



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 14, 2025

**Deadline to register for Jubilee
Year Pilgrimage to Washington,
D.C., is Monday, Aug. 18**



5

**DAYS LEFT TO
REGISTER**

Did you know the *Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception* is the largest Catholic church in North America and one of the ten largest in the world?

The building is 460 feet long, 240 feet wide, and 237 feet tall. It can hold 10,000 people, with 6,000 in the upper church and 4,000 in the crypt.

There are only 5 more days to register for the Diocese of Scranton's Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., which will take place on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

A schedule of events for the day – which include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and time for personal prayer and tours - is available on the Diocese of Scranton website.

The deadline to reserve a spot on one of several Diocesan buses that will be leaving northeastern Pennsylvania on Oct. 1 is this Monday, Aug. 18. After that time, all of the bus routes will be formulated and information on departure locations will be communicated back to pilgrims by the end of August.

[Click Here to Register for the Diocesan Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Oct. 1](#)

**Diocesan Youth Rally to be held
Sept. 27 in East Stroudsburg**



DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON



Anchored in Hope

YOUTH RALLY

SAT, SEPT 27

1:30 – 8:00PM

NOTRE DAME JR/SR HS

60 SPANGENBURG AVE, EAST STROUDSBURG, PA 18301

Open to Youth in Grades 7 –12

\$30 Registration (covers dinner & t-shirt)

CONTACT US TO REGISTER BY SEPT 13

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST COME THROUGH THE PARISH POINT PERSON



The Scally Brothers



Dan Harms



Bishop Bambera



For More Info

¡VIVA CRISTO REY!

All students in grades 7-12 are invited to participate in the 2025 Diocesan Youth Rally!

The theme of our third annual Diocesan Youth Rally will be:
Anchored in Hope: ¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Come dive deep into who we anchor our hope in as Catholics and learn how to be the anchor of hope in today's world. It will be a day to deepen your faith, make new friends, and experience fun and fellowship!

The Diocesan Youth Rally will take place at Notre Dame High School in East Stroudsburg from 1:30 – 8 p.m. Check-in opens at 12:30 pm.

The youth will hear from people such as Dan Harms, a well-known Catholic performer and inspirational speaker, and music by the Scally Brothers, a dynamic brother duo from Toledo Ohio, and many more.

Additionally, the participants will experience Adoration with other young Catholics and Mass with Bishop Bambera. Registration includes dinner and a t-shirt.

Registration closes September 13.

[Click Here for More Information on the 2025 Diocesan Youth Rally](#)

Honesdale parish hosts traveling icon of Sacred Heart of Jesus



Saint Mary Magdalen Church, a worship site of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale, welcomed a special visitor earlier this month.

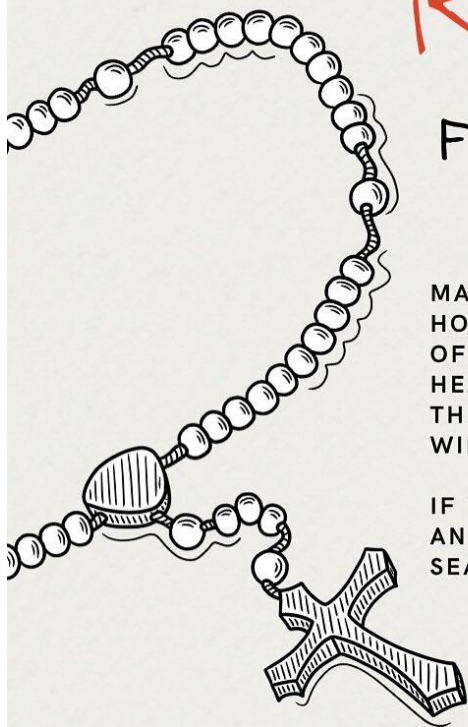
On the evening of Aug. 7, a traveling icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus made a special stop at the Wayne County church for a reverent and prayerful Holy Hour.

The event, hosted by the local Knights of Columbus Council 363, centered on the love and mercy of Christ symbolized in the Sacred Heart.

“We were privileged enough to have the traveling icon of the Sacred Heart visit our area,” Donald Vivacqua, Grand Knight of the Honesdale Council, said. “Our District Deputy arranged it. They were looking for a place and we said, bring it here, so we had this wonderful event tonight.”

