



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

July 3, 2025

Happy Fourth of July!

GOD OF JUSTICE, FATHER OF
TRUTH, WHO GUIDE CREATION IN
WISDOM AND GOODNESS TO
FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST YOUR
SON, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO THE
TRUTH OF HIS GOSPEL, THAT YOUR
PEACE MAY RULE IN OUR HEARTS
AND YOUR JUSTICE GUIDE OUR
LIVES.

THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS
WITH YOU IN THE UNITY OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT, GOD, FOR EVER AND
EVER.

Collect Prayer for July 4, 2025 (Independence Day Option)

Cathedral filled to capacity as two new priests ordained in joyful celebration



The Cathedral of Saint Peter was standing room only on Saturday, June 28, 2025, as two transitional deacons answered God's call in a profound way by being ordained priests for the Diocese of Scranton.

Every pew was filled – with an overflow of people gathered in the back of the Cathedral – as Rev. Mr. Thomas Dzwonczyk and Rev. Mr. Andrew McCarroll joyfully began their priestly ministry.

“Just seeing the church filled with people from across our diocese and around the country ... I'm blessed to be in this moment right now,” Father McCarroll said.

“It is one thing to write a paper on the priesthood but to actually have it happen, there is no comparison,” Father Dzwonczyk added. “It's the greatest feeling in the world.”

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant, homilist, and ordaining prelate.

During his homily, Bishop Bambera delivered a moment of unexpected humor that brought warm laughter to the packed Cathedral.

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

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the 2025 Priesthood Ordination Mass](#)

'Hope Never Fails' will be theme for 2025 Solemn Novena to Saint Ann



Father Richard Burke, C.P., Rector of Saint Ann's Monastery and Director of Saint Ann's Shrine Basilica, has announced this year's

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann will take place from July 17-July 26, 2025.

As the Church continues to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope, these days of special preaching and praying seek to foster the important virtue of hope in our lives.

Our society and our world are dealing with a great amount of uncertainty. Many people become anxious in such an atmosphere. The gift of hope seeks to make firm the foundation of faith upon which we stand.

Father Richard is also announcing this year's preachers, Father Curtis Kiddy, C.P., of North Palm Beach, Fla., and Father Cristian Martinez, C.P., of San Juan, Puerto Rico, will provide encouragement for fostering hope in the everyday circumstances of our lives.

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

Three new parish consolidations took effect July 1



***Blessed Carlo
Acutis Parish***



***Saint Pius of
Pietrelcina Parish***



***Our Lady of
Peace Parish***



For the last five years, the Diocese of Scranton has been working proactively to address the realities of our local church while striving to meet the opportunities and challenges of the coming decade. The Diocese created its Vision 2030 Pastoral Planning Process in order to create vibrant expressions of parish life rooted in the life of Jesus Christ.

This planning process addresses the ongoing needs of parishes through the lens of four distinct priority drivers: Vibrancy of Parish Life (Mass Attendance & Sacraments); Condition of Facilities; Financial Viability of a Parish; and Distribution and Availability of Clergy.

Over the last several months, conversation and consultation has taken place in several parish communities regarding how best to

work together and grow together in faithfulness to Christ and His Church.

Beginning on July 1, 2025, three new consolidated parish communities took shape. Each community has chosen to embrace a new name.

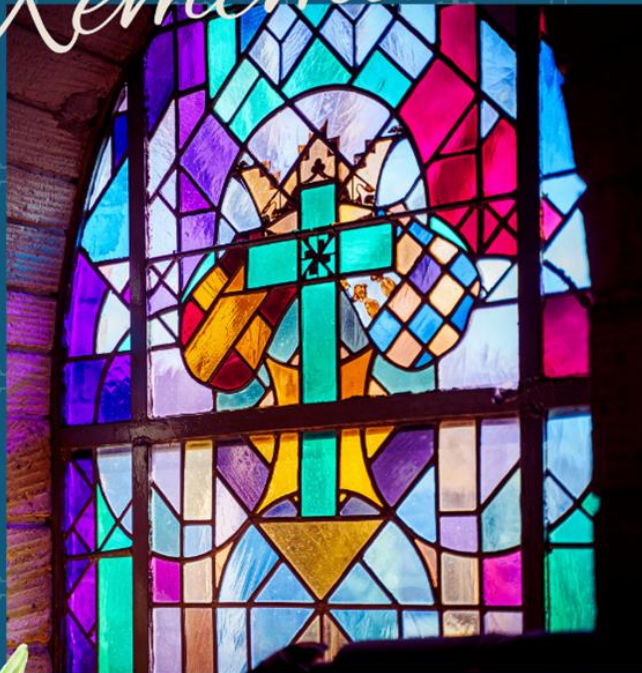
[Click Here to Read the Full Story from The Catholic Light](#)

Mass of Remembrance to be held July 24; registration of names underway



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 will offer its annual Mass in remembrance of victims of violent or tragic death next month.

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

The Mass is scheduled for Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

All persons who have lost a loved one through tragic and traumatic death are invited to this liturgy. The Mass will be televised on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

To register the name of your loved one for this liturgy, please click on the link below to complete the brief registration form.

All forms must be received by July 18, 2025.

For questions or further information, call Jen Andres in the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213.

[Click Here to Register a Loved One's Name for the 2025 Mass of Remembrance](#)

**With Pope's support, Vatican to
publish document on Synod's final
phase**



Almost four years after Pope Francis opened the Catholic Church's path toward synodality — a term many in the church had never heard before — his successor has thrown his support behind the last leg of the church's synodal journey.

The Synod of Bishops, which admitted women, lay and other non-bishop voting members among its ranks during its two universal assemblies in October 2023 and 2024, “naturally retains its institutional profile and at the same time is enriched by the mature fruits of this season,” Pope Leo XIV told the ordinary council of the synod June 26. “You are the body appointed to reap these fruits and make a prospective reflection.”

Over two days, the council convened to approve a document for the synod's final implementation stage intended to improve dialogue between local churches and the Vatican synod office, the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops said in a statement June 30. The document will be released July 7 at www.synod.va.

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

Studies show need to increase Catholic Mental health support for young women, mothers



Limited access to mental health care, rising substance use disorders and increasing income inequality are three likely reasons that young women and mothers are reporting declining mental health. But another reason for worsening mental health struggles that's widely cited by studies and mental health experts alike is the growing, societal-wide social isolation.

“We expect everybody to be able to handle everything by themselves,” said Daniel Roberson, a Catholic mental health counselor based in Arlington, Washington. “Women are more relational ... (so) isolation is always going to affect women more than it's going to affect men, and I think isolation could be the word of the decade.”

A March 13 Gallup poll found that from 2020 to 2024, just 15% of women aged 18-29 polled said they have excellent mental health, down 33 points from 2010-2014. A May 27 study from the JAMA Network found that self-reported mental health was found to have significantly declined for mothers of minor children.

The Gallup poll notes that some of this reported decline in mental health is due to a growing awareness of mental issues.

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

Pew: Support for Christian prayer in public schools varies widely across U.S.



Just over half of U.S. adults, or 52%, say they favor allowing public school teachers to lead their classes in prayers “that refer to

Jesus,” while 46% of adults say they oppose it, according to an analysis from the Pew Research Center in Washington.

