



More News



The Seasonal Newsletter of
St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
Scranton, Pennsylvania



Passiontide ~ Holy Week ~ Eastertide 2019

[In this edition the Pastor's Letter is provided under separate cover \(click here\).](#)

Worship

Bishop Lopes on Beauty in the Liturgy

The annual Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week was held in January in Houston, on the theme "Encountering the Sacred Beauty and the Liturgy." Our own **Bishop**



Steven Lopes gave a Plenum Address at the conference, entitled "Beauty in Spoken Word and Ministerial Action," which served as an ideal opportunity to introduce the Ordinariate to the wider Catholic Church. Online readers can view Bishop Lopes' talk [here on YouTube](#).

First Friday-Saturday-Sunday Adoration

Our next First Friday / First Saturday devotions will be offered on **April 5 & 6, and May 3 & 4**. Keeping with our typical schedule, our Maria Kaupas Academy Choir will kick off each occasion with Choral Evensong at 4:30 p.m., with 24-hour Adoration continuing until that time on Saturday. First Saturday Mass will punctuate Adoration at 8:00 a.m.



On the First Sundays of the month – **April 7** and **May 5** – Eucharistic Adoration will follow 10:00 a.m. Mass until 1:30 p.m.

Organ Installation April 9

We are pleased to announce that after months of waiting, a brand new organ will be installed at the Parish on **Tuesday, April 9**, replacing the one destroyed by lightning back on Labor Day of 2018. The installation will occur just in time for Palm Sunday, Holy Week,



and Easter. Thank you for your prayers and for your patience as we have awaited this moment... and, in the coming months, as our music staff adjusts to a highly complex new instrument.

Confession & Stations

For the remainder of Lent (including Holy Week), our accustomed patterns of Confession and Stations of the Cross will continue.

Confession is offered before all Masses; at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays; and at any time by appointment.



Stations of the Cross are offered at 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesdays** preceding 5:30 p.m. Mass, and on **Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m.** (including Good Friday, followed by our annual screening of "The Passion of the Christ"). Please join us for these quintessential Lenten devotions.

Holy Week & Easter 2019



Palm Sunday, April 14, 10 a.m.
Solemn Mass with reading of the Passion

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.
Solemn Mass with Washing of the Feet

Good Friday, April 19, 12 noon
Good Friday liturgy with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

Holy Saturday, April 20, 8 p.m.
Solemn Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday, April 21, 10 a.m.
Solemn Mass for the Resurrection of the Lord
5:00 p.m. Mass in Bath.
No 7:00 p.m. Mass in Scranton.

May Crowning May 5

On **Sunday, May 5**, the girls of the Parish will lead our annual custom of the **May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary** at the opening of the 10:00 a.m. Mass. We look forward to this beautiful annual tradition as our girls lead us in honoring our Blessed Mother.



Ascension Vigil May 29

On **Wednesday, May 9** we will offer our principal observance of the **Solemnity of the Ascension** with Solemn Mass at our normal Wednesday Mass time of **5:30 p.m.** Said Mass



will also be offered on Thursday, May 30 at 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.. The Ascension is a **Holy Day of Obligation**, so all Catholics in good standing are reminded to assist at Mass on that day. Please join us on this Solemnity!

Discipleship

Lent Adult Education

Our annual Lenten Adult Education Series continues **after 10:00 a.m. Mass** (and light potluck lunch) on the **Sundays of Lent through Palm Sunday, April 14.** Our topic is **"Effective Evangelization in a Post-Christian Culture,"** learning how we can most effectively communicate the Christian Gospel to our western



culture, which is rapidly rejecting religion. Come learn the rhetorical strategies you can employ in everyday conversations with your non-religious neighbors to help them overcome their doubts, *without* compromising the truths of our faith.

