



# 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

✠ **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time** ♦ **February 1, 2026** ✠

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

**The Church celebrates** the solemn *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* on Feb. 2. This feast recalls the day on which Jesus Christ was presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph. This feast, also commemorated as the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, celebrates Jesus as the Light of revelation to all the nations. According to ancient tradition, candles are blessed on this day, both those used in the church and the home. In accordance with the liturgy for the day, special candles will be blessed at Mass for the faithful to take home and use. Families have customarily lit them at the table for Easter and Christmas dinner, for sacramental visits of Holy Communion and Holy Anointing, and for blessed protection in lightning storms and power outages. The candles will be blessed in a special ritual with a procession at 7:30 a.m. Mass on Monday, February 2 in SH church. The blessed candles may be obtained after the Mass for a donation of \$4 for a box of two "Candlemas" candles.

**The Church celebrates** the *Feast of St. Blaise* on Feb. 3. He was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. He is venerated today as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. Using candles blessed the day before at the Mass of the Presentation of the Lord, the faithful will be blessed through the intercession of St. Blaise. Throats will be blessed after all weekend Masses February 7/8, as well as on February 3.

**The World Day of the Sick** is Wednesday, Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Fr. Petro will celebrate a Mass for the Sick at 7:30 a.m. in SH church. During the Mass there will be a communal celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for anyone acutely or chronically ill, anyone suffering a debilitating condition, anyone facing surgery, the elderly, and all who might be a candidate for this sacrament.

**Our annual Sacred Heart Ash Wednesday Potato Pancake & Lenten Food Sale** will be held on Wed., Feb. 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in SH church garage. Volunteers are needed to help make homemade pierogi on Tuesday, Feb. 10, beginning at 10am in the church hall. The evening shift will begin at 6pm. If anyone would like to volunteer to make meatless soups, or volunteer in any way, please contact Charyl Nagy: 540-5478 (please text during the day and provide your name or call after 5pm). The HNS will make the halushki. Your help is greatly appreciated! Food will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Requests for 2025 Contribution Statements** for tax purposes can be made by contacting the parish office.

### **Super Bowl Sunday HNS Hoagie Sale**

Pick up date: Sunday, February 8, 9am – 12pm in SH church hall.

*Please return this form with payment to the Parish Office no later than February 2.*

**\$9 each: All hoagies are 10 inches long and come with lettuce & tomato. Special orders cannot be taken.**

Please write quantity of each on the line provided:

ITALIAN: \_\_\_\_\_

TURKEY AND AMERICAN CHEESE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for my order.**

*Payment must accompany all orders. Thank you!*

### **You are invited to our Parish Lenten Retreat!**

**Return to the Heart of the Father: A Three-day Parish Lenten Retreat** will be held February 26-28, 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 the intention of bringing our parishioners together to grow in faith, to help strengthen our personal relationship with the Lord as we begin the holy season of Lent, and to build stronger bonds with one another. We also invite all those in our neighboring parishes to join us. All are invited and encouraged to attend the events planned for each day. If you can only attend some, but not all of the events listed, please feel free to do so. In order to make the proper meal preparations, anyone wishing to attend either or both catered meals as listed below is asked to please contact the SH parish office at [shojesuschurch@gmail.com](mailto:shojesuschurch@gmail.com) or 654-3713. Please provide your name, the date of the meal you will attend and the number attending. There is no need to RSVP for any other aspect of this retreat.

Feb. 26 – held at Sacred Heart, Dupont

5:30pm, Mass

6:15pm, Catered dinner in the church hall (RSVP required)

7pm, Presentation in hall: *Disciples on Journey with Christ to the Cross*

Feb. 27 – held at Saint Mary's, Avoca (two sessions)

1pm, Stations of the Cross

1:30pm, Presentation in church: *Return to the Heart of the Father*

5:30pm, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6pm, Catered light meal (RSVP required)

6:45pm, Presentation in church: *Return to the Heart of the Father*

7:45pm, Stations of the Cross

Feb. 28 – held at Sacred Heart, Dupont

9am, Mass

9:30am, Presentation in church: *Living this Lent with Intention: Bringing Joy and Charity to a Broken World*

Penance service to immediately follow in church.

**Renovation work continues** on the baptismal font and the narthex in St. Mary's Church. Please be mindful of the work area and use caution when walking in the area.

