



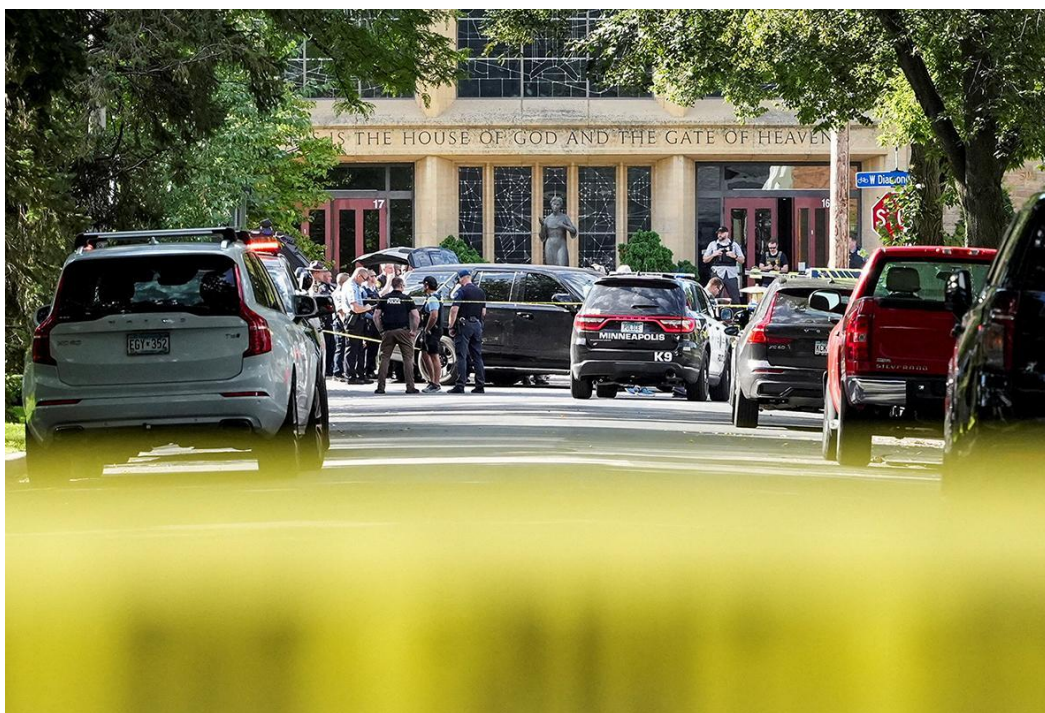
The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 28, 2025

Nation reels as Catholic School shooting in Minneapolis leaves 2 dead, 17 injured



A deadly mass shooting took place the morning of Aug. 27 at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis shortly after the start of the school day during an all-school Mass at the adjacent Annunciation Catholic Church.

The gunman shot from the outside of the church through windows at the Mass attendees with a rifle, shotgun and pistol, killing two children, ages 8 and 10. According to Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara, 17 others are injured, including 14 children. Three adults who were shot were parishioners in their 80s.

While there were "a range of injuries" among the injured children, they are all expected to survive, O'Hara said during an afternoon press briefing.

The suspected gunman is also dead and believed to have taken his own life in the parking lot.

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

Statement of Bishop Bambera on Minneapolis Catholic School Shooting



In response to the deadly shooting at a Catholic School in Minneapolis on Aug. 27, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, released the following statement:

"I was heartbroken and horrified to hear about the tragic shooting that took place Wednesday morning during Mass at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis. I ask all people of faith to pray for those who are suffering and for the healing of this deeply wounded community.

"The fact that such a violent act could happen in the middle of Mass is almost unimaginable. It is so profoundly distressing to know that such violence could erupt in a place meant for prayer and peace.

"As we pray for the victims, their families, the parish community, the first responders, and everyone now carrying the weight of sorrow and fear – we ask our Blessed Mother Mary – whose Annunciation gave hope to the world – to intercede for all of those whose lives have been impacted by this horrible tragedy."

[Share Bishop Bambera's Statement from the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Pope Leo joins U.S. Bishops in mourning victims of Catholic School shooting



Pope Leo XIV joined his brother bishops and fellow Americans in the U.S. in expressing condolences following a deadly mass shooting that took place Aug. 27 at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis shortly after the start of the school day during an all-school Mass at the adjacent Annunciation Catholic Church.

