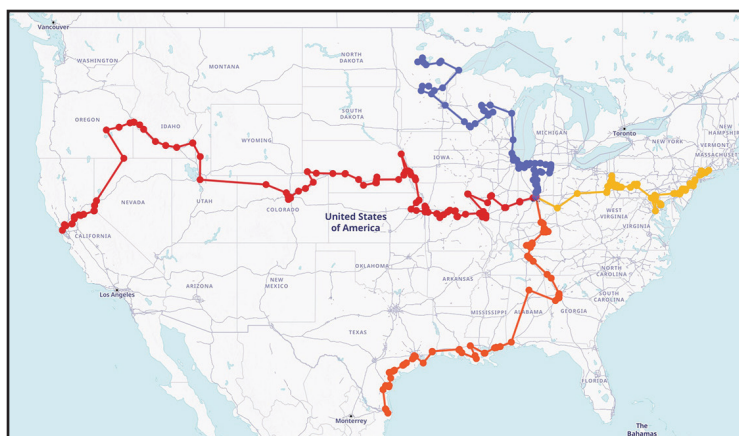
(OSV News) - On May 18-19, groups of eight young adults will leave San Francisco; New Haven, Connecticut; San Juan, Texas; and Itasca State Park in Minnesota.

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.

"A cross-country pilgrimage of this scale has never been attempted before," said Tim Glemkowski, CEO of the Denver-based National Eucharistic Congress, Inc., in a Feb. 22 media release announcing updated routes and related events. "It will be a tremendously powerful action of witness and intercession as it interacts with local parish communities at stops all along the way."



**This is an updated map showing the four routes of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress in 2024. Pilgrims traveling in "Eucharistic caravans" on all four routes will begin their journeys with Pentecost weekend celebrations May 17-18, 2024, leaving May 19. They will all converge on Indianapolis July 16, 2024, the day before the five-day Congress opens. (OSV News illustration/courtesy National Eucharistic Congress)**

The pilgrimage's four groups of Perpetual Pilgrims are young adults ages 19-29 selected in an application process to travel the full length of each route. Their names will be announced March 11.

People who wish to travel as a "day pilgrim" or attend a pilgrimage-related event along the routes may register online at [www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org](http://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org). Day pilgrims must make their own arrangements for meals, transportation and lodging, as needed.

Each route passes religious and secular landmarks, including Folsom State Prison in California, Ellis Island in New York, the campuses of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and Benedictine College in Kansas, and the shrines of Our Lady of Champion in Wisconsin, the Most Blessed Sacrament in Alabama, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Maryland.

Dioceses that the routes cross through have planned special

events to welcome the pilgrims. Detailed event information for these events and each of the routes - the St. Junipero Serra Route from the West, St. Juan Diego Route from the South, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route from the East and Marian Route from the North - will be posted at [www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org](http://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org).

Pilgrimage events will include Masses, Eucharistic adoration and prayer, as well as service projects. All public events are free.

Supporting the Perpetual Pilgrims spiritually will be a "rotating cadre" of 30 Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Father Roger Landry of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, plans to accompany the Seton Route pilgrims for the entire route.

"Following Jesus and praying through cities and rural towns is going to be life changing for the church across America," Glemkowski said. "I personally cannot wait to participate in this pilgrimage!"

## ***Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Route***

Leaving from New Haven, Connecticut, the eastern arm of the Pilgrimage will begin near the Atlantic coast, journey through our nation's oldest diocese, and cross the Appalachian Mountains.

The Seton Route will be punctuated by many meaningful stops. Pilgrims will visit holy sites, embrace the sacraments daily, and publicly proclaim Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist as they accompany him on his way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress. Although the Pilgrimage is not currently scheduled to visit the Diocese of Scranton, nearby locations and dates include:

### **May 18 & 19**

Opening Mass at Saint Mary's Church, New Haven, CT

### **May 21**

Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist, Stamford, CT

### **May 22-26**

Saint Patrick's Cathedral and Archdiocese of New York

### **May 26-27**

Diocese of Brooklyn

### **May 28**

Saint Mary's Cathedral, Trenton, NJ

### **May 30**

Pilgrimage enters Pennsylvania, stopping first at Holy Trinity Church, Morrisville, PA  
Saint John the Evangelist Church, Morrisville  
Saint Andrew Church, Newtown

### **June 1**

Sisters of Life Convent, Philadelphia  
National Shrine of Saint John Neumann, Philadelphia

### **June 2**

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia

### **June 6**

National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg, Md.

### **June 8-9**

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

### **June 11**

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona  
Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Duncansville

### **June 16**

Saint Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh

### **July 6**

Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains, Cincinnati, OH



# Monsignor Shane Kirby receives new appointment from Pope Francis

VATICAN CITY - On Tuesday, March 5, 2024, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced the appointment of Monsignor Shane L. Kirby as substitute Promoter of Justice of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura. Originally appointed as an official of the Congregation of the Clergy, Monsignor Kirby most recently served as coordinator for the Clergy and Administration Offices within the Dicastery.

The Apostolic Signatura ensures that justice in the Church is correctly administered. The Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura is composed of Cardinals, Bishops, and priests appointed by the Pope and it is headed by the Cardinal Prefect.

A native of Waynesburg in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Monsignor Kirby was ordained for the Scranton Diocese in 2004 in the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Since November 2017, he has served in the Dicastery for the Clergy at the Vatican in Rome.



**Msgr. Shane L. Kirby**

In 2005, he was awarded a licentiate in patristic theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and in 2014, a licentiate in canon law from the Catholic University of America in Washington. At the time of his appointment for Vatican service, Monsignor Kirby was serving as Chancellor and Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs for the Diocese of Scranton, as well as pastor of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in Jermyn.

Please join us in praying for Monsignor Kirby as he begins his new role!

## APPOINTMENTS

**His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective April 2, 2024:**

### PASTORS

**Reverend John B. Boyle**, from Pastor, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford, to Retirement, due to Reasons of Health.

**Reverend Edward J. Casey**, to Pastor, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford. Father Casey will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Ann Parish, Shohola and Saint John Neumann Parish, Hawley.

### DEACONS

**Deacon Nicholas Ardito**, to Diaconal Ministry, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford. Deacon Ardito will continue in Diaconal Ministry at Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, and Saint John Neumann Parish, Hawley.

**Deacon Joseph A. Connelly**, to Diaconal Ministry, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford. Deacon Connelly will continue in Diaconal Ministry at Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, and Saint John Neumann Parish, Hawley.

**Deacon Henry J. Ernst**, to Diaconal Ministry, Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford. Deacon Ernst will continue in Diaconal Ministry at Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, and Saint John Neumann Parish, Hawley.

**Deacon John M. Hanley**, to Diaconal Ministry, Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, and Saint John Neumann Parish, Hawley. Deacon Hanley will continue in Diaconal Ministry at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford.

**Deacon Joseph A. La Corte**, to Diaconal Ministry, Saint Ann Parish, Shohola, and Saint John Neumann Parish, Hawley. Deacon La Corte will continue in Diaconal Ministry at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Milford.



## BISHOP BAMBERA’S SCHEDULE

- March 7** - School Mass for All Saints Academy  
Saint Patrick Church, Scranton, 9:00 a.m.
- March 7** - Lenten Holy Hour for the Sayre Deanery  
Epiphany Parish, Sayre, 7:00 p.m.
- March 9** - Saint Patrick Parade Day Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.
- March 10** - Closing Mass for International Student Leadership Institute  
Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center, 4:00 p.m.
- March 11-13** - USCCB Administrative Committee Meeting  
Washington, D.C.
- March 13** - USCCB/Committee for Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- March 16** - Mass for Catholic Men’s Retreat  
Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center, 7:00 a.m.
- March 17-18** - Saint Vincent Seminary Visit  
Latrobe
- March 18** - Lenten Holy Hour for the Wilkes-Barre Deanery  
Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre, 7:00 p.m.
- March 19** - Mass for the Feast of Saint Joseph  
Oblates of Saint Joseph, Laflin, 7:00 p.m.
- March 20** - Lenten Holy Hour for the Scranton Deanery  
Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Scranton, 7:00 p.m.
- March 24** - Palm Sunday Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.
- March 26** - Chrism Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 4:00 p.m.
- March 28** - Mass of the Lord’s Supper  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 5:30 p.m.
- March 29** - Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- March 30** - Easter Vigil Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 8:00 p.m.
- March 31** - Easter Sunday Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

For the latest news and information, visit [dioceseofscranton.org](https://dioceseofscranton.org)



# New Catholic Foundation aims to support Diocese for generations to come

*Continued from Page 1*

The individuals invited by Bishop Bambera to serve on the first Board of Directors each bring exemplary leadership, wisdom, and dedication, with a vision that extends far beyond the charitable needs of the current moment. The first members of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton are:

*Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera*  
*Bishop of Scranton*  
*Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton*

*Michael W. Cavage*  
*President, Pioneer Construction Company, Inc.*  
*Saint Mary Parish, Waymart*

*Marianne Chester*  
*CEO/President, mEnterprise Solutions*  
*Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg*

*Christopher DiMattio*  
*Senior Vice President, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management*  
*Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Moscow*

*Mary Erwine, RN, MSN*  
*Founder/Owner, Erwine Home Health & Hospice, Inc.*  
*Saint Therese Parish, Shavertown*

*Bryan J. Frantz, DMD, MS*  
*Owner, Perio Health & Dental Implants*  
*Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton*

*John Graham*  
*Private Investor*  
*Saint Frances X. Cabrini Parish, Carverton*

*Kathleen Lambert*  
*CFO, McCarthy Tire*  
*SS Peter & Paul Parish, Plains*

*Nancy J. Marr*  
*Founder/President Emerita, Marr Development Companies*  
*Resurrection Parish, Muncy*

*Ralph H. Meyer*  
*Retired, Guthrie Healthcare System*  
*Epiphany Parish, Sayre*

*Paula Minichello*  
*President/Owner, Minichi, Inc.*  
*Saint Barbara Parish, Exeter*

*Richard Mutchler*  
*President, BioSpectra, Inc.*  
*Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg*

*Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo, V.G., S.T.L.*  
*Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia*  
*Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton*

*Mark J. Sobeck*  
*President, Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consulting, Inc.*  
*Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake*

*Jonathan Spohrer*  
*Attorney at Law*  
*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville*

"It's certainly an honor to have been asked to serve and I look forward to working to support the Catholic mission of the Diocese of Scranton," Chris DiMattio said. "Establishing endowments are vital to ensuring that the spiritual and material needs of individuals and those that serve our Diocese will be maintained."

