



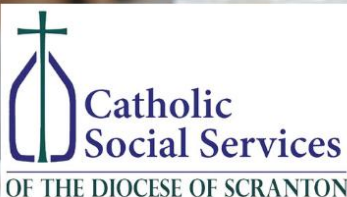
The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 30, 2025

**Catholic Social Services braces
for increase in need as SNAP
benefits are set to expire**



WE ARE HERE TO HELP

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OPERATES FOOD PANTRIES
AND KITCHENS IN NUMEROUS COMMUNITIES.
ANYONE IN NEED IS WELCOME!

CARBONDALE - 34 RIVER STREET (FOOD PANTRY)
OPEN: MON-THUR: 9 A.M.-NOON; 1 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

HAZLETON - 106/108 S. CHURCH STREET (FOOD PANTRY)
OPEN: MON/FRI: 10-11:45 A.M. & 1-3 P.M.; THUR: 2 P.M. - 6 P.M.

SCRANTON - 504 PENN AVENUE (ST. FRANCIS FOOD PANTRY)
OPEN: TUES-FRI: 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

SCRANTON - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI KITCHEN
DAILY MEAL: 11 A.M.-NOON; DINNER TUES-THUR 5-6 P.M.

WILKES-BARRE - 39 EAST JACKSON STREET (FOOD PANTRY)
OPEN: TUES & THUR: 9 A.M. - 11 A.M.

WILKES-BARRE - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL KITCHEN
DAILY MEAL: 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is preparing for an increase in visitors at its food pantries and kitchens in the coming weeks as the possibility looms for funding of federal SNAP benefits is set to expire at the end of October.

SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, is a federally-funded program that helps millions of eligible, low-income households and individuals purchase nutritious and healthy food at participating grocery stores and farmers markets.

Even before the program is set to run out of funds, demand for assistance from Catholic Social Services' food pantries has been rising.

For example, in Carbondale, the CSS Food Pantry located at 34 River Street, has served 90 new families in the months of August and September alone.

There are numerous ways the community can help make sure no one goes hungry locally. Catholic Social Services is seeking both cash donations and non-perishable food items. They're particularly looking for pasta, low or no-sugar cereal, peanut butter, and canned meats like tuna and chicken.

Donations can be dropped off at any of the food pantries listed above during normal business hours. Monetary donations can also be made online at the link below.

[Share the List of Items Requested by Local Food Pantries from the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

[Make a Monetary Donation to Support Catholic Social Services' Food Pantries](#)

Bishops raise alarm about disruption of federal food assistance



The president of the U.S. bishops' conference has urged lawmakers to fund federal food assistance before a looming deadline risks disrupting benefits for more than 40 million people.

The Trump administration said benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, would not be issued starting on Nov. 1 if the federal government shutdown remains in effect.

About 42 million Americans rely on SNAP. Data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture showed that in fiscal year 2023, 79% of SNAP recipient households included either a child, an elderly individual or a nonelderly individual with a disability.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a statement released late Oct. 28 the group is "deeply alarmed that essential programs that support the common good, such as SNAP, may be interrupted."

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

ACTION ALERT: Urge Your Member of Congress to Ensure Social Safety Net Programs Remain Funded



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has established a way for the faithful to urge their members of Congress to ensure that lifesaving social safety net programs, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), are funded and to end the government shutdown as quickly as possible.

