



The Catholic Light

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 1, 2026

Bishop Bambera to celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 4 at Cathedral

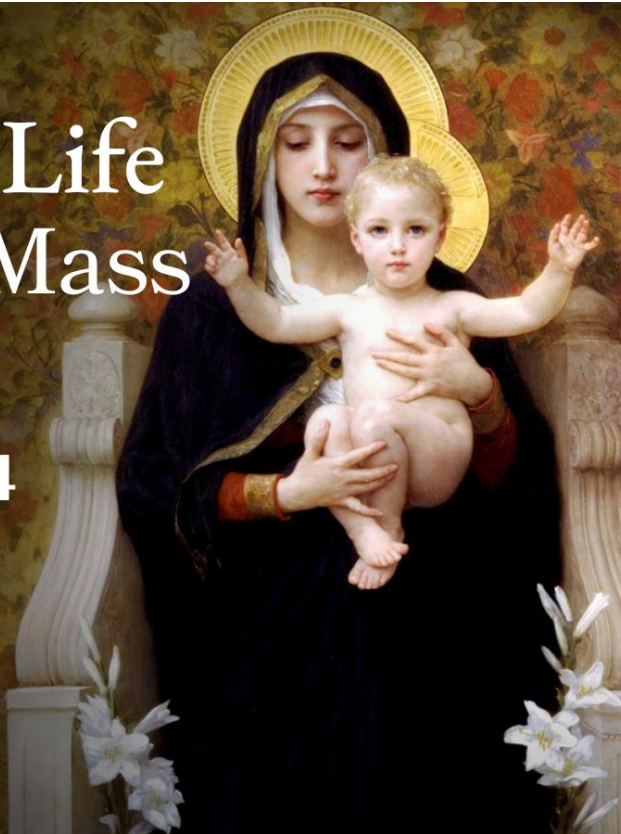
**Respect Life
Sunday Mass**

Sunday, Oct. 4

10:00 a.m.

**Cathedral of
Saint Peter**

315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton



The Catholic Church recognizes the month of October as Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October is designated as Respect Life Sunday.

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate Respect Life Sunday Mass on Oct. 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass is open to the public.

Faithful from across the Diocese of Scranton are invited to attend the Respect Life Sunday Mass and focus on God's precious gift of human life and our responsibility to care for, protect and defend the lives of our brothers and sisters.

For those unable to attend in-person, the Mass will be broadcast live on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and the Diocese of Scranton's YouTube Channel. The Mass will also be livestream on the Diocese of Scranton website with links provided on the Diocese of Scranton social media platforms.

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

Every human life is a 'treasured gift from God'

*Bishop Bambera's Message for Respect Life Month
2026*



Dear Friends,

During his pastoral visit to Spain earlier this year, Pope Leo XIV shared these words: “The defense of human life is neither a partisan issue nor a confessional interest: it is a goal of civilization. Every human life must be recognized and safeguarded from conception to its natural end, in every circumstance of its existence. When this certainty is obscured, the most vulnerable are the first victims, and the law loses its deepest meaning: to serve and protect every person. For this reason, the moral greatness of a nation is manifested, above all, in its capacity to accompany, protect and love those lives that are most fragile.”

While the Holy Father addressed these words to the people of Spain, he could have just as easily addressed these words to most any country in the world, including our own. For every step forward that has been achieved in the endless battle to protect human life, there is always an equal and opposite step taken that diminishes respect and reverence for the sanctity of God’s greatest gift.

Human life continues to be threatened far more today than we realize or are willing to acknowledge. While the decades-long fight to overturn Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that established a constitutional right to abortion, was finally won in 2022, authority to regulate or ban the procedure was returned to individual states. As such, although abortion is prohibited or very limited in numerous states, in August, Massachusetts became the tenth state to allow the procedure at any point in a pregnancy.

What is more, euthanasia and assisted suicide practices are increasingly prevalent in various parts of the world, with assisted suicide currently authorized in thirteen states in our own land. The death penalty, opposed by the Church in recent papal pronouncements, continues to be an option for the punishment of certain crimes. Efforts to achieve human cloning and illicit reproductive technologies continue to be developed. And human trafficking is rampant as well as unjust immigration laws and actions that serve to diminish the dignity of God's people.