[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Traveling Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Visiting Honesdale](#)

Scranton parish to host Outdoor Rosary on Friday



OUTDOOR
Rosary

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15th
6:30PM

MARY MOTHER OF GOD PARISH WILL BE HOSTING AN OUTDOOR ROSARY IN HONOR OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY INTO HEAVEN. THE ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED ON THE LAWN IN FRONT OF THE RECTORY ON WILLIAM STREET BEFORE 7PM MASS.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO JOIN, PLEASE BRING AN OUTDOOR CHAIR WITH YOU AS SEATING WILL BE LIMITED!

Mary Mother of God Parish, 316 William Street, Scranton will host an outdoor rosary on August 15th at 6:30 p.m.

The rosary will be prayed on the lawn in front of Mary's statue on William Street, weather permitting. If not will be held in church.

Mass will follow at 7 pm in the church. Please bring an outdoor chair since seating may be limited.

Pope says he hopes Trump-Putin meeting leads to ceasefire in Ukraine



Arriving in Castel Gandolfo, Pope Leo XIV told reporters he hoped U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin can find a way to reach a ceasefire in Russia's war on Ukraine when they meet in Alaska.

Reporters were in the crowd that waited to welcome the pope back to the papal summer villa Aug. 13, and a journalist from the Italian agency ANSA asked him what his hopes for the Aug. 15 Trump-Putin meeting were.

"I'm always hoping for a ceasefire," the pope said. "There must be an end to the violence and so many deaths. Let's see how they can reach an agreement because the war has been going on too long."

Pope Leo said that it is not even clear what the point of the war is, "so one must always seek dialogue, diplomacy and not violence."

The pope also noted that just a few hours earlier, European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had a video call with Trump.

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

Pope Leo's first 100 Days: Leaning into his new role



Stories about “the first 100 days” are standard fare at the beginning of a U.S. president’s four-year term; the articles usually focus on how much the new president was able to accomplish and how quickly.

But a pope is elected for life and without having promised voters anything or having presented a platform.

Pope Leo XIV was elected May 8, making Aug. 16 the 100th day since he stepped out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica as the new pope. He will celebrate his 70th birthday Sept. 14.

While the first 100 days of a pontificate may hint at what is to come, the initial period of Pope Leo's ministry as the successor of Peter and bishop of Rome seemed mostly about him getting used to the role, the crowds and the protocol.

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

For Gazans, the deep silence of hunger has replaced noise of daily life



The streets of Gaza are quieter than they used to be – not because peace has returned. The deep silence of hunger has replaced the noise of daily life.

Every corner bears the marks of a deepening humanitarian catastrophe: gaunt faces of children, long lines at makeshift aid points, and parents who have nothing left to give but words of comfort and prayer.

The humanitarian collapse in Gaza did not happen overnight. On March 2, the Israeli Defense Forces sealed all crossings into the enclave — 16 days before the collapse of the temporary ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. With borders sealed, the already limited flow of food, medicine and fuel stopped entirely. Within weeks, hunger and malnutrition spread at an unprecedented pace. Preventable diseases began to take hold.

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

Judge blocks religious exemption to birth control coverage; Little Sisters of the Poor to appeal



A federal district court in Philadelphia Aug. 13 struck down a religious conscience rule implemented by the first Trump administration exempting employers with religious or moral concerns from having to provide their employees with insurance coverage for contraceptives and other drugs or procedures to which they have an objection.

The Little Sisters of the Poor, defendants in the suit, are expected to appeal.

In a nationwide ruling, U.S. District Judge Wendy Beetlestone in Philadelphia found the rule, which expanded the parameters for the types of nonprofits that could use the exception, were not necessary to protect the conscience rights of religious employers.

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

Report: Christian Church attacks down, but recent totals still higher than 2018-2022



Attacks on Christian churches in the U.S. last year totaled 415 — down from 485 in 2023 — although they are “significantly higher” than totals recorded from 2018 to 2022, according to a new report from the Washington-based Family Research Council.

The nonprofit, founded in 1983 to promote Judeo-Christian values, marriage and family, released its latest “Hostility Against Churches” findings Aug. 11.

The annual report — which is based on open-source data such as online documents, news articles, television coverage and media notices from advocacy organizations — was launched in 2022, with data in the inaugural summary dating back to 2018.

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

Italian Festival in Dunmore draws thousands



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](#)

Follow us on Social Media...



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org