

The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.



Over the last month, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated Mass with students in three more school communities: **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**, Feb. 24; **La Salle Academy in Jessup**, March 4; and **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green**, March 5. During Lent, the Bishop reminded all of the students that is a time to grow closer to Jesus through prayer, sacrifice, and acts of love. He also spoke in a special way about the saints, encouraging the students to look to their example as they strive to become people that God created them to be.

The Peer Listeners group at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** sponsored a blanket collection to benefit the shelter at Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church. In addition to blankets, the students also collected new and gently used sweatpants, sweatshirts, and personal care items.



Knights of Columbus, Saint Vincent de Paul Council 11901, Plymouth, recently made a generous donation to the Scholarship Fund at **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston**. Pictured, from left: Sam Wolfe, Grand Knight; Sophia Jones, GSA Student Council; James Jones, Principal; Frank Hadley, Chairman; Dean Clark, GSA Student Council; Ed Keating, Treasurer; and Joyce Elston, Vice Principal.



Fifth grade students at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** hosted a STREAM Activity Day for their fellow students in kindergarten through fourth grade. In celebration of Read Across America Week, one of the challenges was called "Cat's Chaos" where the goal was to balance cups, balls and books!



Kindergarten students at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by making "Oobleck" – a slime-like substance that gets its name from the Dr. Seuss book "Bartholomew and the Oobleck."



Pre-K4 students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** were treated to a visit from Bishop Joseph C. Bambera during Read Across America Week. The Bishop celebrated his love of reading by sharing "The Little Engine That Could" with the students.



Students from **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** recently danced the night away at their annual Snowball Dance.



Holy Rosary School in Duryea challenged its students to read 1,000 books. The students reached that goal and pictured are the students who read the most books in Pre-K through third grade.



Fourth grade student Grace Markovich, and fifth grade student Kylie Keller, from **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore**, buddy up for flashlight Friday to end Read Across America Week.



Students from **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** celebrated the importance of vocations by hosting a lunch with local clergy and religious sisters. The group shared stories, laughter and thoughtful conversation.



Second grade students at **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton** celebrated Chinese New Year last month by designing and wearing their own masks.



Students in the English III classes at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** were introduced to a unit on American Romanticism by competing in a lockbox/escape room activity filled with research, riddles, problem solving, puzzles and a scavenger hunt.



Third and fourth grade students at **Epiphany School in Sayre** held a 'Saints Museum' for their classmates and parents to learn more about several saints.



Students from **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science regional competition at Wilkes University. Pictured, from left: Simon Vo, Speranta Montrose, Yarmerys Diaz Ramos, Lauren Montrose and Elina Thach.



All Saints Academy in Scranton kicked off Read Across America Week with Champ's Home Run Readers, encouraging students to step up to the plate and make reading a home run.



Students at both **Saint John Neumann Elementary School** and **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** participated in a "Souper Bowl" of Caring collection in February. Students were encouraged to donate a can of soup to Saint Joseph the Worker Parish and wear their favorite team jersey.

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More than 500 young adults honored for living their faith

SCRANTON – More than 500 young people from across the Diocese of Scranton are being recognized this Lent for their commitment to faith and service as recipients of the 2026 Bishop’s Youth Award.

The honor, presented annually since 1996, recognizes eighth- and twelfth-grade students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to their Catholic faith through volunteer service in their parishes, schools, and communities.

This year’s recipients are being celebrated during three special Masses throughout March at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

“While today is exciting and it’s an honor to receive this award, it is a reminder to all of us that whether we’re going into high school or later years in life, we have to continue doing the service that we’ve done to receive this award,” Kevin Vincent Jr., a senior at Holy Cross High School and member of Saints Anthony & Rocco Parish in Dunmore, said.



Alessandra Lynn, a senior at Holy Cross High School and parishioner of Saint Eulalia Parish, receives the Bishop’s Youth Award at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on March 15, 2025. (Photo/Mike Melisky)

Students from the Southern Pastoral Region were honored during the first Mass on March 1. The Cathedral celebration drew a standing-room-only crowd of families, friends, and parish leaders.

Among those recognized was Lilly Holtz, an eighth-grade student from Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top.

“I’m so happy because I just get to help people in my community,” she said, noting her service as an altar server and her role as student body president at Saint Jude School.

Blake Pribula, an eighth-grade student from Corpus Christi Parish in West Pittston, said receiving the award carried special meaning because he had watched his brother receive the same honor.

“I always thought it was really interesting when he received it, and I’m really excited that I can do the same,” he said.

