



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

January 29, 2026

**Catholic Schools planning open
houses in celebration of
Catholic Schools Week**



The 19 schools in the Diocese of Scranton provide a well-rounded education, offering an enriching curriculum that includes the arts, foreign languages, physical education and latest computer technology to complement the core subjects of religion, math, language arts, social studies, and science.

Our students are prepared for success in college, trade school, military life, or wherever life takes them after graduation.

Students in our schools become critical thinkers and caring leaders, learning how to balance their academic and personal growth as they enjoy a wide variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities while living in service to others within the school walls and in their local communities.

Our goal is for students to develop a foundation of values that continues long after graduation.

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, you and your family are invited to take the first step and visit one of our 4 high schools or 15 elementary schools during an upcoming 2026 Open House.

Click below for the full schedule of open houses - many of which will take place this weekend on Feb. 1.

Once you have met the students, teachers and administrators, your students can also request a “Shadow Day” where they can attend classes with current students.

[Click Here for the Full Schedule of 2026 Catholic School Open House Schedule](#)

Second annual Living the STREAM contest begins tonight



The second annual Living the STREAM contest will officially get underway later tonight.

The contest is an opportunity for middle school students in Catholic Schools to shine as they share big ideas, using the elements of their STREAM education, to address issues in their local community, state, or world.

This year, more than 250 students - working in groups of 3-5 - participated by filming videos of themselves and their projects.

The public will be able to support the best idea or best video as a fundraiser for STREAM initiatives across the Catholic School System.

Voting will be open for ten days. The contest will end with an awards ceremony on Feb. 11 in Scranton.

[Click Here Beginning at 5 p.m. for the Living the STREAM Video Platform Page](#)

Bishop Bambera announces new clergy appointments

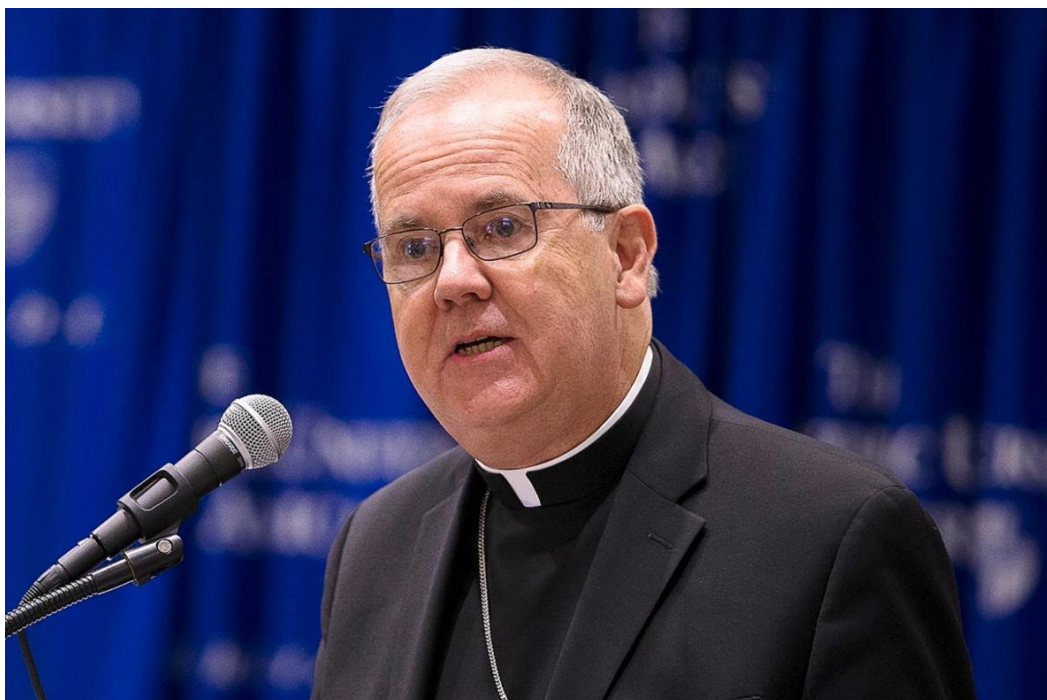


On Monday, Jan. 26, 2026, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced new clergy appointments.

