



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 3, 2026

Wyoming Area Catholic School community turns to prayer after fire



Just 24 hours after fire forced the evacuation of Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter, its students, families, teachers, staff,

and administrators gathered at Saint Maria Goretti Parish – not simply to pray – but to express gratitude.

The school community came together Wednesday morning, Sept. 2, 2026, grateful that every student and adult made it safely outside the building.

“This is step one, to come together before God, to come together as a school community to give thanks to one another and to be thankful for our safety,” Father Michael Drevitch, Pastor of Saint Maria Goretti Parish, said during his homily at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Throughout his homily, Father Drevitch returned to a theme he had shared with the students just two days earlier at their first school Mass of the year: Sometimes, God is found in the least expected places.

On Monday, he had encouraged students to recognize God’s presence not only in the Eucharist and the Word of God, but also through sports, academics, the arts, and other ordinary moments of school life.

“Then yesterday,” he said, “we came to recognize that God definitely presents himself in unexpected ways.”

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Mass in Italian, part of La Festa Italiana, to be celebrated Sunday



The annual Mass in Italian will be celebrated on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

All are welcome to attend.

The liturgy is celebrated in conjunction with La Festa Italiana, which occurs over the Labor Day weekend, Friday through Monday, Sept. 4-7, on Courthouse Square, only one block away.

The Mass in Italian is one of the most cherished traditions of La Festa Italiana, which is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding. Priests and volunteers from Italian parishes played a prominent role in organizing and conducting La Festa from its inception in 1976.

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will preside at this year's liturgy and give the homily.

Reverend David P. Cappelloni, La Festa Chaplain and pastor of Saint John Paul II Parish in Dunmore, will be the principal celebrant.

Concelebrants will include Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, La Festa Chaplain Emeritus, and Reverend Joseph J. Adonizio,

who just celebrated his 100th birthday and has been a priest for 70 years.

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Oblates to host Labor Day Triduum, Mass honoring Saint Joseph the Worker



The Congregation of the Oblates of Saint Joseph, located at 1880 Route 315, Laflin, is preparing for the annual Triduum and special Labor Day Mass honoring Saint Joseph the Worker in September.

A three-day preparation of Masses during the Labor Day weekend will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 4-6, with liturgies celebrated at noon in the Saint Joseph Oblates chapel in Laflin.

Devotions to Saint Joseph will be offered after each Mass, especially for all workers and the unemployed. A blessing with the first-class relic of Saint Joseph Marengo, founder of the Oblates religious order, will conclude the devotions.

A special Mass is planned for Labor Day morning, Monday, Sept. 7, at 11 a.m., honoring Saint Joseph as the Patron Saint of Workers. Bread will be blessed and distributed following the Mass to all faithful in attendance as a symbol of the “fruit of our labor.”

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"Irish Night" held at Queen of the Apostles Parish in Avoca



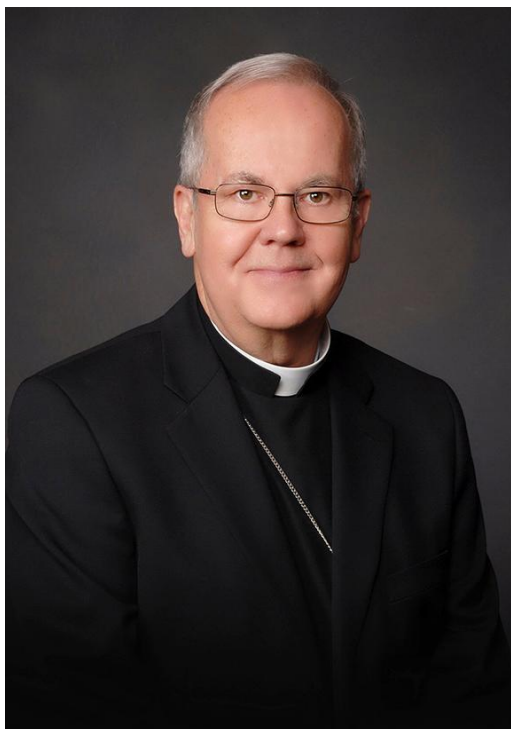
Irish music filled Saint Mary's Hall late last month as parishioners of Queen of the Apostles Parish gathered for an evening of food, fellowship and a celebration of the heritage that has been part of their community for generations.

