Diocese of Scranton

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

FAITH • ACADEMICS • SERVICE

The Diocese of Scranton is committed to educating our students in an environment that is academically excellent and facilitates the development of moral judgment and Christian decision-making. We are proud to share the following successes of our students in the classroom and in their service to others. Each day, our schools are fulfilling their mission of preparing today's youth and young adults to become tomorrow's faith-filled leaders.





Seventh and eighth graders from **Saint Jude School in Mountain Top** celebrated Vocations Awareness Week with several visitors. The boys enjoyed lunch with Father Bill Asinari, Father Ryan Glenn and seminarian Stephen Chronowski. The girls spent time with Sister Angeline and Miss Therese from the Sisters of Christian Charity.



Bringing a little color to campus! Students from **Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School in Dunmore** make the most of a beautiful day outdoors, adding a fresh coat of paint to a colorful mural along one of the school's rear entrances.



Freshmen at **Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre** recently spent their 'Day of Service' at five local parishes, putting their faith into action. Through their service, the students experienced firsthand the importance of community, generosity and living out the Gospel message through action.



Congratulations to October's soaring Falcons at **Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green**. These students are recognized for demonstrating excellent character, kindness, respect and leadership!



Students from **Saint John Neumann Jr./Sr. High School in Williamsport** held a Veterans Day and Flag Retirement ceremony on Nov. 4, which was led by Father Bert Kozen.



Second grade students from **La Salle Academy in Jessup** sing 'God Bless America' during a Veterans Day performance. Families also donated supplies which were delivered to the Gino Merli Veterans Center in Scranton.



All Saints Academy in Scranton hosted a Veterans Day program to honor our servicemen and servicewomen. Veterans and their families were invited to a student-led performance with brunch to follow.



Students from **Saint Agnes School in Towanda** gathered Nov. 11 in the school courtyard to celebrate Veterans Day by singing songs and reading poems. Each student was asked to shake a veteran's hand and give them a thank you card.



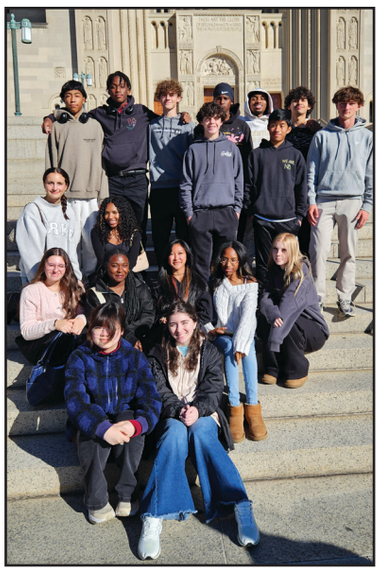
First graders at **Epiphany School in Sayre** celebrated the 50th day of school with a sock hop and 1950's themed activities.



Students from **Good Shepherd Academy in Kingston** recently placed second in the Young Scholars Competition at Scranton Preparatory School. Representing the school, from left were: Lennox Gillam, James Salas Jesse, Samuel Pokrifka and Mason Ferkel.



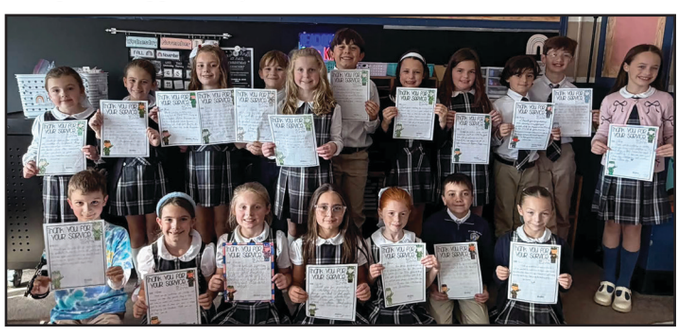
Jason Schlingman, principal of **Holy Family Academy in Hazleton**, recognizes students for their dedication to the school's "Shine His Light" initiative during the month of October.



In mid-October, the senior class of **Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School in East Stroudsburg** traveled to Washington, D.C. In addition to touring the monuments, the students attended Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and toured the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America.



