



# *The Catholic Light*

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

February 26, 2026

## Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera begin across the Diocese



The faithful of three deaneries have already gathered together for their Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera - and nine more prayerful gatherings are expected in the weeks ahead.

Parishioners in the Sayre Deanery gathered together on Thursday, Feb. 19, while the faithful of the Stroudsburg Deanery came together on Tuesday, Feb. 24, and the Williamsport Deanery celebrated on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

This year's Bishop Bambera is visiting all twelve deaneries to celebrate a special Lenten Holy Hour focused on the theme of "Finding Peace in Challenging Times."

A Lenten Holy Hour for the Scranton Deanery will be held this evening (Thursday, Feb. 26) at Divine Mercy Parish in Scranton.

Next week, Lenten Holy Hours will be held at 7 p.m. at the following churches:

- Monday, March 2: St. Thomas More Parish, Lake Ariel
- Tuesday, March 3: St. Carlo Acutis Parish, Olyphant
- Thursday, March 5: St. John Bosco Parish, Conyngham

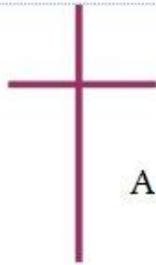
CTV: Catholic Television attended the first Lenten Holy Hour in Bradford County and spoke with parishioners who attended. Click the link above or below to view the video.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV from the Lenten Holy Hour Held in the Sayre Deanery](#)

[Click Here for the Full Schedule of 2026 Lenten Holy Hours](#)

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**Faithful invited to Lenten parish missions in Dupont/Avoca and Dunmore**



# Return to the Heart of the Father

A three-day Parish Lenten Retreat with  
Allan Wright

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Hosted by

*Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont  
and Saint Mary Church, 714 Hawthorne St., Avoca*

February 26 – Sacred Heart Church, Dupont

5:30 pm, Mass

6:15 pm, Catered meal in the church hall (RSVP required)

7:00 pm, Presentation in hall: *Disciples on Journey with Christ to the Cross*

February 27 – Saint Mary's Church, Avoca (two sessions)

1:00 pm, Stations of the Cross

1:30 pm, Presentation in church: *Return to the Heart of the Father*

5:30 pm, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6:00 pm, Catered meal in parish hall (RSVP required)

6:45 pm, Presentation in church: *Return to the Heart of the Father*

7:45 pm, Stations of the Cross

February 28 – Sacred Heart Church, Dupont

9:00 am, Mass

9:30 am, Presentation in church: *Living this Lent with Intention: Bringing Joy and  
Charity to a Broken World*

Penance service to immediately follow in church.

*To RSVP for catered meals, email [shojesuschurch@gmail.com](mailto:shojesuschurch@gmail.com) or call 570-654-3713.*

*Allan is a national speaker, author, adjunct professor at Seton  
Hall University, and Executive Director of the NJ Family  
Policy Center. He is a husband and father of four children.*



# THAT *ONE* THING

*Mission with  
Michael Gormley*  
**MARCH 2 & 3**

*Eucharistic  
Praise & Worship*  
**MARCH 4**

**6:30PM**

ALL ARE WELCOME



**Michael Gormley** has been leading evangelization and ministry efforts for the past 17 years, both as a full-time parish staff member and as a speaker and consultant for parishes, dioceses, and Catholic campus ministries. He currently serves as the Mission Evangelist for **Paradisus Dei**, a ministry dedicated to helping men, couples, and families discover the superabundance of God. Michael is also the founder and creative director of **LayEvangelist.com**, the co-host to two successful Catholic podcasts: **Catching Foxes** and **Every Knee Shall Bow**.

## WORSHIP BY



**MARK WOODYATT    DAN SIMRELL    JOEL KANKIEWICZ    ANGELA CIANCI**

**ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, DUNMORE**

All faithful are invited and encouraged to attend two upcoming Lenten retreats/missions.

One is taking place at the linked parishes of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Dupont, and Queen of the Apostles Parish, Avoca, this week. The other is taking place next week is being sponsored by the parish communities of Saints Anthony and Rocco and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes in Dunmore.

The first retreat, "Return to the Heart of the Father," is a three-day parish Lenten Retreat that will be presented by guest speaker Allan Wright, Feb. 26-28. Allan is a national speaker, author of more than 20 books, adjunct professor at Seton Hall University and Executive Director of the N.J. Family Policy Center.

The Dunmore mission, which will take place March 2-4 in Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 208 Smith Street, Dunmore, will be led by guest presenter Michael Gormley. It will be entitled "That One Thing." Gormley has led evangelization and ministry efforts for the past 17 years, both as a full time parish staff member and speaker-consultant for parishes, dioceses, and Catholic campus ministry programs.

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**Wilkes-Barre parish hosts 'Stations and Soup' event every Friday in Lent**



The Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish community in Wilkes-Barre is inviting all faithful to join them for their 'Stations and Soup' event each Friday during the Lenten Season.

Every Friday at 12:10 p.m., people are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross in Saint Aloysius Church, 143 West Division Street, and then gather together for soup in the parish gathering space.

"The Stations are a powerful devotion because it allows us to journey, to walk the road with Jesus," Father Richard Cirba, pastor, explained. "We do it because He died for our sins, for our salvation."

Following the Stations, roughly five different soups are available. On the First Friday in Lent, the offerings ranged from creme of potato soup, to vegetable soup, to clam chowder and even a tomato soup with macaroni.

"It's nice because it gets people together that we don't see everyday because we have different Masses that we go to," parishioner Peg Warmouth explained. "We have people that don't belong to our parish. Everybody is welcome."