An "Irish Night" held on Aug. 29, 2026, brought approximately 125 people together to enjoy traditional Irish food, live Celtic music, and a performance by the Joyce School of Irish Dance.

The evening featured a traditional Irish buffet prepared by Chef Eugene Philbin, an Avoca native and parishioner, including Irish sausage with red onion and whiskey gravy, tender beef prepared with Guinness stout and red wine gravy, roasted garlic mashed potatoes with cabbage and greens, seasonal vegetables, Irish soda bread and homemade desserts.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Irish Night Held at Queen of the Apostles Parish](#)

Bishop Bambera, Catholic Biblical Association endorse scholar's appointment amid antisemitic backlash



The head of the U.S. bishop's committee on ecumenical and interreligious affairs has expressed his robust support for biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine, as she faces antisemitic backlash for her recent appointment as the first Jewish president of the Catholic Biblical Association of America.

The association also issued a statement of support for Levine, noting that "the vitriol of some of the comments only reinforces the need to address the problem" of antisemitism.

In an Aug. 28 letter, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera of Scranton, Pennsylvania, offered his "warmest congratulations" to Levine,

who is the Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, and professor emerita of New Testament and Jewish studies at Vanderbilt University.

Levine is also co-editor with Marc Zvi Brettler of “The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently” and “The Jewish Annotated New Testament.”

An internationally recognized New Testament expert, Levine was named president of the CBA in July, with the association — of which she has been a longtime member — announcing the appointment in early August.

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Pope Leo says, 'It is not yet too late' to care for creation



Pope Leo XIV began the five-week Season of Creation by calling on the faithful to step away from the frenzy of daily life to “hear the melodious voice of creation,” stressing that “it is not yet too late” to repair humanity’s relationship with the environment.

Celebrating Mass on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in the gardens of the papal villa and the Borgo Laudato Si’ ecology project in Castel Gandolfo, Sept. 1, the pope said contemplating creation and its Creator should lead people to recognize their responsibility for protecting it.

“Thus, as we become conscious of our shortcomings and failures, we can renew our commitment to restoring the relationships among all creatures according to the will of their Creator,” he said.

The theme chosen for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation echoes the biblical call to “beat swords into plowshares” and connects armed conflict with environmental destruction.

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Vatican Theological Commission defines 'sin against Creation and the Creator' in new document



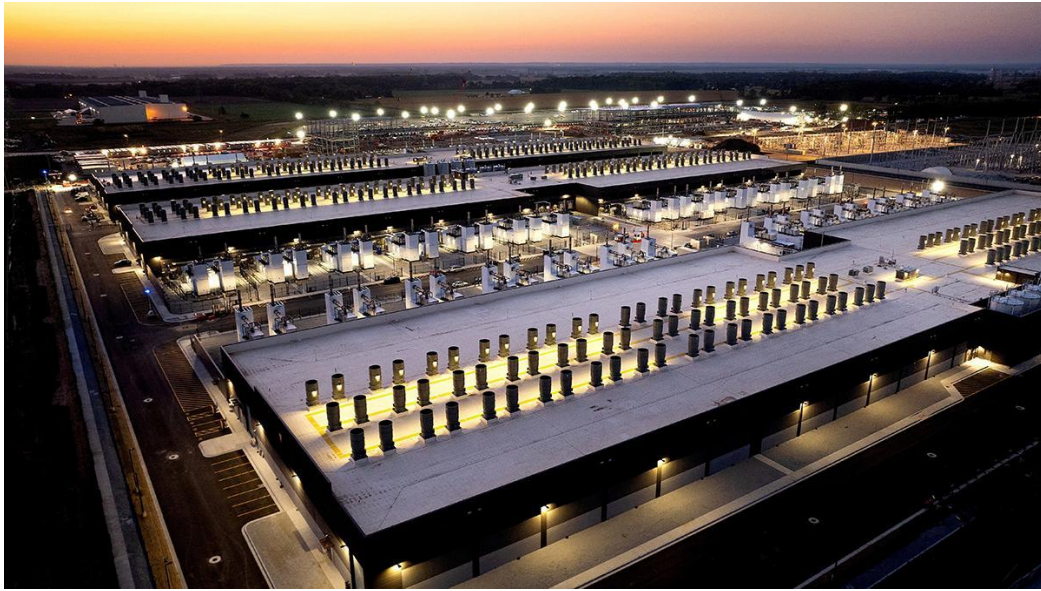
The International Theological Commission published a new document Sept. 2 calling for ecological conversion due to “sin against creation and the Creator.”

