



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

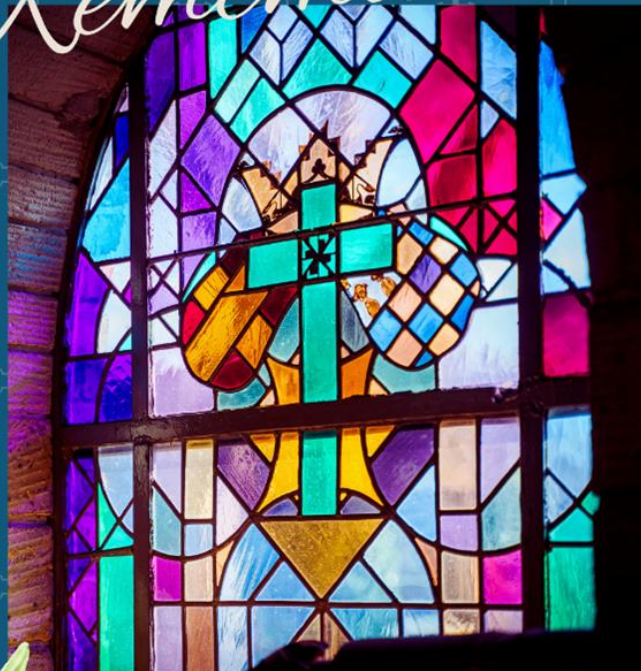
July 24, 2025

**Diocesan Mass of Remembrance
for Victims of Violent or Tragic
Death to take place this evening**



DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON

MASS OF
Remembrance



JULY 24, 2025
7:00PM
CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER

*This Mass is offered for the families and
friends of those who have died by tragedy.*

The Diocese of Scranton is inviting all people of goodwill to its annual Mass of Remembrance for Victims of Violent or Tragic Death this evening at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is offered for the families and friends of those who have died in tragedy, especially through murder, suicide, and accidents.

The Mass will take place this evening (Thursday, July 24) at 7:00 p.m.

For those unable to attend in person, the Mass will be televised on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton, and also by livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website and Diocese of Scranton YouTube Channel, with links also made available on all Diocesan social media platforms.

Children's Mass held during Solemn Novena to Saint Ann



Young people were the focus of a special Mass at the Basilica of Saint Ann in West Scranton on Saturday, July 19, just two days after the 2025 Solemn Novena to Saint Ann got underway.

"It involves the children in the Novena itself. Many of their grandparents and parents have been coming here for many years, and it introduces them to the idea of the Novena to Saint Ann," Deacon Peter Lemoncelli explained.

The Mass included a special blessing of the children and the kids in attendance were invited to be involved in the homily.

"The theme of this year's Novena is hope, so the children have that hope in their parents and grandparents to raise them close to God," Deacon Lemoncelli added.

The Solemn Novena to Saint Ann continues throughout this week. The Closing Mass of the Novena will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, on Saturday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Children's Mass at the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann](#)

[Click Here to Watch All of the Daily Masses from the 2025 Solemn Novena to Saint Ann](#)

**Natural Family Planning Awareness
Week is underway**



“Christian married couples and parents [are] witnesses of Christ ‘to the end of the earth,’ missionaries, in the true and proper sense, of love and life.”

Familiaris consortio, 54

#NFPweek



“Pursue a lasting love ... Marriage. Create hope for the future! Natural Family Planning, Supporting God’s gifts of love and life in marriage” is the theme of this year’s national Natural Family Planning Awareness Week (July 20–26, 2025).

As an educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), “NFP Week” celebrates God’s design for married love and the gift of life and raises awareness about Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods.

“NFP,” as the U.S. bishops have written, is supportive of Catholic beliefs about married love because NFP “respects the God-given power to love a new human life into being.”

The dates for this week highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, marriage, conjugal love and responsible parenthood.

The Catholic Church invites all the faithful to embrace God’s plan for married love and the gift of life.

[Click Here for More Resources Regarding Natural Family Planning](#)

**Jubilee of Youth is a chance to
celebrate hope, fraternity in world
at war, panel says**



More than half a million young people from 146 countries are set to arrive July 28 for the start of the weeklong Jubilee of Youth, which will include a special Jubilee dedicated to Digital Missionaries and Catholic Influencers.

While 68% of attendees will be from Europe, young people will be coming from four other continents and from war zones and areas of serious conflict, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, a pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, said July 23.

