

# The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

WWW.DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG

VOLUME 126

NUMBER 5

ISSN-0164-9418

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026

## Nation to be consecrated to Sacred Heart of Jesus in June

### Bishop Bambera to mark Solemnity with Masses in Peckville and Dupont

SCRANTON – On June 11, Catholic Bishops across the United States will take part in a rare and historic spiritual moment – consecrating the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the country prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Locally in the Diocese of Scranton, Catholics are being invited to participate in this moment in a special way as well.

For the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Masses at the Diocese’s two parishes dedicated to the Sacred Heart – located in Peckville and Dupont – as Catholics throughout the country unite in prayer for healing, renewal, and hope.

The national consecration, organized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), will take place on Thursday, June 11, 2026, during the Bishops’ Spring Assembly in Orlando, Florida.

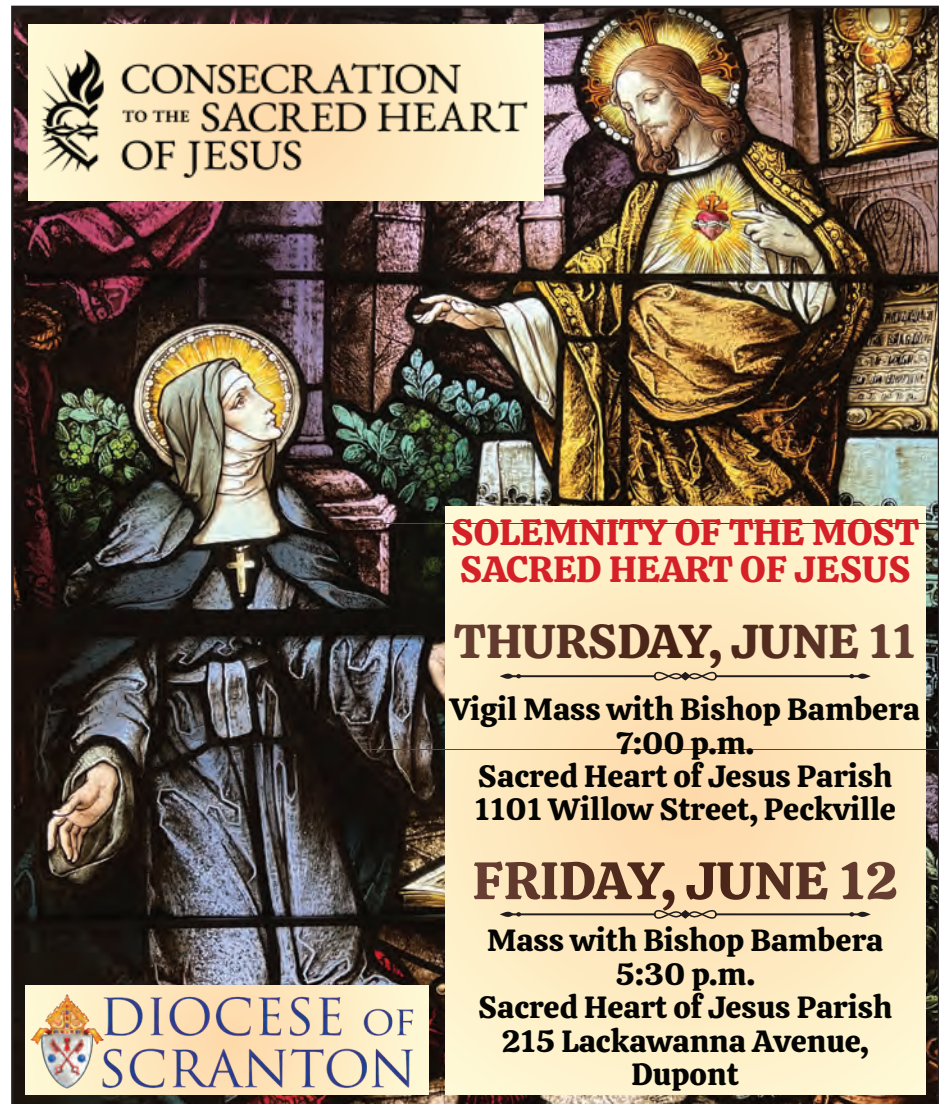
Because Bishop Bambera will be unable to attend the meeting due to a previously scheduled commitment connected to ecumenical dialogue in Rome, his absence from the gathering has created an opportunity for Catholics in northeastern Pennsylvania to celebrate the Solemnity with him close to home.

The celebrations are expected to become much more than ordinary feast day observances. Pastors at both parishes say the occasion will offer Catholics an opportunity to rediscover a Church devotion that has been around for hundreds of years.

“I am very excited,” Father Andy Kurovsky, Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville, said. “I hope people get as excited about it as I am, because it really is a great thing.”

Bishop Bambera will celebrate a Vigil Mass for the Solemnity at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, in Peckville.

*Continued on Page 2*



**CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 11**

**Vigil Mass with Bishop Bambera**  
7:00 p.m.  
**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**  
1101 Willow Street, Peckville

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12**

**Mass with Bishop Bambera**  
5:30 p.m.  
**Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**  
215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont

**DIOCESE OF SCRANTON**



**Catholic Charities USA's 'People of Hope Museum' will stop at Nay Aug Park in Scranton on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. The public can tour the museum from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (OSV News photo/Catholic Charities USA)**

## Catholic Social Services to host traveling 'People of Hope Museum' on June 10 in Scranton

SCRANTON – Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton is inviting residents to experience the national “People of Hope Museum” when the traveling exhibit visits Nay Aug Park in Scranton on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

The free interactive museum experience will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in front of the Everhart Museum and will feature immersive exhibits, storytelling opportunities and reflections focused on poverty, compassion, and community service.

Presented by Catholic Charities USA, the museum recently began traveling the country in a 53-foot semi-tractor trailer, inviting visitors to step into the lives of others through learning about their stories.

*Continued on Page 5*



## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of the Diocese of Scranton, are called through Baptism to imitate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In union with Our Holy Father, the Pope, we proclaim the Gospel faithfully, celebrate the sacraments joyfully, and boldly promote life, justice and peace in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

## POLICY STATEMENT

*The Catholic Light* is our official diocesan journal. The publication of notices, regulations and extra-synodical decrees in said paper constitute legal promulgation for all the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton, Clergy and Laity.

## Published monthly by:

Catholic Light Publishing Company  
300 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503-1287

## Offices:

300 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503-1287  
Phone: (570) 207-2229  
Fax: (570) 207-2271

## Publisher:

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.  
Bishop of Scranton

**Secretary for Communications/Editor-in-Chief:**  
Eric M. Deabill

## Managing Editor:

Kevin G. McDonnell

## Advertising Coordinator:

Eileen Manley

## Circulation Coordinator:

Pamela Haeefele

## Yearly Subscription Rates:

Resident: \$10  
Foreign: \$12

Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal helps support *The Catholic Light*



## Postal Information:

*The Catholic Light* (ISSN 0164-9418) is published monthly by the Catholic Light Publishing Company, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503-1287. Periodicals postage paid at Scranton PA and additional mailing offices.

## POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to *The Catholic Light*, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503-1287

[www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org)

# Bishop to mark Sacred Heart Solemnity with special liturgies

*Continued from Page 1*

During the liturgy, Father Kurovsky said the parish itself will be formally consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

“Even though our parish is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I can find nowhere where it’s been consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,” Father Andy explained. “So, we’re going to do that during the Mass. That involves all of us being led by the Bishop in a special prayer of consecration of the parish to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

The long-time pastor hopes the parish consecration will inspire families to continue the devotion in their own homes.

“We then want to encourage our families to go home and consecrate their families and their homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,” he added. “We are finding that our young people are really intrigued by practices that people in my age group took for granted because we grew up with them.”

Father Kurovsky said his own devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus began during his childhood at Sacred Heart Church in North Wilkes-Barre, where Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction, and Sacred Heart novenas were common parish practices.

“There is nothing more beautiful – when you think of any image of Jesus – than to talk about His heart, which is about love,” Father Kurovsky reflected. “That is what the Lord is for us – our life-source.”

One day later, Bishop Bambera will celebrate the Solemnity Mass at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, June 12, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont.

For Father Thomas Petro, the celebration continues a long-standing parish tradition centered on prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and hospitality.



**Above: Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1101 Willow Street, Peckville, will host a Pontifical Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Thursday, June 11, at 7:00 p.m.**



**Right: Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont, will host a Pontifical Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 12, at 5:30 p.m.**

“For many years, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Dupont has had a whole day of prayer dedicated to our patronal feast,” Father Petro explained.

The parish will begin the day with Mass at 7:30 a.m., followed by Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day. Benediction will take place shortly before the evening Mass with Bishop Bambera. A parish gathering and potluck meal will follow in the parish picnic grove.

“We would very much like to welcome people who perhaps have never been to Dupont or been to our church, to pray with us and then to share with us a meal afterwards,” Father Petro said. “It’s just a time for us to get together, and to welcome the faithful from outside our parish to come and celebrate this important day.”

Like the Bishops’ national consecration, Father Petro said devotion to the Sacred Heart calls Catholics to deeper conversion and prayer for the nation.

“Devotion to the Sacred Heart focuses so much upon reparation for sin – our own sins, and those of other people, our country, our culture,” he said. “I think it’s a great way for us to realize who we are as Catholics,

who we want to be as Catholics, and where we’re all going together as Americans.”

Father Petro also believes the devotion speaks powerfully to the present moment in American society.

“I really think this is a great time in our American history to acknowledge that we need God more than ever,” he said. “We need to humble ourselves. We need to listen to His call as Christians and as Americans –

and also – we need to focus upon His great love for us.”

Both pastors hope the celebrations will draw Catholics from throughout the Diocese of Scranton.

“This is something that is really positive for our children and families,” Father Kurovsky said.

“We’re trying our best to make it a real wonderful, welcoming experience,” Father Petro added.

**HOLY MASS OF  
CONSECRATION OF  
THE UNITED  
STATES TO THE  
SACRED HEART OF  
JESUS**

**Live from the Basilica of  
the National Shrine of  
Mary, Queen of the  
Universe in Orlando, FL**

**Thursday, June 11  
4:00 p.m.**

**Live on CTV: Catholic  
Television & EWTN**

# Bishops' consecration to Sacred Heart of Jesus affirms 'our reliance on God'

(OSV News) - How might you help a nation in political turmoil celebrate its 250th anniversary and the unlikely creation of the first large-scale, self-governing republic in the modern world?

Dedicate it to the Sacred Heart of Jesus - as the U.S. bishops will do for the United States of America on June 11, marking the first such formal consecration of the country to Christ's heart.

The prelates made the decision to do this during a Nov. 11, 2025, session of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' fall plenary assembly in Baltimore - and while they were singularly focused on an exceptional gesture to mark our country's semiquincentennial, the consecration still probably can't come at a better time.

According to a CNN/SSRS poll released April 3, Americans are divided by intense levels of cynicism, viewing both the Democratic and Republican parties in deeply negative terms. A full 77% of Americans, the Pew Research Center reported April 15, think the nation's political system needs major changes or complete reform.

Archbishop Alexander K. Sample of Portland, Oregon, who chairs the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty, told OSV News there are three essential reasons the bishops voted for the consecration.

First "would be to place our nation under the kingship of Christ," he said. "Yes, we are a democratic republic; we are a civil society - but no civil society can long endure without being under the kingship of Christ himself; to place ourselves under God's providence and care."

And while our young nation fought a revolution to throw off a monarchy, Archbishop Sample emphasized the continuity between Jesus' kingship and America's founding ideals.

"In the history of our nation, it's undoubtable and it's irrefutable that the faith - and our reliance on God - really was the foundation that our Founding Fathers placed this nation on," he said. "So at this time, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it's to remind all of us that - whatever civil government we might have - we are all under, ultimately, the kingship of Christ."

Second, Archbishop Sample noted "there's a certain reparation aspect to



**A statue depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus is seen at a Boston church. (OSV News/Gregory A. Shemitz)**

the Sacred Heart. I think we can't forget that part of the consecration is to make reparation for offenses against God; against the heart of Christ."

Some of those offenses, he remarked, are part of American history.

"We are a great and blessed nation - but there are mistakes that we have made as a people over these 250 years. And so this is a good time," the archbishop added, "to also make reparation to the heart of Christ for those offenses against his love, and his mercy, and his justice - for all peoples."

Finally, Archbishop Sample said, "there's this desire, through this consecration, to also call us to have a greater heart for the poor and the suffering ... as we honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we can't just honor it as a private devotion. It has to move us, and move our hearts."

Pope Francis, he said, "was a man who loved these beautiful, rich devotions we have in the faith ... and wanted to call our attention to the fact that the heart of Christ is the heart of mercy ... and through the heart of Jesus, we find healing and reconciliation."

Pope Francis brought the Sacred Heart to wider Catholic attention with the 2024 encyclical "Dilexit Nos" ("He Loved Us"), observing the devotion needs to be revived for our era.

Devotion to the Sacred of Heart of Jesus - which traces its roots to at least the second century - grew during the Middle Ages and was later extended to the universal church following Christ's

revelations of his Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a 17th-century French woman religious.

Emily Schumacher-Novak - associate director of Education and Outreach at the USCCB's Secretariat of Justice and Peace - said the June 11 consecration is accompanied by an abundance of USCCB resources.

"We are also offering a resource that invites people to do 250 hours of adoration and 250 works of mercy," Schumacher-Novak said. "It's that connection back to charity and justice that our Church calls us to - to pray for all the things in our world that need healing - that we can do in front of the Blessed Sacrament."

The national consecration - at Mary,

Queen of the Universe Basilica in Orlando, Florida - will be live streamed via the USCCB homepage on June 11.

"As the bishops of the United States do the consecration of the whole nation to the heart of Christ, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we're also encouraging local communities to do the same - especially in our families and in our dioceses," concluded Archbishop Sample.

He noted family, parish and diocesan consecrations are not meant to replace the national consecration.

"It's so we're sort of doing it on all levels, so to speak," said Archbishop Sample, "to really make this a meaningful moment in the light of the Church here in this great and blessed land."

## Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus On Occasion of U.S. Bishops Consecration of United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:*

*You know the longings of our hearts, and you desire that we enjoy friendship with you.*

*From your pierced side, you have poured out the wellspring of life, for which we thirst.*

*Your heart burns with a love for all people to return to a right relationship with you.*

*We celebrate the abundant gifts you have given this nation, founded on the self-evident truths that our Creator has endowed all people with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

*We make reparation for the offenses against you and against human dignity that have taken place in this nation.*

*May our hearts be united to yours, so that our families and communities enjoy peace and happiness; may broken relationships be reconciled, injustices repaired, and the wounds of our land be healed.*

*May your holy Catholic Church serve as a sign, pointing all people to your infinite love.*

*O Desire of Nations and Center of History, we ask you to bless these United States of America.*

*Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!  
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!*

# Join us in Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from June 3-11

## Day 1 (June 3) - Heart of Jesus, aflame with love for us...

Lord, I come to Your tender Heart today, to You who have words that set my heart ablaze, to You who pour out compassion on the little ones and the poor; on those who suffer, and on all human miseries. I desire to know You more, to contemplate You in the Gospel, to be with You and learn from You and from the charity with which You allowed Yourself to be touched by all forms of poverty. You showed us the Father's love by loving us without measure with Your divine and human Heart. Grant all Your children the grace of encountering You. Change, shape, and transform our plans, so that we seek only You in every circumstance: in prayer, in work, in encounters, and in our daily routine. From this encounter, send us out on mission, a mission of compassion for the world in which You are the source from which all consolation flows. Amen.

## Day 2 (June 4) - Heart of Jesus, source of justice and love...

Lord Jesus, You gave your life for us. Your Sacred Heart is ablaze with love. Your hand extends towards me, and towards all, offering love, mercy, and healing. Sacred Heart of Jesus may your love transform me. Burn away my hesitation that I may become your love and radiate your mercy. Amen.

## Day 3 (June 5) - Heart of Jesus, worthy of all praise...

O most Sacred, most loving Heart of Jesus, Thou art concealed in the Holy Eucharist, and Thou beatest for us still... I worship Thee then with all my best love and awe, with my fervent affection, with my most subdued, most resolved will. O my God, when Thou dost condescend to suffer me to receive Thee, to eat and drink Thee, and Thou for a while takest up Thy abode within me, O make my heart beat with Thy Heart. Amen.

