



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

July 16, 2026

Solemn Novena to Saint Ann begins Friday in Scranton



For more than a century, Catholics from throughout northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond have made their way to Saint Ann's Basilica each July, bringing with them prayers of thanksgiving, petitions for healing and hope, and a deep devotion to the grandmother of Jesus Christ.

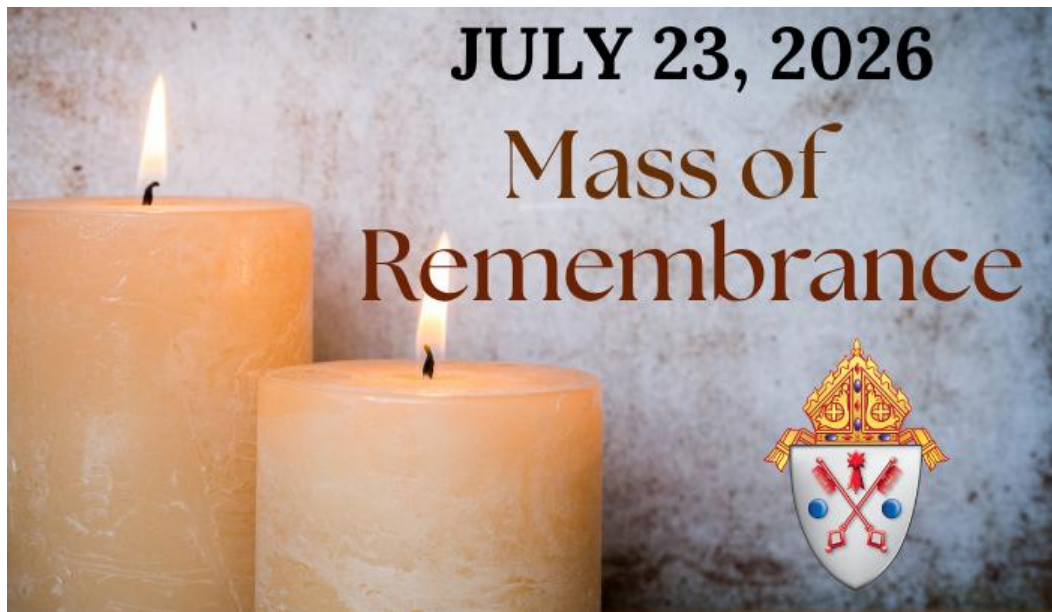
That tradition continues this week as the annual Solemn Novena to Saint Ann begins Friday, July 17, and continues through Sunday, July 26, the Feast of Saint Ann.

Thousands of pilgrims are expected to visit the Scranton Basilica during the ten-day celebration, participating in Masses, Novena devotions, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and special liturgies that have made the annual Novena one of the Diocese of Scranton's most beloved spiritual traditions.

This year's Passionist preachers are Father Rick Frechette, C.P., a Passionist priest and physician whose ministry has served the people of Haiti for more than three decades, and Father Jack Conley, C.P., a longtime Passionist mission preacher and superior of Saint Vincent Strambi Retreat in Chicago.

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

Bishop to celebrate Mass of Remembrance on Thursday, July 23



More than 30 new names have been inscribed in the Book of Remembrance ahead of the Diocese of Scranton's annual Mass of Remembrance of Victims of Violent or Tragic Death, which will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

This Mass is offered for the families and friends of those who have died in tragedy, especially through murder, suicide, or accident.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as principal celebrant of the Mass.

While the official deadline to register a loved one's name in the Book of Remembrance has now passed, names can still be added before the date of the Mass by calling the Diocesan Office for Parish Life at (570) 207-2213.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will provide live coverage of the Mass of Remembrance. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and across all social media platforms.

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

Bishop Bambera and Father Brian J.W. Clarke reach mid-way point of Camino Pilgrimage in Spain



The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, has reached the mid-point in a seven-day pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain, carrying with him the prayers and intentions of hundreds of people from across the Diocese of Scranton.

Beginning July 13, Bishop Bambera and Father Brian J.W. Clarke, Pastor of Saints Cyril & Methodius Parish in Hazleton, set out on the ancient pilgrimage route toward Sanitago de Compostela.

Before departing for Spain, Bishop Bambera invited the faithful to entrust him with their personal prayer intentions so he could remember them during his daily prayer and reflection along the Camino. In response, he received 406 prayer intentions in both English and Spanish.

Over the course of this week, the Bishop is expected to continue walking approximately 100 kilometers across northern Spain, making his way through Pontevedra, Caldas de Reis, Padron and

Teo before concluding the pilgrimage in Santiago on Sunday, July 19.