In a telegram to Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican secretary of state said the pontiff was “profoundly saddened to learn of the loss of life and injuries following the shooting that took place at

Annunciation Church in Minneapolis, and he sends his heartfelt condolences and the assurance of spiritual closeness to all those affected by this terrible tragedy, especially the families now grieving the loss of a child.”

“While commending the souls of the deceased children to the love of Almighty God, His Holiness prays for the wounded as well as the first responders, medical personnel and clergy who are caring for them and their loved ones,” the telegram said. “At this extremely difficult time, the Holy Father imparts to the Annunciation Catholic School community, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and the people of the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area, his apostolic blessing as a pledge of peace, fortitude and consolation in the Lord Jesus.”

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

**Mental Health Awareness series to
be offered throughout September**



Mental Health Awareness Series

OFFERED EACH THURSDAY EVENING THIS SEPTEMBER, 2025

Sponsored by the
Catholic Mental Health
Ministry
at the Cathedral
of Saint Peter

9/4 SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL ILLNESS: A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

Faith and spirituality bring peace and healing to people living with mental health challenges. We can find spiritual support in our Catholic communities and through Catholic mental health ministries.

9/11 COMMON MENTAL ILLNESSES: SYMPTOMS & TREATMENT OPTIONS

An introduction to common types of mental illnesses, with information about symptoms and treatment options. Presented by Colleen Griffin, LCSW, a mental health clinician from our local community.

9/18 SHARED STORIES OF LIVED EXPERIENCE

Members of our local community will share stories of their lived experience with mental illness, and of the experience of caring for a loved one with mental illness.

9/25 MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES IN OUR COMMUNITY

The focus will be on where to find and how to access mental health services in our region. Presented by Jessica Chelik, Lackawanna County Behavioral Health Coordinator/Early Intervention Supervisor.

The series will be offered from 7:00pm to 8:00pm at the Diocesan Pastoral Center
330 Wyoming Avenue in Scranton, PA

The mental health crisis – especially among our young people – is growing. But anyone can be affected.

Experts stress that all people should take mental health as seriously as physical health.

“If you’re thinking of suicide, treat that the same way you would if you were having chest pains or maybe tingling in your arms,” said Deacon Ed Shoener, president of the International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers, a lay association dedicated to helping people with mental illness and their families. “You’d call someone and have it checked out – you’re worried about maybe a heart attack or a stroke.”

“Similarly, if you’re having thoughts of suicide, don’t feel ashamed, just be concerned and make it a point to talk to

your doctor, or if you know a therapist – but talk to someone about it,” Deacon Shoener, who also serves both the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Immaculate Conception Parishes, added. “It’s a warning sign that you need to examine and see if there’s something more to it than just passing thoughts or having a bad day.”

As leaders in the Church, we are called to respond with compassion, understanding, and hope.

The Catholic Mental Health Ministry at the Cathedral of Saint Peter invites anyone in the community to participate in a Mental Health Awareness Series throughout the month of September.

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

**Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish invites
community to learn about new
saint's life and legacy this evening**

CELEBRATE THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

at

*Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish
Olyphant/Jthroop*

UPCOMING EVENTS



You are invited to
An Evening with Carlo Acutis
His life, his story and his mission

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28th

6:30pm

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

200 Delaware Ave. Olyphant, PA 18447

Join us for a joy filled evening as we explore the life and legacy of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

We'll feature an inspiring 30-minute film about Carlo's life on a giant screen and hear from guest speakers who will reflect on Carlo's faith and his lasting impact.

Speakers include:

Fr. Ryan Glenn

Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Archbald

Fr. Thomas Dzwonczyk

Assistant Pastor, Assistant Pastor of Sts. Anthony and Rocco Parish, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Dunmore.

Kyra Krzewicki

Vocations Program Coordinator, Diocese of Scranton

David Hudak

St. John Vianney Parish, Scott Twp., Contract Manager at Cercora



With the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis now a little more than a week away, everyone is invited to learn more about our newest saint this evening in Olyphant!

Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish, which serves the communities of Olyphant and Throop, will hold an "Evening with Carlo Acutis" tonight (Thursday, Aug. 28) at Saint Patrick Church in Olyphant.

Speakers will include Father Ryan Glenn, Father Thomas Dzwonczyk, Kyra Krzwicki and David Hudak. The event will also feature an inspiring 30-minute film about Carlo's life.

No RSVP's are necessary and there is no cost to attend the program.