"The work of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton will positively impact our community for decades to come," Katie Lambert said. "Through the generosity of donors, we will be able to ensure that Catholic school children receive tuition assistance, assist our parishes in becoming more alive in the faith, and support Catholic ministries that give people a helping hand towards self-sufficiency."

"I am very honored and humbled to be on the first Board of Directors of the Foundation," Michael Cavage stated. "It is so important that in our surrounding communities we keep the strength of the Christian dialogue active and alive."

"I was honored to be invited by Bishop Bambera to join the Diocese of Scranton

Catholic Foundation Board. I find that our Diocese is alive with many ministries and educational opportunities, and the efforts of the Foundation to continue to grow the financial resources to sustain these activities is critically important," Ralph Meyer explained. "I'm pleased that our Diocesan leadership has had the vision to create this Foundation in our Diocese."

"I am excited to serve the new Catholic Foundation because it will give people an opportunity to support our Catholic faith in action – not just today – but forever," Nancy Marr added. "While the establishment of an endowment is a monumental task, it is historic! The Foundation will support the people of our Diocese for generations to come. I can't think of a better way to help make a difference."

Bishop Bambera and the Foundation Board of Directors invite everyone within the Diocese of Scranton to consider participating in the spirit of charitable giving and realize the joy of helping others. Gifts of any size are welcome, and indeed, essential to the Foundation's mission.

Individuals can make a gift to the Foundation at any time. Gifts can be designated to several endowed funds that

have been established or can be given to the Foundation to be used where needed most. There are endowment funds for seminarian formation, care of retired priests, Catholic Schools, Catholic Social Services, faith formation and historic preservation.

The Foundation also welcomes the opportunity to meet with donors to design a gift that will suit their personal needs or charitable goals. By investing with the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton, gifts will be managed by professionals who have knowledge and experience to ensure that funds are used only for the purposes intended.

The Foundation serves Diocesan Catholic missions and ministries located in the following Pennsylvania counties: Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming.

For more information on the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton, visit [catholicfoundationscranton.org](http://catholicfoundationscranton.org) or contact James Bebla, Executive Director, at (570) 207-2212 or [jbebla@catholicfoundationscranton.org](mailto:jbebla@catholicfoundationscranton.org).



**The Board of Directors of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton held its first meeting on Feb. 15, 2024, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. The members of the founding Board of Directors are, front row, from left: Mark J. Sobeck; Kathleen Lambert; Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; Rev. Gerald W. Shantillo; Nancy J. Marr; and Michael W. Cavage. Back row, from left: James Bebla; Richard Mutchler; Jonathan Spohrer, Ralph H. Meyer; Marianne Chester; Bryan J. Frantz; Christopher DiMattio; and John Graham. Not pictured in the photo are Mary Erwine and Paula Minichello. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)**



# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton

## Q: What is the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton and why does it exist?

The Catholic Foundation was established as an opportunity for faith-based giving to help build endowment funds to secure the mission of the Diocese now and in the future. We serve to connect individuals with their charitable passion to provide lasting financial support for Diocesan religious, educational, and charitable ministries.

## Q: Do other Dioceses have Catholic Foundations?

Yes, most Catholic dioceses in the United States have foundations that hold assets to support the work of the Church. Money is usually raised for Catholic Foundations through major and estate planning opportunities. Foundations have become the preferred giving mechanisms for many benefactors who appreciate the transparent, professional management of the resources they donate.

## Q: What is the difference between the Catholic Foundation and the Diocesan Annual Appeal?

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is money collected each year that is used immediately to support the annual needs of our Diocesan ministries, parishes and schools. In contrast, the Catholic Foundation offers everlasting support for Diocesan ministries, parishes and schools through the development and growth of endowment funds.

## Q: What is an endowment fund?

An endowment fund is money invested to earn revenue to fund some type of charitable activity. The principal value of an endowment fund is kept intact, while the investment earnings are distributed for charitable purposes as determined by the donor. Thus, an endowment fund can be held permanently, allowing you to support causes you care about in perpetuity.

## Q: Why should I give to the Catholic Foundation instead of giving directly to a parish, school, or ministry?

Your gifts to endowment funds at the Catholic Foundation help provide long-term funding to the parishes, schools and ministries of your choice. We certainly are grateful to you if you prefer to give directly to your parish, a school or Catholic Social Services. All gifts help build up the Kingdom of God in our Diocese. Gifts to the Catholic Foundation provide an additional alternative for those who wish that their gifts will have a longer-lasting impact for the future.

## Q: What are the benefits of contributing gifts to funds in the Catholic Foundation?

The Catholic Foundation is an ideal place to help your gifts earn more and to provide more support for those in need than may be thought possible. The Foundation offers many benefits to you, including assistance and advice tailored to your needs and giving interests and tax advantages of various types of gifts. Also of critical importance is the Foundation’s commitment to making sure all investment decisions adhere to Catholic values and the standards set forth by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

## Q: How do I make a gift to the Catholic Foundation?

Gifts may be made to the Catholic Foundation at any time. Many donors give cash and appreciated assets. Catholic Foundation staff is happy to help you design a gift that meets your personal needs and charitable goals and can be reached at [info@catholicfoundationscranton.org](mailto:info@catholicfoundationscranton.org) or (570) 207-2212.

## Q: Are Catholic Foundation assets separate from diocesan funds?

Yes. The Catholic Foundation is a separate entity. No one can appropriate funds from the foundation for any purpose other than those specified by the donor.

## Q: May I include the Catholic Foundation in my estate plans?

Yes, you may support Diocesan ministries, your parish, a Diocesan Catholic school or organization through an estate gift to the Foundation. Charitable estate gifts may include a gift designation in your will, your retirement account, life insurance policy or charitable trust. These gift designations come with certain tax benefits.

## Q: Will my gift to the Catholic Foundation be tax deductible?

Yes. All gifts to the Catholic Foundation are tax deductible.

## *Bebla appointed Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton*

SCRANTON - The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has appointed James Bebla to serve as the first executive director of the newly formed Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton. Bebla has served as Diocesan Secretary for Development for the past ten years.

Bebla will be responsible for advancing the mission, vision and values of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton in collaboration with the Foundation Board of Trustees, specifically leading efforts to establish and successfully implement strategic goals, plans and policies in support of raising endowed and non-endowed funds for Diocesan ministries.

In appointing Bebla to this position, Bishop Bambera said, “I am confident that Jim will effectively lead this important initiative to secure the future of our Diocesan ministries. Jim’s passion and commitment, his ability to build strong relationships and his dedication to our Catholic faith will serve us well in this new role.”

“I feel incredibly blessed for this opportunity and I believe the work of the Catholic Foundation will be instrumental in building up the Kingdom of God in our local Church. The focus on long-term support through the establishment of endowment funds will insure that our Diocesan ministries, parishes and schools will remain strong for our children and grandchildren,” Bebla said. “I look forward to joining with Bishop Bambera, our pastors, donors and the Catholic Foundation board of directors in this meaningful mission.”





# Will you help your parish reach its goal for the Diocesan Annual Appeal?

SCRANTON - During Lent, Saint Paul’s words to the Colossians are very appropriate: *“Whatever you do, do from the heart.”*

The Diocese of Scranton is blessed to have so many people putting these words into action.

The generosity of so many people who have supported the Diocesan Annual Appeal testifies to the powerful hope we can bring to the lives of so many in northeastern and north-central Pennsylvania when we trust in Christ.

Now, more than ever, we need your continued support!

Our current campaign has now reached 85-percent of its goal (\$3.84 million of \$4.5 million goal) but we need all faithful to participate to ensure that we get to 100-percent – and make sure there is funding for the vital ministries of our diocese that no one parish can provide on its own.

For example, in 2023, your gifts helped feed more than 107-thousand people at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre alone.

Within the last month we welcomed one new seminarian – Peter Stec – so we now have 11 young men studying for the priesthood. Your generous response to the Diocesan Annual Appeal provides support that allows them to focus on their formation.

And as we head towards Easter – our Parish Life Office stands ready to assist

the 177 people from our parishes who will fully join the Catholic Church in just a few weeks.

None of this work can happen without you.

During this Lenten season – please ask yourself how God is calling you to give of yourself to others.

Your gifts go solely to support Catholic ministries, including: formation and education of seminarians, support of retired and ill clergy, Catholic Social Services, Catholic education, Catholic communication efforts, Parish Life Initiatives as well as Faith Formation and Social Justice grants to parishes.

We invite you to prayerfully consider renewing your commitment to the Diocesan Annual Appeal this year.

The Diocese of Scranton has four easy ways to give your immediate support to our families, students, and those in need.

First, you can use your cell phone and scan the QR code below right now.

Second, you can visit [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org) to make your gift or learn more about all of the Catholic ministries your gift supports.

Third, you can call our Development Office directly at (570) 207-2250 to make a pledge over the phone.

Or you can mail a check payable to “Diocesan Annual Appeal” to 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

May God bless you for your continued generosity.

