



## MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday:

4:00pm - Saints Peter & Paul

5:30pm - Saint Benedict

### Sunday:

8:00am - Saints Peter & Paul

10:30am - Saints Peter & Paul

### Eucharistic Adoration:

(at Saints Peter & Paul)

First Friday of every month Noon - 3:30pm

### Confession:

Saturday 3:00pm - 3:30pm

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL

13 Hudson Road, Plains, PA 18705-2015

## CONTACT US

13 Hudson Road

Plains, PA 18705-2015

Phone: 570-825-6663

Fax: 570-823-4556

Email: [parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

[www.sspeterandpaulplains.com](http://www.sspeterandpaulplains.com)

### Office Hours:

Monday: 8am - 7pm

Tuesday: 8am - 4pm

Wednesday: 8am - 7pm

Thursday: 8am - 4pm

Friday: 8am - Noon

*\*Closed daily Noon - 12:30pm\**

Reverend John C. Lambert M.S.W.

*Pastor*

Email: [pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

Deacon Don Crane

*Permanent Deacon*

Email: [deacon@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:deacon@sspeterandpaulplains.com)



# SAINT BENEDICT

155 Austin Ave., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18705-2603

Like us on Facebook!

[Facebook.com/sspeterandpaulplains](https://www.facebook.com/sspeterandpaulplains)

# STEWARDSHIP

## SUNDAY STEWARDS

### Saints Peter & Paul

907 Families receive envelopes

**Feb. 22** 315 attended the 4pm Mass  
169 Families used their envelopes and offered \$2,914

**Feb. 23** 159 attended the 8am Mass  
101 Families used their envelopes and offered \$1,581  
258 attended the 10:30am Mass  
108 Families used their envelopes and offered \$1,959  
Tithe from  
378 Families was \$6,454  
Bernardine Bucks \$482

.....

The Second Collection this weekend will be for  
**Care and Education of Priests**  
Next week's Collection will be for  
**Bernardine Bucks**  
*Please be generous!!!*

.....

### Saint Benedict

374 Families receive envelopes

**Feb. 22** 141 attended the 5:30pm Mass  
139 Families used their envelopes and offered \$2,281



**BERNARDINE**  
**HALL**

RENOVATION FUND

The continuing restoration of Bernardine Hall is dependent on your participation in the aka No Festival Collection. This year we have collected **\$34,907**.  
With your help we can complete this project. Please be generous!!! Have we received your gift yet?

God has entrusted us with many gifts:  
Time, Talent & Treasure. We hope and pray that  
all members will share their gifts, and continue to  
share the Good News of Jesus with all people.

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL LOTTERY

Feb. 17	#155	Deb Bilby
Feb. 18	#885	Daniel Pape
Feb. 19	#258	Lexi Bolinski
Feb. 20	#106	Dave Lisman
Feb. 21	#289	B. Gubbiotti
Feb. 22	#676	Christopher Garrett
Feb. 23	#745	Saints Peter & Paul

*Congratulations to all!!!!*

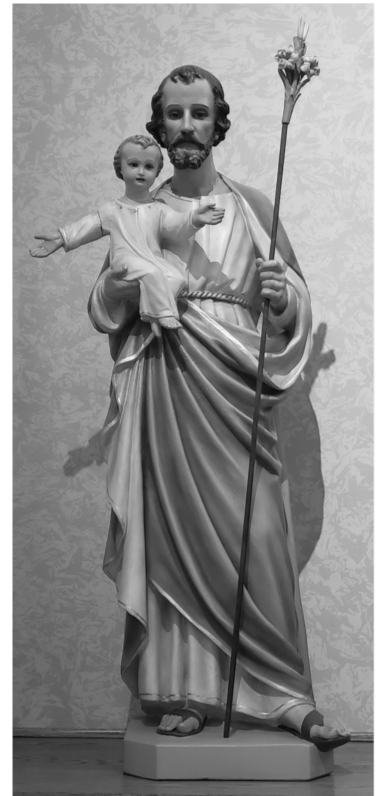
## CHURCH HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

### Statue of Saint Joseph

Spouse of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary.

Located in shrine to  
the left of the altar at  
Saints Peter & Paul.