Students and faculty at **Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter** recently welcomed members of the Laflin Fire Department, who assisted them in conducting the school's first fire drill at its temporary location of Saint Maria Goretti Parish. The drill provided an important opportunity for students and staff to become familiar with emergency procedures in their new surroundings.



Third-grade students from **Saint Clare/Saint Paul School in Scranton** recently wrote thank-you letters to our veterans.



After selling "Be Kind" t-shirts, students from **Notre Dame Elementary School in East Stroudsburg** present a donation to the Olsen Christmas Wish, an organization that provides Christmas presents to families in need.



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera poses for a photo with first grade students from **Saint John Neumann Elementary School in Williamsport** following a school Mass at Saint Boniface Church on October 13, 2026.



Fourth graders at **Saint Nicholas-Saint Mary School in Wilkes-Barre** celebrated the school's annual All Saints Day Mass by dressing up as their favorite saint. The students also researched and shared information about their saint with the rest of the school community.



Eighth grade athletes at **Holy Rosary School in Duryea** were celebrated with a prayer service to begin their athletic season. The students were given medals of Saint Sebastian, patron saint of athletes.

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Catholic school alumni reunite for nostalgic night of music and memories

PITTSTON – More than 100 Catholic school alumni and friends gathered Nov. 4, 2026, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Center for "Re-Verse and Be Plaid," an evening celebrating the songs, memories and friendships that connect generations of Catholic school graduates across the Diocese of Scranton.

The first-ever, all-schools, all-decades reunion brought together former classmates, teachers and friends for an interactive sing-along led by Catholic musician and YouTube personality Chris Brunelle, accompanied by fellow liturgical musician Mika Thomas.

From familiar hymns like "City of God" and "Shine Jesus Shine," to a nostalgic spread of cafeteria-inspired favorites, the evening offered plenty of opportunities to revisit and relive the experiences of Catholic school life.





Left: Chris Brunelle and Mika Thomas perform during 'Re-Verse and Be Plaid,' an evening celebrating the songs and memories of Catholic schools, held on Nov. 4, 2026, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Center in Pittston.

Below: Attendees sing along to favorite Catholic hymns. (Photos/Dan Gallagher)

"The biggest thing I want people to take away is for them to feel like we're part of one Diocesan family," Sandra Snyder, Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office, said. "We can all say we're Catholic school alumni and we're all proud of that and we're united as one big group of people who went to school here."

For attendees, the evening was also a reminder of why Catholic education remains important today.

Ann O'Brien, a Bishop Hannan graduate whose daughter currently attends La Salle Academy in Jessup, said the night offered an opportunity to reconnect with old friends.

"I thought it was such a creative way to bring the community back together," O'Brien said. "A friend of ours just brought a picture book, a calendar from 1990, so it was really fun to look back and be nostalgic about that and remember the good days."

Rena Wilson of Covington Township, whose son attends Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green, recalled the lasting friendships and teachers who made her own Catholic school years special.

"Automatically, you flash back to being in those halls of the schools. I went to Saint Pat's for elementary school and Bishop Hannan for high school and they were just the best hours of my growing up life," Wilson said.

As he ended the night with his final song, Brunelle thanked the crowd for their participation.

"There is nothing more beautiful than a church that sings," he said, emphasizing the old memories that were able to be brought back to life through music.

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As we do always, and especially at this time of year, we reflect on our blessings and we offer all of you our sincere gratitude for helping us to carry forth our mission!



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Holy Rosary students honor veterans with heartfelt program

DURYEA – The sharp and distinct sound of a trumpet filled the gymnasium of Holy Rosary School on Nov. 11, 2026, as eighth-grader J.J. Rupprecht played Reveille, signaling the start of a Veterans Day program that brought together students, staff and approximately 40 local veterans.

"I was pretty nervous because I was the opening act and the closing act, but I was glad I got to do it to show my support for the veterans," Rupprecht said.

For the veterans seated in the first few rows, the morning was about more than patriotic songs and familiar readings. It was about getting to see a new generation – including many of their own grandchildren – recognizing their service and sacrifice.

"It was unbelievable," Army veteran Joe Kuckla said following the performance. "It was beautiful. It couldn't be any better."

The Veterans Day program, organized by fifth-grade teacher Laura Zambricki, featured students from several grade levels participating in prayers, musical performances and readings honoring the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces.

