



## 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

**March 7** 302 attended the 4pm Mass  
174 Families used their envelopes and offered \$2,998

**March 8** 142 attended the 8am Mass  
80 Families used their envelopes and offered \$1,592  
209 attended the 10:30am Mass  
87 Families used their envelopes and offered \$1,991  
Tithe from  
341 Families was \$6,581  
Bernardine Bucks \$535

The Second Collection this weekend will be for  
***Our Lady of Sorrows in Venezuela***  
Next week's Collection will be for  
***Catholic Relief Services***  
*Please be generous!!!*

### Saint Benedict

374 Families receive envelopes

**March 7** 131 attended the 5:30pm Mass  
116 Families used their envelopes and offered \$1,725



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

March 2	#221	Saints Peter & Paul
March 3	#469	Betty Tkach
March 4	#671	Clem
March 5	#939	Gino Roebuck
March 6	#845	Kay Lambert
March 7	#510	Lisette Stanski
March 8	#011	Kristen Brice

*Congratulations to all!!!!*

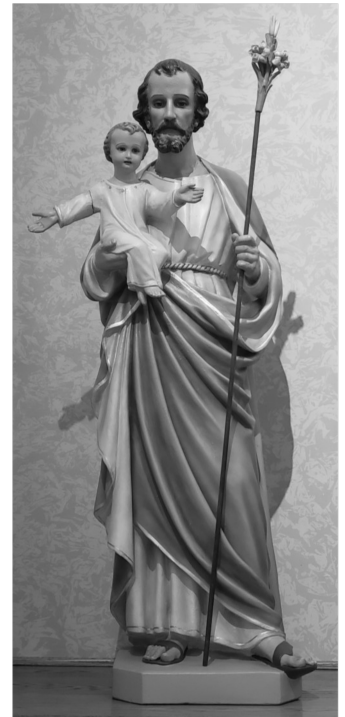
## CHURCH HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

### 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	03-17	8am	<b>Joan Stashak</b> by Family <b>John O'Hara</b> by Richard Hager
Wednesday	03-18	8am	<b>Jim Mills</b> by Sibio Family <b>Dolores Korecki (A)</b> by Family
Thursday	03-19	8am	<b>Joseph Burko (A)</b> by John Hemenetz <b>Virginia Cimino</b> by Bill & Vera Cardimona
Friday	03-20	8am	<b>Oliver Lee Dominick</b> by Marie Mancia & Sons <b>William Kowalski, Sr.</b> by Steven & Amy Cook

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Saturday	03-21	4pm	<b>Walter Burko, Sr.</b> by Irene Burko
Sunday	03-22	8am 10:30am	<b>Bridget O'Connor (A)</b> by <b>Stephen &amp; Donna Mann</b> <b>Thomas Youngblood</b> by Al & Eileen Mills

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINT BENEDICT

Saturday	03-21	5:30pm	<b>Thomas Morris</b> by Sister, Hilda Kalinowski
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### SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

#### Sanctuary Candle

#### Lady of Lourdes

Edward & Elizabeth  
Glazenski

Paul Binker, Jr.



#### Holy Family Votive

Rayna Spinucci

# 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

### Third Sunday of Lent

#### Sunday

Ex 17:3-7;  
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8;  
Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a,  
40-42

#### Monday

2 Kgs 5:1-15b;  
Lk 4:24-30

#### Tuesday

Dn 3:25, 34-43;  
Mt 18:21-35

#### Wednesday

Dt 4:1, 5-9;  
Mt 5:17-19

#### Thursday

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16;  
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22;  
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or  
Lk 2:41-51a

#### Friday

Hos 14:2-10;  
Mk 12:28-34

#### Saturday

Hos 6:1-6;  
Lk 18:9-14

### 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](https://bit.ly/saintspp2020)*



# The Sunday Good News

CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL / SAINT BENEDICT

MARCH 15, 2020

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



*Create a clean heart  
in me, O God:  
a humble heart,  
a meek heart,  
a peaceful heart,  
a benevolent heart,  
a devout heart which  
does evil to no one,  
which does not repay  
evil for evil,  
but overcomes evil  
with good,  
which loves you above  
all things,  
thinks always about  
you,  
speaks about you,  
gives you thanks,  
delights in hymns and  
spiritual songs,  
and has its citizenship  
in heaven.*

*Amen.*

### **First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7**

This story from Exodus reveals that the Israelites, after their escape from Egypt, cast all blame for their sufferings on Moses. In this instance, they were dying of thirst. When Moses appealed to the Lord, the Lord directed Moses to strike a rock and water would gush forth.

### **Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

Paul reminds the Romans that because Christ died for all people, they are acceptable in God's sight.

### **Gospel: John 4:5-42**

Jesus converses with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. When Jesus indicates that whoever drinks from the water He gives will never be thirsty again, the woman immediately answers, "Give me this water, sir...". Jesus then reveals that she has had five husbands and tells her that He is the Messiah. The woman believes Jesus and proclaims this news to all the townspeople, who believe her and come to see Jesus.

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

**Third Sunday of Lent  
March 15, 2020**

**"Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts, through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.**

As I pause to pray, do I realize that I have access to God? Do I realize that God is waiting for me? Do I think that I am doing God a favor? It really doesn't work that way. Because of God's unfailing love for me, for us, He reaches out or bends down, to share His life, His grace with me.

St. Paul teaches us, that God in His generosity has filled us with His grace, in abundance, pouring it on. As I live this third week of Lent His statement to the Samaritan woman, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you 'Give me a drink', you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water." May we all seek this gift.

