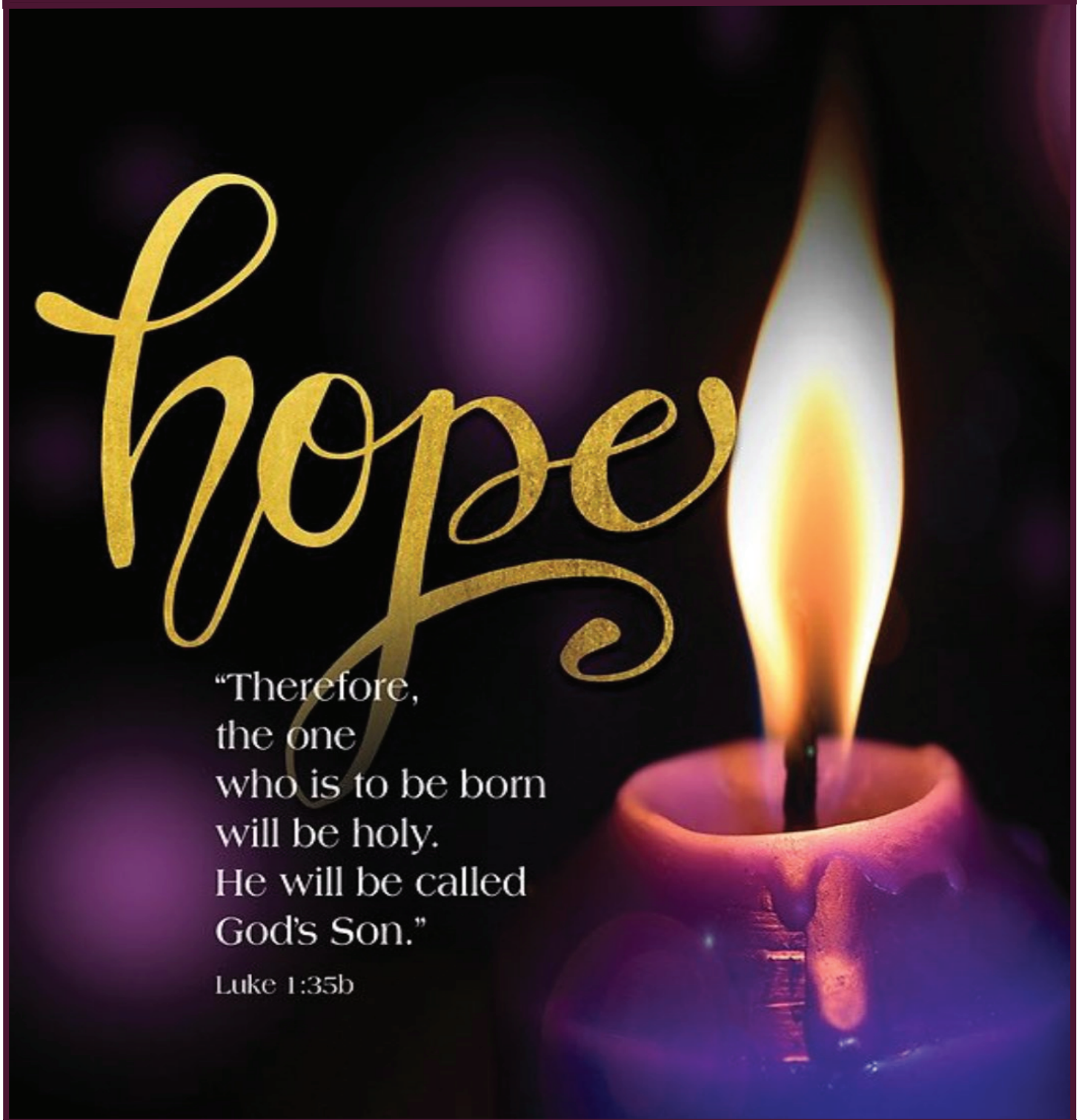
***First Sunday of Advent***
***November 28, 2026***

***Reverend Richard J. Cirba, V.F., Pastor***
***Reverend Andrew Amankwaa, Senior Priest***




**SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE PARISH**
Celebrating Liturgy at St. Aloysius Church
143 West Division Street
Wilkes Barre, PA 18706

**EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH**
420 Main Road
Hanover Twp. PA 18706

# Parish Information

## Joining the Parish

New Parishioners are always welcome. Call your Parish Office for a Census Form.

### Planning a Baptism

The birth of a child brings joy to the family. Through Baptism, that child is joined to the family enrolled in the Church.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is administered yearly to all 8th Grade students in our Religious Education Program and students attending Catholic schools. Students wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled for at least two years before they are eligible to receive Confirmation.

