



Mission Statement

We as members of the Body of Christ, through our thoughts, words and deeds, celebrate the presence of God in all people. As a community of believers, we answer Christ's call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and love one another.

September 2, 2018

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Immaculate Conception Church
Holy Redeemer Church
Parish Office
605 Luzerne Avenue
West Pittston, PA 18643
Phone (570) 654-2753
Fax (570) 654-9244
Msgr. John J. Sempa, Pastor
Mr. James Meizanis, Deacon
Mrs. Joyce Cecconi,
Pastoral Associate**

**WEEKEND CELEBRATION
OF THE EUCHARIST**

Sat 4:00PM Immaculate Conception
Sat 5:30PM Holy Redeemer
Sun 7:30AM Immaculate Conception
Sun 9:00AM Holy Redeemer
Sun 10:30AM Immaculate Conception

**WEEKDAY CELEBRATION
OF THE EUCHARIST**

7:30AM Immaculate Conception
8:30AM Holy Redeemer

CONFESSION

Saturday 3:00PM - 3:30PM
Immaculate Conception

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesdays 9:00AM - 10:00AM
Holy Redeemer

Gluten Intolerant?

If you cannot tolerate gluten, please receive communion on the tabernacle side of the church and let the person distributing communion know you need gluten free.

September 2, 2018

Readings/Responsorial #1156
Gathering: #807 We Are Called
Offertory: #590 Christ, Be Our Light
Communion: #592 We Are the Light of the World
Recessional: #775 Go Make a Difference

Weekly Collection

**August 26, 2018
\$8,001.49**

Care & Education of Priests

**August 2018
\$683.00**

www.facebook.com/corpuschristiparishpa



Fall Adult Education Bible Study – “Back to School”

The next adult bible study program that our parish will be offering is the “Spirituality of Paul”. Classes will be on eight consecutive Thursdays beginning on September 20th at 6:00 PM in the Immaculate Conception Church. **Please note the earlier start time.** Each session will last for approximately 90 minutes. The program is designed by Little Rock Scripture Study. This is a perfect time to learn more about the scriptures from the life and writings of St. Paul.

Please sign-up as soon as possible so we can order the materials. To sign up for the program or to find out more information, please contact Deacon Jim Meizanis at 570-239-2783 or deacon.meizanis@gmail.com.

The cost for the study is \$20.00 to cover books and study materials. If anyone is interested in the program and needs help with the cost, please contact Deacon Jim.

Don't miss out join the fun and learn more about our faith through the scriptures. Oh, and did we say that there will still be snacks.....

Liturgical Ministry Cookout

Sunday, September 23, 2018

1:00PM Immaculate Conception Hall

We welcome all altar servers, extraordinary ministers of communion, lectors, heavenly hosts, ushers, choir members, cantors, members of the baptism team and your families to join us for an afternoon of good food and fellowship. If you would like to, we welcome you to bring along your favorite dessert to share. In order for us to prepare enough food, please contact the coordinator of the ministry in which you serve to let them know if you are able to attend.

Youth Group

Boys and girls who are in 7th grade and older are invited to join our parish Youth Group. Sign ups will be held on Sunday, September 23rd at 6:00PM in Immaculate Conception Church hall. The Youth Group will meet the 2nd Sunday of each month from 6:00PM to 7:00PM in IC Church hall.

VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children for Adults”

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

6:15PM-9:00PM

Immaculate Conception Church Hall

This program is aimed at establishing and maintaining a safe environment for all children. Adults, 18 years of age and older, who work with children in the Diocese of Scranton must attend one VIRTUS session. Jerry Yakobitis will be the presenter this session at our parish. You must register to attend by calling the rectory at 570-654-2753 or email Joyce at jcecconi50@gmail.com. There is no fee to attend. All are welcome!

Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts

Cub Scouting is for youth in the first through fifth grades, or 7 to 10 years of age. Children who are older than 10, or who have completed the fifth grade, are eligible to join the Boy Scouts. Boy Scouting is for youth 11 to 17 years of age. Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts meet on Wednesdays in Immaculate Conception School. Registration for scouts is Wednesday, September 12 and Wednesday September 19 from 6:00PM to 6:30PM in the school.

Social Concerns Committee Meeting

All are welcome to attend our next meeting on **Monday, September 10th at 6:00PM in the rectory**. Items on our agenda for this meeting will include: **Soup Ministry** (finalize dates to make and deliver soups to our home-bound), **Fall Pasta Dinner** (finalize a date and begin preparations), and **Mardi Gras** (choose a date and begin preliminary planning).

Adult Choir

Our adult choir meets to practice on Monday evenings at 7:00PM in Immaculate Conception Church. Anyone from teenager thru adult who enjoys music and singing is invited to join us. Just show up at a practice. This weekend our adult choir will begin singing at various masses.

Organ Fund Envelope

For the month of August the amount received through the organ fund envelopes is **\$1,031.00**. This amount has been deposited into our Diocesan Savings account leaving **\$38,194.00** to replenish. Thank you for your donations.