## PARISHES THAT HAVE REACHED 90% OF GOAL

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Lake Silkworth (99%).....	\$168 needed
Saint Ann Basilica, Scranton (99%).....	\$35 needed
Saint Ann Parish, Shohola (99%).....	\$87 needed
Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton (98%).....	\$950.80 needed
Mary, Mother of God Parish, Scranton (98%).....	\$1,020.50 needed
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Dorrance (96%).....	\$775 needed
Saint Jude Parish, Mountain Top (96%).....	\$3,069 needed
Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Honesdale (95%).....	\$3,468 needed
Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tannersville (94%).....	\$3,084 needed
Saint Lawrence Parish, South Williamsport (93%).....	\$1,765 needed
Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg (93%).....	\$4,052 needed
SS Cyril & Methodius Parish, Hazleton (93%).....	\$2,981.50 needed
Holy Rosary Parish, Hazleton (92%).....	\$1,385 needed
Saint Joseph Parish, Matamoras (92%).....	\$3,077 needed
Holy Child Parish, Mansfield (90%).....	\$2,701 needed

## PARISHES THAT HAVE REACHED 80% OF GOAL

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Dushore (89%).....	\$4,220 needed
Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre (89%).....	\$3,881.50 needed
Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca (89%).....	\$2,521.75 needed
Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, Kingston (89%).....	\$8,474.64 needed
Immaculate Conception Parish, Bastress (88%).....	\$3,090 needed
Saint John Vianney Parish, Montdale (86%).....	\$4,121 needed
Saint Peter Parish, Wellsboro (86%).....	\$6,215 needed
Nativity of the BVM Parish, Tunkhannock (85%).....	\$4,657 needed
Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines (85%).....	\$3,617 needed
Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre (85%).....	\$5,040 needed
Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace, Hawley (84%).....	\$12,318 needed
Our Lady of the Snows Parish (84%).....	\$14,344.60 needed
Saint Ann Parish, Williamsport (84%).....	\$9,255 needed
Visitation of the BVM Parish, Dickson City (84%).....	\$8,559.25 needed
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville (83%).....	\$6,948 needed
Saint Boniface Parish, Williamsport (83%).....	\$10,120 needed
Saint Monica Parish, West Wyoming (83%).....	\$5,425 needed
Saint Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel (83%).....	\$8,155.60 needed
Ascension Parish, Forest City (82%).....	\$4,475 needed
Christ the King, Archbald (82%).....	\$11,833.15 needed
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco (82%).....	\$9,044.80 needed
Most Precious Blood Parish, Hazleton (82%).....	\$6,395.05 needed
Resurrection Parish, Muncy (82%).....	\$5,905 needed
Saint John the Baptist Parish, Larksville (81%).....	\$4,045 needed

## PARISHES THAT HAVE REACHED 70% OF GOAL

Queen of Heaven Parish, Hazleton (78%).....	\$6,290 needed
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Susquehanna (77%).....	\$6,947.10 needed
Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston (77%).....	\$12,536 needed
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore (76%).....	\$13,458.50 needed
Saint Elizabeth Parish, Bear Creek (76%).....	\$5,755 needed
Saint Michael Parish, Scranton (76%).....	\$2,187 needed
Divine Mercy, Scranton (75%).....	\$15,863 needed
SS Peter & Paul Parish, Scranton (75%).....	\$3,265 needed
Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Twp. (75%).....	\$9,996.76 needed
Saint John Neumann Parish, Lords Valley (75%).....	\$7,133 needed
Saint Rita Parish, Gouldsboro (75%).....	\$3,483 needed
Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Carbondale (75%).....	\$15,453 needed
Saint Patrick Parish, Nicholson (74%).....	\$2,355 needed
Saint Luke Parish, Jersey Shore (73%).....	\$4,390.67 needed
Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant (72%).....	\$13,084 needed
Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston (72%).....	\$4,390 needed
SS Anthony & Rocco Parish, Dunmore (72%).....	\$13,000 needed

## WAYS TO GIVE

SCAN



VISIT

[AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org)

CALL

**(570) 207-2250**



**Current Parish Goal Report for the Diocesan Annual Appeal**  
**\$3.84 million of \$4.5 million Goal (85%) as of March 1, 2024**  
**Visit [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org) or call (570) 207-2250 to make a gift!**

	<i>Progress to Parish Goal</i>
All Saints Parish - Plymouth.....	\$15,826.00 / \$37,000.00 (42%)
Annunciation Parish - Hazleton.....	\$21,699.00 / \$33,000.00 (66%)
Ascension Parish - Forest City.....	\$20,525.00 / \$25,000.00 (82%)
Blessed Sacrament Parish - Throop.....	\$17,725.00 / \$16,000.00 (111%)
BVM Queen of Peace Parish - Hawley.....	\$63,682.00 / \$76,000.00 (84%)
Christ the King Parish - Archbald.....	\$55,166.85 / \$67,000.00 (83%)
Corpus Christi Parish - West Pittston.....	\$38,375.00 / \$30,000.00 (128%)
Divine Mercy Parish - Scranton.....	\$47,137.00 / \$63,000.00 (75%)
Epiphany Parish - Sayre.....	\$58,848.00 / \$85,000.00 (69%)
Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish - Hanover Twp..	\$24,270.00 / \$15,000.00 (162%)
Gate of Heaven Parish - Dallas.....	\$30,680.00 / \$47,000.00 (65%)
Good Shepherd Parish - Drums.....	\$12,785.00 / \$24,000.00 (53%)
Holy Child Parish - Mansfield.....	\$25,299.00 / \$28,000.00 (90%)
Holy Cross Parish - Olyphant.....	\$33,916.00 / \$47,000.00 (72%)
Holy Family Parish - Luzerne.....	\$44,374.32 / \$40,000.00 (111%)
Holy Name of Jesus Parish - West Hazleton.....	\$10,915.00 / \$21,000.00 (52%)
Holy Name of Mary Parish - Montrose.....	\$20,300.00 / \$16,000.00 (127%)
Holy Rosary Parish - Hazleton.....	\$15,615.00 / \$17,000.00 (92%)
Holy Spirit Parish - Mocanaqua.....	\$13,455.00 / \$28,000.00 (48%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Williamsport.....	\$22,910.00 / \$26,000.00 (88%)
Immaculate Conception Parish - Scranton.....	\$39,049.20 / \$40,000.00 (98%)
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish - Dushore.....	\$33,780.00 / \$38,000.00 (89%)
Mary, Mother of God Parish - Scranton.....	\$54,979.50 / \$56,000.00 (98%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Cresco.....	\$39,955.20 / \$49,000.00 (82%)
Most Holy Trinity Parish - Susquehanna.....	\$23,052.90 / \$30,000.00 (77%)
Most Precious Blood Parish - Hazleton.....	\$29,604.95 / \$36,000.00 (82%)
Nativity of Our Lord Parish - Duryea.....	\$40,110.00 / \$40,000.00 (100%)
Nativity of the BVM Parish - Tunkhannock.....	\$27,343.00 / \$32,000.00 (85%)
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish - Dorrance....	\$17,225.00 / \$18,000.00 (96%)
Our Lady of Fatima Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$19,160.00 / \$30,000.00 (64%)
Our Lady of Hope Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$31,118.50 / \$35,000.00 (89%)
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish - Montoursville.....	\$34,052.00 / \$41,000.00 (83%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Carbondale..	\$8,005.00 / \$23,000.00 (35%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Dunmore.....	\$42,541.50 / \$56,000.00 (76%)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish - Lake Silkworth...	\$18,832.00 / \$19,000.00 (99%)
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish - Wyalusing...	\$10,950.00 / \$10,000.00 (110%)
Our Lady of the Abingtons Parish - Dalton.....	\$8,340.00 / \$16,000.00 (52%)
Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish - Pittston.....	\$11,610.00 / \$16,000.00 (73%)
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception - Freeland..	\$14,991.00 / \$26,000.00 (58%)
Our Lady of the Snows Parish - Clarks Summit....	\$72,655.40 / \$87,000.00 (84%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Harveys Lake.....	\$22,884.60 / \$37,000.00 (62%)
Our Lady of Victory Parish - Tannersville.....	\$48,916.00 / \$52,000.00 (94%)
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish - Brodheadsville..	\$66,286.30 / \$58,000.00 (114%)
Prince of Peace Parish - Old Forge.....	\$15,470.00 / \$28,000.00 (55%)
Queen of Angels Parish - Jessup.....	\$15,042.00 / \$26,000.00 (58%)
Queen of Heaven Parish - Hazleton.....	\$22,710.00 / \$29,000.00 (78%)
Queen of the Apostles Parish - Avoca.....	\$20,478.25 / \$23,000.00 (89%)
Resurrection Parish - Muncy.....	\$27,095.00 / \$33,000.00 (82%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Dupont.....	\$15,942.45 / \$30,000.00 (53%)
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Peckville.....	\$52,414.77 / \$41,000.00 (128%)
Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish - Jermyn...	\$12,536.40 / \$21,000.00 (60%)
SS Anthony & Rocco Parish - Dunmore.....	\$34,000.00 / \$47,000.00 (72%)
SS Cyril & Methodius Parish - Hazleton.....	\$40,018.50 / \$43,000.00 (93%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Plains.....	\$53,994.00 / \$50,000.00 (108%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Scranton.....	\$9,735.00 / \$13,000.00 (75%)
SS Peter & Paul Parish - Towanda.....	\$35,245.00 / \$31,000.00 (114%)
St. Andrew Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$7,565.00 / \$17,000.00 (45%)