"The students helped me choose the songs. They went through and we talked about what would be the most fun to honor the veterans," Zambricki said.

Eighth-grade students read "The Unknown Soldier," while students in grades six through eight sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" and "America the Beautiful."

First-graders delighted the audience with "You're a Grand Old Flag," waving small American flags as they sang.

Other performances included "Let Freedom Ring" and an Armed Forces Medley featuring students in grades four through eight.



Fourth and fifth graders from Holy Rosary School in Duryea sing "Let Freedom Ring" during a Veterans Day program on Nov. 11, 2026.

One particularly meaningful moment came when sixth-grader Alex Scubelek read the poem "In Flanders Fields." Scubelek also gave each veteran in attendance a special gift, a red poppy that he designed and produced using the school's 3D printer.

After learning that dozens of veterans would attend, Scubelek made more poppies than he originally expected to ensure everyone received one. He produced more than 70, with each taking approximately three hours to print.

"I feel really proud of myself," Scubelek said, describing how veterans reacted with joy when he handed them their creations.

The program also held special meaning for Joe Butcher of Kingston, whose granddaughters, Paige Kaminsky, 13, and Isla Kaminsky, 10, participated.

A U.S. Army veteran who completed basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Butcher's emotion was evident as he attended the school's Veterans Day celebration for the first time.

"It was a great show," he said. "It's very touching because it brings back a lot of memories. I also feel honored that my granddaughters were able to do this for me."

The spirit of appreciation extended throughout the school, including to someone students see every day.

Paul Burke, a maintenance worker at Holy Rosary School since 2011, served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1965 to 1973.

"It's great to be recognized and appreciated," Burke said at the conclusion of the event.

Following the program, veterans were invited to enjoy cake, refreshments and other treats with the students and school community.

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Helping Donors Leave a Lasting Legacy

The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton recently hosted a Planned Giving Advisors' Breakfast at the Williamsport Country Club, bringing together individuals dedicated to helping donors create meaningful charitable legacies rooted in faith and generosity.



To learn more about creating your Catholic legacy, contact The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Scranton.

Pictured (L–R): Ken Healy, event host; Nancy Marr, Board Member; Mark DiPippa, Executive Director; Paul Rooney, Board Member; and Jim Dinsmore, Planned Giving Advisory Council Member.

Contact: Mark DiPippa, Executive Director
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300 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18503
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CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
for the Diocese of Scranton

Bishop hosts pizza party for Rosary poster contest winners

SCRANTON – The creativity and faith of many young artists in the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System were celebrated Nov. 12, 2026, as winners of the Diocese of Scranton's inaugural 'Our Lady, Queen of Peace' poster contest gathered for a special pizza party with the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton.

The students, representing Catholic elementary schools throughout the Diocese, and their families first enjoyed a tour of the Cathedral of Saint Peter before gathering at the Diocesan Pastoral Center for an afternoon celebration and special recognition.

Kristen Donohue, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Education/ Superintendent of Catholic Schools, congratulated the students and praised their creativity, attention to detail and thoughtful artwork, noting how difficult it was for judges to select winners from the 1,400 entries.

"We're here to celebrate you," Donohue said. "All of the judges said it was incredibly difficult to pick winners."

Bishop Bambera also shared his excitement, telling the young artists how proud he was of their accomplishments.



Recalling his own childhood interest in drawing and painting, he encouraged the students to continue using the gifts and talents God has given them.

"Everybody did the most incredible job with this contest," Bishop Bambera said. "Thank you for using the gifts and talents and the creativity that God gave you to create something beautiful and keep that up in whatever way, in whatever discipline you think God gives you the skills to use!"







Winners of the Diocese of Scranton's inaugural 'Our Lady, Queen of Peace' Rosary Poster Contest recently enjoyed a special celebration with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. The students and their families toured the Cathedral of Saint Peter before gathering at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton for pizza and an opportunity to meet with the Bishop. (Photos/Dan Gallagher)

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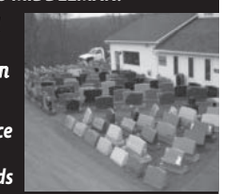
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