

# The Catholic Light

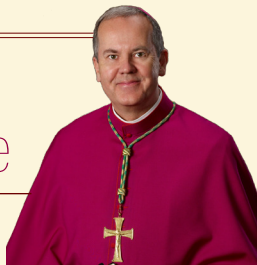
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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

## *The Grace of God does not disappoint*

### Bishop Bambera's 2022 Easter Message



Dear Friends,

Two years ago during these sacred days of Lent, Holy Week and Easter, our world turned upside down. A strange virus invaded our lives in a way that none of us had ever before experienced nor could have imagined. Life came to a standstill and even our churches closed their doors as we sought to protect one another from the virus' deadly grip.

In the face of such obstacles, we held on desperately to our faith, confronting the message of Good Friday and the Cross of Jesus like never before. As we struggled to discover the blessings of Easter, the pain, uncertainty and fear of those days eventually gave way to the life and hope won for us through Christ's Resurrection.

Today, as we find ourselves at last emerging from the darkness of a global pandemic, our world is still turned upside down as our brothers and sisters in Ukraine suffer the ravages of war. This time, however, the source of our global concern is not an unknown virus. The source of this war, and others like it, is an all too familiar scourge rooted in sin - in pride, envy, greed and the absence of any fear of God that has led to a blatant disrespect of human life made in the image and likeness of the same almighty being.

As we have done countless times before in the face of suffering and pain, these sacred days beckon us to turn to the only place that enables our broken world and lives to find forgiveness, healing, hope and peace: the Paschal Mystery - the Easter miracle - the promise won for us through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus!

Pope Francis so providentially spoke to the ongoing struggles that continue to confront our world in his Easter message shared a year ago.

*Continued on Page 5*



The Resurrection is depicted in this 18th-century painting by American artist Benjamin West. Easter, the chief feast in the liturgical calendars of all Christian churches, commemorates Christ's resurrection from the dead. Easter is celebrated April 17 this year. (CNS artwork/Benjamin West, Bridgeman Images)



## 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.

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# Paschal Triduum Broadcasts on CTV

## Thursday, April 14, 2022

### Morning Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 8:00 a.m.

Monsignor Dale Rupert, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrates Morning Prayer on Holy Thursday.

### Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper from Rome, Noon

The Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper, commemorating when Jesus turned bread and wine into his body and blood, is celebrated live from Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.

### Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 5:30 p.m.

On Holy Thursday, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera celebrates the Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

### Night Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 9:00 p.m.

Monsignor Dale Rupert, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrates Night Prayer on Holy Thursday.

## Friday, April 15, 2022

### Morning Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 8:00 a.m.

Monsignor Dale Rupert, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrates Morning Prayer on Good Friday.

### Commemoration of the Lord's Passion from Rome, 11:00 a.m.

On Good Friday, His Holiness, Pope Francis, presides over the Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Passion, live from Vatican City in Rome. A rebroadcast will be held Saturday, April 16, at Midnight.

### Commemoration of the Lord's Passion from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 12:10 p.m.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera presides over the Solemn commemoration of the Lord's Passion, live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

### Commemoration of the Lord's Passion from Washington, D.C., 3:00 p.m.

From the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., join EWTN for a Choral meditation on the Passion of Christ, and the Solemn celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.

### Way of the Cross from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 5:00 p.m.

From the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, follow along with the solemn recognition of Jesus' last day on Earth as a man.

## Saturday, April 16, 2022

### Morning Prayer from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 8:00 a.m.

Monsignor Dale Rupert, Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, celebrates Morning Prayer on Holy Saturday.

### Easter Vigil Mass from Rome, 1:30 p.m.

His Holiness, Pope Francis, presides over the Easter Vigil Mass, live from Rome.

### Easter Vigil Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 8:00 p.m.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera serves as principal celebrant of the Solemn Easter Vigil Mass live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

## Sunday, April 17, 2022

### Solemn Mass of Easter Sunday from Rome, 4:00 a.m.

He is Risen! Pope Francis celebrates the Solemn Mass of Easter Sunday in Vatican City and gives a traditional address and blessing to the world.

### Urbi et Orbi: Message and Blessing, 6:00 a.m.

Urbi et Orbi, the traditional Easter message and blessing to the city of Rome and to the world, is given by Pope Francis in Rome.

### Easter Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera serves as principal celebrant of the Easter Sunday Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

### Easter Sunday Mass from Washington, D.C., Noon

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. is the setting for Easter Sunday services.



# At Chrism Mass, Diocesan priests thanked for their witness to faith



**The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrates the Chrism Mass on April 12, 2022, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. For the first time since 2019, all priests, deacons, and laity were invited to participate in the Mass in person. (Photo/Mike Melisky)**

SCRANTON — Great rejoicing marked the Solemn Pontifical Chrism Mass on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 12, in the Cathedral of Saint Peter as the celebration returned to its rightful grandeur for the first time in three years due to the global pandemic.

Sincere joy resonated in the voice of Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, who served as principal celebrant and homilist, as he welcomed those in attendance to the “glorious Mass of the Chrism,” in which he joined his brother priests in renewing their sacred vows of ordination in ministry to the people of the Diocese of Scranton.

The annual gathering of the priests of the Diocese — customarily the largest of its kind each year — celebrates their brotherhood and shared divine vocation, usually before a full Cathedral congregation.

Not since 2019 had Saint Peter’s witnessed the normalcy of the ancient traditional rite, which was adapted greatly due to COVID-19, including last year’s Chrism Mass when the diocesan priests were the only ones in attendance and compelled to practice social distancing.

This year, the throng of vested concelebrants, composed of nearly all the ordained priests ministering in the Diocese, occupied the front pews of the venerable Cathedral with a large

congregation of lay faithful seated behind, filling many of the pews of the Mother Church of the Diocese.

Holding to age-old tradition, the Holy Oils used during the conferral of sacraments throughout the Church year were blessed. They include the Sacred Chrism, the Oil of the Sick, and the Oil of Catechumens, which are used in the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, the Anointing of the Sick, and the Rites of the Catechumenate. During the Mass, priests and deacons, along with lay representatives from Diocesan parishes acknowledged the Bishop’s role as the unifying symbol for Church governance and pastoral guidance.

“It has been a long time since we’ve had the opportunity to gather for this Chrism Mass as we do today, with all of us — priests, deacons, those in consecrated life and lay faithful — offering a powerful witness to our world of the abiding presence of God that alone is capable of overcoming the darkness of suffering and death with the life and hope of Christ,” Bishop Bambera began his homily. “Like so many, we have endured more than we could have ever imagined and are here today solely by the grace of God.”

Referring to the Gospel from Saint Luke proclaimed at the Mass, in which

the prophet Isaiah defines the character of Jesus’ ministry, Bishop Bambera recounted how Jesus announces good news to those who are poor, blind, in captivity and oppressed.

“The very prophetic vision of hope that he proclaims for all who are burdened and oppressed becomes a reality precisely because of his own experience of suffering and pain in his times,” he said. “My friends, and especially my brother priests, I implore you: do not let the darkness of these challenging days prevail! Our hope and peace is found in the very midst of the lives that we lead and the compassion and mercy that we extend to our suffering brothers and sisters and that they, in turn, impart to us.”

The Bishop continued by asking the priests to consider the hope that they bring to the lives they are blessed to encounter each day.

“In addition to sharing the sacramental life of our Church so generously, your presence in and among the lives of our people is far more deeply appreciated than you might ever believe or imagine,” Bishop Bambera stated, noting he is always impressed and buoyed by comments made to him by faithful throughout the diocese on his many travels regarding their parish priests.

Comments, Bishop Bambera related,

that speak so much about parishioners’ admiration, love and even concern for their local shepherds.

“My brother priests, thank you for your ministry. Thank you for your service and for the witness of your faith,” the bishop offered. “For all of the hope that you have given, the love that you have shared and the faith in Christ that you have imparted, even while struggling to carry your own crosses, your lives and your ministry are by far the most eloquent homily that can be shared this day.”

Prior to the Mass, Monsignor Michael Delaney, pastor of Our Lady of the Snows Parish in Clarks Summit, aptly summed up the overall enthusiasm shared by his fellow priests upon the opportunity to once again come together as a fraternity for the auspicious occasion.

“It is so wonderful to gather around the table of the Lord and then be able to gather for a dinner together in brotherhood and celebrate our call as priests in ministering to God’s people,” Monsignor Delaney expressed.

Commenting on the joyful reunion of his priest brethren after such a notable absence, Monsignor Joseph Quinn, pastor of the South Scranton parishes of Saint John Neumann and Saint Paul of the Cross, remarked, “It has been the longest retreat I’ve ever been on. Hopefully, it has created us all for the better.”



# During Holy Week, place pains and disappointments at the foot of the Cross

SCRANTON – The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, began Holy Week by serving as principal celebrant and homilist at a Pontifical Mass of Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on April 10.

Hundreds of people attended the service, which was broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.

"How very much we need this Holy Week to help us face the struggles, the pain, the disappointment, the fear and the anxieties engulfing our lives and our world these days and to take them to the only place where they can be transformed into hope," Bishop Bambera said. "That place, brothers and sisters, is at the foot of the Cross of Jesus."

Noting the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic for the last two years as well as the most recent War in Ukraine, the bishop said, "Our world and our lives just can't seem to catch a break."

Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, is when the Church remembers Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. It is the beginning of



**Bishop Joseph C. Bambera begins Palm Sunday Mass in the Cathedral Prayer Garden on Wyoming Avenue. (Photos/Mike Melisky)**

Holy Week, the most solemn week in the Church's liturgical year.

"Our willingness to humbly turn to Jesus as the only source of our true and lasting hope has the power to open our lives to the mystery of God's saving grace and his promise of life and peace," the bishop added.

For the first time since 2019, the Pontifical Mass for Palm

Sunday began in the Cathedral Prayer Garden on Wyoming Avenue. It was followed by a solemn procession to the Cathedral Church.

Inside, the faithful heard the Passion from the Gospel of Luke – a version that Bishop Bambera said explains the extraordinary compassionate and loving nature of Jesus.



**Two children hold palms during Mass at the Cathedral. Palm Sunday is the day in which the Church remembers Christ's entrance into Jerusalem.**

"Only in Saint Luke's Gospel does Jesus heal the severed ear of the high priest's servant. Only in Luke, struggling under the weight of the Cross, does Jesus stop to console the women of Jerusalem who grieve for themselves and their children and only in Luke's Passion story do we hear Jesus pray for his executioners and promise paradise to the penitent

thief crucified with him," the bishop said.

Because Jesus is both compassionate and merciful, the bishop encouraged all people to draw closer to Him this Holy Week.

"Jesus is found with all who suffer for he knows the paths they- and we - trod because he made them his own," he said.

## ***Victory is not raising a flag on pile of rubble, pope says on Palm Sunday***

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Jesus obeyed the most challenging of commandments: to love one's enemies; and he invites humanity to do the same by breaking a vicious cycle of evil, sorrow and hatred with love and forgiveness, Pope Francis said on Palm Sunday.

"As disciples of Jesus, do we follow the master, or do we follow our own desire to strike back?" he asked in his homily April 10.

Pope Francis began Holy Week with Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square with an estimated 50,000 people - the first time large numbers of people could participate since the start

of the COVID-19 pandemic two years ago.

He also made a heartfelt appeal for a cease-fire by warring parties and the start of a "real negotiation," even if it requires "some sacrifice for the good of the people."

"What kind of victory will it be to plant a flag on a pile of rubble?" he said after the Mass and before leading the Angelus prayer. "Put down the weapons. Let an Easter truce begin."

Clearly referring to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, the pope did not specifically name which conflict

he was talking about, saying Christ died to be victorious over sin and death, "not over someone and against someone else."

However, he denounced this "endless" war, which "daily places before our eyes heinous massacres and atrocious cruelty committed against defenseless civilians. Let us pray about this."

A war aiming for victory according to the logic of the world, the pope said, "is only the way to lose." It is better to let the victor be Jesus, who carried the cross and died to free people from evil and so life, love and peace might reign.