### Scheduling Weddings

Couples contemplating marriage are asked to contact the Parish Office and schedule the date before making any other plans. An appointment with the Pastor should be made at least 6 months prior to the Wedding Date. Couples must be registered parishioners and active practicing Catholics.

### Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may take place at any time, especially if one is seriously ill. Please contact the office to schedule a time for a priest to visit.

### The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA) is the process the Catholic Church uses to welcome adult members into the faith. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this process or in obtaining more information about it, please call the Parish Office to speak with a priest.

### Funeral Preparations

The loss of a loved one is a particularly difficult time for those who are bereaved. Our parish community collaborates with local funeral directors in assisting families during their time of grief.

### Bequests to the Parish

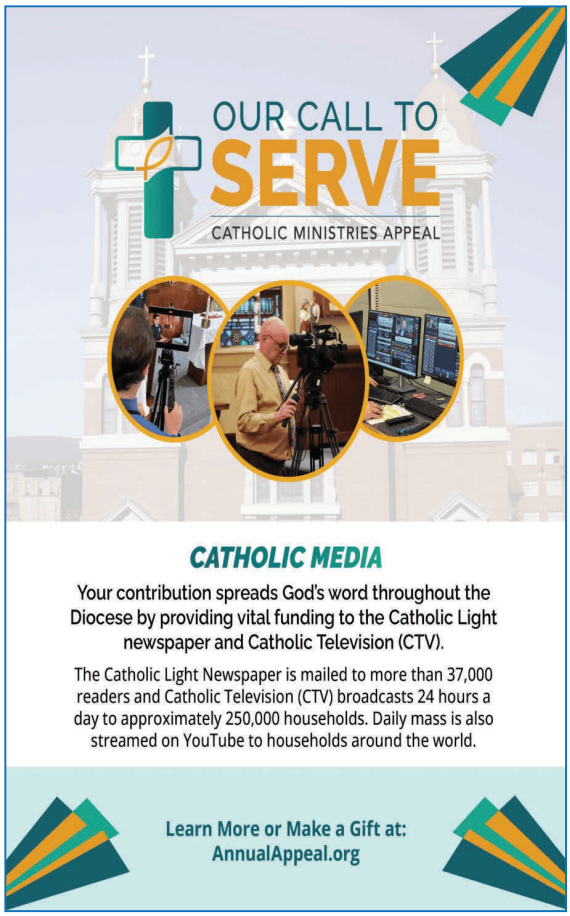
Please remember your Parish with Memorial gifts at the time of death or with a bequest in your will. Make a return to the Lord for all the good He has given you.

**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:**

We would like to thank all who Sponsor an ad in our bulletin. We greatly appreciate your support of the weekly bulletin.

## *Welcome to St. Robert Bellarmine and Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parishes.*

If you are new to our church or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not home to you, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. Both churches are open to anyone looking for a spiritual home. You may register at the Parish Office or call us and we'll send you a form. We are glad that you are here and hope that you will come back again for Mass or become a parishioner.




**A Note from Pennsylvania for Human Life:**

Thank you to all who donated to the diaper drive. Diapers are our most requested item and we always need them. Your donation will help us provide them for many families.

May God bless you always,
PA's for Human Life



**Christmas Wafers (Oplatki)**

**Are available in both parishes this weekend. Donation is $3 per pack.**

**Tuesday, Dec 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

**It is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

**The Mass Schedule is:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 5:30pm | **Vigil Mass** at St. Robert Bellarmine |
| 8:00am | Exaltation of the Holy Cross |
| 12:10pm | St. Robert Bellarmine |
| 6:00pm | Exaltation of the Holy Cross |

### St. Casimir Cemetery

For 8 months out of the year there is a cost of **$950/month to maintain our Cemetery**.

If you would like to make a donation to **St. Casimir Cemetery** you can do so with a check made payable to St. Casimir Cemetery.

You can put the donation in an envelope marked with the cemeteries name on the envelope and drop it in the collection basket.

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**Name** _____
**Address** _____
**Phone No.** _____
**Please check one:**
**___ I am new in the parish & wish to register**
**___ Change of Address/Phone Number**
**___ Moving out of Parish**
**Please drop Membership Form into the Offertory Basket or mail to the Parish Office.**

# St. Robert Bellarmine Parish

www.stalschurchwb.com
like us on facebook
Phone Number: (570)823-3791
email address: stalschurch@staloysiuswb.com

**Weekend & Daily Masses in: St. Aloysius Church**
**November 30-December 6, 2026**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mon. | 8:00am | No Mass | |
| Tues. | 8:00am | Charles Manfre | Wife, Valerie & Family |
| Wed. | 8:00am | Erv Valerius | Dorothy |
| Thurs. | 8:00am | No Mass | |
| Fri. | 8:00am | No Mass | |
| Sat. | 4:00pm | James P. Clarke | Family |
| Sun. | 7:00am | Peggy Whitman | Children |
| Sun. | 11:00am | James J. Stadulis | Stadulis Family |



## Tabernacle Candles

this week are in loving memory of
George & Mary Daru
requested by Mary Ann Zaledonis
and in loving memory of Anthony & Mary Zaledonis
requested by Mary Ann Zaledonis.



