



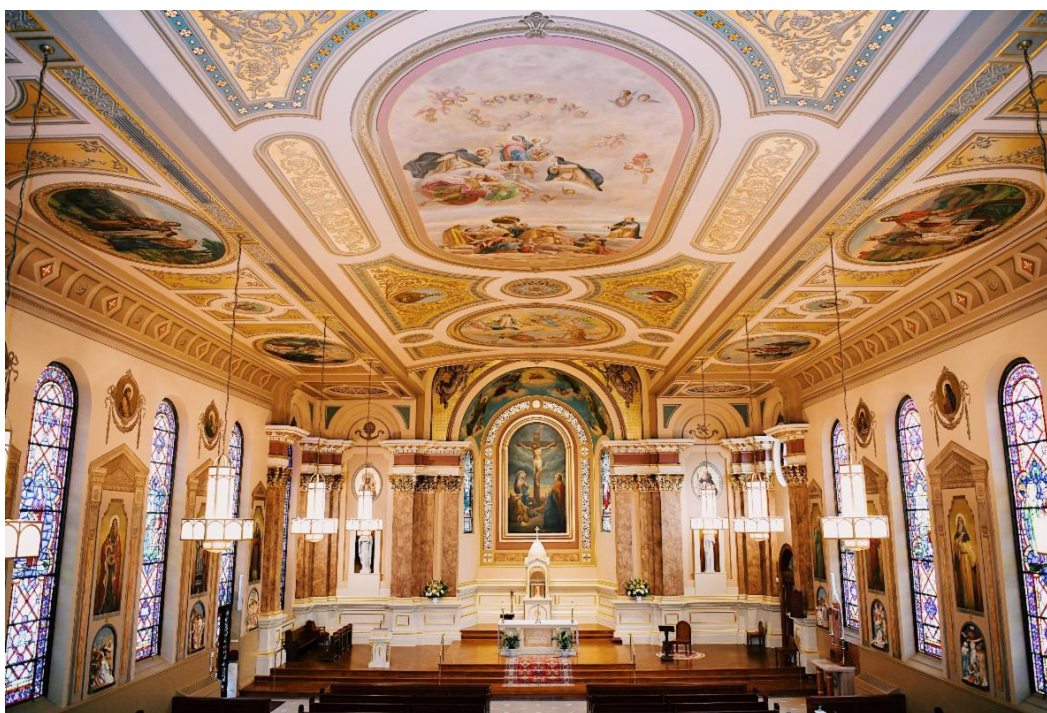
The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 7, 2025

Bishop to celebrate 150th anniversary of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald



On Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, parishioners and friends of Saint Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald are invited to gather in joyful thanksgiving as the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, returns to celebrate a special Mass marking the 150th anniversary of the church's dedication.

The liturgy will take place at 4:00 p.m. and all are welcome.

The anniversary celebration not only marks a milestone in bricks and mortar – but also an enduring legacy of faith and community that has defined the church community since the 1800s.

“It will be 150 years plus a day,” noted Father Ryan Glenn, pastor of Christ the King Parish, of which Saint Thomas Aquinas Church is a worship site. “It was originally consecrated by the First Bishop of Scranton on Aug. 15, 1875, and it really is a testimony to the faith of the people. They were primarily coal miners.”

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

**Registration deadline for Jubilee
Year Pilgrimage approaching on
Aug. 18**



The registration deadline for the Diocese of Scranton's upcoming Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is quickly approaching in just about one month.

In order to ensure that all bus transportation can be arranged, a registration deadline of Aug. 18 has been established.

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will lead a Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage to the Basilica in Washington, D.C.

The day will include opportunities for public as well as private prayer, confessions, touring the National Shrine as well as the

campus of The Catholic University of America, and conclude with Mass.

There are two ways to register.

The first way is to visit the Diocese of Scranton website (dioceseofscranton.org) and click on the “Jubilee Year Pilgrimage” tab. You can then fill in your information and pay by debit or credit card or PayPal account.

The second way to register is to contact your local parish office. Many parishes are signing up pilgrims and will forward that information to the Diocese.

[Click Here for More Information or to Register for the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage on October 1](#)

Susquehanna County Confirmation students deliver 'blessing bags'



Confirmation students from the Class of 2025 from Holy Name of Mary Parish in Montrose made Blessing Bags as a community service project.

The students filled 20 bags with various items of personal daily necessity and delivered them to Trehab to distribute to those in need in our community.

Each bag contained a note of encouragement and stated that the bags were put together by the children of our Confirmation class. This is the second year that our Confirmation students have participated in this project.

We are proud of their caring efforts and concern for the people of Susquehanna County.

Some of the students were available to deliver the bags to Trehab. Pictured above, from left: Stan Grochal; Penelope Follert; Vincent Follert; and Patti McRae, Trehab Food Bank Coordinator. Not pictured, Joni Host, Religious Education teacher who accompanied the children to Trehab.