**Pope Francis holds palm fronds as he celebrates Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square April 10, 2022. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)**

Because of ongoing difficulty walking and his doctor's advice to rest, Pope Francis did not take part in the traditional procession

to the obelisk in the center of the square but was driven by car to the altar before the start of the ceremony.



Queridos amigos,

Hace dos años, durante estos días sagrados de Cuaresma, Semana Santa y Pascua, nuestro mundo se puso de cabeza. Un extraño virus invadió nuestras vidas de una forma que ninguno de nosotros había experimentado antes ni imaginado. La vida se detuvo e incluso nuestras iglesias cerraron sus puertas mientras buscábamos protegernos unos a otros del ataque mortal del virus. Ante tales obstáculos, nos aferramos desesperadamente a nuestra fe, confrontando el mensaje del Viernes Santo y la Cruz de Jesús como nunca antes. Mientras luchábamos por descubrir las bendiciones de la Pascua, el dolor, la incertidumbre y el miedo de esos días finalmente dieron paso a la vida y la esperanza ganadas para nosotros a través de la Resurrección de Cristo.

Hoy, cuando finalmente nos encontramos saliendo de la oscuridad de una pandemia mundial, nuestro mundo todavía se encuentra de cabeza mientras nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Ucrania sufren los estragos de la guerra. Esta vez, sin embargo, la fuente de nuestra preocupación global no es un virus desconocido. El origen de esta guerra, y de otras parecidas, es un flagelo demasiado familiar enraizado en el pecado: en el orgullo, la envidia, la codicia y la ausencia de todo temor a Dios que ha llevado a una flagrante falta de respeto por la vida humana hecha a imagen y semejanza del mismo ser todopoderoso.

Como lo hemos hecho innumerables veces ante el sufrimiento y el dolor, estos días sagrados nos invitan a volvernos hacia el único lugar que permite que nuestro mundo y nuestras vidas rotas encuentren el perdón, la curación, la esperanza y la paz: el misterio pascual: el milagro pascual. – ¡la promesa ganada para nosotros por el sufrimiento, la muerte y la resurrección de Jesús!

El Papa Francisco habló tan providencialmente de las luchas continuas que enfrenta nuestro mundo en su mensaje de Pascua compartido hace un año. “En medio de esta compleja realidad, el mensaje pascual habla concisamente del acontecimiento que nos da la esperanza que no defrauda: ‘Jesús que fue crucificado ha resucitado’. Nos habla no de ángeles o de fantasmas, sino de un hombre, un hombre de carne y hueso, con rostro y nombre: Jesús. El Evangelio testimonia que este Jesús, crucificado bajo el poder de Poncio Pilato por pretender ser el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios, resucitó al tercer día conforme a las Escrituras, tal como lo había anunciado a sus discípulos... Al hacerlo, Jesús asumió mismo nuestra debilidad, nuestras enfermedades, incluso nuestra muerte. Él soportó nuestros sufrimientos y cargó con el peso de nuestros pecados... Sus heridas son el sello eterno de su amor por nosotros. Todos los que experimentan una prueba dolorosa en el cuerpo o en el espíritu pueden encontrar refugio en estas heridas y, a través de ellas, recibir la gracia de la esperanza que no defrauda”.

Hermanos y hermanas, por todo lo que hemos experimentado a lo largo del camino de nuestras vidas, ¡la gracia de Dios, en verdad, no defrauda! Y esa gracia abunda a través de la presencia de Jesús Resucitado que habita en los corazones de sus discípulos, todos los que hemos sido bautizados en su vida, muerte y resurrección. De innumerables maneras, su apertura al amor y la misericordia de Dios le ha permitido dar esperanza a muchos, desde el cuidado que ha ofrecido a los agobiados por la pandemia, hasta su apoyo material a los que sufren a causa de la guerra en Ucrania, a vuestros esfuerzos diarios para edificar vuestras parroquias y proclamar el mensaje evangélico a través de vuestras palabras y especialmente vuestros gestos de amor y servicio.

Uno de los mayores signos de la gracia de Dios obrando en nuestro mundo es la presencia de aquellos que han respondido al llamado del Señor y han abierto sus corazones a las aguas vivificantes del Bautismo y la determinación de caminar en los pasos de Jesús. En la noche del Sábado Santo, 107 catecúmenos y candidatos de toda la Diócesis de Scranton serán bautizados en la vida, muerte y resurrección de Jesús y presentados para la plena comunión en la Iglesia Católica. Estos catecúmenos y candidatos, familiares, vecinos y amigos, se unen a decenas de miles de catecúmenos y candidatos de todo el mundo para profesar públicamente su fe en Jesucristo y asumir su lugar en su cuerpo, la Iglesia. Sus vidas y su fe afirman la realidad del Dios vivo que obra continuamente en y a través de sus hijos e hijas.

Durante esta Semana Santa, oro para que todos lleguemos a apreciar más profundamente que nunca, el hecho de que somos bendecidos en más formas de las que creemos o imaginamos. Que confiemos en la promesa de Dios de sostenernos y disipar nuestros miedos más profundos. Y que abramos nuestros corazones a Jesús resucitado y permitamos que los llene con su amor y paz.

Este es el día que hizo el Señor. ¡Regocijémonos y alegrémonos!

Fielmente suyo en Cristo Resucitado,

Reverendísimo Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.  
Obispo de Scranton

*Continued from Page 1*

The Holy Father said, “In the midst of this complex reality, the Easter message speaks concisely of the event that gives us the hope that does not disappoint: ‘Jesus who was crucified has risen.’ It speaks to us not about angels or ghosts, but about a man, a man of flesh and bone, with a face and a name: Jesus. The Gospel testifies that this Jesus, crucified under Pontius Pilate for claiming he was the Christ, the Son of God, rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, just as he had foretold to his disciples ... In so doing, Jesus took upon himself our weakness, our infirmities, even our death. He endured our sufferings and bore the weight of our sins ... His wounds are the everlasting seal of his love for us. All those who experience a painful trial in body or spirit can find refuge in these wounds and, through them, receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint.”

Brothers and sisters, for all that we have experienced throughout the journey of our lives, the grace of God, indeed, does not disappoint! And that grace abounds through the presence of the Risen Jesus dwelling in the hearts of his disciples – all of us who have been baptized into his life, death and resurrection. In countless numbers of ways, your openness to the love and mercy of God has enabled you to give hope to many – from the care that you have offered to those burdened by the pandemic, to your material support of those suffering because of the war in Ukraine, to your daily efforts to build up your parishes and to proclaim the gospel message through your words and especially your gestures of love and service.

One of the greatest signs of the grace of God at work in our world is the presence of those who have responded to the Lord’s call and opened their hearts to the life giving waters of Baptism and a determination to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. On Holy Saturday night, 107 catechumens and candidates from throughout the Diocese of Scranton will be baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and presented for full communion in the Catholic Church. These catechumens and candidates – our relatives, neighbors and friends – join with tens of thousands of catechumens and candidates from around the world to publically profess their faith in Jesus Christ and to assume their place in his body, the Church. Their lives and faith affirm the reality of the living God continually working in and through his sons and daughters.

During this Holy Week, I pray that we will all come to appreciate more deeply than ever the fact that we are indeed blessed in more ways than we might believe or imagine. May we trust in God’s promise to sustain us and dispel our deepest fears. And may we open our hearts to the risen Jesus and allow him to fill them with his love and peace.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Faithfully yours in the Risen Christ,  
Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera  
Bishop of Scranton



# Labor of Love

*Parishioners devote time and talent to create new worship space for Most Holy Trinity Parish*

**CRESCO** – After two decades of dreaming and planning, the finishing touches are finally being put on a new worship space for Most Holy Trinity Parish in Monroe County.

In anticipation of completing work on the new church in the coming weeks, *The Catholic Light* was invited to highlight the renovation project in its final days. An opening Mass is currently being planned for May.

The new worship space for Most Holy Trinity is located in the former gymnasium/auditorium of the now-closed Monsignor McHugh School located on Route 390 in Cresco.

“It is overwhelming beautiful,” parishioner Cheryl Lynott of Paradise Township said.

Lynott is a 1977 graduate of Pocono Central Catholic High School, which used the same building. She is one of several parishioners who not only serves on the parish’s building and grounds committee – but also has invested countless hours into the building project.

“Our volunteers are the most talented group of people you would ever hope to find,” she explained. “It is a blessing to be part of building this church. I really look at it that way.”



**Workers from Sordoni Construction are close to completing renovations on the new worship space for Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco as seen on April 6, 2022.**

Sordoni Construction is handling all of the renovations inside the former gym, but parishioners volunteered to create everything else the parish needs. That

includes the confessionals, bathrooms, office space and more on the exterior of the gym.

“I just do whatever needs to be

done,” parishioner Walt Dill of Blakeslee explained. “Normally I’m here six to eight hours a day, five days a week and then I’m here on Saturdays and on Sundays if I’m needed.”

Michael Ziobro of Canadensis retired from his full-time job in 2020. Since that time, participating in the church construction project has taken up the bulk of his days.

“It is a labor of love. We’re here every day,” Ziobro explained. “We can’t wait for opening day.”

Most Holy Trinity Parish was created upon the consolidation of Saint Ann Parish, Tobyhanna; Saint Mary of the Mount Parish, Mount Pocono; and Saint Bernadette Parish, Canadensis.

The new worship space brings together many aspects of those three churches. For example, the pews in the new church all come from the former Saint Mary and Saint Ann church buildings. Likewise, the Stations of the Cross and the stained glass windows from the former parishes have also been included in the new construction.

“To see all the little bits of all the different churches in here, it’s wonderful,” Ziobro said.

*Continued on Page 7*



**Workers put mosaic tile in place which will become the area for the baptismal font at Most Holy Trinity Parish.**



**Old bleachers from the gym have been recycled for a new ceiling.**

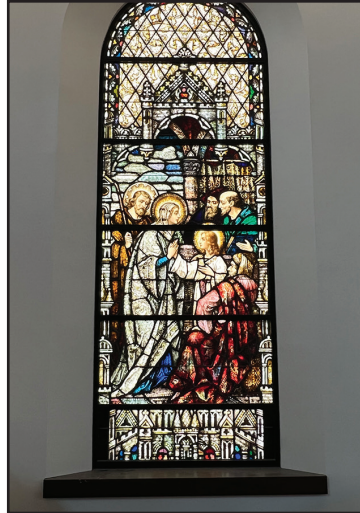


**Workers place some of the last floor tiles in the main body of the new worship space for Most Holy Trinity Parish (Photos/Eric Deabill)**





**Ron Yanchak, a Sordoni Construction employee, glues a Cross in place on the top of one of the Stations of the Cross.**



**Items from former churches have been included in the new space.**



**Cheryl Lynott of Paradise Township is one of many parishioners who is helping to renovate the new worship space for Most Holy Trinity Parish.**

*Continued from Page 6*

“I went to Saint Mary’s all the time, so it’s nice to see those windows and to see the Stations of the Cross and see some of the pews going in,” he added.

In actuality, several other churches/chapels will be represented when the opening Mass takes place. In addition to the three closed churches, items from the former Villa of Our Lady Retreat Center, Our Lady of Fatima Church in the Promised Land area, Saint Joan of Arc, a mission church of Saint Mary’s in Pocono Summit, Monsignor McHugh School and the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton are also being included.

“It was just nice to see everything come together,” Noah Stretch, Project Superintendent of Sordoni Construction, said.

Stretch and his employees have been working on-site since September 2021. They battled not only the COVID-19 pandemic but supply issues.

“Somehow we made it work,” he explained. “We had a good crew that right out of the gate were ordering everything early. We had professionals here and they knew that they had to get everything ordered so we could be ready in time.”

Stretch credits not only his team, but also the dedication of the parishioners to get this project to the finish line.

“You can tell that their heart is into it. They are building with you. We don’t see it like this too often. It was really nice to see,” he explained.

The desire to create a new worship space for Most Holy Trinity Parish dates back to the pastoral tenure of Monsignor Arthur J. Kaschenbach and now-Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz. Between raising money, finding a location, and changing plans several times, it has not been an easy road.