**Eucharistic Bread & Wine**
**Blessed at all our weekend masses are in loving memory of Ron Zaledonis requested by wife, Mary Ann.**



Our Advent Candles
this year are in
*Loving Memory of*
*Ron Zaledonis*
requested by wife, Mary Ann.

## The Little Blue Book



2026 Advent and Christmas Seasons Six-minute reflections on the Advent/Christmas season weekday Gospels. These books can be found at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in front of the pulpit. A donation of $1 is appreciated for each book.

## Make A Child Happy



Our Parish Family once again this year is helping the Hanover Twp Lions Club for children to have a joyous Christmas. The Lions Club will be having "Toys for Tots" with the Marines at the Crossroads on Sun., Dec. 6th from 2-5pm for drop off of toys for children. If you would like to drop your gifts off here at St. Al's you can do so by the weekend of Dec. 6th and someone from the Lions will pick up the toys after the 11am mass.




*Thank You and God bless you for your Contributions!*

November 22, 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday (online incl) | $ | 3,585.00 |
| Loose | $ | 405.55 |
| Dues (online incl) | $ | 385.00 |
| Maint/Utilities | $ | 524.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | $ | 40.00 |
| Donation | $ | 20.00 |
| Candles | $ | 44.00 |
| **Total** | **$** | **5, 003.55** |

## 2026 Annual Appeal!

OUR CALL TO SERVE
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Our parish goal: $36,331.00
Total Raised: 23,032.00
Amount over/under goal: -$13,299.00

**Thank you for your support!!**

**2026 Altar & Rosary Thanksgiving Winners**
**Thank You to all who bought tickets!**

| | |
|---|---|
| Carol Pericci | $300.00 |
| Eileen Halesey | $200.00 |
| Robert Slusser | $100.00 |



**Big Brothers/Big Sisters Christmas Party**
**next Sunday, December 6th**
**at 1pm in St. Aloysius School Cafeteria**

Once again this year, in conjunction with the Back Mountain Police, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish will be co-hosting a Christmas Party for about 100 children. If anyone knows of a child(ren) in need of a coat please let them know they are invited to this party! All they have to do is contact the Parish Office to RSVP.



## *Annual Operation Christmas Tree*

Make Checks payable to:
St. Robert Bellarmine Parish

_____ Gold $100.00

_____ Silver $50.00 _____ Blue $25.00

_____ Green $10.00 _____ Red $ 5.00

In Memory of: _____

Requested by :_____

Amount Enclosed: _____

# Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish

**Website: www.exhc.org**
**e-mail: exhc@aol.com www.facebook.com/holycross420**
Phone Number: (570) 823-6242

**November 30 - December 6, 2026**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mon. | 8:00AM | Edna Levandoski | Paul & Janice Cresko |
| Tues. | | No Mass | |
| Wed. | | No Mass | |
| Thurs. | | No Adoration | |
| Fri. | 8:00AM | Lillian Lastowski | The Cunard family |
| Sat. | 5:30PM | Johns/Klemash families | Pete and Kathy |
| Sun. | 9:30AM | Frand and Mary Stook | Gabe and Gloria |



Bread & Wine for this weekend are offered:
Health & Blessings for Joan Cunard by Michele Kotchick.

**Candles are lit for 1 week beginning November 29th:**

**Sanctuary Candle:** Health & Blessings for Toni Basar by Dorothy Dubick.

**Blessed Mother Candle:** In Memory of Brenda Tippins by Jerry.

**Infant of Prague Candle 1**: Health & Blessings for Bernie Truszkowski by Dorothy Dubick.

**Infant of Prague Candle 2**: Health & Blessings for Nick Baran by Dorothy Dubick.

## 15th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

will be held Saturday, December 12 from 10:00AM-Noon in the Church Hall.
$12.00 - Container (approx. 20 cookies - you pick)
$45.00 - Lg Platter (80 cookies candy & wrapped)
$60.00 - Extra Lg Platter (120 cookies, candy & wrapped)

**Platter orders must be placed by Wednesday, December 2.**



To order contact Joanie at 570-814-6444 or the Office at 570-823-6242, option 2 or complete the online form at www.exhc.org.

