The Catholic Light
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

October 29, 2026

Young adults invited to annual 'Leave a Mark' Mass on Nov. 1



Young adults are invited to join the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the Diocesan Vocations Office for the eleventh annual Leave a Mark Mass on Nov. 1, 2026, to kick off National Vocation Awareness Week!

Mass will take place at 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

Leave a Mark is the Diocese of Scranton's response to what Pope Francis said at World Youth Day in 2016: "Dear young people, we didn't come into this world to 'vegetate,' to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark. It is very sad to pass through life without leaving a mark."

Now, every year on the Sunday before National Vocation Awareness Week, young adults from around our diocese come together to worship the Lord, meet one another, and discern how God is calling us to leave a mark in this world through our vocation.

There will be a reception following the Mass at the Diocesan Pastoral Center across the street from the Cathedral of Saint Peter featuring food trucks and interactive activities.

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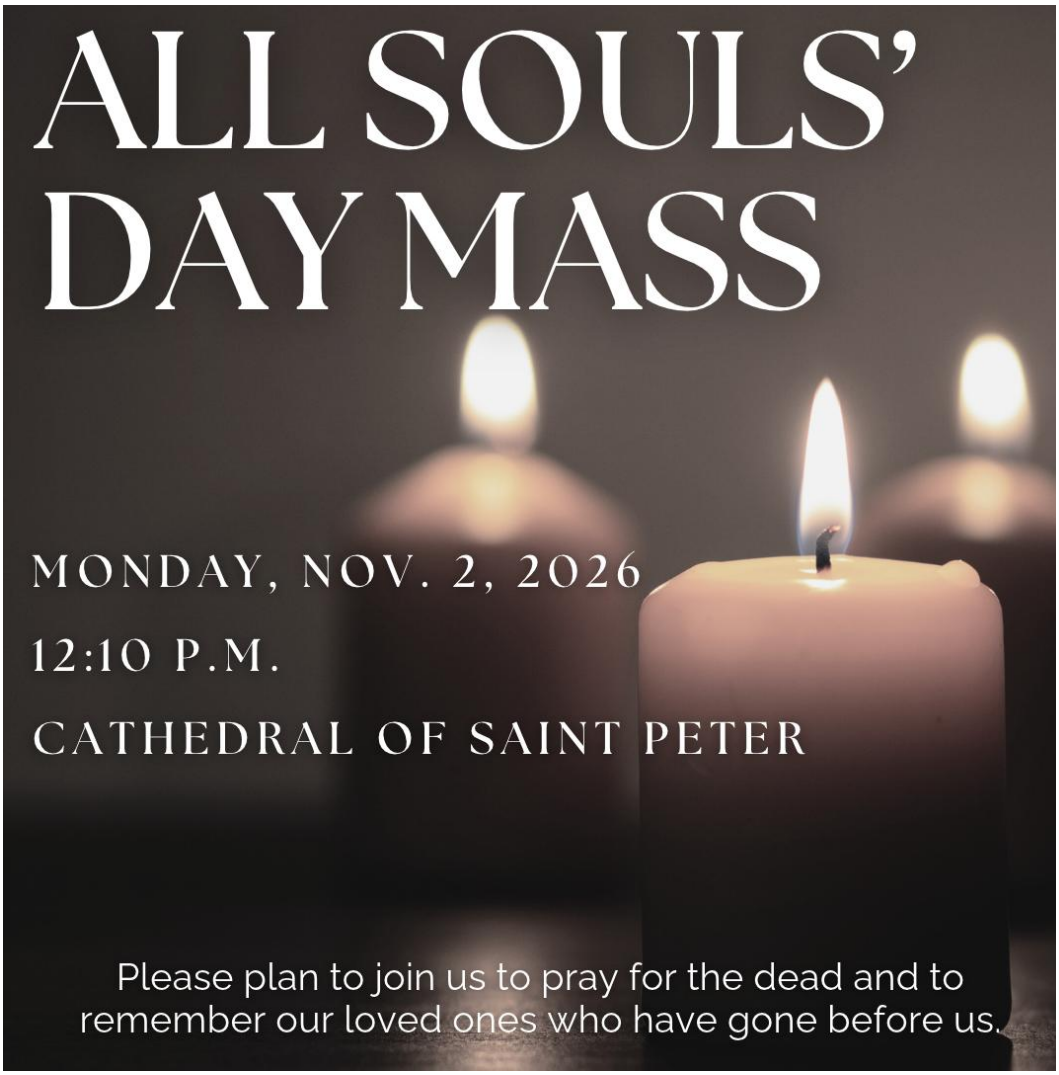
Bishop Bambera to celebrate All Souls' Day Mass on Nov. 2



Next Monday, November 2, Catholics will observe The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, also known as All Souls' Day.

On this day, we are encouraged to pray for the dead and to remember our loved ones who have gone before us.

Bishop Bambera will celebrate a special Pontifical Mass for All Souls' Day at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Avenue in Scranton, at 12:10 p.m.

All are invited to attend.

Click Here to Share this Information from the Diocese of Scranton website

Ahead of Nov. 3 General Election, Catholics reminded of civic responsibility



“For citizens in a representative democracy such as our own, participation in public life—including voting—is both a right and a responsibility,” said Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in a message leading up to Election Day in the United States on Tuesday, November 3.

For Catholics, voting with a formed conscience is critical to ensuring that public policies are enacted to protect and preserve all human life with dignity from natural conception to natural death, educational liberties, the family, and the common good.

Faithful citizens share a common responsibility to learn how candidates' positions impact these critical issues. Undoubtedly, there are many matters at the national level of concern to Catholic voters such as just immigration policy and ongoing conflict in the Middle East that demand our attention and require us to make our voices heard.