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

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambera's Clergy Appointments Announced Jan. 26, 2026](#)

Bishop Bambera: Christian Unity is "vital" and "not an add-on"



Amid the 2026 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25, OSV News spoke with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who serves as chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Catholic co-chair of the Holy See's International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue committee, part of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity.

To read the interview, click on the link below.

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambera's Full Interview with Our Sunday Visitor Regarding the Importance of Christian Unity](#)

U.S. Bishops' President calls for Holy Hour of Peace amid 'current climate of fear'



Amid soaring domestic and global tensions, the head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has called for a Holy Hour for peace as “a moment of renewal for our hearts and for our nation.”

In a Jan. 28 statement, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, president of the USCCB, said that “the current climate of fear and polarization, which thrives when human dignity is disregarded, does not meet the standard set by Christ in the Gospel.”

He pointed to “the recent killing of two people by immigration enforcement officers in Minneapolis and that of a detained man in Texas,” referencing the deaths of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti, respectively slain by federal agents Jan. 7 and 24 as they protested immigration enforcement actions in Minneapolis.

Archbishop Coakley appeared to reference the death of Cuban immigrant Geraldo Lunas Campos, whose Jan. 3 death in a Texas immigration detention facility has been ruled a homicide.

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

Amid tensions in Minnesota, Archbishop Hebda calls for conversion of hearts



After a second fatal shooting in January involving federal agents in Minneapolis during an increase in federal immigration enforcement, Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda presided over an evening Mass for peace Jan. 25 at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul.

“My brothers and sisters, I suspect that if you’ve been watching the news or listening to the news, you might think that we’re in a period of great darkness,” the archbishop said in his homily. “I feel that. My heart breaks. And yet we know, brothers and sisters, that it’s precisely into that darkness that Jesus comes to bring hope. That’s what brings us here on (this) cold afternoon. It’s because we know that on our own we can’t fix this situation, but that it’s only the light of Christ.”

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

All Christians must humbly, joyfully invite others to trust in God, pope says



All Christians are called to invite everyone to trust in Christ, who enlightens and consoles, Pope Leo XIV said.

“Every authentic encounter with the Lord is, in fact, a transformative moment that grants a new vision and a new direction for the task of building up the Body of Christ,” the pope said as he closed the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 25 during an ecumenical evening prayer service at Rome’s Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Every year, the week “invites us to renew our commitment to this great mission, bearing in mind that the divisions among us — while they do not prevent the light of Christ from shining — nonetheless make the face which must reflect it to the world less radiant,” he said.

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

Marchers celebrate the unique gift of life at 53rd annual March for Life



As thousands gathered in the cold, to stand for the unborn, March for Life president Jennie Bradley Lichter reminded the crowd that what has “saved so many lives and moved countless hearts” on the abortion issue over the years is the marchers’ “unfailing hope” their “love for the littlest ones and for moms who need a hand,” their joy and “the sheer number of you who are here year after year.”

The theme of the 53rd annual March for Life was “Life Is a Gift” and both the crowd and the speakers at the rally embraced their personal experience of the gift of life.

At the start of the event, Lichter introduced the “Friends of Club 21” choir, a group of teens and young adults with Down syndrome who sang the national anthem. She said the group embodied the theme of the march.

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

U.S. Bishops applaud House for passing legislation supporting pregnant women



Three U.S. bishops who chair committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are applauding two pieces of legislation designed to support pregnant women through an array of resources, including continued access to higher education.

“We were grateful to see the U.S. House of Representatives pass the Pregnant Students’ Rights Act and the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act,” said Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre of Louisville, Kentucky, Bishop David M. O’Connell of Trenton, New Jersey, and Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, Ohio, in a Jan. 23 joint statement.

The three prelates respectively chair the USCCB’s committees on Domestic Justice and Human Development, Catholic Education and Pro-Life Activities.

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

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