



## 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

Contributions for week ending  
November 15, 2020  
Saints Peter and Paul  
\$7,075

Saint Benedict  
\$1,821

### Mass Schedule – Effective August 24, 2020

**Saints Peter and Paul**  
Monday - Communion Service 7am

Tuesday - Friday 7am

Wednesday/Friday 12:15pm

Saturday-4:00pm

Sunday-8:00am & 10:30 am

**Saint Benedict**

Saturday-5:30pm

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

Nov. 9	#266	Saints Peter & Paul
Nov. 10	#667	Denise Scalzo
Nov. 11	#617	Mary Ann Harkenreader
Nov. 12	#577	Saints Peter & Paul
Nov. 13	#453	Saints Peter & Paul
Nov. 14	#241	Saints Peter & Paul
Nov. 15	#390	Saints Peter & Paul

### For the safety of all our parishioners...

1. If you are not feeling well please stay home.
2. Please practice proper social distancing.
3. Everyone must wear a mask.  
If you do not have one, we can provide you with one.
4. Sanitize appropriately.



LIVING A  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
*Life*

It is all about your heart...  
Everything we have is a gift from God  
that we are to use to help others.

# WORSHIP

## WE REMEMBER

### MASSES AT SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Monday	11-23	7am	<b>Communion Service</b>
Tuesday	11-24	7am	<b>Anna Goncheroski</b> by Sophie Pelak <b>Bill McDermott</b> by Ed & Debbie Pesotski
Wednesday	11-25	7am	<b>Marion Marko</b> by Gavin Family <b>Alice Mansfield</b> by Mary Ann Dyslewski
Thursday	11-26	<b>9am</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Mass</b> <b>All Souls' Day</b>
Friday	11-27		<b>No Masses</b>

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Saturday	11-28	4pm	<b>All Souls' Day</b>
Sunday	11-29	8am	<b>All Souls' Day</b>
		10:30am	<b>All Souls' Day</b>

### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE SAINT BENEDICT

Saturday	11-28	5:30pm	<b>All Souls' Day</b>
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Bulletins are not allowed to be distributed in Church.  
The bulletin will continue to be on our website.

#### SAINTS PETER & PAUL PARISH

##### **Sanctuary Candle**

Stanis & John Kunicki

##### **Lady of Lourdes**

Rita Wysocki



##### **Holy Family Votive**

Stanis & John Kunicki

# WORD

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH—NOVEMBER

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

### **Chess Club**

Academy of Chess, LLC sponsors a chess club during the school year for students in grades 2 through 8. We meet in the Parish Center of Saints Peter and Paul Church. Students DO NOT need to know how to play chess before signing up. Our formal chess curriculum teaches everything from names of the pieces and how they move to advanced strategy and tactics. Students learn sportsmanship, critical thinking, positional analysis and concentration. There is a formal instruction period at the beginning of each meeting, followed by the informal, over the board chess matches.

**Contact: Frank Procopio, certified chess coach. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested when meetings resume.**

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

### **Sunday**

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17;  
1 Cor 15:20-26, 28;  
Mt 25:31-46

### **Monday**

Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5;  
Lk 21:1-4

### **Tuesday**

Rv 14:14-19;  
Lk 21:5-11

### **Wednesday**

Rv 15:1-4;  
Lk 21:12-19

### **Thursday**

Rv 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3, 9a;  
Lk 21:20-28

or, for Thanksgiving Day, any readings from

the *Lectionary For Mass* (vol. IV), the Mass

"In Thanksgiving to God", nos. 943-947

### **Friday**

Rv 20:1-4, 11—21:2;  
Lk 21:29-33

### **Saturday**

Rv 22:1-7;  
Lk 21:34-36

## **Faith Formation**

Bishop's Youth Award will be celebrated on November 22, 2020 at 10:30AM Mass

Honored Students from Saints Peter & Paul are

Seniors: Vaughn Rudloff & Brandon Minet

8th Grade: Jack Heisler





# The Sunday Good News

CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

*We give You thanks and  
praise, O God of times  
and seasons,  
but especially during  
these difficult times  
when disease and death  
have threatened the  
whole world with  
suffering.  
Though separated from  
one another You remain  
near to all.  
While uncertain as to  
what the future may  
bring we find comfort in  
knowing You hold all  
things in Your hand.  
May this be a time of  
purification and penance  
that we might number  
our days aright and find  
wisdom to walk in Your  
ways.  
Grant that we never  
again take our life,  
health, breath, food or  
freedom for granted.  
Bless us through our  
friends and families and  
may this food and Your  
grace give us strength  
and courage to follow  
You more faithfully  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

## OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

### First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

This passage beautifully describes how the Lord God, as shepherd, will tend his flock. He will rescue those who are lost, bring back those who stray, heal the sick, and “pasture” all.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Paul once again stresses the significance of Christ's resurrection in the total divine plan, emphasizing that Christ's rising means that those who believe in him will also rise after death. Christianity, he argues, is meaningless if it concerns only this life on earth. In the end, even death will be destroyed, and “God will be all in all.”

### Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

With words both poetic and vivid, Jesus tells the disciples that since he is present in all people, whatever they do to “one of my least brothers” they do to him; and whatever they fail to do to his “least,” they fail to do to him.

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

### Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 22, 2020

**“I myself will look after and tend my sheep... I will rescue them... I will pasture them... I will give them rest. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.”**

On this great day we celebrate ‘Christ the King’ and we acknowledge the church as the kingdom of God on earth. Where do we find the Shepherd King? We discover His abiding presence looking for us, watching over us, feeding, protecting and guiding us. The kingdom of Jesus Christ is found in the spiritual and corporal works of mercy which we are called to exercise.

On the day of our baptism we were anointed, sharing with Jesus in His role as Priest, Prophet and King. We share in the sacrifice of Christ, and the Eucharist. We acknowledge Jesus as the voice of God, revealing His presence and His power. We acknowledge Jesus as our King, when we live out our baptismal call.

# 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 **November** will be collecting **canned soups**

### 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

We are now accepting clean, gently used **Fall/Winter clothing** for men, women, and children. Donations may be dropped off during business hours only.

**Mondays from 6-8pm and Fridays 10am-12 pm.**

### 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 Zimhelt, Council of Catholic Women

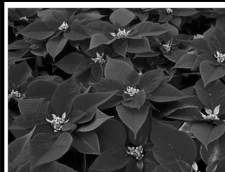
Kathy Grinaway, Hospitality

Donna Mansfield, Hospitality



**Thanksgiving Mass** will be held at **9am.**

There will be **no Masses** this **Friday, November 27th.**



### Christmas Flowers

Anyone who would like to help sponsor our Christmas Flowers can fill out a form and return it to the Parish Office or drop in collection basket. Forms are in the back of the Church so you can take one as you are leaving. The offering is \$10 per name. Thank you!



**The Giving Trees at Saints Peter and Paul** will be in place on Thanksgiving weekend decorated with gift tags.

*Anyone wishing to participate in this Christmas project* is asked to take a tag,

purchase a gift for the person, wrap the present, placing the giving tree tag on the outside of gift and **return it to the Church by December 13<sup>th</sup>**. The gifts will be distributed through our Food Pantry on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Anyone wishing to donate gloves, socks, scarves, hats etc.. (for children infant to 12) may drop them off at the Parish Office.

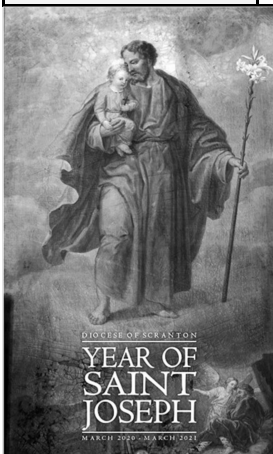
### Suppression of Saint Benedict's Parish

In June 2017 Saint Benedict Parish, Wilkes-Barre, was linked to Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Plains, with the Reverend John C. Lambert serving as Pastor of both parishes. The buildings of Saint Benedict Parish in Wilkes-Barre consist of Saint Dominic's Church and Rectory. Following extensive consultation among its members and in consideration of its desire to maintain its primary mission of service, a request has been made of the Bishop of Scranton to close Saint Benedict Parish. The parishioners previously belonging to Saint Benedict Parish will now belong to Saints Peter and Paul Parish, and the new territorial boundaries of Saints Peter and Paul Parish will take in the previous territorial boundaries of Saint Benedict Parish. The Church of Saint Dominic will remain open as a secondary worship site of Saints Peter and Paul Parish.

# SERVICE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23 Treasures 6-8pm	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Giving Tree Gifts Due	14	15	16	17 Food Pantry Prep	18 Food Pantry Giving Tree gifts distributed	19



**Year of Saint Joseph** This year marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pope Pius IX's decree naming Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus, as the Patron of the Universal Church. In commemoration of this anniversary and recognizing the fitting time for the Church to invoke the intercession of this guardian, His Excellency, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has declared this year as a "Year of Saint Joseph" to be observed in the Diocese of Scranton from March 19, 2020 to March 19, 2021. Bishop Bambera states, "Just as Saint Joseph watched over and protected the Lord Jesus while he was on earth, we need Saint Joseph to watch over and provide for the Church today. His intercession on behalf of the Universal Church is vital as the world faces so much upheaval and pain, and particularly as it confronts the uncertainty and pain of the coronavirus epidemic."



