



# *The Catholic Light*

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**March 12, 2026**

**Cathedral of Saint Peter to host  
Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass on  
Saturday**

**SAINT  
PATRICK'S  
PARADE DAY MASS**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026**

**CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER**

**10:00 A.M.**

The annual Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is traditionally held in conjunction with the city of Scranton's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Following the Mass, the Saint Patrick's Parade is expected to take to the streets of the Electric City beginning at 11:45 a.m.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant for the Mass. Various priests from the Diocese of Scranton are expected to concelebrate.

The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton due to the generosity of the Society of Irish Women.

It will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton YouTube channel and website. Links to view the Mass will also be shared on all of the Diocese of Scranton social media platforms.

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

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## **Saint Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles exhibit inspires Hazleton- area faithful**



On the weekend of the Third Sunday of Lent, hundreds of people in the greater Hazleton area encountered the story of a modern-day saint whose devotion to the Eucharist continues to inspire believers around the world.

Parishioners from the Hazleton Deanery and beyond were invited to visit Most Precious Blood Church March 7-9 to view an exhibit on Saint Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

The traveling display, on loan from Malvern Retreat House in southeast Pennsylvania, features more than 100 Eucharistic miracles that Acutis researched and cataloged before his death from leukemia in 2006 at the age of fifteen.

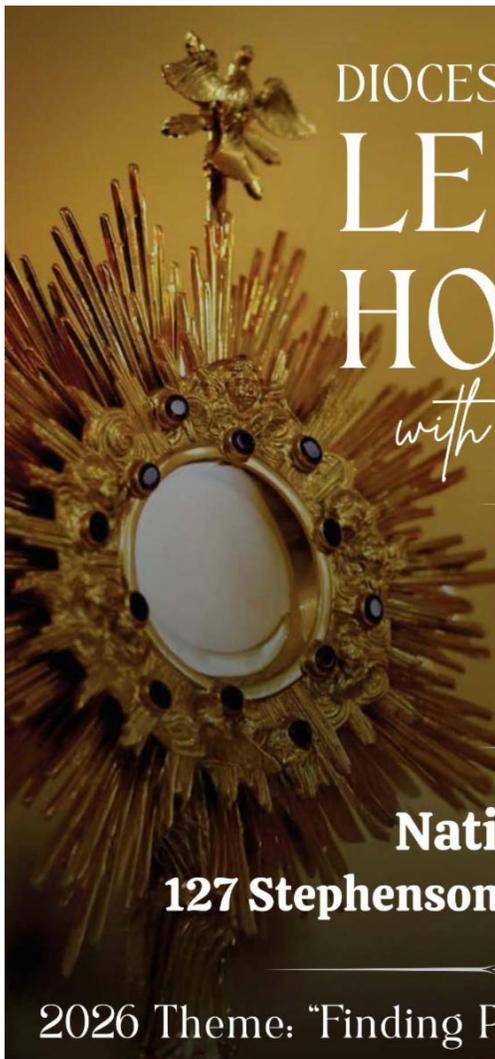
Using his skills in computer programming, the Italian teenager designed a website to share the stories of these miracles – a project that continues to evangelize people today.

The exhibit was put on display as part of the Hazleton Deanery's 'Road to Resurrection' initiative for Lent 2026 – a series of opportunities for the faithful to deepen their relationship with Christ during the Lenten season.

[Click Here to Watch a Short Video from CTV: Catholic Television on the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit](#)

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**Lenten Holy Hours continue this evening in the Pittston Deanery**



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

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**Thursday, March 12  
7:00 p.m.**

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**Nativity of Our Lord Parish  
127 Stephenson Street, Duryea, PA 18642**

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2026 Theme: "Finding Peace in Challenging Times"

Our 2026 Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera continue this evening in the Pittston Deanery.

Nativity of Our Lord Parish, 127 Stephenson Street, Duryea, will host tonight's Holy Hour beginning at 7 p.m.

This will be the eighth Holy Hour held throughout the Diocese of Scranton's 11 counties since the start of Lent.

Following tonight's Holy Hour - there will be four more that take place in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The next Lenten Holy

Hour will be Monday evening at Saint Therese Parish in Shavertown.