Click Here for More Faithful Citizenship Resources Ahead of the Nov. 3 General Election

Catholic singer and guitarist Chris Brunelle to hold two events in NEPA next week



Accomplished guitarist and vocalist Chris Brunelle will be visiting northeastern Pennsylvania next week for two special events.

Brunelle, who has more than 100,000 subscribers to his YouTube channel and video views surpassing 50 million, will be holding concerts in Pittston on Wednesday, Nov. 4, and Hazleton on Thursday, Nov. 5.

The first event on Nov. 4 is being held especially for alumni and friends of the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System (although the event is free and open to all). The event, billed as "Re-Verse and be Plaid" will be a chance for alumni of all schools to enjoy a fun night out and reconnect. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Center." Registration is required.

The following evening, Brunelle will hold another concert at Holy Rosary Church in Hazleton at 7 p.m. No registration is required.

Click Here to Register for the Nov. 4 Concert in Pittston - Billed as the "Re-Verse and Be Plaid" Event

Night of Peace with Sarah Hart and Francesca LaRosa to be held Nov. 14



Join award winning Catholic singers and songwriters Sarah Hart and Francesca LaRosa as they share an evening of songs and stories bringing peace and hope on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Maria Goretti Church, 42 Redwood Drive, Laflin.

It's an opportunity to pause and refresh, connecting with our Lord and our Lady, as we prepare our hearts for Advent and the coming of Christ. All are invited for fellowship and light fare after the concert in the parish hall.

OCIA Leaders and Team Members are invited to attend a pre-event gathering at 5:30 p.m.

Click Here For More Information on the "Night of Peace"

New Acolytes called to live the Eucharist through service



Seven men preparing for Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Scranton took an important step in their formation on Oct. 24, 2026, as they were instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte during a Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, at the Cathedral of Saint Peter.

During the Rite of Institution, Bishop Bambera placed vessels containing bread to be consecrated in the hands of each candidate, entrusting them with a ministry of service at the altar and challenging them to carry Christ's presence into the world.

Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Mass Featuring the Rite of Institution of Acolytes

Pope Leo's doctors confirm his visit to Latin America two weeks after lung surgery



Two weeks after Pope Leo XIV's surgery for lung cancer, his doctor confirmed he can fly to South America according to the previously released schedule, with Uruguay, Argentina and Peru planned as stops for his Nov. 6-17 trip, the longest trip of the pontificate so far.

"Based on his current clinical status, as well as the instrumental and laboratory tests performed, there are no contraindications that would prevent him from undertaking his upcoming apostolic journey to Latin America as planned," Dr. Luigi Carbone, the papal doctor said in a statement released by the Holy See Press Office Oct. 26.

The pope “is following medical recommendations with great care and diligence, and with a deep determination to continue serving the Church,” the statement read, confirming that the apostolic trip to South America “will proceed according to the program previously published.”

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Savannah Bishop shares timeless witness of Georgia Martyrs ahead of Saturday beatification



What would you give your life for? This is the question and challenge that Bishop Stephen D. Parkes of the Diocese of Savannah has been putting before young people receiving the sacrament of confirmation as his Georgia diocese prepares for the

historic beatification of five Franciscan missionaries who laid down their lives for their Catholic faith on that same soil over 400 years ago.

“This has relevance for today,” he told OSV News in a recent interview, “because in our world today, there’s just so much happening and so much going on. And we hear all these divergent opinions and you think, ‘Well, what do I believe? What do I feel so strongly about that I’m going to shed my blood for it?'”

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Why do some priests leave ministry? New study aims to find out



A new study has been launched by The Catholic University of America to explore why some priests choose to exit their ministry within a few years of ordination.

“There is a perception among some bishops and other Catholic leaders that there has been an increase in the number of men leaving priestly ministry in their early years,” said university official Sara Perla. “We wanted to find out whether that has any basis in the numbers, and if so, what might be contributing to it.”

The university’s research initiative, funded by the Knights of Columbus, will “deepen understanding of the factors behind why Catholic priests decide to leave public ministry,” said lead researcher Brandon Vaidyanathan, professor of sociology at the university and director of its Institutional Flourishing Lab.

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Report: 4 in 10 Catholics have experienced racism



A new report indicates that 60% of adult Catholics in the U.S. believe racism exists within their local community, with about 4 in 10 (39%) saying they have experienced racial discrimination generally.

That figure was higher among Black Catholics (66%), Hispanic Catholics (54%) and Asian Catholics (54%).

In addition, 10% of Catholics polled said they have experienced racial discrimination within their parish community, and 11% within Catholic education.

Black Catholics are also more likely to experience racial discrimination within their parish and in Catholic education, according to the report.

The findings were released Oct. 26 in “Experiences of Race, Diversity, and Racism: A National Survey of Adult Catholics.”

Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor

Catholic Ministries Appeal reaches 60% of goal



To date, the 2026-2027 Catholic Ministries Appeal has raised more than $2.6 million - or approximately 60% of its $4.5 million goal. That amount reflects the generosity and commitment of parishioners supporting the vital Catholic ministries of our local Church.

The Diocese of Scranton extends its gratitude to the thousands of donors who have already made a gift or pledge. Every contribution helps sustain ministries that serve individuals and families, strengthen parishes, educate young people and spread the Good News of the Gospel.

The Catholic Ministries Appeal supports Vocations, Seminarians and Retired Clergy; Catholic media and communications; Parish Life initiatives; Catholic Social Services; Catholic education; as well as Parish Faith Formation and Social Justice Grants.

Click Here for More Information or to Donate to the 2026-2027 Catholic Ministries Appeal

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