Diocesan Vocations Office to hold Ezra 10:4 Retreat on Oct. 24-25

Diocese of Scranton
VOCATIONS



EZRA 10:4

**A RETREAT FOR MEN DISCERNING THE
PRIESTHOOD**

Rev. Alex Roche



Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center, Nanticoke

151 OLD NEWPORT ST, NANTICOKE, PA 18634

Hosted by the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office

OCTOBER 24-25, 2025

The Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office is hosting its Ezra 10:4 Retreat for men discerning the priesthood October 24-25 at Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center in Nanticoke.

This preached retreat, named after the Book of Ezra verse that says, “Rise, then, for this is your duty! We are with you, so have courage and act!” is led by Fr. Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, Vocation Director, and Director of Seminarians.

Men 18+ who are interested in discerning a vocation to priesthood are invited to attend. For those who have come to the Ezra 10:4 Retreat before, brand new talks and discussion will be offered, so you are encouraged to come again!

This retreat will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, talks, group discussion, fellowship, rooming accommodations, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. This retreat is FREE to attend.

[Click Here for More Information or to Register for the Ezra 10:4 Retreat](#)

Pope Leo urges youth to find hope, friendship in Christ in uncertain times



Addressing an estimated 1 million young people, Pope Leo XIV urged them to forge genuine relationships rooted in Christ rather than ephemeral online connections that can reduce individuals to a commodity.

“When a tool controls someone, that person becomes a tool: a commodity on the market and, in turn, a piece of merchandise,” the pope said during the evening prayer vigil for the Jubilee of Youth Aug. 2. “Only genuine relationships and stable connections can build good lives.”

The pope arrived by helicopter at the Tor Vergata field, roughly eight miles southeast of Rome’s city center, and was greeted with cheers from young people waving flags. Many of the youth were going to camp out overnight, sleeping in tents and sleeping bags on the dusty field, much like the World Youth Day celebration held 25 years ago in the same location.

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

Pope paves way for St. John Newman to be formally named Doctor of the Church



St. John Henry Newman — the 19th-century theologian, intellectual and preacher who journeyed from Anglicanism to Catholicism, powerfully shaping religious thought in both faith traditions — will be named a doctor of the church by Pope Leo XIV.

The news was announced by the Vatican shortly after Pope Leo's July 31 audience with Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

The Vatican press bulletin stated that the pope had "confirmed the affirmative opinion of the plenary session of cardinals and bishops, members of the dicastery" for sainthood causes, on conferring the title, which since the early church has been bestowed on saints whose doctrinal writing and teachings are held to have special authority. St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. Gregory the Great and St. Jerome were the first four doctors of the church, and excluding today's announcement, there have been 37 saints so named — including four women, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Hildegard of Bingen.

The move had been supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, who at their November 2023 plenary assembly voted almost unanimously to support a request by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales that Newman be named a doctor of the church by Pope Francis.

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

Against the odds, Catholic Relief Services has delivered aid to 1.7 million in Gaza since 2023



Despite daunting odds, Catholic Relief Services and its on-the-ground partners have managed to deliver aid to 1.7 million people in Gaza since 2023, according to new data.

On July 29, CRS — the official relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops — updated its diocesan coordinators regarding efforts to provide essential assistance to the population of Gaza, where CRS has maintained a continuous presence since 1984.

Amid “severe access limitations and aid blockades,” Baltimore-based CRS and its partners have still managed to supply basic needs as well as psychosocial support, wrote CRS diocesan engagement adviser Jesús J. Huerta in his email, with the agency “mobilizing supplies from Egypt and Jordan” following “the recent humanitarian pause.”

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

Knights of Columbus called to be 'heralds of hope' as order's 143rd Supreme Convention Opens



The 143rd Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus opened in Washington Aug. 5 with a call to charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, as Supreme Knight Patrick E. Kelly urged members to be “heralds of hope” in a world searching for meaning.

Delegates from the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Ukraine, Cuba and other nations gathered in the nation’s capital, joined virtually by viewers on EWTN, Salt + Light Television and CatholicTV.

The session began with prayer led by Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, the Knights’ supreme chaplain, invoking hope rooted in Christ’s love and the intercession of Blessed Michael McGivney, the group’s founder.

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

Brian Burch confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See



In a rare Saturday session, the U.S. Senate voted to confirm Brian Burch, President Trump's nominee for U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, in a vote of 49-44 along party lines Aug. 2.

Burch, the former president of the pro-Trump political advocacy organization CatholicVote, was confirmed amid a day of voting on a slate of nominees after Democratic senators refused to reach a deal to advance Trump's backlog of executive branch nominees by unanimous consent or voice votes.

Burch's confirmation was previously blocked in May by Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, who placed a blanket hold on all of Trump's

nominees to the State Department due to his concern over the Trump administration's closure of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The Vatican ambassador role is meant to represent the U.S. government's positions on many issues to the Holy See in its capacity as a nation-state in diplomatic efforts. Burch succeeds former Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-IN, who assumed the role in April 2022 and stepped down in July 2024.