# 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 Zirmhelt, Council of Catholic Women  
Kathy Grinaway, Hospitality  
Donna Mansfield, Hospitality

## The Light Is On For You!

Every Monday until April 6th 5:30 - 7:00

**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.

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.

**Memorial Donations** The following donations/memorials have recently been given to our parishes **Food Pantry**

\$25 Joseph & Deborah Bronack  
\$25 Betty Parri  
\$10 Elizabeth Kupstas  
\$120 Anonymous  
In Memory of Alice Leslie  
\$25 Cynthia Lockavich  
\$20 Susan Bechetti  
\$565 Carole & Michael Pienta  
In Memory of Jean Kocher  
\$200 Mary Senchak  
\$200 Sara Khan  
In Memory of Lebro & Lena Felli  
\$50 Rick & Diane Melvin & Elaine Felli  
In Memory of Carmen DelPriore  
\$10 John & Eleanor Hallas  
In Memory of Richard Magdon  
\$100 Joyce & Joseph Yamelski

We thank all who have made memorial and free-will donations.  
May God bless you for your generosity. We will keep your  
intentions and loved ones in our prayers.

# SERVICE

MARCH/APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 Crime Watch 7pm</b> <b>Annual St. Joseph's Table Dinner 5:30pm</b>	20 <i>Treasures 10am-</i> <b>Stations 12:15pm SSPP Stations 7pm-</b> <i>St. Benedict</i> Food Pantry 9am	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-</i> <b>Stations 12:15pm SSPP Stations 7pm-</b> <i>St. Benedict</i>	28
29 Faith Formation 9-10am	30 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm <b>Light is On 5:30-7pm</b>	31 Quilting 9am	1 Choir 6:30	2 Quilting 9am <b>Pastoral Council 6:30</b>	3 <i>Treasures 10am-</i> <b>Stations 12:15pm SSPP Stations 7pm-</b> <i>St. Benedict</i>	4
5 Faith Formation 9-10am	6 Quilting 5pm Prayer Shawl 5pm Treasures 6pm Rosary 6:30pm Faith Sharing 7pm <b>Light is On 5:30-7pm</b>	7 Quilting 9am	8 Choir 6:30	9 Quilting 9am	10 <i>Treasures 10am-</i> <b>Stations 12:15pm SSPP Stations 7pm-</b> <i>St. Benedict</i>	11

## Spring Lottery Tickets

Awards will begin April 1st- June 30th

Prizes are \$25 Monday through Sat., \$100 on Sun.

\$300 on Special Days:

April 12 - Easter Sunday

May 10 - Mothers Day

June 29 - Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

Cost \$10.

Winners match the PA Lottery Pick 3 Evening Drawing



**Next meeting is:**  
**Monday, March 16 @ 5:30PM**  
**Saint Benedict Rectory, Second Floor**

Anyone who is interested in joining the Parish Youth Group,  
contact Jay at  
**youthministry@sspeterandpaulplains.com**  
or text 570-235-7318

# 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!

**The Annual Feast of St. Joseph**, Patron of the Universal Church, will be celebrated on Thursday, March 19 with a solemn Mass at 11:00am at the Oblates of St. Joseph Chapel, located on Route 315 in Laflin with His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, as principal celebrant and homilist. There will also be a Holy Mass at 7:00pm.

**The Catholic Choral Society** will present their annual Lenten Concerts in Wilkes-Barre, PA and Dickson City, PA. The first concert on Sunday, March 22 will be held at 3pm at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, St. Aloysius Church, 143 Division St., Wilkes-Barre, PA. St. Robert Bellarmine Senior Choir will be featured performers. The second concert will be held on Sunday, March 29 at 3pm at Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, St. Mary's Church, 1090 Carmalt St., Dickson City, PA. The concert will also feature St. Mary's Visitation Choir.

**The Reginas of Kings College** will hold their annual Penny Auction on Sunday, March 29, 2020 from 2:00 to 4:00pm. The Auction will take place at Kings College on the third floor of the Sheehy Farmer Campus Center. The doors will open at 1:30pm. Tickets are \$2.00 and include light refreshments. Plenty of free parking is available on Union Street. All proceeds go to assist local students through the Rev. Clement J. Podskotch Scholarship. Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon of games and prizes for all ages. If you have any questions, please call Maureen Finnerty at 570-288-8706.

You can also visit our website: [www.kings.edu/reginas](http://www.kings.edu/reginas)

## **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

## **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**

**26.08%**

We are grateful to the 272 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**

**22.68%**

We are grateful to the 88 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.

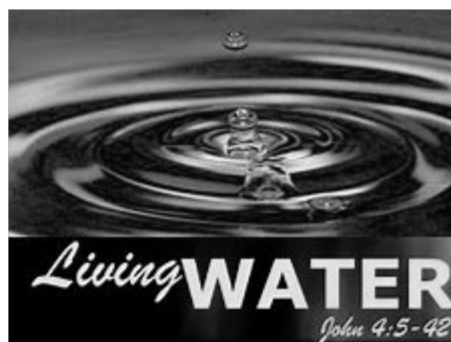
From Youth retreats to Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation, Men's and Women's Convocations to Catechesis Camp and Lay Ministry certifications, the actual cost to participants for programs offered by the Office for Parish Life is offset with funds from the Annual Appeal. For a complete list of offerings visit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

2019 **DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

SERVING *faith*  
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)



### 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)