



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

February 12, 2026

Bishop celebrates World Day of the Sick Mass at Cathedral of Saint Peter



As the hymn "In the Arms of God" resounded throughout the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Feb. 11, dozens of people received the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated a special Pontifical Mass to commemorate the World Day of the Sick at 12:10 p.m.

The World Day of the Sick was established in 1992 by Saint John Paul II as a moment of prayer, reflection, and spiritual closeness for the entire Church, calling attention to the face of Christ present in those who are sick and vulnerable.

"Today Jesus invites us to experience His healing and His grace. Say 'yes' to his invitation to come to Him with your burdens," Bishop Bambera said during his homily. "Trust that Jesus will care for you."

This year, Pope Leo XIV chose the theme: "The compassion of the Samaritan: Loving by bearing the pain of the other" as the theme for this year's World Day of the Sick.

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the World Day of the Sick Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Feb. 11](#)

Pope Leo XIV prays at Vatican's Lourdes Grotto for the sick



Pope Leo XIV prayed with the sick at the Lourdes grotto in the Vatican Gardens on Feb. 11, asking Our Lady of Lourdes to accompany all those who suffer in the world.

Shortly after his Wednesday audience, the pope lit a candle in the Marian grotto and knelt in prayer before the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes on the World Day of the Sick. He was joined by about a dozen people in wheelchairs accompanied by their caregivers who sang “Immaculate Mary,” the popular Lourdes hymn.

The pope thanked those present for joining him in prayer and reflected on Mary’s role in accompanying people through suffering.

“It is a very beautiful day that reminds us of the closeness of Mary, our mother, who always accompanies us and teaches us so much: what suffering means, what love means, what it means to entrust our lives into the hands of the Lord,” Pope Leo said.

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

**Lenten Holy Hours to begin next
Thursday, Feb. 19, in Wyalusing**



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
**LENTEN
HOLY HOUR**
with Bishop Bambera

**Thursday, February 19
7:00 p.m.**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
245 State Street, Wyalusing, PA 18853**

2026 Theme: "Finding Peace in Challenging Times"

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will once again travel throughout the Diocese of Scranton during Lent 2026 to lead Holy Hours in each of the Diocese's 12 deaneries, continuing a tradition that began several years ago.

The 2026 Lenten Holy Hours will begin on Thursday, Feb. 19 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Wyalusing, Bradford

County, and continue through Tuesday, March 24, at SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Plains, Luzerne County.

Each Holy Hour will offer Catholics the opportunity to gather for prayer, reflection, and Eucharistic devotion during the Lenten season.

This year's theme that Bishop Bambera will preach on is: Finding Peace in Challenging Times.

First launched several years ago as part of the National Eucharistic Revival, the Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera have drawn strong participation and elicited positive responses from parishioners. Many attendees return year after year, finding the evenings to be a moment of quiet encounter with Christ.

Each Holy Hour includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, time for silent prayer and adoration, a homily offered by Bishop Bambera, and sacred music that enhances the reverent atmosphere.

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

'Swing Dance' helps highlight National Marriage Week



The Diocese of Scranton is currently in the middle of observing National Marriage Week, which began on Feb. 7, and will run through Feb. 14.

