



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 25, 2025

Thousands gather in Harrisburg for fifth annual Pennsylvania March for Life



Under overcast skies and amid heightened security, more than 5,000 pro-life advocates from across the Commonwealth gathered

at the State Capitol on Monday, Sept. 22, 2025, for the fifth annual Pennsylvania March for Life.

Among them were hundreds of faithful people from the Diocese of Scranton who were united in their prayerful witness to the sanctity of human life. Many traveled by bus from parishes in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Stroudsburg, and the Northern Tier.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, was one of several Pennsylvania Bishops who joined the crowds in Harrisburg. His presence was a source of encouragement for many in the crowd, especially first-time participants.

Among those making the trip to Harrisburg for his first Pennsylvania March for Life was Mike Casey of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco.

“It was great. It was very emotional, and I had a great time,” Casey said. “Hopefully, it sends the message for pro-life. We need (to be) pro-life. We have to end the abortion of babies. There are other ways of dealing with that solution.”

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

**Bishop Bambera to celebrate Respect
Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 5**

RESPECT LIFE
SUNDAY MASS



DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON



CATHEDRAL OF
ST. PETER
315 WYOMING AVE. SCRANTON, PA 18503

OCTOBER 5TH
10AM

The Catholic Church recognizes the month of October as Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October is designated as Respect Life Sunday.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is open to the public. Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the Respect Life Sunday Mass and focus on God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Catholics are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

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



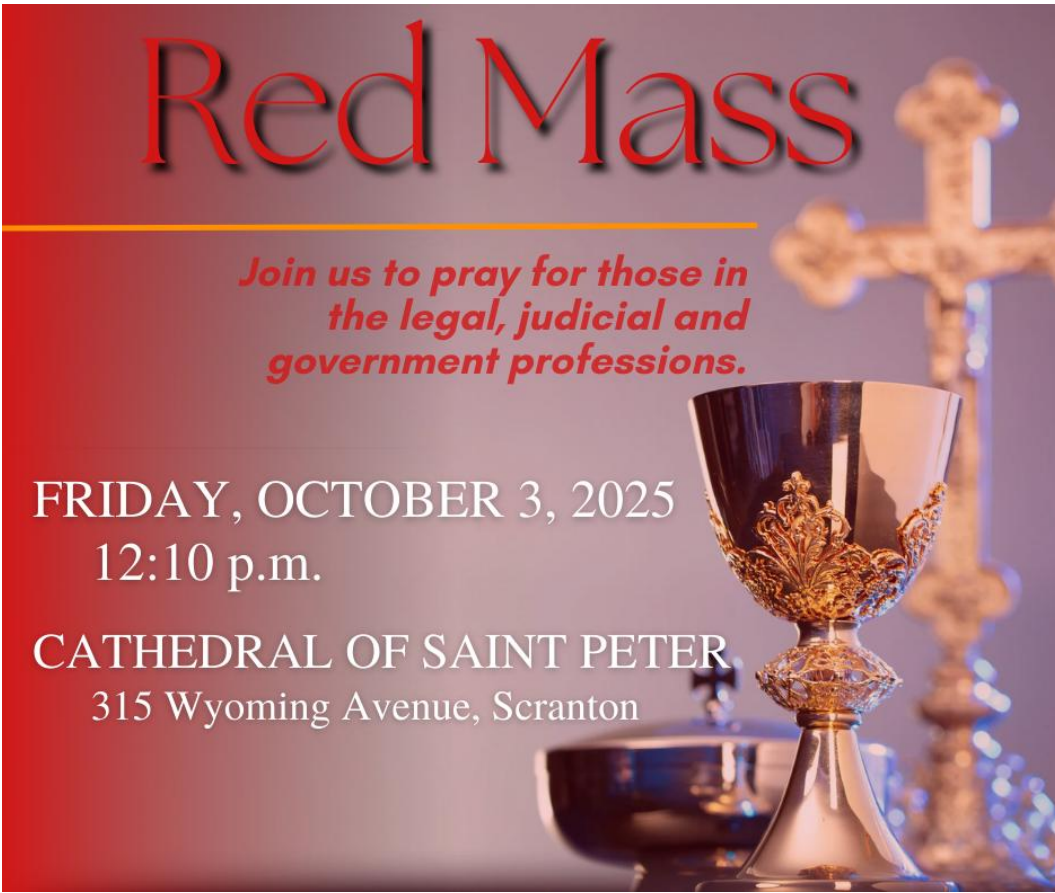
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Respect Life Month takes on new meaning during Jubilee Year, Bishop says

The upcoming annual observance of Respect Life Month by the nation's Catholics takes on new meaning amid the Jubilee Year of Hope, said the chair of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee.