[Click Here to Follow the Camino Journey with Day-by-Day Videos and Photos](#)

Historic Shrine preserves Saint John Neumann's missionary spirit



More than 170 years after Saint John Neumann walked through the hills of northeastern Pennsylvania to minister to small communities of Catholic settlers, the faithful continue making the journey to a church that preserves his remarkable legacy.

On July 12, 2026, faithful gathered at the Saint John Neumann Shrine in Sugar Ridge for the first of three summer Masses

celebrated annually at the historic chapel, officially known as the Church of Saints Philip and James.

Designated as the Diocese of Scranton's official Saint John Neumann Shrine in September 1977, the simple country church occupies the very site where the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia blessed the original church in July 1854.

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

Young pilgrims encounter Christ at Steubenville Conference



More than 150 young people, clergy, and chaperones from parishes across the Diocese of Scranton spent the weekend of July

10-12, 2026, discovering they are far from alone in living their Catholic faith.

A Diocesan delegation of 155 pilgrims – including 113 youth, 35 chaperones, one deacon and six priests – traveled by bus to the Steubenville Youth Conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio.

Through engaging speakers, Eucharistic Adoration, worship, music, and the Sacraments, the students joined thousands of other young Catholics from across the country for a weekend centered on growing closer to Christ.

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

Catholic Youth Center gives children a summer filled with opportunity



For several hundred kids across the Wyoming Valley, this summer is about much more than just a break from school.

It is about discovering new places, making lifelong friendships, and learning new skills at the Wyoming Valley Catholic Youth Center in Wilkes-Barre.

The CYC has once again become a summer destination for many local families, with 209 children enrolled in this year's summer camp program and another 30 youngsters already on a waiting list.

The strong demand reflects both the popularity of the program and the vital role it plays in serving families throughout the community.

"We start getting calls in February hoping to reserve space for our camp," CYC Executive Director Mark Soprano said. "It's a very popular program."

Operating from the day schools dismiss for summer until classes resume in the fall, the CYC provides families with dependable, full-day care while giving children experiences many might not otherwise have.

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

Vocations Golf Classic unites Diocese in support of seminarians



Approximately 100 golfers took to the fairways of Blue Ridge Trail Golf Club on July 10, 2026, for the annual Vocations Golf Classic – John Yourishen Memorial Tournament – enjoying a day of friendly competition while investing in the future priests of the Diocese of Scranton.

The tournament raises funds to support the education and formation of the Diocese's seminarians, along with other vocation initiatives including Quo Vadis and Fiat Days and the newly established Saint Pius X Seminary in Scranton.

Just as importantly, the golf tournament gives supporters the opportunity to spend time with the seminarians, priests, and Diocesan staff.

"We are blessed in the Diocese of Scranton to have 16 seminarians right now. That is one of the highest numbers that we've had in years," Father Ryan Glenn, Director of Vocations, said. "It is a reality that there is a significant financial cost."

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

Pope Leo shares meal with vulnerable guests at Castel Gandolfo



Under the Italian sun of Lake Albano and the shade of Castel Gandolfo's Borgo Laudato si' trees, Pope Leo XIV enjoyed lunch with people experiencing social vulnerability.

Around 200 people from the Diocese of Rome took part in the event on July 11. "Lunch with the Pope" was "a day of welcome and fraternity" within the Pontifical Gardens of Castel Gandolfo, the Vatican's Laudato Si' Center for Higher Education said in a statement.

Before the guests, including nearly 40 children, enjoyed the guided tour through the gardens, the day begun with Mass celebrated by Cardinal Fabio Baggio, general director of the Laudato Si' Center for Higher Education, and concelebrated by Archbishop Luis Marín de San Martín, prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Charity.

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

Our Lady of Gietrzwald mosaic unveiled in Vatican gardens ahead of 2027 Jubilee



A new mosaic of Our Lady of Gietrzwald was inaugurated in the Vatican Gardens in a June 30 ceremony attended by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, and Archbishop Tadeusz Wojda, president of the Polish bishops' conference, who said the installation could deepen ties between Poland and the Holy See.

"In inaugurating this mosaic, we believe it will contribute to an even deeper relationship between Poland and the Holy See," Archbishop Wojda said, according to the Polish bishops'

conference press office. He added that “Poland and the Church in Poland are awaiting the Holy Father’s visit.”

A Marian sanctuary in the heart of northern Europe’s countryside — often called the “Polish Lourdes” — could soon draw global attention, as Pope Leo XIV has been invited to visit the site where the Virgin Mary appeared approximately 160 times.