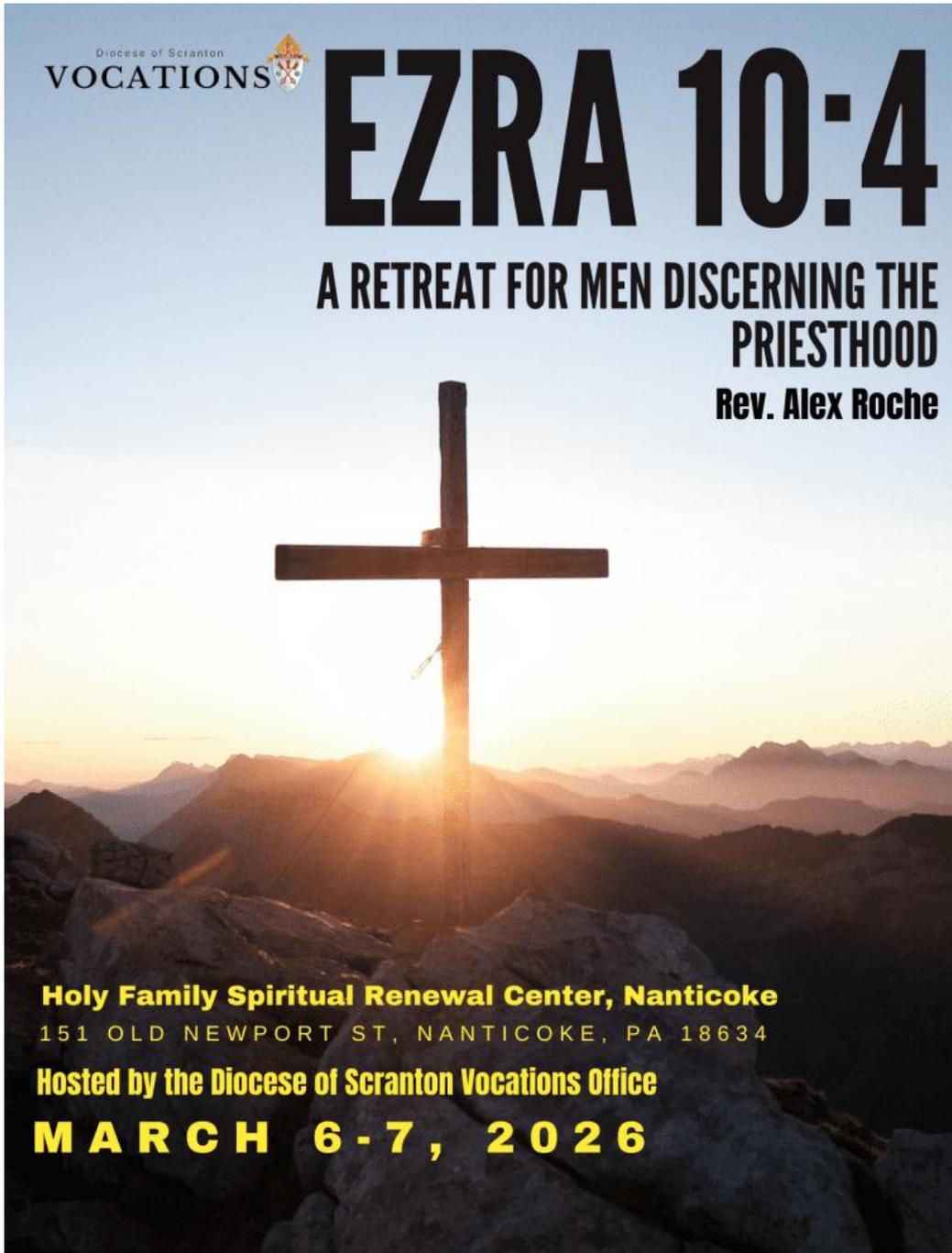
This special week is an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family.

This year's theme is: "Man and Woman He Created Them: Together with Purpose."

As part of this year's celebration in the Diocese of Scranton, couples came together for a joyful Swing Dance Night on Feb. 7 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center!

[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Feb. 7 Swing Dance at the Diocesan Pastoral Center](#)

**Ezra 10:4 Retreat for Men
Discerning Priesthood planned**



Diocese of Scranton
VOCATIONS

EZRA 10:4

**A RETREAT FOR MEN DISCERNING THE
PRIESTHOOD**
Rev. Alex Roche

Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center, Nanticoke
151 OLD NEWPORT ST, NANTICOKE, PA 18634

Hosted by the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office
MARCH 6-7, 2026

The Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office is hosting its Ezra 10:4 Retreat for men discerning the priesthood March 6-7 at Holy Family Spiritual Renewal Center in Nanticoke.

This preached retreat, named after the Book of Ezra verse that says, “Rise, then, for this is your duty! We are with you, so have courage and act!” is led by Fr. Alex Roche, Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation, Vocation Director, and Director of Seminarians.

Men 18+ who are interested in discerning a vocation to priesthood are invited to attend. For those who have come to the Ezra 10:4 Retreat before, brand new talks and discussion will be offered, so you are encouraged to come again!

This retreat will include Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, talks, group discussion, fellowship, rooming accommodations, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. This retreat is FREE to attend. For more information, please email vocations@dioceseofscranton.org.

Deadline to register is Friday, February 27th.

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

**Tickets available for Rectory, Set,
Cook! Launch Party**



Rectory, Set, Cook! 5 will kick off in just five days with a Launch Party on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton.