[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from CTV of the 'Stations and Soup' Event at Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish](#)

## **Catholic Television broadcasting Cathedral devotions during Lent**

# **EVENING PRAYER**

*with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

## **SUNDAYS DURING LENT**

***February 22***

***March 15***

***March 1***

***March 22***

***March 8***

***March 29***

During Lent, the Cathedral of Saint Peter offers several ways in which the faithful can deepen their relationship with Jesus and come to know Him in a more intimate way.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will make many of these opportunities available to the faithful through television broadcasts and livestream opportunities.

Every Sunday during Lent, the Cathedral will be hosting Adoration and Evening Prayer following the 5 p.m. Mass.

Evening Prayer is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. In the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church fulfills Jesus' command to "pray always."

Through this prayer, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world.

During Lent, CTV plans to broadcast both the Sunday 5 p.m. Mass live as well as the Sunday Evening Prayer that will begin directly thereafter (around 6:15 p.m.).

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

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**Rectory, Set, Cook! begins with  
strong support and nearly \$50,000  
raised to date**



During its first full week, the fifth edition of Rectory, Set, Cook! has already raised nearly \$50,000 because of the generosity of the community.

Rectory, Set, Cook! is an online fundraiser that features more than 25 local priests cooking in their rectories to support anti-hunger and anti-homelessness initiatives of Catholic Social Services.

Viewers are invited to watch the videos and then vote for their favorite recipe or pastor chef by making a donation. Half of the money goes directly to Catholic Social Services. The other half remains with the parish of the specific pastor chef - so it is a win-win for everyone!

Nearly 600 donors have already supported this year's effort - but there is plenty of time to get involved. The online competition will be open until Friday, March 27!

[Click Here to Watch all the Rectory, Set, Cook! videos and Support Your Favorite Pastor Chef](#)

## Diocesan Group Night with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins is March 13



**March 13th | 7:05PM vs Hershey**

**Diocese of Scranton Group Night!**

Join us for a night of thrilling hockey and fellowship at Diocese of Scranton Group Night with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

On Friday, March 13, 2026, come out with fellow parishioners from the Diocese of Scranton to cheer on the Penguins as they take on the Hershey Bears!

Gates Open at 6:00 p.m., Puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

[Click Here For More Information or to Purchase Tickets](#)

## **New Stations of the Cross unveiled at St. Peter's Basilica for Lent 2026**



St. Peter's Basilica inaugurated a new Stations of the Cross Feb. 20, with paintings by a young Swiss artist who won the Vatican's

international art competition and said in an interview with OSV News that he was deeply moved by the experience of painting St. Veronica's encounter with Christ.

The 14 stations, which were prayed in St. Peter's Basilica for the first time on the first Friday of Lent, will be displayed temporarily until Easter as part of the many initiatives to mark the 400th anniversary of the basilica's consecration.

Manuel Andreas Dürr, a 36-year-old artist and father of three, was chosen after a commission of art historians, liturgists and Vatican representatives unanimously selected his proposal from among more than a thousand submissions from 80 countries in the art competition that the Vatican opened in December 2023.

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

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## **St. Francis' relics open to public for first extended veneration in 800 years**



For the first time in eight centuries, the mortal remains of St. Francis of Assisi are being exposed for an extended period of public veneration, drawing hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the world to pray before “the Little Poor Man of Assisi.”

The bones of the beloved saint were unveiled for public display Feb. 22 in the Lower Church of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Pilgrims waited in line outside of the Assisi basilica, taking in the panoramic views of the Umbrian countryside from the medieval hilltop town, for their chance to pray before the relics.

The veneration runs through March 22 as part of the Catholic Church’s yearlong celebration of the 800th anniversary of St. Francis’ death in 1226.

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

## **Bishops: Ukrainians 'resist, trust, pray' as Russia's full-scale invasion reaches four-year mark**



On the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Catholic bishops of the U.S. said "the people of God resist, trust, and pray" despite the "countless deaths and millions of casualties" the brutal conflict has claimed in 12 years of warfare.

The bishops, led by Metropolitan Archbishop Borys A. Gudziak of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, issued a statement a day prior to the anniversary of Russia's Feb. 24, 2022, invasion, while observing the war began with Russian-backed attacks on the country in 2014.

In their statement, the bishops said "the genocidal intent is manifest" as Russia has regularly pummeled Ukraine's energy

grid, leaving millions without heat or electricity for days at a time, amid a winter that has been “the harshest in years.”

The bitter cold, with temperatures dropping well below freezing on a sustained basis, “has been deliberately exploited to break the spirit of a nation ... standing for freedom, justice, democracy, and God-given human dignity.”

“It is a war against the people,” said the bishops.

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

## **Pope Leo XIV to embark on 10-day Africa tour, trips to Spain, Monaco**



Pope Leo XIV will travel to six countries over the next four months, including a 10-day tour of Africa and trips to Monaco and Spain, the Vatican announced Feb. 25.

The pope's international travel plans include a day trip to the Catholic principality of Monaco on March 28, a long journey across the African continent April 13 to 23, and a weeklong visit to Spain June 6 to 12 with expected stops in Madrid, the Canary Islands and in Barcelona to inaugurate the tallest tower in the Sagrada Familia.

In the first visit to the African continent since the start of his pontificate, Pope Leo will travel to Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea. The Vatican has highlighted that peace and care for the poor will be central themes of the African journey, which will also bring him in the footsteps of St. Augustine.

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

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