



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

January 2, 2025
Happy New Year!

New year brings new, permanent location for Catholic Social Services emergency shelter in Wilkes-Barre



The new year brings a new, permanent home for an emergency shelter in the city of Wilkes-Barre.

On Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, city and county leaders participated in a formal dedication and blessing ceremony for the new location of Mother Teresa's Haven, a shelter for men experiencing homelessness.

For the last several months, construction has been underway to create the new permanent shelter space above Saint Vincent de Paul Kitchen, located at 39 East Jackson Street in Wilkes-Barre.

"We are thrilled to finally have a permanent home after all these years, absolutely thrilled," Harry Lyons, program director for Mother Teresa's Haven, said.

Mother Teresa's Haven first opened in the 1980s, but rotated locations between several area churches.

"This shelter has been in existence for decades but it was nomadic up until about four years ago and when we think about the clients we serve, there is a certain dignity that they deserve to have," the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, said at the dedication ceremony.

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

**Masses launching Holy Year in dioceses
emphasize 'hope' that does not
disappoint**



Bishops worldwide celebrated the opening of the 2025 Holy Year Dec. 29 with Masses in their cathedrals and co-cathedrals to mark the jubilee, which is themed “Pilgrims of Hope.”

In the Diocese of Scranton, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera served as principal celebrant and homilist for the 12:15 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

In the Archdiocese of New York, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan began Mass at the back of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Manhattan with a prayer opening what he called “the Holy Year of Hope.”

The prayer called God “the hope that does not disappoint, the beginning and the end” and asked him to bless the “pilgrim journey this Holy Year.”

“Bind up the wounds of hearts that are broken, loosen the chains that hold us slaves of sin, and grant your people joy of the Spirit so that they may walk with renewed hope toward their longed-for destiny, Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever,” he prayed.

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

'Bold and Beloved' Women's Retreat to be held Jan. 24-26

 DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Women's Retreat

Bold and Beloved

Inspired by the teachings of St. Catherine of Siena



Featuring:

6 Local Female Speakers



Confession



January
24-26, 2025



Mass & Worship



Fellowship

For more information, contact the Office for Parish Life (570) 207-2213 x1100



Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center

1000 Seminary Rd, Dalton, PA 18414

Ages 18+

Register at: dioceseofscranton.org



Registration for the 2025 'Bold and Beloved' Women's Retreat is now open.

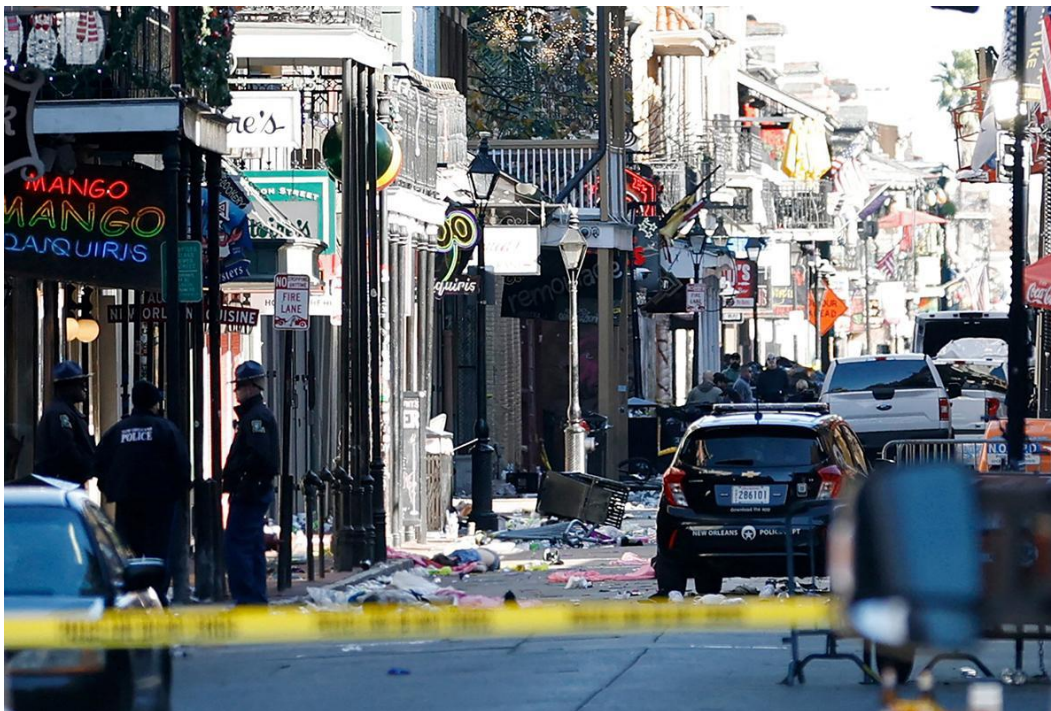
We invite women 18 and older to join us for a weekend retreat inspired by the teachings of St. Catherine of Siena.