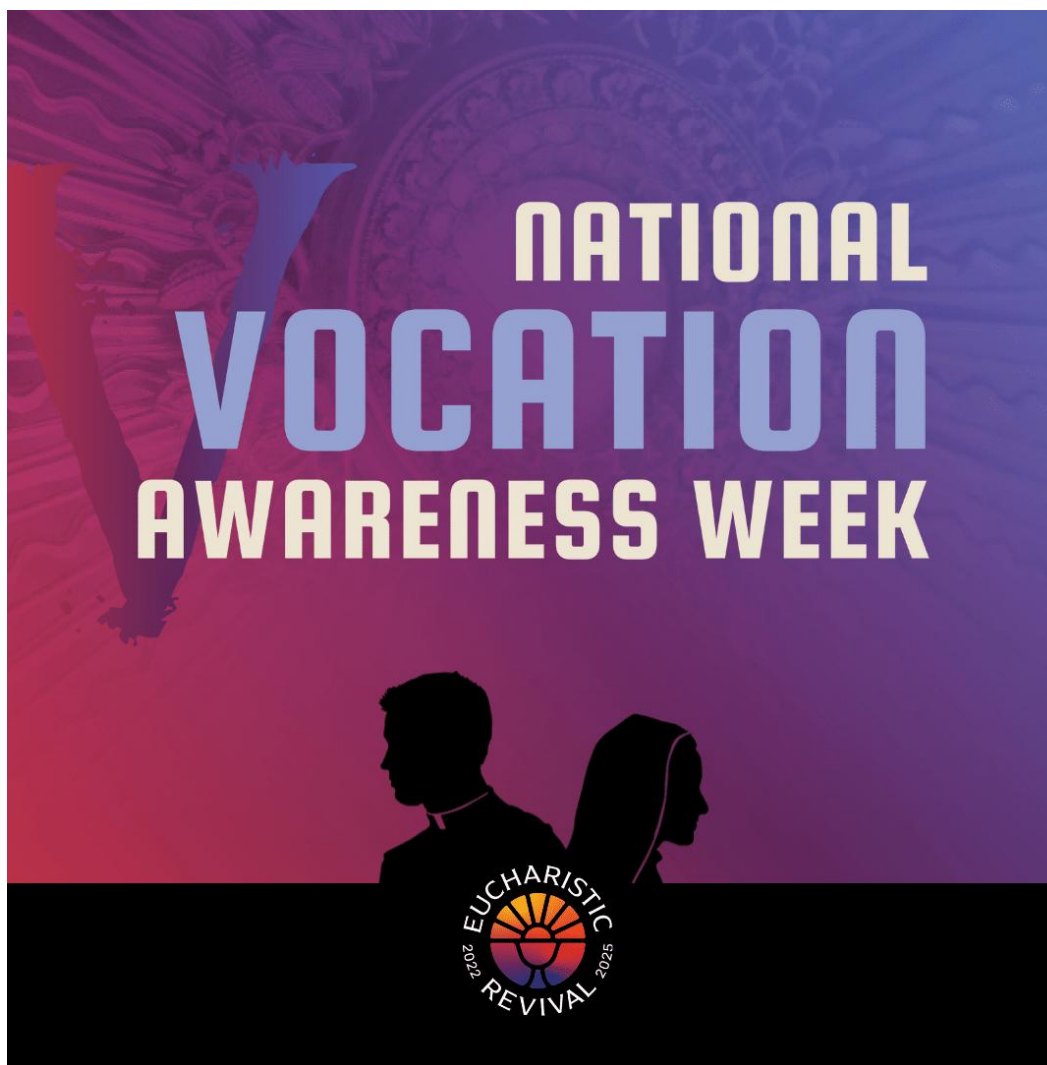
More than 42 million Americans rely on SNAP to put food on the table. As the government shutdown continues, these families in need are at risk of losing access to this lifeline.

As people of faith, let us stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters in need. Tell your members of Congress to work in a bipartisan way to ensure continued funding of lifesaving programs and to put an end to the government shutdown.

By advocating today, your voice can help families with children, soon-to-be mothers, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and veterans.

[Click Here to Urge Your Congressional Leaders to Fund Lifesaving Programs](#)

National Vocation Awareness Week begins on Sunday



National Vocation Awareness Week, celebrated Nov. 2-8, 2025, is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education.

This special week is also a time to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

National Vocation Awareness Week began in 1976 when the U.S. Bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year. In 1997, the celebrated was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls in January. Beginning in 2014, National Vocation Awareness Week was moved to the first full week of November.

[Click Here to Meet our 13 Diocese of Scranton Seminarians](#)

**Leave a Mark Mass to be held Sunday
at Cathedral of Saint Peter to kick off
National Vocation Awareness Week**

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

VOCATIONS



YOUNG ADULTS

KICK OFF NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

†
**Leave
a
Mark** **2025**

NOVEMBER 2ND

5pm Mass - Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton



Food Trucks and Reception after Mass!

There are now just three days until the 10th annual Leave a Mark Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

If you need one last push to come to Leave a Mark (and bring your friends), maybe the final words of Pope Francis spoken at the 2016 World Youth Day Vigil that started it all will help:

“Today, Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life, is calling you, you, and you to leave your mark on history.

He, who is life, is asking each of you to leave a mark that brings life to your own history and that of many others.