	<i>Progress to Parish Goal</i>
St. Ann Basilica - Scranton.....	\$29,965.00 / \$30,000.00 (99%)
St. Ann Parish - Shohola.....	\$19,913.00 / \$20,000.00 (99%)
St. Ann Parish - Williamsport.....	\$49,745.00 / \$59,000.00 (84%)
St. Barbara Parish - Exeter.....	\$19,188.00 / \$31,000.00 (62%)
St. Boniface Parish - Williamsport.....	\$49,880.00 / \$60,000.00 (83%)
St. Brigid Parish - Friendsville.....	\$32,600.00 / \$22,000.00 (148%)
St. Catherine of Siena Parish - Moscow.....	\$73,882.75 / \$63,000.00 (117%)
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish - Swoyersville..	\$44,850.00 / \$44,000.00 (102%)
St. Elizabeth Parish - Bear Creek.....	\$18,245.00 / \$24,000.00 (76%)
St. Eulalia Parish - Roaring Brook Township....	\$30,003.24 / \$40,000.00 (75%)
St. Faustina Kowalska Parish - Nanticoke.....	\$30,766.94 / \$47,000.00 (65%)
St. Frances X. Cabrini Parish - Carverton.....	\$18,090.32 / \$13,000.00 (139%)
St. Gregory Parish - Clarks Green.....	\$84,631.40 / \$74,000.00 (114%)
St. Ignatius Loyola Parish - Kingston.....	\$68,525.36 / \$77,000.00 (89%)
St. John Bosco Parish - Conyngham.....	\$67,567.15 / \$58,000.00 (117%)
St. John Neumann Parish - Lords Valley.....	\$20,867.00 / \$28,000.00 (75%)
St. John Neumann Parish - Scranton.....	\$21,000.50 / \$52,000.00 (40%)
St. John Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$34,603.00 / \$57,000.00 (61%)
St. John the Baptist Parish - Larksville.....	\$16,955.00 / \$21,000.00 (81%)
St. John the Evangelist Parish - Honesdale....	\$60,532.00 / \$64,000.00 (95%)
St. John the Evangelist Parish - Pittston.....	\$41,464.00 / \$54,000.00 (77%)
St. John Vianney Parish - Montdale.....	\$25,879.00 / \$30,000.00 (86%)
St. Joseph Mareello Parish - Pittston.....	\$30,369.00 / \$27,000.00 (112%)
St. Joseph Parish - Matamoras.....	\$33,923.00 / \$37,000.00 (92%)
St. Joseph the Worker Parish - Williamsport....	\$81,811.40 / \$75,000.00 (109%)
St. Jude Parish - Mountain Top.....	\$75,931.00 / \$79,000.00 (96%)
St. Katharine Drexel Parish - Pleasant Mount..	\$19,030.00 / \$13,000.00 (146%)
St. Lawrence Parish - S. Williamsport.....	\$24,235.00 / \$26,000.00 (93%)
St. Leo Parish - Ashley.....	\$18,871.00 / \$33,000.00 (57%)
St. Lucy Parish - Scranton.....	\$5,849.00 / \$19,000.00 (31%)
St. Luke Parish - Jersey Shore.....	\$11,609.33 / \$16,000.00 (73%)
St. Luke Parish - Stroudsburg.....	\$115,916.00 / \$114,000.00 (102%)
St. Maria Goretti Parish - Laffin.....	\$22,015.00 / \$42,000.00 (52%)
St. Mary of the Lake Parish - Lake Winola.....	\$7,860.00 / \$12,000.00 (66%)
St. Mary Parish - Waymart.....	\$23,466.00 / \$17,000.00 (138%)
St. Matthew Parish - E. Stroudsburg.....	\$55,948.00 / \$60,000.00 (93%)
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish - Pocono Pines....	\$20,383.00 / \$24,000.00 (85%)
St. Michael Parish - Canton.....	\$15,048.00 / \$12,000.00 (125%)
St. Michael Parish - Scranton.....	\$6,813.00 / \$9,000.00 (76%)
St. Monica Parish - West Wyoming.....	\$25,575.00 / \$31,000.00 (83%)
St. Nicholas Parish - Wilkes-Barre.....	\$57,055.00 / \$52,000.00 (110%)
St. Patrick Parish - Milford.....	\$33,155.00 / \$33,000.00 (100%)
St. Patrick Parish - Nicholson.....	\$6,645.00 / \$9,000.00 (74%)
St. Patrick Parish - Scranton.....	\$22,693.00 / \$42,000.00 (54%)
St. Patrick Parish - White Haven.....	\$7,182.00 / \$16,000.00 (45%)
St. Paul of the Cross Parish - Scranton.....	\$16,832.00 / \$52,000.00 (32%)
St. Paul Parish - Scranton.....	\$43,325.00 / \$66,000.00 (66%)
St. Peter Parish - Wellsboro.....	\$36,785.00 / \$43,000.00 (86%)
St. Peter's Cathedral - Scranton.....	\$120,622.92 / \$71,000.00 (170%)
St. Rita Parish - Gouldsboro.....	\$10,517.00 / \$14,000.00 (75%)
St. Robert Bellarmine Parish - Wilkes-Barre....	\$28,960.00 / \$34,000.00 (85%)
St. Rose of Lima Parish - Carbondale.....	\$46,547.00 / \$62,000.00 (75%)
St. Therese Parish - Shavertown.....	\$88,055.00 / \$71,000.00 (124%)
St. Thomas More Parish - Lake Ariel.....	\$40,844.40 / \$49,000.00 (83%)
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkland.....	\$8,058.00 / \$13,000.00 (62%)
St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Milford.....	\$41,075.00 / \$35,000.00 (117%)
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Dickson City	\$46,440.75 / \$55,000.00 (84%)



# Becoming co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord

## *Bishop Bambera celebrates Commissioning Mass for Lay Ecclesial Ministers in Scranton*

SCRANTON – After feeling called to strengthen their relationship with God and learn more about the Catholic faith, five individuals in the Diocese of Scranton have completed a years-long process to receive a certificate in Lay Ministry Formation.

Those who have completed the coursework now have a significant degree of preparation, formation, and professional competence to serve their parish communities and the entire diocese in mutual collaboration with local priests and deacons.

Four individuals – Ana Becerril, Rufino Cano, Linda Sampson, and Diane Stone – were each commissioned as Lay Ecclesial Ministers during a Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on March 3, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The fifth individual, Patricia Blockus, has also completed all of the coursework but was unable to attend the Mass.

The Diocesan Lay Ministry Program helps prepare Catholic adults for ministry in their parishes by expanding their knowledge of Scripture and Catholic theology and helping each live their baptismal call in service to others.

“It has been a blessing to be part of this program,” Cano said following the Mass.

Cano, a parishioner of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton, began the Lay Ministry Program in 2017 after feeling called to give it a try. Since initially signing up, he has taken numerous online courses in catechesis and ministry leadership.



**Lay Ministry candidates and their families participate in Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on March 3, 2024.**



**The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrates the commissioning of candidates for the Lay Ministry Formation Program at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on March 3, 2024. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

“It gives you more formation and more knowledge about the church and the teachings of the church and how you can help your community and your parish through that knowledge,” he said.

Even before his commissioning, Cano has helped his parish develop a weekly Spanish bulletin and now hosts training sessions for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in Spanish throughout the diocese on a regular basis.

Cano actively wants to help other people grow in discipleship and service to the Church.

“The courses are really strong. They’re university courses so it’s not like you can just sit back and watch,” Cano explained. “It’s a big effort but it really helps.”

Sampson, a parishioner of Saint Peter Parish in Wellsboro, first read about the Lay Minister Program in *The Catholic Light* in 2019 and felt it could help in her spiritual growth.

“There is so much about the Church itself that I learned and how to interact with people,” she said.

The Tioga County native focused her lay ministry activities around a ‘Marian theme’ and has helped to create a beautiful Marian Ministries Program in her Northern Tier community.

“We plan pilgrimages, brunches, and retreats and all sorts of things for people to come and encounter God,” Sampson explained. “It is growing naturally, and we hope that this will just help it move forward and touch more lives.”

Stone, secretary at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Tunkhannock, was a little more hesitant to participate in the Lay Ministry Program when her pastor and deacon submitted her name for consideration back in 2019.

“I never thought I would do something like this,” she joked.

After starting the classes in 2020 right before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Stone found herself gaining both wisdom and knowledge.

“I’ve learned so much more about my Catholic faith that I didn’t know, and I want to be more involved with the church, not only our home church, but the whole church,” she explained.

Over the last several years, Stone has learned more about the structure of the church and has taken classes on the importance of individual prayers.

“When people now ask certain questions, I know the answer,” Stone said. “I just want to be able to lead people to God, my family and my church family.”

Becerril said the Lay Ministry Program classes helped her come to a better understanding of the universality of the Catholic Church.

“I fell in love and I continued with it all these years,” Becerril said.

As someone who helps lead faith formation classes at her parish, Saint Teresa of Calcutta in Scranton, Becerril realizes receiving her certificate is only the beginning of the work she is being called to do.

“This is a huge responsibility, as the Bishop mentioned, to be present (to people) with compassion, to hear people,” she said. “I feel like the Lord is taking us a little further and a little further, deepening us in His love.”

During the Mass, which took place on the Third Sunday of Lent, Bishop Bambera thanked each of the individuals commissioned as Lay Ecclesial Ministers for their desire to walk more closely with the Lord and helping to build the church.

“We give thanks to them and to their families for their commitment, to their desire to walk more deeply with the Lord, and indeed to serve the people of God in our diocese.”

For more information on the Lay Ministry Program, contact Mary Hallman, Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life, at (570) 207-2213.



**The Lay Ministry program participants commissioned for service on March 3 are, from left: Linda Sampson, Rufino Cano, Ana Becerril, and Diane Stone. Not pictured is Patricia Blockus.**



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

SCRANTON — 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.

Father Myronyuk said in addition to Railian, there was also a second injured Ukrainian soldier in attendance at the Cathedral.

"They are happy to be here, and they feel the support. Events like this show we're not alone," Father Myronyuk said.

On the same day as the prayer service, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy told reporters at least 31,000 Ukrainian troops have been



**Serhii Railian, a Ukrainian soldier injured while fighting to protect his homeland, participates in a Prayer Service for Peace at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Feb. 25, 2024. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

killed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began. It is the first time Ukraine has given a number for its military casualties, and Zelenskyy declined to say how many soldiers are wounded or missing.

"If Russia succeeds in this war, the prospects of a wider war grow exponentially and with it, the security of the entire world falls into peril," Rev. John Seniwick, a longtime pastor in Berwick whose mother was born in Ukraine, said during the homily of the prayer service.

"Let us continue to pray that God would heal the wounded, console those who mourn, sustain the soldiers and comfort all who suffer from this war," he added.

Deborah Pusateri, a parishioner of Saint Vladimir's

Church, attended the prayer service. Her grandparents lived in Ukraine but came to the United States several decades ago.

