



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

July 31, 2025

**Saint Boniface Parish to celebrate
50th anniversary of its new church
after devastating fire in 1972**



The Saint Boniface Parish community in Lycoming County will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the new Saint Boniface Church this coming weekend.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will preside over the Saturday, Aug. 2, Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Pastor Glenn E. McCreary, V.E., and Rev. Dias Antony Valiamarathungal, will preside over the Sunday Mass on Aug. 3 at 11:00 a.m.

All are welcome to attend either Mass.

The new Saint Boniface Church in Williamsport was solemnly dedicated on Aug. 3, 1975, after a devastating fire on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1972, destroyed the parish's former church building.

The people of Williamsport and surrounding towns in the West Branch Valley were shocked to read the evening headlines: "St. Boniface Church Destroyed by Fire" and "Spectacular Early Morning Blaze Ruins City Landmark."

It is believed the fire started in the boiler room in the basement under the altar and crept up the inside walls to the tower and destroyed the entire interior of the church, leaving only charred wood and ashes.

Saved were the statues of St. Boniface and of St. Joseph, and also some sacred vessels.

[Click Here to Visit the Saint Boniface Parish Website](#)

Devotion runs deep as the 101st Novena to Saint Ann concludes



As the sun set over the hillside at the Basilica of Saint Ann on July 26, the 101st annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann ended with hundreds of faithful gathered for the closing Mass.

For many, the most powerful moments weren't simply confined to the final liturgy – they were found in the conversations and prayers given over the Novena's nine sacred days.

For Susan Scanland, a parishioner of Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green, this year's Novena was different.

"This is our first year without (my mother) here. She passed away last fall," Scanland said. "I'm sure she's with Saint Ann, just basking in her presence."

It is because of Scanland's mother that Susan says she has attended the Novena for more than six decades.

"We miss her. We love her and we thank her for her beautiful faith," she explained.

Like Scanland, many Novena attendees came with loved ones in mind – living and departed.

Read the full story from the Closing Mass of the Solemn Novena to Saint Ann in the August edition of *The Catholic Light*.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the Closing Mass from the 101st Annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann in West Scranton](#)

Hundreds of people from across the country expected in Scranton for the annual Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference



Catholic Charismatic Renewal Diocese of Scranton

University of Scranton, Scranton, Pennsylvania

Conference 2025

REPENT – RENEW – REVIVE

Say **"No More!!"** to the darkness that seems to surround us!

Experience the transforming love of God;
a renewed commitment to faith; a new mission!

Let God work in you leading you to holiness;
empowering your daily walk with Him!

Find rest, joy, strength, peace, and grace!

"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

Joel 2:12

Come and see the difference a weekend spent with God can make!

August 1, 2, & 3, 2025

Celebrating the Scranton Conference's 43rd year serving the Church "the Charismatic Renewal is a current of grace, a renewing breath of the Spirit for all members of the Church" - Pope Francis



Bishop Bambera



Deborah DeRosia



Fr Ed. Fride



Fr John Gordon



Dr. John Gresham

What is it like to be at a conference, to hear firsthand, inspired teaching & sharings?

What is it like to be at Eucharistic Adoration with hundreds of worshippers?

**Can you experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Find out –
for yourself – in person!!**

Full weekend or single session registration, meal plans and overnight housing on campus, and single meal purchases on campus - during the weekend are all available! For information: Use the QR code at the right or call 570-344-2214 or visit our website:
[HTTPS://WWW.CCRSCRANTON.ORG/CONFERENCE](https://www.ccrscranton.org/conference)



*"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all
your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and
with mourning." Joel 2:12*

Hundreds of faithful from across the East Coast and beyond are expected to fill The University of Scranton this coming weekend for the 43rd annual Catholic Charismatic Renewal's annual conference.

With the theme, "Repent - Renew - Revive," attendees are expected to experience the transforming love of God.

This year's speakers include Dr. John Gresham, a retired seminary professor; Deborah Christiana de Rosia, a professional teacher; and Father John Gordon, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark and Director of Evangelization for the Archdiocese.

The conference begins with registration at 3 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1, and concludes with a Pontifical Closing Liturgy celebrated by Bishop Bambera at 1:45 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3.

On site registration is still available.

[Click Here for More Information about the Scranton Catholic Charismatic Conference This Weekend](#)

**Catholic Social Services to hold free
back-to-school event Aug. 2 in
Wilkes-Barre**



JOIN US SATURDAY AUGUST 2
FOR A

FREE BACK *to* SCHOOL EVENT

NOON-4 P.M.
KING'S COLLEGE SCANDLON
GYMNASIUM, WILKES-BARRE

All families are invited to join Catholic School Services and its Parents as Teachers program for an afternoon of indoor fun and education on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2025.

The free event, with a back-to-school focus, will be held from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the King's College Scandlon Gymnasium, 150

N. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, 18711. (Free parking is available at 133 S. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, 18711)

There will be face painting, free haircuts and eye exams, along with performances and demonstrations by community groups. Several dozen local organizations have committed to participating in the event.

The first one hundred children will get free water bottles and dental hygiene kits. There will also be an interactive scavenger hunt to be turned in for prizes, and several interactive demonstrations.