“Essentially, this moment of celebration and joy also aims to embrace all young people around the world, indicating that it will be a genuine moment of peace and peace-building in the world,” he said at a Vatican news conference.

“I am thinking in particular of the Christian young people of Ukraine, the Middle East, Syria, Gaza and Iran,” said Lamberto Giannini, Rome’s prefect, who coordinates maintaining law and order in the city.

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

Pope: Summer marks time to balance busyness with rest, prayer, joy with loved ones



Summer should be spent cultivating time with God, relaxing and caring for others, Pope Leo XIV said at Mass in a breezy hilltown during his brief summer break.

“During the summer, we have more free time in which to gather our thoughts and reflect and also to travel and spend time with each other,” he said in his homily during Mass July 20 in the Cathedral of St. Pancras Martyr in the town of Albano Laziale, southeast of Rome.

“Let us make good use of this, by leaving behind the whirlwind of commitments and worries in order to savor a few moments of peace and reflection, taking time as well to visit other places and share in the joy of seeing others, as I am doing here today,” he said.

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

Judge blocks defunding of some, but not all, Planned Parenthood groups



A federal judge on July 21 extended an order blocking enforcement of a provision in the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” which President Donald Trump signed into law July 4, that would have stopped Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid payments for a year.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani in Boston extended her previous order, set to expire the same day, partially granting Planned Parenthood's request for a preliminary injunction while its lawsuit against the Trump administration proceeds.

The order does not apply to all Planned Parenthood members, but to those Planned Parenthood Federation and its affiliates named in the suit who "satisfy the remaining requirements to obtain a preliminary injunction."

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

FBI to investigate anti-Catholic, antisemitic vandalism at Pittsburgh area church



Newly installed Bishop Mark A. Eckman of Pittsburgh has expressed his “great sorrow” over “hateful vandalism” at one of his parish churches, which federal authorities are now investigating. Meanwhile, law enforcement in Kansas told OSV News they’re closing in on suspects who ravaged and scrawled swastikas on a parish building in that state.

At St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Pleasant Hills, Pennsylvania, an exterior statue of Mary, as well as commemorative plaques on a bell tower and convent door, were spray-painted with anti-Catholic and antisemitic graffiti.

CBS News affiliate KDKA in Pittsburgh reported July 18 that the damage is believed to have occurred between July 8 and 9 at the church, located near Pittsburgh and part of Triumph of the Holy Cross Parish.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh confirmed the “concerning vandalism” to the news outlet, adding the incident — discovered about a week ago — had been reported to authorities.

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

Two Catholic groups back bipartisan solutions to fight human trafficking



Two Catholic service organizations have joined forces to back three new pieces of legislation designed to both help victims of human trafficking and enhance safety for children online.

Representatives of the Alliance to End Human Trafficking and the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd spoke at a Capitol Hill press conference on July 16.

One bill, the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2961), is a reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act first adopted in 2000. It must be reauthorized every three to five years, but that last occurred in 2018, with funding drawn from various sources since then.

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

Pope celebrates Apollo 11 anniversary with peek at the heavens, call to astronaut



Peering at the sunlit skies through a Vatican-owned space telescope and calling the last surviving member of the Apollo 11 spaceflight mission was how Pope Leo XIV celebrated the anniversary of the first crewed moon landing.

U.S. astronaut Michael Collins flew the command module around the moon while Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin became the first humans to land and walk on the lunar surface.

Pope Leo, who would have been 13 years old when the lunar module, the Eagle, touched down, video-called the 95-year-old Aldrin late July 20, “sharing with him the memory of this historic achievement — a testimony to human ingenuity,” the Vatican press office said.

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

Parish festivals taking place this weekend in Eynon and Hunlock Creek



PARISH PICNIC

Friday, July 25 (5-10pm)
Saturday, July 26 (5-10pm)
Sunday, July 27 (3-7pm)

Join us for our annual summer picnic!

Includes homemade ethnic foods: Pierogis, Piggies,
Cabbage & Noodles, and Porketta. Potato pancakes.
Hamburgers. Hot dogs. Pizza. Funnel cake fries.

Cash Raffle w/ \$4,000 Grand Prize.
Kids' Games. House of Treasures. Baskets. Beer Tent.
Live Music: Pour Decisions, The JOB, & The Frost Duo.

St. Mary of Czestochowa Church grounds

417 Main Street, Eynon, PA 18403

"The best Picnic up-da' Eynon"



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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