



# *The Catholic Light*

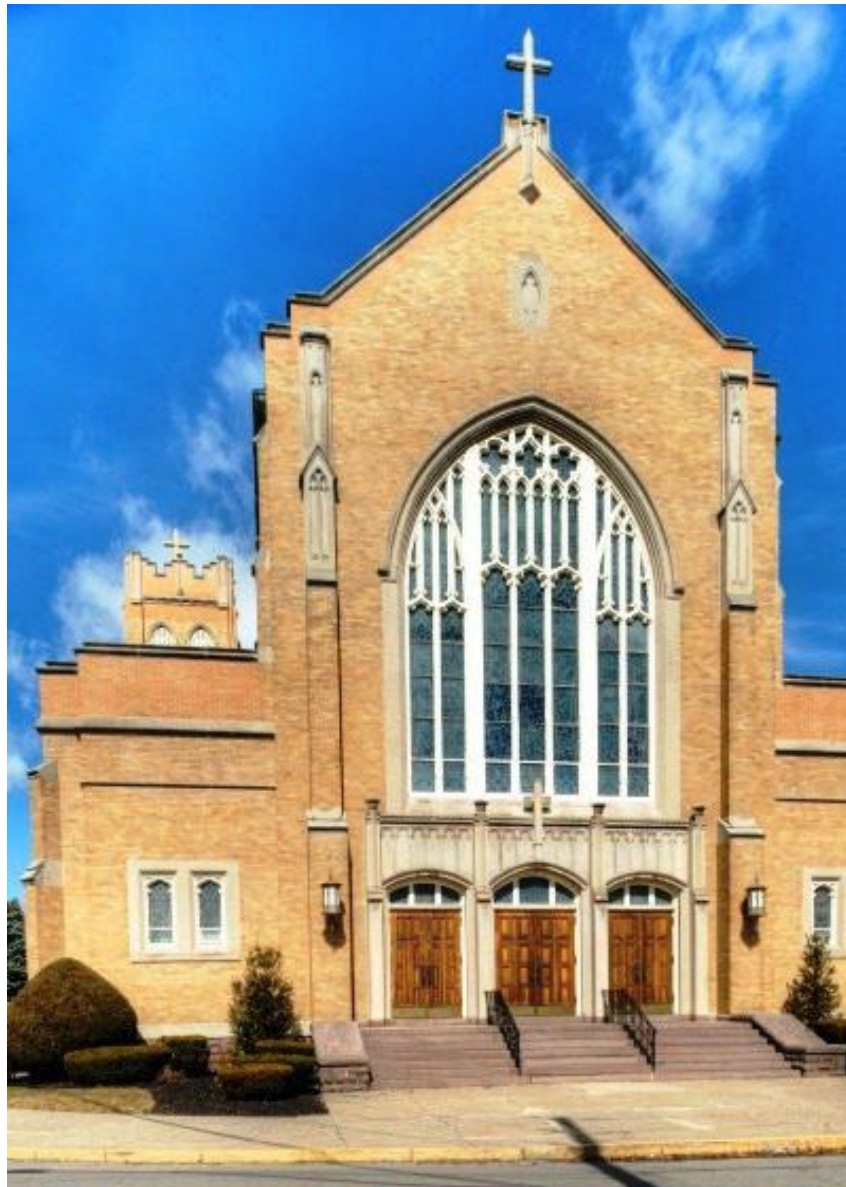
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**April 11, 2024**

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**Saint Aloysius Church in Wilkes-Barre to celebrate 125th anniversary with Mass on April 28**



The faithful of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish will come together later this month to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Saint Aloysius Church.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for the 125th anniversary at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 28, 2024. All are invited to attend this special liturgy.

A special 125th anniversary dinner at R & D Memories will follow the Mass.

“It is really a milestone,” Father Richard Cirba, pastor, said. “What we are celebrating is the past, the present, and the hope for the future.”

In order to prepare for the special celebration, the parish hired Robert A. Ritterbeck Painting, Inc., to paint the sanctuary area of the church. Workers recently completed the work just in time for the anniversary celebration.

“Right now, we’re brightening up the sanctuary area of the church behind the altar,” Father Cirba said. “We have a Lenten drive going on to help defray the cost of the painting.”