## Day 4 (June 6) - Heart of Jesus, patient and full of mercy...

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

## Day 5 (June 7) - Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness...

Lord Jesus, Saviour of the world and source of holiness, look with kindness on all whom you have chosen to be Missionaries of your loving Heart. Ask your heavenly Father to keep us in your love, and sanctify us in the truth so that you may be glorified in us and we may reflect your goodness. Ask your Father to keep us from evil that we may always be united in bonds of love. As you are one with your Father, so may we be one with each other in your divine Heart, whose sentiments shall forever be ours and to which we consecrate ourselves in time and for eternity. Amen.

## Day 6 (June 8) - Heart of Jesus, atonement for our sins...

My Jesus, I love You with my whole heart. I am sorry for having so many times offended Your infinite goodness. With the help of Your grace, I purpose never to offend You again. And now, unworthy though I am, I consecrate myself to You without reserve. I renounce and give entirely to You my will, my affection, my desires, and all that I possess. Amen.

## Day 7 (June 9) - Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation...

I believe, O Lord, but strengthen my faith ... Heart of Jesus, I love Thee; but increase my love. Heart of Jesus, I trust in Thee; but give greater vigor to my confidence. Heart of Jesus, I give my heart to Thee; but so enclose it in Thee that it may never be separated from Thee. Heart of Jesus, I am all Thine; but take care of my promise so that I may be able to put it in practice even unto the complete sacrifice of my life. Amen.

## Day 8 (June 10) - Jesus, gentle and humble of heart...

O Jesus! When You were a Pilgrim on earth, You said: "Learn of Me for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls." O Mighty Monarch of Heaven, my soul finds rest in seeing You, clothed in the form and nature of a slave, humbling Yourself to wash the feet of Your apostles... I beg You, my Divine Jesus, to send me a humiliation whenever I try to set myself above others. I know that You humble the proud soul but to the one who humbles one's self. You give an eternity of glory... To obtain this grace of Your infinite mercy I will very often repeat: "O Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, make my heart like Yours!" Amen.

## Day 9 (June 11) - Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: You know the longings of our hearts, and you desire that we enjoy friendship with you. From your pierced side, you have poured out the wellspring of life, for which we thirst. Your heart burns with a love for all people to return to a right relationship with you. We celebrate the abundant gifts you have given this nation, founded on the self-evident truths that our Creator has endowed all people with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We make reparation for the offenses against you and against human dignity that have taken place in this nation. May our hearts be united to yours, so that our families and communities enjoy peace and happiness; may broken relationships be reconciled, injustices repaired, and the wounds of our land be healed. May your holy Catholic Church serve as a sign, pointing all people to your infinite love. O Desire of Nations and Center of History, we ask you to bless these United States of America. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

June 3 -11

## Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

This Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus draws its daily devotions from the [Litany of the Sacred Heart](#).

Each day reflects on the wisdom of saints and pontiffs on the Sacred Heart and offers opportunities for prayer and action, framed by Pope Francis' encyclical [Dilexit Nos](#) (He Loved Us) and Pope Leo XIV's apostolic exhortation [Dilexi Te](#) (I Have Loved You).

The novena concludes with the consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



[usccb.org/weholdthesetruths](https://usccb.org/weholdthesetruths)

For Each Day's Full Novena Devotion visit [dioceseofscranton.org](https://dioceseofscranton.org)

# Bishop Bambera to honor 2026 Priest Jubilarians at June 4 Cathedral Mass

SCRANTON – Twelve priests who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of their ordination year will be recognized during the 2026 Mass for Priest Jubilarians at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist. During the Mass, the Bishop will recognize a combine 600 years of service to the priesthood.

For generations, these faithful priests have baptized our children, celebrated our marriages, comforted us in times of loss and guided countless souls closer to Christ. The faithful are encouraged to fill the Cathedral with gratitude and prayer as we honor the extraordinary witness and lifelong service of these dedicated shepherds.

Reverend Joseph J. Adonizio will be recognized for 70 years of priestly service. Father Adonizio was ordained a priest on May 29, 1956.

In addition to Rev. Adonizio, priests who are celebrating 65-, 50- and 25-year ordination anniversaries will be honored at the Mass.

The Mass will be broadcast live by CTV: Catholic Television and will be available for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, and links will be made available across all Diocesan social media platforms.



## 2026 Priest Jubilarians

### 70 Years

Reverend Joseph J. Adonizio

### 65 Years

Reverend John J. Kilpatrick

Reverend Theodore L. Obaza

### 50 Years

Reverend John B. Boyle

Very Reverend Richard W. Burke, C.P.

Reverend Michael J. Kirwin

Reverend Kevin P. Mulhern

Reverend William B. Pickard

Reverend John V. Polednak

Reverend Phillip J. Sladicka

### 25 Years

Reverend Jose Joseph Kuriappilly

Reverend Joseph J. Pisaneschi

## Catholic Social Services bringing 'People of Hope Museum' to NEPA June 10

*Continued from Page 1*

Local organizers say the Scranton stop promises to be both meaningful and family-friendly – especially as schools across the region will just be beginning summer vacation.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for families, parishioners, students and our entire community to begin the summer with an experience that is both inspiring and eye-opening,” Joe Mahoney, CEO of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, said. “The People of Hope Museum reminds us that every person has dignity, every story matters, and every one of us has the ability to make a difference in the life of a neighbor.”

Visitors to the museum will encounter video testimonies from people serving vulnerable populations in communities across the nation, hear stories of individuals whose lives have been transformed through acts of kindness, and participate in an interactive poverty simulation designed to foster empathy and understanding.

The traveling exhibit also includes an audio learning library featuring reflections

and insights from nationally known voices discussing poverty, social isolation, and community engagement. Guests will additionally have the opportunity to record and share their own stories of hope and service as part of the museum’s ongoing national initiative.

“As Catholics, we are called not only to recognize Christ in those who are struggling, but also to respond with compassion and action,” Mahoney added. “This exhibit will help people see the very real challenges many families face every day while also highlighting the incredible hope that comes when communities come together in service.”

The People of Hope Museum is made possible through a \$5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of its National Storytelling Initiative on Christian Faith and Life. Organizers say the traveling exhibit seeks to inspire greater volunteerism, empathy, and involvement within local communities.

While the museum experience is intended for those ages 14 and older because some content addresses themes of poverty and past trauma, organizers emphasize



**Catholic Charities USA’s ‘People of Hope Museum’ began a three-year nationwide tour on March 26, 2026, in Manhattan. The tractor-trailer-sized traveling museum highlights the impact of neighbors helping neighbors and celebrates the power of Christian service. (OSV photo/ Armando Machado)**

that the June 10 event offers activities and attractions for visitors of all ages.

In addition to the free museum tour, attendees will also receive free admission to both the Everhart Museum and the Brooks Mine during event hours.

“We want this day to be something the entire community can enjoy,” Mahoney said. “Whether someone comes to

experience the museum, explore the Everhart Museum, visit the Brooks Mine or simply spend time together at Nay Aug Park, we hope people leave feeling inspired and hopeful.”

Because the museum trailer will necessitate the closing of the main entrance to Nay Aug Park for the safety of visitors, people are encouraged to enter Nay Aug Park using the entrance near the Blackwatch Cafe and follow Nay Aug Road to the parking area adjacent

to the event site.

The People of Hope Museum began its national tour earlier this year in New York City. It will arrive in Scranton after making a stop in the Diocese of Greensburg, which is located near Pittsburgh. In all, the traveling museum is expected to visit more than 150 communities nationwide over the next three years.

# New Saint Pius X Seminary taking shape in downtown Scranton

SCRANTON – In just a few months, the former Cathedral Convent building in downtown Scranton will welcome its first seminarians as the new Saint Pius X Seminary officially begins its mission of forming future priests for the Diocese of Scranton.

Located in the 300-block of Wyoming Avenue, directly across from the Diocesan Pastoral Center and steps away from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, the new seminary will house men beginning the “propaedeutic” stage of priestly formation – a preparatory year focused heavily on prayer, fraternity, human formation, and spiritual growth.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, recently announced several key appointments for the seminary. Father Alex J. Roche, S.T.L., will serve as Rector of Saint Pius X Seminary beginning June 1, 2026. On the same date, Father Mark J. DeCelles has been appointed to begin serving as Academic Dean; and Father Brian Van Fossen, V.F., has been appointed as Head Spiritual Director.

For Father Roche, the work underway is about much more than preparing a building for occupancy. It is about laying the groundwork for the future priests of the Diocese of Scranton.

“We’re starting something new. We’re beginning something,” Father Roche said. “Throughout the Diocese, I think there should be a lot of excitement for this new initiative that can benefit us in a lot of ways.”

While the first stage of priestly formation – the “propaedeutic” stage may sound unfamiliar – Father Roche said its purpose is simple.

“It is a time of preparation,” he explained. “It is seen as a time of formation in which a man learns to pray, he learns to live in community, he learns some of the basics of our faith by reading the Bible, the Catechism, the documents of the Second Vatican Council and great spiritual works.”

The Diocese of Scranton previously utilized seminaries outside the Diocese for this initial stage of formation. Establishing the program locally, however, creates new opportunities for seminarians to grow more deeply connected to the Church they may one day serve.

“It gives us an opportunity to get to



**Renovations are underway to the Cathedral Convent building in Scranton, which will soon be the Saint Pius X Seminary. The updates include new carpet, light fixtures and paint.**

know our seminarians a little better,” Father Roche said. “It gives them an opportunity to get to know the Diocese and its people and priests a little better – and can serve as a great foundation for the rest of their time in formation, and God willing, their time as a priest.”

The former convent building itself is ideally suited for that mission.

The first floor includes a dining area, kitchen, small library, and space for priests in residence. Upstairs are shared areas designed to foster fraternity among seminarians, along with a chapel where daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and the Liturgy of the Hours will be celebrated. The building contains 13 rooms for seminarians.

“It is a nice space,” Father Roche noted. “It’s a space that we look forward to transforming and making our own. We’re all going to spend a lot of time there – a lot of time in prayer, a lot of time together.”

Right now, crews are repainting rooms, replacing carpeting, updating light fixtures, and making other improvements in preparation for the seminary’s opening in August.

Once operational, seminarians will begin each day together in prayer and Mass while learning the rhythms of community



**Father Alex J. Roche, S.T.L., has been appointed Rector of the Saint Pius X Seminary in Scranton beginning June 1, 2026.**

and other events that arise.

“There will be opportunities for them to go out and serve the poor,” Father Roche added. “We’ll have entire days really dedicated to prayer. We’ll also have opportunities for community and fun together.”

The year will also intentionally help seminarians navigate real-world challenges facing young adults today, including dependence on technology and social media.

“Part of what will happen during the propaedeutic is periods of media fasting – opportunities to really examine prayerfully how we use our cell phones and media,” Father Roche emphasized. “What we want to develop are healthy ways to use those

life and things that aren’t getting in the way of priestly spiritual development or ministry.”

The establishment of Saint Pius X Seminary comes at a moment of renewed momentum for vocations across the Diocese of Scranton, which could have 17 seminarians in formation by this fall – the highest number in several years.

“We’re watching incredible vocation work happening around the Diocese,” Father emphasized. “There is excitement now. We hope this really is a way to carry that excitement forward and make sure the momentum keeps going.”

For Father Roche, personally, the transition to full-time seminary leadership also comes with sacrifice. After serving four years as pastor of Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laffin, he acknowledges it is difficult stepping away from parish ministry.

“Leaving a parish is just as difficult as it is for parishioners saying goodbye to a priest,” he admitted.

Still, he believes the mission ahead is worth it.

“I think it’s a sign of growth and excitement for the whole Diocese,” he ended saying. “When young men see formation happening right here in their own Diocese, it becomes more tangible, more accessible and more real.”

**Ordination Mass  
of  
Rev. Mr. Jan Carlo Pérez**

**Saturday, June 27, 2026  
10:00 a.m.**

**Cathedral of Saint Peter  
315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton**

**DIOCESE OF  
SCRANTON**



# SAINT PIUS X SEMINARY NAMING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

As the Saint Pius X Seminary begins to take shape in downtown Scranton, the Diocese of Scranton is pleased to offer a range of naming opportunities to our faithful parishioners at different levels of giving.

Gifts can be paid for over 24 months (in annual, quarterly or monthly installments).

Each space has been thoughtfully selected to reflect its importance within the life of the building and the community it serves.

All naming opportunities will include the following recognition:

- Prominent and tasteful recognition signage within the space.
- Inclusion in donor recognition listings (unless the donor requests to remain anonymous).
- Opportunity to attend dedication ceremonies and special events hosted by the Vocations Program.



## SPACES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Second Floor Chapel .....	One Available
Floors .....	Three Available
Dining Room or Community Room .....	Two Available
Kitchen.....	One Available
Outdoor Patio/Porch.....	One Available
First Floor Library.....	One Available
Rector's Suite.....	One Available
Academic Dean's Suite.....	One Available
Seminiarian Rooms.....	Thirteen Available



**For Information on Contribution Levels and Availability, Please Contact:**

Joseph D. Strubeck  
Diocesan Secretary for Development  
(570) 207-2250  
JStrubeck@dioceseofscranton.org

## 'Come and find a peaceful oasis'

### *Eucharistic Adoration events help faithful encounter Christ and pray for vocations*

LAFLIN – In a world filled with constant noise, stress and distraction, young adults from across the Diocese of Scranton are discovering something increasingly rare each month: silence, peace, and the living presence of Christ.

On Thursday, May 7, the Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office hosted its latest Young Adult XLT Eucharistic Adoration at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laffin. The evening included Eucharistic Adoration, praise and worship music led by Joel Kankiewicz, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and fellowship afterward.

The monthly gatherings are centered on praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, while also encouraging the faithful to reflect on God's call in their own lives.

"The primary mission is to bring primarily young adults to Eucharistic Adoration to pray about what the Lord might be calling them to do with their lives," Kyra Krzywicki, Vocations Program Coordinator, explained. "But



**The Diocese of Scranton Vocations Office offers monthly Eucharistic Adoration like this opportunity at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laffin May 7. (Photo/Dan Piazza)**

we have people of all ages and parishes coming to pray."

The Diocese of Scranton is currently experiencing renewed hope for vocations. By this fall, the Diocese could have as many as 17 seminarians in formation – the highest number in well over a decade – while work continues toward the creation of Saint Pius X Seminary in Scranton.

"One of the recent findings that has been conducted through research has been that a

lot of people entering seminary and religious life have come into it having a foundation from Eucharistic Adoration," Krzywicki added. "Come and find a peaceful oasis where you can just rest in God and maybe find your vocation along the way."

For many participants, Eucharistic Adoration offers an opportunity to step away from the pressures of daily life and spend quiet time with Christ.

"It is finals week. I go to King's College and it's very stressful," Stephanie Kucharski of Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea, said. "This has helped me to calm down, really take a deep breath and focus on God before the rest of my finals."

Nicholas Maille said the evenings also remind young Catholics that they are not alone in living their faith.

"When we can come together – not just to pray – but to hang out and catch up and enjoy fellowship with one another, it's just a really important reminder that when we're out in the world, we're not alone and we have other brothers and sisters to rely on," he said.

Even if you have never participated in Eucharistic Adoration before, Krzywicki is hopeful you will consider attending future events.

"Even if you've never been to Adoration before and don't know what to expect, the Lord will come to meet you there in that confusion or nervousness," she emphasized.

#### **Upcoming Adoration Opportunities**

##### **Sunday, May 24**

Eucharistic Adoration following the 6 p.m. Mass at Saint Matthew Parish, East Stroudsburg

##### **Wednesday, May 27**

Eucharistic Adoration at 6:30 p.m. at Christ the King Parish, Archbald

##### **Thursday, June 4**

Young Adult XLT Eucharistic Adoration at 7 p.m. at St. Maria Goretti Parish, Laffin

# Father Carmen Perry dies at age 74 following nearly 50 years of priestly ministry

SCRANTON — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Father Carmen J. Perry on April 23 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

Father Perry was serving as chaplain of Mercy Center in Dallas, where he was residing when he died on April 18 following 49 years of faithful ministry as a priest of the Diocese of Scranton. He was 74.

Born Feb. 19, 1952, in Scranton, son of the late Carmen Joseph Perry Sr. and Rose (Salerno) Perry, Father Perry was a graduate of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini Grade School, Scranton, and West Scranton Senior High School Class of 1969.