Are you up to this? [Yes!] Are you up to this? [Yes!] What answer will you give, and I'd like to see it, with your hands and with your feet, to the Lord, who is the way, the truth and the life? Are you up to this? [Yes!] May the Lord bless your dreams.”

Join us in listening for how God is calling us to be a Church that leaves a mark by the way in which we are called to love through our vocation at Leave a Mark this Sunday, November 2, at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter!

[Click Here for More Information on the 2025 Leave a Mark Mass](#)

**'Run Against Hunger' to take place
on Nov. 8 in Scranton**



Arrangements are well underway for the 13th annual “Run Against Hunger,” which benefits the Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton.

Participants can choose between a 2-mile walk, 5k run or 10k run. All of the races will take place on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, and begin at 9 a.m.

The Scranton Running Company and AllOne Charities are hosting the weekend’s events.

Awards will be given to the top overall male and female in both the 5k and 10k run. The top overall walker will also receive an award. Awards will also be given to the top two males and females in several age categories for both the 5k and 10k runs.

[Click Here for Information and Sponsorships for the 'Run Against Hunger'](#)

Catholics must build a more humble church, seeking truth together, Pope says



The supreme rule in the Catholic Church is love, which compels all of the faithful to serve, not to judge, exclude or dominate others, Pope Leo XIV said.

“No one should impose his or her own ideas; we must all listen to one another. No one is excluded; we are all called to participate,” he said in his homily during a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica Oct. 26.

“No one possesses the whole truth; we must all humbly seek it and seek it together,” he said.

The Mass marked the closing of the Oct. 24-26 Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies. About 2,000 members of synodal teams and bodies such as presbyteral councils, pastoral councils and finance councils at the diocesan, eparchial, national and regional levels were registered for the Jubilee events.

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

Changing world calls for new commitment to Catholic schools, Pope says



Catholic education, which has changed over the centuries, must continue to evolve to help young people face the challenges not only of technology but of confusion about the meaning and purpose of life, Pope Leo XIV said.

“I call upon all educational institutions to inaugurate a new season that speaks to the hearts of the younger generations, reuniting knowledge and meaning, competence and responsibility, faith and life,” he wrote in an apostolic letter.

Titled “Disegnare Nuove Mappe Di Speranza” (“Drawing New Maps of Hope”), the letter was issued only in Italian Oct. 28. It marked the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on Catholic Education.

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

Proclamation of Saint John Henry Newman as Doctor of Church signals Catholic revival at Oxford



When St. John Henry Newman is proclaimed a doctor of the church on Nov. 1, staff and students at his old university will be counting on a boost of confidence for Oxford's once-excluded Catholics.

"Newman had a huge influence during his lifetime and drew a lot of people into the church," explained Alvea Fernandez, from Oxford University's Catholic chaplaincy.

"Seeing a relatively recent Oxford figure elevated this way now has encouraged people to talk more openly about their faith."

The lay chaplain spoke with OSV News as members of the ancient university prepared to travel to Rome for the All Saints' Day ceremony, which will see the one-time Protestant declared the Catholic Church's 38th doctor.

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

USCCB President urges faithful to pray for, support victims of Hurricane Melissa



As Hurricane Melissa continued its devastating course through the Caribbean, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, urged Catholics to pray for and support the people and communities impacted by one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record.

In the Caribbean region, “families face severe risk of flooding, landslides, displacement, and infrastructure damage with little resources to respond” due to the strongest storm the planet has seen this year, the archbishop said in a statement released late Oct. 29. “Our brothers and sisters in small island nations like

Jamaica, Cuba, and Haiti are the most vulnerable to the impact of such strong storms, often intensified by a warming climate.”

Melissa has left dozens dead and caused widespread destruction across Jamaica, Cuba and Haiti. With winds ranging from 175-185 mph, it made landfall in southwestern Jamaica near New Hope around 1 p.m. ET Oct. 28 before heading toward Cuba, where it made landfall early in the morning Oct. 29 as a Category 3 storm.

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

YOUR GIFTS MATTER
Support the 2025 Catholic Ministries
Appeal!



SUPPORT OUR 13 SEMINARIANS

November 2-8 is National Vocation Awareness Week

**Your support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps to form the
next generation of holy priests - Donate at AnnualAppeal.org**

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

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