



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

August 13, 2026

Faith takes to the streets in Old Forge in annual Rosary Procession



With a statue of the Blessed Mother leading the way, the faithful of Prince of Peace Parish in Old Forge took their faith beyond the

walls of Saint Mary Assumption Church on Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026, participating in an outdoor Rosary Procession.

Following the 10:00 a.m. Mass, parishioners gathered for the annual event, held each year in anticipation of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The procession is put together by the Knights of Columbus Council 5940 in Old Forge and features a statue of the Blessed Mother mounted on a float designed by the Knights.

“We are celebrating early our patronal feast,” Father Walter Jenkins, C.S.C., Pastor of Prince of Peace Parish, said. “Our church building is named for the Blessed Virgin Mary under the Assumption, so we had our annual Rosary walk through Old Forge.”

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Old Forge Rosary Procession](#)

Rev. Joseph J. Adonizio celebrates 100th birthday with brother priests



We want to extend prayerful best wishes to Rev. Joseph J. Adonizio who is celebrating his 100th birthday!

On Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2026, Father Adonizio gathered with Bishop Bambera and many brother priests for dinner, cake and fellowship.

In addition to celebrating his 100th birthday this year, Father Adonizio is also marking 70 years of priestly ministry. He was ordained a priest on May 29, 1956.

May God reward Father Adonizio abundantly for his many years of faithful service and continue to surround him with His love and grace. May Father's special day be filled with joy, gratitude, and the love of all those whose lives you have touched.

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Notice to the Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Scranton Regarding Christopher R. Clay



Mr. Christopher R. Clay, formerly an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Scranton, has been dispensed from the clerical state, effective July 24, 2026, following credible accusations of sexual abuse of a minor.

Mr. Clay is no longer a member of the clergy, nor has any of the privileges or responsibilities of the priesthood. A priest who has been dispensed from the clerical state may not celebrate Mass or confer the Sacraments. He may no longer be called “Father” or wear clerical attire.

Mr. Clay was ordained to the Priesthood in June 1998, by the Most Rev. James C. Timlin, Eighth Bishop of Scranton, and was a member of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri, a religious community founded in Mount Pocono by Reverend Peter M.J. Stravinskaskas.

Mr. Clay was originally removed from the exercise of priestly ministry in June 2004, in response to a credible accusation of sexual abuse of a minor. In July 2024, the Diocese became aware of another accusation of sexual abuse of a minor made against Mr. Clay. In both instances, the Diocese of Scranton followed its

established protocol of notifying law enforcement of the allegations and reporting all findings to the Holy See.

To be clear, since the original accusation in 2004, Mr. Clay has been prohibited from the exercise of priestly ministry and celebrating the sacraments with any member of the Christian Faithful or anyone else. He has not possessed the faculties to preach the Word of God or hear confessions. He was also placed – and remains – on the Diocese of Scranton’s list of “Credibly Accused Individuals” suspected of sexually assaulting minors.

In March 2026, Mr. Clay submitted a petition to the Most Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, requesting dispensation from the clerical state, which has been granted and is final.

Mr. Clay now lives privately in Dallas, Texas, and is no longer affiliated with the Diocese of Scranton in any official capacity.

The Diocese of Scranton has contacted both the Diocese of Dallas and the Diocese of Fort Worth to make them aware of the Holy Father’s decision and Mr. Clay’s status.

[Click Here to Read the Notice on the Diocese of Scranton Website](#)

Pope Leo says Sunday is 'foundation and kernel' of liturgical year



Pope Leo XIV urged Catholics to gather in person for Sunday Mass and called for working conditions that allow people to attend, saying Sunday is “the foundation and kernel of the whole liturgical year.”

“To sanctify Sunday, it is essential to celebrate the Eucharist,” the pope said at his Aug. 12 general audience in St. Peter’s Basilica. “In this regard, I urge everyone to seek the best possible conditions so that even those who are unable to take time off work on Sundays may take part in Holy Mass.”

Continuing his series on the documents of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Leo reflected on ‘Sacrosanctum Concilium,’ the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. The liturgical year is not a static representation of past events, but an ongoing encounter with Christ, he said.

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

World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul to be a 'celebration of hope,' Archbishop says



Preparations are in full swing for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where Pope Leo XIV is expected to join young Catholics from around the world for the second World Youth Day ever held in Asia.

The Aug. 3-8, 2027, gathering comes more than three decades after the first World Youth Day in Asia, which drew 4 million to 5 million people to Manila with St. John Paul II in 1995, setting a Guinness World Record for largest attendance at a papal event at the time.

With one year remaining before the massive international Catholic youth festival, organizers say planning has intensified.

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

Pope Leo XIV offers prayers, condolences as Bishops urge solidarity following Colombia earthquake



Pope Leo XIV said he was deeply saddened by the loss of life and destruction following a powerful earthquake that struck Colombia, leaving more than 100 dead and dozens of collapsed buildings.

The pope offered prayers “for the eternal rest of the deceased and raises his prayers to the Lord for the speedy recovery of those affected by this tragedy,” said a telegram to Archbishop Francisco Javier Múnera Correa of Cartagena, president of the Colombian Bishops’ Conference, signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state.

The earthquake struck in the morning Aug. 10, with hundreds of videos posted online of people fleeing outdoors as the ground below them violently shook.

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

Security issues show AI needs greater human oversight, say Catholic experts



Recent security issue disclosures from major artificial intelligence developers Anthropic and OpenAI point to a need for even greater human oversight of the technology, two Catholic experts told OSV News.