The good news, however, is that the voices of faithful, selfless disciples of Jesus and countless others from different faith traditions continue to be heard in our world, proclaiming the value of human life as the treasured gift of God that it is.

The theme for this year's Respect Life Month focuses on the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother of Life. In becoming the mother of Jesus, her acceptance in that unplanned and unforeseen moment demonstrates how each of us is called to welcome the gift of human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices.

This past July in his monthly prayer request, Pope Leo urged Catholics across the globe to join him in praying for respect for human life.

In his prayer, the Pope recognized that "each person is a sacred gift, from the first instant of existence to the final breath of their journey on earth." He expressed his wish that we learn to "welcome life unconditionally," to "accompany each stage with

respect,” and “to bravely defend those who have no voice.” And the Holy Father concluded his prayer – as I do this letter – by imploring the Lord “to help His Church become a living witness of the Gospel of life, an open home where every life is celebrated, where no one feels unwanted, and where dignity is always honored and protected.”

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

[Click Here to Share Bishop Bambera's Respect Life Message from the Diocese of Scranton website](#)

During Respect Life Month, Catholics urged to pray, take action to stop use of abortion pill



Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, Ohio, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged the faithful to mark Respect Life Month with prayer, deeper reflection and action.

"Our Blessed Mother is our model for upholding the sanctity of all human life in every stage and circumstance. We entrust all our efforts to protect mothers and babies to her motherly care, which we greatly need at this time," Bishop Thomas said in a Sept. 29 statement.

"Today, with easier access to abortion pills, the abortion rate is tragically climbing, along with increased health risks," he said.

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.

Thus far the administration has left that regulation in effect while seeking to block those challenges, pending a promised FDA safety review, resulting in frustration from pro-life advocates.

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

Red Mass to be celebrated Friday at Cathedral of Saint Peter

Red Mass

*Join us to pray for those in
the legal, judicial and
government professions.*

FRIDAY, OCT. 2, 2026

12:10 p.m.

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER

315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton

The Diocese of Scranton's annual Red Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Oct. 2, 2026, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Historically, the Red Mass is attended by judges, lawyers and legislators for the purpose of invoking God's blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. Its traditional name is derived from the color of vestments worn by the celebrants of the Mass, symbolizing the tongues of fire, which indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the robes of the attending royal judges were, in ancient days, bright scarlet.

The public is invited to the Red Mass to pray for those in the legal profession. Members of the county bar associations from across the 11-county Diocese and the Diocesan Tribunal staff are also invited to participate.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Red Mass live and a livestream will be available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel and links will be provided on all social media platforms.

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

Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport launches 'Innovative Fridays'



While there were no traditional classes held at Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School on Friday, Sept. 25, 2026, the school campus was still filled with first responders, emergency medical personnel and plenty of students.

It was the first 'Innovative Friday' at the Williamsport Catholic school as its new four-day academic model takes shape.

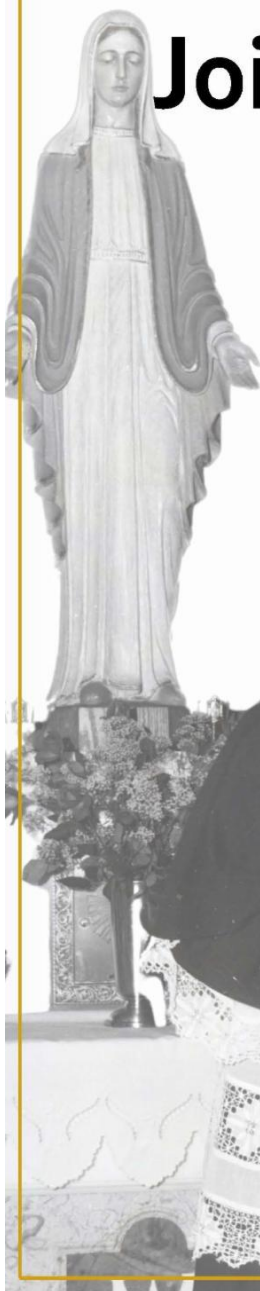
This year, students in grades 6 through 12 now attend classes Monday through Thursday, with extended school days to meet required instructional hours. Fridays are reserved for enrichment, tutoring, field trips, career exploration, service opportunities, and

other experiences that extend learning beyond the traditional classroom.