The retreat will take place from Jan. 24-26, 2025, and will be led by six different local women in ministry who, like St. Catherine of Siena, have flourished where they were planted.

The retreat will take place at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center (1000 Seminary Road, Dalton, PA 18414).

[Click Here For More Information on the 'Bold and Beloved' Women's Retreat](#)

New Orleans archbishop, others offer prayer and support for victims of 'evil' deadly New Year attack



Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans offered prayers for victims of what he described as a “sign of utter disrespect for human life”

perpetrated by a man who drove a Ford pickup truck through crowds celebrating the New Year in New Orleans' French Quarter around 3:15 a.m. Jan. 1. At least 15 people were reportedly killed, with around 35 others injured.

The driver was killed by police after leaving the vehicle and exchanging gunfire with law enforcement, striking two officers. The FBI is investigating the attack as an act of terrorism.

“Our prayers go out to those killed and injured in this morning’s horrific attack on Bourbon Street,” said Archbishop Aymond, a New Orleans native, in a Jan. 1 statement. “This violent act is a sign of utter disrespect for human life. I join with others in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans in offering prayerful support to the victims’ families. I give thanks for the heroic duty of hundreds of law enforcement and medical personnel in the face of such evil.”

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

Knights of Columbus honor Bishop Jeffrey J. Walsh



On Saturday, December 28, the Pennsylvania Central District of the Knights of Columbus witnessed a truly inspiring and historic moment as the Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh, Bishop of Gaylord, Mich., was the Honoree for the Exemplification Ceremony of 16 new Sir Knights exemplified into the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus.

Led by Master Brian Hallock, this significant event marked the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of these men, who were officially welcomed into the proud ranks of Sir Knights in the Fourth Degree.

The day began at St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton, where the Exemplification Ceremony filled the air with a sense of patriotism and love for our country.

As the candidates took their Fourth Degree, they committed to live and promote patriotism, and honor—values that the Knights of Columbus hold sacred.

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

Faith Formation students at Pike County parish hold annual Christmas pageant



The students in the Church of St. Patrick's Children's Faith Formation Program once again presented their Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.

The colorful and moving presentation, featuring scriptural narrative and carols of the season, was followed by the celebration of Christmas Eve Mass by Rev. Joseph Manarchuck, Pastor.

Directed by Laurie Barcia of Milford, the Pageant featured costumes by Michelle Baron, Lighting Design by Micah Sweeney and Kevin Riker, and carols by St. Patrick's Music Ministry, under the direction of Rich Gherardi, accompanied by the congregation of St. Patrick's.

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On New Year's, Pope Francis calls for real commitment to respect human life



Marking the feast of Mary, Mother of God, and the start of the new year, Pope Francis renewed his appeal for a “firm commitment” to respect all human life worldwide.

“May we learn to care for every child born of a woman, above all by protecting, like Mary, the precious gift of life: life in the womb, the lives of children, the lives of the suffering, the poor, the elderly, the lonely and the dying,” he said in his homily during Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica Jan. 1.

“All of us are invited to take up the summons that flows from the maternal heart of Mary: we are called to cherish life, to care for wounded lives — so many wounded lives, so many — to restore dignity to the lives of everyone” because it is the basis for building a culture of peace, he said, highlighting that the feast also marks the World Day of Peace.

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Holy Door is symbol of God's arms open to all, Cardinal says



A Holy Door is an image of God, who awaits the return of his children with open arms, said the archpriest of Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Cardinal Baldassare Reina, papal vicar for Rome and archpriest of the basilica, which is the Diocese of Rome's cathedral, opened the Holy Door there Dec. 29 as bishops around the world launched the Holy Year 2025 in their dioceses.

"It is not important how far we have strayed; it is not relevant what we have done, wasted or ruined," the cardinal said in his homily at Mass after opening the door. "The moment we have decided to return we will never find a closed door, but only an embrace that welcomes and blesses."

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

Support the Catholic Ministries Appeal!



Prayer Intentions Remembered This Weekend!

THERE ARE MANY NEEDS IN OUR CHURCH
*There is pain and worry. There is hunger. There is fear.
 There is sickness, and there is sadness.*

This weekend, Bishop Bambera will pray for all intentions received as part of the Catholic Ministries Appeal at the 12:15 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.



Donate now at AnnualAppeal.org, call (570) 207-2250 or click this QR code



[Click Here to Answer 'Our Call to Serve' Today!](#)

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