



# 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

✠ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph ♦ December 28, 2025 ✠

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

**The *Te Deum*, “You are God: We Praise You,”** is an ancient hymn of thanksgiving and praise to God. The Church grants a plenary indulgence to the Christian faithful who publicly recite this hymn on the last day of the year. The *Te Deum* will be sung in SH church following Holy Communion at the 4 p.m. Mass on December 31.

**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.

**Fr. Petro wishes to thank** the parishioners who were so generous in their gift giving and Christmas card sending. “I am deeply touched by the spirit of generosity so evident among so many of our people. Thank you for making this a very memorable Christmas! I thank also the members of our music apostolate and church decorators whose kind work added so much to our Christmas celebration.”

#### PRAYER FOR THE HOUSEHOLD

*Exaudi nos* – May be recited by the family on New Year’s Day:  
“Hear us, Lord, and send your angel from heaven to visit and protect, to comfort and defend all who live in this house. Amen.”

**A New Year Blessing:** “You enter this church as a guest of God, your heavenly Father. Come with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips into His presence. Be grateful to the faithful who, in Jesus’ Name, built this place of worship, and to all who have beautified and hallowed it with their prayers and praise. Ask His blessing on those who love His house of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest on you in the New Year.”

**On the Solemnity of the Epiphany** there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of Easter and other movable feasts for the coming year. This custom originated in the age when calendars were not readily available for much of the population. Next Sunday, the Epiphany Proclamation will take place after the proclamation of the Gospel. As this ancient announcement is read, simply be seated and listen to descriptions of the celebration of the central mysteries of our faith.

**Holy water will be blessed** at the 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Saturday, January 10. The Sprinkling Rite will be used in place of the Penitential Rite to remind us of our own baptisms at Mass that day. Please bless yourself with the sign of the cross as the priest sprinkles you with holy water at the start of Mass. Please feel free to bring a container to church to take home some of the newly blessed water. The Christmas season ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

**Thank you to the West Side Social Club**, Avoca, for a Christmas Gift of \$300 to Queen of the Apostles Parish.

**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

*Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and Saint Mary Church  
extend a warm welcome to all visitors and new parishioners  
in the parish. Happy New Year to all!*

#### 2025-26 HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

(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.

**Our Parish Offices** will be closed as follows: SM office will be closed Dec. 30 - Jan.1 and SH office Dec. 31 – Jan. 1.

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

**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](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 American Red Cross** thanks SH parish for sponsoring the December 17 blood drive. A total of 21 units of blood were collected which surpassed their goal of 19. Thank you!

**Free 2026 liturgical calendars** are now available in the narthex. Every Catholic household should have one!

**Parish families are needed** to bring up the gifts of bread and wine in the offertory procession for the weekend Masses. Would you consider accepting this honor? *At least two volunteers are needed at each of the weekend Masses that have music.*

**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.

#### SM Pastoral Council Nomination

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

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

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

**The monthly Church Dues** for our parishes will be **\$10** per adult parishioner, per month beginning in 2026. This amount is printed on the front exterior of the dues envelopes. All parishioners are reminded of their obligation to support their parish financially according to their means.

**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. Beginning in 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.

**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.

**Cookie trays remain** in the church hall from cookies donated to our Cookie Walk. If you have a serving tray in the hall, please pick it up by the end of the week, otherwise it will be discarded.

**First Saturday** is January 3. It is very important in these times to pray the Rosary, meditate for 15 minutes on the Mysteries, and make sacramental confession and Communion in reparation for sins and blasphemies against Mary’s Immaculate Heart. A Eucharistic Holy Hour will be held on Saturday, Jan. 3, from 2:45 to 3:45 pm in our church. All are invited to pray in preparation for the 4 pm Mass.

**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.

**“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.

**During winter months** our health is always a concern and we need to take precautions. Regarding the Sign of Peace, you are asked to please use your common sense. If you are not feeling well or are taking medicine for the flu, a cold, etc., a nod of the head with a smile or just a kind word is sufficient if you do not wish to shake hands. Thank you for your understanding.

**If you are divorced**, please speak to Fr. Petro about petitioning for a marriage annulment. All Catholics who marry in a valid sacramental union and divorce must obtain a decree of nullity before attempting marriage again. A civil decree of divorce does not dissolve the sacrament of holy matrimony. All Catholics are bound to marry before a priest in church for the marriage to be valid, even if they are marrying a non-Catholic. Catholics may not be admitted to the sacraments upon attempting marriage outside the church. They may be admitted to the sacraments once again after receiving an annulment and having their attempted marriage blessed by the Church. Annulments are now FREE, i.e., no payment is necessary.

