



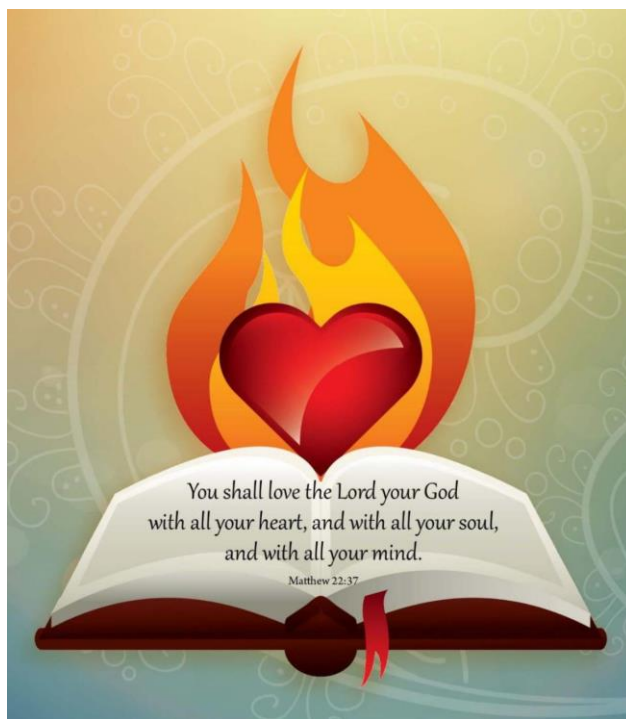
The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 31, 2024

Jubilee Mass for Women and Men Religious to recognize 1,390 years of service



Two religious sisters that have each dedicated 80 years of service to religious life, will be among more than 20 people recognized at the Diocese of Scranton's annual Jubilee Mass for Women and Men Religious.

All people are invited to join in a joyous celebration as we honor the dedicated contributions of those in religious life on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Together, we will gather at 12:15 p.m. to recognize the faith-filled service and commitment of those who have devoted their lives to God and our community.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass.

The Mass will be broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton for those unable to attend in person. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and links for the Mass will also be provided on all Diocesan social media platforms.

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Faithful attend annual Novena to Saint Jude at Pittston parish



Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish hosted the 67th annual Novena to Saint Jude Oct. 19-28, 2024.

The homilists this year featured a number of priests throughout the Diocese of Scranton.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton visited the Novena Mass and devotions on Oct. 26 to talk with parishioners about what makes the well-known and time-honored tradition so special.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from Catholic Television Regarding the Annual Saint Jude Novena](#)

**Leave a Mark Mass on Nov. 3 to kick off
National Vocation Awareness Week**



Young adults are invited to join the Diocesan Vocations Office at the ninth annual Leave a Mark Mass on Nov. 3 to kick off National Vocation Awareness Week.

The Mass, which will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton at 5p.m., is an opportunity for young Catholics to worship the Lord, listen a bit more intentionally to his voice, and discern how they can leave a mark on the world.

Young adults discerning their vocation are encouraged to reflect upon Pope Francis's words spoken at the 2016 World Youth Day in Poland, "Dear young people, we didn't come into this world to 'vegetate,' to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark. It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark."

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant of this Mass, and Father Alex Roche, Director of Vocations and Seminarians and Pastor at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin, will deliver the homily.

There will be a reception following the Mass at the Diocesan Pastoral Center across the street from the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

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Much-courted Catholic vote expected to be narrowly divided on Election Day



Catholic voters are among the key constituencies that candidates are seeking to win in 2024, as surveys and analysts indicate they are on track to be closely divided at the polls.

Catholic voters as a whole have varied in recent presidential elections about which party most of them choose to support. For example, data

from the Pew Research Center found that most Catholic voters supported former President Donald Trump in 2016, but more Catholics voted for President Joe Biden in 2020.

Margaret Susan Thompson, an associate professor of history at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs, who has studied the intersection of religion and politics in the U.S., told OSV News, "We know that Catholics are probably as divided as the rest of the electorate right now."

"The election is extremely close by almost any standard and Catholics seem to be in many ways mirroring the American population in that regard," she said.

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[Click Here for 2024 Voter Resources including the USCCB Faithful Citizenship Document & Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Presidential Voter Guide](#)

**Pope: Make sure confirmation is not last
time parish sees young people**



The Catholic Church must put more effort into ensuring that the sacrament of confirmation is not the “sacrament of goodbye” for young people, who receive it and then do not come to church again until they want to get married, Pope Francis said.

“The problem is how to ensure that the sacrament of confirmation is not reduced, in practice, to ‘last rites,’ that is the sacrament of ‘departure’ from the church, but is rather the sacrament of the beginning of an active participation in its life,” he said Oct. 30 at his weekly general audience.

Continuing a series of audience talks about the Holy Spirit in the life of the church, the pope said parishes need to identify laypeople “who have had a personal encounter with Christ and have had a true experience of the Spirit,” and ask them to lead the confirmation preparation classes.

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Synod calls for quick steps to involve more people in church life



Parishes and dioceses must move quickly to give life to the consultative bodies and broad participation in mission and ministry already foreseen by church law if the Catholic Church is to have any hope of becoming a more “synodal” church, members of the Synod of Bishops said.