“There were like 27 plans,” Ziobro said jokingly. “When the school closed, it focused us down to one plan. We had already been here for eight or ten years in the gymnasium with folding chairs. You’d take them down on the weekend because the school was still open.”

“I always saw the finish line. I always knew that it would come about, maybe not necessarily in this form, but I always saw the finish line. There was never any doubt in my mind that it would get done,” Dill added.

Lynott says parishioners are eager to see the finished worship space. There will even be a coffee bar named ‘Trinity Treats’ in the narthex area of the new worship space.

She believes the typical reaction will be something like the following:

“I can sum it up by the response of my partner in the Capital Campaign. We have been doing the deposits for three years and she had not seen it so I snuck her in. She started to cry,” Lynott said.

For more information on Most Holy Trinity Parish, visit its website at [mht-poconos.org](http://mht-poconos.org).



**Above: This photo from Sept. 16, 2020 shows what the former gymnasium/auditorium of the former Monsignor McHugh School looked like before renovations began.**

**Below: Sordoni Construction has been working at the new worship site for Most Holy Trinity Parish in Cresco since September 2021.**







## BISHOP BAMBERA'S SCHEDULE

- April 14** - Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 5:30 p.m.
- April 15** - Commemoration of the Lord's Passion  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:10 p.m.
- April 16** - Easter Vigil Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 8 p.m.
- April 17** - Easter Sunday Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10 a.m.
- April 22** - Inauguration of Dr. Dan Myers, President, Misericordia Univ.  
Dallas, 2 p.m.
- April 23** - 75th Anniversary of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Founding  
Peckville, 4 p.m.
- April 24-26** - Pennsylvania Bishops' Provincial Meeting, Philadelphia
- April 27** - Confirmation for Prince of Peace Parish & Nativity of Our Lord Parish, taking place in Old Forge, 5 p.m.
- April 28** - Confirmation for Saint Barbara Parish, Corpus Christi Parish & Saint Monica Parish, taking place in Exeter, 5 p.m.
- May 1** - Diocesan Synod Listening Session Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 12:15 p.m.
- May 3** - Confirmation for Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish, Saint Catherine of Siena Parish & Saint Eulalia Parish, taking place in Scranton, 7 p.m.
- May 4-5** - International Peace & Justice Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- May 4** - Confirmation for Saint John Neumann Parish & Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, taking place in Scranton, 6:30 p.m.
- May 5** - Confirmation for Most Holy Trinity Parish, Holy Name Parish & Saint Brigid Parish, taking place in Susquehanna, 5 p.m.
- May 6** - Inauguration of Father Thomas P. Looney, King's College President  
Wilkes-Barre, 2:00 p.m.
- May 8** - Mother's Day Adoption Mass  
Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton, 10 a.m.
- May 9** - St. Mary's Seminary & University Board Meeting (Virtual)
- May 9** - Confirmation for Annunciation Parish, Holy Name of Jesus Parish & Holy Rosary Parish, taking place in Hazleton, 5 p.m.

*Continued Next Column*

## Diocese of Scranton to celebrate annual Mother's Day Adoption Mass on May 8

SCRANTON – The Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mother's Day Adoption Mass on Sunday, May 8, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. This liturgy prayerfully recognizes all mothers, with a special emphasis on adoptive and foster mothers. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

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

CTV: Catholic Television of the

Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live. A livestream will also be provided on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

Pope Francis has said that humanity is "built on mothers" and that their love is a cure for a world, which is so often divided and filled with bitterness. On May 8, please join us for the Mother's Day Adoption Mass as we pray for mothers, near and far, including Mary, Mother of the Church.

of the Church.

### APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, announces the following appointments:

**Reverend Stephen Bosomafi**, to Assistant Pastor, Christ the King Parish, Archbald, effective March 28, 2022.

**Reverend Andrew Amankwaa**, to Residence, Christ the King Parish, Archbald, effective March 28, 2022. Father Amankwaa is available to provide support for the celebration of Mass in parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton for a period of time.

**May 10** - Confirmation for Gate of Heaven Parish, Our Lady of Victory Parish & Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, taking place in Dallas, 5 p.m.

**May 11** - Confirmation for Saint Nicholas Parish, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Saint Andrew Parish & Our Lady of Hope Parish, taking place in Wilkes-Barre, 5 p.m.

**May 12** - Holy Cross Community Evening Prayer  
King's College, Wilkes-Barre, 5 p.m.

**May 14** - Marywood University Commencement  
Mohegan Sun Arena, Wilkes-Barre Township, 1 p.m.

**May 14** - Knights of Columbus State Convention Mass  
Pocono Manor, 5 p.m.

**May 16** - Confirmation for Saint Peter Parish, Holy Child Parish, Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, taking place in Wellsboro, 5 p.m.

**May 18** - Confirmation for Visitation of the BVM Parish, Blessed Sacrament Parish & Holy Cross Parish, taking place in Dickson City, 5 p.m.

**May 19** - Confirmation for Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg, 5 p.m.



# At Healing Mass for survivors of abuse, Bishop Bambera apologizes again for pain inflicted by Church leaders

SCRANTON – Acknowledging that most people will never know the depth of pain that survivors of sexual abuse endure, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, presided at a Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse on April 7. The liturgy was held at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

“As Bishop of this local Church, I continue to apologize for the pain that has been inflicted upon far too many of you by leaders of our Church. I once again ask for forgiveness from the countless numbers of you who have suffered so much,” Bishop Bambera said. “And as I have shared many times before, I pledge to do all within my power to keep our Churches and schools safe for our children and for all of our people to worship, to pray, to learn and to grow in their faith.”

The Diocese of Scranton has celebrated a Healing Mass for survivors of abuse for four years.

“It is vital that we continue to pray for survivors of abuse. Why? Because there is still pain. A few years of public prayer can’t change a lifetime of suffering. So many survivors continue to be burdened by nightmares of inhuman behavior on the part



**The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, delivers the homily during the Healing Mass for Survivors of Abuse April 7 at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.**

of those who should have been trustworthy but were not,” the bishop continued.

The Healing Mass took place at the

beginning of April, a month dedicated to child abuse prevention efforts. During the Mass, the faithful prayed for church leaders to continue working to protect the most vulnerable from harm and for those who have suffered abuse that they may have the courage to tell their story and find the necessary support.

During his homily, the bishop explained some of the lessons he has learned from his conversations with abuse survivors.

“They’ve taught me that if the Church is truly intent upon creating safe environments for its children and all of God’s people, the Church – and especially Church leaders – must never forget or allow time to numb us to the pain that was so willfully inflicted on innocent lives by those who postured themselves as God’s representatives and ministers of his love and mercy,” Bishop Bambera said.

He continued, “While the Church has become much more cognizant of the need to eradicate this horrific behavior from its ranks once and for all, this crisis is not over! Far too many of our members continue to suffer. And only our recognition and acknowledgement of their pain can truly

prompt us to change and to create a Church deserving of people’s trust.”

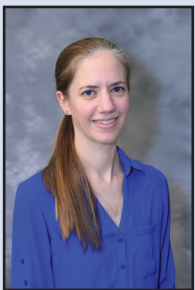
Emphasizing that “time doesn’t always heal,” the bishop encouraged anyone who is struggling to give God room to step into their lives.

The Diocese of Scranton’s Child Protection and Safe Environment Policy requires mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse and the immediate removal of someone credibly accused of abuse. It also emphasizes transparency and pastoral care in abuse cases.

The policy also requires that all clergy, employees and volunteers who will encounter children while working or volunteering for any diocesan institution and/or program will undergo the relevant state and federal criminal background checks. The policy also includes ongoing education for children and youth, as well as for adult staff members and volunteers, designed to help prevent abuse from happening.

Information on the Diocese of Scranton’s Child Protection and Safe Environment Policy can be found online at [dioceseofscranton.org/child-protection-victim-assistance](http://dioceseofscranton.org/child-protection-victim-assistance)

## Child protection efforts continue in Catholic schools and Diocesan parishes



**Erin McGrady, LPC**

**Diocese of Scranton  
Safe Environment  
Coordinator**

As we enter into April, it is important to keep in mind that this month is Child Abuse Awareness Month.

We continue to work together to maintain the safety of the children in our diocese through screening and training. Our guidelines are in place to provide safe environments for all children.

This school year, in our Catholic Schools and Parish Religious Education

Programs, we have already trained more than 5,000 children about respect and boundaries. We have also empowered them with ways to speak up if something is making them uncomfortable. We also implemented the ability to complete the required Mandated Reporter Training through our online VIRTUS accounts.

The Diocese of Scranton continues to provide Safe Environment Training through VIRTUS.

VIRTUS offers a multitude of training topics for all ages. If you are interested in additional training, please reach out to me to learn more.

Some of us might be returning to volunteering for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, while others might have been volunteering since the implementation of VIRTUS training and

might be interested in a refresher course. Still others might be a new volunteer joining us for the first time. Whatever your role is, I want to thank you for all you do to keep our children safe as you support them in their journey of faith.

At each location in the diocese – whether it is a parish and school – we have safe environment managers or local administrators who work diligently to screen and train employees and volunteers. A very special thank you to all those who maintain this very important role.

In closing, I would like to express gratitude for the opportunity to work with all of you to continue to maintain safe environments throughout the diocese. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

## NOTICE REGARDING SAINT CECILIA CHURCH, EXETER

Utilizing the Diocese of Scranton’s Vision 2030: Creating Parish Communities Rooted in the Life of Jesus Christ process, the decision has been made to close Saint Cecilia Church, 1700 Wyoming Avenue in Exeter, a secondary church of Saint Barbara Parish, Exeter. The decree of relegation (closure) was published the weekend of April 9-10 in the Saint Barbara Parish bulletin and the website of the Diocese of Scranton.

Saint Anthony Church, 28 Memorial Street, Exeter, will be the principal church of Saint Barbara Parish. You are invited to attend the closing Mass for Saint Cecilia Church, which will be celebrated at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 24, 2022.

# Pope consecrates Ukraine, Russia to Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - As Russia's violent invasion continues to devastate Ukraine, Pope Francis laid the fates of both countries at the feet of Mary in the hopes that peace would finally reign.

"Mother of God and our mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine," the pope said March 25, pronouncing the Act of Consecration after leading a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica.

Praying before a statue of Mary that was loaned by the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima at San Vittoriano on the outskirts of Rome, the pope pleaded with Mary to "accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end, and peace spread throughout the world."

Sitting in front of the statue, which was placed before the steps of the main altar on a red platform and adorned with white roses, the pope proclaimed the act of consecration. During the prayer, the pope paused at several moments to gaze at the

statue of Mary before continuing to recite the prayer.

"To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world," he prayed.

After the consecration, the pope, accompanied by a young boy and girl, placed a bouquet of white roses at the feet of the statue. He then remained for a few moments, with eyes closed and head bowed in silent prayer, before stepping away.

According to the Vatican, an estimated 3,500 people filled St. Peter's Basilica, while 2,000 people watched on video screens from St. Peter's Square. Police asked pilgrims who entered St. Peter's Basilica carrying or wearing Ukrainian flags to put them away, since the event was a prayer service.

Among those present at the liturgy were Andrii Yurash, Ukraine's ambassador to the Holy See. The consecration, he tweeted March 25, is "another attempt (by the pope) to defend Ukraine from the devil's war," referring to Russia's attacks on the country.

Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, led a similar act of consecration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal.

Bishops from around the world held special services to mark the timing of the consecration in Rome.

In Rome, the bells of St. Peter's Basilica rang out after Pope Francis concluded the Act of Consecration.

In his homily during the Lenten penance service, the pope acknowledged that the war in Ukraine, which "has overtaken so many people and caused



**Pope Francis makes the sign of the cross in front of a Marian statue after consecrating the world and, in particular, Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during a Lenten penance service in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 25, 2022. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)**

suffering to all, has made each of us fearful and anxious."

While calls to "not be afraid" may soothe one's helplessness in the face of war, violence and uncertainty, the pope said that "human reassurance is not enough."