**Catechumens** Tyler Mulvihill (SH) and Michael LaRocca (SM) and candidates Heather Baldacci (SH), Susan Davi (SM), and Victoria Rivera (SM) are currently receiving religious instruction from Fr. Petro and the R.C.I.A. team. We look forward to welcoming them into the Church at this year's Easter Vigil. Please pray for them as they prepare for the sacraments.

**If your child** attends Catholic school and is anticipated to receive the Sacraments of First Penance (March 7) and First Communion (May 3) or Confirmation (April 20), be sure they are registered in our CCD program.

**If you have moved** in the past year or have a new phone number, please let us know so our records will be up-to-date by calling or emailing the parish office. Also, if you have an email address that you would like to share with us for purposes of correspondence, *then please write your email address on one of your offertory envelopes and it will be added to your parish census information.*

**Requiescant in pace:** pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of Marie Wilk (SM) and Rosemary Borkowski (SH) who were recently buried from our church.

**Please return the blessed palm** received last Palm Sunday by Feb. 15. They will be burnt and the resulting ash used to sign the faithful on Ash Wednesday. A basket for palm branches will be in the narthex of both of our churches.

<b>ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE</b>	
<u>February 18:</u>	7:00 am – Mass (SH)
	12:10 pm – Liturgy of the Word (SH)
	4:00 pm – Liturgy of the Word (SM)
	6:00 pm – Mass (SM)

**The Christmas Crib** remains in our church until Candlemas. It can be found near the BVM side altar. Falling exactly 40 days after Christmas, Candlemas was observed as the official end of Christmas in medieval times. In some countries it is not unusual to retain some Christmas decorations until Candlemas on Feb. 2. Pope St. John Paul II would make his last visit to the crib in St. Peter’s Square after celebrating the evening Mass on Feb. 2. After this visit the Nativity scene was dismantled. Consider making a visit to our crib this year!

**Cub Scout Pack 316 and Scouts BSA Troop 316** will hold their annual Scout Sunday celebration, chili cookoff, and bake sale on Sunday, Feb. 8, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and Hall. The Scouts will participate in the 10:30 am Mass, followed by their annual chili cookoff and bake sale at 11:30 am in the SH church hall. The entry fee is \$5 per dish. Sample the chili entries and vote for your favorite for just \$5. Cooks can enter their dish at the event or register in advance at [www.tinyurl.com/2026scoutsundaychilicookoff](http://www.tinyurl.com/2026scoutsundaychilicookoff). A delicious selection of homemade baked goods will be available for purchase. Chili and baked goods takeouts will also be available. All proceeds benefit our parish-sponsored Scout programs and community service.

**Raffle tickets for the Holy Name Society “300 Club”** are available from any member. The deadline for ticket returns is February 28. Tickets, as well as the Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie orders, can be dropped in the collection basket in a marked envelope. Drawings will take place during Lent. **The Match the Daily Number raffle** continues! \$5 will give you a chance to win by matching your numbers to the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3. The winner with the exact matching number of the Pick 3 (excluding the wild ball) will win \$250. Raffle tickets can be purchased from any Holy Name Society member.

**Now that the Christmas season has ended**, families who have loved ones buried in any of our three cemeteries are kindly asked to remove all Christmas wreaths, decorations, etc. from their graves.

**Once a young adult parishioner turns eighteen**, it is proper that regular adult envelopes are requested for them. They will be given their own contribution number and envelopes will be mailed to them just like their parents. All adults, from age 18 and up, are requested to support their parish by donating their monthly dues, which are currently \$10. This is considered the bare minimum of financial support expected for “active parishioners.” When requesting a sponsor card for baptism or confirmation, seeking to celebrate matrimony, or desiring burial in our parish cemetery, one must be an active parishioner, i.e., one who practices the Faith and supports their parish. If you are 18 years of age or older, and are not currently receiving contribution envelopes, please notify the parish office so that your census information may be updated.

**Sacramental Sponsors:** If you are asked to be a sponsor for Confirmation or a godparent for a Baptism, you must: be a registered, participating member of SH or SM, have received all Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation), and if married, be married in the Catholic Church. If you have a question about your eligibility or are in need of a sponsor form, you may contact the parish office.

**Are you registered in SH or SM parish?** If you are not receiving mail from the parish, chances are you are not registered. You are free to stop by the Parish Office to become a registered parishioner. Parish registration is required to be a baptismal godparent or a confirmation sponsor.

**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: \$20,830.00  
SM Goal: \$35,767.00 - Total Committed: \$13,396.00

**Bishop Bambera** will be traveling throughout the Diocese of Scranton during Lent to lead Holy Hours in each of the Diocese’s 12 deaneries, continuing a tradition that began several years ago. The Lenten Holy Hour for the Pittston Deanery will be held on Thursday, March 12 at Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend. The theme for this year’s Lenten Holy Hour will be “Finding Peace in Challenging Times.”

