

Diocese of Scranton  
**CATHOLIC**  
 SCHOOL SYSTEM  
 FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

*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.*



Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen benefitted greatly thanks to the students and faculty at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre**. Nearly 1,200 non-perishable items were collected so families could use them this holiday season.



The Mock Trial Team from **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** recently competed at the Monroe County Bar Association's Invitational Mock Trial Competition; at the conclusion, freshman Finn Naughton was named Best Witness.



The students and faculty at **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** received a special visit from St. Nicholas on his feast day; as he visited the school, he was thrilled to be accompanied by eighth grade elves. Learn more about all the school offers at its open house on Jan. 26 from noon to 2 p.m.



**Saint John Neumann Regional Academy, Williamsport**

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, recently celebrated Mass with the students, faculty, staff, and community in Lycoming County as part of his mission to say Mass at all 19 schools throughout the academic year. As part of his homily, the Bishop emphasized the miracle that takes place at every Mass – bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. And every time we receive Jesus, we are to become like him to others – feeding the poor, befriending new people, forgiving others, and most importantly, loving everyone.



**All Saints Academy, Scranton**

Learn more about all the school offers at its open house on Jan. 26 from 1 to 3 p.m.



Kindergarten students at **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** learned how to make and enjoy pumpkin pie just in time for Thanksgiving.



Service Club members at **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** proudly show some of the coats they collected this year to be donated to Friends of the Poor. Learn more about all the school offers at its open house on Jan. 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



The eighth grade class at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** presented "The Nativity" as part of the school's Christmas concert for families.



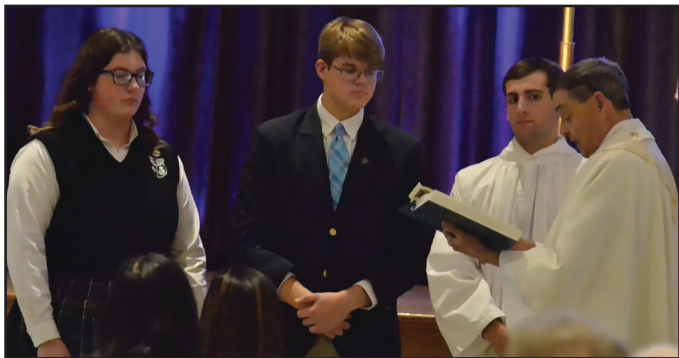
Students at **La Salle Academy in Jessup** worked together in their Viking Villages to make ornaments for the school's annual tree lighting event. Learn more about all the school offers at its open house on Jan. 26 from 1 to 3 p.m.



The community of **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** recently celebrated the school's "Merry & Bright Extravaganza" featuring a Living Nativity, cookie decorating, and a hot chocolate bar. The evening concluded with a Christmas Tree Blessing and the lighting of the Christmas Tree. Learn more about all the school offers at its open house on Jan. 26 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.



The excitement was contagious as these first graders attended the Santa's Workshop hosted by **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**. Learn more about all the school offers at its open house on Jan. 26 from 1 to 3 p.m.



Students at **Holy Cross High School in Dunmore** celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with liturgy. During the Mass, seniors Lucas Urban, Emma Woody and Zachary Kovaleski were commissioned to be Eucharistic ministers by school chaplain Father Cyril Edwards.



The first grade Falcons at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green** celebrated Saint Nicholas Day by experiencing some of the traditions of this special feast day!



Spreading Christmas Love! Students from **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** sing to residents at a local personal care home, brightening everyone's day with holiday cheer.



Pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first graders at **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** sit patiently and listen during the school's annual Advent Wreath ceremony.



Students in grades K-2 at **Saint Clare/ Saint Paul School in Scranton** had an introduction to coding and worked through the steps to move their "Fluff" through different mazes by controlling how it moved.