"It was important to come out and pray," she said. "It is



**Above: Faithful pray for peace in Ukraine during a special prayer service at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Feb. 25, 2024.**



**Left: Father Myron Myronyuk, Pastor, Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church of Scranton, greets people following the prayer service.**

just terrible that such a peaceful country is being destroyed."

As the prayer service concluded, Bishop Bambera urged those in attendance to continue to pray for the people of Ukraine.

"While at times the world seems to forget the horrors of war and, at times, we become numb to

news reports that over and over again speak of atrocities beyond belief, may our prayers never lose their intensity and may we continue to pray that God's gift of peace would reign throughout this world and most especially this day – and someday soon – throughout Ukraine," Bishop Bambera said.

## ***Pope prays a 'bit of humanity' will finally lead to peace in Ukraine***

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — During his recitation of the Angelus prayer on Feb. 25, Pope Francis marked the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale attack on Ukraine.

"How many victims, people wounded, destruction, anguish, tears in a period that is becoming terribly long and whose end is not yet in sight," the pope said, reminding 20,000 visitors in St. Peter's Square that Russia launched its major offensive Feb.

24, 2022.

"It is a war that not only is devastating that region of Europe but is unleashing a global wave of fear and hatred," Pope Francis said.

Dozens of people in the crowd held up banners bearing the word "Nonviolence" in Italian.

"While I renew my deepest affection for the tormented Ukrainian people and pray for all, especially for the numerous innocent victims," the pope

said, "I plead for that little bit of humanity to be found that will allow the creation of the conditions for a diplomatic solution in search of a just and lasting peace."

Pope Francis also asked the crowd to pray "for Palestine, for Israel and for the many peoples torn apart by war, and to concretely help those who suffer! Think of all the suffering; think of the wounded children - innocents."





# HALFWAY HOME! BY THE NUMBERS

**TOTAL RAISED IN THREE WEEKS:**  
**\$126,830 (As of Tuesday, March 5)**

**TOTAL DONATIONS: 1,357**

**SHAKE UP OUR STATS! VOTE THROUGH MARCH 26**  
**ON [DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG](http://DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG) OR SCAN QR CODE:**



## TOP 12 PASTOR CHEFS SO FAR

1. **Fr. James Paisley**, St. Ann Basilica, Scranton
2. **The Villa St. Joseph Villa-ns**: Msgr. John Bendik, Msgr. Vincent Grimalia, & Fr. Charles Cummings
3. **Fr. Shawn Simchock**, St. Ann, Williamsport
4. **Fr. Michael Drevitch + Msgr. John Sempa + Wyoming Area Catholic Elementary**, Corpus Christi, West Pittston, & St. Barbara, Exeter
5. **Fr. Kevin Miller + Good Shepherd Academy**, Annunciation, Hazleton
6. **Fr. Jose Kuriappilly, Fr. Shinu Vazhakkoottil, Fr. Daniel Toomey, & Fr. Binesh Kanjirakattu**, with visiting priest **Fr. Tony Mathew**: Epiphany, Sayre, SS. Peter & Paul, Towanda, & Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wyalusing
7. **Fr. Joe Pisaneschi + Misericordia University**, St. Therese Shavertown, and St. Frances Cabrini, Carverton
8. **Fr. David Cappelloni, + Our Lady of Mount Carmel School**, SS. Anthony & Rocco + Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Dunmore
9. **Fr. Michael Boris**, Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit, & St. Gregory, Clarks Green
10. **Fr. Thomas Augustine**, St. Brigid, Friendsville
11. **Bishop Bambera + Fr. Philbert Takyi-Nketiah + Holy Redeemer High**, St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen, Wilkes-Barre
12. **Fr. Paschal Mbagwu and Thomas Schulz**, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Pocono Pines



**DONATIONS FROM OUT OF STATE: 120**

**STATES REPRESENTED: 27**

**INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS: 5**

**STATES (BESIDES PA) WITH MOST DONORS:**



1. **New Jersey**
2. **Florida**
3. **New York**
4. **Texas**
5. **Indiana/Maryland/Virginia (Tie)**



**DONATIONS FROM FARTHEST AWAY:**

1. **New Zealand**
2. **Italy**
3. **Switzerland**
4. **Germany (2)**

**COUNTY WITH MOST DONORS: Luzerne**



**CITIES/BOROUGH WITH MOST DONORS:**

1. **Scranton, Lackawanna County**
2. **Pittston, Luzerne County**
3. **Dallas, Luzerne County**
4. **Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County**
5. **Hazleton, Luzerne County**
6. **Williamsport, Lycoming County**
7. **Shavertown, Luzerne County**
8. **Dunmore, Lackawanna County**
9. **Kingston, Luzerne County**
10. **Wyoming, Luzerne County**





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## Diocese of Scranton's annual Wedding Anniversary Mass to be held June 23

SCRANTON - Are you celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary of either 25 or 50 years in 2024?

If so, we invite you to participate in the Diocese of Scranton's annual Wedding Anniversary Mass that will be held 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.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will preside at this year's Wedding Anniversary Mass.

Please share this information with others who might wish to attend.

For more information or to register for the Mass, please visit [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org).



## YOU Can Feed and Clothe People In Need!

More than 250 men, women and children rely on Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen for a daily meal, food for their household, and clothing to keep warm.

These services include the daily midday meal and three evening suppers at the Kitchen in Scranton as well as weekly meals at parish locations and high-rise housing buildings in Carbondale and Olyphant, and also weekly meals at parish sites in Roaring Brook Township and Archbald. The Kitchen also operates a Client-Choice Food Pantry and a Free Clothing Store, which has expanded with a Free Clothing Mobile Trailer to bring clothing items to those in need at various locations.

All of this is only possible through the dedicated service of our staff and volunteers, and your generous financial support for the annual Host-for-a-Day campaign. For a donation of \$100 or more, an individual, a family, a business, a community organization or faith-based group can help sponsor a day's meal at the Kitchen and be recognized as a "host" of that meal. Major sponsorship levels are also available beginning at \$500.



Now more than ever, our brothers and sisters in need are relying on us for help. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations in our community, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen continues to serve the most needy among us with hot, nutritious meals and other services each day.

Recent contributors to the Host-for-a-Day campaign are receiving an appeal directly from the Kitchen through the mail or will be contacted by a member of the Advisory Board.

*Donations can also be made by:*

**Calling the Kitchen at 570-342-5556, online at [stfranciskitchen.org](http://stfranciskitchen.org), [facebook.com/stfranciskitchen](https://www.facebook.com/stfranciskitchen), text SFAK to 26989, or sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509**

*Thank You For Your Support!*

**The culmination of the campaign will be celebrated at Fiorelli's in Peckville on Wednesday, April 10, at 6 p.m. RSVPs are required by March 30. Those who would like to sponsor the reception are asked to call the Kitchen at 570-342-5556.**



## What is love?

### U.S. bishops launch new teaching initiative called 'Love Means More'

WASHINGTON (OSV News)- "Love Means More," a new teaching initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has a statement of purpose, a website and a promise to keep building the website to provide answers on a wide variety of questions about Catholic teaching on love, sexuality and marriage.

The premise speaks to the simple question of what "I love you" can portend.

"Imagine sincerely saying this to someone for the first time, and getting the response, 'What do you mean?' In that moment, the stakes would be too high to pause for a calm, honest exploration of this question. That's why this site exists," states the website, [lovemeansmore.org](http://lovemeansmore.org).

The initiative is led by Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, chair of the USCCB's Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth. Bishop Barron also is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, author of numerous books and articles, and has a podcast and video presentations via YouTube.

"Conversations about love, marriage, sexuality, family, and the human person can be confusing and polarizing," Bishop Barron said in a Feb. 21 news release, adding that he hoped the initiative would "help bring clarity and compassion to those questions."

"Love Means More" renews and replaces "Marriage: Unique for a Reason," an initiative launched by the U.S. bishops in 2011. It will "still allow us to defend marriage, but now as part of a larger set of questions about family, sexuality, and the human person," according to an announcement on the [marriageuniqueforareason.org](http://marriageuniqueforareason.org) website.

According to the USCCB, the new initiative has a broader scope than just the sacrament of matrimony, addressing "questions and concerns received from people who are uncomfortable with some church teachings. These include those who uphold the possibility of divorce and remarriage, LGBT-identifying individuals, and those who defend pornography."



Diocese of Scranton  
**CATHOLIC**  
 SCHOOL SYSTEM  
 FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

*The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.*

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, recently celebrated Mass with the communities of Our Lady of Peace School, Wyoming Area Catholic School, and Saint Jude School. In his homily, Bishop reminded students that they are the salt and light of the world and they bring out the best in themselves and others when they share God's love. He also shared, "God will always be there for you so give Him room in your heart and life."



Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green



Saint Jude School in Mountain Top



Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter



Seventh grade students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** were actively engaged with the study of subject-verb agreement with Mr. Murphy.



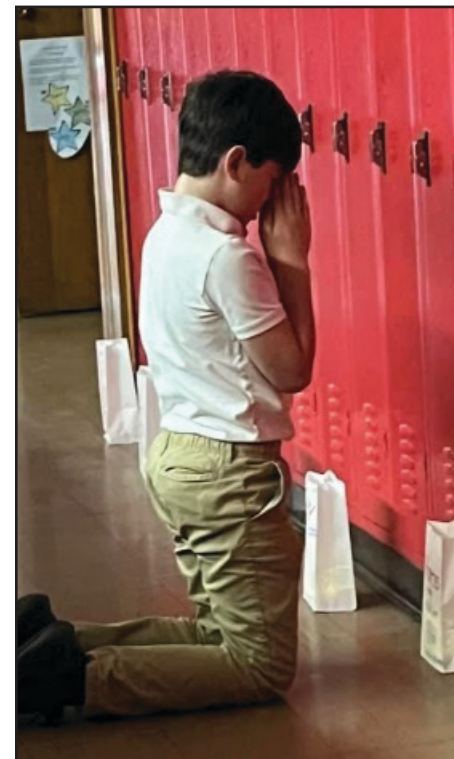
Sixth grade students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** participated in the Wilkes University WEBS (We're Empowered By Science) Program, which is dedicated to empowering young people by providing hands-on exposure to STEM labs and projects.