## Bishop: During times of suffering and war, turn to prayer and power of God

SCRANTON – The faithful of the Diocese of Scranton joined people around the world in prayer on March 25, placing the people of Russia and Ukraine under the special protection of Mary, the Mother of God, in an act of consecration.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, celebrated the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, which included the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Nearly 200 people participated in-person with others taking part by livestream.

"While Saint John Paul II consecrated Russia to Our Blessed Mother in 1984, today's act renews our trust in God and Mary's intercession to protect the people of Russia and Ukraine in this time of great hardship and suffering," Bishop Bambera said during his homily. "It is also a radical call to conversion for all peoples, including me and you, a call that ultimately sets the stage for true and lasting peace in our hearts, our families and our world."

It has now been more than one month since Russian forces invaded neighboring

Ukraine. Thousands of people have been killed and millions have been forced to flee their homes.

"Not one of us in our cathedral has not been heartbroken by the suffering and death of countless numbers of innocent lives, inflicted because of greed, a lust for power and a disregard for the gift of human life," the bishop added. "We Christians ought never forget that we do indeed have a way to respond to this tragic moment. We have the power of God, won for us through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus and given to us through the gift of faith."

Before kneeling at the feet of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Cathedral sanctuary and reciting the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Bishop Bambera urged all people to open their hearts in faith to the abiding presence of God in their lives and pray for an end to war.

"It was very special and meaningful and we were really honored to come up here today," Faith Sekol, a senior at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-

Barre said. "It really gives us a sense of unity which I think we need at this time, especially in solidarity with Ukraine."

Several students involved in the Pro-Life Club at Holy Redeemer High School left class, making a special trip to the Cathedral to attend the Mass.

"An important part of the pro-life club is respecting all life, regardless of whether it's an unborn baby or the elderly. I think it was really important to come together and come up with a solution to this war," Holy Redeemer senior Kathryn McIngvale added. "It's something that needs to be talked about."

The students at Holy Redeemer have been keeping the people in Ukraine close to their hearts in prayer in recent weeks. They've also raised money for relief efforts with dress down days and most recently wrote messages and prayers which were presented to the local Ukrainian Catholic Church in Wilkes-Barre.

"Take five minutes, say a prayer in the morning or at lunch. Think about it and God will answer those prayers," McIngvale said.



**The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, prays the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on March 25, 2022. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**



## Bradford County parish collecting rosaries for Ukraine

CANTON – Inspired by the story of Goya Foods and Shannon Hasse of Texas sending 15,000 rosaries and thousands of pounds of food to Ukraine, a parishioner of Saint Michael Parish in Canton has also decided to take action.

Lynette Ambruch wrote to the President of Goya Foods offering her help in sending more rosaries to the war-torn nation. She heard back from Goya Foods and the company has agreed to ship and distribute rosaries collected by the parish!

Ambruch has extended the invitation for anyone in the Diocese to send her rosaries by April 24 to be included in the shipment. “We love God and we’re doing what God wants us to do. We’re helping someone who needs it,” Ambruch said.

Within the first few days of putting out the call for assistance, the local jewelry maker said she has already received more than 2,000 rosaries and her phone keeps ringing.

“I even have people that aren’t Catholic contacting me. They say, ‘I’m not Catholic and I don’t have a rosary, but what can I do?’” she said. “They just want to help but just don’t know how to.”



Rosaries can be dropped off before or after Mass in any of the three beautiful churches associated with Saint Michael Parish or at the parish office through Sunday, April 24. Broken rosaries are also welcome and will be repaired prior to shipment.

Saint Michael Church, 107 N. Washington Street, Canton, is open on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m., Saturday from 3:15 until 4:45 p.m., Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Saint John Nepomucene Church, 133 Exchange Street, Troy, is open on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. and Tuesday from 5:15 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Saint Aloysius Church, corner of Green Street & Division Alley, Ralston, is open on Sunday from 7:45 a.m. until 8:45 a.m.

The parish office is located at 106 N. Washington Street, Canton. Hours are Monday & Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and Thursday from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. There is a bowl on the front porch where donations can be placed if the office is closed.

## Lycoming County parishes help Ukraine with Lenten dinner



Dozens of people gathered April 1 at Saint Lawrence Parish Hall in South Williamsport for a Lenten soup dinner to benefit those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT – The Parishes of Saint Boniface and Saint Lawrence held a Lenten soup dinner April 1 which will benefit people who are suffering in Ukraine.

Fifteen meatless soups were prepared and donated by parishioners. Seventy-five guests brought their own bowls and spoons to join together at the Lenten table.

A good will offering resulted in more than \$2,100 being raised.

Volunteers decorated the Saint Lawrence Parish Hall for the event and served all those who gathered between 6-8 p.m. after Stations of the Cross.

Fathers William Corcoran and Robert Antonelli spearheaded the church gathering to benefit those who are impacted by the war in Ukraine.

## Catholic Social Services in Hazleton continues to serve as collection site for donations to Ukraine

HAZLETON - Catholic Social Services in Hazleton, 200 W. Chapel Street, continues to serve as a collection drop-off site for material donations to help our brothers and sisters impacted by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The items will be passed along to one or more organizations in Philadelphia that are providing assistance to those in need.

In conjunction with the group, “City of Hazleton Outreach to Ukraine,” Catholic Social Services is accepting nonperishable items, including dry rations, such as freeze-dried or dehydrated foods, granola or energy bars, and other non-liquid items. Baby food is also needed, but it must be in pouches and not jars.

Medical supplies and personal hygiene items, including new underwear, thermals, bras, socks, diapers, wipes, blankets, linens, pain relievers, and medical aids, such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, walkers, are being accepted.

Donations can be made weekdays (Monday-Friday) between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

In addition to Catholic Social Services, which is a member agency of the Greater Hazleton United Way, other collection sites include Hazleton City Hall, Northeast Counseling Services and the Lackawanna College Campus.





# Ukrainian pastor of Byzantine Church combats war with prayers, provisions, promises

PITTSTON — “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The Lord is my life’s refuge; of whom should I be afraid?”

The words of the 27th Psalm were among the inspired prayers offered for the people of Ukraine at an Interfaith Prayer Service on March 21 at Saint Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittston.

The late afternoon service organized by the Wyoming Valley Interfaith Council was hosted by Ukrainian native son Father Andrii Dumnych, pastor of the Byzantine Catholic parishes of Saint Michael and Saint Nicholas in Swoyersville.

Trusting wholeheartedly in the efficacy of community prayer, the participating faith leaders prayed, chanted, sang and presented personal reflections, each in the expressions of his or her faith tradition.

“The church was filled with people sharing the common resolve to affect change through prayer, most notably to transform hardened hearts and desensitized souls,” Father Dumnych said. “The unified support was proof that the choice to do good is



**Father Andrii Dumnych speaks during the interfaith prayer service for Ukraine he hosted at Saint Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittston.**

indeed the will of God as opposed to those who choose to do evil.”

Representing the Roman Catholic community in the Diocese of Scranton were Father Joseph Elston, pastor of the parishes of Saint John the Evangelist and Saint Joseph Marello, Pittston, and Holy Cross Father Russ McDougall from King’s College in Wilkes-Barre.

Special guest presenter was Father Eduard Shestak, who migrated from Ukraine and has been serving as pastor of Saint Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Old Forge for the

past ten years. Like many of the immigrant priests in the Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic, Father Shestak is in constant communication with family and friends in Ukraine and receiving first-hand accounts of the crisis.

Illustrating the magnitude of stress and loss of normalcy in his homeland, the Byzantine priest offered, “In Ukraine, there is no February; there is no March, no Monday, no Tuesday, no Sunday. They count days from February 24. Time has stopped and ended. Everything changed in life and starts from zero.”

In closing the service, Father Dumnych stressed the need to maintain hope and persevere in prayer. “Our prayers hold up the people of Ukraine, giving them the ability to press on,” he emphasized. “Prayer is working even though we don’t see prayer. We see the consequences of our prayers, and prayer gives strength.”

Father Dumnych also served as guest preacher for the March 15 “Holy Hour for Peace in Ukraine” hosted at nearby Saint John the Evangelist Church, which joined Catholic parish communities throughout the Scranton Diocese in offering simultaneous services that day for the Ukrainian people, as requested by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera.

A little more than two years ago, Father Dumnych and his wife Oksana, along with their three children, left the western part of Ukraine for America, leaving behind family members who are now in great peril.

“When we got the news that war had begun, it was hard to believe,” he explained. “After a few days, we finally realized that none of the Ukrainians will give up. With our families still there, we are very concerned and trying to help them as much as we can.”

Father continued by proudly proclaiming the strength and resolve of his native countrymen and women. “We Ukrainians have become united and realize how strong we are when we come together,” he said. “Our national anthem has the words that represent who we are: ‘We lay down our soul and body for our freedom.’ I think it shows quite clearly what our identity is.”

Not unlike Ukrainian Catholic church communities and people of good will throughout the Diocese of Scranton, Father Dumnych’s two parishes have spearheaded efforts to provide humanitarian aid and relief for those ravaged by the war. He noted that nearly 200 boxes of supplies were recently sent to western Ukraine near Lviv, where Russian attacks targeted churches caring for refugees.

“Right now we are collecting medicine and hygiene supplies, specifically for children and mothers, along with cleaning supplies and monetary donations,” he remarked. “We are called to be charitable during our Lenten journey. It is not lost that this crisis has evoked such generosity.”

Father Dumnych is hopeful such gestures of generosity continue well into the future. “We look forward, though, to different circumstances, when peace and freedom reign equally for all.”

Until then, the Byzantine Catholic cleric has pledged to do everything in his power to educate as many people as he can about the ever-worsening plight of his fellow Ukrainians and to provide as much spiritual and temporal support as possible.



**War relief supplies fill the parish hall at Saint Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Church in Pittston, ultimately to be sent en route to aid the suffering in Ukraine.**



**Wyoming Catholic School in Exeter recently welcomed Father Andrii Dumnych who spoke to the students about the war in Ukraine. The Diocesan elementary school reciprocated by collecting items for Ukrainian refugees, which Father Andrii will have shipped on their behalf.**





# Hundreds of young adults honored with Bishop's Youth Award

WILLIAMSPORT – Nearly 600 young adults in the Diocese of Scranton recently received honors for providing service to their parishes, schools and communities.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, handed out the Bishop's Youth Award to 596 recipients at four different Masses beginning on March 28. The Masses took place in East Stroudsburg, Scranton, Mountain Top and Williamsport.

"These young people have been of service to their parish or community in a multitude of ways and are very worthy of this recognition," Jacki Douglas, Director of Word and Lifelong Faith Formation in the Diocesan Office for Parish Life, said.

Since 1996, the Bishop's Youth Award has recognized young people in eighth and 12th grade for their exemplary practice of faith and for their commitment to serve others. Pastors, parish life coordinators, principals, faith formation directors or youth ministers nominate students for the award.

"I think that the awards being given out this year are particularly significant. We're just ending two very challenging years in our world, our society, our church and our families," Bishop Bambera said. "You have all made a difference in somebody else's life. I know I speak for your families and your pastors in saying how proud I am of all of you."

Luz Pomaquiza, a 12th grade student and parishioner of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, received the award for serving as a reader, altar server, choir member and youth group participant at her church.

"I like being able to help anyway I can," Pomaquiza said. "You grow as a person as well."

Zyrus Hernandez also received the Bishop's Youth Award from Saint Matthew Parish. He helps serve meals to



**More than 200 students received the Bishop's Youth Award at Saint Jude Parish in Mountain Top on April 4, 2022. (Photo/Dan Gallagher)**

those in need and participates in parish fundraisers.

"It's very humbling," Hernandez explained of his time serving the less fortunate. "It was really an eye opener for me. It definitely allowed me to see the world differently and allowed me to see it through other people's eyes. I'm going off to college this September and I plan on continuing service through my college's service program and its ministry programs."

Michelle Pierce, a senior of Saint John Neumann High School in Williamsport and parishioner of Resurrection Parish in Muncy, also received the award.

"It's really gratifying to help other people and those who are in need," she said of her efforts to collect food for the Ronald McDonald House in Danville. "I feel blessed every single day that I can get the things I need. I have clothes, I have food, I have shelter, but I think it's so important to give other people those basic needs as well."

