



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

May 9, 2024

**Missionary Image of Our Lady of
Guadalupe to visit Diocese starting
Friday**



A Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will visit several churches in the Diocese of Scranton starting tomorrow.

The Missionary Image is an exact digital replica (4' x 6') of the original Miraculous Image of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, which she left on Saint Juan Diego's cloak (tilma) in Mexico on Dec. 12, 1531.

The Image was blessed at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico by Monsignor Diego Monroy, Rector, for the mission of promoting sanctity of the family, solidarity of the Church in America, a culture of life, and a civilization of love.

The Image visiting churches in the Diocese of Scranton between May 10-16, and others like it, have journeyed throughout the world. The Images have visited every state in the United States, including more than 1,000 parishes and have received the veneration of hundreds of thousands of people. There have been hundreds of Masses, Confessions, hours of

adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosaries in the presence of the Images.

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

Parishes around the Diocese begin holding First Holy Communion Masses



The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the source and summit and life of the Catholic Church, as well as the sacrament of unity among Christ, its head, and his members.

Through the invocation of the Holy Spirit and Christ's words of Institution, bread and wine become the sacramental Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Parishes around the Diocese of Scranton are in the midst of holding First Holy Communion for children who have been baptized in the Catholic faith.

The Diocese of Scranton Communications Office has established a page on its website to showcase the special celebrations in parishes. All parishes have been invited to send photos from their celebrations during the month of May.

[Click Here to See the First Holy Communion Photos That Have Been Provided By Parishes Around the Diocese](#)

**Supporting Catholic media through
collection connects 'World with Christ'**

 **Connect with Christ**

SUPPORT the Catholic Communication Campaign

 WWW.USCCB.ORG/CCC  Catholic Communication Campaign
CONNECT WITH CHRIST

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The annual collection for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign takes place in most U.S. parishes during Masses the weekend of May 11-12.

Half of the gifts to the diocesan collection stay in the participating diocese where they support the local diocese's communications programs. The

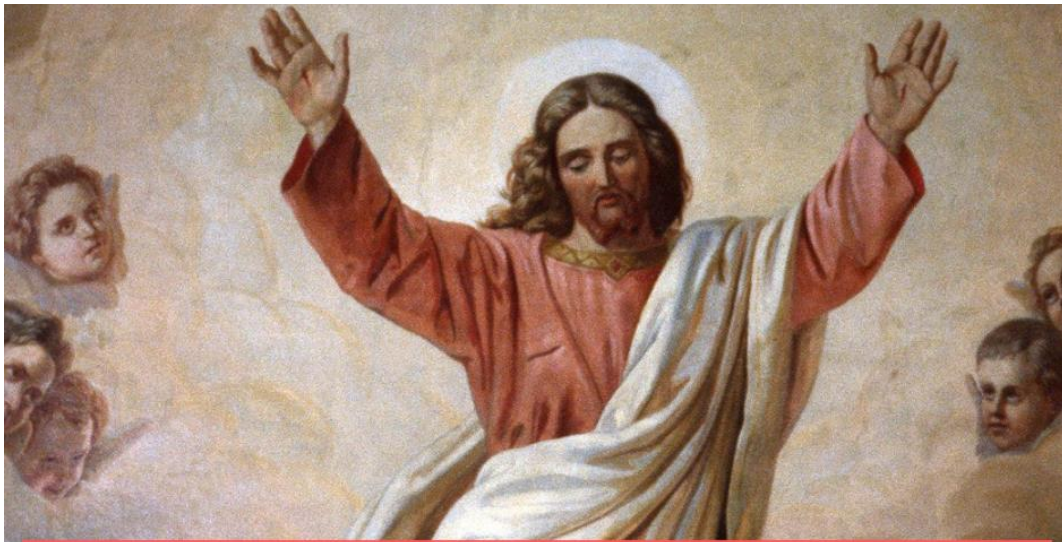
other half supports communication activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and some projects across the United States and abroad, according to an April 29 USCCB news release.

“Jesus called us to take his message of love, mercy, and salvation to the ends of the earth,” said Atlanta Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Subcommittee on Catholic Communication Campaign. “His first disciples reached hearts eager to hear this message by preaching to crowds, writing letters, and personal encounters with people they met on their travels.”

Today, Jesus’ disciples “share this same message of hope through videos, podcasts and social media,” which is what the Catholic Communication Campaign “is all about,” he wrote in a column provided to OSV News.

[Click Here For More Information on the Catholic Communications Campaign](#)

CTV Broadcast Masses for the Ascension of the Lord



Ascension of the Lord
Broadcast Masses on CTV

12:10 p.m.

**Livestream only because of Canada National March for
Life coverage**

3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Today is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation.

