



Weekly E-Newsletter March 7, 2024

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

Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light

Monsignor Shane Kirby receives new appointment from Pope Francis



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.

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.

Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light

Becoming co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord

Bishop Bambera celebrates commissioning of several Lay Ministry Formation Program participants



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. Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light

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



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.

Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light

Parishioners describe Lenten Holy Hours as 'beautiful' and 'inspiring'



A Lenten Holy Hour was held on Feb. 29, 2024, at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in 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.

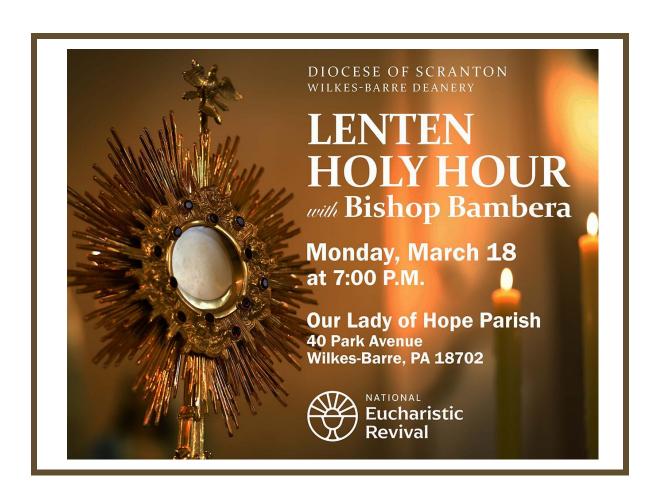
"It is such a special occasion to have the Bishop with us and to have him here in our little town. He helps to strengthen our bond with Jesus," she added. "He's an inspiration and a reminder that we all play a small part in our one Holy Catholic Apostolic Church."

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."

Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light

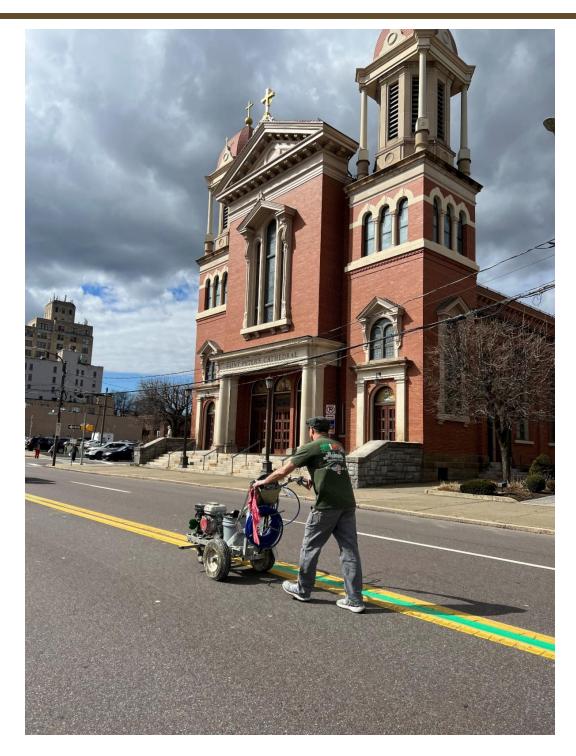






Click Here for a Full Listing of Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera

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



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.

Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light

Oblates hosting annual Saint Joseph Novena, Feast Day celebration



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.

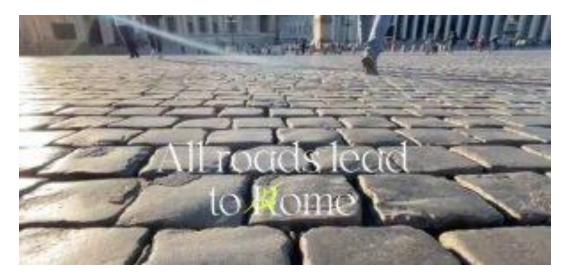
Following all Masses, Novena devotions to Saint Joseph will be prayed, followed by the individual blessing with the relic of Saint Joseph Marello, founder of the Saint Joseph Oblates congregation.

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.

Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light

Vatican aims to draw young 'digital pilgrims' to Rome's Papal Basilicas



The Vatican is seeking to draw pilgrims to the four historic papal basilicas scattered around Rome – not physically, but virtually, through a website

and podcast aimed at drawing young people into the spiritual depth of Rome's sacred spaces.

The website – basilicas.vatican.va – was launched by the Vatican Feb. 22. It features a virtual "table" at which animated saints and artists are seated with descriptions of who they are and their significance for the holy spaces highlighted on the site. An empty chair is also present to invite each "digital pilgrim" to sit at the table with them and visit the four papal basilicas.

Rome's four papal basilicas are St. Peter's Basilica, the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls and the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran; they are the most highly ranked churches in the Catholic Church and each possess a holy door that is opened during Holy Years, typically every 25 years.

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!

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