He entered Saint Pius X Seminary, Dalton, and attended The University of Scranton, where he earned his bachelor's degree in theology.

Father Perry completed his seminary training and preparatory/theological studies at Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Md., after which he was ordained to the priesthood for the Scranton Diocese on May 7, 1977, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the late Most Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, sixth Bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination, Father Perry served as assistant pastor at the parishes of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carbondale; Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton; Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Scranton; and Saint Thomas Aquinas, Archbald.

He received his first pastoral assignment on July 9, 1990, at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Hazleton. In 1993, Father was appointed pastor to shepherd the faithful following the linkage of the Throop churches of Saint Brigid, Saint John the Baptist, and Saint Anthony.



**Father Carmen J. Perry**

Father Perry served as assistant pastor of Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg, from 1994 until 2015, when he was named pastor of Saint Luke's. In 2021, Father Perry was appointed chaplain of Mercy Center, Dallas, where he continued to serve until his death.

In addition to his parochial duties, Father Perry served the Diocese of Scranton as a religious educator at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, Carbondale; Sacred

Heart High School, Carbondale; and Saint Thomas Aquinas School, Archbald.

"Today, as we gather here with heavy hearts, as we mourn Father Perry's death, we pray and offer this Mass of Christian Burial for him, honoring him for his years of service...to Christ's Church as a priest," Father Gus Ricciardi stated in his homily during the funeral Mass for his priest-friend. "We feel the pain and sorrow that death brings when someone we came to know and love after years of loving, caring, teaching, nourishing and guiding us is suddenly gone."

"Father Perry was a man of God who loved God with his entire self. It was that love that allowed him to answer the call to the priesthood," he added.

Remarking that the Holy Eucharist was at the center of his friend's life of faith, Father

Ricciardi continued, "It was his faith in God's Word that (enabled) him to preach that Word to others."

"For Father Carmen Perry, hope was that desire to do God's will in his life," the homilist concluded. "He hoped to be a wise and industrious servant of the Gospel in living out his priesthood. He hoped that by his life of service, he would lead others to God, as well as bring God to them. He hoped that some day he would be with the Lord celebrating the heavenly liturgy with the angels and saints."

Surviving are a brother, Louis Perry, and sister, Mary Ellen Perry Cisek, both of Dunmore; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and friends, with special gratitude extended to Mercy Sister Mary Frances at the Mercy Center in Dallas.

Interment was at the Cathedral Cemetery in West Scranton.

# Father Andrew Sinnott, Duryea pastor emeritus and former deacon, dies at age 85

WILKES-BARRE — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, served as principal celebrant of a Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial for Father Andrew R. Sinnott on May 6 at Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

A priest of the Diocese of Scranton for nearly 27 years, Father Sinnott was pastor emeritus of Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea when he died April 27 at Hospice of the Sacred Heart, Dunmore, at the age of 85.

Born July 1, 1940, in Wilkes-Barre, son of the late Andrew and Margaret (Rowan) Sinnott, Father Sinnott was a graduate of Hanover Township High School and Wilkes College (now University), where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in May 1971.

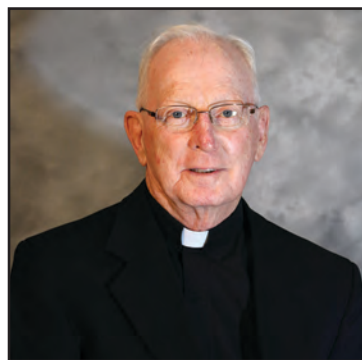
Before entering the seminary, Father Sinnott served in the United States Army, after which he was employed by First Eastern Bank for 38 years and retired from PNC Bank. Following his long and

distinguished career in the banking industry, he was able to fulfill his lifelong dream of answering the Lord's call to be ordained as a Catholic priest.

Father Sinnott received his seminary education and theological training at Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass., and was ordained for the Scranton Diocese on June 26, 1999, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter by the late Most Rev. James C. Timlin, eighth Bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination, he was assigned to serve as assistant pastor in Honesdale at the parish churches of Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Mary Magdalen. In July 2001, Father Sinnott was appointed chaplain of Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, where he ministered for two years until he was named administrator, and eventually pastor, of Saint Boniface Parish, Wilkes-Barre.

While serving in his pastorate at Saint Boniface, he was additionally assigned the pastoral duties for



**Father Andrew R. Sinnott**

Saint Patrick Parish, Wilkes-Barre, in 2005. In July 2009, Father was appointed pastor of the parish communities of Saint Aloysius, Saint Casimir, and Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Two years later, Father Sinnott was appointed administrator of Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea, where he was named pastor in October 2012. He retired as pastor emeritus of Nativity of Our Lord Parish in June 2015.

In addition to his parochial duties, Father Sinnott served as a member of the Diocesan Priests

Advisory Board from 2005 to 2008, and as Episcopal Vicar for the Eastern Pastoral Region of the Diocese during 2008-09.

Father was an honorary life member of Knights of Columbus Assumpta Council 3987 and Our Lady of Czestochowa Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, both in Kingston. He also served as a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Saint John Neumann Division II, and the Hanover Township Lions Club.

Father Jim Nash began the funeral Mass homily for his longtime friend by noting, "Father Andy and I are what we call second-career vocations. I was called to the priesthood later in life after serving as an English teacher for 23 years, and Father Andy was a successful banker."

Recalling how he and Father Sinnott were fellow seminarians at Pope Saint John XXIII Seminary in Massachusetts in the 1990s, Father Nash remarked that their shared priestly formation became a reunion

for old friends whose paths first crossed years earlier in the Wilkes-Barre area.

"Father Andy and I go back a long way (as) students together at Lee Park Elementary School and Hanover High School," Father Nash related.

"After retirement, he...listened for the voice of Jesus Christ, and he was invited to become a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Scranton," the homilist said. "So, today, we celebrate and remember Father Andy Sinnott's journey: as a faithful son, brother and friend; as a servant in the armed forces; as a successful banking executive; as a deacon; and then as a priest."

Surviving are a brother, Kevin, Hanover Township; two sisters-in-law, Cathy and Pamela; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by four brothers, Martin, Myles, Gary and Joseph Sinnott.

Interment was held at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township.

# Families united through adoption gather for Mother's Day Mass in Scranton

SCRANTON – Families whose lives have been touched by adoption gathered at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Mother's Day to celebrate the Diocese of Scranton's annual Adoption Mass, celebrating the gift of life, the love of mothers, and the joy of families formed through adoption.

The 10:00 a.m. Mass on May 10, 2026, was celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, who reflected in his homily on the selfless and sacrificial love that lies at the heart of motherhood and adoption alike.

Focusing on the Gospel of Saint John, Bishop Bambera reminded the faithful that Jesus promised His disciples they would never be abandoned.

"I will not leave you orphans," Jesus says in the Gospel passage proclaimed during the liturgy. The Bishop said that promise of hope is lived out through the love people share with one another – especially within families.

"As Christians, we exist for a purpose: to proclaim the Good News of Jesus," Bishop Bambera stated. "We exist to proclaim love, not war and division ... We exist to nurture respect for all of creation ... We exist to love, to forgive and to work for peace."

On a day dedicated to honoring mothers, the Bishop reflected on the profound witness offered by birth mothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers, grandmothers, and all mother figures.

"We honor mothers because our first encounter with love comes from our mother," Bishop Bambera said. "That love is hardly a sentimental love – but rather, a sacred love – a selfless, sacrificial, forgiving love that mirrors the very love of Jesus Himself."

The annual liturgy, coordinated in partnership with Saint Joseph's Center, brought together adoptive families from throughout the Diocese of Scranton. The Mass featured joyful music from the Cathedral choir and the sound of young children filled the pews.

"Adoption is really a beautiful choice for a mother, or for parents, who acknowledge that they're unable to provide the care that their child needs," Sister Maryalice Jacquot, I.H.M., President/CEO of Saint Joseph's Center, said. "It really is an act of love and a great gift.



**Wesley and Michelle Jones, along with their daughter Jailynn Ryan, participate in the Mother's Day Adoption Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on May 10, 2026. (Photo/Mike Melisky)**

Sister Maryalice noted that Saint Joseph's Center has participated in adoption ministry for more than a century and continues to witness the blessings that come through the process.

"Sometimes people think of adoption only in the negative connotation," she added. "But we have to think of the sacrifice that is given out of love and the gift of life that enables that child to live and create a family and to be part of that family forever."

Among those attending the Mass was Jennifer Daniels, a parishioner of Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top, who attended with her husband and son. Daniels explained that after being unable to have children, the couple turned to adoption through Saint Joseph's Center.

"We always wanted to adopt a child," Daniels said. "Everyone at Saint Joseph's Center has become like family to us. It is not their job of what they do – it is their passion."

Daniels added that returning each year to the Mother's Day Mass is incredibly special.

"To come back and to celebrate what God has given us and see all the people who made it possible for us to have our family, is very meaningful," she added.

Michelle Jones of Taylor, who participated in the offertory procession alongside her husband, Wesley, and daughter, Jailynn, described adoption as an immeasurable blessing for her family.

"It's really hard to put it into words,"

Jones said. "It is something that give us so much joy – being able to share our love and being able to give someone so much love that might not have had it otherwise."

Jones said the Mass also serves as an important reminder that many families share similar experiences and journeys.



**Ashley Reedy, a parishioner of Saint Eulalia Parish in Roaring Brook Township, flips through a book with her son Paxton during the Mother's Day Mass. (Photo/Mike Melisky)**

"Just to be able to have a network of other people that have also went through the adoption process or have given their children up for adoption, it really puts into perspective how many families are willing to go above and beyond for that," she added.

## Registration deadline for 2026 Wedding Anniversary Mass is June 7

SCRANTON - Couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries this year are reminded that the registration deadline for the 2026 Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass is quickly approaching.

Pre-registration for the celebration must be completed by Sunday, June 7, 2026.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

This year, the Diocese of Scranton is inviting couples celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th and 50th wedding anniversaries to participate in the special liturgy, during which couples will renew their marriage commitment. A reception will follow the Mass.

Registration is available through the Diocese of Scranton website ([dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)). Couples may also contact Bridget Maille, Program Coordinator for Family Life, at 570-207-2213, ext. 1133, or email [familylife@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseofscranton.org) for additional information.

# Welcoming young Catholics to the Table of the Lord

PECKVILLE – In churches throughout the Diocese of Scranton this spring, young girls wearing white dresses and young boys donning suits and ties have stepped forward for the first time to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist – a moment of joy and excitement for parish communities and families alike.

At Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville, that joy filled the church in a special way on Saturday, May 2, 2026, as 56 children received their First Holy Communion – one of the parish’s largest classes in recent memory.

“It is one of the happiest days of the year,” Father Andrew Kurovsky, pastor, said. “This milestone will probably go down as one of the more important days in their life – receiving Christ in the Eucharist. Hopefully, what they take away from here is the fact that not only have they received Him, but they’re called to be more Christ-like in the world because He is part of them and their lives.”

At the start of Mass, the children processed into the church as proud parents, grandparents, godparents, and friends all looked on – gathering to witness the special milestone.

For the children themselves, the excitement was written across their faces.

“It was really cool,” Brooke Bacchiocchi said with a smile. “It was the first time that I received Jesus and I love Him.”

Her sibling, Collin, admitted to feeling “happy, scared and nervous,” especially while helping bring up the gifts during Mass.

Reflecting on the importance of the day, Collin stated he is most happy that he’ll be able to receive Holy Communion regularly when attending Mass with his parents.



**Fifty six students received First Holy Communion at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville on May 2, 2026.**

“Now I can go up with my mom and dad,” he explained.

Second-grader Chase McDermott described why Jesus is important to him simply and beautifully.

“Because He died on the cross for us so that we can have a good life and He took our sins away from us,” McDermott said.

Parish faith formation leaders and catechists worked with the students for months to help them understand the importance of the Eucharist – recognizing not simply “what” is being received, but “who.”

“They are developing what we hope to be a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ,” Gayle Castellani, Pastoral Associate, explained. “Our teachers are phenomenal. We do lesson plans, we have hands-on activities, we

do a retreat for them. We want them to be excited and prepared.”

Castellani, who has been involved in the parish for more than 25 years, said it was beautiful to see the church full of parents, grandparents and godparents – who really are critical to the faith formation process.

“We can’t thank the parents enough,” Castellani added. “Parents are the first educators in the faith. They then entrust their children to us here.”

Father Kurovsky echoed that sentiment, noting that the work of forming young Catholics begins long before children walk up to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

“Hopefully what we do here, the parents follow up on at home,” he said.

## Parish First Holy Communion Photos

View More Photos Submitted by Parishes at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)



**Epiphany Parish, Sayre**



**Saint Ann Basilica Parish, Scranton**



**Saint Andrew Parish, Wilkes-Barre**



***Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre***



***Saints Peter & Paul Parish, Plains***



***Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco***



***Saints Anthony & Rocco and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes, Dunmore***



***Queen of Angels Parish, Jessup***



***Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Montoursville***



***Our Lady of Peace Parish, Hazleton***



***Saint Patrick Parish, Milford***



***Our Lady of the Abingtons, Saint Patrick and Saint Mary of the Lake Parishes***



***Saint Therese Parish, Shavertown***



***Visitation of the BVM Parish, Dickson City***

# Students embrace gifts of the Holy Spirit during Confirmation Masses

WILKES-BARRE – Young Catholics throughout the Diocese of Scranton have been receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring, publicly affirming the faith first given to them at Baptism and embracing a deeper life in the Church through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

While the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, is the ordinary minister of Confirmation, the Diocese follows a three-year rotation that allows the Bishop to visit every parish over time. In years when the Bishop is unable to celebrate the sacrament with a parish, pastors are granted permission to confirm students, with many liturgies taking place on Pentecost weekend if not before.

One of the Diocese's earlier regional Confirmation celebrations took place April 23 at Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre, where students from four Luzerne County parishes gathered to receive the sacrament.

Candidates from Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Township, Saint John the Baptist Parish, Larksville, and All Saints Parish, Plymouth, joined the host parish for the special liturgy celebrated by Bishop Bambera.



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera anoints the forehead of Madeline Martin of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish with Sacred Chrism during a Confirmation Mass on April 23, 2026. (Photo/Dan Piazza)**

Among those confirmed was Joaquin Gabriel "Francis" Galdos Nunez of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, who chose his Confirmation name in honor of a saint cherished by his family.

"I'm very happy," Nunez said after Mass. "I'm following my parents' religion and helping other people out."

Nunez admitted he felt nervous when approaching the Bishop during the Rite of Confirmation but afterward described feeling "happy and satisfied."

Luke Borino of Saint John the Baptist Parish said receiving the sacrament filled him with joy and hope for the future.

"Tonight was a great night. I feel like the future is very bright for all of us," he said.

Reflecting on the moment of Confirmation, Borino added, "It actually made me feel a lot of joy. I couldn't stop smiling."

Father Gerald Gurka, pastor of All Saints and Saint John the Baptist Parishes, said Confirmation marks an important turning point in the lives of young Catholics.



**Students from four Luzerne County parishes stand during a Confirmation Mass with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera at Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre on April 23, 2026. (Photo/Dan Piazza)**

"They take the commitment that their moms and dads and godparents wanted for them when they were baptized and they take ownership of that and they ask God's spirit, through Confirmation, to strengthen that commitment for the rest of their lives."

Father Gurka said the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit remain especially important for young people navigating today's world.

"As young people, they realize you need courage more than ever in a confusing world,"

he added. "You need wisdom to be informed, and you need understanding to make right judgments."

At the end of the liturgy, Father Gurka said he noticed something unique in the expressions of the newly confirmed students.

"There was something different about their faces," he said. "There was a sense, in a nonverbal way, that they had a greater connection to God. It was a very beautiful moment that I think shined right through the ending of the Mass."

## Parish Confirmation Photos

View More Photos Submitted by Parishes at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)



**Saint Eulalia Parish, Roaring Brook Twp.**



**Saint Brigid Parish, Friendsville**



**Saint Carlo Acutis Parish, Olyphant**

# Catholic Women's Conference to be held on June 6 at Marywood University

SCRANTON - There are now just two weeks until the 2026 Catholic Women's Conference on June 6, 2026.

The day will begin with Mass with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and offer opportunities for Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration along with powerful speakers.

The theme of this year's conference, which will be held at Marywood University, is 'Courageous Faith.'

Online registration is still available by visiting [cwcnepa.com](http://cwcnepa.com).