“What the Church brings to this is not a technical control. It is the refusal to let responsibility be transferred onto the tool,” said

Matthew Harvey Sanders, CEO of Longbeard, the technology firm behind Magisterium AI, a Catholic “answer engine” trained on official and other authoritative Church teaching sources.

Charles Camosy, associate professor of moral theology and ethics at The Catholic University of America, warned of a “kind of prisoner’s dilemma” in which AI development firms across the globe are finding themselves locked in a relentless competition.

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

Pro-life groups urge follow through from Blanche on policy permitting mifepristone by mail



As Todd Blanche was confirmed and sworn in as attorney general, a group of pro-life organizations urged him to follow through on his previous comments that the Trump administration would review a Biden administration policy permitting the shipment of mifepristone by mail.

The Trump administration has sought to pause multiple state lawsuits seeking to roll back Biden administration-era eased restrictions on mifepristone, a drug commonly used for first trimester abortion, but which is also used in some miscarriage care protocols. The Trump administration has thus far left that regulation in effect while seeking to block those challenges, pending a promised FDA safety review, prompting frustration from pro-life advocates.

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

Pope Leo night at White Sox baseball park maxes out stadium capacity



White Sox baseball fans sporting custom-designed black and gold mitre-style hats celebrated Pope Leo XIV, a fellow diehard Sox fan, at a pope-themed game in Chicago Aug. 11.

Dominican Sister Mary Jo Sobieck of Springfield, Illinois, threw the first pitch, and fans shook hands with the “sign of peace,” led by the Chicago Archdiocese’s Father Tom Hurley, during the fifth inning at Rate Field, home of Pope Leo’s favorite baseball team.

White Sox management handed out “pope hats” to over 38,000 fans who showed up at the third game in a series against the

Cincinnati Reds. The promo project started out as a fan giveaway for the first 2,500 tickets, which sold quickly and it added another fast-selling 500.

Management expanded the promo to the full stadium capacity and the tickets flew.

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

Parishes continue to celebrate festivals and bazaars



Last weekend was the biggest weekend of the summer parish festival season as seven different communities held events.

CTV: Catholic Television stopped by several of the events and you can watch stories about the fun and fellowship by clicking the links below...

[SummerFest 26 in Pittston](#)

[Saint John the Baptist Parish, Larksville](#)

Weekend events planned in Throop and Plains



FESTIVAL SUPPLIES NEEDED

- KETCHUP
- PLASTIC FORKS
- NAPKINS
- "CHINET" BRAND PAPER PLATES

PLEASE DROP OFF ITEMS AT
MASS OR AT THE RECTORY IN
OLYPHANT

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

KAREN DOYLE 570-904-3241
FOR DONATIONS OR
VOLUNTEERING

ROSE KAMINSKI 570-489-5125
JUDY MENANGO 570-483-4347
TO DONATE TO BAKE SALE

LIZ O'BRIEN 570-687-4520
TO DONATE BASKETS

FAMILY FESTIVAL 2026 SCHEDULE

FRIDAY Evening August 14th

Youth Sports Event at Throop Civic Center (Ages 16 & Under,
boys & girls) Baseball, Soccer & Basketball Skills Competition
Contact Ed Long at 570-561-8764 to register

SATURDAY August 15th 8:30am

St. Carlo Acutis Family Bicycle Ride from

St. Patrick's in Olyphant to St. Anthony's in Throop

- ALL AGES ARE INVITED, FAMILIES MOST WELCOME
- AGES 18 & UNDER MUST WEAR A HELMET
- THIS IS NOT A RACE- IT'S AN ENJOYABLE SLOW PACE RIDE
- RIDE LEAVES AT 8:30AM FROM ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
PARKING LOT IN OLYPHANT
- RIDE ENDS AT ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH IN THROOP
- ALL THOSE 16 AND UNDER WHO REGISTER BY AUGUST 11TH
RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT
- IF A PARTICIPANT NEEDS TRANSPORTATION TO GET THEIR
BICYCLE BACK TO ST. PATRICK'S PARKING LOT, THAT CAN BE
ARRANGED
- WALKERS/JOGGERS/RUNNERS ARE ALL INVITED TO JOIN
- CALL JOE AT 570-237-6667 WITH ANY QUESTIONS

SATURDAY August 15th 3:00-9:00pm

Outside Food Stands - Pigs in the Blanket,
Potato Pancakes, Pierogi, Pizza Frita, Funnel Cakes,
Porchetta Sandwiches, Piggy Soup & More!

SATURDAY August 15th 4:00- 8:00pm

Live Music with KOZMIC KIDZ

SUNDAY August 16th BINGO at St. Anthony's Hall

Doors Open Noon, Bingo Starts 1:00pm w/SPECIAL MENU
Raffle Basket & 50/50 Drawn After Bingo



FUNDRAISER

FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE



Saturday	Sunday
August 15	August 16
8 AM - 6 PM	8 AM - 2 PM



Saints Peter & Paul Parish

Bernardine Hall
13 Hudson Road
Plains, PA 18705



Food Trucks

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:

D's Diner

Lou's Concessions

SATURDAY ONLY:

Handel's Ice Cream

Salt and Honey

El Rey Azteca Mexican



While schools will be back in session soon, it is still not too late to enjoy some summer fun in our parish communities.

Click the link below for all of the remaining church festivals,
picnics and bazaars for this summer season!

Click Here for the Full Listing of 2026 Parish Festivals, Picnics and
Bazaars

Follow us on Social Media...



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