Religious Education News

■Religious Ed Classes

A letter and registration forms have been mailed to the parents/guardians of children who attended religious education classes in our parish last year. Classes for the 2018-2019 school year will begin in our parish on Sunday, September 23, 2018. Classes for boys and girls K thru Grade 7 will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:00AM to 10:15AM. Classes for children in grades K thru 4 will be held in the school, grades 5 & 6 in the church hall and grade 7 in the rectory. For religious education registration forms, please call the rectory, visit our website or email jceccconi50@gmail.com and the forms will be mailed to you.

■Confirmation Classes/Parent Meeting

Beginning Sunday, September 23rd, classes for students who will be in 8th grade this fall will be held twice a month on Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30PM in the school. **Parents/guardians of students who will be in 8th grade this fall, are asked to attend a meeting on Sunday, September 16th at 6:00PM in IC hall.**

Big Prize/Designer Bingo

Sunday, November 4, 2018

Immaculate Conception Church Hall

Save the date!! All are welcome to join us for a fun afternoon of lunch, bingo with the chance to win some great prizes. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 4th at 5:00PM in the rectory**. At this meeting, a publicity photo will be taken and a parish mailing will be completed. All are welcome to join us!!

Courtesy News

°Catholic Social Services

The Diocese of Scranton offers compassionate counseling in a safe, comfortable, private environment. Anyone who struggles with anxiety, depression, grief and loss, or a variety of emotional or psychological conditions is welcome. Medicaid and some insurance plans are excepted. For information call 570-207-2283.

Altar Candles at ICC

Which will burn this week in loving memory of **James J. Ciampi** are donated by Diane & Rick Melvin

Holy Family Candle at ICC

Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Madeline & Orlando Menchi** is donated by their family.

Sanctuary Candle at ICC

Which will burn this week in loving memory of **Simon, Andrew Sr, Elaine & Ann Lugar** is donated by Mary Stankus & family.

°Take-Out Penne Pasta

St. Lucy's Church, Scranton will have their annual take out pasta dinner on Sunday, September 20, 2018 from 3:00PM to 7:00PM. Dinner include penne pasta, meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. Pick up in the church hall or drive thru is available in church parking lot. Dinners are \$10.00 each.

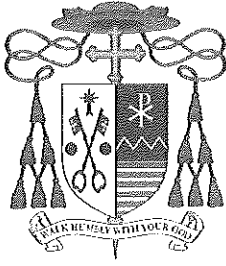
°Rosary Rally

Combined Councils of Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus are planning a Rosary Rally for Sunday, September 30, 2018 at St. Nicholas Church, Wilkes-Barre. The procession will begin at 2:00PM, Glorious mysteries of the rosary at 3:00PM and Mass at 3:20PM (this mass will satisfy the Sunday obligation). Following the Mass, refreshments will be served in the school hall.

°Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church is sponsoring this pilgrimage November 7-17, 2018. Cost is \$3,899. per person which includes air fare from Scranton and breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. For detailed information call Michael Milano at 1-800-773-2660.

Mass Intentions September 3 thru September 9, 2018		
Mon	7:30AM	Toddie Menichini By Joanne & Geri
	8:30AM	Sheila Czarkowski By Geard Zezza, Jr.
Tues	7:30AM	Mary & Theresa Lepore By nieces & nephews
	8:30AM	John Martin By M/M A.Yanchuk & M. O'Fier
Wed	7:30AM	John "Beno" Borzell By mom, dad, sisters, friends
	8:30AM	Elizabeth Marranta By sons & families
Thurs	7:30AM	James J. Ciampi By sister, Helen & family
	8:30AM	David Panek By mother
Fri	7:30AM	Edmund & Bridget Liberski By Marianne & family
	8:30AM	Robert Gadomski By Robert & Mary Ellen DeRemer
Sat	4:00PM	Simon, Andrew Sr, Elaine & Ann Lugar By Mary Stankus & family
	5:30PM	Mary Ann Mirro By husband & family
Sun	7:30AM	Chester & Marie Hine By Donna & Chet Hine
	9:00AM	Jennie & Attilio Anzelmo By family
	10:30AM	Anthony Hassay By Layden Family



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON
300 WYOMING AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18503-1279

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 31, 2018

Dear Friends,

The Fortieth Statewide Grand Jury Report released earlier this month shared the tragic details of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania over the past seventy years. The report focused not only on abusive priests, but also brought increased attention to the role of those who enabled such abuse to continue. Thus, I took the unprecedented step of asking the Independent Review Board of the Diocese of Scranton to review how Bishop James Timlin handled allegations and his role in all cases prior to the *Dallas Charter* in 2002. I recently received a recommendation from the Independent Review Board.