This year's conference will feature dynamic talks from the following:

## Francesca LaRosa

Francesca LaRosa began her musical journey at the age of nine, playing at Mass with her father. By the end of high school, she had recorded and composed two albums for the Holy Liturgy.

With her husband David, a music producer and videographer, she created a YouTube channel to share her word-for-word Psalm settings in English and Spanish which quickly gained international recognition.



## Susan Brinkmann

Susan Brinkmann, O.C.D.S., is an author, award-winning journalist and a member of the Third Order of Discalced Carmelites.

She serves as Director of New Age Research for Women of Grace and is a frequent guest on EWTN's Women of Grace television show. She is the founder of Live Catholic, an educational nonprofit devoted to teaching authentic Catholic prayer in the Carmelite tradition to the faithful.

She has also authored seventeen books, including a Catholic series: Pray Like a Catholic, Live Like a Catholic, Mindful Like a Catholic, and Fight Like a Catholic.

Brinkmann also has a daily devotional featuring 365 reflections on the teachings of Saint Therese of Lisieux.



## Fr. Dan Reehil

Very Reverend Daniel Reehil, V.F., is the Pastor of Saint Catherine of Siena Church in the Nashville area and has a fascinating story about his journey to the priesthood.

As a Wall Street banker in Manhattan in the 1990s, he was invited to take a trip to Medjugorje in 1998 after being away from the church for twenty years. During confession, the priest told him that he believed he had a vocation. This life-altering pilgrimage began a transformational conversion for him.

Along with his busy pastoral responsibilities, Fr. Dan leads a radio broadcast called "Battle Ready" on Radio Maria USA, discussing a variety of topics relevant to our times and advancing the Gospel.



## APPOINTMENTS

**His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments, effective as follows:**

### SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

**Reverend David P. Cappelloni**, to Director of Continuing Formation for Clergy, effective May 1, 2026. Father Cappelloni will continue to serve as Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Dunmore, and Saints Anthony and Rocco Parish, Dunmore.

**Reverend Mark J. DeCelles**, to Academic Dean, Saint Pius X Seminary, Scranton, effective June 1, 2026. Father DeCelles will continue as Sacramental Minister, Our Lady of Hope Parish, Wilkes-Barre, and Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation. Father DeCelles will be in residence at Saint Pius X Seminary, Scranton.

**Reverend Ryan P. Glenn, S.T.L.**, from Director of Continuing Formation for Clergy, effective May 1, 2026. Father Glenn to Vocation Director, effective June 1, 2026. Father Glenn will continue to serve as Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Archbald.

**Reverend Alex J. Roche, S.T.L.**, from Pastor, Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin and Vocation Director, to Rector, Saint Pius X Seminary, Scranton, effective June 1, 2026. Father Roche will continue as Diocesan Secretary for Clergy Formation and Director of Seminarians. Father Roche will be in residence at Saint Pius X Seminary, Scranton.

**Reverend Brian VanFossen, V.F.**, to Head Spiritual Director, Saint Pius X Seminary, Scranton, effective June 1, 2026. Father Van Fossen will continue to serve as Pastor, Saint Faustina Kowalska Parish, Nanticoke.

### PASTORS

**Reverend Michael S. Drevitch**, from Assistant Pastor, Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, to Pastor, Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin, effective June 1, 2026.

### PAROCHIAL VICARS

**Reverend Benito Hierro Aquino, CSMA**, from Parochial Vicar, Saint Pius of Pietrelcina Parish, Hazleton, to return to ministry with the Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel, effective April 6, 2026.

**Reverend Wojciech Jasionek**, from ministry in the Diocese of Warsaw-Prague, Poland, to Parochial Vicar, Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg, effective June 1, 2026.



## BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

- May 24** - University of Scranton Commencement  
Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Twp., 11:00 a.m.
- May 27** - Holy Redeemer High School Commencement  
F.M. Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre, 7:00 p.m.
- May 28** - Saint John Neumann High School Commencement  
George S. Klump Academic Center, Williamsport, 7:00 p.m.
- May 29** - Holy Cross High School Commencement  
Sette LaVerghetta Center, Marywood University, 7:00 p.m.
- May 30** - Notre Dame High School Commencement  
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School, East Stroudsburg, 11:00 a.m.
- May 31** - Mass at Mercy Center  
Misericordia University, Dallas, 11:00 a.m.
- June 4** - Mass for Priest Jubilarians  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- June 6** - Mass for the 2026 Catholic Women's Conference  
Marywood University, 8:30 a.m.
- June 7** - Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.
- June 11** - Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Peckville, 7:00 p.m.
- June 12** - Mass for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Dupont, 5:30 p.m.
- June 16-24** - Catholic/Pentecostal Ecumenical Dialogue  
Rome

# Parish celebrates inaugural Cinco de Mayo festival with food and fellowship

SCRANTON – Food, faith, and fellowship came together on the weekend of May 2-3 as Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in South Scranton hosted its first-ever Cinco de Mayo Food Festival.

The weekend event drew a steady crowd who came to enjoy a wide variety of authentic Latin American dishes while supporting the parish community. From tacos and empanadas to chicharrones and elotes, the festival highlighted the rich culinary traditions of the parish's Hispanic members.

“We’re selling all different kinds of foods,” parishioner Emily Lopez said. “It’s fun too. We get to see people from our church and interact with them. It’s really fun.”

The festival was more than just a fundraiser – it was a celebration of culture and connection.

“It has been nice to see parish members taste some of the foods that they haven’t tasted yet,” parishioner Daisy Klem said. “As a Hispanic person myself, I’ve been trying new foods that I haven’t tried before from other countries, so it has been great.”



Far Left: Parishioners place orders at a stand set up for the first-ever Cinco de Mayo Food Festival at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in South Scranton.

Left: Members of the community could either enjoy their food on the grounds of the food festival or take it home. (Photos/Dan Piazza)

Klem noted the strong sense of unity throughout the weekend, with parishioners of all ages pitching in.

“Every single person in our community is working out there – the youth group, adults – everybody is just here and helping and enjoying ourselves and making new friends. It’s great,” she added.

Given the outstanding turnout, Father Jonathan Kuhar, pastor of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, said the food festival is likely to become an annual event.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the people of our community to gather together in love and fellowship, and to have a nice fundraiser,” Father Kuhar said. “While it’s our first annual food festival for Cinco de Mayo, I expect it will become an annual tradition because it’s been a wonderful event.”

The festival also highlighted the diversity within the parish itself, with foods representing cultures from across Latin America, including Mexican, Ecuadorian, Colombian, and Dominican traditions.

“There is a real enthusiasm for the faith,” Father Kuhar added. “They bring a vibrancy and an enthusiasm that is really reinvigorating for our parish and for our diocese.”

For those volunteering, the weekend offered a meaningful way to share heritage while building new relationships.

“It’s important to combine our religion with our culture,” Lopez explained. “Just so that more generations know more about it and we get connected to our ancestry.”



## SUMMER PARISH PICNIC, FESTIVAL AND BAZAAR LISTING



**Mary, Mother of God in Scranton — June 12 & 13.** Parish “Block Party” will be held Friday, 6 to 11 p.m., and Saturday, 5 to 10 p.m., on the grounds of Holy Rosary Center, corner of Wayne & West Market streets, North Scranton. Guest appearances by the Holy Cross High School cheerleaders (Friday, 6 p.m.) & Scranton High School cheerleaders (Saturday, 6:30 p.m.). Live musical entertainment: Friday, Picture Perfect, 7 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, Jim Cerminaro, 5 p.m., followed by The 335, 7 to 10 p.m. Festival includes picnic foods, beer tent, wine & spirits, games, and raffle drawings.

**Saint Faustina Kowalska in Nanticoke — June 19 & 20 (5 to 11 p.m.).** Parish’s Annual Homecoming Festival held on the grounds of Saint Faustina Grove, located on Old Newport Street in the Sheatown section. Two-night event features bake sale & ice cream stand and traditional picnic foods: pierogi, potato pancakes, halushki, hot dogs/hamburgers and fries. Also includes theme basket raffle, games for all ages, and children’s face-painting, pony rides and bounce house. Live musical entertainment features The Tommy Guns Band (Friday) and The Idol Kings (Saturday). Weekend vigil “Mass in the Grove” celebrated on Saturday at 4 p.m.

**Divine Mercy in Scranton — June 19-21.** Annual Parish Picnic held Friday, Saturday & Sunday, beginning each night at 5 p.m. on the parish church grounds, 312 Davis St., Minooka section of Scranton. Three-day summer festival features homemade picnic foods, beverages, live music, specialty theme baskets, big cash & quilt raffle drawings, games and activities for all ages.

*Continued on Next Page*

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD PARISH  
*Block Party*  
 HOLY ROSARY CENTER  
 Games ♦ Raffle Baskets ♦ Wine & Spirits  
**Friday & Saturday • June 12 & 13**  
**Fri. 6pm-11pm • Sat. 5pm-10pm**  
 Fri: 6pm – Holy Cross Cheerleaders • Sat: 6:30pm – Scranton High School Cheerleaders  
**FRI: 7-11PM • MUSIC BY PICTURE PERFECT**  
**SAT: 5PM • MUSIC BY JIM CERMINARO; 7-10PM • MUSIC BY THE 335**  
 CORNER OF WAYNE & WEST MARKET STS., NORTH SCRANTON  
*Rev. Cyril D. Edwards Invites All To Attend!*

For the full list of Parish Summer Picnics, visit the Diocese of Scranton website at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org).



## SUMMER PARISH PICNIC, FESTIVAL AND BAZAAR LISTING



**Our Lady Queen of Peace in Brodheadsville — June 26-28.** Annual Parish Flea Market hosted at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Route 209 & Weir Lake Road, Brodheadsville; market hours: Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Sale items at bargain prices include collectibles/vintage, furniture, arts & crafts, jewelry, fashion accessories, tools, toys, books, frames/prints, lawn & garden and more. Basket raffle and lunch food menu also available.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus in Dupont — June 27.** Traditional Polish Picnic held Saturday from 1 to 8 p.m. on the parish church grounds, 215 Lackawanna Ave., Dupont. Homemade ethnic foods include pierogi, golombki (pigs in blanket), halushki, kielbasi, and potato pancakes. Also featuring theme baskets, games of chance, and live musical entertainment.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary in Dushore — June 27 & 28.** Annual “Old Time Picnic” will be held Saturday, 5 to 10 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., on the grounds above Saint Basil Church in Dushore. The weekend picnic features light fare, ethnic foods and various refreshments. Daily attractions include fireworks display on Saturday, and chicken barbecue dinner on Sunday.

**Nativity of Our Lord in Duryea — July 10 & 11.** Duryea parish picnic will be hosted on Friday and Saturday nights on the parish grounds at Holy Rosary Church and School, 127 Stephenson St.,

Duryea. Festival attractions include homemade ethnic foods & Polish favorites, pizza, hot wings, and potato pancakes; cash bingo, games of chance, homemade baked goods/desserts, and indoor flea market. Live nightly entertainment features CC Music (Friday) and The Sperazza Band (Saturday). Early-bird flea market held on Thursday, July 9.

**Good Shepherd in Drums — July 10-12.** Summer Festival held at the parish church grounds, 87 South Hunter Highway, Drums, on Friday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 1 to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 7 p.m. Event features festival food & beverage favorites, including chicken fingers, halushki, halupki, sausage & peppers, pierogi, potato pancakes, pulled pork, steak hoagies, funnel cakes, beer & wine coolers. Activities for all ages include raffle drawings, tricky trays, instant bingo, and kids’ face painting. Live musical entertainment: North of 40 (Friday, 6 to 9:30 p.m.); New Arrival (Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m.),

followed by ALV Karaoke and DJ Services (4 to 6 p.m.) and Kartune (6:30 to 10 p.m.); and Tommy Molinaro (Sunday, 1 to 3 p.m.), followed by The Legends (3 to 6:30 p.m.).

**Our Lady of Hope in Wilkes-Barre — July 12.** Annual parish picnic hosted at the Wilkes-Barre Township Settlement Camp from noon until dusk. Featuring traditional picnic foods and beverages; swimming & boating at the lake; and recreational activities on the baseball field and basketball court. For more information, call Sue at (570) 852-5303.

**Saint Eulalia in Roaring Brook Township — July 17 & 18 (5 to 10 p.m.).** Summer Festival held on the church picnic grounds, 214 Blue Shutters Road, will feature homemade ethnic & picnic foods, Grandma’s Attic flea market, and activities for all ages. Friday musical entertainment: Steel Velvet (classic rock), 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. Saturday: Electric City Steel Drum Project, 5:30 to 6:30

p.m., followed by Alex “The Crooner,” 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Hanover Township — July 17-19.** “Big Tent Bazaar 2026” held on the church grounds, 420 Main Road, Buttonwood section, on Friday, 6 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 5 p.m. to midnight; and Sunday, 4 to 10 p.m. Featuring homemade ethnic foods & baked goods, potato pancake express, full-service Tiki Bar, theme baskets, raffle drawings & assorted games. Live nightly entertainment features Souled Out (Friday); OZ and Pop Star Drive (Saturday), and Lance Thomas Band (Sunday).

**Saint Catherine of Siena in Moscow — July 23-25.** Saint Catherine Parish will host their popular donations-only Rummage Sale and Ethnic Food Tent at the Moscow Country Street Fair on Thursday, Friday & Saturday. With the theme “Hometown Roots and Cowboy Boots,” the Moscow

Country Fair is celebrating its 10th anniversary of bringing music, art, and cultural entertainment and attractions to the borough’s downtown. The Saint Catherine’s food stand is featuring halupki, kielbasi, halushki, and many other menu favorites. For more information, call Christian Brown at (570) 309-1063.

**Saint Robert Bellarmine in Wilkes-Barre — July 30, 31 & Aug. 1.** The “St. Al’s Church Bazaar” held Thursday, 6 to 10 p.m.; Friday, 6 to 11 p.m.; and Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m., on the Saint Aloysius Church grounds, 143 West Division St., Wilkes-Barre. Picnic foods include sausage & peppers, potato pancakes, halushki, and pizza; bazaar also features games for all ages, bingo, and flea market. Nightly musical entertainment: Triple Fret (Thursday); Popstar Drive (Friday); and Strawberry Jam (Saturday).

*Rain or Shine!* OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE *Rain or Shine!*  
**ANNUAL FLEA MARKET**  
**June 26 • 27 • 28**  
**Friday: 8 AM-3 PM • Saturday: 9 AM-3 PM • Sunday: Noon-4PM**  
*Something for everyone! Collectibles & Vintage, furniture, jewelry, handbags, tools, toys, shoes, holiday, books, crafts, frames, prints, lawn & garden, electronics, and much more!*  
**Don't forget our delicious foods and be sure to check out the basket raffle!**  
**Turkey BBQ, Haluski, Kielbasa on a stick, Empanadas, Fries, Hamburgers & Hotdogs, Baked Goods, and so many more tasty treats!**  
 The Church is accepting Donations of gently used goods on  
 Fri., June 5/Noon-6PM • Sat., June 6/9AM-2PM • Mon., June 8/10AM-4PM  
[www.qopchurch.org](http://www.qopchurch.org) or 610-681-6137. • Our Lady Queen of Peace Church  
 Route 209 & Weir Lake Road, Brodheadsville, PA.

**St. Faustina Parish, Nanticoke**  
**Annual Homecoming Festival**  
 on the grounds of St. Faustina Grove,  
 Old Newport Street, Sheatown  
**Friday, June 19 • 5pm-11pm • The Tommy Guns Band**  
**Saturday, June 20 • 5pm-11pm • The Idol Kings**  
  
*Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Halushki, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries.*  
**BAKE SALE & ICE CREAM STAND**  
 Fun & Games for All Ages, Including  
 Basket Raffle, Bingo, Instant Bingo,  
 Children's Games, Face Painting, Pony  
 Rides, Bounce House and Much More!  
**SATURDAY  
 MASS AT  
 GROVE • 4PM**

# Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School to launch innovative 4-day school week

WILLIAMSPORT – As the current school year begins to wind down, administrators at Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School are preparing for an exciting change next year.

Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, the Williamsport-based school will transition to an innovative four-day school week – an approach school leaders believe will expand opportunities for students while also strengthening academic success, personal growth, and faith formation.

Under the new model, students in grades 6 through 12 will attend classes Monday through Thursday, with extended school days to ensure they exceed instructional requirements set by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Fridays, although not required attendance days, will be anything but idle. Fridays are now being reimagined as a time for enrichment.

