
Diocese of Scranton



Red Mass

Friday, October 2, 2026, 12:10 p.m.
Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels

Cathedral of Saint Peter
Scranton, Pennsylvania

PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT
The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

Today's Mass of the Holy Spirit is offered to invoke God's blessing upon all members of the legal profession. Its traditional name, the Red Mass, is derived from the color of the vestments worn by the presider and concelebrants, the scarlet robes of attending justices (which were bright scarlet in the Middle Ages) and the scarlet gowns of law professors. This venerable tradition traces its origins to Rome, Paris and London. In Rome, the Red Mass officially opened the judicial year of the Sacred Roman Rota, the Tribunal of the Holy See. During the reign of Saint Louis (Louis IX) of France, La Sainte Chapelle in Paris was designated the site of the Mass. In England, the tradition was initiated by Edward I in 1310 and was celebrated in Westminster Abbey on the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel (September 29) at the opening of the Michaelmas Term of the Royal Courts.

In the United States, the tradition was inaugurated in 1928 in Saint Andrew's Church in New York City. Supreme Court Justices, legislators and judges now celebrate the National Red Mass each year at Saint Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C., to mark the opening of the October term of the United States Supreme Court. In the Diocese of Scranton, the Red Mass Tradition was brought to life in 1971 and is being celebrated today for the 52nd year. It has traditionally been celebrated in the Cathedral of Saint Peter where it has been attended by leading members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government on the federal, state and local levels. To ensure that this would indeed be a diocesan gathering, the Bar Association of all eleven counties comprising the Diocese of Scranton are now invited to this annual celebration.

We welcome each of you to this celebration and thank all those involved in planning, coordinating, and participating in the celebration of today's Red Mass. Your presence, commitment and dedication to this annual event ensure that this blessed tradition continues.

INTRODUCTION

Mark T. Perry, Esq.

2026 Lackawanna Bar Association President

Introductory Rites

ENTRANCE HYMN "To Be Your Presence"

Dunstan



1. To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here,
2. To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold,
3. To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest,
4. We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice;



To show Com - pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear,
To feed the poor and shel - ter home - less cold,
To speak for all the bro - ken and op - pressed,
To serve your peo - ple is our call and choice,



To be your heart of mer - cy ev - er near,
To be your hands, your jus - tice to up - hold,
To be your voice of hope, your love ex - pressed,
And in this mis - sion we, the Church, re - joice,



(1.-4.) al - le - lu - ia!
*(1.) your heart of mer - cy, Christ!
(2.) your hands of jus - tice, Christ!
(3.) your voice of hope, O Christ!
(4.) to be your pres - ence here!

**During Lent*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b.1939, © 2000, 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: ENGELBERG, 10 10 10 with alleluia; Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

Bishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Peace be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

COLLECT

Liturgy of the Word

READING I

Exodus 23:20-23

Thus says the LORD: "See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared. Be attentive to him and heed his voice. Do not rebel against him, for he will not forgive your sin. My authority resides in him. If you heed his voice and carry out all I tell you, I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes. "My angel will go before you and bring you to the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites, and Jebusites; and I will wipe them out."

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 91

Antiphon



Text: The Grail
Music: A. Gregory Murray, OSB
© 1963, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hughes



Music: *Alleluia in C*, Howard Hughes, SM, © 1973, 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1-5, 10

The disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.".

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

Reverend James Martin, S.J.

Author, Editor at Large, Consultor to Dicastery for Communication

INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.



Liturgy of the Eucharist

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

"God Bless Your Church with Strength!"



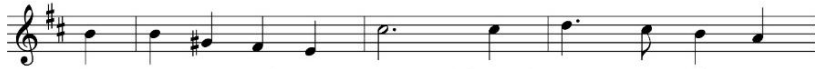
1. God, bless your Church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may
2. God, bless your Church with life! May all our branch-es
3. God, bless your Church with hope! De - spite cha - ot - ic



be, Build up your ser - vants as we work In
thrive, Un - blem - ished, whole - some, bear - ing fruit, A -
days May we in dark - ness shine, to light A



com - mon min - is - try. Urge us from fledg - ling faith
bun - dant - ly a - live. From you, one Ho - ly Vine,
path - way through life's maze. May jus - tice be our aim



To ven - ture and to soar, Through o - pen skies to
In free - dom may we grow. Sus - tain us in our
And kind - ness ours to share; And let us walk in



sing the praise Of Christ, whom we a - dore.
mis - sion, Lord, Your love and peace to show.
hum - ble - ness, As - sured our God is there.