As background, the board – comprised of three lay persons, a religious sister and a religious priest – is a confidential consultative body put in place to advise a bishop on the assessment of allegations of abuse. These individuals are highly qualified and equipped to assist me with this decision, as each boasts expertise related to law enforcement, education, counseling or victim advocacy. Their combined experience brings a unique perspective that I simply do not have. Though it is unusual for a sitting bishop to review a prior bishop, I insisted the board use the same process for Bishop Timlin as is used for any accused priest or lay person.

I understand that it is unfair to judge past actions against present day standards. However, I also know that the Church could have – should have – done more to protect our children. We cannot ignore this fact today.

It is with this context that I share my decision around Bishop Timlin. After much thought and with careful consideration of the recommendation from the Independent Review Board, I have decided to permanently restrict Bishop Timlin from representing the Diocese of Scranton at all public events, liturgical or otherwise.

This is the fullest extent that my authority permits me to act relative to another bishop. I have, though, also referred this matter to the Vatican Congregation for Bishops, which has jurisdiction over additional aspects of Bishop Timlin's ministry. This was not a decision that was taken lightly.

It is important that I make this very clear: Bishop Timlin did not abuse children, nor has he ever been accused of having done so. Instead, he mishandled some cases of abuse. He presided over the Diocese of Scranton for nearly 20 years – a time in which the Diocese fell short of its duty to protect children. And, in many of the cases detailed in the Grand Jury report, Bishop Timlin fell short, too. While he followed the existing rules and policies when handling most of these cases, there was more he could have done to protect children.

Some have asked why I did not restrict Bishop Timlin from publicly representing the Diocese of Scranton sooner, given the information that was shared in the Grand Jury report. Frankly, when I became Bishop in 2010, my concern at the time was not with Bishop Timlin, but on the need to keep predator priests out of ministry and to create environments in which our children would be safe. Bishop Timlin had no administrative role within the Diocese at the time, and had been out of office for seven years by the time of my appointment. Yet, the sobering report of the statewide Grand Jury has shown me that I could have done more in this regard immediately upon my appointment to Bishop. It has also caused me to reflect on my own role in handling allegations of abuse in the Church, too. To those who feel I betrayed their trust in me by allowing Bishop Timlin to continue to minister publicly in the Diocese of Scranton since his retirement, I apologize.

The Grand Jury report has not only compelled me to review the actions of Bishop Timlin but also to consider my role and past actions in protecting children. As many of you know, I have been a priest of the Diocese of Scranton for 35 years. Prior to becoming your Bishop in 2010, I served in numerous parish and administrative assignments. For three years from 1995 to 1998, I served as Vicar for Priests under Bishop Timlin. In that role, I became aware of accusations that were brought against several priests. In those cases, priests were ultimately permanently removed from ministry, in two instances as many as five years before the *Charter for the Protection of Youth and Young Adults*' mandate of zero tolerance for credibly accused priests was enacted in the United States.

In 2002, I was appointed to an ad hoc committee to review certain files pertaining to several men who had been accused of abuse. The task of this committee was to make recommendations to the Bishop to ensure that all men credibly accused of abuse were removed from ministry, as mandated by the *Charter* – not to assess how Bishop Timlin handled cases of abuse. Following this extensive review process, 10 men were removed from ministry.

Following Bishop Timlin's retirement in 2003, Bishop Joseph Martino led the Diocese and served for nearly seven years before I took office. Bishop Martino also carefully reviewed the Diocese's response to the *Dallas Charter*, taking into account both the terms of the *Charter* and canonical processes.

Since my appointment in 2010, I have been hyper-focused on keeping our children safe, both by ensuring that no credibly accused individual remain in ministry, and also by closely following the *Dallas Charter* and our own Safe Environment Program. When I took office in 2010, I twice commissioned complete reviews of all Diocesan files – again – to make sure no credibly accused man was in ministry. I have also twice revised our policies and procedures to make necessary improvements along the way.

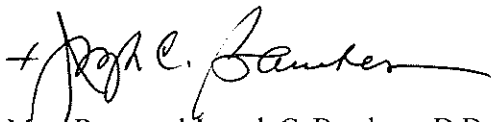
I can tell you with full confidence that, since I became your Bishop, every single allegation of abuse has been reported to civil authorities and Pennsylvania Child Line. Every credibly accused priest has been removed from ministry. And the public has been notified of every priest removed from ministry as a result of an allegation of abuse.

Based on a thorough review of the Grand Jury report, we have found that 93 percent of the abuse detailed in the report occurred before 2000, showing what we already know to be true: reforms in the United States – and our prevention efforts – are working as the occurrences of abuse have been drastically reduced over the last two decades.

Despite these vigilant efforts, we know there is more work to be done, and we must constantly review and update our policies and procedures. The Grand Jury report has caused me – and many of my peers – to look at past events, decisions and decision makers through a different prism.

After thoughtful reflection and prayers, I recognize that there have been times when I, too, could have done better. I ask for your forgiveness in these instances and promise you now – I will continue to do all that is in my power to ensure the safety of our youth moving forward. That has and always will be my priority as Bishop.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph C. Bambera". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton