



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 10, 2026

Parishes plan special Masses and Holy Hours to remember 9/11 anniversary

HOLY HOUR - FOR - PEACE
Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001



Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 7:00PM

NEVER FORGET



2001–2026

*We will never forget the lives
lost, the heroes who answered
the call, and the strength
of a nation united.*

— JOIN US ON —

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

~ AT 7:00PM ~

as we mark the 25th anniversary
of that horrific day.

With a Candlelight Mass at the
Church of Saint Luke.

— ∞ —
We will be sharing reflections of
those who survived that day
STARTING AT 6:30PM.



CHURCH OF
SAINT LUKE



WE REMEMBER. WE HONOR. WE STAND TOGETHER.





Parishes around the Diocese of Scranton are preparing to mark the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, this year.

While an annual Mass took place in Hazleton on Wednesday evening, the Pittston area will have a chance to participate in a Holy Hour for Peace this evening (Thursday, Sept. 10) at Saint Mary, Help of Christians Church, 535 North Main Street in Pittston.

Saint Mary's - which is now a worship site of the newly formed Communion of Saints Parish in Pittston, will be open for private prayer beginning at 6:00 p.m., and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and sung Evening Prayer will take place there beginning at 7:00 p.m. tonight.

In the Poconos, Saint Luke Church in Stroudsburg has invited the community to a Candlelight Mass beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11. Reflections of those who survived that day are planned to begin at 6:30 p.m.

In Luzerne County, Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca will hold its annual "Blue Mass" on Friday, Sept. 11, as the community comes together to remember and honor all those who lost their lives in the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Mass will begin at Saint Mary's Church in Avoca at 7:00 p.m. A procession from the local firehouse to the church will begin shortly before Mass.

The Avoca parish invites all members of our community, first responders, and their families to join us as we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and honor the courage and service of those who responded that day.

Faith carries Catholics who lost family to 9/11 terror attacks 25 years ago



Joseph Connor had his back turned to the large window of his 36th floor office when he “suddenly more felt than heard” the massive impact of a commercial jet slamming into the north tower of the World Trade Center a third of a mile away on Sept. 11, 2001.

As Connor watched pages and pages of office paper slowly rain down from the burning skyscraper against the clear sunny sky, the realization hit that his cousin Steven Schlag, a bond trader at the brokerage firm Cantor Fitzgerald, worked high up in one of the towers.

The banker suspected the number of lives lost was quickly rising as he frantically tried to call his cousin, a very close relative. Then, the middle of the second tower burst into a fiery ball, struck by a second jet. For Connor, this confirmed a terrorist attack.

“How could this happen again?” he remembers asking himself. “(Steven) had a wife — a foreign-born wife, like my mom was — and three kids. My mom had two. But why, God? What? How did you let this happen?”

He knew well the anguish of a young widow left with young children. It was the story of his mother on the day she lost her husband to a terrorist bombing 26 years earlier, at a historic tavern near his Wall Street office.

Connor, 60, recently described to OSV News the devastation that unfolded before his eyes in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, as the United States prepares to mark the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. The al-Qaida-led attacks in New York and Washington, with a thwarted attempt failing in Pennsylvania, left close to 3,000 people dead.

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

'I remember like it was yesterday': Catholics describe ministering in aftermath of 9/11



On Sept. 11, 2001 – the date of the worst terrorist attack in American history, when four hijacked jets became deadly weapons – there was no shortage of heroic first responders who confronted danger instead of avoiding it.

Many Catholic clergy and religious ministered among them – including priests, friars and sisters. Some of their stories are perhaps less well known – but the help and healing they also brought to those who experienced the devastating losses of 9/11 are worth remembrance as the 25th anniversary approaches.

“I remember like it was yesterday,” Father Brian Jordan told OSV News.

A Franciscan friar of his order’s Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the priest is the current pastor of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi on West 31st Street in New York City.

That morning, Father Jordan was at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Hearing of the strike, he returned to the Franciscan friary on 31st Street — attached to St. Francis of Assisi Parish — where he lived, determined to go to the disaster site.

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

Victim 0001: Friends recall Father Mychal Judge's 9/11 loss and legacy



The offering placed before the altar on Sept. 11, 2001, was unlike any ever seen at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Manhattan's Financial District: the lifeless body of 68-year-old Franciscan friar and New York City Fire Department Chaplain Father Mychal Judge.

He was killed when the 110 stories of the World Trade Center's south tower collapsed at 9:59 a.m., blasting debris into the adjacent north tower lobby where Father Judge was stationed. At the moment, he reportedly was repeatedly praying, "Jesus, please end this right now! God, please end this!" He was shortly afterward carried from the apocalyptic site.