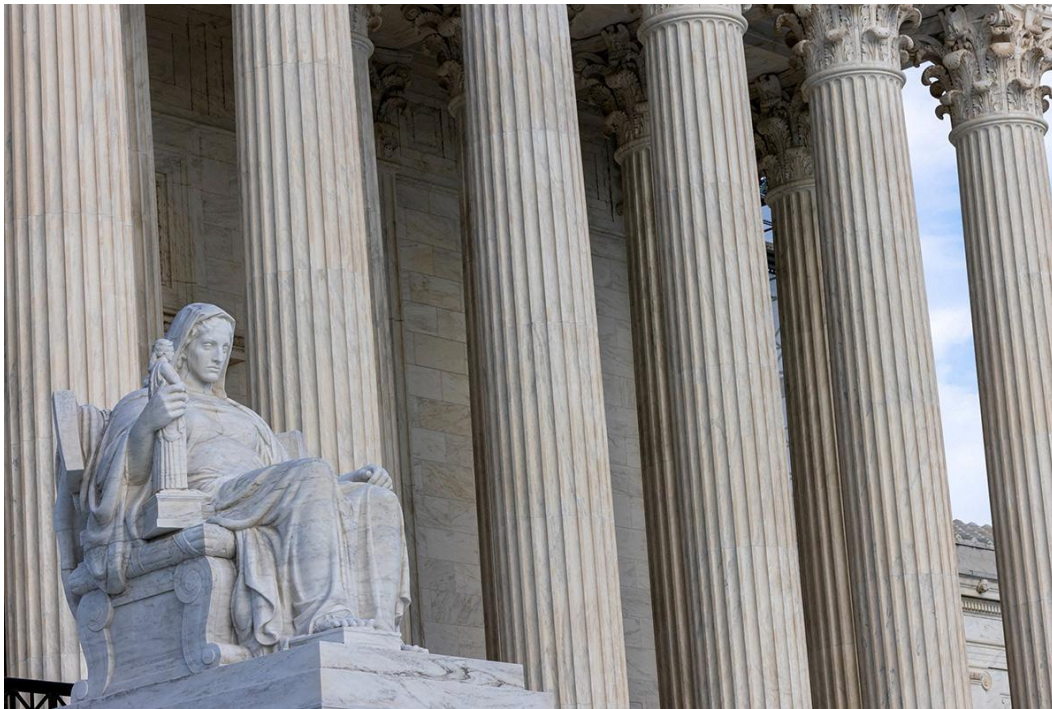
It also found support for Christian prayer in U.S. public schools varies widely by state.

“In 22 states, more adults say they favor allowing teachers to lead their classes in prayers that refer to Jesus than say they oppose it,” Pew said June 23, noting that support for such prayers is “particularly high in parts of the South.”

“In 12 states and the District of Columbia, more adults say they oppose allowing teachers to lead their classes in prayers that refer to Jesus than say they favor it,” Pew said. “The 16 remaining states are divided, with no statistically significant differences in the shares who favor or oppose allowing teachers to lead their students in prayers that mention Jesus.”

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

Supreme Court rules states can deny Medicaid funds to Planned Parenthood



The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 on June 26 that there is not a private right to bring a lawsuit challenging South Carolina's decision to end Planned Parenthood's participation in the state's Medicaid program. The ruling will likely allow other states to remove Planned Parenthood from their Medicaid programs.

Federal law generally prohibits the use of Medicaid funds for abortion. Supporters of allowing Planned Parenthood to receive Medicaid funds point to that group's involvement in cancer screening and prevention services — such as pap tests and HPV vaccinations — but critics argue the funds are fungible and could be used to facilitate abortion.

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

**Sullivan County parish to hold its
annual 'Old Time Picnic' on Sunday**

JULY 6TH NOON TILL 5

Under the tent in Dushore above St. Basil's Church

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FAMOUS CHICKEN DINNER

Macaroni Salad, Applesauce, Baked Beans, Rolls & Butter, as well as our Parishioner's Homemade freshly baked desserts! Beverages included.

Eat under the tent or take out!



KIDS' GAMES ALL DAY

- FISH POND
- LOLLIPOP
- DIME PITCH
- RING TOSS



RAFFLES / BINGO

- WHISKEY CRATE
- CASH RAFFLE
- THEME BASKETS
- INSTANT BINGO

All ages welcome

SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM CHURCH PARKING LOT TO & FROM

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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