Brendan Dincher received the Bishop's Youth Award for teaching elementary students about their faith at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport.

"Before COVID, we used to teach a class for fifth and sixth

graders about the faith and lead them on service projects to let them get out there and enjoy it," he said.

Each of the students receiving the Bishop's Youth Award gets a special pin as a symbol of the way they have contributed to the mission of our Church by touching the lives of others in real and meaningful ways.

Michael Grandzol, an eighth grade student at Saint Jude School in Mountain Top, received his Bishop Youth Award for his participation in boy scouts, as well being an altar server and partaking in the music ministry at Saint Jude School.

"In Scripture, Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and he said 'serve other people' and I feel like that is what I'm doing being an altar server or whatever else I do," Grandzol explained. "I know I've gotten a lot out of the Church."

Erin Barno, a senior at Crestwood High School, says her service efforts have helped her remain a morally grounded person.

"A lot of times you see young people worship things on social media or worship things on the internet and that is not really what we should be looking towards.



**Recipients of the Bishop's Youth Award spent time in prayer following Communion at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on March 30, 2022.**



**Award recipients stand during Mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Williamsport April 6, 2022. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**



**Award recipients serve as gift bearers at Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg March 28, 2022. (Photo/Shannon Kowalski)**

We should be looking towards our relationship with God and strengthening our connection with him," she explained.

Molly White, who serves as student body president at Holy Cross High School, received the Bishop's Youth Award for her service efforts as well.

"When you start to serve others, the way Jesus served others, that is when you really start to connect to your faith on a deeper level," she explained. "Actions speak louder than words

and I think through service, that is one of the best actions you can take to living out your faith. It's a humbling action, it's a grounding action!"

**Bishop's Youth Award Special to air on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton**

Premiers Tuesday, April 26 8 p.m.



"Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor." ~ Proverbs 22:9



# THANK YOU!



## TOTAL RAISED: \$170,907

TOTAL RAISED FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

ANTI-HUNGER INITIATIVES: \$101,953.50

(includes \$33,000 in sponsorships)

TOTAL RAISED FOR PARISHES: \$68,953.50

TOTAL DONORS: 2,718



## WINNING PASTOR CHEFS



**1. FR. JAMES PAISLEY**, St. Therese and St. Frances Cabrini, Shavertown (\$31,560)  
~ Also had most individual donors (441) ~

**2. FR. DAVID CAPPELLONI**, SS. Anthony and Rocco, Dunmore (\$13,815)  
~ Also had third-most individual donors (221) ~

**3. FR. JOSEPH MOSLEY**, St. Peter, Wellsboro, and St. Thomas The Apostle, Elkland (\$11,202)  
~ Also had second-most individual donors (226) ~

### ROUNDING OUT OUR TOP 10

**4. Msgr. David Tressler**, St. Ignatius, Kingston (\$10,245)

**5. Fr. Jack Lambert**, SS. Peter & Paul, Plains (\$6,405)

**6. Fr. Paul McDonnell**, St. Joseph's Oblates, representing Our Lady of the Eucharist, Pittston (\$5,255)

**7. Fr. Joseph Elston**, St. John The Evangelist and St. Joseph Marello, Pittston (\$5,230)

**8. Fr. Brian J.T. Clarke**, Christ The King, Archbald (\$5,215)

**9. Fr. Kevin Miller**, St. Brigid, Friendsville (\$4,445)

**10. Msgr. John Bendik, Msgr. Vincent Grimalia and Father Charles Cummings**, Villa St. Joseph (Retired Priests) (\$4,317)

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## Online Synod Survey will close April 29

The Diocese of Scranton continues to listen to your thoughts and opinions as we answer the call of Pope Francis to participate in the local listening phase of the 2023 Synod on Synodality. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider each question and offer feedback about your experience as a member of the Diocese of Scranton.

The Synod survey is available on the “Synod on Synodality” page of the Diocese of Scranton website ([dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org)) through April 29, 2022.

Since last October, thousands of people in all 11 counties of the Diocese of Scranton have participated in the online synod survey or individual parish listening sessions.

If you have already taken the survey, please spread the word - including to family and friends that may no longer attend Mass. A key component is listening to those voices who are easily ignored or marginalized.



# We Are Listening!

## The Church wants to hear from you.

Online Survey Available Until Friday, April 29, 2022

Visit [dioceseofscranton.org](http://dioceseofscranton.org) and click “Synod on Synodality”



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*All are welcome to attend! No reservation necessary!*



# Holy Redeemer “humble heroes” honored for taking action during bus emergency

WILKES-BARRE – Four students from Holy Redeemer High School received recognition April 7 for their quick thinking and bravery after coming to the aid of their bus driver who had a medical emergency last month.

Kaden Ayre, Lainey Conway, Max Filchak and Ryan Martinelli each received keys to the city of Wilkes-Barre, along with proclamations from the Pennsylvania Senate.

“We gather today to celebrate you and to publically acknowledge our pride in your actions,” Holy Redeemer principal Doreen Dougherty said in welcoming everyone to the ceremony. “Not only did you chart a course on March 21 during the bus incident but you blazed a trail, recognizing an issue existing, you acted decisively, definitively, cooperatively in the midst of a hazardous situation.”

On March 21, a total of 13 high school and elementary school students from Holy Redeemer and Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School were on a Rinehimer bus, headed from Wilkes-Barre to Mountain Top, when the driver began experiencing a medical emergency on Blackman Street in Wilkes-Barre Township.

That is when the four Catholic school students jumped into action.

“We worked almost like it was rehearsed, everyone just got to work,” Conway, who was responsible for calling 911, explained. “Kaden and Ryan went to help the driver; they unbuckled him so they could get to the brake. We started rolling backwards so they stepped on the brake. We hit the car behind bus but we would have kept rolling if they didn’t step on the brake.”

Martinelli, 17, a junior, was sitting in the very back of the bus listening to music when the emergency started to unfold. His first instinct was to assist the driver as he dashed to the front of the bus.



**Lainey Conway listens as Wilkes-Barre mayor George Brown reads a proclamation in her honor on April 7, 2022. (Photos/Eric Deabill)**



**Max Filchak receives a “Key to the City” of Wilkes-Barre from Mayor George Brown during a ceremony at Holy Redeemer High School.**

“I loosened his jacket, took off his seat belt to see if he could get some air because it looked like he was having trouble breathing and then apply pressure to the brake to stop us from rolling backwards because we had hit the car behind us at that point,” he said.

Martinelli is a member of the United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps. Prior to the incident, he had received training on responding to car accidents that was held by both active and retired police officers.

“I felt calm during the event,” he added.

While Martinelli was

attending to the driver, Ayre held the brake pedal down to keep the bus from rolling backward.

“Buses don’t have park on them, it’s only a foot brake. We didn’t know that until we had the bus driver out of the seat,” Ayre said. While the incident lasted only about a minute, the teen added, “I think God was with us that day.”

While Ayre and Martinelli were attending to the driver, Filchak got the other students off the bus and out of danger.

“I didn’t really think at all, I was just on my toes,” Filchak explained.

Family members of each



**Scott Henry of Rinehimer Bus Lines presents a framed newspaper article to Ryan Martinelli as a gift for helping his bus driver.**



**Kaden Ayre, one of four students who jumped into action to help his bus driver on March 21 discusses the events with media members.**

student, along with classmates, lawmakers and the media attended the recognition ceremony.

“It is such an honor and privilege to join you today in what I deem a celebration of community, a celebration of the Holy Redeemer School, a celebration of faith and a celebration of young men and a young woman who showed us all what it is to be a true hero,” Sen. Lisa Baker, R-Lehman Township, said.

“The courage that you showed on March 21, I want you to continue that through your high school education, through your college education if you go to college, or in the military,

whatever your chosen field is, continue that courage and as you get out into the workforce, continue that courage,” Wilkes-Barre mayor George Brown added.

Kristen Donohue, Catholic Schools Superintendent in the Diocese of Scranton, also lauded the students’ actions.

“I know God’s presence was working through you, as your quick thinking and calm approach to an extremely complicated situation kept your classmates safe and provided the rapid medical attention for the bus driver,” Donohue stated.

*Continued on Page 17*



*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.*



Sixth graders at All Saints Academy in Scranton spend time learning how to properly work their new microscopes.



The Instructional Aides at Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston were honored at a recent liturgy for their support of the children and programs of the school.



Students and staff at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore dressed in pink and blue in support of the Jude Zayac Foundation, which raises awareness and funds for SIDS research.



Students at Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton proudly show off their ribbons after competing in the Forensics Spring Tournament.

### **Holy Redeemer students honored**

*Continued from Page 16*

Donohue continued, “Your teamwork and confidence is truly remarkable. We are incredibly proud of each of you.”

Scott Henry of Rinehimer Bus Lines also attended the recognition ceremony. He said the bus driver is recovering thanks to the valiant efforts of the students.

“My brother and I were raised Catholic. We’re thanking Saint Christopher for putting that you guys on the bus that day,”

Henry said.

While each of the students say they appreciate the attention and recognition they’re getting, they don’t believe their actions were “heroic” in nature.

“We just did what we had to do,” Conway said.

“I don’t know if I deserve it. I just did what I thought was right. I reacted to the situation how I knew how to,” Martinelli added. “I’m confident that many of my peers would do a similar thing if they were in that situation.”



Students at Holy Family Academy in Hazleton were awed and amazed as they watched “The Magic of Science” assembly.





Fifth and sixth grade students from **Epiphany School in Sayre** “travelled” to Italy to attend a book tasting at Miss Ciotti’s Ristorante. They sampled books from different genres while enjoying some yummy snacks.



Fourth and fifth graders from **Our Lady of Peace in Clarks Green** work in small groups during their Lenten retreat.



Students at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** present their notes of prayer and support for Ukraine as they watched the livestream Mass of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.



The sixth grade class from **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** presented “The Emerald Heist,” a mystery dinner theatre, for their families.



Kindergarten students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** look under their “Leprechaun Trap” to see if they caught anything on Saint Patrick’s Day.



Students from **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** recently participated in the National History Day Competition at The University of Scranton. Students received first place in group performance, first place in group exhibit, and third place in individual exhibit.



Chorus members at **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** prepare for Mass held during Lent.



Alex DiDuca, Malcolm Naughton, Drishti Matta, Jeremy Torres, Drew Smith and Riley Henderson, students at **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg**, perform “Sign Lily Sign” from the school’s spring musical “On the Twentieth Century.”





Student participants from **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** prepare for their Spring Art Exhibit & Choral Concert.



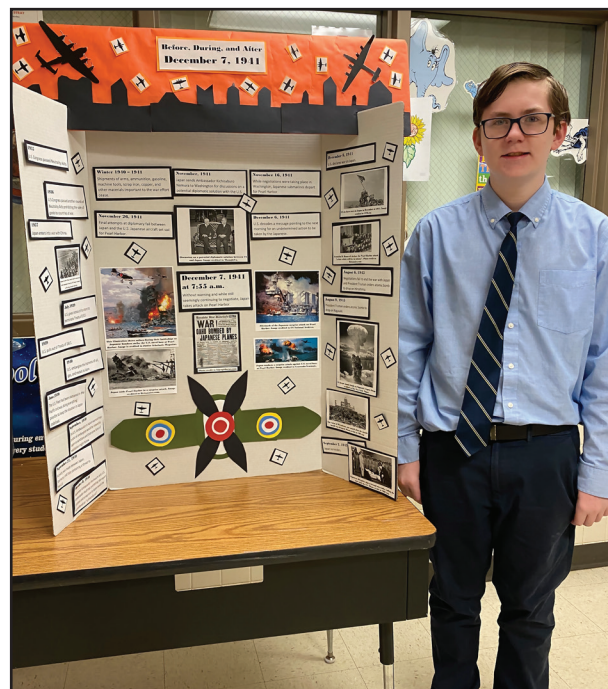
In communion with Pope Francis, students and staff at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** prayed the Rosary for the conversion of Russia and peace in Ukraine.



