



# *The Catholic Light*

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**March 21, 2024**

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**Catholic Television to provide  
coverage of numerous liturgies for  
Holy Week & Paschal Triduum**

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

BROADCASTS ON CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' actions, reflecting on his messages and recommitting to living as his disciples in the world today.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Saturday, March 23 - Vigil Mass

5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday

12:15 p.m. Pontifical Palm Sunday Mass

Tuesday, March 26 - Chrism Mass

4:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 28 - Holy Thursday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

5:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

9:00 p.m. Night Prayer

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

12:10 p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday, March 30 - Holy Saturday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:00 p.m. Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Pontifical Easter Mass



The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Paschal Triduum - from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil.

The liturgical services that take place during the Triduum are:

- Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
- Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will provide extensive coverage of the liturgical services taking place at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will begin Holy Week services on Sunday, March 24 at 12:15 p.m. by celebrating Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The annual Chrism Mass will take place 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.

During the Triduum, Morning Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter will also be broadcast at 8 a.m. each day.

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

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
VOICATIONS 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](#)

**Please contact your State Representative  
and urge them to oppose House Bill 2063**



A State Representative from Montgomery County has introduced legislation (HB 2063) that would end the EITC & OSTC programs as we know them.

Representative Ciresi's bill can only be regarded as a significant attack on the freedom of parental choice in education in Pennsylvania.

WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO:

- Cut family income limits for students participating to 200% of the federal poverty level (This would cut the current family EITC & OSTC eligibility in half).
- Eliminate support level factors for families with students with a disability.
- Impose new reporting requirements on scholarship organizations to report data on every student given a scholarship, and for every applicant who was "denied."
- Impose new reporting requirements on schools—affecting every nonpublic school in the state.
- Give the state carte blanche to impose new reporting requirements without legislative approval.

These changes would have a devastating impact on Catholic Schools throughout Pennsylvania. We are asking anyone who supports Catholic education to contact your state lawmakers using the "Voter Voice" link provided below.

[Click Here to Send a "Voter Voice" Message to Your State Representative Opposing House Bill 2063](#)

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Family, community, are key to overcoming  
secularism, pope says





Faced with decades of rising secularism, the Catholic Church must invest in families and in strengthening other forms of community to transmit the faith, Pope Francis said.

“The big issue before us is to understand how to overcome the rupture that has been established in the transmission of faith,” the pope told members of the Dicastery for Evangelization’s section for new evangelization March 15. “To that end there is an urgent need to recover an effective relationship with families and formation centers.”

Developing faith in Christ “requires a meaningful experience lived in the family and in the Christian community as a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ in order to be transmitted,” he wrote in his message to members of the dicastery during their plenary assembly. “Without this real and existential encounter, one will always be subject to the temptation to make faith a theory and not a testimony of life.”

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

**Rectory, Set, Cook! III continues until Tuesday**

# A NOVEL WAY TO GIVE ALMS THIS LENT!



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

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

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

PRESENTED BY:

  
HawkFamily  
FOUNDATION



With five days to go, Rector, Set, Cook! III is approaching the \$180,000 mark in donations from more than 2,000 people.

We are thankful for everyone's generosity and support of our pastor chefs so far.

The friendly, culinary competition will end on Tuesday, March 26 at 5 p.m. - so make sure to watch all of the videos and vote for your favorite. Fifty percent of all voting dollars will go towards anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives and the remaining fifty percent will benefit the parish of the pastor chef.

[Click Here to Watch all of the Rector, Set, Cook! Videos](#)



## Five U.S. priests tapped to share pastoral insights for the Synod on Synodality



Early morning phone calls aren't unusual for Father Joseph Friend – a busy pastoral administrator of three parishes in the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas – but a recent ring at 7 a.m. left him “100% blown away.”

On the line was Bishop Anthony B. Taylor of Little Rock, who advised Father Friend to get ready to head to Rome at the request of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“I kind of laughed, because I was like, ‘Oh, yeah, Bishop — they want Father Joe to go to Rome,’” Father Friend told OSV News. “And he didn't laugh back.”

