



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

March 6, 2025

Ash Wednesday Mass draws hundreds of people - plus a bat - to the Cathedral to begin Lenten journey



Churches throughout the Diocese of Scranton were filled with the faithful on Ash Wednesday as people gathered to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

From rural churches to the Diocesan Cathedral, people turned out to receive ashes and they began their journey of reflection and renewal.

At the 12:10 p.m. Mass, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, began his homily by asking for continued prayers for Pope Francis, who remains in the hospital.

“We pray God’s mercy, love, and healing presence in his life,” the Bishop said.

Bishop Bambera then reflected on how this Lenten season falls within the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, saying that the challenges we face in life can provide us with a context for hope. He explained Lent provides every person the opportunity to engage the Lord in a “deeper way” and “walk more closely with Him.”

“There is always hope for the believer in Jesus Christ,” he stated.

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

Catholic Television to Broadcast/Livestream Stations of the Cross and Sunday Evening Prayer

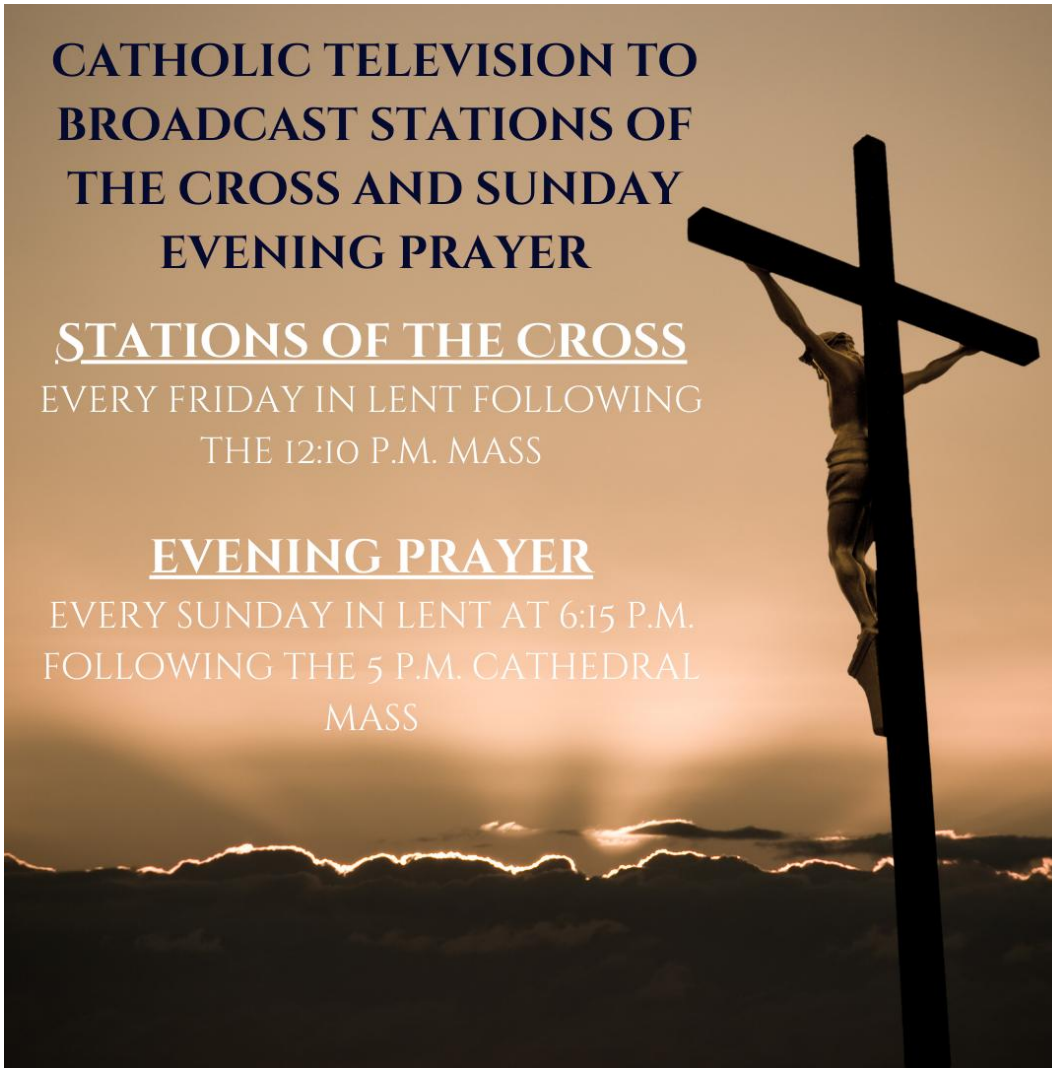
**CATHOLIC TELEVISION TO
BROADCAST STATIONS OF
THE CROSS AND SUNDAY
EVENING PRAYER**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT FOLLOWING
THE 12:10 P.M. MASS