Alivia Sweet and Elizabeth Bilbow, students at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top**, celebrate their Diocesan Forensics Finals win with their coach, Sister Chiara Stempfle.



Sixth graders at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** participated in a science lesson golf tournament using Spheros to navigate the course.



Conner Pribula, a seventh grader at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter**, attended the 2022 National History Day Competition held at The University of Scranton and earned second place in the individual exhibit category.



The Varsity and Junior Varsity Forensics teams from **Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** celebrate their recent victories.



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I never thought I would like prison, but I have grown to not only like it but also have grown comfortable being there. No, not that way. No jumpsuit for me.

Among the many graces God has shared with me — many unexpected, as they tend to be — is that since 2017 I have served as a volunteer supply chaplain at one of our local prisons. I agreed to do so hesitantly and eventually folded because my predecessor at that time had volunteered there as well.

To say the least, the experience has been enlightening and has forced me to dig deep into my heart and soul to appreciate why it is that Jesus demands of us to serve the spiritual needs of those imprisoned: “When I was in prison, you visited me” (Mt. 25:36).

Certainly, many of us cannot just walk up to any prison door, ring the bell, and expect entrance, but our missionary spirit calls us to reach out in mercy and in hope to these men and women. Mercy to help them find the will to seek forgiveness and reconciliation — if they have been justly accused and convicted — and hope that they will find a meaningful, purposeful, God-centered life even “behind bars.”

I was struck by this recently as I was visiting with inmates and heard their stories, their struggles, their sins. I encountered such vulnerability and to a tee discovered that these men were not all that different from me or you. Indeed, some of them have committed heinous crimes and rightfully have been condemned and incarcerated. I suppose what struck me, above all, was their brokenness. Each story is unique, but each seems to share a thread of similar pasts and experiences.

I would ask you this, during this Holy Week to pray: Our Lord’s Passion begs us to see the suffering that exists around us and too often envelops the weak and the vulnerable. Can we find a place where we can sit with the words of Jesus: when I was in prison, you visited me? Why does Jesus ask this of His Church? How can we make a meaningful effort to live

this out in daily life? God calls us to lead the sinner to Him, to find His Indwelling in each person (yes, even the most pitiable and perhaps sinister among us). This is at the heart of missionary discipleship, as I have said again and again, to go to places unexpected and not-so-obvious to bring the light of Christ.

Pray for conversion, reconciliation and the warmth of God’s mercy to envelop these men and women. Pray that they may find Christ, and His friendship. Make a visit to a prison in your heart at home and pray for these intentions. Pray for the victims of violent crime, that they may be whole again.

Pray also for the men and women who work at every level within our prison systems. It is rigorous, often dangerous, and spiritually grueling work. To me it’s a vocation within a vocation. They are brave, committed, and unique individuals who work day to day to keep us safe and to serve the needs of the men and women in their charge. Pray for the safety of their families, and for the safe keeping of their bodies and souls.

Pray also this Holy Week for hearts that are imprisoned in any way by evil, sorrow, grief, or indifference. May the Lord set each of us free and find His peace, His mercy, and His love.

***Apostleship of Prayer***

Papal Intention for April 2022

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# Marywood University unveils portrait of IHM Congregation Foundress

SCRANTON – Even though she has been deceased for more than 125 years, the life and memory of Mother Theresa Maxis lives on at Marywood University.

Dozens of people gathered April 5 for the official unveiling of Theresa Maxis, Torn Woman, a portrait created by Sister Helen David Brancato, IHM.

“We’ve known about this portrait for many, many years because we know the sister from the IHM Congregation in Philadelphia who actually did the portrait,” Sister Mary Persico, IHM, President of Marywood University, said.

Born of unwed parents in 1810, Mother Theresa Maxis co-founded the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM), together with Father Louis Florent Gillet, a Redemptorist priest from Belgium, to educate girls of the Michigan frontier.

“She suffered from classism, she suffered from racism, she suffered from sexism,” Sister Mary Persico added. “We can join her sufferings to the sufferings of people all over the world today.”

In 1829, she became a founding member of the Oblate



**Theresa Maxis, Torn Woman, a portrait of Mother Theresa Maxis, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, was unveiled at Marywood University on April 5, 2022. (Photo/Eric Deabill)**

Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of African American women religious in the United States. Despite poverty, Mother Theresa Maxis and her IHM Sisters established schools and sheltered orphans. Under her leadership, the IHM order and

its social services expanded from Michigan and Pennsylvania. She died in 1892.

“We have such an affinity here at Marywood for Theresa Maxis and all the good that she has done in the world,” Persico added. “She really worked for the empowerment of women and Marywood was founded as a university for women. We thought this would be a really good place to have her portrait.”

Mother Theresa Maxis’ legacy lives on today in North America, South America and Mexico with close to 1,000 IHM Sisters and more than 240 associates who labor in her spirit, committed to the eradication of the oppression of women, the shaping of just social justice and the building of a culture of peace.

The portrait, which was unveiled at Marywood University, is on display to the public in the Archives Room, Second Floor of the Learning Commons, on the University’s campus.

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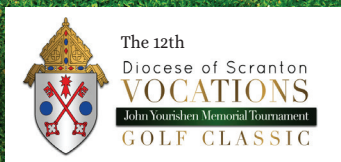
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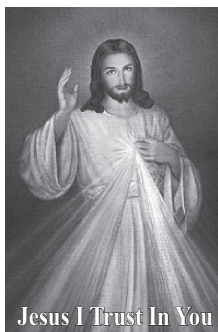
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Rev. Sam J. Ferretti, Pastor

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Divine Mercy Sunday Coordinator

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## Wedding Anniversary Mass June 26

This year's Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton will take place on June 26, 2022. There will be a reception afterward. The Mass will begin at 2:30, and attendance will require advance reservation.

If your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary has occurred or will occur in 2022, please register for the celebration on the Diocese of Scranton website. The registration deadline is Sunday, May 29, 2022.

For questions or concerns, or if there are issues registering online, please reach out to Jen Housel, Director for Community and Family Development, at [jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jhousel@dioceseofscranton.org), 570-207-2213 x 1104.

## Retrouvaille weekend coming to the Diocese Aug. 19-21

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. It is designed to provide the tools to help get your marriage back on track. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and misery.

For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the August Weekend (Aug. 19-21), please call (631) 338-5413 or email [philmilazzo2@gmail.com](mailto:philmilazzo2@gmail.com).

You can also visit the Retrouvaille website at [helpourmarriage.org](http://helpourmarriage.org)



# Scranton seminarians receive Ministries

The Most Rev. William E. Koenig, Bishop of Wilmington, Del., celebrated the Rite of Institution to the Ministries of Lector & Acolyte on Saturday, March 19 at Saint Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Jan Carlo Perez received Ministry of Lector. William Asinari, Thomas Dzwonczyk, and Andrew McCarroll received Ministry of Acolyte.

Lectors proclaim the Scriptures at liturgical celebrations and serve as catechists. Acolytes serve at Eucharistic celebrations and bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound.

Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their formation to serve our local Church as a Diocesan Priest!



**Andrew McCarroll** (kneeling left), a member of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes-Barre, receives Ministry of Acolyte.



**Jan Carlo Perez** (kneeling right), a member of Saint Matthew Parish in East Stroudsburg, receives Ministry of Lector.



**Thomas Dzwonczyk** (kneeling left), a member of Saint John Vianney Parish in Montdale, receives Ministry of Acolyte.



**William Asinari** (kneeling left), a member of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Honesdale, receives Ministry of Acolyte.

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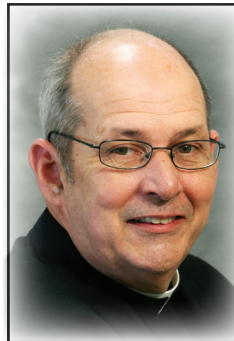
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## "Full of Grace" is theme for 2022 Catholic Women's Conference

SCRANTON – From our earliest memories, we can all remember being taught those precious words, "Hail Mary, Full of Grace." This year's Catholic Women's Conference will delve deeply into the meaning and beauty of those words and the special relationship all women have with Mary, the Mother of God. We pray to her for the safety of our children and our families, to protect the unborn, to guide us as we navigate an increasingly

complex and harsh world. The conference will help attendees explore their own special relationship with Mary and realize the beauty and grace of being a woman in modern times.

This year's keynote speaker, Colleen Carroll Campbell, will share her incredible journey of success as a presidential speech writer, the youngest op-ed columnist for the St. Louis Post Dispatch as well as her numerous appearances in television, radio and print to being a sleep deprived mother of twins wondering if she could do it all.

Her spiritual journey led to her acclaimed book, "The Heart of Perfection."

In her work she explores the perfectionism that was almost her downfall. 'Tiger Moms,' 'Helicopter Coaches,' and 'Work Martyrs,' along with today's social media where everyone seems to have a perfect life, people are stressed and unhappy, feeling that imperfection is failure. In exploring how to be kinder and gentler with herself and her family, she discovered that she had become a spiritual perfectionist. By studying scriptures and the lives of the saints, she found the tools to live a grace-filled life that is the gift of God's love.

As mothers and caregivers, women say a prayer to the holy mother each time their children leave the house, pick up the car keys, or leave for college. For most, those prayers are answered with the safe return of our children, the sound of the car pulling in the driveway, the quick text from a college freshmen telling us everything is ok. Featured speaker

Debra Hadley was living such a life when tragedy struck. Her young adult daughter died of a sudden epileptic fit. While trying to process her own grief and that of her family, her teenage son was killed in an automobile accident with three of his friends, throwing not just Deb into despair, but her whole community. Deb will share her heartfelt message of love and her journey from the depths of despair to rediscovering her faith and restoring her will to live and to reach out to others.

Dunmore native Megan Murphy, a Catholic speaker, teacher, and evangelist will talk about the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, which all focus on Our

Mother, Mary. As each prayer of the rosary is said, a candle will be lit. When the rosary is completed, the room will be aglow with an illuminated candlelit rosary. Guiding the participants through the day will be Olyphant native and founder of the "15 Minute Rosary" Natalie Gubala-Magdon. Mass will be celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton. Worship artist Molly McManus will provide inspirational music throughout the day. Participants can also enjoy a continental breakfast, lunch and shopping at the Catholic Vendor Marketplace.

Cost to attend the conference is \$45 for in person (\$50 after May 29). Student tickets are \$20, and women religious are welcome free of charge. Volunteers are always needed and those who sign up for four hours at the conference will receive a free ticket. For more information and to register, visit [cwcnepa.com](http://cwcnepa.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.



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## Divine Mercy services set for April 24

PLAINS — Father John Lambert, pastor, announces Saints Peter & Paul Parish in Plains will host the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 24, in the parish church, located at 13 Hudson Road.

Serving as principal celebrant and homilist for the Divine Mercy celebration will be Saint Joseph Oblate Father Paul McDonnell, sacramental minister at Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish, Pittston, and rector of the Oblates of Saint Joseph community and chapel in Laflin.

The day's services will begin at 12:30 p.m. with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and recitation of the Holy Rosary. Veneration and blessing of the Divine Mercy image and celebration of the Sunday Mass will follow at 2 p.m.

At 3 p.m., the "Hour of Mercy" opens with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song.

Benediction and blessing with the first-class relic of Saint Faustina will conclude the celebration.

All faithful are welcome to attend the Divine Mercy Sunday devotion and liturgy.

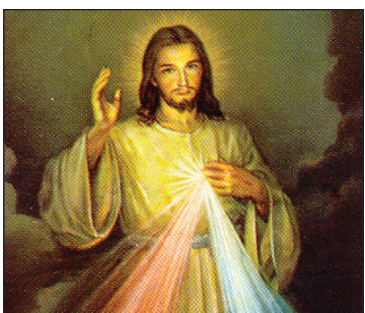
For more information, contact Cathy Mack, Divine Mercy Cenacle leader and feast day coordinator, at (570) 654-6063.

## IHM Sisters to offer virtual prayer evening

SCRANTON — The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters will continue their monthly "Evenings of Prayer with the Sisters of IHM" on Wednesday, May 11.