He is holding the  
Child Jesus, and  
a lily, which is a  
symbol of purity to  
represent his holiness  
and his celibate  
marriage to the  
Blessed Virgin Mary.  
Feast day: March 19



# WORSHIP

## WE REMEMBER

*A Communion Service will be held daily at Saints Peter and Paul this week*

### MASSES AT SAINT BENEDICT THIS WEEK

Tuesday	03-03	8am	<b>Mary Ann Stefanowicz</b> by Joseph Zawatski <b>Michael Kowalski</b> by Mary Ann Wills
Wednesday	03-04	8am	<b>Raymond Deiter</b> by Sharon Wojcik <b>Thomas Mulhern, Sr.</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Barry Kresge & Sons
Thursday	03-05	8am	<b>Michael Daniels</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Dougherty <b>Edward Ciprich</b> by Alice & Donna Mansfield
Friday	03-06	8am	<b>Norman Krulack</b> by Golomb Family <b>Rosemary McCarthy</b> by Macaravage Family

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Saturday	03-07	4pm	<b>Angela Trentowski</b> by Lottie Everett
Sunday	03-08	8am 10:30am	<b>Stanley Panowicz (A)</b> by Andrew Lazar & Family <b>Emilio &amp; Irma Ribacchi</b> by Niece

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINT BENEDICT

Saturday	03-07	5:30pm	<b>Julia Wardle</b> by Mary Lou & Jerry Foley
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ST. KATHARINE  
DREXEL

March 3rd

**Saint Katharine Drexel** was born in Philadelphia, and is the second American to be canonized a saint and the first one born a U.S. citizen. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2011. She is founder of many school systems for Native Americans and African Americans in the U.S., and a champion of human rights and justice.

### SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

#### Sanctuary Candle

**Lady of Lourdes**

Josephine Binker

Paul Binker, Jr.



**Holy Family Votive**

Ceil & Ted Toloczko

# WORD

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH - MARCH

### MINISTRY OF THE MONTH – MARCH

*Each month, a Ministry available in our churches will be highlighted. You are asked to prayerfully consider each ministry, and to participate in whatever capacity that suits your availability, interest, and needs.*

#### Faith Formation

Our Faith Formation (CCD/Sunday School) is a comprehensive program for students who do not attend a Catholic school. Pre-K through Confirmation classes are held from September through May, every Sunday morning (except major Holidays)

The teaching staff is composed of volunteer parents and parish members, who are willing to donate their time, love of the faith and energy to guide these children through their formation journey. We have Catechists and teacher's aides and are always looking for volunteers interested in this ministry. Please contact Nina Cinti for more information and requirements if you are interested.

Contact: Nina Cinti -  
[faithformation@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:faithformation@sspeterandpaulplains.com)

## WEEKLY READINGS

### First Sunday of Lent

#### Sunday

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7;  
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19;  
Mt 4:1-11

#### Monday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18;  
Mt 25:31-46

#### Tuesday

Is 55:10-11;  
Mt 6:7-15

#### Wednesday

Jon 3:1-10;  
Lk 11:29-32

#### Thursday

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25;  
Mt 7:7-12

#### First Friday

Ez 18:21-28;  
Mt 5:20-26

#### First Saturday

Dt 26:16-19;  
Mt 5:43-48

### Faith Formation

*Classes are held on Sunday from 9-10am.*

***First Holy Communion*** will be held May 2, 2020 at 12pm.

***Confirmation*** will be held May 31, 2020 at 5pm.

*If you would like to see what the Confirmation class has been learning you can check out the website at **[Bit.ly/saintspp2020](http://Bit.ly/saintspp2020)***



# The Sunday Good News

CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL / SAINT BENEDICT

MARCH 1, 2020

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



*Lord God on this first  
Sunday in Lent,  
we remember the  
trials and temptations  
of your son Jesus  
Christ in his journey  
through the  
wilderness, and how  
he triumphed over all.  
In our prayers we  
think of the difficult  
journeys in life  
encountered by so  
many people in the  
world.  
We pray that in their  
different times of  
need, they may find  
discernment to see  
their way ahead, and  
strength to overcome  
whatever problems  
they face.  
We pray that faith  
may be deepened in  
this period of Lent,  
and all may walk in  
the light of the Lord.  
Amen*

### First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

This passage from Genesis narrates the creation of man, the temptation by the serpent, and the fall of Adam and Eve.

### Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Paul tells the Romans that Adam's disobedience brought sin and death to the world, but Christ's dying on the cross for us will bring us salvation and life.

### Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

In preparation for His ministry, Jesus goes into the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. There He is tempted by the devil to give evidence of His miraculous powers, but Jesus resists the devil saying, "Away with you Satan! You shall do homage to the Lord your God; Him alone shall you adore."

## A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

### First Sunday of Lent March 1, 2020

**"For if by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance grace and of the gift of justification, come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. In conclusion just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all. So through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all."**

We begin the season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, sacrifice and good works. It is not just a time to shift gears and remember, but to allow the saving work of Jesus to take place in our hearts.

Do I see the need for the abundant grace of Jesus in the world today? Am I able to move from what is around me needing salvation in Jesus, and see my own personal need for His saving, His amazing grace?

I begin my Lenten journey in a serious way, asking that the next few weeks will find me caring for my soul, my spiritual life, the spiritual well being of others, my children. I ask forgiveness for what I have done and what I have failed to do.

# SERVICE

## *We are Called to Serve...*

*"Do you understand what I just did for you?  
You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and fittingly  
enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your  
feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash  
each other's feet. What I just did was to give an  
example: as I have done, so you must do."  
(John 12:2-15)*

### Loaves and Fishes

For the month of **March** will be collecting  
**canned soup**

### Food Pantry

Anyone in the Plains, Miners Mills, and Parsons  
area in need of food can contact Pauline at  
570-592-6798 to register. Food is distributed to  
the community on the third Friday of every month.  
**Non perishable** food donations are always  
accepted. Please place them in the basket in the  
vestibule of the Church.

### Treasures

is accepting new or gently used school clothes for  
children and fall clothing for men, women and  
children, shoes and purses in excellent condition  
as well. Treasures strives to maintain current style  
trends and clean quality clothing. Thank you for  
your continued support. God bless.

### Prayer Shawls

can be given to anyone for many reasons! Comfort,  
illness, occasions, friendship & joy. If there is  
anyone that would like to receive a shawl or request  
one for someone, please contact the Parish Office  
at 570-825-6663 or call Mary Jo at 570-825-6969.

### Saints Peter & Paul and Saint Benedict Ministries

Pauline Makowski, Food Pantry  
Janet Soller, Quilting  
Mary Jo Marek, Prayer Shawl  
Laura Rudloff, Treasures  
Irene Martin, Women's Society of Saints Peter & Paul  
Barbara Zirnelt, Council of Catholic Women  
Kathy Grinaway, Hospitality  
Donna Mansfield, Hospitality

## The Light Is On For You!

Mondays from March 2nd - April 6th 5:30 - 7:00

The Women's Society invites all women of both parishes, as well as  
their friends and family members, to a Lenten Retreat on Saturday,  
March 21st from 9 am to 3 pm in the Parish Center. Dr. Marie Noel  
Keller, RSM, Director of the Institute for Sacred Scripture at  
Misericordia University will be the moderator. Cost is \$25 per  
person. A continental breakfast and lunch are included.  
Reservations can be made with Betty Jean Hession at 570-822-9448  
or Kathy Savitski at 570-824-6846 by March 15th.

## Mother Theresa's Haven...

A temporary shelter for homeless men will be our guest again.  
The first night will be **Monday, March 9, and the last night on  
Sunday, March 15, 2020.**

The men will sleep in the church hall of St. Benedicts, using  
cots provided by the program. As with their past stays, our  
united parishes will provide an evening meal for all seven  
nights. Showers and other personal care will also be provided.  
The men could use fresh underwear after a shower.  
Donations of men's boxer style underwear and tee shirts (sizes  
medium, large, and X-large.) and **socks** would be very helpful.  
Donations of water, soda, iced tea, lemonade; cans or 2 liter  
bottles would be good.

Anyone interested in preparing/providing an evening meal and/  
or donating snacks is asked to contact Barb Zirnelt at  
570-823-1491 or Irene Martin at 570-825-4464.