Homebound delivery of Christmas Gifts will be done on Sunday, December 6th after the 9:30AM Mass. Anyone who is interested in delivering the gifts are asked to meet outside the church after the Mass.





## Operation Christmas Tree

**Due: December 15 and**

## 12 Days of Christmas Cash Raffle Ticket

**Due: December 25**

As we did in the past, a letter and form will be sent the first week of December to every household with the details. This is a fun way to follow your parish during the holidays.

Any questions, contact Joanie at the office, 570-823-6242, option 2 or complete the online form at www.exhc.org.



**Food Collection for Ashley Food Pantry at St. Leo's**
**November food collection: Turkey Stuffing/Gravy**
***Please place items in the containers at the entrances.***
**Thank you for your generosity!**



*November 22nd Thank You & God bless you for your Contributions!*

Grateful to God

Diocesan:
Care & Education Priests (Online): $103.00

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday | $ 3,066.00 |
| Sunday - Online | $ 878.15 |
| Dues | $ 265.00 |
| Dues - Online | $ 130.60 |
| Loose | $ 220.00 |
| Children | $ 49.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | $ 390.00 |
| Candles | $ 104.00 |
| Maintenance & Improvements | $ 100.00 |
| Utilities | $ 195.00 |
| Blue Books | $ 38.00 |
| All Saint's Day (Online) | $ 51.50 |
| Perquisites | $ 350.00 |
| TOTAL | $ 5,837.25 |
| St. Vincent dePaul Social Concerns | $ 813.00 |

OUR CALL TO SERVE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

## 2026 Annual Appeal!

Our parish goal: $28,863.00
Total Raised: 13,510.00
Amount over/under goal: $15,353.00

**Thank you for your support!!**

The Men's Club will be decorating the outside of the Church on Sunday, November 29 after the 9:30AM Mass. All available Men's Club members should attend.

**The Men's Club will have their monthly meeting on Sunday, December 13 at 5:00PM. New members are always welcome! Come join them!!!**

Homemade Sauerkraut!
Cost is $7.00 a quart.



It will be sold after weekend Masses & available at the Cookie Walk. If you would like to place an order contact Theda at 570-262-1895. Proceeds are donated to our Youth Ministry.

Scheduling Bread & Wine/Candles/Masses for 2027

The office is now scheduling Bread & Wine/Candles/Masses for 2027. If you want to schedule a mass, call the office from 8:00-noon, Monday-Thursday. 570-823-6242. Off hours, you can leave a message for Joanie, option 2. Leave your name & phone number and she will get back to you.

### *Upcoming Events*

12/6 - Religious Education at 8:30AM.
12/6 - Deliver gifts to the Homebound after 9:30AM Mass
12/12 - 15th Annual Cookie Walk - 10:00AM-Noon.
12/13 - Religious Education at 8:30AM.
12/13 - Mental Health Gathering at 1:00PM.
12/13 Men's Club Smoker at 5:00PM.

# First Sunday of Advent

## ✠ November 29, 2026 ✠

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS, **HIS WORD TODAY**
*by Rev. William J. Reilly, Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ*

**"Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean men, and all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you. For you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands."**

We begin the season of advent, and as we look around Isaiah clearly 'tells it like it is.' How distant from the Lord our world has become, yet we are slow to admit to recognize it. Ah, advent becomes a rich opportunity. Now is the time to resolve and return.

The image of the potter reforming the clay into what he wishes for us, can set the tone for these next few weeks. Spend a moment and reread the scripture passage. Locate yourself the hidden face is looking for us. Place yourself in the potter's hands. May your advent be real. 'Come Lord Jesus.'

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading:**
**Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7**
In this straightforward psalm, the people acknowledge their sinful ways, yet plead that their Creator might reveal himself to them. They ask God to remember, not their sins, but that "We are all the work of your hands."

**Second Reading:**
**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**
Paul explains to the Corinthians that they are specially favored by God who has sent his only Son to them. He reminds us all that it was through God's grace that we have been called to kinship with Christ.

**Gospel: Mark 13:33-37**
Just as a servant watching over the master's house does not know when he will return, we do not know the hour of the Second Coming. Mark reminds us of the warning from Jesus to always be on guard, for we know not the day nor the hour.

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### What is Advent?
### Sunday, November 29, 2026 -Thursday, December 24, 2026



Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season\encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions.

Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose may be worn (GIRM, no.346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Our Advent calendar (linked below) can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

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 Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-HourChild Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at 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. Additional Safe Environment Compliance information may be found at https://www.dioceseofscranton.org/child-protection-victim-assistance/.

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