Text: John A. Dalles, b.1954, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: DIADEMATA, SMD; George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

INVITATION TO PRAYER

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PREFACE DIALOGUE

Bishop: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right and just.**

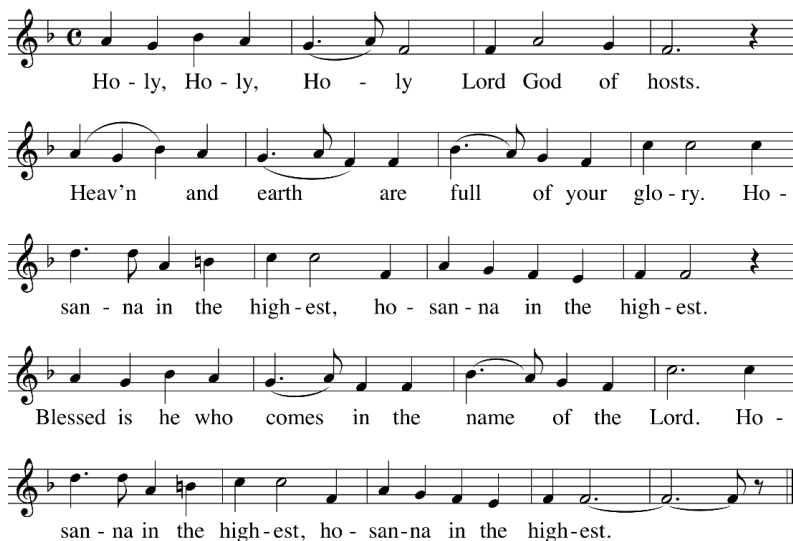
THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

Acclamations from *A Community Mass*

Proulx

Sanctus



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

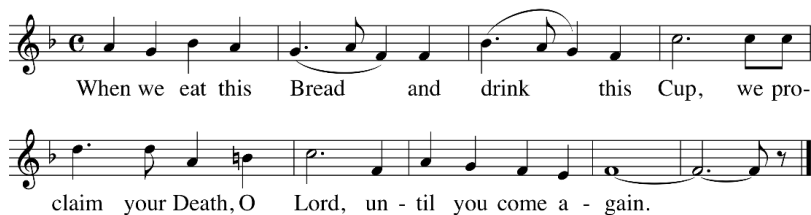
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, GIA Publications, Inc.

Memorial Acclamation



When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-

claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1988, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Amen



Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (adapt.), © 1971, 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE RITE OF PEACE

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: **And with your spirit.**

THE FRACTION RITE

litany from *Holy Cross Mass*



Music: *Holy Cross Mass*, David Clark Isele, © 1979, GIA Publications, Inc.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bishop: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
All: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for Confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of Canon Law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the *Code of Canon Law* does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these churches (canon 844 §3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

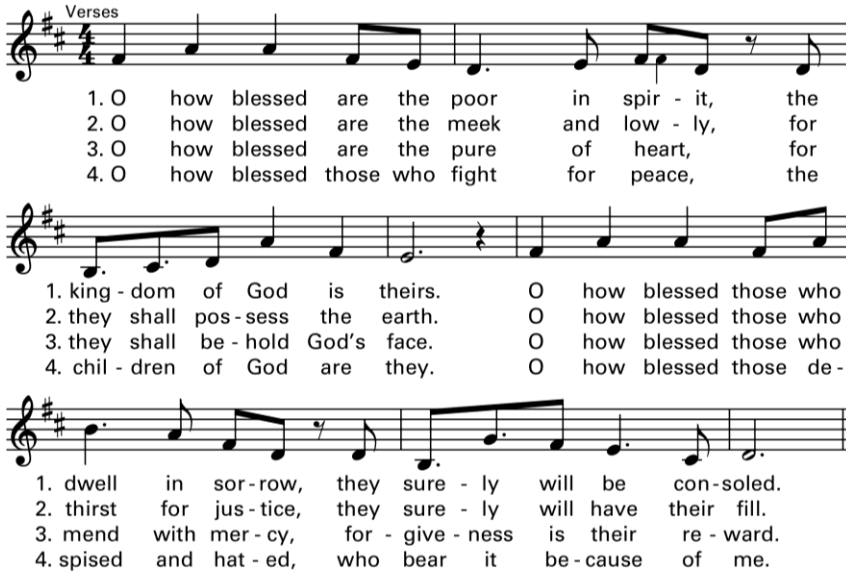
*Committee on the Liturgy United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
June 3, 2003 Copyright © by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