Cash donations to buy personal care items are also  
acceptable; leave plain envelope in collection basket marked  
"Homeless Shelter." Checks payable to Deacon Don Crane.  
Any other questions, contact Deacon Don at 570-762-7542.

**Wedding Anniversary Mass** His Excellency, the Most  
Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of  
Scranton, and the office for Parish Life wish to invite couples  
celebrating their 25th or 50th Wedding anniversary in 2020 to a  
diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 14. The  
event includes a 2:30PM Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral  
followed by a reception. **Requests for an invitation, with an  
April mailing address, should be made through your  
parish office before March 16.**

# SERVICE

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Faith Formation 9-10am <b>Donegal Society 7pm</b>	2 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm <b>CCW 6:30pm</b> <b>Light is On 5:30-7pm</b>	3 Quilting 9am	4 Choir 6:30 <b>Senior Citizens 12-3pm</b>	5 Quilting 9am	6 <i>Treasures 10am</i> <b>Stations 12:15pm SSPP</b> <b>Stations 7pm—St. Benedict</b>	7
8 Faith Formation 9-10am <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>	9 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm <b>Light is On 5:30-7pm</b>	10 Quilting 9am	11 Choir 6:30	12 Quilting 9am	13 <i>Treasures 10am—Stations 12:15pm SSPP</i> <b>Stations 7pm—St. Benedict</b>	14
15 Faith Formation 9-10am	16 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm <b>Light is On 5:30-7pm</b>	17 Quilting 9am	18 Choir 6:30 <b>Senior Citizens 12-3pm</b>	19 Quilting 9am <b>Women's Society 6:30pm</b> <b>Food Pantry Prep</b> <b>Crime Watch 7pm</b>	20 <i>Treasures 10am—Stations 12:15pm SSPP</i> <b>Stations 7pm—St. Benedict</b> <b>Food Pantry 9am</b>	21
22 Faith Formation 9-10am	23 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm <b>Light is On 5:30-7pm</b>	24 Quilting 9am	25 Choir 6:30	26 Quilting 9am	27 <i>Treasures 10am—Stations 12:15pm SSPP</i> <b>Stations 7pm—St. Benedict</b>	28

**Join Father Jack** on a Grand Tour of Italy. Sept. 29 to Oct. 9. Brochures are in the parish office if you would like to pick one up to see whole itinerary.

**Looking for a car!** We have a young family in the parish in need of a vehicle. If anyone has a car or truck they are looking to sell cheap or donate, please call the parish office at 570-825-6663 ext. 2 - 1.



**Next meeting is Monday, March 2 @ 5:30PM**  
**Saint Benedict Rectory, Second Floor**

Anyone who is interested in joining the Parish Youth Group, contact Jay at [youthministry@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:youthministry@sspeterandpaulplains.com) or text 570-235-7318

**St. Joseph's Table** will be held on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30pm in Bernardine Hall. The custom of the St. Joseph's Table is to bless bread and other simple foods and share them with the poor. Our St. Joseph's Table will consist of a variety of soups, salad, and bread. All are invited to join us in this celebration! Anyone able and willing to donate soups should contact MaryAnn at 570-825-6663 ext 2 then 1. A free will offering will be taken up for the Saints Peter & Paul Food Pantry.

## COMMUNITY

**Ballroom Dance and Chair Yoga Classes** for anyone age 55+ will start to be offered in March! Ballroom Dance is every Monday at 1:00PM starting March 2nd in Bernardine Hall, and Chair Yoga will be every Wednesday at 1:00PM starting March 4th in Bernardine Hall. It is hosted by Silver Circle, a Geisinger Magazine for the 55+ age and they have almost 11K members. It is FREE to be a member and you get all the benefits of parties, trips and \$2 Fitness classes. It's a social circle, so you'll get out, meet friends and move!

**Barbizon Benefit Fashion Show:** Please join us in the first annual Benefit Fashion Show, featuring the students of Barbizon school of Modeling and Talent in Wilkes-Barre. It is being held at Bernardine Hall on March 8, at 4:00PM. Admission requirement is you MUST bring two nonperishable food items for the Food Pantry. No donation, no entry! There will be a raffle giveaway for all attendees. Food and refreshments will be provided after the show! Contact Jay Garcia at 570-235-7318 or Sabrina Sun at 732-470-2804 for more information or questions.

