



# **The Catholic Light**

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

**Weekly E-Newsletter**

**December 19, 2024**

## **'He Shall Be Peace'**

*Bishop Bambera's Reflection for the Fourth  
Sunday of Advent*



The Fourth Sunday of Advent gives us the prophet Micah, who foretells that the coming Messiah “*shall stand firm and shepherd his flock...he shall be peace.*”

This description bookends the description from the prophet Jeremiah on the First Sunday of Advent who describes the Lord as “our justice.”

As Bishop Bambera explains in his reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we see that the two notions, justice and peace, are not separate from each other, but rather are intimately connected.

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

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**Bishop Bambera to hold opening Mass  
for 'Jubilee Year of Hope' on Dec. 29**

# JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



## Opening Mass

Feast of the Holy Family  
Sunday, December 29, 2024  
12:15 p.m.

Join Bishop Joseph C. Bambera and  
the faithful of the Diocese of  
Scranton as we begin the Jubilee  
Year with a solemn Mass at the  
Cathedral of Saint Peter



Jubilee Years have been proclaimed by the Holy Father every 25 years since the 13th century and are significant years of grace for the Universal Church.

On Dec. 29, 2024, a special Mass will be held locally by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, to mark the opening of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

The Mass, which will take place at 12:15 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, will serve as the official “local launch” of a year-long period of spiritual reflection, renewal and pilgrimage.

The theme of the Holy Year is “Pilgrims of Hope.” The papal bull that introduced the coming Jubilee Year is titled, ‘Spes Non Confundit,’ or “Hope does not disappoint,” drawn from Romans 5:5.

A Jubilee Year, also known as a “holy year,” is a special year in the life of the church currently celebrated every 25 years. The most recent ordinary

jubilee was in 2000, with Pope Francis calling for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016. Jubilee Years have been held on regular intervals in the Catholic church since 1300, but they trace their roots to the Jewish tradition of marking a jubilee year every 50 years.

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Catholic Television to broadcast Christmas  
Masses from the Cathedral of Saint Peter



## Christmas Broadcasts on CTV



### Friday, December 20, 2024

#### Sing Noel! A Christmas Concert, 10:30 p.m.

From Ottawa, Canada, the Thirteen Strings Candlelight Orchestra and the Seventeen Voyces choir perform Fantasia on Christmas Carols and the Christmas Oratorio; French Noels sung by the Children's Choir from the Ecole Secondaire De la Salle. Encore: Dec. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

### Sunday, December 22, 2024

#### Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent & Evening Prayer, 5:00 p.m.

Live broadcast of the 5:00 p.m. Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Advent Evening Prayer

#### Carols by Candlelight from Knock Shrine, 10:00 p.m.

Experience the sights and sounds of Christmas from the Marian Shrine in Knock, Ireland. This beautiful concert of Christmas carols, sung by candlelight, will lift your spirits and bring joy to this wonderful season

### Tuesday, December 24, 2024

#### Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord and Opening of the Holy Door, 1:00 p.m.

Live from St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Pope Francis presides over Midnight Mass on the Solemnity of the Birth of Our Lord. Encore: Wednesday, Dec. 25 at 4:00 a.m.

#### Pontifical Vigil Mass of Christmas from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, 4:00 p.m.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist for the Solemn Pontifical Vigil Mass of Christmas live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

#### Choral Meditations on the Nativity, 10:00 p.m.

The Nativity of Jesus is musically brought to life in this series of choral meditations, live from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

#### Solemn Mass on Christmas Eve, 10:30 p.m.

The traditional "Midnight Mass" of Christmas live from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

### Wednesday, December 25, 2024

#### Midnight Mass from the Holy Land, 1:00 a.m.

Holy Mass celebrating the Solemnity of the Nativity, live from the Holy Land.

#### "Urbi Et Orbi:" Pope Francis' Christmas Message & Blessing to the World, 6:00 a.m.

Live from St. Peter's Square in Rome, Pope Francis delivers his Christmas blessing to the city of Rome and the world. Encore: Sunday, Dec. 25 at 3:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

#### Solemn Mass of Christmas from EWTN, 8:00 a.m.

The Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word celebrate the Solemn Christmas Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Chapel in Alabama.

#### Solemn Mass of Christmas from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate the Solemn Mass of Christmas Day live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Encore: Saturday, December 25, 5:00 p.m.

#### Solemn Mass of Christmas Day, Noon

The Solemn Mass of Christmas from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton invites viewers who cannot attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25, 2024.