EVENING PRAYER

EVERY SUNDAY IN LENT AT 6:15 P.M.
FOLLOWING THE 5 P.M. CATHEDRAL
MASS



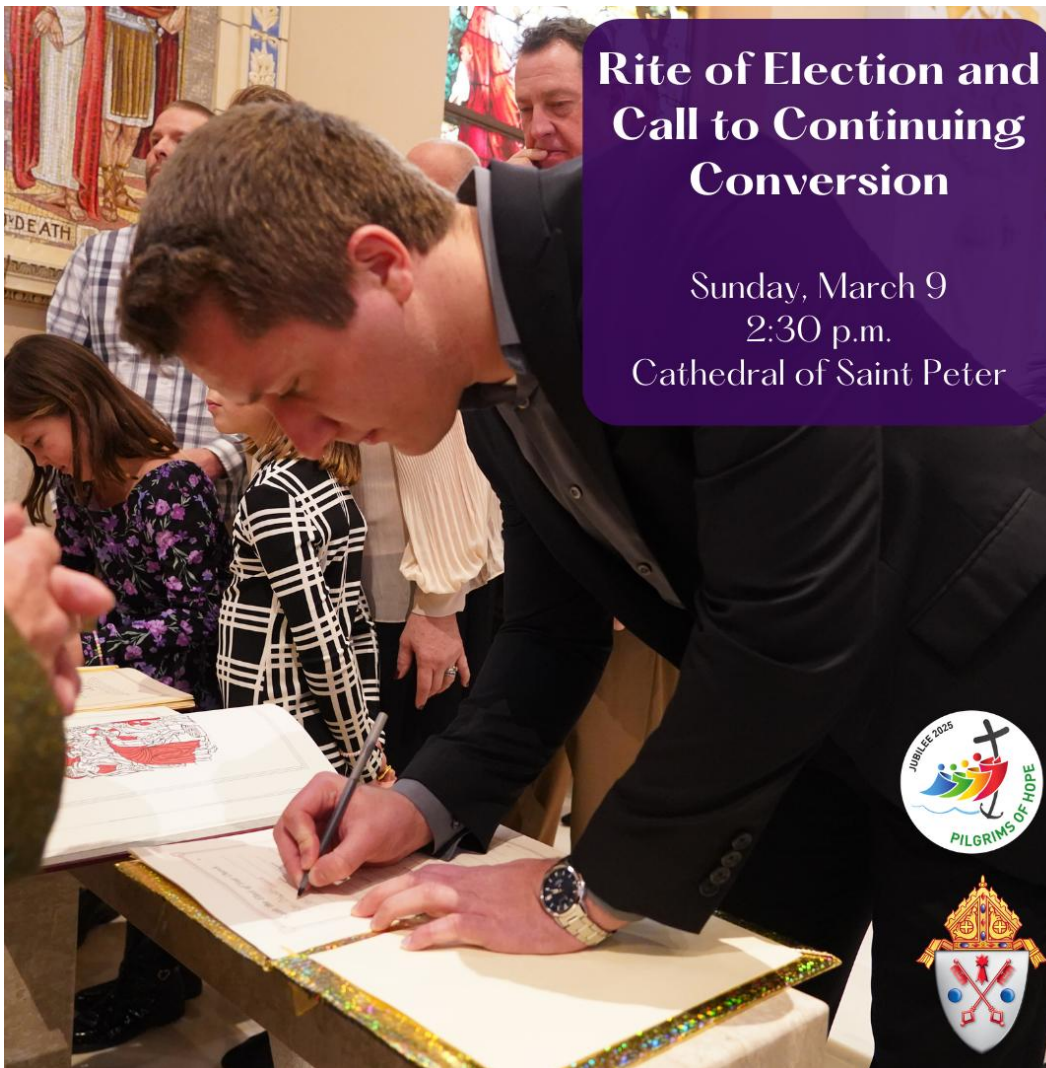
During Lent, Catholic Television will offer several opportunities to the faithful to "go deeper" in their prayer life.