**Monday (Feb. 2) The Presentation of the Lord**

7:30 am (SH) Zigmund Romanczuk  
*by wife, Betty, and children, Lynn and Joyce*

**Tuesday (Feb. 3) St. Blaise**

9:00 am (SM) Thomas Lee  
*by Mr. & Mrs. James Timlin*

**Wednesday (Feb. 4) Weekday**

7:30 am (SH) Charles Daczka  
*by Leo and Rosemaria Yager*

**Thursday (Feb. 5) St. Agatha**

9:00 am (SM) Ann Creedon  
*by Marie Judge*

**Friday (Feb. 6) St. Paul Miki and Companions (First Friday)**

7:30 am (SH) Bernie Krappa and family  
*by Janet Gerlak*

**Saturday (Feb. 7) Vigil: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 pm (SH) Daniel and Margaret Gusinski  
*by Gene & Sharon Bartosiewicz & Megan Gusinski*

5:30 pm (SM) Helen Brogan

*by Jim Brogan & family*

**Sunday (Feb. 8) Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

10:30 am (SH) Vincent and Bernadine Bryk

*by family*

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

**Last Sunday:** (SH) \$2,990.75 (SM) \$2,810.00

**Building Fund:** (SH) \$80.00

**Initial Offering:** (SH) \$937.00 (SM) \$307.00

**Insurance:** (SH) \$581.00 (SM) \$308.00

**Church in Latin America:** (SH) \$115.00 (SM) \$52.00

*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

*The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:*

Tabernacle (SH): intentions of Catherine Helminiak, by Georgann

Blessed Mother (SH): intentions of Nicholas Nebraski, by family

St. Joseph (SH): James Lopata, by Robert Lopata

St. Francis (SH): Joshua Purdy, by parents and siblings

Blessed Mother (SM): Mary Corcoran, by Marie & Joe Burns

St. Joseph (SM): John & Gloria Levandowski & daughter, by Jeanette

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb. 1, 9:15am, SH First Penance parent meeting, SH school

Feb. 2, 6pm, CCM meeting, SH hall

Feb. 4, 7pm, HNS meeting, SH hall

Feb. 5, 6:30pm, SH/SM Choir practice, SH choir loft

Feb. 6, 7:30 am, 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass and devotions, SH church

Feb. 7, 2:45-3:45pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Adoration/devotions, SH church

Feb. 8, 10:30am, Boy Scout Mass, SH church

Feb. 8, 11:30am, SH/SM combined catechist meeting, SH school

Feb. 9, 6pm, SH/SM Security Committee meeting, SH church hall

Feb. 10, 10am, Pierogi making begins, SH church hall

**Liturgical Volunteer Schedule**

**January 31-February 1**

**4pm:** EM: M. C. Wesley, L: J. Klenner, Acolyte: Collins

**5:30pm:** EM: C. Wood, L: J. McMahon, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist

**8am:** EM: A. Jake, L: B. Jones, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski

**10:30am:** EM: M. Phillips, L: G. Purdy, Acolyte: Papiercavich

**February 7-8**

**4pm:** EM: M. Moletsky, L: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: C. Purdy

**5:30pm:** EM: P. Krisiewicz, L: P. Bartnicki, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist

**8am:** EM: N. Adomiak, L: J. Susko, Acolyte: K. Brogan

**10:30am:** EM: M. Phillips, L: Boy Scouts, Acolyte: Boy Scouts

**A Men's Lenten retreat** will take place at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center at 7pm on Friday, Mar. 13 through Saturday, Mar. 14. The theme this year is “Teach Us To Pray.” They will offer Reconciliation, Adoration, and Mass. To register, contact Joe Adcroft at 380-5070.

**The Organ and Catholic Liturgy:** King’s College will host a free public lecture on “The Organ and Catholic Liturgy” at the George & Giovita Maffei Family Commons, 29 West North St, Wilkes-Barre on Monday, Feb. 9, at 7pm. The presenter will be our own Fr. Michael B. Wurtz, C.S.C., S.L.D., Assistant Professor of Theology at King’s College and Secretary of the Society for Catholic Liturgy. A light reception will follow. For more information, contact John Vaida, Dean, at 570-650-6459 or email Raphael Micca, Secretary, at [rdmicca@agopane.org](mailto:rdmicca@agopane.org).

