



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

July 4, 2024

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

**BLESSED IS THE
NATION WHOSE GOD
IS THE LORD**

Psalm 33:12

Hundreds attend Ordination Mass of Rev. William A. Asinari in Honesdale



Overwhelmed and amazed.

That is how Rev. William A. Asinari described feeling shortly after his Ordination Mass to the Priesthood on June 29, 2024.

"I am overwhelmed in the best way. All I can think of is God filling me with joy to the point where I overflow and it doesn't hurt. It doesn't feel overwhelming in a negative way. It feels like you've just got blessing upon blessing and all you can really do is just sit in it and enjoy it," Rev. Asinari said.

Hundreds of family, friends and fellow parishioners filled Saint John the Evangelist Church in Honesdale for the Ordination Mass. The Wayne County church is the place where Asinari grew up and first learned how to pray.

"I am overjoyed that the people who were here long before I was born, who've seen me since I was a little kid, who have watched me grow and have shaped me, get to be present for that moment where they can see the fruit of all of that throughout their lives and how much they cared and really supported me," Rev. Asinari added.

To view a brief video highlighting the Ordination Mass, click the thumbnail above. Additional coverage of the Mass will be in the July 18 edition of *The Catholic Light*.

[Click Here to Read Bishop Bambera's Full Homily from the Ordination Mass of Rev. William A. Asinari](#)

[Click Here to View a Photo Album from the June 29 Ordination Mass of Rev. William A. Asinari](#)

Luzerne County parish plans 'walking pilgrimage' on July 13



A traditional “walking pilgrimage” is being planned by Holy Spirit Parish for Saturday, July 13, starting at Saint Mary Church in Mocanaqua and concluding at Saint Adalbert Church in Glen Lyon.

The pilgrimage will begin at 8 a.m. with Confessions and prayers at Saint Mary Church, 130 Rectory Road, Mocanaqua.

The pilgrim brigade will then walk approximately six miles through the Mocanaqua Tract of the Pinchot State Forest, culminating with Holy Mass at Saint Adalbert’s. Lunch will be served and bus transportation back to Mocanaqua will be available.

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

Catholic Mental Health Ministry in Lackawanna County to begin offering spiritual support

Spiritual Support Group

Supported by the Mental Health Ministry community of The Church of St Gregory, Our Lady of Snows, and St John Vianney

A place where people with mental illness can find faith-filled supportive relationships and friendships.

- *The Spiritual Support Group provides a safe, supportive space for individuals (over 18 years old) who are living with mental illness. They are given the ability to speak out in a confidential, non-judgmental environment, where isolation and stigma dissipate and a supportive community is created.*
- **Our Goal** is to ensure that no one feels alone in his or her struggle. Sharing each other's stories can be a liberating and welcome break in the silence that often surrounds mental illness.

*Meetings will be held the **1st and 3rd** Wednesday of the month,*

at 6:30 pm at The Church of St Gregory

330 N Abington Rd., Clarks Green

Meetings will last about 90 minutes.

A Catholic Spiritual Support Group for those with mental illness has been established with the assistance of the Mental Health Ministry community from the parishes of Saint Gregory, Clarks Green; Our Lady of the Snows, Clarks Summit; and Saint John Vianney, Scott Township.

Beginning on Wednesday, July 3, meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Church of Saint Gregory, 330 North Abington Road, Clarks Green. Meetings will run approximately 90 minutes.

The Spiritual Support Group provides a safe, supportive space for individuals (18 years of age & older) who are living with mental illness. The group meetings will provide those in attendance the ability to speak out in a confidential, non-judgmental environment, where isolation and stigma dissipate, and a supportive community is created.

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

Pope: Heaven is for 'everyone, everyone,
everyone'



Heaven is not a secure vault protected from outsiders but a “hidden treasure” that is reached by cultivating virtues, Pope Francis said.

Before praying the Angelus in St. Peter’s Square on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul June 29, the pope reflected on Jesus giving St. Peter, the first pope, the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

“The mission that Jesus entrusts to Peter is not that of barring the doors to the house, permitting entry only to a few select guests, but of helping everyone to find the way to enter, in faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus,” Pope Francis said after celebrating Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

Heaven, he added, is “for everyone. Everyone, everyone, everyone can enter.”

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

Pope: Anointing of the sick offers strength to those seriously ill, elderly



**Let us pray that the Sacrament
of the Anointing of the Sick**

The sacrament of the anointing of the sick is not just for those who are nearing the end of their life, Pope Francis said.

“Let us remember that the anointing of the sick is one of the ‘sacraments of healing,’ of ‘restoration,’ that heals the spirit,” the pope said in a video message released July 2 by the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network.

The network posts a short video of the pope offering his specific prayer intention each month. For the month of July, the pope dedicated his prayer intention to the pastoral care of the sick.

“The anointing of the sick is not a sacrament only for those who are at the point of death,” the pope said, emphasizing “it is important that this is clear.”

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

Six things to expect at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis



With less than a month to go, more than 40,000 Catholics have registered for the National Eucharistic Congress, the pinnacle of the U.S. bishops' National Eucharistic Revival.

Organizers expect the July 17-21 congress, held in Indianapolis, to be a watershed moment, igniting American Catholics' belief in and devotion to Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist.

As of late June, around 40,000 people had registered for the congress's five-day pass, with thousands more signed up for single-day passes. That puts the congress's attendance, especially for its weekend events, close to Lucas Oil Stadium's 45,000-person capacity for this style of an event, said Tim Glemkowski, CEO of National Eucharistic Congress, Inc.

[Click Here to See the Six Things to Expect from the National Eucharistic Congress](#)

Open the church's doors to evangelization, pope tells new archbishops



While Jesus entrusted St. Peter with the keys to the kingdom more than two millennia ago, and his modern-day successor conferred apostolic authority to newly appointed archbishops June 29, it is ultimately God who holds the power to open the church's doors and lead the Christian community forward in its mission of evangelization, Pope Francis said.

Reflecting on the Apostle Peter's liberation from prison after an angel opened his cell, the pope said God "is the one who sets us free and opens the way before us" in his homily during Mass for the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul June 29.

He noted that the Christians Peter sought out after his liberation did not believe he was knocking at their door, mistaking him for an angel.

"This point is significant: the doors of the prison were opened by the Lord's strength, but Peter then found it hard to enter the house of the Christian community," he said. "How many times have communities not learned this wisdom of the need to open the doors!"

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

Ukrainian Catholic priests freed from Russian captivity



Two disappeared Ukrainian Greek Catholic priests seized by Russian forces from their church in Berdyansk in November 2022 have been released after months of captivity, according to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Redemptorist Fathers Ivan Levitsky and Bohdan Geleta, who served at the Church of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos in Berdyansk, were among 10 prisoners who have been returned to Ukrainian authorities.

“Thank you to everyone who did everything possible so that we can breathe our own air. It is hard to believe that I am in my native land,” said Father Levitsky after his release, according to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church’s website.

Zelenskyy announced the news in Ukrainian June 28 on his Facebook page.

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

Parish picnic, bazaar and festival season continues in July



Church picnics, bazaars and festivals are a summertime tradition in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. They are much more than fundraisers, they bring together communities.

For several years, the Diocese of Scranton's Communications Office has maintained a webpage for all of the summer festivals for parishioners to enjoy.

Parishes are invited to send information regarding their events to info@dioceseofscranton.org and the list will continue to be updated throughout the summer.

[Click Here to See the Full Listing of 2024 Parish Summer Picnics, Festivals and Bazaars that have been submitted to The Catholic Light](#)

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