The ongoing series of prayer devotions celebrates a specific theme each month relating to IHM history and the religious community's charism.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the



### Saint Lucy Parish in West Scranton

Host pastor Father Sam Ferretti and Deacon Carmine Mendicino, coordinator for the feast day, announce Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated on April 24 at Saint Lucy Church, 949 Scranton St., West Scranton.

The Divine Mercy service opens with recitation of the Rosary and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with the opportunity for sacramental confessions, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy begins at 3 p.m., followed by solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and blessing with the relic of Saint Faustina.

A social gathering with refreshments in Mother Cabrini Hall will conclude the Divine Mercy celebration. For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 347-9421.

Evenings of Prayer are offered via videostreaming on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Participants may access the devotions at: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/ihm-tv>.

The theme for the May service is: "Interculturality Prayer."

For more information, contact the IHM Sisters at (570) 346-5404 or [communications@sistersofihm.org](mailto:communications@sistersofihm.org).



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## 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 Respeto 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.

Por eso, información respecto a una alegación del asunto sexual de un menor de edad, debe ser reportada a la Coordinadora Diocesana de Asistencia para Las Víctimas, Mary Beth Pacuska, a (570) 862-7551.



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# Enthronement Mass slated in Sayre

SAYRE — The Diocesan Enthronement Guild of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary will host a special Mass of Enthronement on Wednesday, May 18, at 6 p.m. at Epiphany Parish in Sayre.

Father Dan Toomey, the host pastor who also serves as spiritual moderator of the Enthronement Guild, will be principal celebrant for the Mass.

The Sacred Heart Music Ministry, under the direction of Ernie Pappa, will provide the liturgical music beginning with a prelude of contemporary selections at 5:45 p.m.

Further information and talks on the Sacred Heart Enthronement will be provided at Epiphany Parish during the weekend Masses on April 30-May 1. Individuals and parishes will have the opportunity to reserve enthronement packets at this time.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart apostolate enables



**Father Dan Toomey**

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 celebration in church with prayerful devotion in their own private settings.

Anyone interested in enthrone their home and family to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary may register to receive an Enthronement packet by contacting Maria Pappa, coordinator of the Enthronement Guild, at (570) 241-8171. Enthronement renewals are also available.

## *Marian Devotion Rosary prayer services*

SCRANTON — Dedicated to promoting prayerful devotion to Jesus and Mary through recitation of the Holy Rosary, Marian Devotion Ministries in the Diocese of Scranton continues to lead its 2022 Fatima Rosary Journey, which will culminate in October — the Month of the Holy Rosary.

Prayer rallies and Rosary evenings are hosted throughout the Diocese and include the Rosary with chanted Scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and hymns.

Upcoming Marian Devotion events are scheduled as follows:

**Easter Monday Rosary** — April 18, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. Service also includes Fatima prayers, hymns, litany and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**May Sunday Rosary Rally** — May 15, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Marian Grotto on the grounds of Saint Lucy Church (behind the rectory), 949 Scranton St., West Scranton.

**May Sunday Rosary Rally** — May 15, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Marian Grotto on the grounds of the Oblates of Saint Joseph Seminary, Route 315, Laflin. Rosary devotion will be followed by celebration of Sunday Mass at 7 p.m. in the seminary chapel.

**Third Monday of the Month Rosary** — May 16, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Oblates of Saint Joseph Chapel, Route 315, Laflin. Service also includes Fatima prayers, hymns, litany and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

For more information, contact Ernie Pappa at (570) 241-8171 or email: [singtomary@aol.com](mailto:singtomary@aol.com).



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With their Irish heritage and credo of "Friendship, Loyalty and Christian Charity" proudly on display, members of the Ladies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH), Division 4, in Lackawanna County celebrated the 25th anniversary of their founding during the recent 60th annual Scranton Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, principal celebrant and homilist for this year's liturgy, bestowed a special blessing upon the Irish women of the LAOH in attendance and posed for a picture with the group outside the Scranton cathedral following the Mass.

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## Ministry to host education series on mental health

SCRANTON — The Scranton Mental Health Ministry at the Cathedral of Saint Peter is offering a five-part series for all families on mental health and mental illness to reduce stigma and discrimination through education and factual information about mental health conditions.

The series, which reinforces the core Christian belief that everyone has dignity and value and should be fully welcomed into the Church and community, will be held on five consecutive Tuesday evenings — April 19, April 26, May 3, May 10 & May 17 — from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Diocese of Scranton Pastoral Center, Second Floor Conference Room, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton.

The schedule of topics for the five weekly presentations follows:

**April 19** — The Impact of Mental Illness on Individuals & Families; **April 26** — Spirituality & Mental Health; **May 3** — Spend an Evening with a Mental Health Professional; **May 10** — Mental Health Resources in the Community; and **May 17** — Companionship & Mental Health Ministry in Our Parishes.

Though not required, reservations are requested by calling (570) 344-7231.

For further information, contact Deacon Ed Shoener at Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish at [DeaconEd@StPetersCathedral.org](mailto:DeaconEd@StPetersCathedral.org).

### *Williamsport parish events*

Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Williamsport, will host a Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 7, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish hall, 720 West Fourth St.

On Sunday, May 8, the parish will host a Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet, presented by Knights of Columbus Council 366, from 9 a.m. to noon in the parish hall.

For information on both events, call (570) 323-9456.



# Catholic colleges to stage spring commencement ceremonies

DALLAS — The Misericordia University Alumni Association will present its Honorary Alumni Award to well-known Scranton diocesan priest, Monsignor John “Jack” Bendik, during Misericordia’s spring commencement weekend ceremonies next month.

A member of the Misericordia Board of Trustees since 1994 and former chaplain at the university, Monsignor Bendik will be honored during the Misericordia graduation exercises on Saturday, May 14, with the graduate student commencement planned for 10 a.m., followed by the undergraduate commencement at 2 p.m. Both events will be held in the Anderson Sports and Health Center on campus.

Misericordia’s 96th annual spring commencement ceremonies will open on Friday, May 13, with a baccalaureate liturgy followed by a reception and awards presentation.

According to Alumni Board President Adam Grzech, Monsignor Bendik is being recognized for his selfless devotion to the university.

Ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Scranton in 1967, Monsignor Bendik ministered as Catholic chaplain to the students at East Stroudsburg University for more than 10 years prior to being assigned the campus chaplaincy at Misericordia in 1981.

Monsignor’s 55 years of priesthood have included several pastoral roles, which culminated with two decades of service as pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston prior to his retiring from active ministry in 2017.

In retirement, Monsignor Bendik recently accepted the position of administrator *pro tem* at Saint André Besette Parish in Wilkes-Barre.

## Educational Leader is Marywood Speaker

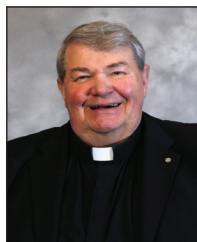
A leader in education, workforce development, volunteer service, and public policy over the past four decades has been slated as the keynote speaker for the spring commencement exercises at Marywood University.

Thomas Foley, J.D., president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), will address the Marywood graduates at this year’s ceremonies on Saturday, May 14, at 1 p.m. at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre Township.

One of 12 children and the grandson of Irish immigrants, Foley earned his juris doctorate from Yale Law School. While a student at Yale, he spent two years as a full-time volunteer with the Nobel Prize-winning Peace People in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Foley became the youngest Secretary of Labor and Industry in Pennsylvania history when he was appointed by the late Governor Robert P. Casey, after which he joined the U.S. Department of Labor, leading efforts on lifelong learning and workplace safety and earning the Secretary’s Award for Exemplary Public Service.

Prior to assuming his leadership role at AICUP, Foley served for nearly a decade as the president of Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Cambria County. He has worked extensively in Washington, D.C., on issues involving peace and justice in Northern Ireland and Central America and has written on a wide range of public policy topics.



**Monsignor Bendik**

CTV: CATHOLIC TELEVISION								330 Wyoming Ave. Scranton, PA 18503 (570) 207-2219		
APRIL SCHEDULE										
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
12:00 AM	DAILY MASS	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	DAILY MASS (Encore)							
1:00 AM	FR SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	(1:10AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	THE JOURNEY HOME (Encore)	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE CLASSICS	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH			
1:30 AM		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)							
2:00 AM	LIVING DIVINE MERCY		EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY	EWTN GALLERY			
2:30 AM	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS		SPECIALS		REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	LIFE ON THE ROCK	BATTLE READY	FINDING ALL THINGS IN GOD		
3:00 AM		EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	DOMINICAN SISTERS		AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY (Call in thurs)		AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY			
3:30AM	LENTEN PARISH MISSION		METANOIA	SIGNS OF LIFE	GOSPEL GLIMPSES	BOB AND PENNY LORD	WEB OF FAITH 2.0	SAVORING OUR FAITH		
4:00 AM	EWTN LIVE (Encore)	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR GROESCHEL	JOURNEY THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES	PAPAL AUDIENCE(4:15)	MATTHEW'S TESTIMONY TO JESUS		METANOIA	ICONS		
4:30 AM		EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	REFLECTIONS (5:15)	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	EWTN SPECIALS	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS			
5:00 AM	THE REFORMATION	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	CATHOLIC SPHERE			CATHOLICS COME HOME			
5:30 AM	WHERE GOD WEEPS	EWTN ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS								
6:00 AM	ANGELUS WITH POPE FRANCIS	G.K. CHESTERTON	CHURCH AND THE POOR	LENTEN REFLECTIONS	SAINTS VS SCOUNDRELS	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE			
6:30 AM	THE HERESIES	THE CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL							STATIONS OF THE CROSS	CHAPLET OF ST. MICHAEL
7:00 AM		HOLY LAND ROSARY								
7:30 AM	THE HOLY ROSARY	LITANY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	LITANY OF THE HOLY NAME	LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH	LITANY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD	LITANY OF SACRED HEART	THE HOLY ROSARY			
7:50 AM		DAILY MASS (Live)								
8:00 AM	SUNDAY MASS (Live)	HOLY ROSARY WITH THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE ETERNAL WORD								
9:00 AM	(9:20AM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	SUNDAY BEST WITH FR. GROESCHEL	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	EWTN LIVE (ENCORE)	THE WORLD OVER (Encore)	THE ROAMIN' CATHOLIC			
9:30 AM	EWTN ROSARY FRANCISCANS	RELIGIOUS CATALOG					IMAGE OF GOD			
10:00 AM	<b>SUNDAY MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL</b>	CHOICES WE FACE	MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE	LIVE WITH PASSION	<b>FOCUS</b>	CATHOLIC CLASSICS	CAT CHAT			
10:30 AM		<b>OFOD/LIVE WITH PASSION/SPECIALS</b>		<b>ST ANN'S WEEKLY NOVENA</b>	<b>MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD</b>	AT HOME WITH JIM AND JOY				
11:00 AM	EWTN NEWS IN-DEPTH	EUCHARISTIC JOURNEY	THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS	THE EUCHARIST	SACRAMENTS THROUGH THE AGES	PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST	BOB & PENNY LORD PRESENT			
11:30 AM		<b>THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, LIVE AT 12:10 p.m.</b>								
12:00 PM	SUNDAY MASS (Encore)	"DIOCESAN DATEBOOK" airs before and after Mass.							EWTN DAILY MASS (Encore)	
12:30PM	(1:20PM) LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART	WOMEN OF GRACE								
1:00 PM		AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	PRO LIFE WEEKLY	AT HOME WITH JIM & JOY	<b>CHOICES WE FACE/OFOD</b>	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MERCY			
1:30 PM	IN CONCERT	CALL TO COMMUNION	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	THE JOURNEY HOME	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN ON LOCATION			
2:00 PM		LENT: A SEASON OF GRACE				STATIONS OF CROSS				
2:30 PM		THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN SONG								
3:00 PM		LIVE ADORATION FROM EWTN CHAPEL								
3:20 PM		<b>THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)</b>							ROSARY FROM LOURDES	
3:30 PM	THE ROSARY FROM LOURDES	<b>THE HOLY ROSARY</b>							<b>SUNDAY VIGIL MASS ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL</b>	
4:00 PM	VATICANO	<b>DIOCESAN DATEBOOK</b>								
4:30 PM	SAVORING OUR FAITH	IMAGE OF GOD	MY CATHOLIC FAMILY	TRUTH IN THE HEART	CAT CHAT	MY TIME WITH JESUS				
5:00 PM	THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL	EWTN BOOKMARK	THE CHOICES WE FACE	EWTN RELIGIOUS CATALOGUE	POLISH CATHOLIC	THEY MIGHT BE SAINTS	GRAB YOUR CATECHISM			
5:30 PM	<b>SUNDAY PASSIONIST MASS</b>	TSPECIALS								
6:00 PM	<b>SUNDAY MASS FROM ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL</b>	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Live)								
6:30 PM		LIFE IS WORTH LIVING	CATHOLIC SPHERE	LIVING DIVINE MERCY	VATICANO	THE WILL OF GOD	WALSINGHAM STORIES			
7:00 PM		<b>THE DAILY MASS FROM ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, (Encore)</b>							DAILY MASS	
7:30PM	SUNDAY MASS	THE HOLY ROSARY								
8:00 PM	(8:20) LITANY OF SACRED HEART	DIOCESAN DATEBOOK								
8:30 PM	CATHOLICS COME HOME	THE JOURNEY HOME (Live)	<b>OFOD OR SPECIALS (CAN BE 90 MINUTES)</b>	EWTN LIVE	THE WORLD OVER (Live)	EWTN NEWS IN DEPTH				
9:00 PM	LIFE ON THE ROCK	EWTN NEWS NIGHTLY (Encore)								
9:30 PM	HOLY ROSARY W MOTHER ANGELICA	WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN	THE CHOICES WE FACE	<b>FOCUS</b>	LIVE WITH PASSION	<b>WEEKLY NOVENA TO ST. ANN</b>				
10:00PM		THE WORLD OVER LIVE (ENCORE)	SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION (ENCORE)	FR. SPITZER'S UNIVERSE	PRO-LIFE WEEKLY	LIFE ON THE ROCK	LIVING RIGHT WITH DR. RAY			
10:30 PM	EWTN SPECIALS				DEFENDING LIFE	ICONS SPOTLIGHT				
11:00PM	CATHOLIC BEGINNINGS	BATTLE READY	LONG RIDE HOME	LENTEN REFLECTIONS	REAL LIFE CATHOLIC	WOMEN OF GRACE HOUR LONG	WEB OF FAITH			
11:30PM	CATHOLIC VIEW FOR WOMEN	WOMEN OF GRACE								
									EWTN BOOKMARK	