During the Lenten Season, students at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** are participating in the Stations of the Cross.



To celebrate Valentine's Day, students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** created special boxes to hold their cards.



During the recent celebration of Catholic Schools Week, students at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** made luminary bags for a prayer walk, where they walked, knelt and prayed for family members, parishioners, the homeless and the sick.





During this Lenten season, the National Honor Society Chapter at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** chose to make a monetary donation to the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton to support its mission of helping those in crisis find safe and affordable housing. Pictured are NHS Officers: Joe Lalli, Brianna Walz, Luke Mozeleski, Luke Healey, Benjamin Mulvey and Charlie O'Malley.



The Mock Trial Team at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** was recently in action at the Monroe County Courthouse. The team consists of students Blain Assegid, Isabella Rinaldi, Kacy Farrell, Federico Kourakos, Joseph Nguyen, Daniel Bordas, Melodie Fierro, Jacob Loncki, Madison Brown, Mary Warnagiris and Aidan Acosta. The team is moderated by NDHS teacher Margaret Martinez.



The Student Council at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** collected clothing and personal hygiene products for the patients at the Wyoming Valley Behavioral Hospital. The hospital recently opened to assist patients in the Greater Wyoming Valley, and the Student Council coordinated the collection in conjunction with Super Bowl Sunday.



Kindergarten students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** participated in a Lenten retreat with their Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Devine, and learned how to do their part to help build God's Kingdom on earth. Marianne Guarnieri from the Diocese of Scranton's Parish Life Office and Holy Cross High School students also assisted on this special day.



The Middle School Reading Team at **All Saints Academy in Scranton** is preparing for the Reading Tournament at the NEIU next month.



As part of their Lenten service project, the sophomore class at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** decided to collect items of comfort for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Scranton. They are shown recently delivering the packages.



"The Nifty Fifty States" would be a good song for the second graders at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**, as they learn all about the United States.



Parker and Ryder, kindergarten students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**, give a thumbs up to their Valentine's Day ice cream sundaes.



Fourth grade students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** assisted Father Toomey, Church of the Epiphany pastor, in leading a Stations of the Cross service at the school.



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## Dunmore parish HNS hosts 66th Communion Breakfast



The Holy Name Society of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish in Dunmore hosted its 66th annual Communion Breakfast Feb. 18 at La Buona Vita banquet hall in the borough. The event began with the Sunday morning Mass at nearby Saint Anthony of Padua Church, celebrated by Father David Cappelloni, pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco, who offered the breakfast's invocation and benediction. Honored during the event as the recipient of the society's Pio M. Ferrario Christian Witness Award was well-known parishioner Lou DiMattio. Pictured in the top photo at left are the principals of this year's HNS gathering. Seated, from left: Carlo Pisa, co-chairman; Rick Sabato, general chairman; Lou Ingargiola, toastmaster; Father Stephen Brenyah, assistant pastor; Bob McCormack, society president; and David Hawk, principal speaker. Standing: Father Cappelloni and Lou DiMattio. Shown in the accompanying photo is Father Cappelloni presenting the prestigious Ferrario Award to Mr. DiMattio.

## Divine Mercy service in Scranton April 7

SCRANTON — A Divine Mercy Sunday celebration will be hosted at Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Minooka section of Scranton, on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7.

Sacramental confessions and devotions begin at 1 p.m., with celebration of the Mass for the Second Sunday of Easter scheduled for 3 p.m. A light reception will follow.

## Annual Saint Joseph Day EAT IN / TAKE OUT BREAKFAST

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and always!



## MISSION MESSAGE

### 'When Night Turns into Day'

**By Deacon Edward Kelly  
Interim Director,  
Pontifical Mission Societies**



As we move through Lent, I am reminded of a story told by a missionary priest at a National Conference for The Pontifical Mission Societies.

It goes like this. At a retreat for high school students, the missionary priest asked the students this question: "When does night turn into day?" The first student answered, "When you can look across the field and see an animal and are able to tell whether it is a dog or a sheep." A second student answered, "When you look across the field and are able to tell the difference between a fig tree and a peach tree." The priest responded, "Night turns into day when you can look into the face of another human being and know that *that person* is your brother or sister."

Perhaps that is the heart of what it is to be missionary. Jesus, the first missionary, went beyond the established borders of race

and religion, class and culture, family and friends. This is best highlighted in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan is timeless.

A scholar of the law stood up to test Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said, "Well, what is written in the law?" The lawyer answered, "You shall love God and your neighbor as yourself." Then Jesus said, "You have answered correctly." But the lawyer couldn't leave it at that. He had another question: "And who is my neighbor?" He wanted a narrow answer, didn't he? — another Jew, another Pharisee; not a Gentile; certainly not a Samaritan, a foreigner.

But Jesus didn't give the lawyer what he wanted. He responded with a story that means as much today as then — The Good Samaritan. In it are four main characters: a robbery victim, a Priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan. And Jesus did the unthinkable. He made the Samaritan the story's hero. The Jewish priest and the Levite came by, saw the victim's situation, and did nothing to help him. Then the Samaritan came upon the scene. He stopped, rendered aid and saved the man's life.

Jesus ended the story with a

question: "Which of these three was neighbor to the man who fell among robbers?" Even the lawyer answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." But that was not the question the lawyer wanted to hear. He had asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus turned it around and in effect asked, "Whose neighbor are *you* willing to be?"

I suppose for many of us the neighbor is the person we know, the person next door, the few families on either side of our home. Maybe we might feel that it's pushing the envelope if we were to include as neighbor people we don't really know, people from a different parish, a different diocese, people from a different ethnic group, race or color. But this is the envelope Jesus pushes with his story of The Good Samaritan. The Christian envelope is an all-inclusive one. Your neighbor is whoever is there. Your neighbor is the next person you meet. God's neighborhood includes everyone near and far.

The walls and divisions and barriers in our world today have unfortunately become even wider and higher in our time. But we are called by Jesus in the parable of The Good Samaritan to embrace our fellow human beings first and foremost and overcome any barrier that blinds us from seeing that every human being is our brother or sister.

Jesus continues to turn things around. The real question is not "Who is my neighbor?" but rather "Whose neighbor are *you*?" That question is now our question. It is a question we must answer for ourselves. The way you and I answer that question has the power to truly turn night into day.

### *Apostleship of Prayer*

**Papal Intention for March 2024**

*For the New Martyrs —*

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



## Bishop Bambera to celebrate Saint Patrick Parade Day Mass in Scranton on Saturday

SCRANTON – The annual Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. this Saturday, March 9, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is traditionally held in conjunction with the city of Scranton's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Following the Mass, the Saint Patrick's Parade is expected to take to the streets of the Electric City beginning at 11:45 a.m.

The Most Rev. Joseph C.

Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant. Various priests from the Diocese of Scranton are expected to concelebrate the Mass.

The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and will be rebroadcast several times the following week. It will also be available for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube Channel.

This year marks the 62nd Anniversary of the Saint Patrick's Parade in Scranton.



Gene Reed paints green lines on Wyoming Avenue in Scranton, outside the Cathedral of Saint Peter, on March 4, 2024, in advance of the city's annual Saint Patrick's Parade.



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The Festival of Praise will include Eucharistic Adoration, a speaker, music by Joel Kankiewicz and the CCR Music Ministry, Reconciliation, and light refreshments.

Please note that this special edition of XLT begins at 6 p.m., instead of the typical 7 p.m. start time.

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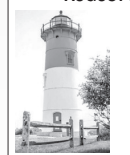
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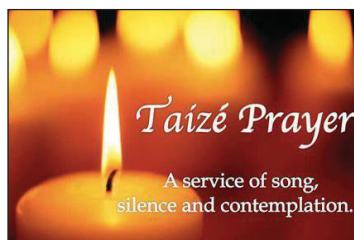
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## Taizé Lenten prayer service at Wilkes-Barre parish

WILKES-BARRE — Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish will host a Taizé Prayer “Around the Cross” service for Lent on Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the upper church of Saint Nicholas Church, 226 South Washington St., Wilkes-Barre.

Taizé is a meditative style of communal prayer, featuring sung repetitive refrains to create a gentle rhythm that invites reflection and meditation.



The unique prayer service is offered to area faithful to enhance their Lenten season of prayer and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Music ministry for the prayer service will be provided by Rob Yenkowski, director of music at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, and the King's Cantores Christi Regis performance choir.

All faithful are invited to participate free of charge; a free-will offering be accepted to benefit the choir.

For more information, call the parish office at (570) 823-7736.

### Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551.

### Aviso al Respecto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570) 862-7551.

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*When Irish eyes are prayin' & smilin'*



The Lackawanna County Men's and Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) gathered for Mass at Saint Patrick Parish in West Scranton for the recent Feast of Saint Brigid of Ireland. Father Richard Fox, host pastor, celebrated the Eucharistic liturgy for the annual celebration. Members of the Ladies AOH are shown in the bottom photo as they assembled March 3 on Courthouse Square in downtown Scranton for the annual raising of the Irish flag in anticipation of the Saint Patrick's Parade set to step off this weekend in the city. Pictured, front row left: Alice McDermott, Nancy Yavoroski, Kathy Moran, Mary Kay Sears, Lisa Olechna, Nancy Frick, Gennette Rotherforth, Micky Gillott, Mary Anne McAndrew, Ellen Perry, Patty Jones, Kathy McDonnell, Mary Kate Werner, Mary Ann Boylan and Danielle Ketch. Back row, from left: LAOH President Mary Ellen Richards, Dot Crowley, Mary Ann Abdo, Karen Savage, Kris Krowiak, Jean Hannon, Sara McCormack, Ellen McGuigan, Cathy McCormack and Carolynn Wahl.

