



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

April 23, 2026

Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School announces transition to innovative 4-day school week for next academic year



As the current school year begins to wind down, administrators at Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport are preparing for an exciting change for the 2026-2027 school year.

Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School, part of the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System, has made the decision to change the traditional 5-day school week to a 4-day school week.

In the new model, students in grades 6-12 will still meet and exceed the instructional requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through instruction provided during extended school days Monday through Thursday.

Starting next year, classes will begin at 7:45 a.m. (earlier than the current 8:00 a.m.) and run through 3:00 p.m. (longer than the current dismissal time of 2:40 p.m.)

This change comes after several meetings and surveys with students, families, and faculty, who overwhelmingly supported the transition.

While students will be expected to attend school Monday through Thursday, students will still have the option to come to Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School on Fridays. Fridays will be retained for academic tutoring, as well as a variety of extension activities based on student interest.

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

[Click Here to Watch a Video of the Announcement Made at St. John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School](#)

**Remembering Rev. Carmen J. Perry, Jr.
(1952-2026)**



Reverend Carmen Joseph Perry, Jr., Chaplain, Mercy Center, Dallas, died on April 18, 2026, after having faithfully served the Diocese for forty-nine years.

Reverend Perry, son of the late Carmen Joseph Perry, Sr. and Rose (Salerno) Perry, was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on February 19, 1952. He was a graduate St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Grade School and West Scranton Senior High School Class of 1969, Scranton, and attended the University of Scranton where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in theology.

Father received his seminary education at Saint Pius X Seminary, Dalton, and St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland. He was ordained to the priesthood by the late J. Carroll McCormick., former Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, in the Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton on May 7, 1977.

[Click Here to Read Father Perry's Obituary](#)

[CTV: Catholic Television will livestream Father Perry's Funeral Mass today at 10 a.m. at the Cathedral. Click Here to View the Funeral Mass on the Diocese of Scranton YouTube Channel](#)

Diocese to celebrate annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass May 10



The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate its annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass on Sunday, May 10, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

This liturgy prayerfully recognizes all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.


The Mother's Day Adoption Mass is open to the public and all faithful are invited to attend.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live. A livestream will also be provided on the Diocese of

Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

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

Registration open for 2026 Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
MASS

Sunday, June 28th, 2026
2:30pm
Cathedral of St. Peter
315 Wyoming Ave, Scranton PA 18503

Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries:

10 YEARS **25** YEARS **40** YEARS **50** YEARS

To register, please visit www.dioceseofscranton.org
or call the Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213

Every summer, the Diocese of Scranton holds a Wedding Anniversary Celebration for couples celebrating milestone anniversary years.

This year's Mass will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

Couples who are celebrating 10, 25, 40, and 50 years of marriage are invited to register for the Mass, where couples will renew their wedding commitment.

Immediately following the liturgy, there will be a reception with light refreshments at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, which is across the street from the Cathedral (330 Wyoming Avenue).

Pre-registration is required.

For more information, please call Bridget Maille, Program Coordinator, Family Life at (570) 207-2213 x1133 or email familylife@dioceseofscranton.org.

[Click Here for More Information or to Register for the 2026 Wedding Anniversary Mass](#)

**Catholic Foundation art auction is
subject of 2822 Newsmakers**



The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton is hosting an online art auction through May 1, featuring more than 20 original paintings of local Catholic churches and sacred spaces.

Proceeds from the auction, which launched on April 13, will benefit the “Founders Fund” of the Catholic Foundation and support the long-term pastoral, educational, and service ministries of the Diocese of Scranton.

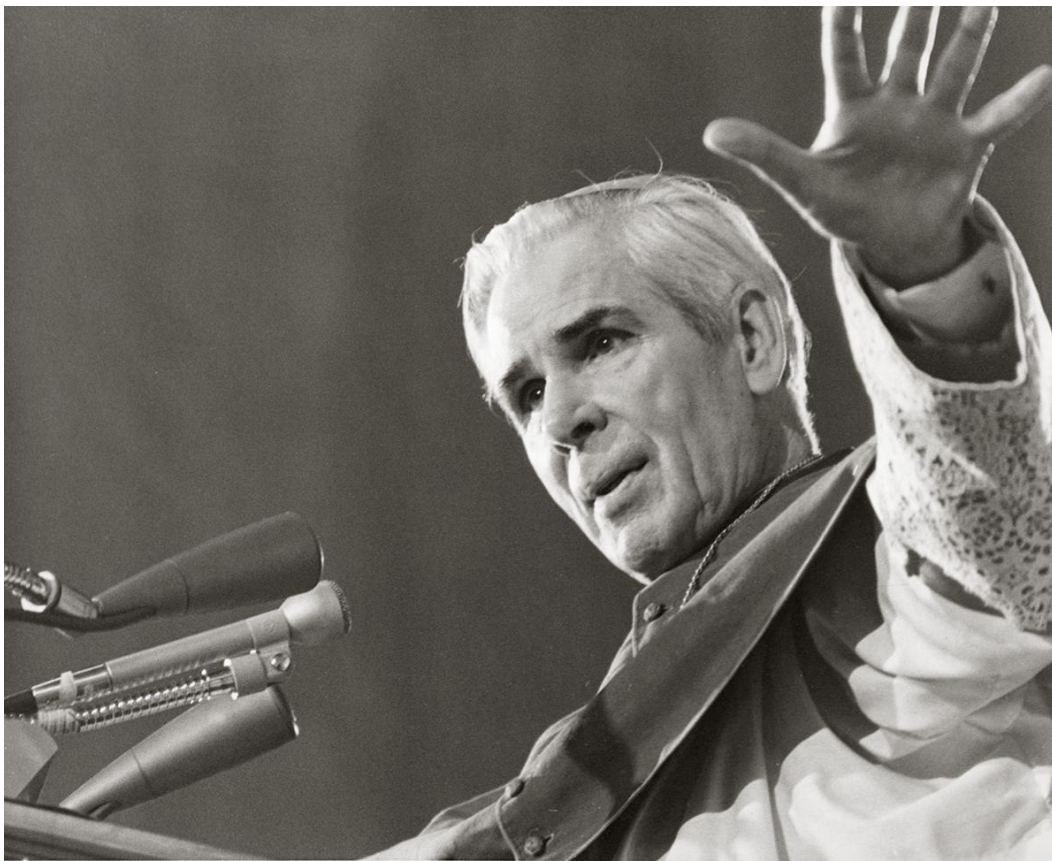
Local artist Austin Burke, who donated all of the paintings, as well as Mark DiPippa, Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of the Scranton, recently appeared on "Newsmakers," a public affairs program/podcast from 2822 News (WBRE-TV).

