



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

March 14, 2024

**Bishop Bambera to celebrate Chrism
Mass on March 26 in Scranton**



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.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the annual Chrism Mass on March 26, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The Chrism Mass is one of the most solemn and important diocesan celebrations of the liturgical year and all parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend.

Priests serving across the Diocese of Scranton concelebrate this Mass, during which they also renew their commitment to priestly service.

Oils that will be used in all parishes in the coming year are presented for the Bishop's blessing. These include the oil for the sick, used in anointing the sick; the oil for catechumens, used during baptism; and the oil for the sacred chrism, which is the primary anointing oil. It is used in the sacraments of initiation and holy orders as well as special acts of dedication.

For those unable to attend the Mass in person, CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the celebration live at 4:00 p.m. Livestream links will also be made available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

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

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

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

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.

[Click Here for an Updated List of Parishes Participating in the 'Get Up and Pray' Initiative](#)

**Saint Clare/Saint Paul Boy's Basketball
Team to represent Diocese of Scranton in
State CYO Tournament this weekend**



On Thursday, March 14, 2024, the St. Clare/St. Paul School community in Scranton gathered for a pep rally and send-off for its boy's basketball program.

The team will represent the Diocese of Scranton in this weekend's CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) State Tournament in Erie. The St. Clare/St. Paul boys will play a team from the Diocese of Allentown in the first round of competition on Friday at 5 p.m.

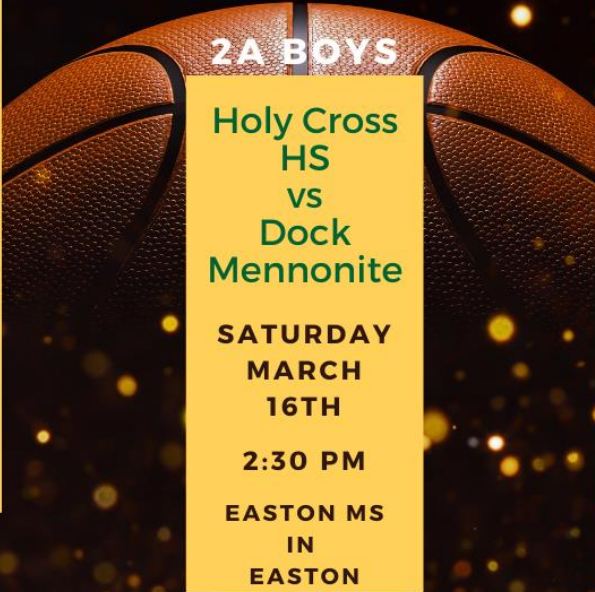
Click the thumbnail above to watch a two-minute video from the pep rally.

Last week, the Lady Falcons from Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green represented the Diocese of Scranton in the girl's basketball tournament and we are proud to say that they finished third in the competition.

Our Diocesan Catholic Schools also have a number of PIAA basketball teams still alive in their championship quests. The schedule for those games is listed below. For anyone who would like to support our local teams, tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the link below. No tickets will be sold at the door.

In addition to the following games, we are also proud to announce that Holy Cross High School senior Luke Healey is competing in the PIAA State Swimming Championship at Bucknell University in Lewisburg this week.

Good luck to all our local athletes!



THE ELITE 8
PIAA STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

1A GIRLS	2A BOYS	3A GIRLS
St. John Neumann vs Mountain View	Holy Cross HS vs Dock Mennonite	Holy Redeemer vs Loyalsock Twp
SATURDAY MARCH 16TH	SATURDAY MARCH 16TH	FRIDAY MARCH 15TH
1 PM	2:30 PM	7:30 PM
HAZELTON HS IN HAZELTON	EASTON MS IN EASTON	HAZELTON HS IN HAZELTON

[Click Here to Purchase Tickets for the Upcoming Boys/Girls PIAA Basketball Games Online](#)

Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen honors longtime
Advisory Board leader



The Advisory Board of St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre recently presented Dr. Dave Shemo, outgoing advisory board president, with a plaque of appreciation for his 15 years of service as President of the Advisory Board.

Dr. Shemo was also presented with a miniature statue of St. Vincent de Paul and a gift card to Friedman Hospitality restaurants.

Following his tenure as Advisory Board President, Dr. Shemo will remain a member of the Advisory Board.

