



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 11, 2025



**Saint Augustine Church, oldest
in the Diocese, to celebrate 200
years of faith and heritage**



As the Diocese of Scranton continues to celebrate the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, one faith community is preparing to mark a milestone that connects the past, present and future of Catholic life in northeastern Pennsylvania.

On Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, a special Mass will be held at Saint Augustine Church in Susquehanna County to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the beginnings of the church community.

Saint Augustine Church is the oldest Catholic church in the Diocese of Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant for the 10:30 a.m. liturgy.

“There is so much joy. Our people are really preparing to receive the Bishop,” Father Thomas Augustine, Administrator pro tem, Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville, explained. Saint Augustine Church is a worship site of Saint Bridgid Parish.

The celebration comes as Saint Augustine Church is also recognized as one of the eight pilgrimage sites designated by

Bishop Bambera for the Jubilee Year of Hope, inviting the faith to encounter Christ in historic places of worship and renewal.

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

Diocesan pilgrims in Italy conclude 'Jubilee Year of Hope' pilgrimage with stops in Gubbio, Lucca and Florence



Nearly 100 pilgrims from the Diocese of Scranton returned home to the United States Tuesday afternoon after a ten-day excursion in Italy.

Celebrated in connection to the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, the pilgrims visited many sites at the Vatican and well beyond.

On their final full day in Italy, the pilgrims visited Gubbio, which is known to many in northeastern Pennsylvania with its connection as the sister city of Jessup. The pilgrims celebrated Mass in the Basilica of Saint Ubaldo, which is located at the top of the mountain that watches over Gubbio.

On the eighth day of the pilgrimage, the local residents visited Lucca, one of Italy's most renowned Citta d'Arte (Art Towns) including a stop at San Michele in Foro Basilica.

[Click Here to View a Day-by-Day Photo Album from the Italy Pilgrimage](#)

New young saints encourage faithful to live life to the full, Pope says



The greatest risk in life is to waste it by not seeking to follow God's plan, Pope Leo XIV said, proclaiming two new saints — two young laymen of the 20th and 21st centuries.

"Sts. Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upward and make them masterpieces," the pope said Sept. 7.

"The simple but winning formula of their holiness," he said, is accessible to everyone at any time. "They encourage us with their words: 'Not I, but God,' as Carlo used to say. And Pier Giorgio: 'If you have God at the center of all your actions, then you will reach the end.'"

Before canonizing the first saints of his pontificate, Pope Leo greeted the more than 80,000 faithful who had gathered early in St. Peter's Square because he wanted to share his joy with them before the start of the solemn ceremony.

"Brothers and sisters, today is a wonderful celebration for all of Italy, for the whole church, for the whole world," he said before the Mass.

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

Mid Valley parish celebrates namesake Carlo Acutis becoming Church's first millennial saint



Just hours after Carlo Acutis was officially canonized by Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican, a parish community half a world away gathered in celebration and thanksgiving.

Parishioners at Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish – now Saint Carlo Acutis Parish – came together Sept. 7, 2025, to honor the young saint who has become both their patron and a symbol of their renewed identity in Christ.

“This is so exciting,” parishioner Liz Sandrowicz said. “He’s the saint that we chose for our parish and he’s the first millennial saint. I think that is wonderful.”

Following Masses at 9:30 a.m. in Throop and 11:00 a.m. in Olyphant, the faithful were invited to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration through 5 p.m., with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary being prayed throughout the day.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television Regarding the Mass and Celebration Held at Saint Carlo Acutis Parish in Lackawanna County](#)

Bishop Bambera announces new clergy appointments



On Monday, Sept. 8, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced new clergy appointments - a majority of which will go into effect in October.

To view the latest clergy appointments, click on the link below.

[Click Here to Read the Full List of Clergy Appointments Announced by Bishop Bambera on Sept. 8, 2025](#)

Bishops, officials call for prayer after conservative activist Charlie Kirk shot and killed



Catholic bishops and public officials are calling for prayer following the apparent assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, who died after being shot Sept. 10 during an event at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah.

Kirk was 31 and a married father with two young children. He was shot in the neck, reportedly by a sniper from a campus building. The suspect is still at large, and a manhunt is underway, according to law enforcement officials.

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, R, called the shooting a “political assassination.”

“To whoever did this, we will find you,” Gov. Spencer Cox said at a press conference.

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

U.S. Bishops deepen commitment to fight racism with new permanent body



The U.S. Catholic bishops have deepened their commitment to combating racism, by making permanent a subcommittee dedicated to working for racial justice and reconciliation in society.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced Sept. 10 that its Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism – established in 2017 under then-USCCB president, and now retired, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo Galveston-Houston, Texas – has been made a permanent USCCB body.

