



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

June 26, 2025

Rite of Candidacy celebrated for three seminarians



Three seminarians from the Diocese of Scranton pledged their intention to continue formation for the priesthood during a special Mass with the Rite of Candidacy at Marywood University on June 25, 2025.

Esteban Marengo from Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton, along with Daniel O'Brien from Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston, and Nicholas Wasko of Saint Ann Basilica Parish, each indicated their desire to continue forming

their mind and heart to serve Christ and His Church during the special Mass.

Candidacy represents that a seminarian, while not completed with his discernment, has come to a point where he feels reasonably confident that he is being called to be a priest and he is ready to begin the process of not only discerning where God is calling him but actually preparing for the priesthood.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant and homilist for the Candidacy Mass, which was held in conjunction with annual Quo Vadis and Fiat Days at Marywood University.

Read the full story in the July 17 edition of *The Catholic Light*.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the Mass for Candidacy on June 25](#)

**Just days before Ordination,
Catholic Television broadcasts full
interviews with transitional deacons
preparing for the priesthood**

Priesthood Ordination Mass

of

*Rev. Mr. Andrew McCarroll and
Rev. Mr. Thomas Dzwonczyk*



**June 28, 2025
10 a.m.
Cathedral of Saint Peter**



With their Ordination Mass now just two days away, CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton is proud to present full interviews with the two men who will be ordained priests for the Diocese of Scranton.

In this special broadcast, Rev. Mr. Thomas J. Dzwonczyk and Rev. Mr. Andrew T. McCarroll reflect on their vocational journeys, share what this moment means to them, and offer a heartfelt look ahead to their priestly ministry.

After years of prayer, discernment, and formation, these two transitional deacons - who have already dedicated their lives to service in the Church - are preparing to take their final step toward the Sacred Priesthood.

Rev. Mr. Dzwonczyk and Rev. Mr. McCarroll will be ordained this Saturday, June 28, at 10 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

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

The Ordination Mass—one of the most joyful and spiritually significant events in the life of the local Church—will mark the

culmination of each man's seminary formation and the beginning of a lifetime of priestly ministry.

"I'm looking forward to taking those gifts and talents that I've nourished in my time in formation in seminary and being able to share them with the people of God," Rev. Mr. McCarroll shared.

Rev. Mr. Dzwonczyk echoed those sentiments, adding, "It's the Eucharist, the celebration of the Mass, that drew me most forcefully into the attraction of the priesthood. And now, to be that humble, yet unworthy minister of Jesus Christ ... I honestly tremble just thinking about it. I pray that God may make me a worthy minister of his mysteries at the altar."

Click the link below, or watch this month's 'Our Faith, Our Diocese' broadcast, to watch the full interviews from Catholic Television as we journey with these men just before their ordination, and witness the faith, humility, and hope that define their call to serve.

[Click Here to Watch the Full Interview with Deacon Tom Dzwonczyk](#)

[Click Here to Watch the Full Interview with Deacon Andrew McCarroll](#)

Hundreds attend World Refugee Day Celebration in Scranton



Strong storms moved out just in time for a large celebration commemorating the strength and resilience of refugees at Nay Aug Park in Scranton on June 22.

More than 25 area community agencies, led by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton and The University of Scranton, participated in the 2025 World Refugee Day Celebration.

"The reason for this celebration is to let refugees know that we are here to support them and to let them know that they are appreciated and they are our neighbors," Fikile Ryder, Director of Community for Catholic Social Services, said.

The day featured music and dancing, free food, and many activities for kids.

"The diversity is beautiful. From the food to our clothing, to everything you see around us," Ushu Mukelo from the Congolese Community of Scranton explained.

The theme for the 2025 World Refugee Day Celebration in Scranton was "A World Where Refugees Are Always Welcomed." This theme was chosen because it is a call to action, urging us all

to embrace refugees as neighbors, friends, and contributors to our shared future.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the 2025 World Refugee Day Celebration](#)

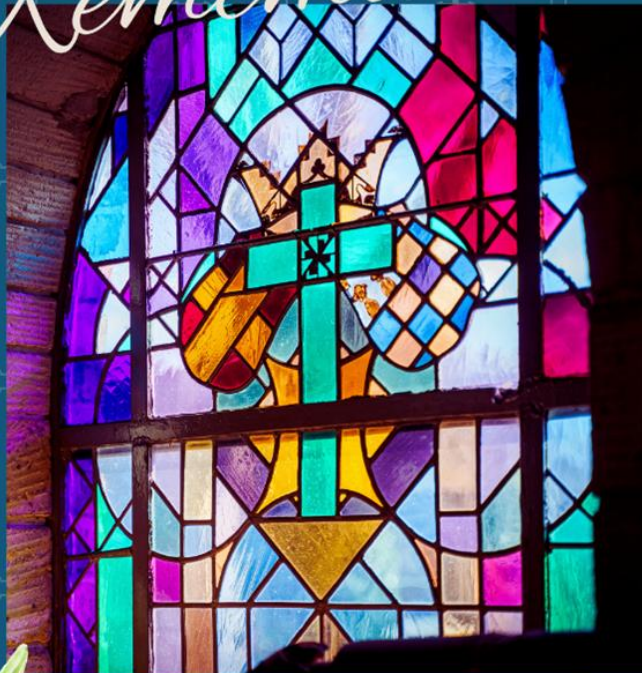
[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the World Refugee Day 2025 Celebration](#)

**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](#)

Pope leads Corpus Christi procession through the streets of Rome



In carrying Jesus through the city streets in a Corpus Christi procession, Christians are called to be witnesses of his love, sharing both their material and spiritual gifts, Pope Leo XIV said.

