



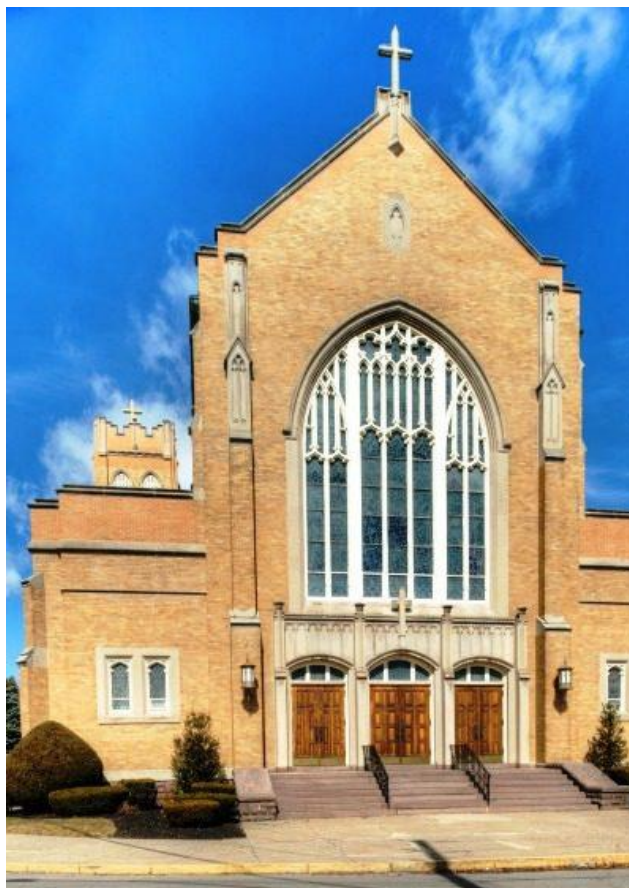
# *The Catholic Light*

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**April 25, 2024**

**Saint Aloysius Church in Wilkes-Barre to celebrate 125th anniversary this weekend**



The faithful of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish will come together this weekend to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Saint Aloysius Church in Wilkes-Barre.

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. Work was recently completed just in time for the anniversary celebration.

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

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Scouts honored with *Pope Pius XXII* and *Ad Altare Dei* awards at Diocesan Mass



At the Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, on April 20, 2024, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, recognized several local scouts for their hard work and dedication to the community.

The Bishop presented the *Pope Pius XXII* award to three young men: Robert Franckiewicz of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish, Wilkes-Barre; Brendan Kane of Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin; and John Redington of Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas.

The *Pope Pius XXII* emblem reflects the ideal of the youth's growing awareness of the Word of God as well as his place in the world.

At the same Mass, Bishop Bambera also presented the *Ad Altare Dei* award to seven scouts: Thomas Cain of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Jermyn; Daniel Dempsey of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville; Ryan Fagan, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop; Samuel Stiles of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville; Joseph Sandrowicz of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Throop; Ethan Stangline of Saint Katherine Drexel Parish, Pleasant Mount; and Zachary Schultz of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville.

Click on the link above to watch a brief video of the awards presentation at the end of Mass.

[Click Here for a Photo Album of the Mass on the Diocese of Scranton Facebook Page](#)

## **World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass celebrated in Wilkes-Barre**



Saint Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre hosted a special celebration on Sunday, April 21, in honor of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and was joined by Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Vocations Director, and Father Fidel Ticona, Assistant Pastor of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

Hundreds of people attended the Mass - to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

Click the link above to watch a short video from the Mass held for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

[Click Here to See a Photo Album from the World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mass on the Diocese of Scranton Facebook Page](#)

## Several Catholic school students win awards for The University of Scranton's Earth Day essay contest



Students from several Catholic Schools won awards at The University of Scranton's Earth Day Essay Contest – with a theme inspired by the Pope's call to care for the environment.

Three-hundred and fifty students in grades five to 12 participated in The University of Scranton Earth Day Essay Contest this year, which set a record for participation in the annual competition. Awards were announced at the University's Evening of Environmental Science Event on campus earlier this month.