“We are going to be moving to a four-day innovative learning model, with the fifth day being reserved for extension activities and different opportunities for our students,” principal Alisia McNamee said. “Fridays are going to be fantastic.”

## YEARS IN THE MAKING

The decision to change the traditional 5-day school week follows several years of careful research, planning, and consultation.

Drawing from data received from the Strategic Growth Plan for the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System which was completed last year, school administrators examined ways to enhance the experience of students while remaining rooted in academic excellence.

“We had the opportunity to go visit a school that has already



**Chris Miller, science teacher at Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School, teaches a lesson on April 16, 2026. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

implemented this model and used that as a blueprint,” McNamee explained, referring to Bishop McCort High School, which is in Johnstown. “We spent a lot of time talking with them, visiting them, and just doing our homework to see how we could implement that here at Saint John Neumann.”

Administrators also gathered feedback from students, families, and faculty—who overwhelmingly supported the change.

By shifting from measuring instructional time in days to hours, the school will not only meet but still exceed the 990 hours required annually at the secondary level.

## NOT JUST A DAY OFF

While the idea of a four-day week may initially sound like a reduction, Diocesan leaders are quick to emphasize the new innovative learning model provides much more flexibility.

“Students will be able to take advantage of using Fridays to either get extra tutoring or explore things beyond the curriculum that we right now wouldn’t have the opportunity to do,” Kristen Donohue, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, said.

Students will still have the option to come to Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School on

Fridays. In addition to having the opportunity for one-on-one academic support, Donohue also sees the opportunity for college visits, internships, field trips, and guest speakers. Partnerships with local businesses, universities and healthcare providers are also being explored, opening doors to real-world experiences.

“I think this model will attract students,” Donohue added. “It really is a game changer for our students and our families.”

## FACULTY & STUDENTS EMBRACE POSSIBILITIES

Faculty members are already embracing the shift, seeing it as a chance to rethink how learning happens both inside and outside the classroom.

“We’re no longer just disseminators of information,” Dr. Chad Greevey, Assistant Principal/Curriculum Director, said. “We’re the ones who are helping facilitate the learning with students, helping to direct them in a way that they might not have thought about before, and opening up those doors and pathways.”

That flexibility is also resonating with students.

“I’m excited,” junior Maverick Dunkleberger said. “There are many different opportunities for us to succeed in



**Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School is located at 901 Penn Street in Williamsport. Anyone interested in learning more about the innovative 4-day school week can call the school at 570-323-9953 or visit [sjnra.org](http://sjnra.org). (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

other things, not just school, but internships and other experiences.”

Dunkleberger, who hopes to study mechanical engineering, sees the potential for hands-on learning on Fridays that connects directly to his future goals.

“I would like to get an internship with Textron to just learn more,” he explained.

Sophomore Haylee Meixel echoed that enthusiasm, especially as she begins to think about college.

“I think there are a lot of opportunities,” she said. “Being in National Honor Society, I can come in on Friday and tutor kids or use those days off to work.”

For Monica Frasca, a sophomore who commutes 50 minutes each way from Mifflinburg to school, the change offers both practical and personal benefits.

“Sometimes not coming in on Fridays would be great for gas and not having to sit in a car for two hours,” she said. “I would love to get to spend that time with my siblings at home.”

## STRENGTHENING FAITH AND SERVICE

Beyond academics, the new schedule also opens the door for deeper engagement with faith and service – hallmarks of Catholic education.

Father Glenn McCreary, pastor of nearby Saint Boniface Parish, sees new possibilities for student involvement.

“We could use servers on Friday which is actually our most robust daily Mass,” he said. “We also have a lot of activities and programs going on. Kids could sort food that is going to the food pantry, or they could help with mailings as they go out.”

These possible Friday experiences, Father McCreary noted, would allow students to live out their faith in tangible ways while strengthening their connection to the Church.

While school leaders acknowledge there may be challenges in implementing the new learning model, the overall outlook is one of excitement.

“We are just brimming with excitement,” McNamee said. “We know there will be some hiccups along the way ... but what we’re doing will be a game changer.”

Prospective students and families are welcome to learn more about the new innovative learning model by taking a tour of Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School any weekday. You can contact the school directly at 570-323-9953. Additional information on Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School is also available at [sjnra.org](http://sjnra.org).

# Students learn lasting lesson on digital responsibility

EXETER – Students at Wyoming Area Catholic School recently stepped away from their normal routines to learn a lesson that may shape their digital decisions for years to come.

On Wednesday, April 29, 2026, a representative from the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office led several interactive presentations to help students better understand the opportunities – and dangers – of the digital world.

Dana Neely, a former teacher, held three different age-appropriate sessions to help students think critically about their digital footprint and the lasting impact of what they post online.

“The moment you post something, you’ve already lost control of it,” Neely told students in grades 5-8, noting that even deleted content can remain accessible or be shared through screenshots.

Students were quick to name the platforms they use – ranging from YouTube and TikTok to Snapchat and online gaming



**Dana Neely, Education & Outreach Specialist with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, held a presentation called “IRL - Being Smart in the Digital World” for students at Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter on April 29, 2026. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

chats – and openly discussed both the benefits and risks of social media.

While the students recognized the value of social media for connection and entertainment, they also identified concerns such as cyberbullying, scams, and negative

effects on mental health.

Using real-life examples, Neely emphasized that online behavior could have serious consequences, from damaged reputations to legal trouble. He encouraged students to take responsibility not only for what they share, but also how they respond to others – especially in situations involving bullying or threats.

For fifth-grade student Chloe Kelly, the message was clear.

“I thought that it was important to be careful with the internet because if you say one thing, it can ruin your entire reputation,” she said, adding that her parents help guide her online activity.

Seventh-grader Hannah Beekman said the presentation reinforced the importance of thinking before posting.

“I learned that it could be a very bad thing, what you post, so make sure you double check on what you post,” she said. “I do think about it and double check what I’m posting, and I make sure all the things I have are private for my friends and family.”


The presentation went beyond warnings, focusing also on forming habits rooted in character and good judgement – values that align closely with the mission of Catholic education.

Students were encouraged to pause and ask themselves key questions before posting things online: Is this a positive or accurate reflection of the person I am? Would I say this on TV or in front of my family? Could it be easily misunderstood? Am I posting out of anger?

As the presentations ended, Neely left the students with a simple but powerful reminder.


“It’s all about making good choices,” he said, “and helping your friends make good choices too.”

**GOALS FOR GLORY!**




**NEPA GIVES**

**2026**



**7 p.m. Thursday, June 4 -  
7 p.m. Friday, June 5!**



Scan here during the official challenge hours to help move Team Diocese of Scranton up the leaderboard! Or visit <https://www.nepagives.org/organization/diocese-of-scranton>

**SAVE THE DATE + YOU'RE INVITED!**

Celebrate generosity & ministry in a prelude to summer on the grounds of our treasured Catholic historic site. Watch or take part in fun soccer-themed challenges in honor of the FIFA World Cup and St. Carlo Acutis' favorite sport while enjoying live musical performances by Fr. Jim Paisley and our Catholic school students. Guests also may sign up to PUT ONE PAST A PASTOR/PRINCIPAL for prizes!

**What:** A NEPA Gives 2026 kickoff picnic rally. Bring your own blankets, chairs, picnic basket, etc. Prizes awarded for Most Creative & Theme-Friendly Picnic Visuals!

**When:** 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday, June 4, with livestreamed leaderboard opening at 7 p.m.

**Where:** St. Ann's Monastery & Shrine Basilica, 1233 St. Ann St., Scranton. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

*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.*

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, concluded his visits to all 19 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Scranton during the month of April. On April 15, the Bishop celebrated Mass with the students of **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**; on April 21, he was with the community of **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore**; and on April 22, he celebrated two Masses with students of both **Notre Dame**

**Elementary School and Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg.** On April 29, Bishop Bambera also celebrated Mass in our Bradford County schools, stopping first at **Epiphany School in Sayre** and concluding at **Saint Agnes School in Towanda**. We thank Bishop Bambera for once again making it a priority to visit all schools during the 2025-2026 academic year!



Saint Agnes School in Towanda



Epiphany School in Sayre



Holy Cross High School in Dunmore



Holy Family Academy in Hazleton



Notre Dame Elementary School and Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg



The Key Club at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** held an Earth Day clean-up project in April. In addition to picking up litter in the neighborhood, the students collected unwanted electronics to promote sustainable disposal methods.



Students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** enjoy shopping at the annual Scholastic Book Fair.



Emma Butler, Lily Kennedy, Quin Reager and Finley Keating, fifth-grade students at **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton**, participate in the RailRiders Trebuchet Competition during the recent STEM Day game at PNC Field.



Students in fifth through eighth grade from **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** perform at the school's spring concert, under the direction of Mr. Tom Hanlon.



Eighth-grade students at **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** celebrated May crowning on May 5. Pictured are students Elina Thach, Speranta Montrose and Alysha Wipp Rosario honoring Our Blessed Mother this year.



Second-grade students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** hosted their May Crowning liturgy on Ascension Thursday.



The eighth-grade class at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** had the honor of crowning Mary at the annual May crowning ceremony on May 14. Pictured, from left: Coleman Grandzol, Noah Prezelski, Katherine Ventra, Lilly Holtz, Rachel Atwal, Annabelle Schillinger, Brayden Antonello, Kadyn Hernandez, Elizabeth Decowski, Michael Ogurkis and John Khoury.

# May Crownings



Olivia Harm and Emilia Janoski, eighth graders at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**, participate in the traditional May Crowning of Mary earlier this month.



A beautiful tradition continued this year as the senior girls of **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** took part in the May Crowning of Our Blessed Mother on May 1. With grace and reverence, the girls honored Mary, celebrating her example of humility and love.



Eighth-grade students from **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** led the school community in a beautiful May Crowning Mass to honor Mary, Our Mother and the school's namesake.



Students from **All Saints Academy in Scranton** baked fresh bread to share with our brothers and sisters who rely on the Saint Patrick Parish food pantry. Through this act of service, they learned that even the simplest gifts, when given with love, can nourish both body and soul.



Students from **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** participate in their school's Spring Music and Arts Festival. The musical portion of the event, which featured students in third grade and older, took place at Saint Boniface Church.



Ellie Micchie and Nadia Lucas, second-grade students at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** pet a bunny during their recent class trip to Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm in Stroudsburg.

# Pope Leo marks first anniversary of election at Marian shrine in Pompeii

POMPEII, Italy (OSV News) - Pope Leo XIV marked the anniversary of his May 8 election by making a pilgrimage to celebrate Mass at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Pompeii, one of Italy's most beloved Marian shrines, placing his pontificate under the protection of the Virgin Mary.

"Exactly one year ago, when I was entrusted with the ministry of the Successor of Peter, it was precisely the day of the Supplication to the Virgin, this beautiful feast of the Supplication to the Virgin of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii," the pope said in his homily before an estimated 20,000 people gathered in the piazza in front of the basilica.

"I therefore had to come here to place my ministry under the protection of the Blessed Virgin," he said.



**Pope Leo XIV arrives to celebrate Mass in Piazza Bartolo Longo in Piazza Bartolo Longo in front of the Pontifical Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii near Naples, Italy, May 8, 2026, on the first anniversary of his election as the first American pontiff. (OSV News photo/Simone Risoluti, Vatican Media)**

The pilgrimage brought Pope Leo XIV full circle: On May 8, 2025, moments after his election, the newly chosen pope led the

crowd from the loggia in St. Peter's Basilica in praying a Hail Mary on what happened to be the feast of Our Lady of Pompeii. Now, a year later, the pope began his homily with words echoing Mary's Magnificat: "My soul magnifies the Lord!"

"Brothers and sisters, no earthly power will save the world, but only the divine power of love, this divine power of love that Jesus, the Lord, has revealed to us and given us. Let us believe in Him, let us hope in Him, and let us follow Him," Pope Leo said in Pompeii.

The first pope born in the United States had a busy first year. The Augustinian pope presided over more than 65 public Masses, the canonization of nine saints, apostolic journeys across three continents, audiences with many world leaders, and led the Catholic Church in the celebration of the historic Jubilee of Hope.

On the morning of the May 8 anniversary, the pope traveled south by helicopter from the Vatican to the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary in Pompeii, located near Naples. He began the day by meeting with hundreds of sick and disabled pilgrims inside the basilica before

greeting thousands of people gathered in the piazza outside.

During Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Pompeii, Pope Leo XIV reflected on how his choice of the papal name Leo connects him to Pope Leo XIII, who championed devotion to the rosary.

"Having chosen the name Leo places me in the footsteps of Leo XIII, who, among his other merits, also developed an extensive Magisterium on the Holy Rosary," the pope said.

Pope Leo XIV also reflected at length on the importance of praying the rosary.

"The Hail Mary is an invitation to joy," he said. "It tells Mary - and through her, all of us - that upon the ruins of our humanity, tried by sin and therefore ever prone to oppression, abuse, and war, God's caress has come, the caress of mercy, which takes on a human face in Jesus."

He described the repetition of Hail Mary in the prayer of the rosary as an echo of the angel Gabriel's greeting at the Annunciation, an echo "that spans the centuries and directs the believer's gaze to Jesus, seen through the eyes and heart of his Mother."

In the rosary, he said, "Jesus is adored, contemplated, and assimilated in each of his mysteries, so that with Saint Paul we may say: 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me' (Gal 2:20)."

The pope closed his homily with an urgent appeal for peace, noting that "times have not improved" in the quarter century since St. John Paul II placed the

Year of the Rosary under the patronage of Our Lady of Pompeii.

"The wars still being waged in so many regions of the world call for a renewed commitment, not only economic and political, but also spiritual and religious," Pope Leo said.

## Looking for the Perfect Monument?

Stop by to see why we are the preferred memorial provider.

### SELECTION

• Tri-state area's largest • Over 400 memorials on display • More than 25 color choices

### QUALIFICATION

• Family owned and operated for over 130 years • Recommended by more than 15 funeral homes • Superior workmanship

### PRICE

• Buy direct from the manufacturer • NO MIDDLEMAN!

Serving All Catholic Cemeteries in NE PA

The clear choice for all your memorial needs



## Martin Caulfield Memorial Works

249 Sunrise Ave., Honesdale, PA 18431

1-800-824-5293 • 570-253-3300 • FAX: 570-253-3360

www.martinaulfieldmemorialworks.com  
mcmwphil@ptd.net

Full Service Granite Company Since 1877

# DIOCESAN CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Scranton offer complete and compassionate service and are prepared to provide for all your burial needs. It is our privilege to assist you in planning the final resting place for your loved ones.

Memorial Day Masses will be celebrated at each Diocesan Cemetery on Monday, May 25, 2026. All are welcome to participate in these liturgies to pray for and remember the faithfully departed, especially our veterans.



## MEMORIAL DAY MASSES, MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026

### CATHEDRAL CEMETERY • 10AM

1708 Oram St., Scranton  
570-347-9251

Crypt Chapel at rear of cemetery

### MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY • 10AM

612 Mt. Olivet Rd., Carverton  
570-696-3636

at St. Frances X. Cabrini Church

### HOLY CROSS CEMETERY • 7:30AM

at St. Mary's Church,  
Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge  
570-347-9251

### ST. CATHERINE'S CEMETERY • 10AM

Main St., Route 435, Moscow  
570-842-8411 • Outside Altar  
(if inclement weather will be  
at St. Eulalia's Church)

### ST. MARY'S CEMETERY • 9AM

1594 S. Main St., Wilkes-Barre  
570-822-6941

### CALVARY CEMETERY • 10AM

Route 309, Drums  
570-788-2150  
at Good Shepherd Church



## Community invited to participate in World Refugee Day celebration June 20

SCRANTON – The community is invited to join together for an afternoon of unity, culture, and belonging at the tenth annual World Refugee Day Celebration, taking place on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at the Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.

Due to the popularity of the event over the last several years, the 2026 World Refugee Day Celebration will continue to be three hours in length, from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

The free, family-friendly event is open to all and offers a number of festivities, including a lively mix of cultural music, dance performances, international food, refreshments, games, giveaways, and engaging activities for children.

World Refugee Day is an annual commemoration established by the United Nations to honor the strength and resilience of refugees and displaced persons who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, and violence.


## Pope Leo XIV to publish encyclical on artificial intelligence May 25

VATICAN CITY (OSV News) - Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical "Magnifica Humanitas" will be published May 25, addressing artificial intelligence and the protection of human dignity, the Vatican has announced.