*Dear Friends,*

*We are Paula and Joe Panzitta, and we are honored to serve as the co-chairs of the Luzerne County Region for this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal.*

*Donations to the Annual Appeal allow our Diocese to continue its ministries to bring hope and help to those whose needs are the greatest. We ask you to view the 2020 Annual Appeal video for Luzerne County at the [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org) website to see the faces of the benefactors of the Appeal. Your participation will support life sustaining programs for people in poverty, care of retired priests, formation of deacons and seminarians, continuation of Catholic education, broadcasting of the daily Mass on CTV, social justice grants for parishes and many more programs.*

*For those who have already donated to the Appeal, we thank you. We would like to ask all others to consider making a gift this year. Please know that each and every gift can benefit those in our Diocese who need assistance. During these difficult times the need is greater than ever.*

*Gifts can be made by returning the pledge envelopes received in the mail, by returning a pledge form from the Catholic Light, by returning a plain envelope marked "Annual Appeal to your parish or by donating on the [AnnualAppeal.org](http://AnnualAppeal.org) website.*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

*Paula & Joe Panzitta*

## COMMUNITY

**Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston** will be holding a Gift Card Giveaway for the month of November -- a chance to win gift cards for stores, restaurants, and online shopping valued at \$50 per day from November 1-25, along with a special prize to be awarded on Thanksgiving Day, November 26. A \$10 donation will enter your name in the fundraiser! Drawings will be shown daily during videos that will be posted on the parish Facebook page, and winners will be notified by phone. If you would like to enter the drawings and receive a calendar showing the prizes, please e-mail [msowa@stjohnspittston.com](mailto:msowa@stjohnspittston.com) or call the parish office at 570-654-0053. All returns must be made by Friday, October 30 to Saint John's parish office at 35 William Street, Pittston, PA 18640

# SAINTS PETER & PAUL AND SAINT BENEDICT STAFF

## **Pastor**

Rev. John C. Lambert

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

## **Permanent Deacon**

Deacon Don Crane

## **Parish Secretary**

Mary Ann Gottlieb

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

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Nina Cinti

## **Faith Formation Coordinator**

*[faithformation@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:faithformation@sspeterandpaulplains.com)*

## **Cemeteries**

*[cemeteries@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:cemeteries@sspeterandpaulplains.com)*

## **Scholarships**

*[scholarships@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:scholarships@sspeterandpaulplains.com)*

## **Business Office**

*[businessoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:businessoffice@sspeterandpaulplains.com)*

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## **Youth Ministry**

Jason Garcia

*[youthministry@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto:youthministry@sspeterandpaulplains.com)*

## **Music Ministry**

Scott Coates - Music Director

*[music@sspeterandpaulplains.com](mailto: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

*[dav1040@comcast.net](mailto:dav1040@comcast.net)*

## **Ushers**

Paul Muczynski

*[pmuczynski@epix.net](mailto:pmuczynski@epix.net)*

## **Altar Servers**

Nathan Smith

## **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

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## **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**

**13.65%**

We are grateful to the parishioners who supported the 2020 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.DiocesefofScranton.org](http://www.DiocesefofScranton.org)

*Every donation counts !!!*

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

**Help us reach our Annual Appeal Parish Goal!**

**Saint Benedict is at**

**11.78%**

We are grateful to the parishioners who supported the 2020 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.DiocesefofScranton.org](http://www.DiocesefofScranton.org)

2020

Diocese of Scranton

**DIOCESAN**

ANNUAL APPEAL

BOUND TOGETHER IN

*Hope*

**Join us with a gift on**

**APPEAL ONLINE COMMITMENT**

**WEEKEND**

**November 21 & 22**

**Support our Diocesan Ministries and Help**

**Our Parish Reach its Annual Appeal Goal**

**Go to**

**<https://annualappeal.org/donate-now/>**

**or**

**Scan the QR Code**

**at Right**

**Using the Camera on**

**your Smartphone.**



***Thank you for your kind generosity!***

## **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)



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

300 WYOMING AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

### Diocese of Scranton adds eight names to list of credibly accused individuals

The Diocese of Scranton announces that eight additional names have been added to its list of individuals who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera has consistently asserted that the abuse of minors cannot be tolerated. In maintaining his and the Diocese of Scranton's commitment to protect children and young people, the Bishop stated that it is his hope that the publication of these additional names will be a step forward in the healing process for survivors.