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

**World will hear young people's joy,
shouting for peace on earth, pope
says**



The enthusiastic joy of young people, who love Jesus and want all wars to stop, will be heard to the ends of the earth, Pope Leo XIV said, welcoming tens of thousands of cheering young men and women to Rome for their Jubilee.

“Buona sera, buenas tardes, good evening!” he said after finishing a long ride in the popemobile, waving to more than 120,000 ecstatic visitors filling St. Peter’s Square and the long, wide boulevard that runs between the square and Castel Sant’Angelo by the Tiber River.

The pope appeared at the end of a Mass presided over by Archbishop Rino Fisichella in St. Peter’s Square July 29 as part of a series of welcome celebrations for the weeklong Jubilee of Youth.

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

Create encounters, not just content, pope tells digital missionaries, influencers



In an ever-evolving era of technological advancement, including the adoption of artificial intelligence, Catholics in the digital space must focus on being authentic witnesses rather than providing endless streams of content, Pope Leo XIV said.

Arriving after the conclusion of the July 29 Jubilee Mass with digital missionaries and Catholic influencers in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said Catholics have "a duty to work together to develop a way of thinking and a language of our time, that gives voice to love."

"It is not simply a matter of generating content, but of creating an encounter between hearts," he said. "This will entail seeking out those who suffer and need to know the Lord, so that they may heal

their wounds, get back on their feet and find meaning in their lives.”

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

Federal judge blocks Planned Parenthood defunding indefinitely



A federal judge on July 28 ruled Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide must continue to be reimbursed for Medicaid funding, indefinitely blocking a provision in President Donald Trump’s legislative agenda that would strip those funds for one year.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which enacted key items of Trump’s legislative agenda on issues including taxes and immigration, included a provision eliminating funds to health providers who also perform abortions — but just for one year. Although it was not named in the provision, Planned Parenthood,

the nation's largest abortion provider, sued in response, arguing the parameters for ending these funds effectively singled it out.

U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani in Boston previously temporarily granted Planned Parenthood's request for a preliminary injunction while its lawsuit against the Trump administration proceeds. But in a new order July 28, Talwani extended the injunction.

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

Massacre of 'faithful in the house of God' in Congolese Catholic Church leaves 43 dead



At least 43 people, including children, were killed July 27 in a brutal overnight attack on a Catholic church in Komanda in eastern Congo.

Militants from the Allied Democratic Forces — an Islamist group linked to the Islamic State group — targeted faithful gathered for a youth retreat, opening fire and using machetes before looting homes and attacking displaced persons sheltering nearby.

The United Nations' mission in the country called the attack a "heinous" act of violence in a July 27 statement. Victims were buried in a mass grave July 28 following a funeral Mass at the Komanda church with Father Aime Lokana Dhegoïn presiding.

Pope Leo expressed "deep sorrow" over the attack in a July 28 telegram, signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican's secretary of state, and sent to Archbishop Fulgence Muteba Mugalu of Lubumbashi, who is president of Congo's bishops' conference.

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

Broglia: Church teaching obligates faithful to support pastoral care of migrants



Because Catholics believe that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, the faithful need to extend care to people beyond our national borders and help migrants within our national borders, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in a July 20 homily.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, who also leads the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, was the principal celebrant and homilist at the opening Mass for the Knights of Peter Claver's 109th annual Senior National Convention held July 20-23 at a conference center in the Washington suburb of Rockville.

Speaking before a congregation of about 1,000 people, Archbishop Broglio reflected on Jesus' visit with sisters Mary and Martha as recounted in Luke 8:15.

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

**Parish festivals taking place this
weekend in Tannersville, Throop and
Wilkes-Barre**


**BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS PARISH
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH**
215 Rebecca St. Throop, Pa 18512
• AUGUST 2nd & 3rd •


**YouthEvent on Parish Grounds
for Kids (ages 13 and under)
will open the festival Saturday @ 9:00am**

**WE NEED RAFFLE BASKET
DONATIONS!!!**



**BOTH Ethnic &
Traditional Picnic Faire**



SUNDAY BINGO starts at 1pm

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Homecoming Bazaar

Friday & Saturday

Aug 1st & 2nd .. 5 PM-9 PM

FOOD

Tables & Tents

Take Out

Cheese Steak

Pierogi

Halupki

Potato Pancakes

Chicken Sandwich

Sausage & Peppers

Kids Menu

Ice Cream

Cannoli

RAFFLES

Big \$\$\$ Raffle Tickets

\$2. Chance...

Top Prize \$2000.00

Basket Raffles

Mystery Packages

Games

Children's Area

Big 6

Poker Table

Used Book Tent

Bingo is back

New!
-Beer n
Wine Garden
-Big 6 &
Poker Table

Our Lady of Victory Church, Tannersville Pa

Our Family...Your Family...One Family!

www.olvchurch.com or 570-629-4572 for more information.

(GPS) 327 Cherry Lane Rd, Bartonsville Pa 18321

2025 Homecoming Bazaar sign pub

ST. AL'S

CHURCH

MUSIC, FOOD,
GAMES, BINGO,
FLEA MARKET
& MORE!

**DON'T
MISS IT!**

FUN FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY!

BAZAAR

JULY 31, AUG 1 & 2

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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