



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

July 17, 2025

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann begins today in West Scranton



Parishioners and visitors are once again descending on Saint Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton for the annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann.

This year's Novena, which begins today and runs through July 26, is a tradition that many faithful look forward to each summer. It is now in its 101st year.

“Saint Ann has touched my life, and I think the Novena is a great thing,” parishioner Ken Weiksner said.

Weiksner, who joined Saint Ann Basilica Parish in 2013, will attend several Novena Masses throughout the next nine days.

“I remember my mom and dad, they used to come and brought me here a few times when I was young,” he added. “People from all over come. They walk, they come by car, it’s a great thing to see all these people here praying together.”

The theme for this year’s Novena is ‘Hope Never Fails,’ echoing the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

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

**Registration deadline for Jubilee
Year Pilgrimage approaching on
Aug. 18**



The registration deadline for the Diocese of Scranton's upcoming Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is quickly approaching in just about one month.

In order to ensure that all bus transportation can be arranged, a registration deadline of Aug. 18 has been established.

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will lead a Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage to the Basilica in Washington, D.C.

The day will include opportunities for public as well as private prayer, confessions, touring the National Shrine as well as the

campus of The Catholic University of America, and conclude with Mass.

[Click Here to Register for the Oct. 1 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage](#)

A Sign of Hope and Growth: Five new seminarians accepted for the Diocese of Scranton



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

These words, known as the Great Commission from the Gospel of Matthew, are more than a final command from Christ – they are a call to action for every Catholic to foster a culture of vocations.

That call is bearing fruit in the Diocese of Scranton.

This year, five new seminarians have been accepted into the Diocese's Program for Priestly Formation – marking the highest number of new candidates in several years. They come from three different countries, four counties, and represent five unique parishes, reflecting the rich diversity and shared faith of the Church in northeastern Pennsylvania.

“This is a sign of great hope,” Father Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, said. “Their willingness to discern a priestly vocation is a witness to the Holy Spirit actively working among us.”

The candidates accepted this year for the Diocese of Scranton include: Liam Barry, Epiphany Parish, Sayre; Antonio Ingargiola, Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish, Dunmore; Leonel Ojo Gonzalez, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke; Roberto Carlos Acevedo Ruiz, Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton; and Michael Sullivan, Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg.

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

'Christmas in July' effort aims to brighten holidays for teens in need in Scranton and Carbondale



While most people are thinking about barbeques and beach trips this time of year, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is already thinking about Christmas – and the thousands of children who would otherwise go without gifts this upcoming holiday season.

This July, the Scranton and Carbondale offices of Catholic Social Services have launched a special 'Christmas in July' toy drive.

The goal?

To get a jump start on collecting donations for the annual 'Gifts for Kids' program, which brings hope and joy to families in need across northeastern Pennsylvania each December.

[Click Here to Read More & Find the Links to Donate to the 'Gifts for Kids' Program in Scranton or Carbondale](#)

Holy Spirit moves powerfully at Second Diocesan Hispanic Charismatic Congress



The Diocesan Pastoral Center was alive with music and heartfelt praise as several hundred people gathered for the Second Diocesan Hispanic Charismatic Congress on Saturday, July 12, 2025.

The event brought together Spanish-speaking Charismatic prayer groups from different parishes around the Diocese of Scranton for a powerful day of worship, learning, and renewal.

Attendees came from many corners of the diocese— Stroudsburg, Hazleton and beyond – united with the purpose of experiencing the presence of the Holy Spirit. The day was marked by vibrant music, animated preaching, and spontaneous expressions of faith, a hallmark of the Charismatic Renewal.

“This one is magnificent,” Consuelo Corrales, a parishioner of Saint Luke Parish in Stroudsburg, said. “It is life changing. People are being touched by the Holy Spirit very deep in their hearts.”

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

Rocco appointed as new Safe Environment Coordinator



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has appointed Adeline (Addie) Rocco as the new Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Scranton.

She began serving in this new role on July 7, 2025.

As Safe Environment Coordinator, Rocco will assist the Diocese of Scranton in maintaining safe environments for the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton – especially our children and the most vulnerable among us.

Rocco will oversee child protection training programs, background checks, and compliance efforts across all parishes, schools, and diocesan institutions.

Bishop Bambera said Rocco brings a depth of experience to this important role. Her career spans law enforcement, education, healthcare, pastoral care, and public service.

Rocco has previously served as a police officer in Roaring Brook Township and Scranton. While working in the Scranton Police Department, she held the position of patrol corporal and was also a crisis negotiator. She has also served as the Director of Public Safety and was an adjunct professor at Keystone College.

The Bishop noted Addie also brings a strong pastoral dimension to her work, having most recently served as Director of Mission Integration and Spiritual Care at St. Mary's Villa in Elmhurst.

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

Parishes need to launch 'revolution of care' for the elderly, Pope says



Pope Leo XIV called on every parish and church group or association to become part of a “revolution” of care and gratitude by regularly visiting older people.

“Christian hope always urges us to be more daring, to think big, to be dissatisfied with things the way they are,” the pope wrote in his message for World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, a church celebration that will take place July 27.

“In this case, it urges us to work for a change that can restore the esteem and affection to which the elderly are entitled,” he wrote in the message released July 10.