For the inaugural 'Innovative Friday,' the school hosted an Emergency Preparedness and Safety Day, bringing together representatives from University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), South Williamsport Fire Department, Loyalsock Volunteer Fire Department, Williamsport Bureau of Fire, Clearview Asset Protection, NOAA Weather Safety, PPL, Pennsylvania State Police, Williamsport Police and the Lycoming County Emergency Management Agency.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television about the inaugural 'Innovative Friday' at Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School](#)

Rosary Rally to be held at Cathedral of Saint Peter on Oct. 17



Join us for a *Rosary Rally*

“He called my brother to the priesthood from the coal mines of Scranton. He called me from being the janitor in St. Peter’s Cathedral.”

—Venerable Patrick Peyton

 **St. Peter’s Cathedral,
Scranton, PA**

 **October 17, 2026**

 **1:00 pm**

**In the silence,
God calls**



Family Rosary
HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

While quietly cleaning St. Peter’s Cathedral, young Pat Peyton, the Irish immigrant parish custodian, heard God’s invitation to follow Him more closely.

It was Pat's response to this call that led him to the priesthood, his ministry to millions of families, and now his cause for canonization.

Such a call did not come on the loud and busy streets of Scranton, but in the silent, prayerful space of God's house.

How do we hear the voice of God today?

Between our calendars and the devices clamoring for our attention, it is easy to overlook life's most important relationships with God and our family. And the busier and more distracted we get, the more these relationships suffer.

Father Peyton, candidate for Sainthood, reminded us of the Rosary's power to unite us with both God and our family, for it is in the Rosary that we enter into the silent love of our Blessed Mother and unite as a family through her Son, Jesus Christ.

Join us at St. Peter's Cathedral on Saturday, October 17th as we pray the Rosary in the spirit of Fr. Peyton to seek God's blessing and our Lady's protection over the most important relationships in life: God and family.

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

Catholic Social Services' to hold Wellness Workshop this weekend

— BRIDGES TO WELLNESS PROGRAM —

Haitian Community Wellness Workshop

Join us for an afternoon of creativity, culture, connection, and conversation as we support mental health during October Mental Health Month.



CANDLE MAKING

A creative activity to relax, connect, and take care of yourself.



HAITIAN FOOD

Bring and share your favorite Haitian dish with the community!



MENTAL HEALTH DISCUSSION

Let's talk about our mental health, share experiences, and support each other.



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 3, 2026
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM



201 Lackawanna Avenue
Suite 313
Scranton, PA 18503

COMMUNITY • WELLNESS • CULTURE • CONNECTION



Catholic Social Services
OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Together for a Healthier Community



MOSES TAYLOR
FOUNDATION

Catholic Social Services' "Bridges to Wellness Program" will hold a wellness workshop this weekend for members of the Haitian community.

The afternoon of creativity, culture, connection and conversation is being held as part of October's Mental Health Month.

The event will feature candle making, Haitian food and a discussion on mental health.

The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, from noon until 2:00 p.m. at 201 Lackawanna Avenue, Suite 313.

Papal trip to France showed miracle of rebirth out of tragedy is possible, Pope says



Pope Leo XIV's journey to France aimed to show that a joyful or serene rebirth is always possible even after tremendous tragedy or terrible suffering, he said.

By visiting the newly restored Notre Dame Cathedral, meeting with survivors of abuse and praying at Lourdes, and celebrating the Christian faith openly in the public square of a secular nation, the pope highlighted how the miracle of new life can happen when everyone comes together out of love for one's neighbor and the common good, he said during his weekly general audience Sept. 30.

As has been customary, Pope Leo used his first general audience after his Sept. 25-28 trip to Paris, Lourdes and Metz in France to tell people about the purpose of his visit and to thank all those who made the journey possible.