In August 2018, the Diocese published on its website a list of all clergy, staff and volunteers who had been credibly accused of child sexual abuse. Since that time, eleven additional names were added to the list in January 2019 and two more names were added in October 2019. The most recent additions to the list involve allegations of abuse submitted to the Independent Survivors Compensation Program (ISCP).

The Diocese assesses the credibility of allegations of abuse utilizing a process that includes, as appropriate, assessments by outside counsel and investigation by a former FBI agent. In addition, the Diocesan Review Board, an independent, consultative body comprised of members of the laity, a religious sister and one priest, performs a case-by-case review. The Diocese also takes into account the determination by the Administrators of the ISCP, for allegations that were submitted in that program. All allegations are submitted to the appropriate District Attorney's Office. Allegations that are corroborated by secular legal proceedings, canon law proceedings, admission by the accused, and/or other information or evidence are deemed credible.

*These names have been added to the list of credibly accused individuals:*

#### DIOCESAN CLERGY

Byrne, Edmund F.  
Conboy, Joseph T.

Corcoran, Francis P.  
Ferrett, Walter L.

Kelly, Joseph P.  
McGroarty, Hugh Harold

#### MEMBERS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Reiner, Julius (C.P.)

#### LAITY

Major, Mark

All but one of the Diocesan Clergy listed above are deceased. The sole living credibly accused clergy, Monsignor Joseph P. Kelly, entered into retirement prior to the conclusion of the Independent Survivors Compensation Program. After notification of multiple allegations received through the ISCP, the Diocese of Scranton enacted the *Essential Norms* of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and placed Monsignor Kelly on administrative leave, prohibiting his ability to publicly celebrate the sacraments or present himself as a priest.

The Diocese of Scranton urges any individual who has been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese to report abuse directly to law enforcement. If you are aware of additional allegations of wrongdoing or any information that should be included on this list, please contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at (570) 862-7551. If you have suffered abuse by clergy or anyone working on behalf of the diocese, you are encouraged to contact Mary Beth Pacuska.





## **Report on the Independent Survivors Compensation Program in the Diocese of Scranton**

October 29, 2020

### **INTRODUCTION**

On January 22, 2019, the Diocese of Scranton launched its Independent Survivors Compensation Program (ISCP) to promote healing and recovery for survivors of clergy sexual abuse. The Program was purely voluntary and open to individuals who had submitted a complaint of sexual abuse to the diocese before the Program was first announced as well as individuals who had not previously submitted a complaint.

Survivors of abuse committed by Diocese of Scranton priests, members of religious communities and by lay employees of the diocese were able to submit claims. The Program confronted a dark and difficult chapter in the history of the Church. The diocese created the ISCP in order to publicly recognize the harm caused to survivors of abuse, demonstrate the Church's commitment to those survivors and hopefully to provide validation and a measure of healing.

### **HOW DID THE ISCP WORK?**

The ISCP has been completely independent from the Diocese of Scranton. Kenneth Feinberg and Camille Biros, two nationally recognized claims administration experts, administered the ISCP. Their prior experience involved handling the September 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund, BP Deepwater Horizon Disaster Victim Compensation Fund and similar compensation Programs for numerous other Catholic dioceses.

In addition, the Program has been monitored by an Independent Oversight Committee comprised of Robert Gillespie, Jr., former Luzerne County District Attorney, Ralph H. Meyer, President and Chief Executive Officer Emeritus with Guthrie Healthcare System and Robin Engels, MA, MSW, LCSW, a licensed clinical social worker.

The Program administrators retained complete and sole discretion over eligibility and compensation offers to eligible survivors who participated in the Program. The Diocese of Scranton could not reject any of the administrators' final determinations regarding eligibility and/or compensation.

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Serving as independent administrators, Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Biros worked with individuals who had previously submitted a complaint of sexual abuse to the diocese. These individuals were invited by letter to participate in the Program.

Individuals who had not previously filed a complaint with the diocese could register to participate in the Program through a website that was established. New complaints of abuse received through the Program must also have been reported to the appropriate District Attorney's Office.

Individuals were invited to provide any documentation and corroborating information to substantiate the claim. This information aided administrators in making fair and accurate determinations. Claims were handled in the order in which they were received and administrators used information submitted to process and pay claims. One of the most important aspects of the Program was its confidentiality.