**Spaghetti Dinner** Sponsored by Breathe Deep NEPA/LUNgevity Foundation.

Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 12-4 PM in Bernardine Hall. There will also be basket raffles. Tickets are \$10. Funding goes for lung cancer research to find a cure. Take-outs available.

### **11 Day Grand Fall Tour of Italy September 29—October 9, 2020**

Rate: \$3,995/Person double occupancy | \$4,754/Person single occupancy. The features of the tour include: Roundtrip motorcoach transportation to the Newark Int'l Airport. Roundtrip airfare from Newark to Italy (non-stop) via United Airlines. Private deluxe motorcoach in Italy. 9-Nights First Class Hotels. Buffet Breakfast daily. 5-Dinners as listed on the itinerary with wine. All touring, admissions & entrance fees as per itinerary. Tour manager (Nick Tozzi) & Local city guides. Special visits to the Vatican & Colosseum. Special visit to Venice. Portage of 1 piece of luggage per person. All local taxes, service charges, city fees & motorcoach fees. All US Departure Taxes, surcharges & security fees. Initial deposit: \$350/person to confirm. Optional Trip cancellation insurance is available. Full & final payment due on July 31, 2020. Deposit is non-refundable without taking the insurance. Book early, trip is limited to 42 passengers. A valid US passport is required for this trip.

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL AND SAINT BENEDICT STAFF

## **Pastor**

Rev. John C. Lambert

*pastor@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Permanent Deacon**

Deacon Don Crane

*deacon@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Parish Secretary**

Mary Ann Gottlieb

*parishoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Faith Formation Coordinator**

Nina Cinti

*faithformation@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Youth Ministry**

Jason Garcia

*youthministry@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Music Ministry**

Scott Coates - Music Director

*music@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

Gina Macaravage –Organist

Jay Garcia –Organist

Jill Fiedorczyk –Organist

Steve Chronowski –Organist

Tom Zurla –Organist

## **Maintenance**

Greg Day

Michael Lambert

Travese Deremer

## **Sacristan**

Ben Berrini

## **Ministers Scheduler**

Dave Loiacono

*davl040@comcast.net*

## **Ushers**

Paul Muczynski

*pmuczynski@epix.net*

## **Altar Servers**

Nathan Smith

*nrssmith822@gmail.com*

## **Bernardine Hall Coordinator**

Jason Garcia

*hallrental@sspeterandpaulplains.com*

## **Combined Pastoral Council**

Kathy Grinaway, *Chairperson*

Donna Mansfield, *Vice Chairperson*

JoAnn Chukinas, *Secretary*

Barbara Gubbiotti

Debby Zuzelski

Harold Golomb

Jack Keeley

Joanne Brague

Lou Zuzelski

Steven McGough

## **Saints Peter & Paul Finance Committee**

Don Prescavage, *Chairman*

Ben Berrini, *Vice Chairman*

Charlotte Dominick, *Secretary*

Gerald Cross, *Capital Budget Chairman*

Tony Dente, *Online Giving Coordinator*

Tracy Schooley, *Human Resources*

## **Saint Benedict Finance Committee**

Steve Yenchak, *Chairman*

Ed Yenchak

Jodi Gunari

## **Saints Peter & Paul Mission Statement**

As members of Saints Peter and Paul,  
we have as our mission the sharing of  
our faith and our talents.

We proclaim the Word of God through  
compassion for our community and sharing  
of our treasures as Disciples of Christ.

## **Saint Benedict Mission Statement**

Building a Catholic Community where  
all are welcome, respected, needed &  
appreciated; where we incorporate  
and share the word of God in our daily lives  
and the lives of others.

Every donation counts !!!

*If you have not yet pledged, please....*

Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal!

**Saints Peter & Paul is at**

**25.98%**

We are grateful to the 271 parishioners who supported the 2019 Annual Appeal to date. If you have not yet given your support, please:

- Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a pledge or give a gift by credit card
- Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office at 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, Pa 18503 or
- Give online at [www.DioceseofScranton.org](http://www.DioceseofScranton.org)

Every donation counts !!!

*If you have not yet pledged, please....*

Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal!