**Engaged?** Couples planning to marry in our church should meet with Fr. Petro before making any other wedding plans. To prepare well for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, this meeting should take place *at least 6 months* to a year before the anticipated wedding date.

**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: \$20,690.00  
SM Goal: \$35,767.00 - Total Committed: \$12,791.00

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

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Monday (Dec. 29) St. Thomas Becket**

7:30 am (SH) Mary Opiela  
*by Renee and Matthew Christman*

**Tuesday (Dec. 30) Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas**

9:00 am (SM) Marilyn Monahan  
*by family*

**Wednesday (Dec. 31) St. Sylvester I**

*No 7:30 am Mass*  
**Vigil: Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
4:00 pm (SH) Frances and Joseph Stoshick  
*by her brother*

**Thursday (Jan. 1) Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

8:00 am (SM) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)  
10:30 am (SH) Anna Sroka  
*by Thomas and Dorothy Sheridan*

**Friday (Jan. 2) Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen**

7:30 am (SH) Josephine Nesgoda  
*by Maureen Ledoretti*

**Saturday (Jan. 3) Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord**

4:00 pm (SH) John Tetlak  
*by children, John, Ronald, and Judith*  
5:30 pm (SM) Joanne Schrader  
*by Michael Slater, Christine Silfee, & Sue Cieless*

**Sunday (Jan. 4) The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:00 am (SM) Kelly O’Brien  
*by Mike, Liz & Sophia Dessoie*  
10:30 am (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

<p><b>WEEKLY OFFERING</b> <b>Last Sunday:</b> (SH) \$5,800.75 (SM) \$4,046.00 <b>Christmas flowers:</b> (SH) \$1,475.00 (SM) \$793.00 <b>Building Fund:</b> (SH) \$199.00 <i>May the Lord reward your generosity.</i></p>
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*The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:*  
Tabernacle (SH): Daniel Lello, by Elaine and family  
Blessed Mother (SH): Denise Skrzysowski, by family  
St. Joseph (SH): Pat Lello, by Elaine and family  
St. Therese (SH): Chester and Aldina Bartoli, by Elaine and family  
St. Francis (SH): Anthony and Mary Lello, by Elaine and family  
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 John and Irene Eustice, by Ron and Sharon Ziobro and 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

<p><b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> Dec. 31/Jan.1: see New Year’s Mass schedule Jan. 2, 7:30 am, 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass and devotions, SH church Jan. 3, 2:45-3:45pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Adoration &amp; devotions, SH church Jan. 3, 6:15pm, Sacred Heart CCM Wafer dinner, Agolino’s Jan. 7, 7pm, Holy Name Society, SH hall Jan. 10, 4 &amp; 5:30pm, Blessing &amp; distribution of Holy Water, church Jan. 15, 6:30pm, SM/SH Choir practice, SH choir loft Jan. 18, 8 &amp; 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 4 assists</p>
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<p><b>Liturgical Volunteer Schedule</b></p>
<p><b><i>December 27-28</i></b></p>
<p><b>4pm:</b> EM: B. Jones, L: C. Purdy, Acolyte: JJ Galvin, T. Gilchrist</p>
<p><b>5:30pm:</b> EM: C. Trzcinski, L: J. Klenner, Acolyte: Collins family</p>
<p><b>8am:</b> EM: R. Lee, L: J. Susko, Acolyte: M. Philips</p>
<p><b>10:30am:</b> EM: C. Wesley, L: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: Toalongo</p>
<p><b><i>December 31-January 1: Mary, the Mother of God</i></b></p>
<p><b>4pm (SH):</b> EM: M. Moletsky, L: H. Vogue, Acolyte: JJ Galvin, Rupprecht family</p>
<p><b>8am:</b> EM: B. A. Flannelly, L: Regina Wright, Acolyte: K. Brogan</p>
<p><b>10:30am:</b> EM: B. Jones, L: B. Jones, Acolyte: C. Purdy</p>
<p><b><i>January 3-4</i></b></p>
<p><b>4pm:</b> EM: M. Moletsky, L: H. Vogue, Acolyte: M. Philips</p>
<p><b>5:30pm:</b> EM: N. Adomiak, L: J. Susko, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist</p>
<p><b>8am:</b> EM: L: C. Trzcinski, R. Lee, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski</p>
<p><b>10:30am:</b> EM: D. Suchecki, L: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: Papiercavich</p>

**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.