The encyclical, the title of which is Latin for "Magnificent Humanity," was signed by the pope on May 15, the 135th anniversary of "Rerum Novarum," Pope Leo XIII's foundational 1891 social encyclical on labor and capital written during the first Industrial Revolution.

In an unprecedented first, Pope Leo XIV will be present in person at the Vatican press conference to mark the publication of the social encyclical

Pope Leo XIV has expressed interest in the issue of artificial intelligence and the dignity of work since the first week of his pontificate, telling the College of Cardinals two days after his election in May 2025 that he took his papal name partly in honor of Pope Leo XIII.



# BEDWICK'S


## Pharmacy & Gifts

### RELIGIOUS ITEMS


#### FOR EVERYDAY & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Patron Saint Medals, Statues, & Prayer Cards  
Rosaries, Scapulars, Bracelets, Lapel Pins, & Auto Visor Clips  
Children's Books, Christening Gifts, & Religious Pictures  
St. Joseph the Homeseller Kits, Last Suppers, & Crucifixes

*Browse our beautiful, diverse, & extensive selection of religious items*



## GIFTS FOR GRADS & DADS!



452 Hazle Street - Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 - 570-823-3818

# World Refugee Day 2026

A World Where Refugees Are Always Welcomed



## Come Celebrate!


World Refugee Day honors the strength, resilience, and courage of millions of refugees throughout the world. Everyone is welcome to come to this free event to share in the rich cultural heritage of the refugee communities in Northeast Pennsylvania.



**Saturday, June 20, 2026**  
2:00-5:00 p.m.

**Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center**  
330 Wyoming Ave.  
Scranton, PA 18503

Free Family Event ♥ Cultural Music & Dance  
♥ Giveaways, Games & Activities for Kids  
♥ Light Refreshments




















Questions? Contact the Office of Community Relations at 570.941.4419 or email [community@scranton.edu](mailto:community@scranton.edu)



- ✓ Skilled Nursing
- ✓ Nursing Aides
- ✓ Social Work
- ✓ Pastoral Care
- ✓ Registered Dietary
- ✓ Physical Therapy
- ✓ Occupational Therapy
- ✓ Speech Therapy

Home Health, Hospice and Outpatient Therapy

P.O. Box 103  
750 State Route 93  
Sybertsville, Pa. 18251

[www.maylathhealth.com](http://www.maylathhealth.com)

570-708-2929 phone  
570-708-1010 fax  
1-877-751-0080 toll free

[info@maylathhealth.com](mailto:info@maylathhealth.com) email



C.H.A.P. Accredited

Training Provided in:  
CPR, First Aid and AED

Outpatient Therapy in  
Two Locations:  
Sybertsville and The Laurels, Hazleton

INSPIRING FAITH, BUILDING FOR GENERATIONS



Build a Legacy of Compassion for Generations to Come

The Catholic Foundation offers meaningful ways to support the Church's ministries—today and for the future—through endowment and legacy giving.

"My husband, John, and I believe deeply in the mission of the Catholic Foundation and its ability to support the Diocese for generations to come," shares Nancy M. "In memory of my parents, Carl and Rose, we made a gift to the Founders' Fund to honor their lifelong compassion for others. It means so much to know their legacy will continue—supporting the Diocese and its ministries well into the future."

To learn more about how you can support the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton, contact us today.

Contact: Mark DiPippa, Executive Director  
Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton  
300 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18503  
[catholicfoundationscranton.org](http://catholicfoundationscranton.org) | 570-207-2212



**Best-selling author  
to address University  
of Scranton graduates**



**Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D.**

SCRANTON — Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D., a best-selling author, award-winning producer and nationally celebrated historian and scholar, will serve as the principal speaker at The University of Scranton's 2026 undergraduate commencement ceremony.

Dr. Brinkley will address Scranton's Class of 2026 on Sunday, May 24, at Mohegan Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township and receive an honorary degree at the undergraduate commencement, which will be followed by the graduate commencement ceremony. Undergraduate exercises are set to begin at 11 a.m., with graduate activities at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Brinkley's prolific career has included authoring, editing and contributing to dozens of books and hundreds of essays. He has covered topics including American foreign policy, the presidency and the environment, as well as the lives of transformative figures such as Jack Kerouac, Rosa Parks and Hunter S. Thompson.

Among Dr. Brinkley's New York Times best-selling books are his biography of Walter Cronkite, which won Fordham University's Ann M. Sperber Prize, and *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast*, which earned the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Book Award.

He is currently the Katherine Tsanoff Brown Professor in Humanities at Rice University and serves as CNN's presidential historian and a Vanity Fair contributor.



# THE ORDER OF MALTA

## SCRANTON CHAPTER

PRESENTS



**FR. PIO MANDATO, FMHJ**  
MAIN CELEBRANT & HOMILIST

**MSGR. NEIL VAN LOON**  
MASS CONCELEBRANT &  
CHAPLAIN ORDER OF MALTA,  
SCRANTON CHAPTER

## AN AFTERNOON OF HEALING

*with*

**FR. PIO MANDATO, FMHJ**

Fr. Pio Mandato, FMHJ is a Franciscan priest living as a missionary hermit. He was born in Italy and along with his brother Vincenzo, received his first holy communion from Saint Pio before coming to the USA. He grew up in New Jersey and entered the Capuchin Franciscans at the age of 17, and was ordained in 1985. In 1998 he was accepted in the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., and now lives a life of solitude, prayer and intercession. He is also Chaplain to the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth and at times is engaged in the preaching apostolate.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026**

**1:00 PM - CONFESSIONS**

**1:30 PM - ROSARY**

**2:00 PM - MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

*After the 2pm Mass, Father Pio will bring a relic of  
Saint Padre Pio and bless everyone individually.*

**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH**  
**1510 PENN AVE., SCRANTON**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
ST. PAUL'S PARISH @ 570-961-1549**



## PILGRIMAGE

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine and Shrine of the North American Martyrs

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Registration includes Charter Bus round trip transportation, we will be visiting both shrines and stopping for lunch (not included), in between.

Registration is \$65/pp

If you do not want to pay for tickets online you may reserve tickets and pay for them on the day of the trip.

*Tickets purchased online will be booked first.*

Learn more or register at the link listed below or via the QR code.  
**The Pilgrimage is Sponsored by the Northeast Pennsylvania Chapter of the International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers**  
 You Are Not Alone: Mental Health, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, and the North American Martyrs

JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> 2026



International Association  
 Catholic Mental  
 Health Ministers  
 NEPA Chapter

<http://www.catholicmhm.org/bus-trip>



## Faithful take pilgrimage to National Centre for Padre Pio



SWOYERSVILLE - On May 9, 2026, the Swoyersville Council Knights of Columbus made a bus pilgrimage from Swoyersville to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, Pennsylvania.

Organized by the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Council's Grand Knight Mark Perugino, the day was inspirational including the opportunity for Reconciliation, Mass, blessing with Padre Pio's relics, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, museum tour and more.

The Centre was founded by Vera Calandra whose one daughter was healed by Padre Pio in 1968, a miracle that helped usher in the Saint's Canonization.

## Pilgrimage bus trip to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine and Shrine of the North American Martyrs planned for June 20

SCRANTON - The Northeast Pennsylvania Chapter of the International Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers is planning a bus pilgrimage to the Shrine of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auresville, N.Y. on June 20.

All are welcome.

The cost is \$65/per person and includes charter bus transportation to both shrines.

The bus will depart from the Green Ridge Plaza Shopping Center in Scranton at 8:00 a.m. and arrive at the Shrine of the Martyrs in New York at 11:00 a.m.

Lunch (which is not included in the price) will be available at 1:00 p.m. and the pilgrimage will

arrive at the Saint Kateri Shrine at 2:00 p.m. and will depart for home at 3:30 p.m.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, the "Lily of the Mohawks," knew suffering up close.

Illness left lasting scars and limited vision, and she lived through loss and upheaval. She also faced misunderstanding because of her commitment to Christ.

The North American Martyrs, Jesuit missionaries such as Saints Isaac Jogues, Jean de Brébeuf, and their companions, gave courageous witness to the Gospel amid danger and hardship.

They experienced severe PTSD-like trauma and physical mutilation, yet demonstrated a relentless commitment to ministry.

## AROUND THE WORLD TRAVEL

JUNE 27 - BALTIMORE BUS TRIP

See the Tall Ships, watch the air show, visit the Inner Harbor Festival \$99pp

JULY 3 - PHILADELPHIA

**Enjoy the Salute to Independence Parade**  
 with marching units from around the world \$75 pp

**OCTOBER 8-13 • BERMUDA CRUISE FROM NY** on the NCL AQUA. Cruise includes all meals, drinks, 2 specialty dinners, wi-fi and excursion credit, balcony cabin • \$1,166 pp

*We are a preferred Sandals and Beaches Travel Agency*

**For more info Call: (570) 383-0544 • Like us on fb**

**Fr. Bob Simon (Our Lady Queen of Peace) and Fr. Sean Carpenter (Resurrection Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes)**

*Invite all to join in a PILGRIMAGE through Greece in*

*"The Footsteps of St. Paul"*

**September 29 - October 8, 2026**

**\$5999.<sup>00</sup> pp/dbl.occ\***

\*Includes: Air from Newark, 5 night hotels, 3 night cruise, breakfast daily and most dinners.

**For more information contact:  
 Marge McCauley, Scully Travel**

570-486-4231

[marge.mccauley@scullytravel.com](mailto:marge.mccauley@scullytravel.com)

*Tour Services provided through*



## STUCKER TOURS

- Family Owned & Operated -  
*(We love to talk Travel!)*

**Dutch Apple Dinner Theater**  
**"All Shook Up"**

The life story of Elvis  
 June 20 with meal • \$209

**"JOSHUA" Sight & Sound**  
**FRONT CENTER SEATS**

with Amish meal  
 July 25 & October 17 • \$225

**The Best of Kentucky**  
**& The Ark Encounter**

August 1-6 • 7 meals • \$1498

**Ocean City, Maryland**

September 7-10  
 Partial View • \$758  
 (Oceanfront + \$60)

**Niagara Falls, Canada**

September 20-23  
 5 meals • \$989

**Texas Adventure**

by Motorcoach  
 October 3-14 • 14 meals • \$2,785

**American Music Theater,**  
**Lancaster**

Christmas Show  
 November 21 • \$209

**Dutch Apple Dinner Theater**

Holly, Jolly Holiday Show  
 November 28 with meal • \$209

**Wellsboro, PA**

**"Dickens Of a Christmas"**  
 December 5 with meal • \$139

**THE GREENBRIER**  
**LUXURY RESORT**

December 15-18 • \$1,799

**570-655-8458**

*Call us 7 days a week*

Visit us at  
[www.stuckertours.com](http://www.stuckertours.com)

# Host-for-a-Day supporters celebrated with gratitude

SCRANTON - Saint Francis successful culmination of its with a special event at Fiorelli's in Peckville on April 29.

Contributors to the 48th annual campaign gathered for food, fellowship and to hear how their support enables the Kitchen to feed and clothe those in need.

Also two members of the Kitchen's Advisory Board were recognized for their service, and three institutions – the Ignatian Volunteer Corps of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Sysco Foods and Scranton Preparatory School – received the Presidential Award for continued support of the Kitchen's mission.

In the photo, seated from left: Donna Barbetti, Kitchen Advisory Board President; Anna Millett and Emilia Williams, Scranton Preparatory School; Teddy Michel, Ignatian Volunteer Corps. Standing: Rob Williams, Kitchen Executive Director; Michael J. Cummings, Host for a Day Campaign Chair; Rob Walls, Sysco Foods; Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton.

Donations of \$100 or more to the Host for a Day campaign can still be made by calling the Kitchen at 570-342 5556, sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509, or texting SFAK to 26989.



Millett and Emilia Williams, Scranton Preparatory School; Teddy Michel, Ignatian Volunteer Corps. Standing: Rob Williams, Kitchen Executive Director; Michael J. Cummings, Host for a Day Campaign Chair; Rob Walls, Sysco Foods; Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton. Donations of \$100 or more to the Host for a Day campaign can still be made by calling the Kitchen at 570-342 5556, sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton PA 18509, or texting SFAK to 26989.

# NJC INVESTMENTS

Helping to take the mystery out of your financial future

Nicholas J. Colarossi, CRC®

College Planning • Retirement Planning  
www.njcinvestments.com • 570-586-5030

Securities offered through Leigh Baldwin & Co., LLC. Member FINRA/SIPC

## TRAVELWORLD

GROUP TOURS & CRUISES | EST. 1975



### 7-DAY FALL MISSISSIPPI RIVER CRUISE

BALCONY CABIN & ALL-INCLUSIVE!  
STAY 1 NIGHT IN NEW ORLEANS



NOVEMBER 7-14, 2026 \$4,695/PP

### NORWEGIAN BLISS – 8-NIGHT BAHAMAS/FLORIDA CRUISE FROM NEW YORK

ROUNDTRIP TRANSPORTATION INCLUDED  
BALCONY CABIN



NOVEMBER 1-9, 2026

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE® \$1,499/PP

### OASIS OF THE SEAS – 7-DAY CRUISE

COCO CAY • NASSAU • PORT CANAVERAL  
INCLUDES BUS TRANSPORTATION, MEALS & ENTERTAINMENT ONBOARD



OCTOBER 11-18, 2026 \$1,395/PP  
OCEAN VIEW BALCONY

### MAJESTIC PRINCESS – FALL FOLIAGE CRUISE

NEWPORT • BOSTON • PORTLAND • ST. JOHN • HALIFAX  
PEAK FALL FOLIAGE SEASON  
SPECIAL ALL-INCLUSIVE CRUISE DEAL



OCTOBER 24-31, 2026

\$1,799/PP  
OCEAN VIEW BALCONY

### AMALFI COAST + ROME

CAPRI • POSITANO • SORRENTO • ROME  
TOUR POMPEII & VIETRI SUL MARE INCLUDED  
FLIGHTS INCLUDED!!



OCTOBER 17-25, 2026

\$4,895/PP

### NORTHERN ITALIAN LAKES

LAKE COMO • LAKE MAGGIORE • LAKE LUGANO • MILAN  
TRANSPORTATION TO NEWARK • FLIGHTS INCLUDED!!



SEPT 29, 2026 – OCT 6, 2026 \$4,995/PP

### MAINE LOBSTER FEST + ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

TRANSPORTATION INCLUDED  
2 LOBSTER DINNERS  
ALL ADMISSIONS INCLUDED  
LUMBERJACK SHOW • LOBSTER CRUISE



JULY 26-30, 2026

\$1,695/PP

### RED SOX AT YANKEES

VIP JIM BEAM SUITE  
INCLUDES FOOD, BEER & SODA UNTIL 5TH INNING  
SELLING QUICK!!



AUGUST 30, 2026 \$349/PP

### SENECA LAKE WINE TASTING LUNCH CRUISE

INCLUDES TASTINGS WITH TOAST WINERY & LAKEWOOD VINEYARDS  
MUST BE 21 OR OLDER!!



OCTOBER 11, 2026 \$189/PP

### QUEBEC CITY

3 NIGHTS AT HOTEL LE CONCORDE (PRESTIGE ROOM)  
4-HOUR CITY TOUR INCLUDING MONTMORENCY FALLS  
ROUNDTRIP TRANSPORTATION INCLUDED



AUGUST 12-15, 2026 \$1,695/PP

ALL PRICES BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY.

ALL TRIPS INCLUDE ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION FROM WB/SCRT AND AIRFARE!  
CALL TODAY - LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE. | \$500 NON REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT TO CONFIRM RESERVATION.

**WWW.ASKTRAVELWORLD.COM** Find Us On

CALL US FOR DETAILS! 570-288-9311 | 601 MARKET STREET – KINGSTON  
570-342-5790 | 435 GREEN RIDGE STREET – SCRANTON

## New I.H.M. Leadership Team announced



SCRANTON - In late April, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA, formally announced the election of its new IHM leadership team.

Following a thoughtful and prayerful discernment process, the IHM Congregation elected (pictured left to right) Sister Annmarie Sanders as President, Sister Kathleen Lunsmann as Vice-President and Councilor, and Sisters Mary Elaine Anderson and Lisa Perkowski as Councilors.