The pair answered questions from host Jayne Ann Bugda regarding the auction and the work of the Catholic Foundation.

[Click Here to Watch the Full Newsmakers Program on 2822 News](#)

[Click Here to Go Directly to the Art Auction Site](#)

Diocese of Peoria releases schedule of pilgrimage events for Sheen beatification



Ahead of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's Sept. 24 beatification, the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, recently released a schedule of events, inviting those who plan to travel to The Dome at America's Center

in St. Louis, Missouri, for the beatification to “go deeper” and “transform your trip into a sacred journey.”

“The Sheen Pilgrimage is a spiritual experience centered around prayer, reflection, and celebration,” the diocese said. “Beginning in Peoria, IL, on September 15, this pilgrimage includes the anniversary of Sheen’s ordination, the historic Beatification Mass, and culminates in celebratory Masses and the Sheen Award Gala.”

The schedule begins with a nine-day novena of holy hours at 7 p.m. every evening at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria from Sept. 15-23 and a Sunday, Sept. 20 Anniversary Mass of Sheen’s Ordination at the cathedral at 3 p.m., which requires tickets.

The festivities will continue in St. Louis with Vespers at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis at 5 p.m. on Sept. 23, also requiring tickets.

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

In Central Africa's largest Catholic Church, Pope Leo tells faithful: 'The future of Equatorial Guinea depends upon your choices'



Pope Leo XIV celebrated Mass in the second-largest Catholic Church in Africa April 22, telling Catholics in the oil-rich nation that “the future of Equatorial Guinea depends upon your choices.”

The pope offered Mass in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in the eastern city of Mongomo, near Equatorial Guinea’s border with Gabon. The basilica is currently the largest church in Central Africa and the second largest Catholic church throughout Africa, after the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in the Ivory Coast.

In his homily, delivered in Spanish, Pope Leo called on the country’s leaders and citizens to prioritize the common good.

“The Creator has endowed you with great natural wealth: I urge you to work together so that it may be a blessing for all,” he said.

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

Pope Leo XIV honors Pope Francis on death anniversary, recalling his mercy and closeness to 'the little ones'



Flying over the west coast of central Africa on April 21, Pope Leo XIV paused to honor his predecessor on the first anniversary of Pope Francis' death, remembering the Argentine pope's witness to mercy and closeness to the poor.

On the papal flight from Luanda, Angola, to Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, Pope Leo XIV spoke to journalists traveling with him, reflecting on the legacy of Pope Francis, who died April 21, 2025.

"I would like to remember, on this first anniversary of his death, Pope Francis, who gave so much to the church with his life, his testimony, his words, and his gestures," Pope Leo told reporters, speaking in Italian.

He recalled how Pope Francis truly lived with “closeness to the poorest, the little ones, the sick, the children, the elderly.”

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Vatican ends canonization cause of Jesuit Father Walter Ciszek



The canonization cause for Jesuit Father Walter Ciszek — a Polish American priest who ministered amid years in Soviet captivity — has been terminated, although Vatican’s decision does not “diminish the enduring spiritual value” of his witness, said a leading advocate for the cause.

In an April 9 letter, Msgr. Ronald C. Bocian — board president of the former Father Walter Ciszek Prayer League — advised fellow league members that the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania, had been informed the cause’s documentation “does not support” advancing the case for beatification or sainthood.

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

Gallup: Young men are an 'emerging exception' among 'low ebb' of religiosity in United States



An increasing number of the nation’s young men say religion is “very important” in their lives, marking a return to levels seen 25 years ago, and edging them ahead of young women on the issue, according to Gallup.

In addition, Gallup noted that attendance at religious services has risen by several points since 2022-2023 among young Republican men and women.

The data comes as previous polling from Pew Research Center showed a leveling off in a multiyear decline in Christianity in the U.S. – although Pew noted there’s no statistical evidence of a religious revival, and Catholics are seeing the greatest net losses of believers compared to other religions.

Gallup released its findings April 16, based on data collected as part of its Gallup Poll Social Series, which since 2001 has surveyed respondents monthly on a slate of issues to identify multiyear trends.

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