



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 23, 2025

Jubilee Mass for Women and Men Religious to be celebrated Sunday



JUBILEE MASS FOR WOMEN AND MEN RELIGIOUS



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 12:15 P.M.
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER, SCRANTON

Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to participate in a joyful celebration as we honor the dedicated contributions of women and men in religious life during the annual Jubilee Mass for Women and Men Religious on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass will begin at 12:15 p.m., with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, serving as the principal celebrant.

This special liturgy offers an opportunity to give thanks for the invaluable witness, service, and commitment of those who have devoted their lives to God through religious vocations. From teaching in Catholic schools to providing hospital ministry, prayer and pastoral ministry, women and men religious have had a tremendous impact on the life of the Church and the communities they serve.

As we celebrate the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, this Mass will also be a powerful reminder of the ongoing importance of vocations to religious life – and our shared responsibility to pray for and support those who answer God’s call in such generous and selfless ways.

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

World Mission Sunday Mass showcases universality of the Catholic Church



In his more than 15 years as leader of the Diocese of Scranton, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said he could not recall a local liturgy that more powerfully radiated the universality of the Catholic Church than the World Mission Sunday Mass celebrated on Oct. 19 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

“I don’t think I have ever experienced a Mass in this Cathedral in all of my years as Bishop that has reminded us of the fact that our hands reach across oceans and countries to one another as brothers and sisters in the Lord,” the Bishop said at the close of the liturgy. “May we continue to live in that spirit!”

The Mass, which drew a diverse crowd of religious sisters and lay faithful, featured both the Cathedral choir and a Congolese choir that sang in Swahili. Their voices highlighted the richness of the global Church – not just in song – but in shared mission.

While Bishop Bambera served as principal celebrant of the World Mission Sunday Mass, the homily was delivered by Bishop Matthew Kwasi Gyamfi, Bishop of Sunyani, Ghana – a longtime friend of the Scranton Diocese.

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

Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top plans mission retreat to honor patron

A poster for a three-day mission retreat. The left side has a green background with a photo of a crowd. The right side has a yellow background. Text is in green and yellow. Portraits of the presiding priests are on the right.

2025 ST JUDE PARISH MISSION

HOPE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

DAY 1 - IT IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

DAY 2 - YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

DAY 3 - WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

SUNDAY OCT 26TH

11 AM - MASS

PRESIDER:

FR. TOM DZWONCZYK

MONDAY OCT 27TH

6:30 PM- ADORATION, TALK & CONFESSIONS

LED BY FR. STEPHEN ROBBINS

TUESDAY OCT 28TH (ST JUDE FEAST DAY)

6:30 PM - MASS

PRESIDER: FR. JOE EVANKO

POST MASS - POTLUCK & FESTIVITIES

Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top will host a special three-day mission retreat in the coming days to prepare for the upcoming Feast of Saint Jude.

The theme for the parish mission honoring its patronal saint is “Hope in The Body of Christ,” coinciding with the Jubilee Year of Hope and the Eucharistic Revival movement.

The mission schedule planned for Saint Jude Church, with each day’s theme, is as follows:

Sunday, Oct. 26 — “It is the Body of Christ,” with opening Mass presided over by newly ordained Scranton Diocesan priest Father Tom Dzwonczyk, who served Saint Jude Parish as a transitional deacon.

Monday, Oct. 27 — “You are the Body of Christ,” night of adoration, music, and sacramental confessions, with guest talk by Father Stephen Robbins, associate vocation director for the Diocese of Camden, N.J.

Tuesday, Oct. 28 (Saint Jude Feast Day) — “We are the Body of Christ,” with Mass celebrated by Father Joe Evanko, host pastor, followed by a potluck dinner social.

[Click Here to Learn More About the St. Jude Parish Mission By Visiting the Saint Jude Parish Website](#)

Taizé Prayer Service planned for tonight in Laflin

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025
7:00 - 8:00 PM

JOIN US FOR A BEAUTIFUL
EVENING OF CANDLELIT,
CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER AT

SAINT MARIA GORETTI PARISH
42 REDWOOD DRIVE
LAFLIN, PA 18702

TAIZÉ PRAYER IS A MEDITATIVE STYLE OF COMMUNAL PRAYER WITH SUNG REPETITIVE
REFRAINS, CREATING A GENTLE RHYTHM.