The more than 29,000 word text, titled “Caring for Our Common Home: A Responsible and Fraternal Response to the Triune God,” was approved by a majority of members of the commission in a July vote and authorized for release by Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, after being presented to Pope Leo XIV.

More than a decade after the release of Pope Francis’ landmark encyclical “Laudato Si’,” the theological commission goes beyond Pope Francis’ use of the phrase “ecological sin” by proposing what it describes as more precise terminology: “sin against creation and the Creator.”

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Unwelcome neighbors? Data center concerns grow over energy use, utility costs



They're the new neighbor a growing number of communities across America don't seem to want – data centers.

But what are they, and why are some people opposed to them?

The multinational technology company IBM provides this definition: “A data center is a physical room, building or facility that houses IT (Information Technology) infrastructure for building, running and delivering (digital) applications and services. It also stores and manages the data associated with those applications and services.”

Which may sound harmless enough — but opponents offer several criticisms: To build, run, deliver, store, and manage the applications and data housed in a data center, its infrastructure consumes massive amounts of electricity and water, potentially driving up local utility bills. The centers can also create industrial noise and may offer very few permanent local jobs.

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Catholic agencies respond to Nepal floods, as U.S. Bishop calls for greater international aid



A U.S. Catholic bishop is calling on the international community to step up aid after devastating torrents of water and mud raged along the Nepal-China border, killing more than 580 with over 1,900 still missing.

“As we learn more about the devastating flash floods in Nepal, I offer the prayers and solidarity of the Catholic community in the United States for our brothers and sisters impacted by this disaster,” said Bishop A. Elias Zaidan of the St. Louis-based

Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles in an Aug. 27 statement.

The disaster was triggered by a glacial collapse in Nepal's Langtang National Park shortly after 8:30 a.m. Aug. 26, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Debris from the 5.2 magnitude event flowed more than 60 miles, resulting in "catastrophic impacts downstream" in communities along the Trishuli and Bhote Koshi Rivers, said the agency.

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Labor Day a call to build communion, equity amid challenges of AI, says Archbishop Fabre



This year's Sept. 7 observance of Labor Day underscores Pope Leo XIV's call to be "builders of communion" while safeguarding

human dignity, as artificial intelligence “reshapes our economy and our work,” said Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre of Louisville, Kentucky.

The archbishop reflected on the nature of work and labor in a Sept. 1 statement, speaking in his role as chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

First established in New York City in 1882, the annual holiday — which developed from labor activist movements of the late 19th century — “is an opportunity to celebrate workers and honor the dignity of work,” said Archbishop Fabre.

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Several parishes holding festivals and events over Labor Day weekend



ST. MARTHA'S FESTIVAL

260 Bonnieville Rd, Fairmount Springs PA

Friday, September 4: 5-10 p.m.

Saturday, September 5: 5-10 p.m.

Sunday, September 6: 12-10 p.m.

BBQ CHICKEN DINNERS Saturday & Sunday

LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY

Friday: Caleb Diltz, Saturday: Lance Thomas Band,

Sunday: 404 Band

UNDER THE BIG TOP, RAIN OR SHINE!

ST. FAUSTINA PARISH AT ST. MARY MOCANAQUA

Homecoming Picnic

St. Mary Park, Lee Road, Mocanaqua, PA

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Saturday, September 5 - 5:00-9:30 PM

Sunday, September 6 - 1:00-9:30 PM

HOMEMADE ETHNIC FOODS

*(pierogi, haluski, piggies, potato pancakes, turkette, desserts),
refreshments, basket raffles, prize stands and much more!*



Live Entertainment: 5-9:30pm

Saturday - The Music Room
Sunday - Flaxy Morgan

Holy Mass at 4:00 PM at the
park on Saturday, September 5

• FREE PARKING & ADMISSION •

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

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

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

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