As these dedicated women step into their new roles, the IHM community celebrated their commitment to mission and offered them their full support. Community members say they're looking forward to the vision, wisdom, and compassionate guidance they will bring to the community as the Sisters continue to serve with faith and purpose in the years ahead.

The Sisters of IHM of have served in northeastern Pennsylvania since 1858.

# Registration deadline for Quo Vadis/Fiat Days is June 11



**QUO VADIS DAYS**  
HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

3 DAYS  
**JUNE 29  
JUNE 30  
JULY 1**

- LOCATION: MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY
- OPEN TO RISING SOPHOMORES THROUGH GRADUATING SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL
- ADVENTURE, PRAYER, TALKS, MASS, ADORATION, AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
- LEARN ABOUT VOCATIONS AND GET TO KNOW PRIESTS, SEMINARIANS, & FELLOW DISCERNERS
- COST IS \$100

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>

VOCATIONS



**FIAT DAYS**  
HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

3 DAYS  
**JUNE 29  
JUNE 30  
JULY 1**

- LOCATION: MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY
- OPEN TO RISING SOPHOMORES THROUGH GRADUATING SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL
- ADVENTURE, PRAYER, TALKS, MASS, ADORATION, AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
- LEARN ABOUT VOCATIONS AND GET TO KNOW RELIGIOUS SISTERS AND FELLOW DISCERNERS
- COST IS \$100

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>

VOCATIONS

The deadline for high school men and women to register for this year's Quo Vadis Days/Fiat Days is Thursday, June 11!

For more information or to register, visit [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org).

**VOLKSWAGENS**  
SALES - SERVICE - PARTS

**KELLY MOTOR CO.**  
AUTHORIZED VOLKSWAGEN DEALER

S. Main at Elm, Scranton  
**570-347-5656**

**LOCAL CEMETERY MONUMENT DEALERS**

<p><b>MJ JUDGE MONUMENT COMPANY, INC</b> Call for appointment ▪ <b>570-829-4881</b> ▪</p>	<p><b>ST. MARY'S MONUMENT COMPANY, LLC</b> 975 S Main St-Hanover Twp., PA ▪ <b>570-829-8138</b> ▪</p>
---	---

CEMETERY MONUMENTS · MARKERS  
LETTERING · CLEANING · RESTORATION

— [www.stmarysmonumentcompany.com](http://www.stmarysmonumentcompany.com) —  
— [stmary975@aol.com](mailto:stmary975@aol.com) —


**MCDADE - CHICHILLA APARTMENTS**  
230 Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, PA 18447

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

- 62 or older, handicapped or disabled
- Apartments designed for the mobility handicapped

Rent based on 30% of your income.  
Includes all utilities except cable and telephone.  
Telephone: (570) 489-4756

• CLOSE TO ALL AMENITIES •



## Fourth annual 'Walking Pilgrimage' set for June 13

GLEN LYON - A tradition that began four years ago at Holy Spirit Parish will continue this year under a new name.

The Footsteps of Our Ancestors Walking Pilgrimage is set for Saturday, June 13, beginning at Saint Mary Church, 130 Rectory Road, Mocanaqua, and concluding at Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 153 East Main Street, Glen Lyon.

Originally known as the Holy Spirit Parish Walking Pilgrimage, the walk has been renamed "Footsteps of Our Ancestors"



following the closure of Saint Adalbert Church and the suppression of Holy Spirit Parish in January.

The pilgrimage will begin with sign-in and an opportunity for Confession from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. at Saint Mary Church.

A blessing of pilgrims will take place at 8:45 a.m., after

which participants will depart for an approximately seven-mile journey through the Mocanaqua Tract of Pinchot State Forest.

Brief stops will be made at Saint Adalbert's Cemetery and at the sites of the former Saint Michael and Saint Adalbert churches in Glen Lyon.

Divine Liturgy will be offered at Saint Nicholas Church at 12:30 p.m. or upon arrival of the pilgrims. Those who are unable to walk the pilgrimage route are welcome to attend the Liturgy.

Lunch will be served, and bus transportation back to Mocanaqua will be available at 3:00 p.m.

There is no cost to participate. The public is invited to walk or to submit prayer requests.

Online registration is open at [www.tinyurl.com/foapilgrimage26](http://www.tinyurl.com/foapilgrimage26).

Prayer requests or questions

may be directed to Raphael Micca at 570-301-9253 or [foapilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:foapilgrimage@gmail.com).

The pilgrimage will be held rain or shine; participants are asked to dress accordingly and modestly.



**ROBERT RITTERBECK**

*Church Painting and Decorating*

**(570) 343-2899**

Please visit our website at [www.Ritterbeck.com](http://www.Ritterbeck.com)

STATUES + STENCILS + GOLD LEAF + MURAL RESTORATION

# S&K ANTIQUES

We buy old Christmas & Halloween items, as well as old toys, old advertising, military, mining & railroad items, musical instruments, beer items, lamps & clocks, sewing machines, watches, jewelry & more.

**WE BUY ANYTHING OLD!**

570-954-4023 • FREE APPRAISALS

Looking to Buy!

## OLD HOUSES

- ANY CONDITION -

**PLEASE CALL 570-575-1184**

## ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES WANTED

### 1 ITEM OR COMPLETE ESTATES

Post Cards	Guns	Sewing
Books	Sporting Items	Machines
Military	Glassware	Light
Mining Items	Toys	Fixtures
Tools	Clocks	Magazines

**570-430-2370**

## KEYSTONE ANTIQUES

**WE BUY: Costume Jewelry — Coin Collections — Antiques & Old Furniture**

If you are settling an estate, or have any: Gold; Silver; Coins; Mining or RR items; Dental Gold; Old Sewing Machines; Bookcases; B/R or D/R Furniture; Old Magazines, Toys; Pocket Watches; Guns; Baseball Cards - **ANYTHING OLD**, please give us a call!

**- We have been in the estate furniture business since 1972 -**  
(no other antique dealer in this valley has been in business longer) **AND WE DO IT FULLTIME!**

**— 570-498-6068 —**

Complete Estate Cleanout Service - Keystone Antiques, Paul L. Cicon

**WE'RE CELEBRATING 18 YEARS BROADCASTING THE CATHOLIC MASS, FAITH, HISTORY & TRADITIONS AT 104.5 FM**



**JMJ CATHOLIC RADIO FOR THE SCRANTON DIOCESE.**

ALSO AVAILABLE IN  
91.7 DUSHORE, 90.5 LACEYVILLE  
91.9 ALTOONA & STATE COLLEGE

# BUYING

**Baseball • Football • Basketball & Non-Sports Cards**

- PRE-1980 SPORTS CARDS -

**Call John at 570-430-6633**



Advertise in

**The Catholic Light**

**570-207-2229**

[Eileen-Manley@DioceseofScranton.org](mailto:Eileen-Manley@DioceseofScranton.org)

### Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement.

It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the *Code of Canon Law* and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551.

### Aviso al Respecto de Reportar el Abuso Sexual de Un Menor de Edad

Es la norma de la Diócesis de Scranton reportar cualquier alegación de abuso sexual de un menor de edad a las autoridades. Si usted es una víctima de abuso sexual cometido por un sacerdote, diácono, religioso o empleado laico, o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton, usted está obligado a reportar el asunto inmediatamente a las autoridades de la ley.

Si algún sacerdote, diácono, religioso, empleado laico o voluntario de la Diócesis de Scranton tiene sospecha de que un menor de edad ha sido sujeto a cualquier forma de abuso, incluyendo abuso sexual de menor de edad, el asunto será reportado a las autoridades de la ley.

Es la norma de la Diócesis defender todas las regulaciones civiles y del estado. Al fin de que la Diócesis esté comprometida igualmente a defender las normas del Código de Derecho Canónico y defender los principios de la Carta Para la Protección de Niños y Jóvenes (Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos), lo cual incluye apoyar a las víctimas de abuso sexual en pos del bienestar emocional y espiritual.

**Classifieds - Classifieds - Classifieds -**

#### COUNSELING SERVICES

Patrick F. Cioni, M.S., M.A., L.P.C.  
Individual & Marriage Counseling. Most Insurances Accepted. **570-848-7272.**

#### HAULING

JUNK REMOVAL  
PROPERTY CLEANOUTS  
Senior citizen and Veteran discounts.  
**Pre-Covid Prices!**  
PA license #112108. Insured  
Free Estimates • 570-687-7687  
[WEDOCLEANOUTS.com](http://WEDOCLEANOUTS.com)

#### WANTED TO BUY

Old books, postcards, cigarette lighters, mining & railroad items, match box toys, all antiques & anything old. **570-430-2370.**

Looking to buy **OLD CARS OR TRUCKS.** Any condition. Cash paid.  
**Please call 570-575-1184**

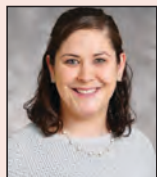
#### WANTED TO BUY

**KEYSTONE ANTIQUES** - We Buy: Costume Jewelry; Coin Collections; Antiques & Old Furniture. If you are settling an estate, or have any: Gold; Silver; Coins; Mining or RR items; Old Sewing Machines; Bookcases; B/R or D/R Furniture - **ANYTHING OLD**, please give us a call. We have been in the estate furniture business since 1972 (*no other antique dealer in this valley has been in business longer*) and we do it full-time. **Complete Estate Cleanout Service-Keystone Antiques, Paul L. Cicon. 570-498-6068.**

## MISSION MESSAGE

### You May Not Know You're a Missionary

By Shannon Ruiz  
Diocesan Director,  
of Pontifical Mission Societies



This Easter season brought a record number of men and women into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and reception into full communion. Nationally, more than 40,000 men and women received sacraments of initiation. Here in the Diocese of Scranton, our own parishes welcomed 312 catechumens and candidates — a 51% increase from last year.

While I am overjoyed at these statistics, I cannot help but see this moment through the lens of mission.

The Church exists to evangelize. From the moment Christ commanded His disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19), missionary activity became central to the identity of the Church. While many hear the word *missionary* and immediately think of priests, sisters, or lay missionaries serving in faraway lands, the truth is that missionary discipleship begins much closer to home.

No one comes to faith in isolation. Behind every person who entered the Church this Easter is a story of encounter. Maybe it was a spouse whose quiet fidelity sparked curiosity. A friend who answered questions with patience and kindness. A coworker whose joy made the faith compelling. A parent or grandparent whose consistent witness laid a foundation that would bear fruit years later. A priest, catechist, sponsor, or parishioner who made someone feel welcomed and invited.

Faith is most often shared through relationship. This

is the essence of missionary evangelization. Not simply preaching from a pulpit or traveling overseas, but living in such a way that others encounter Christ through us. Mission happens in family life, at the office, in the grocery store, at school, and in parish communities. Every baptized person is called to this work.

The extraordinary number of converts we celebrated this Easter invites each of us to ask an important question: *Who was missionary in my life?* Who helped shape your faith? Who first introduced you to prayer, to the Mass, to the person of Jesus Christ? Who accompanied you during moments of doubt or encouraged you to return when you had drifted?

Many of us can immediately name those people. A parent, priest, religious sister, or friend — Someone, somewhere, *lived mission* for you. That realization should naturally lead us to a second, more challenging question: *Who is Catholic, or a stronger Catholic, because of the missionary life you are living?*

Conversion is always the work of God's grace, but grace often works through human witness. The way we speak, serve, forgive, invite, and accompany others can open doors to faith. We often underestimate the impact of simple acts: inviting someone to Mass, offering to pray for a struggling friend, speaking openly about why faith matters to us, or volunteering to serve those in need. Missionary discipleship does not require



perfection; it requires availability.

The Pontifical Mission Societies remind us that the Church is universal, and that every act of faith, prayer, sacrifice, and witness contributes to the Church's mission throughout the world. That means that mission begins wherever we are planted.

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the new life it brings, may we give thanks for those who were missionaries in our own lives. And may we renew our commitment to being missionaries for others.

Because somewhere, perhaps closer than we realize, someone may be waiting for the invitation, witness, or encouragement that helps them say “yes” to Christ. And what a beautiful thing it would be if one day someone could say: *Because of your witness, I came to know the love of Jesus Christ more deeply.* That is the heart of mission.



**BUILDING YOUR BRAND**

570.343.0414 • Taylor, PA 18517

Print, Mail, Fulfillment & Promotional Items

www.pdqprint.com



### A Different Kind of Lawyer

Real Estate  
Living Wills  
Estate Planning & Administration  
Municipal Law

**JONATHAN A. SPOHRER**

**Attorney at Law**

279 Pierce Street, Kingston  
570.287.1156

## AUBURN TREE & SHRUB

*Bringing knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to every job!*

- ✓ All types of tree and shrub pruning.
- ✓ Large shade trees to tiny ornamentals and everything in between.
- ✓ Proficient and technical tree climber.
- ✓ Beautifying landscapes for over 20 years.
- ✓ Specializing in fruit tree care.



**WORKING ALL YEAR ROUND!**

Call Tim: 570-240-5161  
auburntreeandshrub.com



TIM MORRIS  
ISA  
Certified  
Arborist  
MA-4561A

**M**  
**mesko**  
glass

mesko.com

SCRANTON | WILKES-BARRE  
HONESDALE | ALLENTOWN

Your clear  
glass choice  
for over  
**90 years.**

AUTO | COMMERCIAL | RESIDENTIAL

Whether You're Buying or Selling  
Experience Matters!

CALL ANTONIO DEROSA

OFFICE: 570-474-9801 CELL: 570-262-7652

ANTONIORDEROSA.LEWITH-FREEMAN.COM

**LEWITH & FREEMAN** | LEWITH-FREEMAN.COM  
REAL ESTATE, INC.

## Enthronement Guild to host Mass for Solemnity of the Sacred Heart

SCRANTON — As the Catholic Bishops in the United States consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the 250th anniversary of the founding of America, the Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild of the Diocese of Scranton will host its annual Eucharistic celebration for the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in June.

The Mass commemorating the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be celebrated on the vigil of the Solemnity on Thursday, June 11, at 4 p.m. at Divine Mercy Parish in the Minooka section of Scranton.

Serving as principal celebrant and homilist will be Father Daniel Toomey, spiritual moderator of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Guild. Concelebrating the liturgy



**Father Dan Toomey**

Seminary/Chapel in Laflin.

Music ministry for the Mass will be provided by the Sacred Heart Singers, with Ernie Pappa, Vanessa James and Robert Zito accompanied by Maryanne DeMark on keyboard and vocals. A musical prelude will begin at 3:45 p.m. in Saint Joseph Church at Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Scranton.

will be Saint Joseph Oblate Fathers Paul McDonnell, pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, and Joseph Sibilano, of the Oblates of Saint Joseph

The Sacred Heart liturgical celebration will be followed by a dinner reception in the Divine Mercy Parish Center.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart apostolate enables families and individuals to consecrate their homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Homes that have been enthroned become an extension of the liturgy, whereby faithful can follow up their Eucharistic devotion in church with prayerful devotion in their own private settings.

For reservations or further information on Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, contact Maria Pappa, coordinator of the Enthronement Guild, at (570) 241-8172.

## Father Dan Schweps, OSJ, dies at 71; served Oblate parishes in Diocese

LAF LIN — Very Rev. John Shearer, OSJ, provincial superior of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, will

serve as principal celebrant and Oblate Father Paul McDonnell will deliver the homily for a Mass of Christian Burial for their longtime confrere, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Daniel L. Schweps on Saturday, May 23, at 10 a.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary Chapel in Laflin.

During his 40 years of priesthood as a member of the OSJ congregation, Father Schweps served at several Oblate-staffed parishes in the Diocese of Scranton.

He died May 10 at the Nazareth House in Fresno, Calif., following a lengthy illness. He was 71.

A native of Garden City, Mich., Father Schweps entered the Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, Pennsylvania Province, in 1978 as a seminarian at Saint Joseph's Oblate Seminary, Laflin, during which time he attended King's College, Wilkes-Barre.

Father Schweps completed his theological studies at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, after which he returned to the Greater Pittston area and

was ordained an Oblate priest on May 24, 1986, in Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Exeter, by the Most Rev. James C. Timlin, late Bishop of Scranton.

Following ordination, Father Schweps served as assistant pastor at Saint Rocco Parish, Pittston, from 1986 to 1990. During 1990-98, he was assigned as assistant pastor at Saint Sebastian Parish in Middletown, Conn., where he was later appointed pastor and served until 2001.