Mass in Italian to be celebrated on Sunday at Cathedral of Saint Peter



The annual Mass in Italian will be celebrated on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with La Festa Italiana, which occurs over the Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Aug. 29 – Sept. 1, on Courthouse Square, one block away.

Reverend David P. Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa Chaplain and pastor of Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, both located in Dunmore, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

Concelebrants will include Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, La Festa Chaplain Emeritus, and priests from the Diocese of Scranton. Deacons from the Diocese will also participate.

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

Knights of Columbus support vocation efforts across the Diocese



The Pennsylvania State Council of the Knights of Columbus presented two generous contributions to the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, in support of vocations and other vital diocesan needs on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025.

The funds were drawn from the Knights' long-standing Labels Program and the Christopher Fund, both of which are dedicated to furthering the charitable and spiritual mission of the Church.

Bishop Bambera received the checks with sincere gratitude, noting that both contributions will be directed toward supporting vocations - helping to strengthen the mission of the Diocese and further enhance the programs that inspire and sustain men who are discerning the priesthood and religious life.

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

**Hope is knowing that God is near and
that love will win, Pope says**



Christian hope is not about avoiding pain and suffering but about knowing that God gives people the strength to persevere and to love even when things go wrong, Pope Leo XIV said.

When Jesus allowed himself to be arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, he showed that “Christian hope is not evasion, but decision,” the pope told thousands of people gathered in the Vatican audience hall Aug. 27 for his weekly general audience.

“The way that Jesus exercised his freedom in the face of death teaches us not to fear suffering, but to persevere in confident trust in God’s providential care,” the pope said in his address to English speakers.

“If we surrender to God’s will and freely give our lives in love for others, the Father’s grace will sustain us in every trial and enable us to bear abundant fruit for the salvation of our brothers and sisters,” he said.

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

Vatican 'appalled' by situation in Gaza, Cardinal says



Even though what is happening in Gaza is shocking and prospects for peace in Ukraine seem more complicated than ever, Catholics must continue praying and hoping, said Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state.

“We are appalled by what is happening in Gaza despite the condemnation of the whole world,” the cardinal told reporters in Naples Aug. 25 after Israeli military strikes on a hospital in Gaza killed at least 20 people, including five journalists.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the attack on the hospital, which should have been off limits in an armed conflict, was a “tragic mishap” that the Israeli military is investigating.

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

Ahead of canonization, new statue of Blessed Carlo Acutis unveiled in Assisi



A new statue depicting Blessed Carlo Acutis is a message that conveys to the world that the Catholic Church is not an old institution but a young and vibrant church with a relevant message for today's culture, said the statue's sculptor.

Unveiled Aug. 15 outside the Shrine of the Renunciation at the Church of St. Mary Major in Assisi, where the soon-to-be-saint is buried, Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz said that "the church is for the youth and it's a growing church."

"I know that Carlo Acutis mentioned that he wanted to be buried in Assisi. I'm sure he would be delighted to know that not only is his tomb there, but now there is a sculpture that celebrates him, cast in bronze, that will be there for more than a thousand years," Schmalz said in an interview with OSV News Aug. 22.

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

Two churches of Holy Spirit Parish to hold festivals over Labor Day Weekend



ST. MARTHA'S FESTIVAL

260 Bonnieville Rd, Fairmount Springs PA

Friday, August 29: 5-9 p.m.

Saturday, August 30: 5-11 p.m.

Sunday, August 31: 12-11 p.m.

BBQ CHICKEN DINNERS Saturday & Sunday

LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY

Friday: Caleb Diltz, Saturday: Whiskey N Woods

Sunday: 404 Band

UNDER THE BIG TOP, RAIN OR SHINE!

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH - ST. MARY CHURCH

Homecoming Picnic

St. Mary Park, Lee Road, Mocanaqua, PA

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Saturday, August 30 - 5:00-9:30 PM

Sunday, August 31 - 1:00-9:30 PM

HOMEMADE ETHNIC FOODS

*(pierogi, haluski, piggies, potato pancakes, turkette, desserts),
refreshments, basket raffles, prize stands and much more!*



Live Entertainment

Saturday - The Music Room

Sunday - Flaxy Morgan

Mass at 4:00 PM at the park
on Saturday, August 30.

• FREE PARKING •

As the calendar prepares to turn to September and the fall season will be approaching, we invite you to continue supporting our parishes 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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