Some four blocks away, St. Peter's own roof had been struck by landing gear from one of two hijacked jets smashed into both towers that morning. Father Judge's journey there was captured in an instantly iconic photo seen worldwide — dust-covered, slumped in a chair and already shockingly pale as he was carried by five men.

Since he lost his life, Father Judge — a friar for 47 years; a priest for 40 — has been hailed as a hero, suggested for sainthood, and praised as a selfless friend not only to first responders, but also to the poor, sick and forgotten of the Big Apple's sometimes tough streets.

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

Catholic faith endures at Pentagon 25 years after 9/11



At 9:37 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington killing 184 people — 125 people inside the Pentagon and 53 passengers and six crew members aboard the plane.

Twenty-five years later, the repaired facade of the Pentagon still looks a little brighter and the area outside that part of the building is now the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial. There is no central statue. Instead, there are 184 stainless-steel benches, one for each person who lost their life there.

Each bench has the name and age of the victim with a shallow pool of water underneath. There are trees, gravel and dramatic lighting best seen at night.

Interestingly, each bench was placed according to where the victim was — those representing the Pentagon victims are oriented toward the building, while the plane victims are remembered with benches placed in the direction the plane approached the building.

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

Bishop Bambera announces clergy appointments



On Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, announced several deacon appointments.

To read the appointments made on Sept. 3, click the link below.

[Click Here to Read the Clergy Appointments from Sept. 3, 2026](#)

Rosary Hike connects young adults with God and creation



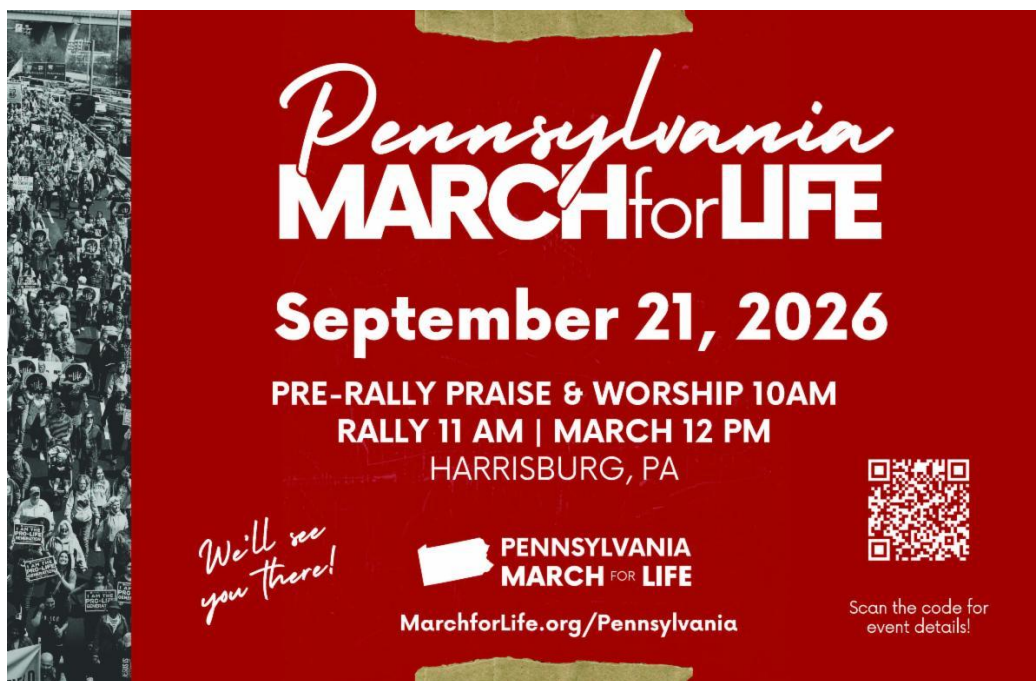
As the Catholic Church entered the 'Season of Creation' at the beginning of September, a group of young adults from across the Diocese of Scranton found a simple way to celebrate the beauty of God's creation.

On Saturday, Sept. 4, 2026, the Diocesan Office for Parish Life hosted its second annual Young Adult Rosary Hike at Lackawanna State Park, bringing together seven dozen people from communities stretching from Conyngham and Drums to Meshoppen and Scranton.

The group followed the Turkey Hill Trail and part of the Abington Trail on a 2.7-mile hike, pausing along the way to pray the Rosary.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television Regarding the Rosary Hike Held on Sept. 4](#)

Seats still available for trip to Pennsylvania March for Life



The Diocese of Scranton invites you to attend the Pennsylvania March for Life on Monday, September 21, 2026 in Harrisburg.

The Office for Parish Life is coordinating a Bus Trip to the March that will pick-up and drop-off at a Scranton location (Divine Mercy Parish, Scranton) and a Wilkes-Barre location (St. Nicholas – St. Mary Parish, Wilkes-Barre).

