



Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont, PA 18641

Phone 570-654-3713 • E-mail shojesuschurch@gmail.com
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
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

✠ **Fourth Sunday of Advent** ♦ **December 21, 2025** ✠

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

The members of SH Confraternity of Christian Mothers extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our annual Cookie Walk a great success. **\$1,292.49** was raised! The winner of the Lottery Tree is Cheryl Philips, and the winner of the 50/50 raffle (\$52) is Dorothy Sheridan. Congratulations!

SAVE THE DATE! *Return to the Heart of the Father: A Three-day Parish Lenten Retreat* will be held February 26-28, 2026, presented by guest speaker Allan Wright. We are happy to host Allan, who is a national speaker, author of over 20 books, adjunct professor at Seton Hall University and Executive Director of the NJ Family Policy Center. This retreat will take place at Sacred Heart Church and St. Mary Church, with a detailed schedule soon to be provided.
Feb. 26 - Disciples on Journey with Christ to the Cross
Feb. 27 - Return to the Heart of the Father
Feb. 28 - Living this Lent with Intention: Bringing Joy and Charity to a Broken World

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.

On the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord there is an ancient custom of announcing the birth of Christ at the Mass at midnight. This custom originated in the time when the first Mass of Christmas was at midnight, not the earlier Vigil Mass. The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ will take place at the start of the Midnight Mass in our church. As this ancient announcement is chanted, simply listen to the joyful announcement of Our Savior's Incarnation.

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.

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!*

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 Christ's birth.

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!).

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.

Christus natus est nobis, Alleluia! Venite, adoremus.

*Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and Saint Mary Church
extend a warm welcome to all visitors and
new parishioners.
Merry Christmas to all!*

In the Nicene Creed, at the words "and by the Holy Spirit... became man," *all genuflect at all Christmas Masses*. These are the words recalling the Incarnation of the Lord. After the annual celebration of Easter, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Lord's birth and his manifestations that take place during the Christmas season. This season extends from the first Mass of Christmas Eve through the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 11, 2026.

Annual Blessing of Families: On Sunday, December 28, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. As we do each year on this feast, those attending the Mass will receive a special blessing as individuals or as families after the General Intercessions. Simply remain in the pew for a brief blessing.

Our Parish Offices will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24 to Friday, Dec. 26, for Christmas. It will open on Monday, Dec. 29, at 8:30 a.m. (SH) and 9:30 a.m. (SM). SM office will be closed Dec. 30 - Jan. 1 and SH office Dec. 31 - Jan. 1.

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. *The green one has been claimed!*

A NEW PARISH WEBSITE has been created for Queen of the Apostles Parish. Visit 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.

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 Nativity Scene at our parishes will be blessed following the General Intercessions at the Christmas Eve Mass. Parishioners are encouraged to make a visit to the Nativity Scene following Mass and take some blessed straw as a Christmas remembrance.

Keep in mind the men and women who are serving in our military forces around the world. Our prayers go to them and their families during this Holy Season. May the Holy Family watch over us all.

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.

Requiescant in pace: pray for the repose of the souls of Stephen Bryk (SH), Joseph Serafin (SH), Ann Marie O’Hop (SM) and Marlene Kolvek (SM) who were recently buried from our churches.

The SH Holy Name Society Pasta Dinner income/expense report is complete. The net profit was **\$1,452.43**. What a great success!

CCD News: There are no classes on Sunday, Dec. 28. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 4.

The annual dues for membership in (SH) Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Holy Name Society are collected during the month of January. Please make use of your labeled contribution envelope in the mailing. All dues are deposited directly into each organization’s account. A list is maintained of paid-up members.

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.

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.

“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.*

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.

If you have moved in the past year, have a new phone number, or e-mail address, please let us know so our records will be up to date by contacting the Parish Office.

SH marks its 123rd anniversary as a parish of the Diocese of Scranton in 2025. At Christmastime in 1902, the Very Rev. Msgr. Stanislaus Szpotanski celebrated the First Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Dupont.