A procession with the Eucharist is a way to present Jesus “to the hearts of those who believe, so that they may believe more firmly” and “to the hearts of those who do not believe, so that they may reflect on the hunger present within them and the bread that alone can satisfy it,” the pope said in his homily June 22.

Pope Leo celebrated an early evening Mass outside Rome’s Basilica of St. John Lateran for the feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord before joining thousands of people — including children who had recently received their first Communion — for the Corpus Christi procession to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, about a mile away.

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

Pope calls for end to bloodshed in Syria, Middle East, via solidarity, dialogue



Pope Leo XIV condemned the suicide bombing at a Damascus church, calling it “a cowardly terrorist attack” as he appealed to the international community not to give up on Syria.

He also called for dialogue, diplomacy and peace for the whole Middle East, quoting from the prophet Isaiah, “One nation will no longer raise its sword against another nation. They will no longer learn the art of war.”

“Let this voice from the Most High be heard!” he said at the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square June 25.

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



[Click Here to Read
the Full Story](#)

Ceasefire between Israel and Iran seems to be holding for now

A ceasefire between Israel and Iran seemed to be holding after President Donald Trump expressed frustration June 24 with both countries, telling reporters at the White House that initially Iran violated the deal but “Israel violated it too.”

Suicide bomb at Syrian church kills at least 20

Christians in Syria are reeling after a suicide bombing struck a Greek Orthodox church in Damascus during a June 22 Divine Liturgy.

At least 20 were killed and more than 60 injured.



[Click Here to Read the
Full Story](#)

Three years after Dobbs, states still navigating abortion policy changes



Three years after a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn its prior abortion precedent, states have enacted or considered differing legislation surrounding the issue of abortion.

Since the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision was issued June 24, 2022, 12 states have banned abortion, while another six limit it at some point between six to 12 weeks gestation.

"As we are celebrating, we are also getting ready for the work that we have left to do," said Kelsey Pritchard, state public affairs director for SBA Pro-Life America, a pro-life advocacy organization.

"We recognize how much work is ahead, with the number of abortions increasing since the *Dobbs* decision, because we're now at 1.1 million abortions annually," she said.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, in 2024 there were 1,038,100 clinician-provided abortions in the United States, an increase of less than 1% from 2023.

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

Dupont and Ashley parishes holding summer picnics this weekend

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 LACKAWANNA AVE.
DUPONT PA

JOIN US
for Mass
on the Feast of the
Sacred Heart,
Friday, June 27,
at 4 PM!

POLISH PICNIC

Friday, June 27
5 PM – 9 PM

Saturday, June 28
5 PM – 9 PM

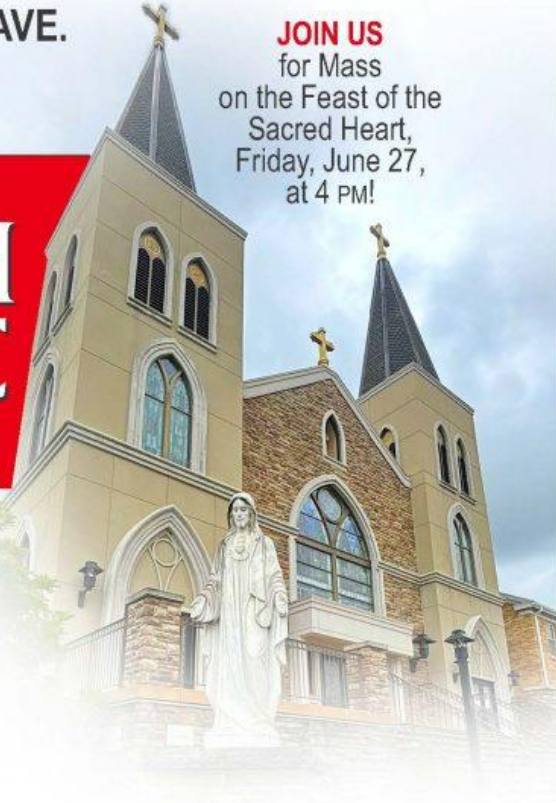
Located in the
Picnic Grove

FOOD OFFERINGS INCLUDE:

Pierogi • Golombki • Halushki • Kielbasi
Potato Pancakes • and more!

THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY PICNIC OFFERS:

Delicious Ethnic Foods • Theme Baskets • Games of Chance
Beer Tent • Music: Carl Smichina & "The Shoreliners" (Friday)
and Accordionist Ron Figel (Saturday)



ST. LEO THE GREAT

Summer Festival!

PARISH GROUNDS
33 Manhattan Street, Ashley



CASH PRIZES!



June 27 & 28

FRIDAY • 6PM

SATURDAY • 5PM

Live Entertainment!

Friday: Alibi

Saturday: Hangin' With F.O.G.



STANDS INCLUDE:

Pot Luck • Plant Stand

Candle Stand • Ashley Boutique

Show Me The Money • Children's Arts & Crafts

Fun For Kids • Instant Bingo

Big Six Wheel • Groceries & More!

AIR CONDITIONED BINGO

~ **HOMEMADE ETHNIC FOOD** ~

~ **BAKE SALE** ~

~ **FREE PARKING!** ~

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](#)

[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Divine Mercy Parish Picnic Last Weekend](#)

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