



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

January 22, 2026

Mass for Persons with Disabilities to be held Feb. 8



DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON

MASS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026

12:15 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

In advance of National Disability Awareness Month in March, the Diocese of Scranton will hold its annual Mass for Persons with

Disabilities on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

All people, including those with special abilities, have gifts to contribute to the life of the Church. The Diocese of Scranton embraces and welcomes the talents of all individuals in building up the Kingdom of God.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist at this special Mass.

The Mass is open to everyone. It will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and links will be provided on all Diocesan social media platforms.

Partners in the annual Mass for Persons with Disabilities include Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton and the Order of the Alhambra.

[Click Here to Read and Share this Information from the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

Bishop Bambera to celebrate World Day of Prayer for the Sick Mass on Feb. 11

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK MASS

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026
12:10 P.M.**

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER, SCRANTON
MASS WILL FEATURE THE LITURGY OF THE ANOINTING

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant for the Diocese of Scranton's annual Mass for the World Day of Prayer for the Sick on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Celebrated each year on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the World Day of the Sick invites the faithful to pray in a special way for those who are ill, the elderly, and all who suffer, while also honoring the compassionate service of caregivers, healthcare professionals, family members, and all who accompany the sick with love and dignity.

The World Day of the Sick Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter will feature the Liturgy of the Anointing. Any person who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be invited to approach the bishop/priest with their hands open and palms facing up. The bishop/priest will anoint both the forehead and hands of the sick person, accompanied by prayer for healing, strength, and peace.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will provide a live broadcast of the Mass for those unable to attend. The Mass

will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and links will be provided on all Diocesan social media platforms.

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



[Click Here to Read More](#)

Everyone can be a Good Samaritan, Pope says in message for world's sick

People of faith and goodwill need to take time to acknowledge the needs and suffering of those around them and be moved by love and compassion to offer others concrete help, Pope Leo XIV said.

Vance to address March for Life in person; Trump to speak via video



Vice President JD Vance is expected to address the 53rd annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 23, organizers of the event said Jan. 16.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Vice President Vance back to the March for Life this year,” Jennie Bradley Lichter, president March for Life, said in a statement. “His presence at this year’s March underscores the importance of this iconic event and the centrality of the pro-life movement to a healthy conservative coalition. We are honored that he will join us in standing up for the unborn alongside our marchers from all over the country.”

President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House Jan. 16 he recorded a video message for the event.

“I just taped a beautiful piece for them, and they’re going to play it,” Trump said.

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

***Watch the 2026 March for Life from
Washington, D.C. on CTV: Catholic Television***



**CTV/EWTN
MARCH FOR LIFE COVERAGE**

THURSDAY, JAN. 22
5:00 P.M.: OPENING MASS OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL

FRIDAY, JAN. 23
8:00 A.M.: CLOSING MASS OF THE NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL
9:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M.: MARCH FOR LIFE COVERAGE
3:00 P.M.: LIFE FEST MASS

**Cathedral of Saint Peter Mass to broadcast at
5 p.m. and 7 p.m. only**

**Today, January 22, is the Day of
Prayer for the Legal Protection of
Unborn Children**

DAY 7

9 DAYS FOR LIFE



May all preborn children be protected in law and welcomed in love.

Photo: iStockphoto.com/istockphoto.com

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the United States in its companion decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Since that time, millions of children have lost their lives, and millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

On June 24, 2022, the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and we praise God for the great opportunity state and federal legislators now have to protect pre-born children.

While God, in His mercy, ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, right now state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to pre-born children. So, great prayer and advocacy is very needed.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children."

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

Join us in prayer today:

A PRAYER FOR LIFE TO JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

O Jesus, you came that we might have life—and have it in abundance.

Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you form us in our mothers' wombs and call us to love you for all eternity.

As your most precious gift of human life is attacked, draw us ever closer to your Real Presence in the Eucharist. Dispel the darkness of the culture of death, for you are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

By the power of your Eucharistic Presence, help us to defend the life of every human person at every stage. Transform our hearts to protect and cherish all whose lives are most vulnerable.

For you are God, forever and ever. Amen.

[Click Here to Join Us in Participating in the "9 Days for Life" Novena](#)

Parishes throughout the Diocese to hold Collection for the Church in Latin America this weekend



The U.S. bishops are calling the faithful to donate to the annual collection for the Church in Latin America, to help support ministries among the poor in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean — and to “honor Pope Leo XIV and, above all, serve the Lord who calls us to love our neighbors.”

Many dioceses, including the Diocese of Scranton, will take this offering up in their parishes at Masses the weekend of Jan. 24-25.

Supported by the generosity of the U.S. faithful, the collection funds different ministries such as faith formation projects for teenagers, marriage enrichment, prison outreach and evangelization-centered gatherings. They represent the types of initiatives that inspired Pope Leo, then-Father Robert Prevost, “to go to Peru as a missionary,” according to a news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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

Human Trafficking and Sporting Events webinar to take place tonight



In partnership with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the New Jersey Catholic Conference, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, and the SOAP Project, we invite you to a 90-

minute webinar dedicated to exploring the intersection of human trafficking and major sporting events.

The webinar will take place on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

January marks National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a time when we come together to raise awareness about the grave injustice of human trafficking.

This year, the focus is on major sporting events, which unfortunately can create conditions where trafficking risks increase.

With the Super Bowl scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 8 in San Jose, California, this discussion is both timely and urgent.

[Click Here for More Information or to Register for Tonight's Webinar](#)

U.S. Bishops praise DHS policy change on wait times for religious worker visas



The Department of Homeland Security said Jan. 14 it issued an interim final rule reducing wait times for religious worker visas. Catholic advocates were among those who pushed the Trump administration to address the backlog in their visa category.

In its announcement, the department said its regulation change would reduce the wait time applicants are required to remain outside the U.S.

A spokesperson for DHS said in a statement the department “is committed to protecting and preserving freedom and expression of religion.”

“We are taking the necessary steps to ensure religious organizations can continue delivering the services that Americans depend on,” the spokesperson said. “Pastors, priests, nuns, and rabbis are essential to the social and moral fabric of this country. We remain committed to finding ways to support and empower these organizations in their critical work.”

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

Vatican completes official mosaic portrait of Pope Leo XIV for papal basilica



The Vatican has completed the official mosaic portrait of Pope Leo XIV, continuing a centuries-old tradition that marks the election of each new pontiff. The circular mosaic, known as a tondo, was created by the Vatican Mosaic Studio of the Fabric of St. Peter's and will be installed in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

The pontiff blessed artists Jan. 14, smiling at the sight of his own image, even as he battled a cold.

The tiles for the mosaic tondo were created using the ancient cut mosaic technique and fixed with traditional Vatican oil stucco – at the request of American Cardinal James Michael Harvey, the archpriest of the basilica.

The mosaic tondo, about 54 inches in diameter, was created with vitreous enamels and gold on a metal structure at the Vatican Mosaic Studio of the Fabric of St. Peter's.

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

Catholic Ministries Appeal at 87% of goal



**OUR CALL TO
SERVE**

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Donors across the Diocese of Scranton continue to support the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

To date, the Appeal has raised \$3,894,381 - or 87-percent of its \$4.5 million goal.

The Appeal funds critical Catholic Ministries that no single parish can do on its own - including seminarian and clergy support, Catholic schools, Catholic media, outreach programs to those

living in poverty and hardship through Catholic Social Services and much more!

Help us get to our goal - and make sure that all ministries are fully funded for our community!

[Click Here to Donate to the Catholic Ministries Appeal](#)

Follow us on Social Media...



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238

www.dioceseofscranton.org