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

**Pop-Up Party in celebration of Rectory, Set,
Cook! III planned for March 20**



RECTORY, SET, COOK! 2024
HAPPY JOE DAY!
HAPPY SPRING!

THAT'S (ALMOST!) A WRAP
POP-UP PARTY & RAFFLE PULL
PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ...

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY (JUST A DAY LATE),
 BREAKER BREWING'S ST. JOSEPH'S MONASTERY HISTORY,
 AND THE START OF SPRING WHILE WE RALLY TO BRING
RECTORY, SET, COOK! 2024 TO ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION YET!
 HELP FINISH OFF OUR 40 DAYS BEW + WIN ONE OF OUR 16 FOODIE-THEMED BASKETS!
 (RAFFLE TICKETS SOLD ON SITE UNTIL 6:30 P.M. MARCH 20!)

WHEN: 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20
WHERE: Breaker Brewing Company, 787 E. Northampton St., Wilkes-Barre Township
COST: \$20. Includes one draft beer plus a food buffet featuring:
 red + white/spinach pizza (in honor of St. Joseph's Day's Italian roots and the first greens of spring!),
 haluski (a salute to St. Joseph's Day's Polish traditions and a NEPA Lenten staple), veggies and dip,
 meat & cracker trays & a festive St. Joseph's Day dessert selection sponsored by
 our friends at **MURT'S DESSERTS IN NANTICOKE**
 and our pastor chef team of Fr. Gerald Gurka and cookie connoisseur Ed Koons!

For your entertainment, enjoy an interactive singalong featuring both the musical stylings of
 our pastor chefs, including Fr. Brian Van Fossen (who croons even better than he cooks!), and the
REEL IN THE YEARS TRIO featuring
Sugar Ray Nemetz, Richie Kossuth (of Daddy-O & The Sax Maniax and Flaxy Morgan fame)
 and **Brandon John (a Rectory, Set, Cook! alum with a gospel music background.)**




Help fight hunger
 and homelessness
 and buy your tickets here!



As of today, Rectory, Set, Cook! III has crossed the \$150,000 mark for donations to help fund anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives of Catholic Social Services.

With roughly two weeks left in the campaign, you are invited to join us in celebrating this year's campaign!


On Wednesday, March 20, everyone is invited to a "Pop-Up Party" at Breaker Brewing Company in Wilkes-Barre Township from 5-7 p.m.

During the event, we will hopefully finish off our "40 Days" beer which was brewed especially for Rectory, Set, Cook!, and announce the winners of 16 raffle baskets that have been on display at Breaker Brewing for the last several weeks.

A \$20 donation includes one draft beer, entertainment and a food buffet. Advance ticket sales are available now by clicking on the link below.

[Click Here for More Information or to Purchase Tickets for the "Pop-Up Party" on March 20](#)

Final Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera to take place in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton next week




DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

LENTEN HOLY HOUR

with **Bishop Bambera**

**Monday, March 18
at 7:00 P.M.**

**Our Lady of Hope Parish
40 Park Avenue
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702**

 **NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival**



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
SCRANTON DEANERY

LENTEN HOLY HOUR

with Bishop Bambera

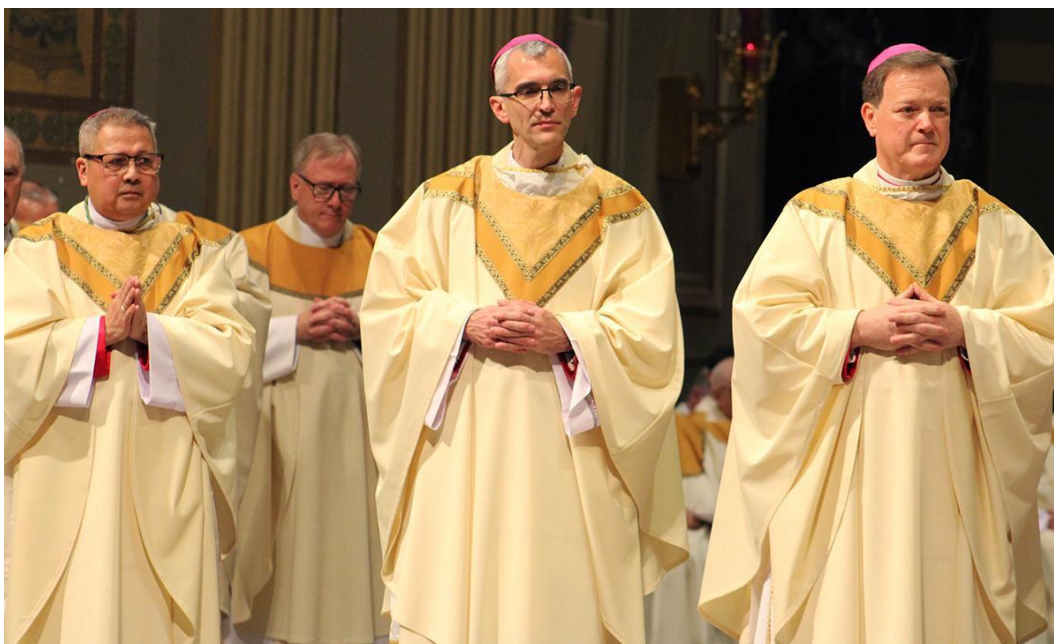
**Wednesday, March 20
at 7:00 P.M.**

St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish
1217 Prospect Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

New Auxiliary Bishops give a 'great sign of hope and joy,' says Philly archbishop



Three Philadelphia priests have been made auxiliary bishops of their archdiocese, providing “a great sign of hope and of joy” as they “walk in the midst of the people” on the journey to eternal life in Jesus Christ, said their archbishop.

Bishop Keith J. Chylinski, Bishop Christopher R. Cooke and Bishop Efren V. Esmilla were ordained as auxiliary bishops by Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez of Philadelphia during a March 7 Mass at that city’s Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, and Auxiliary Bishop John J. McIntyre of Philadelphia served as concelebrants and co-ordaining bishops.

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

The church and the world need women's contributions, Pope Francis says



The Catholic Church and the world itself need the gifts and contributions of women, especially in bringing people together and overcoming tensions and violence, Pope Francis wrote.

“Ours is a time seared by hatred, in which our human family, which needs to feel the power of love, is instead frequently scarred by violence, war and ideologies that stifle the noblest feelings of the human heart,” he wrote. “Precisely in this context, the contribution of women is more necessary than ever.”

Pope Francis prepared his text for an audience with people participating in a March 7-8 conference, “Women in the Church: Builders of Humanity.” While the pope met participants in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican March 7, he had an aide read his speech.

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

Pope: Church must stop protecting abusers 'who hide behind their position'



The work of protecting minors and other vulnerable people in the Catholic Church involves holding those in positions of power accountable for the abuse they commit, Pope Francis said.

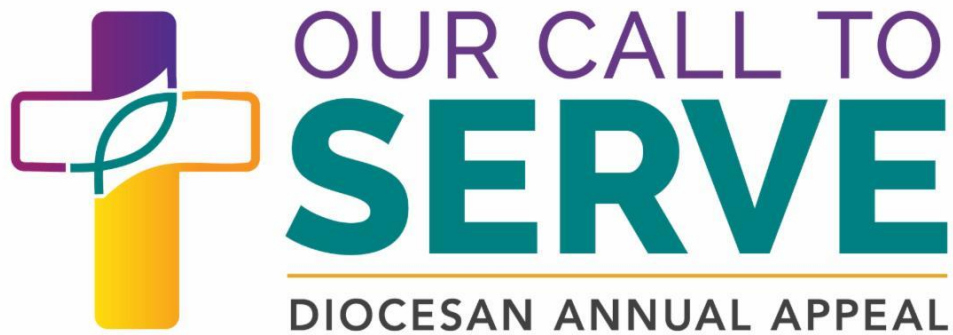
The church's safeguarding efforts "must undoubtedly aim at eradicating situations that protect those who hide behind their positions to impose themselves on others in a perverse way," the pope wrote in a message to participants in a safeguarding conference.

In the message, released March 12, he also said the church must try to understand why such people are "unable to relate to others in a healthy way."

The papal message was sent to a three-day conference in Panama City organized by the Research and Formation Center for the Protection of Minors, also known as CEPROME Latin America.

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

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



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.

The Saint Paul Parish food pantry is one of dozens of parish projects that benefit from donations to the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

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.

[Click Here to Give a Gift to the Diocesan Annual Appeal Now!](#)

Follow Us



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