Academy Website, Brochure, Open House, & Drama Performance Approaching

A number of important developments are in the works for Maria Kaupas Academy. A **new website** – promoting the Academy in its own right, rather than as an ancillary page of the Parish website – will be launched in the coming days; we will send the web address by email to our entire contacts list as soon as we go "live."



Maria Kaupas Academy
Scranton, PA



Going hand-in-hand with the new website is a **new brochure**, promoting both our Upper and Lower Schools together, thereby making it easier to share information about both levels of the school with prospective families.

An **Open House** – whereby prospective students and their families may visit to learn

more about the program – is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, May 17**; and two weeks later, students of the Academy **Drama Classes** will present a performance on **Friday, May 31.**

Please share these items and dates with any local friends whom you think may have an interest in supporting or attending our school. Thank you!

Parish Seeking to Acquire Neighboring Home

The Parish is currently seeking to raise the funds for a down payment on a home adjacent to its property... the light blue house at the top of the main parking lot. The intent is for the



building – which is in excellent repair – to house our **Maria Kaupas Academy Lower School**, whereby multiple classrooms will replace our less ideal situation in the wide-open Parish Hall.

Those who have historically contributed to St. Thomas More Parish or Maria Kaupas Academy will receive a U.S. mailing requesting your assistance in raising the down payment, as well as for Easter lilies and special Parish giving. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this mailing, and, we pray, your generous support!

Men's Conference April 27

The annual Diocese of Scranton Catholic Men's Conference will be offered on Saturday, April 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Holy Redeemer High School in Wilkes-Barre. Focusing on the theme "What is Truth?," guests include Fr. Philip Bochanski, C.O., M.A.; Dr. Ray Guarendi; Doug



Barry; and Bishop Joseph Bambera. Register at www.BeAManConference.com, or call 570-207-2213.

Eagle Scout Award April 28

Last year, many parishioners and friends offered their generous support to the Eagle Scout project of Parishioner **Jacob Campbell**,



who with much volunteer help refurbished the deteriorating steel handrails, steps, and ramp at the main entrances to the church building. While qualifying for his Eagle Scout award months ago, the badge has yet to be formally awarded, which is to take place here at the Parish **after 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 28** – the week after Easter. All parishioners and friends are warmly encouraged to remain after Mass for the presentation, and for a reception in the Parish Hall.

Spring Pilgrimage May 11

Since our annual Spring Family Pilgrimage began in 2009, participants in our Family Enrichment program have visited the shrine of every Catholic Saint within a day's bus travel from the Parish... so this year there has been a bit of casting about as to our next destination.

On **Saturday, May 11 (save the date!)**, we will travel to **Philadelphia** to the shrines of two Saints – each of whom we have venerated before – but who are now located in the same city for the first time. First, we will revisit the shrine of **St. John Neumann**, whose history crosses paths with our own city of Scranton.



Then, we'll visit the new resting place of **St. Katharine Drexel**, whose lovely former shrine in Bensalem, PA we visited just last year, which property was sold and her remains relocated to the **Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul** in Philadelphia.

Especially considering we have rolled out the pilgrimage date and destination rather late this year, please confirm your intent to attend by contacting organizer [Sandy Campbell](#) (570-



862-3001) at your earliest convenience, and please participate in our most critical fund-raising effort to cover the cost of the coach, our **Rummage Sale** one week prior on **May 4** (see "Outreach" below).

Sacraments of Initiation

Students in our First Holy Communion class will receive the Sacrament for the first time at the **10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 19**. All are encouraged to support them in this important milestone, both by assisting at Mass and by attending the celebratory reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

At present, there are no Sacraments of Initiation expected to be conferred at the Solemn Vigil of Easter, reflecting not a failure in evangelization, but a delineation established by our Bishop, who has requested that only those being baptized, received, and/or con-



OFFER, STRENGTHEN, SUSTAIN

firmed into the Catholic Church *for the very first time* come into the Church on the Easter Vigil; those originally baptized as Catholics and *now completing* their Sacraments of Initiation are to be confirmed on Pentecost. Since all four of the young women enrolled in this year's Sunday evening Inquirer's Class were baptized as Catholics as infants and then fell away from the Church to varying degrees, they will be confirmed on **Sunday, June 9... the Solemnity of Pentecost**.

