



# Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont, PA 18641

Phone 570-654-3713 • E-mail [shojesuschurch@gmail.com](mailto:shojesuschurch@gmail.com)  
[www.sacredheartdupont.com](http://www.sacredheartdupont.com)

**Weekend Masses** Saturday Vigil 4 PM • Sunday 10:30 AM  
**Holy Day Masses** Vigil 4 PM • 7 AM (day of)

**Weekday Masses** 7:30 AM • Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
Confessions are heard on Saturdays at 3:00 PM

**Parish Office hours** Monday to Thursday,  
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, 1 to 3 PM; Friday, 8:30 AM to 12 PM



# Saint Mary Church

(Queen of the Apostles Parish)

715 Hawthorne Street, Avoca, PA 18641

Phone 570-457-3412 • E-mail [stmaryavoca@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryavoca@gmail.com)  
[www.stmaryavoca.com](http://www.stmaryavoca.com)

**Weekend Masses** Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM • Sunday 8:00 AM  
**Holy Day Masses** 5:30 PM

**Weekday Masses** 9:00 AM, Tuesday and Thursday

**Parish Office hours** Monday, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM,  
Tuesday, 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM, Thursday, 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM

**Rev. Father Thomas J. Petro, J.V., J.C.L., KCHS, Pastor**

Rev. Father Michael B. Wurtz, CSC, S.L.D., Supply Priest

## ✠ Third Sunday of Advent ♦ December 14, 2025 ✠

*Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.*

**Gaudete Sunday:** Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the Introit, the entrance antiphon at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is one of these. Gaudete Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. The Introit for Gaudete Sunday, in both the Traditional Latin Mass and the Novus Ordo, is taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “*Gaudete in Domino semper*” (“Rejoice in the Lord always”). Like Lent, Advent is a penitential season, so the priest normally wears violet vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the Church lightens the mood a little, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation – especially prayer and fasting – for Christmas. For this same reason, the third candle of the Advent wreath, first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored.

**The SH Parish Office** will be closed Friday, Dec. 19. The office will reopen on Monday, Dec. 22 at 8:30am.

**The *oplatki*,** the traditional Eastern European Christmas Eve wafers, are available in the narthex of both churches for \$3 per envelope. Also, free 2026 liturgical calendars are available in our churches.

**All parishioners are invited** to make use of the contribution envelope in their packets for Christmas Flower donations. All money collected will defray the cost of purchasing our sanctuary decorations and flowers for the Christmas season. Please list your Christmas intentions on the reverse side of the envelope. These envelopes will be placed in the crèche for Christmas.

**Christmas church decorating** for Sacred Heart Church will take place after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sun., Dec. 21. Holy Name Society members and others are needed to set up the trees, crèche and wreaths indoors, as well as the wreaths outdoors.

**Christmas church decorating** for Saint Mary Church will take place after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sun., Dec. 21.

***Kolędy polskie*,** or Polish-language carols, will be sung in SH church prior to Midnight Mass at 11:15 pm. You are invited to come and listen (or even sing along!).

**In accordance with Bishop Bambera’s mandate** that every parish in the Diocese of Scranton form a Security Committee, the following individuals have been chosen to form the committee for both our parishes: (SH) Gene Bartosiewicz, Scott Hilenski, Don Hudzinski Sr., Don Hudzinski Jr., Jayne Klenner, Tina Petcaugh, Bill Satkowski, John Sicilia; (SM) Bob Janik, John Labrosky, Jim McMahon, Sandy Vanlouvender.

**A new Pastoral Council** will be formed for Queen of the Apostles Parish. As indicated in Fr. Petro’s recent letter to all SM parish families, the process of parish life revitalization is now taking effect. All SM parish organizations and councils are in the initial stages of being reformed. Parishioners are encouraged to submit their own names, or nominate other parishioners, for consideration as members of the new SM Pastoral Council. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office by Sunday, December 28. A newly constituted council will meet in January. We thank all the outgoing members for their service to our parish.

### SM Pastoral Council Nomination

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**The parish envelope system** is an invaluable means by which to reward the giver, acknowledge historic gifts, and keep track of parish participation. As we get closer to the new calendar year, Fr. Petro will be reviewing the contribution records to determine the number of active parishioners and update the parish census for both of our parishes. Please know that electronic giving via BOTH our parish websites is also available. We grateful for your generous support.

**A NEW PARISH WEBSITE** has been created for Queen of the Apostles Parish. Visit [www.stmaryavoca.com](http://www.stmaryavoca.com) to read the bulletin, research parish cemeteries, donate online, and more! Please note: the old parish website is now a “dead site.” It is no longer updated or supported by our parish in any way. **If you have registered for online giving on the former website, you must close your account on the old website and create a new account on the new website.** Our Sunday Visitor, the company that prints the offertory envelopes for SM, will now manage our new online giving portal.