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

**From Dunmore to Mountain Top,
Williamsport to Larksville, many
parish festivals taking place this
weekend**

Italian Festival in Honor of St. Rocco

ST. ROCCO'S CHURCH,
122 KURTZ ST. DUNMORE

AUGUST 8, 9, & 10, 2025

Food, Games and Live Entertainment!

FRIDAY:

6:00 P.M.: DUNMORE HIGH SCHOOL

MARCHING UNITS AND CHEERLEADERS

7:00 P.M.: "JEFFREY JAMES BAND"

SATURDAY:

6:00 P.M.: HOLY CROSS HS CHEERLEADERS

7:00 P.M.: "POPSTAR DRIVE"

SUNDAY:

FEAST DAY MASS — 12:00 NOON FOLLOWED
BY PROCESSION WITH STATUES AT 1:00 P.M.

2:30 P.M.: VINSKO ENTERTAINMENT

5:30 P.M.: SCRANTON PREP CHEERLEADERS

6:00 P.M.: "THE LUONGO BROTHERS BAND"

9:00 P.M.: FIREWORKS DISPLAY

9:30 P.M.: ALL RAFFLE DRAWINGS

ST. MATTHEW'S festival

AUG 8-10, 2025
Friday & Saturday 5-10pm
Sunday 12-6pm

FUN FOR ALL AGES

Entertainment headliners include...

Who Knows Band
Kevin Macintire as ELVIS
Joey & The T Birds
Video Daze Band
Robbie Junior Music
Tempo Allegre
Lori Woodward

INTERNATIONAL FOOD
HOMEMADE DESSERTS
RAFFLES
MEGA 50/50
PRIZE BINGO
KID'S GAMES & FAMILY BINGO
BEER & WINE GARDEN

78 RIDGEWAY ST - EAST STROUDSBURG, PA

Made with PosterMyWall.com

St. Jude Parish
72nd Annual

PICNIC IN THE GROVE

Friday, August 8th, 10 PM
Saturday, August 9th, 4-10 PM
Sunday, August 10th, 12-8 PM



Great Food



Games ~ Prizes



Music

St. Jude Parish Grove ~ 420 S. Mountain Blvd.
Mountain Top ~ Route 309

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



CHURCH PICNIC

126 Nesbitt Street, Larksville, PA

**FRIDAY,
AUGUST 8TH**

6PM-11PM

John Stevens'
Doubleshot

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 9TH**

5PM-10PM

20 Lb.
Head

**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 10TH**

3PM-8PM

Chasing
Ashlee

Our Lady of Peace Parish at
Most Precious Blood & Our Lady of Grace Churches
Seybert & 4th Streets, Hazleton (570) 454-8714
Rev. Anthony Generose, Pastor

Madonna del Monte 126th Festival

August 8th, 9th & 10th

Friday, August 8 3-8:00 pm

Saturday, August 9 4:30-9:00 pm

Live Music: Friday//Jim Cerminaro from 5 to 7pm

Saturday//KARTUNE 6 to 9pm

- Potato Cakes Fried Dough Halushki Porketta
- Meatball/Sausage & Pepper Hoagies
- Steak & Cheese/Chicken Cheesesteak Hoagies
- Fried Meatballs on a Stick Fried Pizza Pasta Fagioli
- Pierogies Hot Dogs Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers Cannoli
- Soda, Water & Adult Beverages

Water & Adult Beverages (Outside Seating Only)

GAMES FOR CHILDREN • BAKE SALE • TRICKY TRAYS • MONEY WHEEL

Sunday Procession August 10th

- Procession following 10:30am Mass
- Benediction in Church Grotto following Procession

Sunday Pasta & Meatball Dinner 11am to 2pm

Eat-In Church Hall or Take Out. Pre-Orders Preferred. Walk-Ins Welcome.





Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
August 7, 8, and 9
5:00-10:00 PM

Corner of Church and Broad Streets,
Pittston
Parish Grounds and Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center

Entertainment Nightly

THURSDAY

The Taxmen

FRIDAY

Joe Stanky and the Cadets

SATURDAY

Flaxy Morgan

😊 **FUN AND FOOD FOR ALL!** 😊

Delicious Foods

Variety Booths ✨ Bingo ✨ Raffles

Children's Games

JOIN US FOR OUR

PARISH PICNIC

Saint Boniface Parish

Bring the entire family!

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 10 12:30pm**

FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES AND LOTS OF FUN

Bring your own chairs!

South Williamsport Sports Complex
Lions Pavilion
545 East Central Ave
South Williamsport

**BRING A DISH or DESSERT
TO SHARE!**

Chicken, Hamburg BBQ, Hot Dogs, &
Drinks will be provided

HOSTED BY ST LAWRENCE ACTIVITY COMMITTEE & FRIENDS



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...



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