COMMUNION HYMN

"O How Blessed"

Schutte

Verses



1. O how blessed are the poor in spir - it, the
2. O how blessed are the meek and low - ly, for
3. O how blessed are the pure of heart, for
4. O how blessed those who fight for peace, the

1. king - dom of God is theirs. O how blessed those who
2. they shall pos - sess the earth. O how blessed those who
3. they shall be - hold God's face. O how blessed those who
4. chil - dren of God are they. O how blessed those de -

1. dwell in sor - row, they sure - ly will be con - soled.
2. thirst for jus - tice, they sure - ly will have their fill.
3. mend with mer - cy, for - give - ness is their re - ward.
4. spised and hat - ed, who bear it be - cause of me.

Refrain



Re - joice and be glad, be - loved of the Lord, the
king - dom of heav - en is yours. The first shall be last, the
last shall be first, for such is the wis - dom of God.

Text: Based on Matthew 5:3–12. Text and music © 2015, Daniel L. Schutte.
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESENTATIONS

Mark T. Perry, Esq.

Concluding Rite

FINAL BLESSING

Bishop: The Lord be with you.
All: **And with your spirit.**

Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord.
All: **Now and for ever.**

Bishop: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.
All: **Who made Heaven and earth.**

Bishop: May almighty God bless you, the †Father, and the †Son,
and the †Holy Spirit.
All: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go forth, the Mass is ended.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way"



1. Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way Wher -
2. You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
3. No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
4. You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
5. Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
pow'r you laid a - side. You lived your years in
place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
ev - er love may lead And bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood, In low - li - ness you died.
fol - low you And live by your com - mands.
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

Acknowledgements

CONCELEBRANTS

Reverend Thomas J. Petro, J.V., J.C.L., *Diocesan Judicial Vicar, Pastor, Queen of Angels Parish, Avoca, Pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Dupont*

Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, *Pastor Emeritus, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit*

Reverend Michael S. Drevitch, *Pastor, Saint Maria Goretti Parish, Laflin*

Reverend Jeffrey D. Tudgay, V.E., J.C.L., *Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Services, Pastor of Cathedral of Saint Peter and Immaculate Conception Parish, Scranton*

Priests of the Diocese of Scranton and Order Priests

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Monsignor Dale R. Rupert, *Diocesan Director of Worship*

HOMILIST and CONCELEBRANT

Reverend James Martin, S.J.

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Deacon Fernando Alves, *Saint Luke Parish, Stroudsburg*

Deacon Robert P. Sheils *Saint Gregory Parish, Clarks Green*

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Abington Heights High School Honors Orchestra

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John Roman, *Psalmist*

Matt Merolla, *Cantor*

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We gratefully acknowledge the publisher whose music was used in the worship guide by virtue of annual license agreement: OneLicense.net #A-701111

We extend our grateful appreciation to the many individuals who assisted in the celebration of today's Mass. We wish to express our gratitude to the following attorneys and law firms whose generous contributions have helped to defray the expenses of this celebration.

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IN MEMORIAM

Lackawanna Bar Association members who have died since we last celebrated the Red Mass.

Dorrance R. Belin, Esq.

Christopher B. Jones, Esq.

Neil MacDonald, Esq.

Robert C. McGrath, Esq.

Cosmo J. "C.J." Mustacchio, Esq.

Joseph A. O'Brien, Esq.

A Lawyer's Prayer

My Lord, you pleaded the case of the human family before your Father when there was not a thing that could be said in its favor – except yourself. You have called me to the vocation of representing others in the complicated business of law. Let my service be professionally good, morally correct, and humanly helpful. There are many opportunities in my practice where I can use both the law and the client for my own purposes, or my own aggrandizement, for selfish increase in wealth. Help me make proper decisions; give me insight to use my talents well, but in a way that gives glory to your honor as well as satisfaction to my client. Make me cognizant of the responsibility I carry for my actions, for I must one day stand before the bar of your justice, where cleverness, connections, wealth will play no role in the defense. Give me grace and love and I shall attempt to continue your love among your people by a service worthy of a professional Christian. Amen.