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## Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

March 7, Saint Peter Priestly Fraternity Father Zachary Akers; March 8, Father Patrick Albert; March 9, Father John Albosta; March 10, Father James Alco; March 11, Father Andrew Amankwaa; March 12, Father Michael Amo Gyau; March 13, Passionist Father Edison Gregorio Arreaga Arce; March 14, Father Thomas Augustine; March 15, Monsignor Thomas Banick; March 16, Father David Bechtel; March 17, Father Richard Beck; March 18, Jesuit Father John Begley; March 19, Monsignor John Bendik; March 20, Monsignor John Bergamo; March 21, Father Eric Bergman; March 22, Father Rafael Ofarril Bermudez Gonzalez; March 23, Father Jacek Bialkowski; March 24, Monsignor David Bohr; March 25, Passionist Father Vincent Boney; March 26, Father Michael Boris; March 27, Father Stephen Bosomafi; March 28, Father John Boyle; March 29, Father Stephen Brenyah; March 30, Father Michael Bryant; March 31, Passionist Father Richard Burke; April 1, Pope Francis; April 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; April 3, Jesuit Father Timothy Cadigan; April 4, Father William Campbell.

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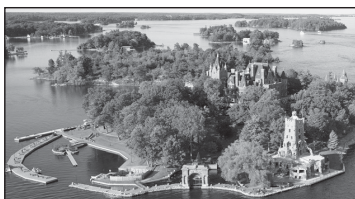


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## Slovak Lenten program March 17 in Kingston

KINGSTON — The Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA will host the celebration of a Lenten Slovak Hymn Sing & Traditional Slovak Stations of the Cross on Sunday, March 17, at Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish, 339 North Maple Ave., Kingston.

All faithful are welcome to join in the congregational singing

of Slovak Lenten hymns that will open the program at 2 p.m., followed by prayerful mediation of the sorrowful Stations of the Cross in the Slovak language.

The words and translations of the rich hymnology, along with program booklets for the Stations prayers, will be provided to those in attendance.

Benediction will conclude the service, to be followed by refreshments. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Saint Ignatius Church is wheelchair accessible via elevator.

For more information, contact Anna Hudock at (570) 510-1655.

## Oblates hosting annual Saint Joseph Novena, feast day celebration

LAFLIN — The Oblates of Saint Joseph religious community, Route 315, Laflin, announces the upcoming annual nine-day Novena and feast day celebration of Saint Joseph, beginning on Sunday, March 10, in the Oblates chapel.

Novena Masses will be celebrated each day at noon and 7 p.m., with the noon liturgies broadcast live on JMJ Catholic Radio 104.5 FM.

Following all Masses, Novena devotions to Saint Joseph



will be prayed, followed by the individual blessing with the relic of Saint Joseph Marelllo, founder

of the Saint Joseph Oblates congregation.

On the Feast of Saint Joseph, Tuesday, March 19, Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the 7 p.m. Mass, concelebrated by Oblate Fathers and Diocesan clergy.

Earlier feast day Masses will be offered at 8 a.m. and noon. All diocesan faithful are welcome to attend the Novena celebration.

## Parish offering youth mental health training session on April 20

SCOTT TOWNSHIP — The Mental Health Ministry at Saint John Vianney Parish is offering a Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training for adults who interact with youth, ages 12 to 18.

The training program will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Saint John Vianney Parish, 704 Montdale Road, Scott Township. Offered free of charge, the session includes a light breakfast and lunch.

YMHFA training is specifically designed as a support program for parents of teens and other adults who engage with adolescents in the age group, including school staff/teachers/coaches, camp counselors, youth group leaders and youth ministers.

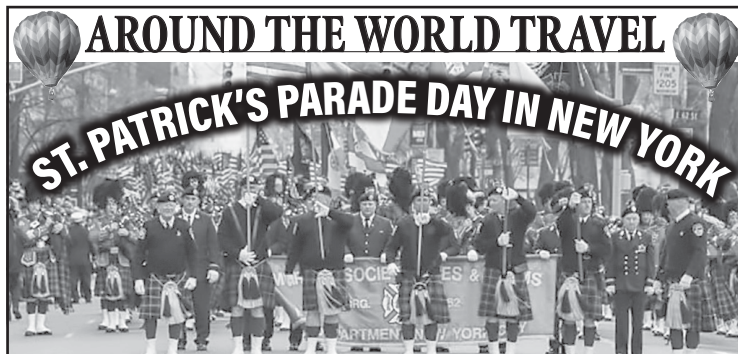
The in-person program requires approximately two hours of online pre-work.

Training objectives include:

- Recognition of the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges that may impact youth.
- Explanation of the impact of traumatic experiences and the role of resilience on adolescent development.
- Application of the appropriate steps of the YMHFA Action Plan (ALGEE).

Registration is limited and available online at catholicmhm.org/csdeanery-mhm. Certification is optional.

Deadline to register for the YMHFA training at Saint John Vianney is Wednesday, April 17.



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# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

**K of C Easter Food Sale** — **MARCH 7-17**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in conjunction with Gate of Heaven Parish in Dallas; sale items include: Fetch's smoked or fresh kielbasa (\$12/ring) and three pierogi varieties — potato & cheese, farmer's cheese, and sweet cabbage — (\$12/dozen). Advance orders available online at: [wleandri@aol.com](mailto:wleandri@aol.com) and [kkertesz@comcast.net](mailto:kkertesz@comcast.net). Pick up of all food

orders on March 23, noon to 3 p.m., at Gate of Heaven Parish Center.

**Final "40 Days for Life" Pro-Life Rosary Gatherings** — **MARCH 7-22**, offered for the special intentions of an end to abortion and closure of the Planned Parenthood location in Wilkes-Barre; Rosary is prayed each weekday, Monday thru Friday, at 10 a.m. in front of the offices of Planned Parenthood, 101

North Main St., Wilkes-Barre. The pro-life campaign draws attention to the evil of abortion through prayer & fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach.

**Annual Homemade Pierogi Sale** — **MARCH 7-22**, sponsored by St. Catherine of Siena Parish, 220 Church St., Moscow; sale held Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the parish hall (lower level of St. Catherine Church) and after all weekend Masses. Cost: potato cheese or cabbage pierogi, \$10 for baker's dozen (13); halushki (cabbage & noodles) also available for \$8/quart. Orders may be placed by calling Mary Ann (570) 266-3198, or Betty Ann (570) 842-6195.

**Monthly "XLT: Exalt" Young Adults Gathering** — **MARCH 7**, sponsored by the Scranton Diocesan Office of Vocations; hosted at St. Maria Goretti Church, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin, beginning at 7 p.m. Gathering held on the first Thursday of each month; includes Eucharistic Adoration, guest speaker, music, Sacrament of Reconciliation and social. For

more information, contact Kyra Krzywicki, vocation program coordinator, at: [kkrzywicki@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:kkrzywicki@dioceseofscranton.org).

**Weekly Eucharistic Adoration** — **MARCH 8**, hosted by St. Thomas More Parish in Lake Ariel; exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held every Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Thomas More Church, 105 Gravity Road, Lake Ariel. Weekly adoration of the Eucharistic Lord includes recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet during the 3 p.m. hour, evening prayers at 5:30 p.m., concluding with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. All faithful are welcome.

**Parish Fish Dinner** — **MARCH 8**, sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Montoursville; dinner served from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the church

hall. Menu includes baked fish, macaroni & cheese, cole slaw, stewed tomatoes, roll and dessert. Take-out meals available; dining area will be open for sit-down option. Cost: adults, \$14; children, \$6. Tickets available at the parish office.

**Lenten Fridays Food Fundraiser** — **MARCH 8-22**, sponsored by SS. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant; pre-orders required by 6 p.m. on Monday of each week. Pick-up for advance orders held each Lenten Friday between 2 and 6 p.m. Menu items: homemade halushki (cabbage & noodles), pagach, and pierogi (potato, cabbage and sauerkraut & cheese); two meatless soups featured each week, along with rice pudding and pizza. Every Wednesday and Friday during

*Continued on page 29*



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## 'Gorzkie Zale' Polish Lenten service planned for March 10

The parish community of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section of Hanover Township, invites all faithful to participate in a Polish Lenten prayer service on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 10.

The 12th annual presentation of "Gorzkie Zale" (Bitter Lamentations), a moving Lenten service more than 300 years old, will be held in the church beginning at 3 p.m. The devotion will conclude with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The service recounting the Passion of Jesus — from his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane to his redeeming death on the cross — will be led by Father Richard Cirba, host pastor, and Father James McGahagan.

Musical accompaniment will be provided by Dominick Costantino Jr. and the music ministry of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, assisted by singers throughout the Diocese.

Incorporating prose and verse, chant and reading, prayer and meditation, the inspirational devotion reflects on the mystery of Christian redemption.

The Lamentations highlight the emotional nature of Polish spirituality, inviting all to share in the Lord's Passion as seen through the eyes of his Blessed Mother.

The devotional service can be experienced by all through the use of bilingual booklets, with both Polish and English lyrics. A light social will follow the devotion.

Anyone wishing to participate in the choir may contact Mr. Costantino at (570) 706-6951. For more information, contact Barry Kaminski, (570) 899-5080.



# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

Continued from page 28

Lent, Lou's Concessions available from 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; featuring potato pancakes, deep fried pierogi, lobster bisque, fries, macaroni & cheese, and other specials. To place orders, call Jule (570) 357-6171, or Michaelene (570) 209-2026.

**Lenten Fridays Potato Pancake Sale** — **MARCH 8-22**, sponsored by St. Maria Goretti Parish, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin; sale of potato pancakes is take-out only on the Fridays of Lent, 3 to 6 p.m. Cost: three for \$5; six for \$10; and 12 for \$20. For more information, call (570) 407-0006.

**Lenten Fridays Pierogi Sale** — **MARCH 8-22**, sponsored by Nativity of the BVM Parish in Tunkhannock; sale of packaged homemade pierogi held each Friday during Lent from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost: \$8 per dozen.

**Lenten Friday Dinners** — **MARCH 8-22**, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council

12962 and hosted at the Church of the Resurrection in Muncy; sit-down and take-out meatless meals served from 4 to 7 p.m. in the church hall. Dinner features choice of two oven-fried entrees: beer-battered haddock or breaded butterfly shrimp; includes cole slaw, macaroni & cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, and white or chocolate cake. Cost: \$12 per person.