[Click Here For the Full Schedule of 2026 Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera](#)

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**Dushore parish to host 'Day of Grace' retreat this weekend honoring the Blessed Mother**



Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish  
Altar & Rosary Society invite you to

# Retreat in Honor of Our Lady

Day of Prayer in the Franciscan Spirit during Lent

**Retreat Leaders: Father Pio Mandato & the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth**

- ◆ 8:30 a.m. – Registration (St. Francis Hall)
- ◆ Morning: Holy Mass, speaker
- Light lunch
- Afternoon: Exposition, reconciliation, speaker
- 3:00 p.m. – Benediction

*Men and women are encouraged to attend!*

This retreat takes place during the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi.

**Pre-registration requested:** No cost to attend. ☎ Call Karen: 570-637-6607

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 14  
ST. FRANCIS  
CHURCH  
MILDRED**

The Altar & Rosary Society of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Dushore invites all area faithful to participate in a special Lenten retreat, “A Day of Grace: In Honor of Our Lady,” on Saturday,

March 14, to be hosted at the parish worship site of Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Mildred.

Offered as an opportunity for spiritual renewal during Lent, the day of prayer, reflection, and sacramental grace will be led by Capuchin Franciscan Father Pio Mandato and the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth.

The mission retreat, commemorating the special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, will focus on prayer and sacraments to align with the spirit and intentions of the Jubilee Year.

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

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**Rectory, Set, Cook! surpasses  
\$100,000 at halfway mark;  
fundraiser could top \$1 million  
overall since its inception**



The Diocese of Scranton’s popular pastor chef cooking competition, Rectory, Set, Cook!, has officially passed the halfway point of its fifth annual campaign, already raising nearly \$110,000 from approximately 1,230 donors to date across northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

With several weeks remaining in this year’s competition, organizers say the fundraiser is on pace to potentially surpass \$1 million in total funds raised since the initiative first launched in 2022.

Rectory, Set, Cook! invites priests from the eleven counties of the Diocese of Scranton to step into their kitchen as “pastor chefs,” creating cooking videos and encouraging supporters to vote for their favorite dishes through online donations.

Half of all funds raised through the competition benefit hunger and homelessness initiatives of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton. The remaining half goes directly to the participating priest's parish.

Now in its fifth year, Rectory, Set, Cook! has become a signature fundraiser for Catholic Social Services, combining friendly competition, creativity, and generosity to support people in need throughout the Diocese.

Since its inaugural season, the competition has grown steadily, raising \$171,747 in 2022, \$197,412 in 2023, \$218,001 in 2024, and a record-breaking \$227,162 in 2025.

“Proceeds from the campaign help fund food pantries, community kitchens, emergency shelters, and supportive housing initiatives across the Diocese,” Shannon Kowalski, Development Coordinator for Catholic Social Services, explained. The money raised provides vital assistance to individuals and families facing food insecurity and homelessness.”

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

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**Bishops' annual CRS collection  
'more vital than ever' amid wars and  
disasters overseas**



The U.S. bishops' annual Catholic Relief Services Collection, which helps some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in need in the United States and worldwide, will be taken in most U.S. dioceses at Masses the weekend of March 14-15.

The collection benefits six agencies and offices affiliated with the Catholic Church, including CRS, the flagship international relief and development agency for the Catholic Church in the U.S.

“The Church in the United States was built on ministry among immigrants. We help all who are marginalized, including victims of war and disaster overseas. The Catholic Relief Services Collection combines all these kinds of assistance,” said Bishop Daniel H. Mueggenborg of Reno, Nevada, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on National Collections.

“Our Lord tells us to love our neighbors — those we know, those we don't and those we think are very different from us. The Catholic Relief Services Collection is one way that we show that

love. Today it is more vital than ever,” the bishop said in his March 2 statement.

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

## **Pope urges peace, warns about wider Middle East conflict**



Pope Leo XIV called for an end to the war in Iran and warned that the conflict could drag more countries in the Middle East into instability.

Speaking to pilgrims after praying the Angelus prayer March 8, the pope said that developing news from Iran and from across the Middle East has caused “deep dismay.”

“Amid episodes of violence and devastation, and the widespread climate of hatred and fear, there is also the concern that the

conflict may widen and that other countries in the region, including Lebanon, may once again sink into instability,” he said.

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

## **Pope Leo XIV names Archbishop Caccia Papal Ambassador to United States**



Pope Leo XIV has named Archbishop Gabriele Caccia as the Vatican’s ambassador to the United States, selecting a seasoned diplomat to serve as a crucial liaison between Rome and the pope’s home country.