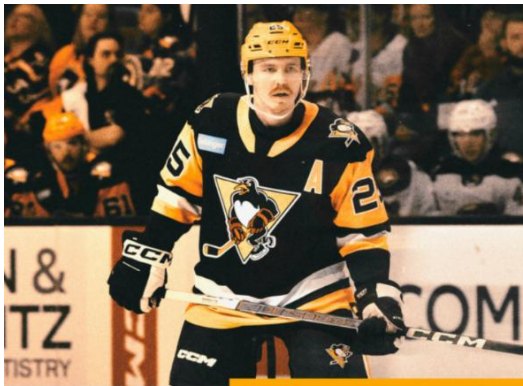
THE PRAYER SERVICE WILL BE DIRECTED BY ROB YENKOWSKI, THE MUSIC DIRECTOR AT KING'S
COLLEGE AND THE CANTORES CHRISTI REGIS CHOIR.

A Taizé Prayer service will be held this evening (Thursday, Oct. 23), from 7 to 8 p.m. at Saint Maria Goretti Church, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin.

Taizé Prayer is a meditative style of communal prayer with sung repetitive refrains.

All are invited to the evening of candlelit, contemplative prayer.

Faith and Family Night with the SWB Penguins planned for Nov. 14



GROUP NIGHT OUT WITH THE PENS!

November 14 | 7:05PM vs Bridgeport
Diocese of Scranton Group Offer!

Join the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins as they take on the Bridgeport Islanders!
 Special group pricing is offered to the Diocese of Scranton and their friends and family!

PRICING

Green Zone \$25
 Blue Zone \$23

THEME NIGHT

Faith and Family Night!

Add-on's

Food Voucher \$4.25
Due date is 11/7

SCAN HERE



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON



For more info or to purchase tickets directly over the phone, please call
TYLER ROTHMANN at 570-208-5407 or e-mail trothmann@wbspenguins.com

LARGE GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESERVE IN ADVANCE, NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____
 I WOULD LIKE: _____ # OF PACKAGES: _____ EACH FOR A TOTAL OF \$: _____
 CREDIT CARD: _____ EXP: _____ DELIVERY METHOD: MAIL
 CHECK NUMBER: _____ [CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WBS PENGUINS]

Everyone is invited to join the Diocese of Scranton for a night of thrilling hockey at Faith and Family Night with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township.

On Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, come out with the Diocese of Scranton to cheer on the Penguins as they take on the Bridgeport Islanders, and enjoy an evening filled with plenty of family fun.

This night is open to people of all ages, so bring your family, friends, and neighbors as we come together as a Diocesan family. Gates open at 6:00 p.m., puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

To purchase discounted tickets, click on the link below. You can also scan the QR code on the graphic above.

[Click Here to Get Your Tickets for "Faith and Family Night with the SWB Penguins"](#)

Pope to issue document on Catholic education, name St. Newman co-patron



Pope Leo XIV will issue a document on Catholic education Oct. 28, marking the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's declaration on education, a top Vatican official said.

Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education, also told reporters Oct. 22 that in the document Pope Leo will name St. John Henry Newman “co-patron” of Catholic education.

St. Newman, whom Pope Leo will declare a “doctor of the church” Nov. 1, will join the current patron, St. Thomas Aquinas.

Cardinal Tolentino de Mendonça shared the news during a presentation about the Jubilee of the World of Education, which is scheduled for Oct. 27-Nov. 1. More than 20,000 people from 124 nations have signed up for the event celebrating the Catholic commitment to education from primary school through university, he said.

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

Pew: More U.S. adults see religion as important, positive to public life



A new study indicates a growing number of U.S. adults see religion as gaining influence in public life – with more Americans saying religion has a positive impact on society.

In addition, an increasing number of the nation's adults report feeling at odds with mainstream U.S. culture because of their religious beliefs.

The findings were released by Pew Research Center in an Oct. 20 report.

Data for the study was collected from two surveys of U.S. adults who are part of Pew's American Trends Panel. Pew polled 9,544 panelists from Feb. 3-9 and another 8,937 from May 5-11.