**The Polish custom of *kolęda*,** or the annual blessing of homes, is available to our parishioners by request. This is a pastoral visitation to your home by the priest which takes place during January, usually around the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Blessing of a Home is not only a blessing for the structure, but for those who dwell therein. At the conclusion of the brief blessing, Fr. Petro will inscribe in chalk above the threshold of the main entrance to your home the following: 20 + C + M + B + 26. All those who enter or leave your home throughout the year will be blessed. Blessed chalk is used for this purpose. There are two interpretations of the meaning of the letters. The more popular one holds that they stand for the names of the three wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Another states that it means *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates from Latin, “May Christ bless this dwelling.”

If you would like Father to bless your home between January 2 and 5, then please complete the form below and return it to the Parish Office by Friday, December 19, either by placing it in the collection basket or mailing it. Please indicate your day/time preference - this will be considered when the visitation schedule is being made. You will be called to confirm the date and time of the visit.

### Kolęda House Blessing 2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day/Times preference (please be flexible and check all possibilities): ☐ Weekdays ☐ AM or ☐ PM  
☐ Saturday Morning ☐ Sunday Afternoon

*For easy reference, clip & save this year’s holiday Mass schedule*✂

### 2025-26 HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

(Christmas) Wednesday, Dec. 24: (SH & SM) 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 25: (SH) 12:00 a.m., (SM) 8:00 a.m. & (SH) 10:30 a.m.

(Mary, Mother of God) Wednesday, Dec. 31: (SH) 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday, Jan 1: (SM) 8:00 a.m. & (SH) 10:30 a.m.

(Epiphany) Saturday, Jan. 3: (SH) 4:00 p.m., (SM) 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday, Jan. 4: (SM) 8:00 a.m. & (SH) 10:30 a.m.

**New chasubles are sought for St. Mary’s Church!** Four new chasubles with stoles, to be worn by the priest at Mass, are needed for use at SM. These green, red, violet and rose chasubles are to be made at the Holy Rood Guild by the Trappist monks of St. Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. Donors are sought to purchase them at \$525 each. If you would like to donate one of these simple yet elegant vestments, please speak to Fr. Petro. These “Christmas gifts to your parish” may be given in memory of loved ones.

**Advent Confession Schedule:** confessions are heard every Saturday at Sacred Heart Church from 3:00 to 3:50 p.m. *Confessions will also be heard in St. Mary’s Church on the day before Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 23, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church.* All Catholics are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation during Advent to properly celebrate the feast of Christ’s birth. A deanery Penance Service will also be held Mon., Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston.

**Anyone wishing to add** to their 2025 contributions may do so by December 31, 2025. Requests for 2025 Contribution Statements can be made by contacting the parish office after the start of the new year. These statements may be used for your tax purposes.

**Our monthly expenses**, many of them fixed and none of them superfluous, are paid from the amounts received from our weekly collections. It is our hope that the Christmas collection from our parish will be healthy enough to offset any fiscal deficiencies experienced earlier this calendar year. *Your sacrificial Christmas gift to your parish is most appreciated!*

**Need a new gift giving idea?** Try this! What to give to that special someone who has everything? How about help for someone who doesn’t! You can donate to Sacred Heart’s Saint Vincent de Paul Society to honor that special someone and at the same time help someone in need. You can also honor a friend or send a memorial for someone who has died. Checks should be made out to *the St. Vincent de Paul Society* with a note attached with the address of that special person. The parish office will send a note of thanks to you and to the recipient of your gift. Send requests to SH parish office.

**The SM Social Concerns/Respect Life Giving Tree** is set up in the SM narthex. Those who would like to help families in need this Christmas may take a tag, purchase a gift and return it wrapped by Dec. 18. The gifts will be distributed Dec. 19, 6 to 7 p.m. in Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall.

**“Stocking Stuffer Pot of Gold” tickets** are being sold after the weekend Masses (SM). Match the evening daily number during January to win. Cost is \$10 per ticket. For more info, call Jane Maxwell at 335-8678. This supports the Altar & Rosary Society (formerly the Women’s Guild) of Queen of the Apostles Parish.

**Match the Daily Number raffle tickets** are available for purchase from our HNS members. \$5 will give you ten chances to win by matching your numbers to the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3. Raffle tickets can be purchased from any HNS member. The winning ticket must be presented. If you have the winning number, call HNS president Greg Zawacki, 570-947-8200. The winning number for November is 261.

**An American Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held in SH church hall on Wed., Dec. 17, 12:30 - 5 p.m. Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment. Those who give blood are eligible to receive a \$15 Amazon gift card! 🖤 🖤 🖤 🛒

**The Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth** invite girls in grades 9 – 12 to a Nazareth Group Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, from 11am – 4:30pm. Learn more about the Faith, make wholesome friendships, and grow more in love with Jesus through prayer and hearing inspirational talks. For more information or to RSVP by January 15, call Sr. Angela in Tunkhannock at 836-2737 or Sr. Clare in Williamsport at 745-3334. Calling times are Mon-Thurs & Sat - 9am-11:30am; 1pm-4:30pm; 7pm-8:15pm.