The second Mass, held March 15 for students from the Northern Pastoral Region, drew such a large crowd that overflow seating was needed in the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

For Jesus Hernandez, a senior at Scranton Prep and a member of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish

in Scranton, faith has served as a steady foundation in uncertain times.

“For me, faith has always been my biggest anchor. Christ has always been my biggest anchor,” Hernandez explained. “I think it’s pretty awesome to see how many young people are devoted to their parish and I hope it stays like this for many years to come.”

Meredith Duffy, a senior from Saint Gregory Parish in Clarks Green agreed, saying the Masses are a powerful reminder that young Catholics are not alone in their beliefs.

“I am a sacristan, I’m a catechist for the 8th grade Confirmation class, I volunteer at a lot of bible camps and children’s ministry activities, and it is just a blessing for me to be able to have that involvement in my parish,” Duffy explained. “It is great to be surrounded by fellow parishioners who have also been noticed for the great contributions they’ve made to their parishes.”

The final Bishop’s Youth Award Mass will take place Sunday, March 22, honoring students from the Eastern and Western Pastoral Regions of the Diocese.

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YOU Can Feed and Clothe People In Need!

More than 250 men, women and children rely on Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen each day for hot, nutritious meals, food for their households and clothing for all seasons.

You can support this mission through the annual Host-for-a-Day campaign. For a donation of \$100 or more, an individual, a family, a business, a community organization or faith-based group can help sponsor a day’s meal at the Kitchen and be recognized as a “host” of that meal. Major sponsorship levels are also available beginning at \$500.



Recent contributors to the Host-for-a-Day campaign are receiving an appeal directly from the Kitchen through the mail or will be contacted by a member of the Advisory Board. Donations can also be made by:

Calling the Kitchen at 570-342-5556, online at stfranciskitchen.org, [facebook.com/stfranciskitchen](https://www.facebook.com/stfranciskitchen), text SFAK to 26989, or sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509

Thank You For Your Support!

The culmination of the campaign will be celebrated at Fiorelli’s in Peckville on Wednesday, April 29, at 6 p.m. RSVPs are required by April 15. Those who would like to sponsor the reception are asked to call the Kitchen at 570-342-5556.



LIVING THE STREAM: Students shine in faith-fueled innovation challenge

SCRANTON - The Diocese of Scranton recently celebrated the conclusion of its second annual 'Living the STREAM' competition, raising more than \$116,000 through online votes and sponsorship support to benefit Catholic education.

This year's initiative challenged 231 sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade students from 13 Diocesan Catholic Schools to work in teams to identify real-world problems and propose

creative solutions through video presentations.

In total, 60 student teams participated in the competition, which highlights the connection between Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math in Catholic education.

The competition ended with an Awards Night celebration at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton on Feb. 11, 2026, where students, teachers, and families gathered to recognize

the creativity and innovation displayed throughout the project.

Several teams received awards recognizing innovation, creativity and community impact, with some students also earning scholarships and technology prizes.



Nearly 200 people packed the Diocesan Pastoral Center for the 'Living The STREAM' 2026 awards night, where multiple students earned scholarships and prizes for their achievements. The overall Judges' Choice winner was Team God's Gospel (Connor Troy, Alston Lin, and Matthew Suchter) from Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green. The team created a working Noah's Ark computerized story game. The Top Fundraisers Award went to The Domers from Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston - Harry Perrillo, Maddox Wilk, and Blake Thomas - who conceptualized domed shelters to serve the homeless population. Good Shepherd Academy also was the top fundraising school, entering 30 teams that collectively raised more than \$30,000.

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IHM Leadership Statement of Commitment to Our Immigrant and Refugee Neighbors

February 4, 2026

Rooted in Gospel love and our IHM mission and charism, we commit ourselves to stand with our immigrant and refugee neighbors, wherever we serve. We affirm the God-given dignity of every person and pledge to welcome all with compassion, respect, and solidarity.

We promise to:

- Extend hospitable hearts and accompaniment to those seeking safety and belonging.
- Advocate for just and humane immigration policies that protect families and honor human rights.
- Educate and engage our communities to build understanding, empathy, and a culture of welcome.
- Serve generously through our ministries, offering support, resources, and hope.
- Pray faithfully for all who journey in search of peace and a future for their families.

Inspired by Mary, Mother of Hope, we seek to make Christ's love visible in our steadfast commitment to our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

*The Congregation of the Sisters, Servants
of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Scranton, Pennsylvania*