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## Two Scranton parishes to focus on Youth & Young Adult Ministry



As more young professionals move into downtown Scranton, Father Jeffrey Tudgay, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter, wants to ensure faith formation and service opportunities are available to them.

At the same time, he is also hoping to engage more high school students at the second parish he shepherds, Immaculate Conception, in the city's Hill Section.

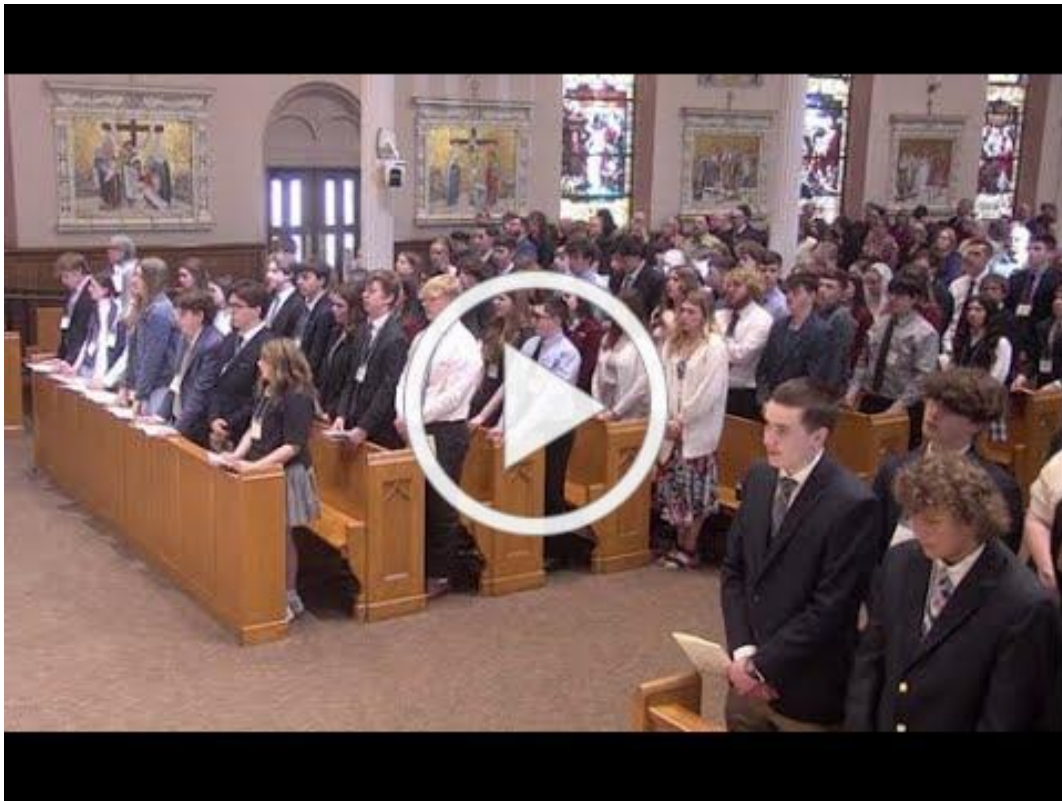
To accomplish both tasks – Father Tudgay recently hired a new part-time Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry that will serve both parishes. Kyra Krzywicki has been selected to take on this new role.

“I’m very excited because there is a diverse group of people at these two parishes. The Cathedral has a lot of visitors and tourists who are looking at the Cathedral’s beauty, in addition to parishioners who have been there for years and there are a lot of new families,” Krzywicki said. “At Immaculate Conception, there are a lot of families in the religious education program who are hungry for more and are eager to dive deeper into their faith.”

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## **First of two Masses to honor Bishop's Youth Award recipients held at Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton**



On Sunday, April 7, 2024, the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton was filled with nearly 200 young people from the Western and Southern regions of the Diocese of Scranton. They were all invited to the Cathedral to receive the Bishop's Youth Award this year.

The Bishop's Youth Awards, a time-honored tradition in the Diocese of Scranton since 1996, celebrates current 8th and 12th grade youth who embody the spirit of the early Church who "devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles and the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42, NABRE).

Candidates in parishes located in the Northern and Eastern Regions will be honored at a Mass this coming Sunday, April 14, at 2:30 p.m.