Space is limited on the Bus, so be sure to register soon!

The registration fee is \$20 and includes: the bus trip to and from the March, a hat, bus snacks, and water. We will not provide meals on the trip, so please pack a lunch.

To register either by credit card or check, please visit the Diocese of Scranton by clicking the link below.

[Click Here For Information on How to Get to the PA March for Life on Sept. 21](#)

Pope Leo XIV asks Our Lady of Good Counsel for aid to make 'courageous and wise decisions'



Pope Leo XIV returned Sept. 7 to the Marian shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel, where he asked the Virgin Mary for aid to bring God's word to light through "courageous and wise decisions."

The pope traveled to Genazzano, a small town about 35 miles east of Rome, to celebrate an evening Mass at the Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Good Counsel on the vigil of the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The visit was the second he has made to the basilica since becoming pope. Pope Leo recalled how he previously made a surprise visit to the shrine just days after his election in the May 2025 conclave to pray before the image of the Virgin Mary to whom he has long been devoted.

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

Pope Leo's advice for seminarians: Focus on your relationship with Jesus



For seminarians navigating years of study and discipline in formation for the priesthood, Pope Leo XIV had a reminder Sept. 3: The key to preparing for priestly ministry is focusing on “your relationship with the One who called you.”

Pope Leo encouraged future priests to use their years in seminary to ground every aspect of their formation in a deep personal relationship with God.

“The heart of the seminary experience lies here: learning to be with the Master, the Lord Jesus,” the pope said in an audience with Italian seminarians in the Vatican’s Clementine Hall.

“Every vocation is born from an intimate dialogue with God, cultivated in silence and prayer, which often occurs despite the sometimes deafening noise of the world,” the pope said.

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

Williamsport and White Haven communities holding weekend carnivals and festivals

★ ★ ST. BONIFACE PARISH ★ ★

★ 58th ANNUAL ★

CARNIVAL



★ SEPTEMBER 10, 11 & 12 ★ 326 WASHINGTON BLVD ★

FOOD ★ GAMES ★ RIDES ★ BINGO ★ PIEROGIES



SCHOOL GYM
(MEALS & WHITE ELEPHANT)
OPENS EACH NIGHT AT 4PM



OUTSIDE GROUNDS
OPEN THURSDAY & FRIDAY
AT 6PM, SATURDAY AT 5PM

NIGHTLY SIT-DOWN MEALS (4-7PM)

IN SCHOOL GYM

\$15 ADULTS ★ \$7 CHILD

THURS

Chicken and Biscuits,
Real Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Coleslaw,
Roll, Dessert, and Beverage

FRI

Homemade Meatloaf or Baked Haddock,
Tony's Macaroni and Cheese,
Green Beans, Coleslaw, Roll,
Dessert, and Beverage

SAT

Roast Pork with Homemade Stuffing
and Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn,
Coleslaw, Roll, Dessert, and Beverage

★ TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE ★

FOOD ON THE GROUNDS

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ★ Chicken BBQ Sandwich | ★ French Fries |
| ★ Hot Sausage | ★ Pizza |
| ★ Meatball Sandwiches | ★ Funnel Cakes |
| ★ Hot Dogs | ★ Ice Cream |
| ★ Ham & Cheese | ★ Soda/Water |
| Pretzel Roll | & OUR OWN
HOMEMADE PIEROGIES |

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE
EACH NIGHT (4-8PM) IN SCHOOL GYM

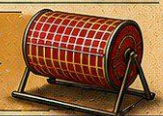


RAFFLE

\$1,000
TOP PRIZE!

RAFFLE

ANNUAL RAFFLE DRAWING
★ AT 10PM SATURDAY ★
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN



★ THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR PARISH! ★



The Combined Parishes of
**Immaculate Conception
and St. Patrick's**
Present a

POLISH FESTIVAL

at St. Patrick's Parish Center
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH
6:00 - 9:30 PM



\$25.00

 HOMEMADE HALUPKI	 HOMEMADE HALUSHKI	 HOMEMADE PIEROGI	 HOMEMADE KIELBASI	 HOMEMADE DESSERTS
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ALL MADE WITH LOVE!
Faith • Family • Community • Tradition

Live Music by
John Stevens
Double Shot Polka Band



**TRICKY
TRAYS**
WILL BE AVAILABLE



BYOB
BRING YOUR
OWN BEVERAGES



LOCATION:
ST. PATRICK'S
PARISH CENTER



*Come Join Us for a Night of
Great Food, Great Music, and Great Fun!*

While the calendar has turned the page to September, there are still several parishes holding events this coming weekend.

From Lycoming County to Luzerne County - there is something close to many people this holiday weekend!

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

Follow us on Social Media...



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