Fellowship

Neighbor Night (May Only)

Our monthly Neighbor Nights – open door, low-threshold opportunities to invite our non-Catholic and non-Christian friends into our fellowship – are offered on the third

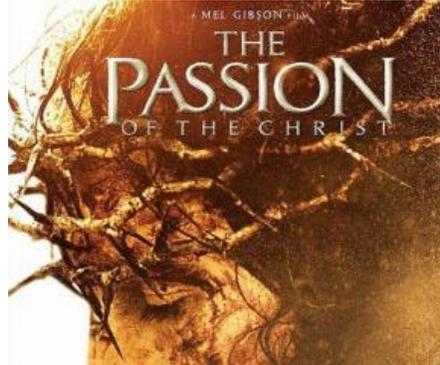


Saturday of each month. That pattern would set our next Neighbor Night on Saturday, April 20 – the Solemn Vigil of Easter. Therefore, there will be no such event in April, with the final Neighbor Night of the season to be held on Saturday, May 18. We continue to wel-

come many visitors each month. Bring a friend, and join us for free supper, pool, ping-pong, board games, wi-fi, conversation, and a movie on the big screen!

"The Passion of the Christ" on Good Friday

In keeping with Parish tradition, we will screen the film "**The Passion of the Christ**" at **7:00 p.m. on Good Friday**, following 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross and light potluck supper



(keeping in mind Good Friday fasting and abstinence). Parents are cautioned that the film [R] is unsparing in its depiction of the sufferings of our Lord.

New Outdoors Group Thriving

The Parish is now home to a newly formed Catholic outdoor recreation group for the whole family, dubbed the **Companions of St. Eustace**. On the **fourth Saturday of each month**, the group will meet for outings such



as hiking, boating, shooting, camping, and hunting. Those desiring further information are encouraged to contact group organizer [Mr. Corey Comstock](#).

Outreach

Rummage Sale May 4

Our annual Spring Rummage Sale – whereby the funds are raised to cover the costs of the annual spring family pilgrimage – has been scheduled for **Saturday, May 4, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**, a date that coincides with an Academy field trip on Friday the 3rd, allowing time and space for setup. Item donations from members



and friends are encouraged between now and the event. Volunteers, baked goods, and kitchen help will also be key to the success of this sale; thank you for doing your part to help, particularly if you plan to attend the pilgrimage funded by the sale.

Evangelization

New Ordinary Appointed for Australia

Our own Bishop Steven Lopes writes to the Ordinariate faithful:

“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, It is my privilege and joy to share with you the happy news that our Holy Father, Pope Francis and has appointed our own **Father Carl Reid** as



Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia. This comes as the Holy Father has accepted the retirement of Monsignor Harry Entwistle, who headed the Ordinariate there since its founding in 2013. Monsignor Harry has served well beyond the retirement age of 75, all the while laying a firm foundation for the future flourishing of the Ordinariate “down under.”

“Australia’s new Ordinary, Father Carl Reid, was born on December 14, 1950, and was baptized in the Anglican Church of Canada. He earned a Master of Divinity Degree from St. Bede’s Theological College. In 2006, he was given the title of Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa*. He was ordained a deacon in the Anglican Catholic Church of Canada in 1988, and a minister in the same jurisdiction on June 23, 1990. He was ordained a suffragan bishop of the same communion on June 27, 2007. Most of his ministry as an Anglican was spent in Ottawa, Ontario.