The first-place winner of the fifth-grade essay contest was Collin Sickles, from St. Claire/St. Paul's Elementary School. Aubrey Mace, from Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School and Sophia Norton, from St. Clair/St. Paul tied for second place. Isabella Muso and Taylor Ebersole from All Saints Academy won third place medals.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light and Find Out the Winners for Grades 6-12](#)

## Catholic Home Missions Appeal April 27-28 supports U.S. Mission Diocese, Parishes



Donations to the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal “make a real impact on real people” by supporting pastoral ministry in U.S. mission

territory and strengthening the church overall, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions.

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri, said that as subcommittee chair and as the shepherd of a mission diocese himself, he can attest that parishes and dioceses in mission territory "are places where ministry is marked by the deep commitment of parishioners and the clergy who serve them."

"Many often travel many miles through mountains and deserts or arctic terrain to preside or participate at Mass and serve each other and their communities," the bishop said in a column provided to OSV News. "These Catholics give sacrificially to support their parishes and essential ministries. They are deeply grateful and humbled by your prayers and generous support of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal."

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

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**Passions flare as Supreme Court hears case with major impact on homelessness policy**



The Supreme Court on April 22 heard a case concerning the constitutionality of local laws that ban public camping and their impact on people who are homeless.

The case concerns an ordinance adopted by Grants Pass, Oregon, prohibiting public camping within city limits. The city claimed the ordinance prohibiting public camping – which it defined as sleeping outside and using materials including blankets – applies to everyone, but challengers argued the ordinance criminalized homelessness, violating the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

The case, *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson*, is the most significant case concerning homelessness to reach the high court in decades.

During oral arguments lasting more than two hours, justices and lawyers grappled with the balance between the civil rights of individuals experiencing homelessness and city officials seeking to regulate public spaces.

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



## Pope calls for peace in Gaza and Ukraine, laments plight of children in war in CBS interview



Pope Francis sat down exclusively with “CBS Evening News” anchor Norah O’Donnell on April 24 for an interview ahead of the Vatican’s inaugural “World Children’s Day.” The CBS interview marks the first time a pope has given an in-depth, one-on-one interview to a U.S. broadcast network, according to the network.

In the brief portion of the interview that aired April 24, topics ranged from the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine and the plight of children in these areas to climate change and the decline in the number of U.S. Catholics.

O’Donnell asked Pope Francis about “pictures of starving children coming out of Gaza” and what he thought of those that “call that a genocide.”

The pope replied that he calls a Catholic parish of about 600 people in Gaza every afternoon, where he hears that the situation is “very hard” as “food goes in, but they have to fight for it. It’s very hard.”

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

## Jesus laid down his life out of love for each person, Pope Francis says



When Jesus called himself the “good shepherd,” he was telling people not only that he was their guide, but that they were important to him and “that he thinks of each of us as the love of his life,” Pope Francis said.

“Consider this: for Christ, I am important, he thinks of me, I am irreplaceable, worth the infinite price of his life,” which he laid down for the salvation of all, the pope said April 21 before reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer with visitors in St. Peter’s Square.

Jesus was not just saying something nice, the pope said. Each believer should recognize that “he truly gave his life for me; he died and rose again for me. Why? Because he loves me, and he finds in me a beauty that I often do not see myself.”

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

**National Eucharistic Congress promises  
'profound impact' for families, says  
Family Life Director**



**NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Revival**

Catholics will come to Indianapolis in the tens of thousands for the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21 — some as individuals, some as couples, some as groups.

And some will come as families.

“The church is a family of families,” said Gabriela Ross, director of the Indianapolis Archdiocese’s Office of Marriage and Family Life. “It just makes sense for them to be here for the congress!”

Ross serves on the NEC planning team for the congress’s family track.

“We’ve tried to think of everything to make attending the National Eucharistic Congress as easy as possible for families,” she said, including offering free admission for children ages 12 and younger traveling with their family.

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