The Vatican announced the appointment of the new apostolic nuncio March 7, naming Archbishop Caccia, 68, to succeed

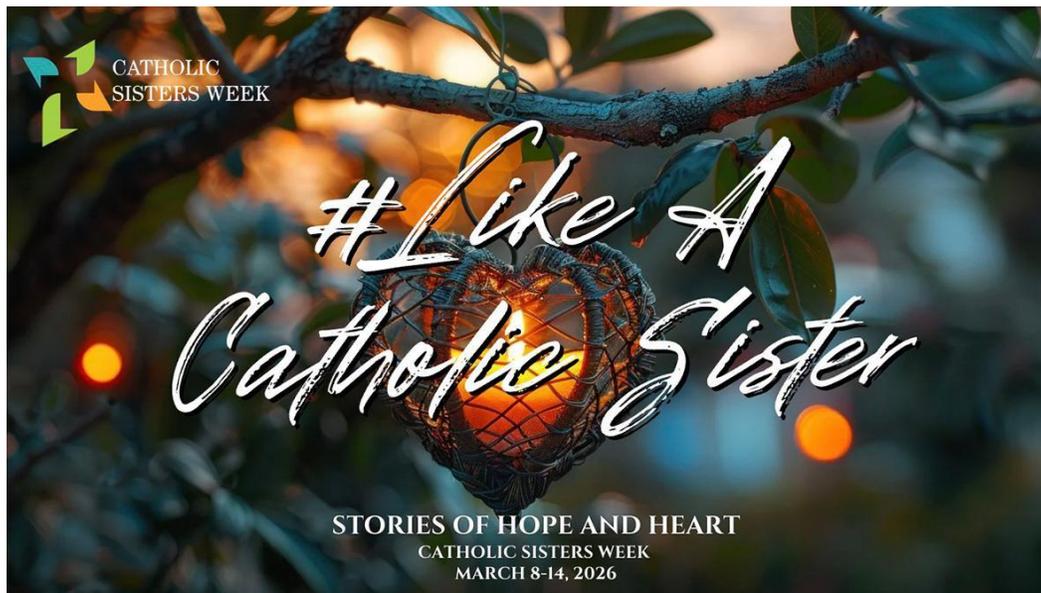
Cardinal Christophe Pierre, who turned 80 in January and had served in the post since 2016.

A nuncio is a Vatican diplomatic representative with the rank of ambassador. He acts as both the Holy See's ambassador to the government and its representative to the Catholic Church in the host country, maintaining ties between local bishops and Rome.

Archbishop Caccia, a native of Milan, already has significant experience in the United States, having served as the permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York since 2020.

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

## **For Catholic Sisters Week, U.S. Sisters spotlight stories of their ministries**



Catholic Sisters Week, an annual campaign to bring greater visibility to U.S. sisters, will again be focused on the theme of #LikeaCatholicSister, but instead of the action-oriented messages of last year, it will center on the stories of sisters' work.

Catholic Sisters Week, now in its 13th iteration, is overseen by Communicators for Women Religious, an organization of sisters and laypeople who work in communications for sister congregations. It runs March 8-14 every year, starting on International Women's Day.

The messages for this year's observance fall under the theme of "Hope & Heart," and include topics such as "Community & Connection" and "Prayer & Spirit."

"Last year we focused on bold, action things like 'Fighting for the Forgotten,'" said Mikaela VanMoorlehem, president of the CWR steering committee and director of communications for the Notre Dame Sisters in Omaha, Nebraska. "Instead, this year we're inviting congregations to share the moments that reveal who Catholic sisters are."

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

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## **Sen. Hawley introduces bill to revoke FDA approval of abortion pill**



Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., announced March 11 he has introduced legislation in the Senate that would ban mifepristone, a drug commonly, but not exclusively, used for first trimester abortion.

The Safeguarding Women from Chemical Abortion Act, if enacted, would revoke the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the drug.

However, the path forward for the legislation was not clear, as President Donald Trump indicated as a candidate for president in 2024 he would veto a national abortion ban if one reached his desk. Abortion restrictions have failed to gain traction in Congress since the Supreme Court's 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, which overturned its previous precedent that held abortion as a constitutional right.

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

# SAVE THE DATE

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## 2026 PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE

MONDAY, SEPT. 21, 2026  
HARRISBURG

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