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

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen declared 'Blessed' at beatification Mass in St. Louis



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen – the 20th-century theologian, evangelizer, Catholic communications pioneer, teacher and preacher – is now Blessed Fulton J. Sheen.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, a pro-prefect for the Holy See's Dicastery for Evangelization and papal delegate, pronounced the Church's declaration on Archbishop Sheen's holiness of life and witness to Jesus Christ at a Sept. 24 Mass celebrated in The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis.

To the applause of pilgrims, Cardinal Tagle described Archbishop Sheen as a "son of Illinois, son of the United States of America" and "indeed, son of the world."

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

Polish priest wounded in stabbing returns to altar with message of forgiveness



Two days after surviving a knife attack that killed a fellow priest, Father Adrian Mantykiewicz returned to the altar at the Benedictine sisters' abbey in Jaroslaw with a message centered on forgiveness.

“As a disciple of Jesus Christ, in my own name, in Father Marek’s name and in Father Stanislaw’s name, I want to say very clearly that we forgive,” Father Mantykiewicz said during a Sept. 26 Mass

at the Benedictine Sisters' abbey in Jaroslaw in a homily that has since gone viral in Poland, sparking thousands of reactions from politicians, clergy and other users on social media.

It was the first Mass celebrated at the abbey after the Sept. 24 attack, in which five people were stabbed. Father Stanislaw Zbojnowicz died from his injuries. Father Mantykiewicz was treated and released from the hospital the same day. The abbey said Sept. 25 that Father Marek Pienkowski remained hospitalized in serious but stable condition.

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

First weekend of October to feature parish festivals in Scranton and Montdale

A rectangular poster with a cream-colored background and a black border. The text is in various shades of red and brown. The top section has the title 'ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH FALL FESTIVAL & RUMMAGE SALE' in large, bold letters, followed by the dates 'OCTOBER 2-4' and the address '1217 PROSPECT AVENUE, SCRANTON'. The bottom section is divided into two columns. The left column lists the days and times: 'FRIDAY 3PM-8PM', 'SATURDAY 10AM-8PM', and 'SUNDAY 9AM-3PM', each with a note that 'FOOD AND GAMES BEGIN AT 4PM', '11 AM', and '11 AM' respectively. The right column lists the activities: 'FOOD AND FUN FOR ALL', 'HUGE RUMMAGE SALE', 'KIDS' GAMES', 'HISPANIC & AMERICAN FOOD', 'BASKETS GALORE', 'INSTANT BINGO', and 'HOMEMADE DESSERTS'. The poster is decorated with autumn leaves and branches on the left and right sides.

ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH
FALL FESTIVAL & RUMMAGE SALE
OCTOBER 2-4
1217 PROSPECT AVENUE, SCRANTON

FRIDAY 3PM-8PM
FOOD AND GAMES BEGIN AT 4PM

SATURDAY 10AM-8PM
FOOD AND GAMES BEGIN AT 11 AM

SUNDAY 9AM-3PM
FOOD AND GAMES BEGIN AT 11 AM

FOOD AND FUN FOR ALL
HUGE RUMMAGE SALE
KIDS' GAMES
HISPANIC & AMERICAN FOOD
BASKETS GALORE
INSTANT BINGO
HOMEMADE DESSERTS

Reverend August A. Ricciardi and parishioners of

ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH

Montdale & Royal, PA, invite you to attend their

Harvest Festival

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

at Corpus Christi Church in Montdale • 704 Montdale Road, Scott Twp., PA



11:30 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

TAKE-OUT TURKEY DINNER



DINNER

\$15.00

***With all the
trimmings***

DRAWINGS BEGIN AT 3:30P



Homemade Baked Goods • Monetary Raffle



Huge Array of Bountiful Baskets • Outdoor Tent

Coming from North take Route 81 South to Exit 201, turn left on Route 438, travel 2.2 miles
Coming from South take Route 81 North to Exit 201, turn right on Route 438, travel 2.2 miles

This is the final weekend that we will be highlighting parish festivals in our weekly E-Newsletter.

There are two more opportunities to spend time with fellow parishioners and friends this weekend - at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Scranton and Saint John Vianney Parish in Montdale.

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

Follow us on Social Media...



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