Instead, Bishop Taylor simply said, “I'm not joking.”

As it turned out, Father Friend was among five U.S. priests tapped to share their experiences of parish life with the ongoing Synod of Bishops on synodality.

The group — selected by the USCCB as part of a 300-member worldwide delegation — will also speak with Pope Francis during the April 28-May 2 meeting.

The U.S. priests, who were chosen by synod leaders, had all been involved locally in their synod processes, with some participating as well in the national and continental phases of the synod, Julia McStravog, a theologian and co-coordinator of the North American team for the synod's continental phase, told OSV News.

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

## Papal envoy asks prayers for peace, solidarity with victims of war



Pope Francis' envoy for peace in Ukraine asked his fellow bishops and all Catholics in Italy to continue their prayers for peace in Ukraine and in the Holy Land, but also to make those prayers concrete through acts of solidarity.

For example, Italian dioceses should expand summer camp programs to welcome Ukrainian children “who are orphans or victims — and they all are — of the catastrophe that is war,” said Cardinal Matteo Zuppi of Bologna, president of the Italian bishops’ conference and the pope’s envoy for Ukraine.

Addressing the conference’s permanent council March 18, the cardinal also encouraged the bishops to promote the full participation of their dioceses in the annual Good Friday collection for Christians in the Holy Land.

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

## U.S. Bishops urge prayer as high court poised to hear cases on pill used in abortion



As the Supreme Court prepares to take up two cases on access to pills commonly used for early abortions, U.S. Catholic bishops have issued a

nationwide call to prayer to end abortion and protect women and unborn children.

The invitation was issued March 14 by Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for Military Services, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The prayer campaign, which seeks the intercession of St. Joseph as the "Defender of Life," begins March 25, the day before the Supreme Court hears oral arguments for Food and Drug Administration v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine and Danco Laboratories v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine. Both cases center on the drug mifepristone and its widespread availability.

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

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**Texas Catholics plan march, vigil against  
'dehumanizing' migration laws, policies**





Texas Catholic and community groups are holding an event in El Paso called “Do Not Be Afraid: March and Vigil for Human Dignity” the evening of March 21 in the wake of what organizers called “dehumanizing laws and policies” toward migrants in the Lone Star State.

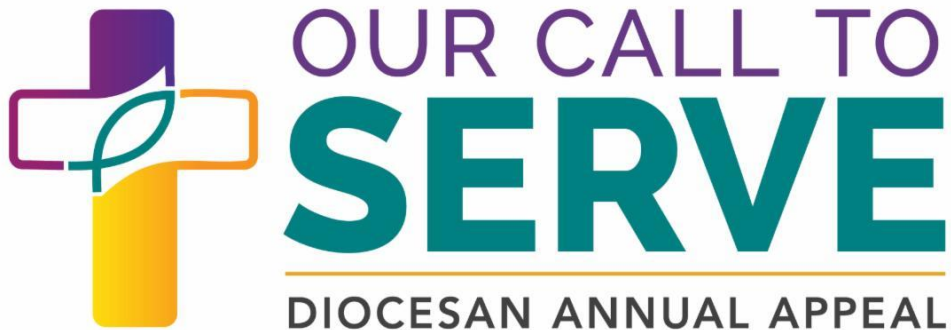
Organizers called the event “a decisive moment of community resistance and prayer” in response to the passage of Senate Bill 4, a controversial law that makes it a state crime for unauthorized migrants to cross into Texas from Mexico; Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s lawsuit seeking to shut down Annunciation House, a Catholic nonprofit serving migrants; and the first anniversary of a fire that killed 40 people in immigration detention across the border from El Paso in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, and injured about two dozen others.

The event, organizers said, is intended to “affirm our welcoming borderland identity, protect our freedom to put faith into action, lift up the rights and dignity of those who migrate, defend our humanitarian workers, (and) commemorate those dying at the border.”

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



## 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!](#)

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