Students at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** are spreading holiday cheer through acts of kindness to benefit those in need. Paige Kaminsky and Amelia Cooley helped to stuff over 60 stockings with gifts for the patients at Janet Weis Children's Hospital. Learn more about all the school offers at its open house on Jan. 26 from noon to 2 p.m.



'Tis the season at **Epiphany School in Sayre** as the fifth and sixth graders showcased their musical talents during the school's Christmas concert. Learn more about the school at its open house on Jan. 26 from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

# Catholic School celebrates Feast Day of Saint Nicholas with sweet surprises

WILKES-BARRE – On the morning of December 6, there was a special excitement in the air at Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary School.

For many years, that particular day on the calendar has been among the most highly anticipated by students of all ages.

The reason? Each year, Saint Nicholas visits their school – going to each classroom – and leaving candy and treats behind for each student.

Second-grader Timothy Ellenburg said he knew Saint Nicholas was in the building when he heard bells ringing in the hallway.

When Saint Nicholas walked into his classroom, Ellenburg admitted being really excited.

“He asked us about what Saint Nicholas did and what our favorite candy was,” the young

student explained.

When Saint Nicholas left Ellenburg’s classroom, students found KitKats and Sour Patch Kids inside their shoes, which were lined up neatly in the hallway.

“He is a nice and joyful guy and he’s especially kind to kids,” Ellenburg added.

Over the years, the visit of Saint Nicholas has helped to showcase the beloved saint who was known for his generosity and love, especially for children. On his Feast Day, students are reminded that they can carry that spirit of giving and compassion into the world, just as Saint Nicholas did.

“It reminds us to be kind and do things like he does,” sixth-grader Griffin Matusiewicz said.

“It reminds us that a lot of people don’t have money or houses and



**Students from Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre received a visit from their patron, Saint Nicholas on Dec. 6, 2024. On his visit to each classroom, he reminded them of the importance of sharing. Learn more about all the school offers at its Open House on Jan. 26, 2025, from 2-4 p.m.**

we should be grateful for what we have.”

Chris Tighe, principal of Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary School, said the tradition of Saint Nicholas visiting the school began many years ago and is a great way to celebrate one of the patron saints of their school.

“We use the opportunity of any saint feast day to increase our faith, to learn what that saint taught us, and is still teaching us through the ages, and to incorporate that into our lives,” Tighe said.

The legend of Saint Nicholas is one of generosity, compassion and miracles. He was the bishop of Myra in Lycia (now Turkey) and used his inheritance to help the needy.

“Nicholas was very in touch with the needs of his people. He would do many things under the darkness of night, he would use this as cover, so the idea of

leaving a treat in the children’s shoes is reflective of that old tradition,” Tighe added.

John Rose, a lifelong parishioner of Saint Nicholas Church, had the honor of playing the role of Saint Nicholas this year.

“Saint Nicholas is certainly someone that the students can relate to,” Rose said.

As Rose traveled from classroom to classroom, he was struck by how much the students knew about their patron saint and he feels they truly understood the primary message of the day.

“The primary message is, everybody likes to receive gifts, but not everybody does and when there are people that don’t have the opportunity to receive gifts, and you have the opportunity to help them, that is what can be heartwarming and what the Catholic faith is all about,” Rose said.

**Diocese of Scranton Presents 2025 Jubilee**

*Pilgrims of Hope*

**PILGRIMAGE TO ROME**

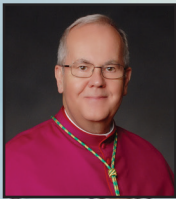
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## Peoples Security Bank & Trust supports Catholic education



SCRANTON - On Dec. 10, Peoples Security Bank and Trust made a \$25,000 donation to support Holy Cross High School in Dunmore through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) in Pennsylvania.

Pictured above are, from left: Nancy Jeffers, Vice President and Commercial Loan Officer at Peoples Security Bank & Trust; and Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education/Superintendent.

To learn more about how businesses and individuals can participate in the EITC Program, contact the Diocesan Development Office at (570) 207-2250.