Red Mass to be celebrated Oct. 3

Red Mass



*Join us to pray for those in
the legal, judicial and
government professions.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025
12:10 p.m.

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER
315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Scranton’s annual Red Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 3, 2025, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant. Reverend Paul A. McDonnell, O.S.J., will be the homilist.

Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God’s blessing and guidance in the administration of justice.

The public is invited to the Red Mass to pray for those in the legal, judicial and governmental professions. Members of the county bar associations from across the 11-county Diocese and the Diocesan Tribunal staff are also invited to participate.

Attendees will be asked to pray that decision-makers always serve the truth and to make and apply laws in ways that are right and just.

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U.S. Supreme Court Justice speaks at Vatican Jubilee of Justice

In a frescoed hall of a building housing the Catholic Church's highest courts, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. spoke about faith, mercy, tradition and hope.

Bishop Bambara announces new clergy appointments



On Friday, Sept. 19, 2025, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced new clergy appointments.

Click on the link below to see the clergy appointments announced on Sept. 19, 2025.

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambera's Clergy Appointments From Sept. 19, 2025](#)

Parishioners celebrate Mass honoring 125+ year legacy of Saint John the Baptist Church in Larksville



On Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025, parishioners and friends of Saint John the Baptist Church in Larksville gathered in thanksgiving to celebrate a special Mass marking 125+ years since the founding of their parish.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton was on hand at the anniversary Mass and filmed interviews with parishioners who were filled with joy and hope.

To watch the video, click on the link below.

[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the 125+ Year Celebration Mass](#)

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield supports Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen



Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield recently served as the presenting sponsor of Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen's "Volunteer Appreciation Dinner."

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield's \$3,000 donation covered the cost of the dinner, which served as a "thank you" to the many volunteers that help serve meals at the Kitchen throughout the

year, as well as volunteers who assist at the Kitchen's food pantry and free clothing store.

Pope asks everyone to pray the rosary for peace throughout October



Pope Leo XIV asked Catholics to pray the rosary each day in October for peace.

The pope made his request at the end of his weekly general audience Sept. 24 and the day after he said he had spoken again with the pastor of Holy Family Church in Gaza City, the only Latin-rite Catholic parish in Gaza.

“Thanks be to God everyone in the parish is fine,” but the Israeli strikes “are a little closer,” the pope told reporters in Castel Gandolfo Sept. 23 before heading back to the Vatican after a day’s

rest. The parish is offering refuge and assistance to hundreds of Gaza residents.

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

In celebration of National Migration Week, Bishops call for solidarity with immigrants amid 'fear, anxiety'



Ahead of the U.S. Catholic Church's observance of its annual National Migration Week, taking place this year Sept. 22-28, the U.S. bishops reiterated their longstanding efforts to show solidarity with immigrants amid "fear and anxiety" prompted by current immigration enforcement efforts.

Catholic social teaching on immigration seeks to balance three interrelated principles – the right of persons to migrate in order

to sustain their lives and those of their families; the right of a country to regulate its borders and control immigration; but also a nation's duty to regulate its borders with justice and mercy.

"The U.S. bishops have consistently expressed solidarity with immigrants amid the fear and anxiety prompted by current immigration enforcement efforts," said a statement issued Sept. 18 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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

At United Nations, Trump shifts tone on Ukraine, calls for Gaza ceasefire



President Donald Trump on Sept. 23 addressed the U.N. General Assembly amid the backdrop of conflict in Gaza and Russia's

invasion of Ukraine, as world leaders still question the extent to which the U.S. will be involved in global affairs as the Trump administration implements its “America First” foreign policy.

But a few hours after his address to the assembly, and after a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Trump wrote on his social media website Truth Social that Ukraine can win back all territory it lost to Russia after Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion, marking a shift in tone from Trump’s previous calls on Kyiv to make concessions.

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

Saint Patrick's Cathedral mural honors immigrants, first responders, NY saints



A new 25-foot-high mural that covers the walls of the entrance to St. Patrick's Cathedral and was officially dedicated before Mass Sept. 21 celebrates New York's sacred and secular history.

The largest permanent artwork commissioned in the 146-year history of "America's Parish Church," the painting depicts the apparition at Knock in Ireland, along with New York saints, servants of God, immigrants and first responders.

At a morning press event Sept. 18, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan and Brooklyn artist Adam Cvijanovic unveiled the mural, and the cardinal discussed how his initial vision for a representation of the Knock apparition evolved.

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**2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal is
Underway!**



OUR CALL TO SERVE

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



**116,610
MEALS SERVED**

**To Guests at Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre last year
(That is an increase of 7.5% from the previous year)**

Support the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal at: AnnualAppeal.org

[Click Here to Learn More about or Donate to the 2025 Catholic
Ministries Appeal](https://AnnualAppeal.org)

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