**An evening of Lessons and Carols** will be presented by the Choir of St. Joseph Marello Parish on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30pm in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 237 William St., Pittston. This candlelit service will feature scripture readings alongside hymns and carols to highlight the joyful expectation of Advent, allowing us to prayerfully prepare our for the coming of Christ on Christmas Day.

**The 2025-26 Catholic Ministries Appeal:** donation envelopes for the Appeal are available in the church narthex. All parishioners are asked to contribute to the Appeal. Donation envelopes may be placed in the collection basket.  
SH Goal: \$33,534.00 - Total Committed: \$15,335.00  
SM Goal: \$35,767.00 - Total Committed: \$11,991.00

**Monday (Dec. 15) Advent Weekday**

7:30 am (SH) Elena Tomassetti  
*by Maria Elena Petro*

**Tuesday (Dec. 16) Advent Weekday**

9:00 am (SM) Joseph Roszko  
*by family*

**Wednesday (Dec. 17) Late Advent Weekday**

7:30 am (SH) Stanley Kivak  
*by Stanley and Elaine Warunek*

**Thursday (Dec. 18) Late Advent Weekday**

9:00 am (SM) Stanley & Phyllis Galuska  
*by daughter, Mary*

**Friday (Dec. 19) Late Advent Weekday**

7:30 am (SH) Joseph and Eva Stonikinis  
*by Tim and Patti Stonikinis and family*

**Saturday (Dec. 20) Vigil: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

4:00 pm (SH) Donna Bartosiewicz  
*by Bob Bartosiewicz*

5:30 pm (SM) Martin Ray McDonald  
*by family*

**Sunday (Dec. 21) Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 am (SM) Peter Jadus  
*by wife & children*  
10:30 am (SH) Our Parishioners (*missa pro populo*)

<p><b>WEEKLY OFFERING</b> <b>Last Sunday:</b> (SH) \$5,326.75 (SM) \$ 4,456.00 <b>Building Fund:</b> (SH) \$410.00 <b>Immaculate Conception:</b> (SH) \$567.00 (SM) \$ 377.00 <i>May the Lord reward your generosity.</i></p>
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*The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:*  
Tabernacle (SH): *Bernadine and Vincent Bryk, by family*

Blessed Mother (SH): *Frank Tokash, by children*

St. Joseph (SH): *intentions of Joseph Pistack, by family*

St. Therese (SH): *Cassie Lopata, by Robert Lopata*

St. Francis (SH): *Gloria Balent, by grandchildren and great-grandchildren*

Tabernacle (SM): *Barbara Pearce for health, by mother*

Blessed Mother (SM): *Barbara Pearce for health, by mother*

St. Joseph (SM): *Peter Jadus, by wife*



The offertory gifts (SH) of bread & wine this Sunday are donated  
*in memory of Bernadine and Vincent Bryk, by family.*



The altar flowers (SH) this weekend are donated in memory of  
*Alice Bonk, by family.*

<p><b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> Dec. 14, 8 &amp; 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 5 assists Dec. 17, 12:30-5pm, Red Cross Blood Drive, SH church hall Dec. 18, 6:30pm, SM/SH Choir practice, SH choir loft Dec. 19, 6-7pm, Giving Tree gifts distribution, SM hall Dec. 21, 9am, CCD Christmas party, all students, SM hall Dec. 21, 9:00 am, Christmas decorating, SM church Dec. 21, 11:30am, Christmas decorating, SH church Dec. 23, 9:30-10:30am, Confessions, SM church Dec. 23, 11:30am-12:30pm, Confessions, SH church Dec. 24/25: see Christmas Mass schedule Dec. 31/Jan.1: see New Year’s Mass schedule Jan. 2, 7:30 am, 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass and devotions, church</p>
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<p><b>Liturgical Volunteer Schedule</b></p>
<p><b><i>December 13-14</i></b></p>
<p><b>4pm:</b> EM: M. Philips, L: J. Klenner, Acolyte: M. Hudzinski, M. Philips</p>
<p><b>5:30pm:</b> EM: N. Adomiak, L: R. Lee, Acolyte: T. Roxby</p>
<p><b>8am:</b> EM: A. Jake, L: L. Orr, Acolyte: G. Orr</p>
<p><b>10:30am:</b> EM: C. Wesley, L: CCD students, Acolyte: Rupprecht</p>
<p><b><i>December 20-21</i></b></p>
<p><b>4pm:</b> EM: M. Moletsky, L: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Collins</p>
<p><b>5:30pm:</b> EM: C. Wood, L: J. McMahon, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist</p>
<p><b>8am:</b> EM: B. A. Flannelly, L: B. Jones, Acolyte: K. Brogan</p>
<p><b>10:30am:</b> EM: D. Suchecki, L: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: Papiercavich</p>

**2026 Children’s Envelopes** are now available for pick-up in the church narthex. If your child is not yet receiving envelopes, please contact the parish office ASAP.

*Prayer for Benefactors: Reward those who have been good to us for the sake of your name, O Lord, and give them eternal life.*