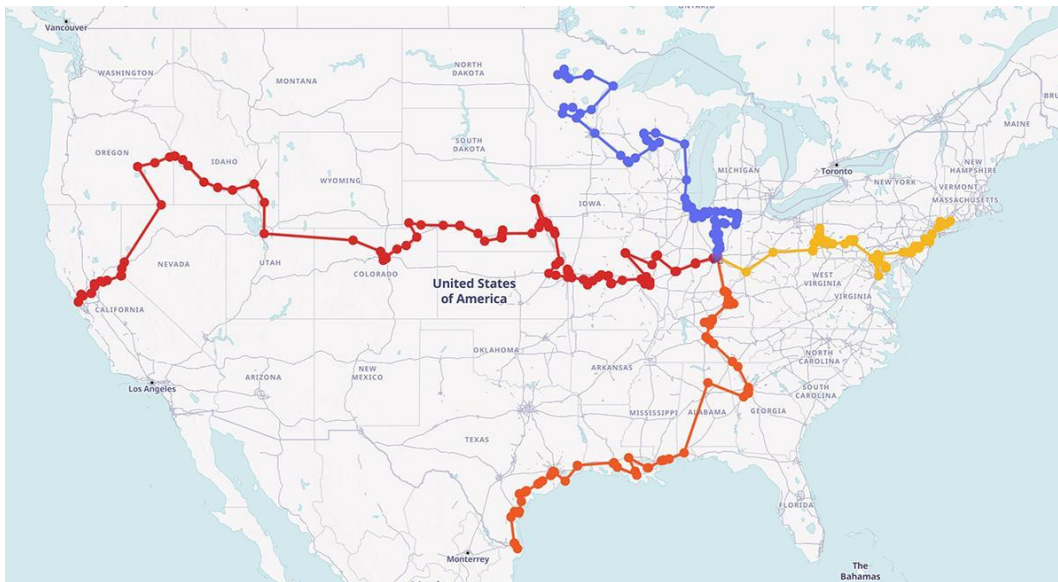
For 40 days after His resurrection on Easter Sunday, the Bible says that Jesus travelled and preached with his apostles, preparing them for his departure from Earth.

Today's Solemnity marks the moment Jesus literally ascended into heaven before His disciples, at the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem on the 40th day after Easter.

Because of EWTN's extended coverage of Canada's National March for Life today, the regular 12:10 p.m. Mass broadcast from the *Cathedral of Saint Peter* in Scranton will be livestream only - available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and social media platforms.

The Cathedral Mass will be broadcast upon the conclusion of the Mass for Life coverage at 3:30 p.m. as well as 7:00 p.m.

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage pilgrims to walk among American saints on Eastern route



By boats, over bridges and along byways, pilgrims on the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage's eastern route will accompany the Eucharist to many sites associated with America's saints as they make their way across eight states and the District of Columbia.

Beginning in New Haven, Connecticut, May 18, the day before Pentecost, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route is one of four National Pilgrimage Routes that will converge in Indianapolis ahead of the July 17-21 National Eucharistic Congress. The pilgrimage and the congress are part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that launched in 2022.

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

Vatican to publish updated norms for investigating alleged apparitions



The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith will publish its new norms for the discernment of apparitions and other supernatural phenomena May 17, the Vatican press office said.

Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the dicastery, and Msgr. Armando Matteo, secretary of the doctrinal section of the dicastery, will present the document at a news conference, the press office announced May 7.

The last time the Vatican's doctrinal office issued norms for evaluating alleged apparitions and reports of supernatural events was in February 1978.

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

Pope calls pastors to be 'missionaries of Synodality'



Pope Francis signed a letter on synodality in the presence of parish priests and urged them to be “missionaries of synodality,” said several of the priests present.

Father Donald J. Planty Jr., pastor of St. Charles Church in Arlington, Virginia, and one of the U.S. pastors at the meeting, said, “He told us, ‘I want you to take this letter, and I want you to put it into action. I want you to share it and speak to your bishops about it and speak to your brother pastors about it.’”

The pope signed the letter May 2 as he met with more than 200 parish priests in the Vatican Synod Hall. The meeting came at the end of an April 29-May 2 gathering designed as an opportunity for the priests to share their experiences and offer input for the drafting of the working document for the Synod of Bishops on synodality’s second assembly in October.

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

**Jubilee Countdown: Preparations for 2025 Holy Year
move into high gear**



For more than 700 years, the Catholic Church has celebrated “jubilee” or “holy” years as special times to renew people’s faith and experience God’s forgiveness, particularly by going on pilgrimage.

The official Vatican website for the Holy Year 2025 — www.iubilaeum2025.va — says, “In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a ‘Holy Year,’ since it is a time in which God’s holiness transforms us.”

Popes typically announce a jubilee every 25 years, although extraordinary holy years have been proclaimed for special anniversaries and occasions — for example, the Holy Year 1983 marked the 1,950th anniversary of Christ’s death and resurrection, and the 2015-2106 Jubilee of Mercy called all Catholics to reflect on God’s mercy and compassion.

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

**Access to aid in Gaza should not be a
'bargaining chip,' Caritas says as people
face 'full-blown famine'**



Israel's escalation in Rafah is only worsening the humanitarian situation for countless men, women and children caught in the crossfire, said Ireneusz Krause, deputy director for Caritas Poland.

In a statement released May 7, Krause said that Caritas Poland workers were on the ground and working to help the 'desperately hungry people trapped in the rubble of bombed cities, dying wounded, emaciated from thirst with no access to drinkable water, with no hope for help.'

"According to international law, humanitarian aid should reach the civilian victims of any conflict and access to it should never be one of the bargaining chips in negotiations," he said.

"Convoy crossings in a humanitarian crisis should be unquestionably open," Krause added.

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Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org