“Without concrete changes in the short term, the vision of a synodal Church will not be credible and this will alienate those members of the People of God who have drawn strength and hope from the synodal journey,” the members said in the final document they approved Oct. 26.

Pope Francis convoked the synod in 2021 and called on parishes, dioceses and bishops’ conferences to hold listening sessions before the first synod assembly in Rome in 2023. The current assembly, including most of the same members, began with a Mass at the Vatican Oct. 2.

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**Pope to open Holy Door at Rome prison at
beginning of Jubilee 2025**



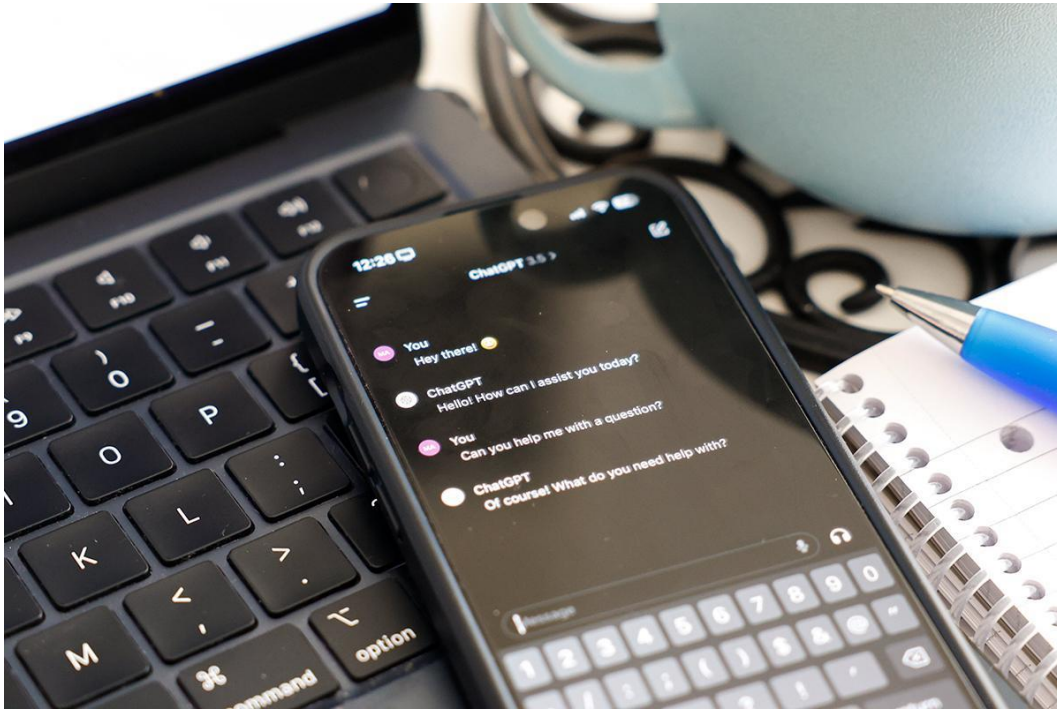
Two days after opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Holy Year 2025, Pope Francis will travel to a Rome prison to open a Holy Door as a "tangible sign of the message of hope" for people in prisons around the world, the Vatican announced.

The pope will go Dec. 26 to Rebibbia prison on the outskirts of Rome, "a symbol of all the prisons dispersed throughout the world," to deliver a message of hope to prisoners, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization's section for new evangelization and the chief organizer of the Holy Year 2025, announced at a news conference Oct. 28.

Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 24. He will then open the Holy Doors at the major basilicas of St. John Lateran Dec. 29, St. Mary Major Jan. 1 and St. Paul Outside the Walls Jan. 5.

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Scholars, theologians and tech leaders talk AI ethics at the Vatican



The Catholic Church has a valuable role to play in providing “clear moral leadership” to protect humanity from the negative impact of new technology, a leading AI researcher said under the vaulted ceiling of the Pontifical Academy for Sciences headquarters in the Vatican Gardens.

“You could have made so much money on human cloning; the Catholic Church came out against it, all countries are against it, it’s illegal everywhere, we do not have a problem with that,” said Max Tegmark, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and president of the Future of Life Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to reducing existential risks from advanced technologies.

Speaking at a forum on artificial intelligence development Oct. 24, Tegmark said that today, in the AI age, the church must advocate for pausing further developments in artificial general intelligence — a form of AI which surpasses human cognitive capabilities across many tasks — and computer superintelligence “at least until maybe one day someone will figure out how it can be controlled or aligned.”

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Papal Commission releases report highlighting progress in safeguarding



Highlighting progress made in safeguarding and recommendations for rectifying ongoing gaps, the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors dedicated its first annual report to all victims and survivors of sexual abuse by members of the Catholic Church.

“The commission’s work — including this report — is and always has been about recognition and inclusion of victims and survivors of abuse in the

life of the church,” Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley, president of the pontifical commission, said at a news conference at the Vatican Oct. 29.

“Your suffering and wounds have opened our eyes to the fact that as a church we have failed to care for victims, and that we didn’t defend you, and that we resisted understanding you when you needed us most,” he said.

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