Catholic Television will broadcast the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord from the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Tuesday, Dec. 24, which

will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

Catholic Television will also broadcast the 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christmas Day on Wednesday, Dec. 25, from the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

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

## Volunteers bring joy and hope to 5,000 children with 'Gifts for Kids' program



In the days leading up to Christmas each year, you will always find Jessica Bruno of Simpson giving back to the community.

"I like to give back. I look forward to seeing the joy on people's faces," Bruno said.

As someone who has received help from community non-profit organizations herself, Bruno knows how much of a helping hand the Christmas Gifts for Kids program is to families that are struggling.

“There are a lot of people out there that can’t afford gifts, especially with today’s economy. This helps a lot of families,” she explained.

This year, 5,000 children in the greater Scranton area will receive gifts from the Christmas Gifts for Kids Program. The annual event is a cooperative effort between Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, Friends of the Poor, and the Catherine McAuley Center.

“It is a good feeling to be able to help the community for Christmas,” Joe Mahoney, Catholic Social Services Chief Executive Officer, stated. “We couldn’t do this without community support.”

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

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**Students share the spirit of giving by packing shoeboxes for those in need**



Dozens of students from area parishes learned the importance of giving back to their community this holiday season by participating in an annual event at Saint Francis Kitchen that helps spread the holiday spirit.

On Dec. 14, the teens came together to pack 200 shoeboxes filled with essential toiletries, offering help and support to our brothers and sisters who might be homeless or struggling financially.

“I love how God has given us the ability to love and just be able to come together and do something like this for those less fortunate,” Brooke Landis, a high school student who attends Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville, said.

The students filled each shoebox with items that many of us take for granted – shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothpaste, and other basic hygiene products.

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



## Christmas carols unite parish community in celebration of faith and joy



Saint John the Evangelist Church opened its doors to the community on Dec. 15 to help people celebrate the Christmas season with music and song.

The parish held a free Christmas organ concert and sing-along just ten days before Christmas, featuring beautiful holiday music played on the church's historic organ.

“This is a great time to just relax, take a breath, and prepare spiritually, sing some of those wonderful songs, hear some of the readings of Christmas, and take a break from the hustle of preparing and all of the things that we have to do to get ready for Christmas,” Father Joseph Elston, Pastor, said.

After a brief welcome by Father Elston, familiar songs like O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, O Little Town of Bethlehem, The First Noel, Silent Night, and Away in a Manger, rang out inside the church.

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

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'New Year, Renew Me,' young adult retreat to be held Jan. 4



DIOCESE OF  
SCRANTON

*Young Adult Ministry*

# NEW YEAR, RENEW ME

## YOUNG ADULT DAY RETREAT

SAT, JAN 4th, 2025

Saint Maria Goretti Parish Hall  
42 Redwood Dr, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

### FEATURING:

- SPEAKER
- SMALL GROUP
- ADORATION
- MASS
- FELLOWSHIP

**\$10 DONATION  
AT THE DOOR**

*Ages 21-40*

**1:30PM-DOORS OPEN**

**RSVP VIA EMAIL TO:**

**FAMILYLIFE@DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG**



Calling all young adults!

With the new year approaching, the Diocesan Office for Parish Life is planning a Young Adult Day Retreat on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025.

If you could benefit from some renewal, this is the perfect opportunity! Join us for a Day Retreat to start off the new year by being renewed in Christ!

The retreat is intended for young adults, ages 21-40, and will be held at Saint Maria Goretti Parish in Laflin.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

To reserve a spot, email Bridget Guarnieri at [FamilyLife@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:FamilyLife@dioceseofscranton.org).

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast unites parish communities in faith and heritage



The Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, celebrated on Dec. 12, holds profound significance in the Catholic Church, especially within Hispanic

communities, where it is marked by a deep sense of reverence, tradition, and cultural pride.

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton once again celebrated this year with special Masses, vibrant processions, and joyful celebrations. The celebrations drew hundreds – and sometimes even more than a thousand – of the faithful together in a shared expression of faith.

“The day is so special because no matter where you are, or what you’re doing, we all come together for her,” Giselle Jimenez said.

Jimenez was among the standing-room only crowd of parishioners that filled Saint Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre as a special Mass was held Dec. 12 to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe.

“She has always done so many miracles for us. Whenever we are in need, we pray to her. We just grew up with this custom,” Jimenez added.

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**Support the 2024 Catholic Ministries  
Appeal!**



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[AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org),  
call (570) 207-2250 or  
click this QR code



*'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35)*

Give with a generous heart this Christmas season. Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal supports those in need and furthers the mission of Christ.

Please consider a gift today!



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