While “most Americans continue to say that religion's role in society is declining,” said Pew, “Americans' views about religion in public life are shifting.”

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

Pope Leo meets with coalition of survivors of clergy abuse



Pope Leo XIV met with a coalition of survivors of abuse and victims' advocates for the first time at the Vatican Oct. 20.

Members of the board of Ending Clergy Abuse met with the pope for about an hour in a closed-door meeting that was later confirmed by the Vatican.

"This was a deeply meaningful conversation," Gemma Hickey, ECA board president and survivor of clergy abuse in Canada, said in a press release. "It reflects a shared commitment to justice, healing and real change."

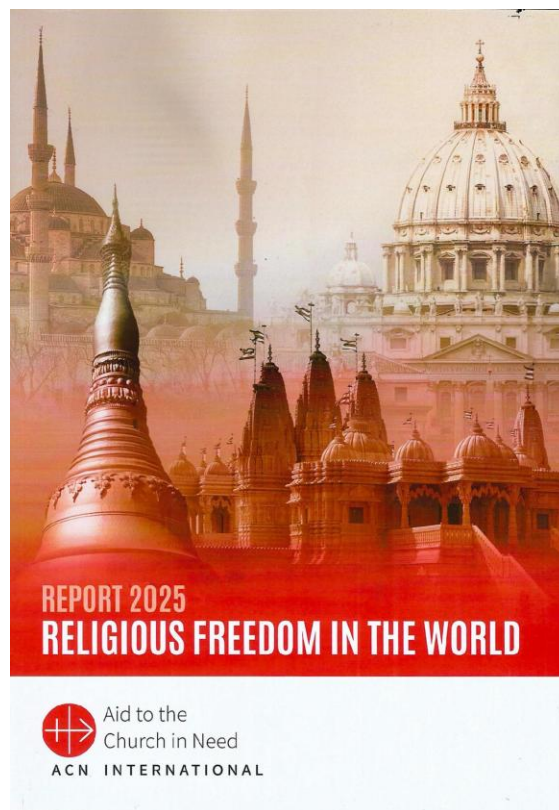
"Survivors have long sought a seat at the table, and today we felt heard," Hickey said in the statement.

"Pope Leo is very warm, he listened," Hickey said at a news conference, according to Reuters. "We told him that we come as

bridge-builders, ready to walk together toward truth, justice and healing.”

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

Attacks on religious liberty increase, say Cardinal, Papal Foundation



Religious freedom is not only a fundamental and essential human right, “it is also a pathway to truth and deeper communion with God and neighbor,” said Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state.

However, religious freedom is severely restricted in 62 of the world’s 196 countries, affecting around 5.4 billion people; “in

other words, almost two-thirds of the world's population lives in countries where serious violations of religious freedom take place," the cardinal said.

Cardinal Parolin was citing information contained in the 2025 Religious Freedom Report compiled by the papal foundation Aid to the Church in Need and released Oct. 21 during a conference at Rome's Augustinianum Patristic Institute.

The fact that the 2025 report runs 1,248 pages, the largest in its 25-year history, "indicates that violations of religious freedom are increasing year on year," the cardinal said.

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

Catholic coalition holds nationwide prayer vigils at ICE offices



A coalition of Catholic organizations held prayer vigils across the country on Oct. 22 for what organizers called “a national day of public witness for our immigrant brothers and sisters.”

The vigils came amid growing concern from some faith communities — including a Catholic parish in Chicago — about the impact of the Trump administration’s rollback of a policy that prohibited immigration enforcement in sensitive locations, such as churches, schools, and hospitals.

The “One Church, One Family: Catholic Public Witness for Immigrants,” vigils took place in multiple locations around the country on Oct. 22. A second series of events is scheduled for Nov. 13, the feast day of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, universal patroness of immigrants.

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

YOUR GIFTS MATTER
Support the 2025 Catholic Ministries
Appeal!

“ *The Catholic Ministries Appeal is vital to seminarian formation and the formation of good and holy priests ... Words cannot express how grateful we are.* **”**

**-Father Thomas Dzwonczyk
Newly Ordained Priest**



Your gift to the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps ensure our seminarians are formed well and become holy men with a love for Jesus Christ.

Support the 2025 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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