He returned to Pennsylvania and fulfilled pastoral duties at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, Exeter, for five years. He was assigned as pastor of Saint Rocco Parish from 2006 to 2010, while also serving as administrator *pro tem* of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Pittston (2009-10).

Following these pastoral assignments, he served in residence at the OSJ seminary in Laflin until 2014, at which time he was appointed as resident priest at Holy Annunciation Parish in Hazleton.

Interment will be held at the Oblate priests' plot in Saint Rocco's Cemetery, Pittston Twp.

PRESENT THIS COUPON FOR A DISCOUNT

**Loving Memory Monument Care, LLC**



↑ BEFORE AFTER ↓



↑ BEFORE AFTER ↓



*Memorial  
Day  
is this  
Weekend!*

**Call Today  
570-575-1184**

**Make sure your loved one's memory is never forgotten!**

# Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese of Scranton

**Weekly Pierogi & Soup Sale** — **MAY 24 & 27**, sponsored by SS. Peter & Paul Church, 1309 West Locust St., West Scranton; sale of homemade pierogi and various soups held each week following the church's Sunday morning Mass at 11 a.m. and Wednesday morning Mass at 9 a.m. Cost: pierogi, \$10/dozen; soup, \$8/quart. For more information, call the St. Ann Basilica Parish office at (570) 342-5166.

**Scranton Spiritual Grief Support Group** — **MAY 27**, collaborative ministry of the Scranton parishes of Divine Mercy, Cathedral of St. Peter, and Immaculate Conception; held 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Divine Mercy Parish Hall, 312 Davis St., Minooka section, Scranton. Grief support group ministry provides spiritual support to those grieving the loss of a loved one. All are welcome; for information, call (570) 344-7231, or email: deaconed@stpeterscathedral.org.

**Bi-Weekly Rosary-Making Workshop** — **MAY 27**, hosted by St. John the Baptist Parish, 126 Nesbitt St., Larksville; lessons in the creation of homemade Rosaries are offered every other Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the parish church basement. All men and women are welcome to attend and learn the art of Rosary-making for Rosaries to be distributed throughout the world. All materials are free of charge. Class teacher is Barbara Morris, with more than 30 years' experience. For information, call (570) 287-0555.

**"Run4Life" Pro-Life Event** — **MAY 30**, sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life; pro-life fundraising event hosted at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. Features a 5K run, beginning at 9:30 a.m.; includes children's activities, awards & prizes. For registration information, visit: [www.humanlifepa.org](http://www.humanlifepa.org).

**Orpheus Choral Society Spring Concert** — **MAY 30**, hosted by St. John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston; concert performance by the Orpheus Choral Society of the Wyoming Valley begins at 2 p.m. in St. John Church, 35 William St., Pittston. Orpheus is under the direction of Gabriel Jenceleski, with piano accompaniment by Susan Lauer; program will include choral arrangements of many beloved religious, secular and patriotic selections. Free-will offering accepted.

**250th Anniversary Concert: "Stars, Stripes & Symphony"** — **MAY 31**, featuring the Hazleton Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra; hosted by St. John Bosco Church, 573 PA 93, Sugarloaf. The United States 250th anniversary celebration and musical tribute to America's heroes begins at 3 p.m.; free admission. All donations benefit the "Tunnels to Towers" charitable foundation.

**Weekly Charismatic "Living in the Spirit" Series** — **JUNE 1-JULY 7**, sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Scranton Diocese; seminar sessions held on Monday night

at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall of Immaculate Conception Church, 801 Taylor Ave., Scranton. Gatherings include testimonies, small group discussions, praise & worship, and fellowship. All are welcome; for more information, call Karen at (570) 983-6251, or visit: [ccrscranton.org](http://ccrscranton.org).

**Venerable Father Patrick Peyton Monthly Rosary** — **JUNE 3**, hosted by the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton; Rosary devotion is held on the first Wednesday of each month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral. Recitation of Rosary prayers is offered for the special intention of furthering the cause for canonization of Venerable Father Patrick Peyton.

**"Nazareth Group" Days for High School Girls** — **JUNE 6**, hosted by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth in Tunkhannock

and Williamsport; Saturday programs are presented by the Nazareth Group. Open to all girls in grades 9-12; the experience is offered from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Capuchin Sisters' two convent locations: Mother of God Convent, 215 Wellwood Drive, Tunkhannock; and Mother of the Eucharist Convent, 6100 Jacks Hollow Road, Williamsport. Day's program fosters faith, friendship, and increased love of Jesus through prayer and inspirational talks. Reservations are required. For Tunkhannock, contact Sister Angela of the Capuchin Sisters at (570) 836-2737; for Williamsport, contact Sister Clare at (570) 745-3334.

**Parish Night at the Races: "The LA Derby"** — **JUNE 12**, sponsored by St. Thomas More Parish in Lake Ariel; doors open at

*Continued on Page 30*

**STUCKER TOURS**  
**570-655-8458**  
[www.stuckertours.com](http://www.stuckertours.com)

## CASINO TRIPS

**Wind Creek Casino**  
June 28 & September 27  
\$25 slotplay • \$56

**Seneca Allegany Resort Casino**  
July 19-20  
\$75 slotplay & \$20 food • \$249

**Resorts World Catskills**  
August 16 & November 15  
\$25 slotplay & \$15 food • \$59

**Atlantic City Resorts Casino**  
**August 23-26**  
\$30 slotplay & \$60 food • \$409  
**September 13-14**  
\$15 slotplay & \$20 food • \$215  
**October 25-27**  
\$20 slotplay & \$40 food • \$299



## Age Well. Live Well.

Since 1924, we have provided compassionate care to seniors via personal care apartment living, short-stay rehabilitation, respite care and exceptional long-term skilled nursing care. Beyond providing rehabilitative therapies, nursing and spiritual care teams provide opportunities for residents to live engaging, full lives. Our residents and our mission are at the center of everything we do.

**Rely on us when you need us the most.**



**St. Mary's Villa**  
*Since 1924*

A Member of Covenant Health

516 St. Mary's Villa Road  
Elmhurst Township, PA 18444  
570.842.7621

[stmarysvilla.com](http://stmarysvilla.com)



## Apostleship of Prayer

Papal Intention for June 2026

**For the Values of Sports** —

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

# LAMONICA LAW FIRM LLC

## CARLO A. LAMONICA —ATTORNEY AT LAW

- Probate & Estate Administration
- Estate Planning
- Powers of Attorney
- Advance Health Care Directives
- Estate & Inheritance Taxes
- Veterans Disability Claims

Prepare for your Future, Protect Your Family.  
Schedule your FREE CONSULTATION today!

• (570) 751-1571 •  
www.LaMonicaLawFirm.com



## Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

Continued from Page 29

5:30 p.m. in the Father Scott Parish Center, with post time at 6 p.m. Admission cost: \$15 per person (adults only/age 21+); includes food, beer, wine, soft drinks & dessert. Horse sponsorships: \$10 each. Advance reservations only; no tickets at the door. For information, call the parish office (570) 698-5584, or email: office@stthomas-stmary.com.

**Secular Disalced Carmelites Meeting** — JUNE 14, monthly meeting of the Holy Annunciation Secular Community of Disalced

Carmelites (OCDS); the community gathers on the second Sunday of the month, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary in Laflin. New members are most welcome. For more information and inquiries, contact Gina Romancheck at (570) 956-9272.

**Annual Rib Bar-B-Que Dinner** — JUNE 14, hosted by St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, Scranton; eat-in or takeout dinners served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Ave., Scranton. Cost: \$20/dinner; event includes bake sale & raffle drawings. Advance tickets recommended; tickets at door until sold out. Call (570) 343-5151.

**Fifth Annual Deacon Cliff Memorial Golf Outing** — JUNE 15, annual golf tournament honors late businessman and Permanent Deacon Cliff Jorgenson, who served at St. Patrick Parish in Milford; all proceeds benefit the parish children's faith formation program and charitable endeavors. Tournament hosted at Lords Valley Country Club (Hemlock Farms). Outing begins with 7:30 a.m. registration/continental breakfast and 9 a.m. shotgun start (scramble format); followed by tournament prizes and buffet awards dinner. Cost: \$150 per golfer; paid reservations required by June 5. For more information/registration and sponsorship opportunities, contact Jack Boyle at (908) 451-1206.

**Monthly Meeting of the Lay Carmelites** — JUNE 20, hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Lay Carmelite Community on the third Saturday of each month; gatherings are held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary/Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. For more information, contact Chris at (570) 239-8094.

**St. Joseph Fraternity of Third Order Secular Franciscans** — JUNE 21, Lay Franciscan Canonical Order gathers on the

third Sunday of each month; meetings hosted from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Oblates of St. Joseph Seminary/Chapel, 1880 Highway 315, Laflin. All interested men, women and visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Michele Sisak, OFS, at (570) 807-7996, or visit the Facebook page.

**Third Annual Parish Car Show** — JULY 11, sponsored by Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville; held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (gates open 8:30 a.m.) on the church grounds, 1101 Willow St. All vehicles welcome free of charge; event includes awards, prizes, complimentary gifts, food & music, basket and cash raffle drawings. For information, call Rich at (570) 687-3487.

**Church Trip to Sight & Sound Theatres Production of "Joshua"** — JULY 28, sponsored by Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, 313 First Ave., Jessup; bus excursion to Sight & Sound Theatre Lancaster departs 7:30 a.m. and returns approximately 7 p.m. Cost: \$195 per person (\$145, children 12 & younger), includes roundtrip motorcoach transportation, admission to live stage performance of "Joshua," and buffet dinner at Hershey Farms Smorgasbord. Paid reservations required by June 12; contact Holy Ghost Church at (570) 489-2353.

**Knights 20th Annual Golf Classic** — AUG. 17, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 9832; hosted at Lords Valley Country Club, 1004 Hemlock Farms. Registration and light breakfast at 7:30 p.m., followed by golf tournament (scramble format) with 9 a.m. shotgun start. Awards program & barbecue luncheon follow play. Cost: \$150 per golfer; registration required by Aug. 3. For information/registration, contact Bryan Bolehala at (201) 874-8060 or Bry3336@gmail.com.

### Who makes house calls?

As of October 2015, I will now meet clients either at their home, or at a location they choose and no longer require clients to meet at my office. I have decided that I would change the way I meet with people so it will be as easy and as convenient as possible for the client.

Based on my practice, which consists of estate planning and administration along with elder law, I find that clients are more comfortable discussing such matters in familiar surroundings. While I know this may seem unconventional to some, I believe I will be able to serve clients much better in this fashion.

If anyone is uncomfortable with home visits, I have a few locations where I can meet in an office setting. I look forward to meeting with my existing clients and especially meeting new clients that are looking for any assistance in estate or elder law matters.



### Elder Law

- Guardianships
- Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

### Estate Administration

#### Probate :

Settle all estate matters and distribute inheritances.

#### Inheritance Tax :

Utilize all discounts and proper deductions.

Meet all requirements and deadlines.

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills • Wills
- Trusts Guardianships • Asset Protection Planning
- Medicaid Application Assistance

### Estate Planning

- Powers of Attorney • Living Wills
- Wills • Trusts Guardianships



## Michael J. Bendick

Attorney At Law

(570) 901-1254

www.bendicklaw.com

Located in Shavertown  
(Covering Luzerne, Lackawanna,  
& Wyoming Counties)

Please join us Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm  
**GLASSES in the GARDEN**

LIVE JAZZ • CURATED BOURBON & WINE TASTINGS • DELECTABLE CUISINE

Event @ Stone Meadow Gardens  
1273 Country Club Road, Clarks Summit

Scan  
Here for  
Tickets



or call: (570) 341-7045



Providence Pregnancy Center  
1660 North Main Avenue, Scranton



## Prayer Requests for Priests in the Diocese

May 21, Father James McGahagan; May 22, Father Gerard McGlone; May 23, Monsignor Stephen McGough; May 24, Jesuit Father Bernard McIlhenny; May 25, Jesuit Father Ronald McKinney; May 26, Jesuit Father Joseph McShane; May 27, Father Edward Michelini; May 28, Father Kevin Miller; May 29, Father Joseph Mosley; May 30, Father Joseph Motsay; May 31, Father Thomas Muldowney; June 1, Pope Leo XIV; June 2, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; June 3, Father Kevin Mulhern; June 4, Father Paul Mullen; June 5, Father Richard Munkelt; June 6, Holy Cross Father Frank Murphy; June 7, Father James Nash; June 8, Father Theodore Obaza; June 9, Father Michael Osei-Boateng; June 10, Holy Cross Father Thomas O'Hara; June 11, Father Peter O'Rourke; June 12, Father James Paisley; June 13, Father Sergio Leon Pamplona Henao; June 14, Father Francis Pauselli; June 15, Father Jaime Perez Restrepo; June 16, Father Thomas Petro, J.V.; June 17, Father William Petruska; June 18, Father Michael Piccola; June 19, Father William Pickard; June 20, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Jackson Pinhero; June 21, Father Joseph Pisaneschi; June 22, Father John Polednak; June 23, Father Richard Polmounter; June 24, Father John Poplawski.

## A Night Under the Stars

A fundraiser for Catholic Social Services in Hazleton

Friday, May 29, 2026

5:45 - 10:00 p.m.

Venue - Surprise Location in the Hazleton area

Tickets & Sponsorships available at [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)

## BENNINGTON AND SON CHURCH SPECIALISTS INC.

### INTERIOR

- ◆ Plastering
- ◆ Painting
- ◆ Stencil Work
- ◆ Gold Leafing
- ◆ Refinishing of Woodwork and Pews
- ◆ Professional Wall Washing
- ◆ Marbleizing
- ◆ Stained Glass Work  
(Restoration and New)

### EXTERIOR

- ◆ Steeple Work  
(Restoration and New)
- ◆ Painting
- ◆ High Pressure Cleaning
- ◆ Masonry Restoration
- ◆ Water Proofing/Caulking
- ◆ Roofing and Flashing
- ◆ Metal Fabrication
- ◆ Fiberglass Work

PO Box 845 • Scranton, Pa 18501  
570-342-8878 • Fax 570-344-0541  
[www.benningtonandson.com](http://www.benningtonandson.com)  
e-mail: [bennington90@verizon.net](mailto:bennington90@verizon.net)

Providing church restoration  
services for 75 years.

## The Catholic Light

MAILING LABEL - Please be sure to enclose this label with any address changes  
and mail to The Catholic Light, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503

### Oblates of Saint Joseph to celebrate feast of Congregation founder

LAF LIN — The Feast of Saint Joseph Marelo, founder of the Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, will be celebrated Saturday, May 30, at the Oblates seminary chapel, located at 1880 Route 315, Lafflin.

The solemn feast day Mass will be offered at noon, with Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul A. McDonnell, rector of the religious community, as celebrant and homilist. A social will follow the Mass in the seminary social room.

In preparation for the congregation founder's feast, a triduum of Masses will be celebrated at the chapel from May 27-29 at 8:00 a.m. & noon, with Oblate Father Joseph Sibilano as celebrant.



Saint Joseph Marelo (1844-1895) was a native of the Piedmont region in northwestern Italy and a priest of the Diocese of Asti. While serving in various responsible roles in the diocesan curia, he founded the religious order of the Oblates of Saint Joseph.

Ten years later he was appointed by Pope Leo XIII as bishop of the nearby Diocese of Acqui. He died May 30, 1895, at the age of 50 in Savona, Italy.

The Oblates of Saint Joseph serve in 17 countries around the world and have ministered in the Scranton Diocese since 1929, through the personal invitation of the late Bishop Thomas C. O'Reilly, third Bishop of Scranton.

The faithful of the Diocese are invited to join in this special celebration as the Oblates of Saint Joseph Congregation is commemorating the "Year of Saint Joseph Marelo" in honor of the 25th anniversary of his canonization by Pope Saint John Paul II in 2001.

For more information, contact the seminary office at (570) 654-7542 or email: [osjseminary@comcast.net](mailto:osjseminary@comcast.net).

## WANTED WWII MILITARY SOUVENIRS

Paying **CASH** on the spot  
for U.S./German/Japanese:

Medals, Uniforms, Helmets, Hats, Armbands, Flags,  
Daggers, Swords, Bayonets, Knives, Pistols, Rifles,  
Equipment, Pictures, Letters, Currency, Coins, etc...

Contact Sam at (570) 814-8287

Please leave a message if I'm unavailable.

(I am a private collector not a dealer and would be honored to purchase your military souvenirs to display in my collection.)