The move, approved by the USCCB's administrative committee Sept. 9, will place the committee, now named the Subcommittee for the Promotion of Racial Justice and Reconciliation, under the conference's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

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

Department of Education to issue guidance on protecting prayer in public schools, President Trump says



The Department of Education will issue new guidance “protecting the right to prayer” in public schools, President Donald Trump said Sept. 8 during remarks at the Museum of the Bible for the Department of Justice’s Religious Liberty Commission.

The Trump administration previously reduced the workforce at the Department of Education and stated its intent to scale the department back.

In a statement shared with OSV News, Savannah Newhouse, press secretary for the Department of Education, said, “Free exercise of religion is a founding principle and a constitutionally protected right afforded to all citizens of our great nation. The Department of Education looks forward to supporting President Trump’s vision to promote religious liberty in our schools across the country.”

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

Pope: Church needs to promote greater study, understanding of Mary



The Catholic Church needs the theological study and model of Mary, Pope Leo XIV said, calling for a great promotion of Mariology in parishes, religious life and educational centers.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, “never ceases to open doors, build bridges, break down walls and help humanity to live in peace and in the harmony of diversity,” he said Sept. 6 during an audience with some 600 scholars attending a conference on Mariology.

The Pontifical International Marian Academy organized the 26th International Mariological Marian Congress in Rome Sept. 3-6, discussing the theme, “Jubilee and Synodality: A Church with a Marian Face and Practice.” Participants included Orthodox, Protestant and Muslim scholars.

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

Pope Leo's vocation took root in childhood; never a 'doubt in anyone's mind' he'd be a priest



As Pope Leo XIV nears his 70th birthday Sept. 14, those closest to the American-born pontiff say they knew, very early on, that he was in for lifelong service to the church.

There was not one specific instance when as a child Robert Francis Prevost, who was born in Chicago and raised in its south suburbs, decided to become a priest, according to his brother John.

“From the youngest age, he (just) knew that that’s what he was going to do. It wasn’t that there was ever a doubt in anyone’s mind. Even going to kindergarten he knew that he was going to be a priest,” John Prevost told OSV News.

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

Parish festivals continue this weekend in Dalton, Elkland and Montoursville

ANNUAL FESTIVAL

FREE PARKING!

2 DAYS!

Church of
OUR LADY
of the
ABINGTONS
(Dalton, PA - Seminary Road)

FREE PARKING!

2 DAYS!

SAT. SEP 13

PORK BBQ

5 - 10 PM

(or 'til sold out)

~ MUSIC ~

QBALL

SUN. SEP 14

Chicken BBQ

Noon - 6 PM

Children's Games

~ MUSIC ~

**The
Quiet Men**

HANDICAP PARKING AVAILABLE

**RAFFLES, LOTS OF BASKETS!
PLENTY OF FOOD...FUN FOR ALL!**

VENDORS WANTED



CHINESE BASKET RAFFLE

CRAFTS ~ FLEA MARKET ITEMS
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ~ Knoxville Firemen's Field

\$20 Set Up Fee

(Bring - own tables, chairs and canopy)

Call Rectory at 814-258-5121
for more information & to reserve your spot.

Benefit: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Westfield/Elkland

Chicken BBQ (Prepared by Knoxville VFW)



FOOD - GAMES & MUCH
MORE!!

EVERYONE WELCOME

*HAVE A GREAT DAY OF FUN FOR
THE WHOLE FAMILY!!*

**DON'T MISS
COW PIE BINGO!**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC CHURCH
ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL**

100 Walnut Street, Montoursville, PA
570-368-8598

September 12 & 13, 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.



**Live Music - Basket Raffle - Cake Wheel
Pumpkin Stand - Wine Wheel - Children's Games**

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Friday Night

**1/2 BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato, Applesauce,
Coleslaw, Roll & Dessert ~ \$15**

*Entertainment: Featuring
Leo & KG with Family Traditions*

Saturday Night

**Homemade Pierogies, Stuffed Cabbage,
Haluski and Dessert ~ \$15**

*Entertainment: Featuring Lenny Weber
One Man, One Guitar, One Good Time*

Dinner Tickets Available at Parish Office



Plus our regular delicious food!

Hot Sausages ~ Hamburgers ~ Hotdogs ~ French Fries
Egg Rolls ~ Walking Tacos ~ Funnel Cake
~ Fresh-Squeezed Lemonade ~ Ice Cream ~

Sunday at 11:30 a.m. ~ Basket Raffle in the Parish Hall

This is one of the last big weekends for our local parishes as they hold various picnics, bazaars and festivals.

Please continue to support our parish communities who work hard to put together enjoyable events for the entire community!

[Click Here to for the List of 2025 Church Festivals, Picnics and Bazaars](#)

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