“Father Carl will be installed as Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross on Tuesday, August 27, at 7pm at the Cathedral of St. Mary’s in the Archdiocese of Sydney by the Archbishop, Most Rev. Anthony Fisher, O.P. Archbishop Fisher will be joined by Archbishop Augustine DiNoia, O.P., Adjunct Secretary of Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Monsignor Keith Newton from the UK Ordinariate and I will be representing our respective Ordinariates at the Installation celebrations. All of our clergy and faithful are welcome, though admittedly it’s a long way to go for Mass!

“Please join me in praying for Father Carl and for his wife, Barb, as they transition into this new adventure. Those of you planning to attend the Ordinariate Chrism Mass on April 11 will have the opportunity to congratulate Fr.

Carl in person. I have asked him to preach the homily at our annual Chrism Mass.

With prayerful best wishes, I am
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes

(edited for length. Bishop Lopes’ full letter is available online [here](#).)

Encouraging News in “The Observer”

Debra Gyapong reflects at the [Anglicanorum Coetibus Society blog](#):

“In the most recent edition of the *Ordinariate Observer*, the publication of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, the vocations director Rev. Rick Kramer writes:

“One of the most frequently asked questions I get is: ‘Are you still receiving inquiries from Anglican clergy who are interested in converting?’ The Vocations Office receives three to four new inquiries each week,” Kramer writes. “Most of the men who contact the Ordinariate are somewhere on their journey into the fullness of the Catholic faith. Foremost, they desire to know, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, how to become Catholic.”

“This is encouraging news!



“For me, the traditional Anglican worship of my parish was key in my coming to the Catholic faith – and we find that spiritual ethos now expressed in our Catholic Divine Worship Missal, our offices, our hymnody, our spiritually meaty sermons, and community life. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Anglicanorum coetibus*:

Without excluding liturgical celebrations according to the Roman Rite, the Ordinariate has the faculty to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and the other Sacraments, the Liturgy of the Hours and other liturgical celebrations according to the liturgical books proper to the Anglican tradition, which have been approved by the Holy See, so as to maintain the liturgical, spiritual and pastoral traditions of the Anglican Communion within the Catholic Church, as a precious gift nourishing the faith of the members of the Ordinariate and as a treasure to be shared.

“Some other encouraging news in the *Ordinariate Observer*. Rev. Kramer reports the Ordinariate is “in the early stages of planning

an Ordinariate house of formation, which will complement seminary formation, for the express purpose of transmitting the Anglican patrimony to seminarians.

“The Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus* gives the Ordinaries permission to create these houses of formation in Anglican patrimony:

§ 5. Candidates for Holy Orders in an Ordinariate should be prepared alongside other seminarians, especially in the areas of doctrinal and pastoral formation. In order to address the particular needs of seminarians of the Ordinariate and formation in Anglican patrimony, the Ordinary may also establish seminary programs or houses of formation which would relate to existing Catholic faculties of theology.

Anniversary Symposium in Rome This October

The aforementioned blog also [reports](#), “To mark the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus*, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) is holding a symposium on Oct. 15 at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome to examine the ecclesial and ecumenical implications of the document ten years later.



“Speakers include Archbishop J. Augustine DiNoia, O.P. the Adjunct Secretary of CDF on the historical perspective and other academics who will address the canonical perspective; the ecumenical perspective; and the liturgical perspective.

“The Symposium will also include a panel of the Ordinaries: Monsignor Keith Newton of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham in the United Kingdom; Bishop Steven Lopes of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter in North America; Ordinary-emeritus Msgr. Harry Entwistle; and Msgr. Carl Reid of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross in Australia.

“The CDF aims to make the reality of the Personal Ordinariates better known within the intellectual life of the city of Rome. However, Ordinariate members are welcome to attend this academic conference. The symposium is free of charge. Details on how to register will come soon. The symposium will be in English. If there is a talk in Italian, the published text in English will be distributed.

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
116 Theodore Street
Scranton, PA 18508

www.stmscranton.org

contact@stmscranton.org

570-343-0634



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