



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

April 4, 2024

**Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse
to be held April 11**

HEALING MASS FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

Celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera



**Thursday, April 11 at 12:10 P.M.
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton**

**Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television and livestream on the
Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube Channel and social media platforms**

The month of April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is a time to recognize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The month of April gives us all a chance to recommit ourselves to creating safe environments in our parishes, schools and related institutions.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the Diocese of Scranton's annual "Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse" on Thursday, April 11, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

For those unable to attend in person, the Mass will be broadcast live on Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. A livestream will also be available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and links on Diocesan social media.

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

Parishes planning special devotions in honor of
Divine Mercy Sunday



Several parishes in the Diocese of Scranton will hold special devotions this coming weekend in honor of Divine Mercy Sunday, which falls on April 7.

Coinciding with the canonization of Saint Faustina Kowalska on April 30, 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II officially designated the Second Sunday of Easter as the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

The Divine Mercy Sunday devotion has its foundation in the mystical writings of Saint Faustina, based on the divine apparitions and revelations she received from the Lord Jesus in the 1930s in Poland.

During the spiritual encounters, Christ declared through the Polish nun the necessity for all of humankind to seek and receive his Divine Mercy, which was poured out for the entire world through his death on the cross.

Since the papal proclamation of Divine Mercy Sunday in 2000, Catholic faithful are strongly encouraged to join together in prayer and adoration on the Sunday following Easter Sunday to implore God's mercy for themselves and the whole world.

[Click Here for Information on Divine Mercy Celebrations at Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton, and Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca](#)

**Hundreds of young adults to receive the
'Bishop's Youth Award' during two
upcoming Masses**



*2024 BISHOP'S YOUTH
AWARDS MASSES*

*BROADCAST ON CTV ON:
SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2:30 P.M.
&
SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2:30 P.M.*

It is with great pleasure that we announce that two Masses will be held this month to award the 2024 Bishop's Youth Awards.

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).

This year, students in parishes located in the Southern and Western Regions will be honored at a Mass on Sunday, April 7, at 2:30 p.m.

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

Both Bishop's Youth Award Masses will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, located at 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

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 Here For More Background on the Bishop's Youth Awards, including the Nomination Process in 2024](#)

'Festival of Praise' to be held tonight in Laflin

LOOKING FOR MORE?
JOIN US FOR THE

FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

April 4, 2024, 6pm
St. Maria Goretti Church, Laflin PA

Includes

Eucharistic Adoration, Speaker, Reconciliation
With music by Joel Kankiewicz and Praise &
Worship with the CCR Music Ministry of the
Scranton Catholic Charismatic Conference

Sponsored by the Office of
Vocations and the Office of the
Catholic Charismatic Renewal



THE DIOCESE
OF SCRANTON

With Easter now upon us, you may be reflecting back on your Lenten goals. Maybe you've discerned that you need to dive deeper into your faith, live out your Baptismal promises in a new way, or recommit your life to Christ this Easter season.

The Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Scranton Diocese invite you to begin this season of Easter

by adoring Christ in the Eucharist and praising him for the gift of faith at the Festival of Praise tonight, Thursday, April 4, at 6:00 p.m. at *St. Maria Goretti Church, Laflin, Pennsylvania.*

At the Festival of Praise, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Gaze upon Jesus in the Eucharist and let him gaze upon you.
- Praise and worship him through the beauty of music, led by Joel Kankiewicz and the Charismatic Renewal's music ministry.
- Let his mercy wash over you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, preparing your heart for Divine Mercy Sunday on April 7th.
- Hear inspiring talks from a variety of speakers as they reflect on the goodness of God, the power of discerning his will for your life, and his everlasting love for you.
- Present your petitions to the Lord and receive the abundant blessings he has in store for you.
- Meet and connect with others who are passionate about their faith and eager to discern God's will in their lives.

Light refreshments will also be provided. Please note that this edition of XLT begins at 6 p.m. and not the usual 7 p.m.

We invite you to give Jesus your whole heart this Easter and to take this opportunity tonight to hold nothing back from him.

[Click Here for the Festival of Praise Flyer on the Diocese of Scranton Website Events Page](#)

**Funeral Mass to be held this morning for Father
William D. Campbell (1932-2024)**



Reverend William D. Campbell, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at Allied Services Meade Street Skilled Nursing, Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Olyphant, Pennsylvania. December 23, 1932, he was the son of the late Joseph and Mary (Sullivan) Campbell.

A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, this morning, Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m., at St. Patrick Church, Holy Cross Parish, 200 Delaware Avenue , Olyphant, PA.

Interment will be in Saint Patrick's Cemetery, Route 6, Blakely, PA.

[Click Here for the Full Obituary for Father William D. Campbell](#)

In its third year, Rectory, Set, Cook! sets new record for donations to fund anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives



Rectory, Set, Cook! III, an online fundraising event featuring priests from across the Diocese of Scranton, set a record for money raised this year – bringing in \$217,715 from 2,586 donors at the close of the competition.

The online contest ran for six weeks during Lent, beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024, and concluding on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

In all, 37 priests participated in Rectory, Set, Cook! III, filming a total of 30 videos, which were made available for the public to vote for their favorite recipe or video. Many of the priests were joined by guest ‘sous chefs’ which included Catholic school students, faith formation students, parishioners and even three media personalities.

Money raised from this year’s Rectory, Set, Cook! event will benefit anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, while also supporting the parishes of the participating pastor chefs.

[Click Here for More Information on Rectory, Set, Cook! - Including the 2024 "Top 5 Pastor Chefs"](#)

Pope prays people will experience, share Easter Joy



Like the women disciples who discovered Jesus had risen from the dead and ran to tell the others, Christians should be filled with such joy at Easter that they cannot help sharing it with others, Pope Francis said.

“The resurrection of Jesus is not just wonderful news or the happy ending of a story, but something that changes our lives completely and forever,” the pope said April 1 as he led the midday recitation of the “Regina Coeli” prayer.

Beginning by wishing visitors in St. Peter’s Square a “Happy Easter,” the pope said the joy of the resurrection is beyond any other joy because “it is the victory of life over death, hope over despondency.”

“Jesus broke through the darkness of the tomb and lives forever. His presence can fill anything with light,” the pope said. “With him, every day

becomes a step in an eternal journey, every ‘today’ can hope for a ‘tomorrow,’ every end a new beginning, every instant is projected beyond the limits of time, toward eternity.”

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

Catholic aid workers remain in Gaza after colleagues killed in strike



Catholic aid workers in Gaza are determined to continue their mission after a deadly strike killed colleagues from a fellow organization.

Seven staff members of World Central Kitchen died April 1 when their three-vehicle convoy was hit in an Israeli air attack. The group — comprised of Australian, British, Polish and Palestinian nationals, as well as a dual U.S.-Canadian citizen — had just dropped off more than 100 tons of food stocks to a warehouse in central Gaza.

Israel has admitted responsibility for the internationally condemned deaths, which Israel Defense Forces chief of general staff Herzi Halevi

called a “grave mistake” resulting from misidentification of the group. WCK founder José Andrés has said his team was targeted “systematically, car by car.”

Now, “the overall humanitarian community is ... reeling from the news of the WCK incident,” said Jason Knapp, country representative for Catholic Relief Services in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza.

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

'Awe-Inspiring' total solar eclipse offers chance to 'reflect on God's grandeur'



Have you got your glasses?

For those in the path of the April 8 astronomical event dubbed “the Great North American Eclipse” – the total solar eclipse that will occur when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, completely blocking the sun – it’s a question of both practicality and safety. As NASA notes, “When watching the partial phases of the solar eclipse directly with your eyes ...

you must look through safe solar viewing glasses (‘eclipse glasses’) or a safe handheld viewer at all times.”

The total solar eclipse will be visible only along a slim corridor stretching from Texas to Maine, but a partial eclipse will be visible in other U.S. states. On average, NASA – which will hold a live online broadcast – says about 375 years elapse between the appearance of two total eclipses in the same place.

Father John Kartje – rector and president of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Illinois, who also holds a doctorate in astrophysics from the University of Chicago – has been fielding a multitude of eclipse inquiries from fellow Catholics.

Those questions, he told OSV News, are sometimes informed by an underlying anxiety, “almost asking about, is there some portent to this or is this a sign – the way a question might have been asked centuries ago.”

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

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