Every Friday during Lent following the 12:10 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, CTV will broadcast live Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross will begin on Friday, March 7, 2025.

Every Sunday during Lent, the faithful are invited to the Cathedral for Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer. At Evening Prayer, the people of God sanctify the day by continual praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world. CTV will broadcast the 5 p.m. Mass each Sunday night, will be followed by Adoration and Evening Prayer at 6:15 p.m.

In addition to the live broadcasts on television, the Stations of the Cross and the Sunday Evening Prayer can be found on the Diocese of Scranton YouTube channel and the Diocese of Scranton website.

Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion to be held on Sunday



The Diocese of Scranton will celebrate the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, March 9, at 2:30 p.m.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will preside over the annual Rite of Election, which is part of the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), where Catechumens indicate their desire to join the Catholic Church.

Individuals from parishes all across the 11-counties of the Diocese who are in preparation to be welcomed into full communion of the Catholic Church this year will participate.

The Rite of Election is specifically for Catechumens seeking full initiation at the Easter Vigil, including the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and First Eucharist.

The Call to Continuing Conversion is celebrated for candidates who had previously been baptized, but are now preparing for Confirmation and/or First Eucharist.

Typically, on the First Sunday of Lent, catechumens, their sponsors and families gather with the Bishop of the Diocese. The catechumens publicly express their desire for baptism to the Bishop and their names are recorded and they are called the Elect.

[Click Here for More Information on the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion](#)

**Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop
Bambera begin tonight in Pittston**

LENTEN HOLY HOUR *with* *Bishop Bambera*

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
7 P.M.

SAINT JOHN THE
EVANGELIST PARISH

35 WILLIAM STREET,
PITTSTON



 DIOCESE OF
SCRANTON

For the third straight year, Bishop Bambera will visit each deanery in the Diocese of Scranton during Lent to hold a special Holy Hour for the faithful.

During this year's Holy Hour, Bishop Bambera will not only reflect on the third and final year of the National Eucharistic Revival that remains underway, but also the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope that the Church is celebrating.

The Lenten Holy Hour tonight will be held at 7 p.m. at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston.

[Click Here to See all of the Dates and Locations of the 2025 Lenten Holy Hours with Bishop Bambera](#)

Pope marks Ash Wednesday in hospital, receiving ashes, Eucharist



Pope Francis marked Ash Wednesday on his 20th day in Rome's Gemelli hospital by taking part in the rite of the blessing of the ashes and receiving them in a short prayer service, the Vatican said.

While the 88-year-old pope's overall clinical case remained complex, his condition was "stable" and he did not experience any episodes of "respiratory insufficiency," the Vatican said in its evening medical bulletin March 5.

The pope received ashes and the Eucharist in the morning from a celebrant, who was not named in the bulletin. It was most likely one of the hospital chaplains, a Vatican source said.

The rite was held in the private suite of rooms on the 10th floor of the hospital where the pope has been receiving treatment for double pneumonia and other respiratory ailments, the Vatican said.