For family and friends of the award recipients, especially those that might live out of town, CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast both Masses live. A livestream will also be made available on the Diocese of Scranton website with links provided on all Diocesan social media channels.

Click the link above to see highlights from the April 7 Mass.



## Music and prayer highlighted 'Festival of Praise' in Laflin



The *Diocese of Scranton Vocations* Office and the *Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Scranton Diocese* held a 'Festival of Praise' last Thursday, April 4, at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin.

From Eucharistic Adoration to music and an inspiring talk, people were invited to reflect on the goodness of God, the power of discerning His will for their lives and his everlasting love.

Click on the link above to watch a video from the Festival of Praise event.

## Increased stewardship efforts allow Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish to create new ministries



Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish has always been active in its community, but within the last year, several new ministry efforts have been launched because of the generosity of parishioners.

Due to the success of the parish's "We Accomplish Great Things Together" initiative in 2023, the Luzerne County parish community has started distributing food to the community, launched a cancer ministry, and increased adult faith formation opportunities.

"It really is inspirational to be able to witness the outpouring of giving of the people," Father Richard Cirba, Pastor of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, said. "Both young and old. They value the ministry, and they value the mission. You can't have one without the other."

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known as the Roman Curia, which grants the use of indulgences “as expressions of divine mercy,” the statement said. Both decrees were approved by Pope Francis.

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## 'We share their pain': Archbishop Perez on mass shooting at Philadelphia Islamic celebration



Philadelphia’s archbishop has called for prayer following a mass shooting at an outdoor gathering in that city marking an Islamic holiday.

Three people were struck by gunfire April 10 as some 1,000 were on hand at a park in West Philadelphia to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, which concludes the Islamic month of fasting known as Ramadan. The shots sent attendees – which included a number of families with young children – running in all directions, with one girl struck by a police car as she fled.

According to Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel, the child's leg was fractured. There were no fatalities.

One of those shot was a 15-year-old armed male whom Bethel said had been wounded in the shoulder and leg after being engaged by police. The teen — now under arrest along with four adults, including one female — has been taken to the hospital. Five guns have been recovered.

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## Vatican says abortion, surrogacy, war, poverty are attacks on human dignity



Being a Christian means defending human dignity and that includes opposing abortion, the death penalty, gender transition surgery, war, sexual abuse and human trafficking, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith said in a new document.

“We cannot separate faith from the defense of human dignity, evangelization from the promotion of a dignified life and spirituality from a commitment to the dignity of every human being,” Cardinal Víctor

Manuel Fernández, dicastery prefect, wrote in the document’s opening section.

The declaration, “Dignitas Infinita” (“Infinite Dignity”), was released at the Vatican April 8.

In the opening section, Cardinal Fernández confirmed reports that a declaration on human dignity and bioethical issues — like abortion, euthanasia and surrogacy — was approved by members of the dicastery in mid-2023 but Pope Francis asked the dicastery to make additions to “highlight topics closely connected to the theme of dignity, such as poverty, the situation of migrants, violence against women, human trafficking, war and other themes.”

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**'Caitlin Clark has the world by her fingertips': Iowa Hawkeyes basketball superstar supported by Catholic faith, family**



Wearing scrubs en route to the hospital to begin her day, a health care specialist was asked how much she knew about Caitlin Clark, the University of Iowa basketball superstar who has led her Hawkeye teammates — and by extension, all of “Hawkeye Nation” — to almost unprecedented acclaim in women’s basketball.

Not akin to assessing athletes and their acumen, she quickly and succinctly summarized Clark’s entrenchment in women’s basketball.

“That basketball that she dribbles and shoots and passes serves as a great metaphor for Caitlin Clark,” said the nurse. “The basketball is round, just like the world. And right now, Caitlin Clark has the world by her fingertips.”

That Clark has managed to permeate both the zealous and casual sports fan provides a testament to the level of her national impact at the young age of 22.

At this point, it’s an arduous task to cover new ground when it comes to Clark, a lifelong and reportedly devoted Catholic who attended St. Francis of Assisi parochial school in West Des Moines, Iowa, from kindergarten through eighth grade, and then spent four years at nearby Dowling Catholic High School.



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