**Lenten Fridays Food Sale** — **MARCH 8-29**, hosted by St. John the Evangelist Parish, 35 William St., Pittston; held every Friday in March (including Good Friday) with order pick-up from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Monsignor Bendik Pastoral Center on Church Street. Sale items include potato pancakes (3 for \$5) and take-and-heat halushki (\$7/quart). March 22 & 29 only, nut and lekvar (prune) rolls from Kieran's Bakehouse, Plains, will be sold (\$7/half and \$14/whole). Orders required by Thursday of each week by calling

the parish office (570) 654-0053.

**Sunday Pierogi & Soup Sale** — **MARCH 10**, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Church, 1309 West Locus St., West Scranton; packages of homemade pierogi sold every weekend after the church's 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Cost: \$10 per dozen. Soups sold following the Sunday Mass include: shellfish bisque (\$15/quart); beef vegetable, Italian Wedding, pea soup, pasta fagioli & clam chowder (all \$8/quart.)

**Adult Faith Formation: "Symbolon Series — Living Out Faith in the Modern World"** — **MARCH 12 & 19**, hosted by St. Boniface Parish in Williamsport and St. Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport; Tuesday sessions held from 2 to 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence Parish Hall, 880 West Central Ave. All are welcome.

**Praise & Worship Gathering: "The Vigil Project-True Presence Night"** — **MARCH 13**, sponsored by the Williamsport Deanery of the Scranton Diocese; begins at 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church,

800 West Central Ave., South Williamsport. Service includes live music, dynamic speakers, and Eucharistic adoration; all are welcome.

Continued on page 30



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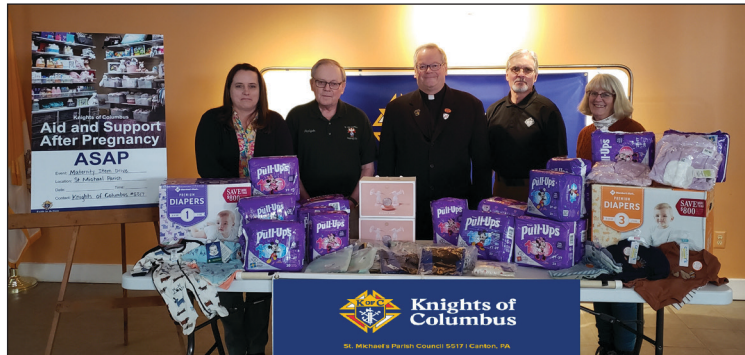
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## Canton Knights aid Pregnancy Care Center



Knights of Columbus JFK Council 5517 of Saint Michael Parish in Canton recently conducted a maternity item donation drive to benefit the Canton Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center. The collection effort, which resulted in the Knights donating \$625 worth of donated items to the pregnancy care center, was held in response to the national Knights of Columbus initiative called ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy). The maternity care donations by parishioners and friends of Saint Michael Parish will support the center's mission in serving women and their babies — both born and unborn. "We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the life-saving work to care for the most vulnerable," David Beahm, K of C Council Recorder and ASAP Chairman, said. "The Knights will continue to be there for mothers and their children, and we continue to proclaim the dignity of every human life."

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## Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

**Stations of the Cross: "Mental Health Meditations"** — **MARCH 15**, hosted by Visitation of the BVM Parish in Dickson City; begins at 6 p.m. in St. Mary of the Visitation Church, 1090 Carmalt St., Dickson City. Special presentation of Lenten Stations of the Cross offers meditations reflecting the sufferings of those enduring any type of mental illness and their families and loved ones. All are welcome.

**Meditative Music Series** — **MARCH 15**, hosted by St. John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston;

conclusion of Lenten Friday series, beginning at 4:45 p.m. in St. John Church, 35 William St. Series features area musicians performing Lenten seasonal music; March 15 performance: organ music by Michael Sowa. Friday program followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30 p.m. in the church.

**Lenten Food Sale** — **MARCH 15**, sponsored by the Queen of the Apostles Parish Social Concerns/Respect Life Ministry in Avoca; Friday pick up of advance orders available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. & 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sale items include: red or white clam chowder, \$10/quart; vodka sauce, \$10/quart; and halushki, \$7/quart. Pre-orders required; call Carol Wood (570) 457-8843, or Ruth Lee (570) 457-2111. Order deadline is Sunday, March 10.

**Lenten Friday Buffet Dinner** — **MARCH 15**, hosted by St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Pocono Pines; dinner served from 4 to 6 p.m. in the social hall of Our Lady of the Lake Church, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines (near the intersection of Routes 940 & 423). Menu offerings include garden salad, choice of two soups, and meatless entrees featuring fish, stuffed pasta shells, macaroni & cheese, halushki, baked ziti, veggie penne, pierogi casserole, spinach lasagna, Mexican casserole, penne w/vodka sauce, and steamed & roasted vegetables. Buffet also includes rolls, hot & cold beverages, and dessert table. Cost: \$12 per person; both dine-in and take-out service available. Reservations are not required. For more information, call the parish office at (570) 646-6424.

**Monthly Meeting of the Lay Carmelites** — **MARCH 16**, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Community on the third Saturday of each month; gatherings are held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph seminary/chapel, 1880 Highway

315, Laffin. For more information, contact Chris at (570) 239-8094.

**Multi-Cultural "Pot Luck" Dinner** — **MARCH 16**, hosted by St. Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg; held from 6 to 9 p.m. in the parish hall. Social gathering offers faith, fellowship, food and entertainment. All are welcome to attend and bring a covered-dish item. Music provided by DJ Anthony.

**St. Patrick's Day Dinner** — **MARCH 16**, hosted by St. Lawrence Parish in South Williamsport; held from 4 to 7 p.m. in the parish hall, 800 West Central Ave. Dinner features corned beef, ham & cabbage, potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, desserts and refreshments; patrons may provide their own beverages. Cost: adults, \$15; children (ages 12 & under), \$5. Tickets available at the door.

**Tenebrae Lenten Music Service** — **MARCH 17**, hosted by St. Boniface Parish in Williamsport; program begins at 4 p.m. in St. Boniface Church, 326 Washington Blvd., Williamsport. Meditative service includes reflections on the Lord's Passion, featuring the St. Boniface Choir. All are welcome.

**Annual Saint Joseph Day Breakfast** — **MARCH 17**, hosted by the Women's Society at St. Joseph Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 130 N. Saint Frances Cabrini Ave., West Scranton; breakfast served from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Menu includes eggs, buttermilk pancakes, home fries, olives, honey-baked ham, breads, juice & coffee/tea. Cost: adults, \$12; children (ages 6 to 10), \$6. Take-out orders cost \$10/\$6 each (no beverages). Traditional St. Joseph Bread available in two-loaf packages for \$5. Breakfast tickets available at the door. For information, contact the rectory office (570) 343-6092 or at melkite.scranton@gmail.com.

*Continued on page 31*

### Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



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# Catholic Happenings

**Ham Bingo — MARCH 17**, sponsored by St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge; games party begins at 1 p.m. in the church hall, 320 Vine St., Old Forge. Event includes various bingo specials, theme baskets, door prizes and bake sale. Kitchen opens at 11 a.m.; variety of food items and refreshments available for purchase. Admission: \$5.

**Charismatic Regional Prayer Meeting — MARCH 18**, sponsored by the Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal; begins at 7:30 p.m. in the church hall of Queen of the Apostles Parish, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca. Faith-sharing offered by Pastor Pat Colladay, with witness talk by Arthur “Boomer” Phillips Jr. Ted Mike and the combined music ministry will lead praise & worship. All are welcome; refreshments provided.

**Take-Out Lenten Food Sale — MARCH 22**, sponsored by Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Hanover Township, from 2 to 6 p.m. in the church hall; take-out menu items include pagach (with/without onions), halushki and Manhattan clam chowder. Orders required by March 11; visit [www.exhc.org](http://www.exhc.org) or call (570) 824-5941.

**Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale — MARCH 23 & 24**, sponsored by St. Ann Maronite Church, 1320 Price St., West Scranton; sale of homemade Lebanese pastries will be held following the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday and 10:30 a.m. Mass on Palm Sunday. Sale includes maamoul, baklava, sesame cookies and other cultural favorites.

**Parish Paschal Supper — MARCH 24**, sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish in Mocanaqua; traditional Paschal meal will be hosted at St. Martha Church, 260 Bonnieville Road, Fairmount Springs, beginning at 5 p.m.

Symbolic dishes to be served include roasted lamb, rice, vegetables and unleavened bread; event also includes Scripture readings, prayers and songs focusing on the Christian significance of the Jewish Passover. Suggested donation: \$10. Advance reservations required by March 17 by contacting Janet Romano (570) 864-2494, or Rebecca Micca (570) 256-7329.

**Tuesday Novena Devotions to Saint Anthony of Padua — MARCH 26-JUNE 11**, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; Saint Anthony Novena devotion offered for 13 weeks on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: “The Holy Eucharist & Real Presence of Christ: Miracles of All Miracles.” Novena services include blessing with the Saint Anthony relic. All faithful are welcome; for more information, call (570) 824-7832.

**Mental Health Film Presentation — APRIL 3**, sponsored by the mental health support group at Visitation of the BVM Parish in Dickson City; begins at 6:30 p.m. in the parish rectory (1090 Carmal St. entrance). Presentation offered to provide support for family members/caregivers of those struggling with mental illness. All are welcome.

**“Festival of Praise” Worship Gathering — APRIL 4**, hosted by the Scranton Diocesan Offices of Vocations and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal; begins at 6 p.m. at St. Maria Goretti Church, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin. Event is open to all young adults seeking a deeper experience of praise & worship; includes Eucharistic adoration, music by Joel Kankiewicz and the CCR Music Ministry, sacrament of reconciliation, and light refreshments. For more information, contact [kkrzywicki@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:kkrzywicki@dioceseofscranton.org).



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