**Saint Benedict is at**

**22.05%**

We are grateful to the 86 parishioners who supported the 2019 Annual Appeal to date. If you have not yet given your support, please:

- Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a pledge or give a gift by credit card
- Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office at 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, Pa 18503 or
- Give online at [www.DioceseofScranton.org](http://www.DioceseofScranton.org)

## PARISH *Life*

*The classes the Diocese offers are very beneficial, especially to young couples, to allow us to prepare for the hurdles and hardships that come with marriage but also the joys.*

**Joseph Petro**



Joseph and Kimberly Petro with their pastor, Father Richard Fox, St. Patrick Parish, Scranton.

From Youth retreats to Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation, Men's and Women's Convocations to Catechesis Camp and Lay Ministry certifications, the actual cost to participants for programs offered by the Office for Parish Life is offset with funds from the Annual Appeal. For a complete list of offerings visit [DioceseofScranton.org/parish-life](http://DioceseofScranton.org/parish-life).

2019 Diocese of Scranton  
**DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

*Serving*  
IN  
WITH HOPE  
AND GRATITUDE

Help provide opportunities for our faithful to grow as Disciples of Christ...Give to the Annual Appeal

[AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org)

*Lent* IS A TIME TO  
**GROW**  
CLOSER TO JESUS

### Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24 hour Child Abuse hotline (Childline) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at [www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551

# VISION 2020

## *Seeing a Future Full of Hope*

### **SHAPING A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DIOCESE**

In Today's homily for the Second Sunday of Advent, Bishop Bambera explained to us that it is time for the whole Church of Scranton to take a good look at the life of our parishes and to project a future vision in response to God's call today.

Your Pastors have taken first steps in this conversation in recent deanery meetings, and now it is essential to broaden this conversation to include all of the faithful. Bishop Bambera Pointed out to us the reality of change in our world and in our local communities, and so we know that we will continue to face and respond to change within the church. "I'm inviting all of the faithful," he said, "to simply focus on how we best engage the mission of the gospel in these changing times." Some of these changes include shifting demographics, differing attitudes about formal church participation, and diminishment in numbers of ordained priests available to serve as full-time pastors.

In the coming year, then, Bishop Bambera is asking us to continue working together to fashion a "blueprint" if you will— a pathway for our local Church, tailored to each deanery and to each parish—for how we will meet both the challenges and opportunities we will face in the next ten year period.

In his Homily he stressed that, "while every parish is similar in what is being asked to do and to be, each parish will respond to this process in ways that are unique to its situation and circumstances.

### **PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR EACH DEANERY**

Guiding the overall process are these planning assumptions as common elements across the Diocese:

- The benchmarks for vibrant parishes are in accord with the vision expressed in Bishop Bambera's Pastoral letter, especially pages 7-13
- In every local circumstances, efforts are made to best utilize the particular ministry gifts of the clergy and, at the same time, to mobilize the gifts of all the baptized.
- Each deanery blueprint implementation is unique, and may consider such questions as: number of worship sites, Mass schedules and wise investment of resources.
- No deanery is planning in isolation—the circumstances in one may occasion change in another.
- Parish pastoral plans are respected and help to inform deanery level plans.
- Recommendations from deaneries or parishes are brought to Diocesan review.
- Parishes in linked relationship, sharing a Pastor, will be given additional planning support to evaluate and craft the best path forward.
- Every parish calls forth those individuals whose capacity for pastoral leadership could be developed through vocational discernment for priesthood, religious life, lay ministry or permanent diaconate.

We are located in the Wilkes-Barre Deanery, which consists of the following parishes:

Sts. Peter & Paul (Plains), St. Benedict (Wilkes-Barre), Our Lady of Fatima at St. Mary's (Wilkes-Barre), St. Nicholas (Wilkes-Barre), Our Lady of Hope at St. Mary's (Wilkes-Barre), St. Andrew at St. Patrick's (Wilkes-Barre), St. Andre Bessette (Wilkes-Barre), St. Robert Bellarmine at St. Aloysius (Wilkes-Barre), Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Hanover), St. Leo/Holy Rosary (Ashley), Holy Family (Sugar Notch), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (Swoyersville), Our Lady Help of Christians - St. Mary's (Dorrance), St. Jude (Mountaintop)