### **RESULTS OF THE ISCP**

<b>Total claims submitted:</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>Claims determined ineligible:</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total eligible claims:</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>Offers that remain outstanding:</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Rejected offers:</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total claims paid:</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Total paid to claimants:</b>	<b>\$24,460,000</b>

The Administrators have processed all claims and have sent determination letters to the claimants. More than 85% of claimants accepted their offers and less than 5% rejected their offers. Under 10% of the claims remain outstanding. The diocese anticipates that these outstanding claims will be resolved in the near future.

Before accepting compensation through the ISCP, all individuals were required to consult with an attorney for the purpose of reviewing documents and understanding agreement language. If the claimant did not have an attorney, the administrators provided an independent attorney for consultation free of charge. By choosing to accept the offered compensation, the individual waives any future legal claim against the Diocese of Scranton related to their sexual abuse claims.

### **HOW WAS THE ISCP FUNDED?**

The Program was primarily funded by the sale proceeds of the Diocese of Scranton's three long-term care facilities in 2019, which was planned long before the ISCP was created. The Diocese received approximately \$26 million from the sale of the properties and subsequent transfer of

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assets held by these three facilities. In addition, some funding for the Program was provided by Diocese of Scranton insurers and contributions from other religious orders.

The diocese did not use any funds that had been given by the faithful to support parishes, schools, the Diocesan Annual Appeal, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton or any donor-restricted contributions.

### DIOCESAN RESPONSE TO CLERGY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The Diocese of Scranton maintains a zero tolerance policy for clergy, lay employees and volunteers who engage in misconduct with minors and takes immediate action when an accusation is made. Any allegation of abuse is reported immediately to law enforcement and any substantiated allegation against a member of the clergy results in immediate and permanent removal from ministry.

The Diocese of Scranton formally established a “Policy Concerning Clerics Accused of Sexual Abuse of Minors” in March 1993. When the bishops of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted a comprehensive plan on this issue in 2002, the Diocese refined and expanded its procedures. After prayerful reflection, extensive research and study, and purposeful review by several external and internal entities, including the Diocesan Review Board, the most recent policy, the *Diocese of Scranton Policy for Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors*, took effect in 2015. A copy of the policy is provided to all members of the clergy and seminarians. The policy is made available to all diocesan employees and members of the general public on the diocesan website.

The Diocese of Scranton continues to address this serious issue with vigilance and fidelity so that its policies, procedures and practices achieve genuine transparency and true accountability. The Diocese’s Safe Environment Program has a multi-faceted approach, including:

- **Background Checks** – Ensuring a thorough background screening is completed for all clergy, paid employees and volunteers that have direct contact and routine interaction with children.
- **Adult and Youth Training** – Providing training, prevention and educational programs in recognizing and reporting any suspicions or knowledge of child abuse to appropriate civil and Church authorities. As of October 2020, more than 31,340 individuals have completed VIRTUS training since 2003.
- **Code of Pastoral Conduct** – A document holding all clergy, employees and volunteers accountable to a Christ-centered, pastoral code of conduct.
- **Office of Victim Assistance** – The role of the Victim Assistance Coordinator is to facilitate the immediate pastoral care of persons that claim to have been sexually abused by a cleric when they were minors. The Victim Assistance Coordinator provides support and services, including arranging for counseling or spiritual direction and referrals to support groups.

- **Diocesan Review Board** – An independent, consultative body comprised of members of the laity, a religious sister and one priest, which performs a case-by-case review of allegations of sexual abuse of a minor, reviews diocesan policies for responding to the accusation of sexual abuse of a minor by Church personnel and advises the bishop in his determination of suitability for ministry of the accused.

The Diocese has passed independent audits of its child protection procedures every year since the policy was adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002. The audit evaluates each diocese's efforts to ensure the protection of children.

## CONCLUSION

The Independent Survivors Compensation Program fulfills two promises made by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera. First, to promote the healing and recovery of survivors. Second, to directly confront a scandal that robbed many of the most vulnerable of their innocence and peace. While nothing can take away their pain, several survivors have commented that their participation in the Program has provided a measure of solace and an opportunity to move forward. Many survivors have also expressed an appreciation for the privacy that the Program provided.

The Diocese of Scranton continues to urge any individual who has been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese to report abuse directly to law enforcement or the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator.

While the Program has concluded, the Diocese's outreach to survivors of clergy sexual abuse continues. The Diocese of Scranton is committed to learning from the mistakes of the past and moving forward with renewed resolve to protect all children from abuse.