



# **The Catholic Light**

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**December 12, 2024**

## **'Rejoice! The Lord is Near!'** *Bishop Bambera's Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent*



*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near."*

Saint Paul's words from his letter to the Philippians sum up the theme of the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is also known as *Gaudete Sunday*, Latin for Sunday of Rejoicing because the Lord is near. The rose-colored candle on the advent wreath also represents this theme.

As Bishop Bambera explains in his video reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent, the liturgy of this weekend tells us that we are not a people without hope. Instead, we are encouraged to rejoice that God is as near to us as the person standing by our side.

[Click Here to Watch Bishop Bambera's Video Reflection for the Third Week of Advent](#)

## **Amid Christmas and Jubilee preparations, prepare your hearts, Pope Francis says**



With the city of Rome presenting a gauntlet of major roadworks and construction projects ahead of the opening of the Holy Year 2025, Pope Francis used the disruptions as an opportunity to encourage people to do some spiritual renovation before the jubilee.

On a cloudy afternoon with the threat of rain Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis went to the center of Rome to continue the tradition of praying before a statue of Mary high atop a column near the Spanish Steps.

At dawn that morning, Rome firefighters climbed nearly 90 feet using a truck and ladder to place a ring of white flowers on Mary's outstretched arm and bouquets at her feet, continuing a Roman tradition that began in 1949.

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

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**You are invited to participate in Advent  
Evening Prayer this Sunday, Dec. 15**



During the Advent Season, the Cathedral of Saint Peter will once again be offering Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each Sunday during Advent following the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Advent Evening Prayer and Benediction will be celebrated at 6:15 p.m.

In order to help all faithful, especially those who cannot attend Mass in person, celebrate the coming of Christ, Catholic Television will be broadcasting both the 5 p.m. Mass and Evening Prayer each Sunday.

We invite you to join us either in person at the Cathedral or via Catholic Television this Sunday, Dec. 15, for Advent Evening Prayer on the Third Sunday of Advent.

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**Feast of St. Nicholas celebrated at Saint  
Nicholas/Saint Mary School**



On the morning of December 6, there was a special excitement in the air at Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre.

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

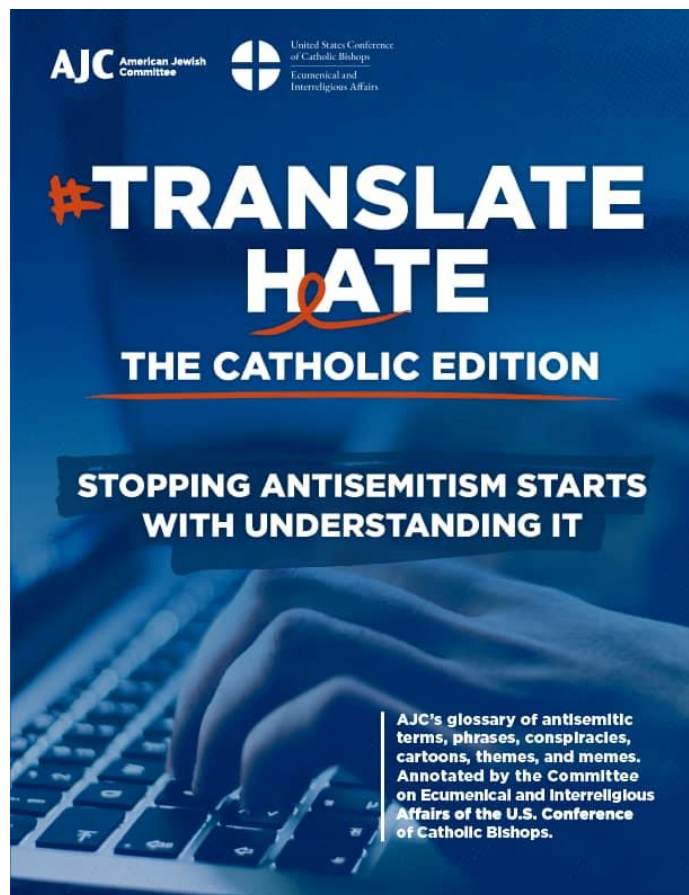
The reason?

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

Click the link below (or the thumbnail above) to view a video from CTV: Catholic Television focusing on the Saint Nicholas Feast Day celebration at Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from Catholic Television from the Saint Nicholas/Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre](#)

## **New Catholic-Jewish resource looks to 'translate hate' and counter antisemitism**



Catholic and Jewish leaders have created a new tool to tackle record-high levels of antisemitism through education and awareness.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the American Jewish Committee have teamed up to release “Translate Hate: The Catholic Edition,” a resource that confronts antisemitism by cataloging anti-Jewish slurs, while providing Catholic teaching that counters such hatred.

The document was unveiled Dec. 11 by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and Rabbi Noam Marans, the AJC’s director of interreligious affairs.

The 61-page glossary of antisemitic terms and commentary, available in pdf format on the AJC's website, builds on the AJC's "Translate Hate" initiative, which was first released in 2019, said Rabbi Marans in a Dec. 10 interview with OSV News.

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

## **With inaugural Mass, Notre Dame, the Lord reveals 'He does not abandon his own'**



Chilling rain and the "City of Lights" completely locked down due to high profile guests did not stop the crowds from arriving as close to Notre Dame Cathedral as possible for its inaugural Mass celebrated Dec. 8. The beloved Paris icon also opened its doors to the public for the first time after the devastating fire in 2019, with the second Mass that Sunday for Parisians and tourists.

The first solemn Mass witnessed the consecration of the cathedral's new bronze altar by Archbishop Laurent Ulrich of Paris, with France's president and his wife watching in the first row.

After a spectacular evening reopening ceremony Dec. 7, the cathedral was illuminated by daylight this time, when the procession of 170 bishops entered Notre Dame Sunday morning, followed by more than 100 banner bearers representing all of Paris' parishes, and seven priest representatives of the various Eastern Catholic churches.

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

## **‘Long live Notre Dame de Paris!’ Jubilation as iconic Catholic cathedral reopens**



The solemn reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral put Paris in the center of the Catholic world on the evening of Dec. 7 as the archbishop of France's



capital struck the magnificent door with his pastoral staff, marking the moment of the iconic Catholic church's rebirth.

The Gothic masterpiece answered with music as Archbishop Laurent Ulrich struck the cathedral's doors three times – with the moment of door opening causing millions to hold their breath as the cathedral started breathing anew.

“Today, sadness and mourning have given way to joy, celebration and praise,” Pope Francis wrote to the archbishop of Paris — a message read in Notre Dame by the papal ambassador to France, Archbishop Celestino Migliore.

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

## **New cardinals from 17 nations are called to build church unity, pope says**



Becoming a cardinal is an insistent call to put Jesus at the center of one's life, to love the poor as he did and to strengthen the bonds of unity within

the Catholic Church, Pope Francis said as he created 21 new cardinals from 17 nations.

“To walk in the path of Jesus means, in the end, to be builders of communion and unity,” the pope told the new cardinals during an afternoon consistory Dec. 7 in St. Peter’s Basilica.

Cardinal Angelo Acerbi, a 99-year-old former Vatican diplomat, was the first to receive his red hat from Pope Francis. And Cardinal Domenico Battaglia of Naples, whom Pope Francis added to the list of new cardinals in November — a month after announcing the others — was the last.

Cardinal Francis Leo of Toronto was the only North American among the new cardinals.

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*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)*

**Rejoice in the gift of faith this Advent!  
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Appeal spreads joy and love to others in  
Christ's name.**

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