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

Cathedral of Saint Peter to host Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass March 8



ST. PATRICK'S PARADE DAY MASS

Saturday, March 8, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton

*Mass will be broadcast live on Catholic Television due to the generosity
of the Society of Irish Women*

The annual Saint Patrick's Parade Day Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 8, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is traditionally held in conjunction with the city of Scranton's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Following the Mass, the Saint Patrick's Parade is expected to take to the streets of the Electric City beginning at 11:45 a.m.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant for the Mass. Various priests from the Diocese of Scranton are expected to concelebrate.

The Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton due to the generosity of the Society of Irish Women.

The Mass will be rebroadcast several times the following week, including Tuesday, March 11, at 8:00 p.m., and Wednesday, March 12, at 10:30 a.m. It will also be available for viewing on the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube Channel.

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

**Catholic Sisters Week offers virtual,
interactive ways to honor women
religious in 2025**



They're compassionate doctors. Inspiring teachers. Committed advocates for justice. Steady guides on the spiritual path.

Catholic sisters in America simply can't be stereotyped.

And to prove it, the 12th annual Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14) is celebrating their many ministries and achievements with campaigns and activities that aim to educate, inform and even surprise. The yearly event launched in 2014 as a part of Women's History Month.

"The sisters don't toot their horns," said Susan Oxley, communications and membership manager for the Religious Formation Conference, a Chicago-based organization serving women's and men's religious institutes in America and abroad. "They're too busy doing what they do. And so we've got to do that for them."

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

Catholic immigration advocates seek to counter false narratives about their work



Catholic immigration advocates sought ways to respond to some anti-immigration or false narratives about their work during a conference in the nation’s capital.

Participants in the event, “Understanding Migration from a Catholic Perspective” held at The Catholic University of America, examined current and historical narratives around U.S. immigration, seeking new ways to dialogue with those skeptical about the church’s work in this area, including some Trump administration officials.

“If the narrative is wrong, the actions that are based upon that narrative will be wrong,” said Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, in a keynote address.

Bishop Seitz, also the chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, said that some of the Trump administration’s actions on immigration should concern Catholics.

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

Three months into reopening, Notre Dame witnesses record crowds, confessions



A mere three months after Notre Dame Cathedral reopened, some Catholics in France worry the massive influx of tourists has overshadowed its religious essence.

But the auxiliary bishop of Paris told OSV News it's the opposite — with a large flow of people, more strangers are exposed to the Catholic faith, with their hearts touched by God's presence in renovated interiors.

With 29,000 visitors a day, up from 23,500 a day before the fire in 2019, Notre Dame's guest rates are comparable to those of the Louvre Museum, even though the museum's surface area is considerably larger.

Auxiliary Bishop Emmanuel Tois of Paris, whose office is just about 60 feet from the cathedral, told OSV News that the number of tourists flooding the cathedral doesn't bother him. It's a chance to meet the Lord, he said.

Bishop Tois said that the rector and chaplains of Notre Dame often circulate among the visitors in the aisles of the cathedral. "And they are

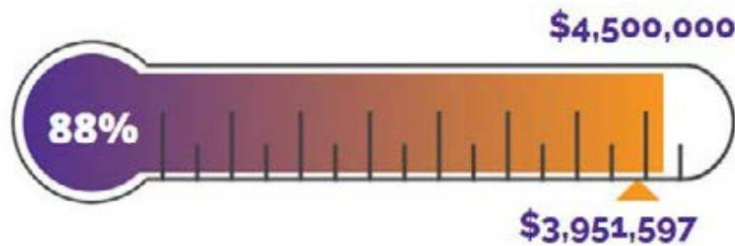
regularly approached by people who ask for explanations, and who sometimes explicitly ask them how they can be baptized.”

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

Support the Catholic Ministries Appeal!

HELP THE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
MEET ITS GOAL!!

2024-25 Appeal Progress



As of March 6, 2025



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

Follow us on Social Media...



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org