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## Catholic Happenings Around the Diocese

**Weekly Bereavement Support Group Sessions** — APRIL 18-MAY 23, sponsored by St. Vincent Parish in Milford; series of weekly support meetings addressing the grief process held on Mondays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the parish hall of St. John Neumann, 705 Route 739, Lords Valley. All are welcome. Registration required by contacting the parish office at (570) 686-4545 or online at: stvgriefgroup@att.net.

**Weekly Novena Devotion to Saint Anthony of Padua** — APRIL 19-JUNE 7, hosted by Our Lady of Hope Parish, 40 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre; 13-week Saint Anthony Novena devotion held on consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the parish church. Novena theme: "Life & Spirituality of Father Walter Ciszek, S.J., Servant of God." All faithful are welcome; for more information, call (570) 824-7832.

**Cornhole Games Event Fundraiser** — APRIL 23, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus to benefit their Coats for Kids campaign; opens with registration at 10 a.m. at the Gate

of Heaven gymnasium in Dallas, with games starting at 11 a.m. Registration fee: \$50 for each two-person team; competition is double elimination. Event will feature two classifications: competitive and social; prizes awarded to all winners. Refreshments will be available for purchase during the day. Advance registration encouraged by contacting Bill Leandri at wleandri@aol.com or (570) 417-1212.

**Theme Basket Auction Fundraiser** — APRIL 24, sponsored by Catholic Social Services in the Greater Hazleton area; event hosted by Queen of Heaven Parish in Madonna Hall at the parish worship site of Our Lady of Grace Church, 750 North

Vine St., Hazleton. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.; drawings begin at 2 p.m. Featuring numerous theme gift baskets, lottery boards and gift certificates; food items, treats and beverages for sale. Saturday Night Preview sale from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All proceeds benefit Catholic Social Services programs.

**Rummage Sale** — APRIL 28 & 29, sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Mothers of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 115 Hughes St., Swoyersville; held in the school gymnasium. Sale hours: Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday (\$2 Bag Day), 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, contact Lori Raymond at (570) 287-6624 or setonpa@aol.com.

*Continued on next page*

### Milford children lead 'Way of the Cross'



Elementary and middle school students in the Children's Faith Formation program at Saint Patrick Parish in Milford had a prominent role in the recent dramatic presentation — in image, word and song — of the events of Jesus' Passion and Death known as the "Way of the Cross," or "Via Crucis." Children in the parish's catechetical program displayed poster images depicting Christ's journey to Calvary on that first Good Friday, with each scene narrated by Deacon Mike Calafiore. Musical accompaniment was provided by Maggie Marley and Rich Gherardi of Saint Patrick's music ministry, who performed verses from the well-known Passion hymn "Were You There?"



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### Spring Craft Fair — APRIL

30, hosted by the Altar & Rosary Society of St. Joseph Marello Parish in Pittston; held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish center at 237 William St., Pittston. Fair includes numerous displays by dozens of specialty vendors featuring arts & crafts and other goods for sale; food and beverages also available for purchase. For more information, contact Pattie at: pgregorio@frontier.com.

**Designer Purse Bingo — APRIL 30**, sponsored by St. Ann Basilica Parish in West Scranton; doors open at 5 p.m. at St. Stanislaus PNCC Youth Center, 530 E. Elm St., Scranton. Games begin at 6 p.m.; event includes 20 games, specials, theme basket and cash raffles. Tickets cost \$25, in advance; \$30, at door.

**Grief Journey Session: Loss of a Spouse — MAY 1**, hosted by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lake Silkworth from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. To register, contact the parish office at (570) 477-5040.

**Designer Purse Bingo Games Party — MAY 1**, sponsored by the Ladies of Mary Society of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, Hanover Township; hosted at the Warrior Run Fire Hall, 316

Applause St., Warrior Run. Doors open at 11 a.m. and games begin at 1 p.m. Admission cost: \$20 for 20 regular games; event also includes four specials, prizes, and raffles. For tickets, call Jill at (570) 550-7030, or visit: www.exhc.org.

**Nazareth Day: A Day with the Sisters — MAY 7**, offered by the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth for young women, in grades eight thru 12, to experience the joy and life of the Capuchin Sisters in their convent setting. Retreat day experience held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mother of God Convent, 215 Wellwood Drive, Tunkhannock: Anyone interested in attending is asked to call Sister Margaret at (570) 836-2737. Visit the Capuchin Sisters website at: cnsisters.com.

**Drive-Thru Potato Pancake Fest — MAY 21 & 22**, sponsored by the Men's Club of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish, 420 Main Road, Hanover Township; drive-thru sale held on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Cost: eight potato pancakes for \$10; patrons are limited to 40 pancakes per vehicle. Entrance from the Sans Souci Highway. For more information, call (570) 823-6242, or visit: www.exhc.org.

## Prayer Requests for Priests

The Daily Prayer Request for Priests schedule is as follows:

April 14, Father Robert Antonelli; April 15, Father Stephen Asomah; April 16, Monsignor Thomas Banick; April 17, Father David Bechtel; April 18, Father Richard Beck; April 19, Saint Joseph Oblate Father Mariusz Beczek; April 20, Jesuit Father John Begley; April 21, Monsignor John Bendik; April 22, Monsignor John Bergamo; April 23, Father Eric Bergman; April 24, Father Jacek Bialkowski; April 25, Monsignor David Bohr; April 26, Passionist Father Vincent Boney; April 27, Father John Boyle; April 28, Father Michael Bryant; April 29, Passionist Father Richard Burke; April 30, Father Cyril Edwards, V.E.; May 1, Pope Francis; May 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; May 3, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera; May 4, Father Joseph Elston; May 5, Monsignor John Esseff; May 6, Father Joseph Evanko; May 7, Monsignor William Feldcamp; May 8, Father Neftali Feliz-Sena; May 9, Father Samuel Ferretti; May 10, Father Michael Finn; May 11, Father Richard Fox; May 12, Father Martin Gaiardo; May 13, Father J. Duane Gavitt; May 14, Father Anthony Generose; May 15, Father Richard Ghezzi; May 16, Father Ryan Glenn; May 17, Holy Cross Father Anthony Grasso; May 18, Father Joseph Greskiewicz; May 19, Monsignor Vincent Grimalia; May 20, Father Louis Grippe; May 21, Father Eugene Gunning; May 22, Father Gerald Gurka; May 23, Passionist Father Lee Havey; May 24, Father Robert Hochreiter.

### Annual Parish Golf

**Tournament — MAY 22**, sponsored by Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca in memory of Tony "Cooper" Blaskiewicz; at Pine Hills Country Club, 140 S. Keyser Ave., Taylor. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.; shotgun start with captain & crew format follows at 8:30 a.m. Cost: \$90 per golfer, includes prizes and post-tournament dinner at Pine Hills. For more information, contact the parish office at (570) 457-3412.

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All of this is only possible through the dedicated service of our staff and volunteers, and your generous financial support for the annual Host for a Day campaign. For a donation of \$100 or more, an individual, a family, a business, a community organization or faith-based group can help sponsor a day's meal at the Kitchen and be recognized as a "host" of that meal.



Now more than ever, our brothers and sisters in need are relying on us for help. Thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations in our community, Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen continues to serve the most needy among us with hot, nutritious meals each day.

All past contributors to the campaign are receiving an appeal directly from the Kitchen through the mail. Donations can also be made by:

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The culmination of the campaign will be marked with a Virtual Celebration consisting of a pre-recorded program. The release date will be Wednesday, April 27, at 6 p.m. on [www.facebook.com/stfranciskitchen](http://www.facebook.com/stfranciskitchen). Those who would like to sponsor the Virtual Reception are asked to call the Kitchen at 570-342 5556.





## Pope asks families to write 2022 Way of the Cross meditations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Catholic volunteer and assistance Pope Francis has asked several families to write the prayers and meditations for his Stations of the Cross service at Rome’s Colosseum on Good Friday.

The request comes during the year Pope Francis asked Catholics to dedicate to families and to a rereading of “Amoris Laetitia,” his exhortation on the family, which was published in 2016.

The authors of the texts to be used for the nighttime service April 15 are “families linked to

communities and associations,” said Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office.

Families also will carry the cross between the stations at the Colosseum, he said. Those chosen will reflect the focus of each prayer and meditation – for example, migrants and refugees or the elderly or those caring for a person with a disability.

In 2020 and 2021, the service was scaled down and held in St. Peter’s Square because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Pope Francis speaks during the Way of the Cross in 2016.(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

## U.S. Catholics urged to donate to Good Friday Collection for Holy Land

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In an economy hit hard by the pandemic and the lack of pilgrimages and other tourism for two years, Christians in the Holy Land “are in desperate need of support,” said an April 5 news release about the 2022 Good Friday Collection that continues to support the work of the Franciscans of the Holy Land.

The Washington-based Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America issued the release about the collection taken up at the request of the Holy Father in most parishes around the world on Good Friday.

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of Washington shared a video encouraging support of the collection.

“Without pilgrims for the past two years, our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land have particularly suffered,” he said in

his message. “What’s at stake is not only the dwindling number of Christians in the Holy Land, but also the preservation of the very places made holy by the life, death and resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.”

He urged all Catholics to donate to the collection at their local parish church the Friday before Easter.

The collection is administered by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land and the Congregation for Eastern Churches.

The funds collected are used to pay salaries of Custody employees – including teachers; maintain Franciscan sanctuaries; support tuition subsidies at the Custody’s schools; and provide university scholarships. The funds also support projects in the Holy Land, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Turkey, Iran and Iraq.

## The Catholic Light

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