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: \$15,395.00

SM Goal: \$35,767.00 - Total Committed: \$12,441.00

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

| UPCOMING EVENTS |
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| Dec. 21, 9am, CCD Christmas party for all students, SM hall |
| Dec. 21. 9am, 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 st Friday Mass and devotions, SH church |
| Jan. 3, 2:45-3:45pm, 1 st Saturday Adoration & devotions, SH church |

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Monday (Dec. 22) Late Advent Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Joseph and Josephine Pistack
by family

Tuesday (Dec. 23) St. John of Kanty

9:00 am (SM) Thomas Carroll, Sr.
by Dave & Grace Colarusso

Wednesday (Dec. 24) Late Advent Weekday

No 7:30 am Mass

Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 pm (SH) Souls in purgatory
by the Petrini family

4:00 pm (SM) Anthony Blaskiewicz
by family

Thursday (Dec. 25) The Nativity of the Lord

12:00 am (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)
8:00 am (SM) Robert Haduch

by Butch & Kathy Ostrowski

10:30 am (SH) Veronica and Edward Kobylus, Jr.

by Lisa Ostrowski and family

Friday (Dec. 26) St. Stephen

7:30 am (SH) Bernadine Bryk
by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Giambra

Saturday (Dec. 27) Vigil: The Holy Family

4:00 pm (SH) Stanley Barnak, Sr.
by family

5:30 pm (SM) John Price
by Kay, Marsha, & Megan Price

Sunday (Dec. 28) The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 am (SM) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

10:30 am (SH) Frank and Cecelia Bartnicki
by Lisa Ostrowski

| WEEKLY OFFERING |
|---|
| Last Sunday: (SH) \$3,284.57 (SM) \$3,498.00 |
| Christmas flowers: (SH) \$1,156.00 (SM) \$617.00 |
| Building Fund: (SH) \$164.00 |
| Religious Retirement Fund: (SH) \$276.00 (SM) \$66 |
| <i>May the Lord reward your generosity.</i> |

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle (SH): Irene Eustice, by Ron and Sharon Ziobro and family

Blessed Mother (SH): Edward Pistack, by family
St. Joseph (SH): James Lopata, by Robert Lopata
St. Therese (SH): Michael Rowan, by Georgann Gall
St. Francis (SH): intentions of Marie Pistack, by family
Tabernacle (SM): Kerri Durkin Valenti, by Mom & Maura
Blessed Mother (SM): Barbara Pearce for health, by mother
St. Joseph (SM): Peter Jadus, by wife
Sacred Heart Shrine (SM): Helen Brogan, by Jim & family



The offertory gifts (SH) of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Edward Pistack, by family.

The offertory gifts (SM) of bread & wine for the month of Dec. are donated in memory of Thomas Durkin & Kerri Durkin Valenti by Faye & Maura

| Liturgical Volunteer Schedule |
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| <i>December 20-21</i> |
| 4pm: EM: M. Moletsky, L: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Collins |
| 5:30pm: EM: C. Wood, L: J. McMahon, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist |
| 8am: EM: B. A. Flannelly, L: B. Jones, Acolyte: K. Brogan |
| 10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, L: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: Papiercavich |
| <i>December 24-25</i> |
| 4pm (SH): EM: B. Jones, L: M. Ferretti, Acolyte: Collins |
| 4pm (SM): EM: C. Wood, L: T. Kaplavka, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski, JJ Galvin, G. Orr |
| 12am (SH): EM: M. Philips, L: G. Purdy, Acolyte: M. Philips, C. Purdy |
| 8am: EM: N. Adomiak, L: P. Bartnicki, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist, T. Roxby |
| 10:30am: EM: C. Wesley, L: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: Rupprecht |
| <i>December 27-28</i> |
| 4pm: EM: B. Jones, L: C. Purdy, Acolyte: JJ Galvin, T. Gilchrist |
| 5:30pm: EM: C. Trzcinski, L: J. Klenner, Acolyte: Collins family |
| 8am: EM: R. Lee, L: J. Susko, Acolyte: M. Philips |
| 10:30am: EM: C. Wesley, L: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: Toalongo |