

# Diocese of Scranton *News Briefing*



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## **NEW DELEGATE FOR RELIGIOUS APPOINTED FOR THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON**



Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., has appointed Sister Kathryn Kurdziel, I.H.M., as Delegate for Religious for the Diocese of Scranton effective January 28, 2020.

As Delegate for Religious, Sister Kathy will serve as the liaison between the Bishop and the communities of Religious men and women while also serving the Diocese by supporting the vocation to Consecrated Life.

"We are blessed to welcome Sister Kathy to this important leadership role in the Diocese of Scranton," Bishop Bambera said. "Throughout her many years of religious life, she has embraced the ministries of education and service locally, nationally and even internationally. Sister Kathy brings a vast understanding of the joys and challenges facing our women and men religious which will be a tremendous asset in her new role."

As Sister Kathy begins her new position, she believes one of her most important responsibilities will be listening.

"Part of my ministry here will be a ministry of listening. Listening to what religious men and women need, listening to what their challenges are, listening to what they have to offer," Sister Kathy said. "Sometimes, the religious in the diocese, because they're retired or close to retirement age, might be underused but still have a great yearning to be involved...I think we need to look for more opportunities for both women and men religious to find places where they can offer their services."

Read more about the appointment of Sister Kathy Kurdziel, I.H.M., as Delegate for Religious for the Diocese of Scranton in the February 20 edition of *The Catholic Light* newspaper.

## **DIOCESE PREPARING TO ENTER SEASON OF LENT**



Ash Wednesday, February 26, will mark the start of the solemn 40-day season of Lent. Parishes throughout the Diocese of Scranton will distribute ashes as a sign of penance and to remind individuals of Lent's call to a more complete Gospel lifestyle.

At the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton, ashes will be distributed during the 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Masses. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant of the 12:10 p.m. Pontifical Mass.

A full listing of parish Masses for Ash Wednesday will be available beginning next week on the Diocese of Scranton's website ([www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org))

Once again, the Diocese of Scranton is participating in "The Light Is On for You." Beginning on the first Monday of Lent, March 2, 2020, and continuing through Monday of the last full week of Lent, April 6, 2020, confessions will be heard in every parish from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



**DIOCESE TO CELEBRATE MASS FOR PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES ON FEBRUARY 23**



Diocese of Scranton

# MASS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Join us in celebrating the diversity of  
our Catholic community!

February 23, 2020 - 10AM  
St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton

Please contact Katy Windels at  
[kwindels@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:kwindels@dioceseofscranton.org)  
if you would like to participate in the  
liturgy



The Diocese of Scranton is celebrating Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday with a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, February 23, at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera will be the principal celebrant and homilist. The Mass will be sign-language interpreted for the hearing impaired.

This liturgy prayerfully celebrates the many gifts those with developmental or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community.

Partners in this celebration include Saint Joseph's Center in Scranton, the Diocesan SPRED community (Special Religious Education), The Arc of

Northeastern Pennsylvania, Order of the Alhambra and the Catholic Deaf Community of the Diocese of Scranton.

All are welcome to attend.

CTV: Catholic Television will also broadcast the Mass.

## **WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS HELD AT CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER**



Hoping for peace and healing, a number of residents of Saint Mary's Villa in Elmhurst Township joined members of the public in attending the World Day of the Sick Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020.

"It was a nice Mass. It was beautiful. It helped the people who are sick," resident Eileen Farry said.

The Mass was attended by more than 100 people. The group from Saint Mary's Villa sat together in the first pew.

"This is the most gorgeous church I have ever been in," resident Lola Kuehnappel said. "The Mass was very peaceful. The whole service was beautiful."

During the Mass there was a celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Anyone acutely or chronically ill, anyone suffering a debilitating condition, anyone facing surgery as well as the elderly were invited to receive the sacrament.

"I was able to pray for all my relatives here and that meant my husband who passed away about three and a-half years ago. It brought tears to my eyes," resident Dorothy Vlash said. "This is the first time I've been to Mass with the Bishop and it was beautiful."

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera was the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass. Read about the Bishop's homily message and more in the Feb 20 edition of *The Catholic Light* newspaper.

## **DIOCESE SIGNS ADMISSIONS AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON**




Graduates of the Diocese of Scranton's four Catholic high schools have another reason to consider The University of Scranton if they are planning to attend college.

The University of Scranton and the Diocese of Scranton signed a memorandum of understanding on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, that will guarantee admission to the University and minimum scholarships of \$15,000 or more for graduates who meet eligibility requirements.

"We're grateful for the University's commitment to the Diocese and our students," Jason W.S. Morrison, Diocesan Secretary of Catholic Education and Chief Executive Officer, said during a signing ceremony held on the University of Scranton campus.

The memorandum will grant admission to most majors at the University to graduates of Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre, Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School in East Stroudsburg, and Saint John Neumann Junior/Senior High School in Williamsport. Graduates must have a minimum GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 and either a 1080 SAT or a 21 ACT composite score or higher, and meet other criteria.



"For us, this is a chance to recognize something that we've always known, that the Diocesan System of schools in the Diocese of Scranton is outstanding and the families who make that investment to have their children go through that, we really wanted reward that," Gerry Zabolski, Vice President for Enrollment Management and External Affairs at the University of Scranton said. "While we've always enrolled students from the Diocesan schools, we were looking for a way to expand that, to be able to help them understand the opportunities that we have here."

Students who meet eligibility requirements will receive, at minimum, an annual \$15,000 scholarship to the University with a total value of \$60,000. The agreement will take effect for most majors beginning with the 2020-21 academic year.

For more information on the admissions agreement, visit:

<https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/diocese-of-scranton-and-university-of-scranton-sign-admissions-agreement/>

**HAVE YOU SUPPORTED THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL  
YET? GIFTS ARE STILL NEEDED!**



## We're Waiting for You!

*If you have not pledged to the Appeal,  
please share your blessings*

**T**he Appeal has reached \$3.9 million of the \$5 million needed to operate Diocesan ministries - thanks to 21,500 generous donors. Please join them. Without your help, we can't fully serve those who come to us in need. Your gift makes a difference.

Diocese of Scranton  
2019 **DIOCESAN**  
ANNUAL APPEAL

Make a donation at [www.AnnualAppeal.org](http://www.AnnualAppeal.org) ....or call 570-207-2250

Your generous gifts support many important programs and ministries across the 11 county Diocese of Scranton, including:

- Catholic Education
- Catholic Social Services



- Clergy Support and Seminarians
- Catholic Communication and Media
- Office for Parish Life
- Faith Formation Grants
- Social Justice Grants

If you'd like more information about the Diocesan Annual Appeal, visit [www.AnnualAppeal.org](http://www.AnnualAppeal.org)

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For a listing of all Diocesan and parish events, visit: [Calendar](#)

You are also encouraged to visit the Facebook pages of other Diocesan departments. They are listed on our website at:

<http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/media/social-media/>

*Thank you for connecting with us!*

Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18501

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