

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saint John the Baptist in today's gospel says: "A man is coming after me, who ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me". Stunning encounter in today's gospel: St John the Baptist and Jesus. The one who announces and the one who is announced. (St John the Baptist is 6 months older than Jesus, yet he says Jesus existed before him). At the beginning of his gospel, the Evangelist puts them together. The fourth gospel, that means the gospel of John, unlike Mathew, Mark and Luke goes directly into the mystery of Jesus. The other gospels present Jesus through His human genealogy. The fourth gospel goes directly to His divine nature "Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". St. John the Baptist passes the baton to Jesus. The Old Testament's door is closed. The last prophet, St John the Baptist introduces Jesus, and at the same time, shows us where the promised land is: Jesus Christ. St. John the Baptist is a witness to "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". Today, we are the new witnesses. A question arises: What kind of witnesses are we?

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Traditionally in our Church, the days starting with January 18th, is known as the Week of Prayer For Christian Unity. It's good to remind ourselves that there are between 45000 to 47000 Christian denominations worldwide, with these 3 main branches: Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Protestantism. Prayer for the unity of Christians doesn't mean uniformity (that all become one church, no).

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

The Diocese of Scranton will once again mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word, which will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton. Christians of all denominations are warmly invited to attend this prayerful gathering, which reflects the Church's ongoing commitment to unity among all followers of Jesus Christ. The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will serve as leader of prayer for the traditional ecumenical prayer service. Bishop Bambera is currently serving his final year as Chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. The guest preacher for this year's prayer service will be Rev. Dr. Nora Foust, Regional Conference Minister, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ. The Ecumenical Prayer Service will be broadcast live at 12:10 p.m. on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. It will also be made available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube channel, and across all Diocesan social media platforms.

WELCOME

With great joy we welcome this weekend at all our Parishes Fr. Seth Wasnock. Fr. Wasnock is in residence at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Carbondale and will celebrate the weekend's liturgy in our Parishes. Let's make Father Seth Wasnock feel welcome.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Many Parishioners came last Sunday to remove the Christmas decorations at all our churches and to protect and store what needed to be kept. A special thank you to all who have come out to help with this special task. May God bless you abundantly and reward you for your efforts.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

2025-2026 REPORT

1-10-2026

ST. PATRICK

Goal: \$13,543.00 **Cash Raised:** \$10,027.00

Committed-to-date: \$11,027.00

Goal Reached: 81.42% **No. of Donors:** 59

% of Parishioners: 36.42%

OUR LADY OF THE ABINGTONS

Goal: \$12,599.00 **Cash Raised:** \$6,217.00

Committed-to-date: \$8,047.00

Goal Reached: 63.87% **No. of Donors:** 47

% of Parishioners: 25.82 %

ST. MARY OF THE LAKE

Goal: \$12,667.00 **Cash Raised:** \$10,153.00

Committed-to-date: \$11,331.00

Goal Reached: 89.45% **No. of Donors:** 53

% of Parishioners: 23.14%

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

January 24 & 25

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Andrea Walsh
9:00am (SML) Len Nash
11 am (SP) Sue Stutzman

Musicians

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams
11 am (SP) Maria Fay

Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Liz Dempsey
9:00am (SML) Nick Migliori
11 am (SP) Mary Jo Danoski

Altar Servers

4 pm (OLA) Kevin Jones, Margaret Jones
11am (SP) Corinne Flynn
Shadow – Connor McHugh

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Jan 19 – Church Office closed for the MLK Holiday
Jan 31 – 6th grade student Mass at OLA, 4pm
Feb 8-First Communion Parents Mtg St Pat Hall,10am

SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Julie Harvatine - jwharv03@gmail.com.

1/25/2026 - Class

1/31/2026 - 4PM Mass at OLA for 6th grade students

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Kerry Pieretti - redlightgreen343@gmail.com

Jan. 25 - 2026 - Class

Jan. 31- Saturday Mass 4pm OLA

DIOCESAN WOMAN'S RETREAT

The Bold & Beautiful Woman's age 18+ Retreat will be at Holy Transfiguration Retreat center in Dalton Pa. on January 30 to February 1. This retreat will be led by Annette Bergeon, CEO of Endow, which is one of the only women's organizations that has a study specifically on St. Hildegard. For more information contact the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 ext.1100.

ST. PAT BINGO IS COMING SOON

We are excited to tell you that BINGO WILL RETURN ON THURSDAY JANUARY 22nd. Doors open at 5pm. Bingo starts at 6pm. There will be new special kitchen offerings and lots of fun. For more info call Rita at 570-575-9874. See you then.

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Before the end of January 2026, contribution statements for 2025 will be available for all registered parishioners. These statements may be used for tax purposes. Contact the office at 570-563-1622 if you need a statement.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday (January 20) St. Fabian, Pope & Martyr

St. Sebastian, Martyr

8:00am (OLA)

By

Wednesday (January 21) St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

8:00am (SP)

By

Thursday (January 22) Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

8:00 am (OLA)

By

Saturday (January 24) The Vigil of The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm (OLA) Mary Ann Ketchur

By George & Rosemary Ketchur

Sunday January 11) The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (SML) Jane Cawley

By Rick, Mary Lou & Julia

11:00 am (SP) Frank Dalton

By Mary Ann Mulfino

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (2 WEEK COLLECTIONS)

SP Weekly \$4,949.00 Loose \$214.00 Christmas \$5,982.00

OLA Weekly \$3,658.00 Loose \$146.00 Christmas \$6,261.00

SML Weekly \$2,140.00 Loose \$43.00 Christmas \$3,611.50

May the Lord reward your generosity. .

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK SWING DANCE

In celebration of the vocation of marriage, and National Marriage Week (Feb 7th-14th), the Diocese of Scranton is hosting a Swing Dance on Saturday, February 7th at the Diocesan Pastoral Center Auditorium, 330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton. The Swing Dance will feature Swing Fever Dance Band from Limekiln, PA, a 17-piece traditional Big Band.

Join us from 4-5pm for the dance instruction followed by open dance from 5-8pm. Tickets to attend will be \$20/ticket in advance, and \$25/ticket at the door.

Tickets and table reservations can be purchased online by visiting <https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/parish-life/community/family-life/national-marriage-week-swing-dance-2026/>. If you have any questions, you may call or email Bridget Maille at (570) 207-2213 ext 1133 or familylife@dioceseofscranton.org.

OUR SAINTS AND THE EUCHARIST

Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa: she lived on the Eucharist alone for three years, and experienced stigmata. She was told by Jesus: "you are living by the Eucharist alone because I want to prove to the world the power of the Eucharist and the power of my life in Souls".