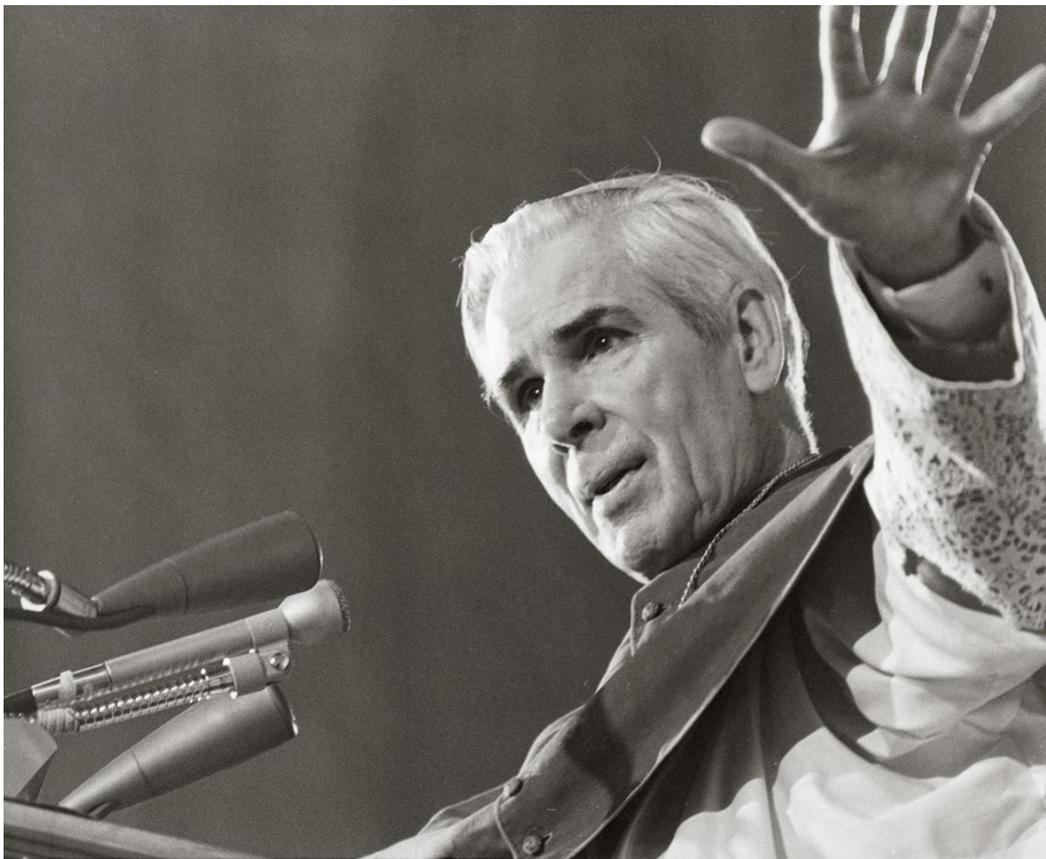
Our pastor chefs have been busy preparing a lot of fun recipes for you to enjoy, beginning on Feb. 17.

The Launch Party will be held from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and will feature a night of fellowship, food, music and good-hearted fun.

Advance tickets are recommended. The tickets are \$20 and include one (1) beer from Breaker Brewing Company in connection with Fr. Brian Van Fossen's new recipe this year, along with small plate appetizers and bites to eat.

[Click Here to Purchase Tickets to the Rectory, Set, Cook! 2026 Launch Party in Scranton](#)

Archbishop Fulton Sheen's beatification moves ahead after six- year pause



Venerable Fulton J. Sheen will soon be beatified, now that the Vatican has given the green light, the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, announced Feb. 9. No date or location for the beatification was given.

The announcement comes six years after the Holy See had postponed the beatification, initially scheduled for December 2019, only weeks before the event was to take place.

“The Holy See has informed me that the Cause for the Venerable Servant of God Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen can proceed to Beatification,” Bishop Louis Tylka of Peoria said in a Feb. 9 statement. “The next step in the process is the celebration of the Beatification, in which Fulton Sheen would be declared Blessed.”

He added, “We are working with the Dicastery of the Causes of Saints at the Vatican to determine the details for the upcoming Beatification.”

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

Church can help sports by flexing values, strengthening human dignity, Pope Leo XIV says



Just as the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milan Cortina were about to begin, Pope Leo XIV called on the Catholic Church to recognize sport as an opportunity to offer much-needed human and spiritual guidance.

With so many dangers and distortions threatening the integrity of athletics and the dignity of players, the Church can help strengthen the needed harmony between people’s physical and spiritual development, he wrote, helping sport become a place “for athletes to learn to take care of themselves without falling prey to vanity, to push themselves to their limits without harming themselves and to compete without losing sight of fraternity.”

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

Archbishop Hicks: World will always 'need a missionary church,' and the 'mission is before us.'



The world “always has and always will need a missionary Church,” said Archbishop Ronald A. Hicks in his first homily as the new shepherd of the Archdiocese of New York.

“The mission is before us,” he said. “The world is waiting with hope. And behold, God is with us always.”

Moments after his Feb. 6 installation Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral — a liturgy that that filled “America’s parish church” with at least some 2,000 congregants — Archbishop Hicks reaffirmed the words he spoke at the time of his December appointment by Pope Leo XIV: The Church is meant to go forth from the pews to the peripheries, bringing the Gospel of Christ’s saving love to a wounded and warring world.

“This is a call to be a missionary Church, not a country club,” said Archbishop Hicks, now the 11th archbishop of New York. “A club exists to serve its members. The Church exists, on the other hand, to go out and serve all people, on fire with faith, hope, and charity in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

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