The pope’s message expanded on the theme chosen for this year’s world day, which was taken from the Book of Sirach: “Blessed are those who have not lost hope.”

The 2025 celebration marks the fifth edition of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly and Pope Leo’s first message for the day. Pope Francis instituted the world day in 2021; it is observed

each year on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

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

Study: Devotion to Mary has significant impact on discerning, sustaining vocations



Devotion to Mary is a significant factor in discerning and sustaining the call to priestly and religious life, according to a new study.

“As a religious, Mary has played a big role in our religious life, and I am just excited to see the report as a kind of confirmation that Mary indeed is our model,” said Sister Thu T. Do, a Sister of the Lovers of the Holy Cross and a research associate at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University.

On July 16, CARA made public a report titled “Impact of Mary, Mother of the Church, on Ecclesial Vocations,” which Sister Thu and fellow CARA researcher Jonathon L. Wiggins prepared in response to a request from the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan.

Spearheading that request was the diocese’s theologian and permanent diaconate formation coordinator, Daniel Osborn. He told OSV News the “main genesis” for the project was Pope Francis’ November 2023 call to members of the International Theological Commission for greater study on the Marian dimension of the church.

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

**New Pittsburgh Bishop pledges to
work to ensure 'all God's people are
served'**



Pittsburgh's new shepherd, Bishop Mark A. Eckman, remarked in his homily at his July 14 installation Mass that earlier, ahead of the afternoon liturgy, he had prayed with the diocese's priests and told them, "All I ever wanted to do was to be a parish priest."

"But the Lord obviously has other plans, and he has a wicked sense of humor," Bishop Eckman told the congregation filling St. Paul Cathedral to witness him becoming Pittsburgh's 13th bishop. Previously the auxiliary of the diocese, Bishop Eckman succeeds now-retired Bishop David A. Zubik, whom he thanked at the start of his homily, calling him "No. 12."

"Our diocese owes you so much, a debt of gratitude for all that you have done during the past 18 years serving as our bishop," he said. "You have certainly made our diocese a church alive. You've confronted many challenges that were placed before you and you did it with a spirit-filled heart always concerned with the needs of the faithful of this diocese, hoping and helping them to become closer to God."

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

**Parish festivals taking place this
weekend in Hanover Township,
Pittston, Roaring Brook Township,
and Wilkes-Barre**



Saint Eulalia
— PARISH —

SUMMER FESTIVAL

JULY 18-19
5-10 p.m.

Homemade Food, Grandma's Attic, & more...

WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT:

FRI., JULY 18

5:45-8:45 PM

» Shio (rock band)

SAT., JULY 19

5:30-6:30 PM

» Electric City Steel Drum Project

6:30-8:30 PM

» Alex "the Crooner"

214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township
sainteulalias.com

The Parish Community of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary
226 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, WILKES-BARRE • 570-823-7736
(on the grounds of St. Nicholas Church)

Fr. Joseph Verespy, Fr. Fidel Ticona,
Deacon Michael Golubiewski, and Parishioners
Invite Everyone to the

PARISH BAZAAR



Thursday, Friday, Saturday
JULY 17, 18, 19



Opens 5:30PM Thursday & Friday • Opens after 4PM Mass on Saturday

Giant Flea Market (Opens at 1 PM Thurs.) • Games • Bingo
• Fun for All Ages • Ethnic Food • Bountiful Baskets
• Raffle (1st prize 50-50) + 49 prizes

Live Music 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM 🎵

Thursday: Flaxy Morgan • Friday: Popstar Drive • Saturday: Kartune

***Bratwurst, Haluski, Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Piggies, Pizza,
Chicken Wings, Mexican/Caribbean Food, Fried Dough,
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries and more!***

Saint Joseph Marello Parish

237 William Street ~ Pittston, PA

Annual Summer Picnic

July 17, 18, 19 from 5pm to 10pm

We can't wait to welcome you to our AWARD-WINNING picnic!



Live Entertainment

Thursday – The Taxmen

Friday – Flaxy Morgan

Saturday – Sperrazza Band

Picnic Favorites

**Ethnic Foods, Pizza Fritta,
Potato Pancakes, Indoor Flea**

**Market, Basket Raffles,
Cannoli, Kid Games,**

**Christmas in July Prize Stand
and so much more!**



BIG TENT BAZAAR

Friday, July 18 (6-11PM)

Saturday, July 19 (5-Midnight)

Sunday, July 20 (5-11PM)

Homemade Food * Potato Pancake Express

Exciting Games * Full Service Tiki Bar

Theme Baskets * Live Entertainment

Bake Sale * Raffles & a Lot of Fun!

Live Entertainment Nightly:

Friday: Souled Out	Saturday: OZ Pop Star Drive	Sunday: 3rd Degree Tom Slick
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Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish

420 Main Road * Buttonwood, Hanover Township * 570-823-6242
www.exhc.org www.facebook.com/holycross420

We invite you to support our parishes throughout the summer months as they hold various picnics, bazaars and festivals.

The Diocese of Scranton Communications Office invited all parishes to share details of their upcoming events - and all of the submissions are posted on the Diocese of Scranton website.

If you do not see your local event listed yet, please submit it to info@dioceseofscranton.org.

[Click Here to for the List of 2025 Church Festivals, Picnics and Bazaars](#)

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