The village of Gietrzwałd (pronounced Gyetsh-vowt), in the picturesque northeastern Warmian-Masurian lake region — is preparing for major celebrations in 2027 marking the 150th anniversary of the apparitions.

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

'Keep Venezuelans in your hearts' after earthquakes, says Catholic Relief Worker



Damage from two back-to-back earthquakes that struck Venezuela June 24 is “a lot worse than expected,” said a Catholic Relief Services disaster response worker, who asked people to “keep Venezuelans in their hearts.”

Arriving in the Latin American nation July 9, Robyn Fieser — who is coordinating CRS emergency communications on the ground — found “there were literally blocks of buildings that were just pancaked onto themselves. There was massive destruction for blocks.”

“It looked a little bit like a war zone,” said Fieser, speaking to OSV News from Venezuela in a July 13 call.

At least 4,500 were killed during the 7.2 and 7.5 quakes, which took place just 39 seconds apart.

Thousands remain missing, with many survivors struggling to excavate the bodies of loved ones amid the rubble.

“I talked to one man who said he felt the earthquakes, immediately ran home, put his shoes on and went out to start helping,” Fieser said. “He was one of those just trying to help people get out any way they could.”

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

**Four parishes holding church
festivals and bazaars this weekend**

**Join the fun in Roaring Brook
Township, Pittston, Wilkes-Barre
and Hanover Township**



Saint Eulalia
— PARISH —

**SUMMER
FESTIVAL** | **JULY 17-18**
5-10 p.m.

Homemade Food, Grandma's Attic, & more...

WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT:

FRI., JULY 17

5:45-8:45 PM

» Steel Velvet (rock band)

SAT., JULY 18

5:30-6:30 PM

» Electric City Steel Drum Project

6:30-8:30 PM

» Alex "the Crooner"

214 Blue Shutters Road, Roaring Brook Township
sainteulalias.com

Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary Parish
226 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET, WILKES-BARRE • 570-823-7736
(on the grounds of St. Nicholas Church)

**Fr. Joseph Verespy, Fr. Fidel Ticona,
Deacon Michael Golubiewski, and Parishioners**
Invite Everyone to the

PARISH BAZAAR



Thursday, Friday, Saturday
JULY 16, 17, 18



Opens 5:30PM Thursday & Friday - Opens after 4PM Mass on Saturday

Giant Flea Market (Thurs 1-9 PM; Fri. & Sat. 3-9 PM)
Games - Bingo - Fun for All Ages - Ethnic Food- Bountiful
Baskets - Raffle (1st prize 50-50) + 50 prizes

Live Music 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM 🎵

Thursday: Flaxy Morgan • Friday: Popstar Drive • Saturday: Kartune

***Bratwurst, Haluski, Pierogies, Potato Pancakes, Piggies, Pizza,
Chicken Wings, Mexican/Caribbean Food, Fried Dough,
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries and more!***



Communion of Saints Parish

Summer Picnic

on the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Grounds

July 16, 17 & 18 - from 5pm to 10pm nightly

237 William Street, Pittston, PA, 18640 | office@sjmparish.org | 570.654.6902

Live Music

Thurs. - Bugeye McGuire

Fri. - Flaxy Morgan

Sat. - The Taxmen



**BEST OF
GREATER
PITTSTON**
AWARDED BY
Sunday Dispatch

Favorite Foods

Potato Pancakes, Cannoli,

Pizza, Pizza Fritta,

Ethnic Foods,

Cheesesteaks, and more!

with Kids Games, Novelties, Indoor Flea Market, Basket Raffles and exciting additions!



BIG TENT BAZAAR

Friday, July 17 (6-11PM)

Saturday, July 18 (5-Midnight)

Sunday, July 19 (4-10PM)

Homemade Food * Potato Pancake Express

Exciting Games * Full Service Tiki Bar

Theme Baskets * Live Entertainment

Bake Sale * Raffles & a Lot of Fun!

Live Entertainment Nightly:

Friday:	Saturday:	Sunday:
Souled Out	OZ	Triple Fret
	Pop Star Drive	Lance Thomas Band

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish

420 Main Road * Buttonwood, Hanover Township * 570-823-6242
www.exhc.org www.facebook.com/holycross420

This will be another big weekend for church festivals and picnics - and we encourage you to visit as many of them as possible for great food and fellowship!

All parishes in the Diocese of Scranton have been invited to send their picnic information to the Diocese of Scranton Communications Department for promotion.

[Click Here for the Full Listing of 2026 Parish Festivals, Picnics and Bazaars](#)

Follow us on Social Media...



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