



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

✠ First Sunday of Lent ♦ February 22, 2026 ✠

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

A BIG THANK YOU to all our wonderful parishioners who helped to make our Polish Lenten Food Sale so very successful. After Masses this weekend in SH church hall, potato pancakes will be sold for the discounted price of \$10 a dozen. Dziękuję!

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU: on Mondays of Lent, Confessions will be heard in church from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on these dates: Feb. 23 (SM), Mar. 2 (SH), 9 (SM), 16 (SH), 23 (SM). The deanery penance service will be on March 30, 6:30pm at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in common each Friday evening throughout Lent at 7 p.m. You are invited to walk with Our Lord along the Way of Sorrows. Do not miss the opportunity to be drawn closer to Him. The Stations schedule is as follows:
Feb. 27 (7:45pm at SM), Mar. 6 (SM), Mar. 13 (SH), Mar. 20(SM), Mar. 27 (SH), Apr. 3 (SM)

For the season of Lent, a new Mass setting will be used entitled "Missa Jubilate Deo" for the parts of the Mass sung in Latin.

Cash Bingo in Avoca! You are invited to a Cash Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday, April 19, 2026, in Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Bingo begins at 1 p.m. Players must be 18 years of age or older. Cash prizes range from \$50-\$200 per game. Admission: \$25 in advance. \$30 at the door. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Individual game sponsors, donations of baskets for a basket raffle, and volunteers to help work the event are now being sought. For more information, to volunteer, or to purchase tickets, please contact John Labrosky, 570-881-3959.

A 2026 Polish Picnic meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in SH church hall. This very important first meeting will determine the scope and dates of our biggest fundraiser in 2026. All parishioners are encouraged to attend!

A St. Brigid & St. Patrick Irish Tea will be held by SM Altar & Rosary Society on Sunday, March 15 after the 8 a.m. Mass in Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall. Donations of Irish soda bread, scones, or any other baked goods for the social are now being sought. Please call Jane Maxwell (570) 335-8678 to either donate or volunteer. Reservations are not required. All are invited to attend.

A Lenten Soup and Hoagie Sale will be held by SM Altar & Rosary Society on Friday, March 20 in Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall. Potato soup or vegetable soup will be available for \$12 a quart. Also available will be tuna hoagies for \$8 - please specify with or without onions. To order, call Mary Ann Gilchrist (570) 561-7940, Patricia Kwiatkowski (570) 457-7117, or Jane Maxwell (570) 335-8678. Orders can be picked up in the parish hall on March 20 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 4 and 5 p.m. Last day to order is Tuesday, March 17.

Gorzkie zale, the traditional Polish-language Lenten devotion known as the "Bitter Lamentations," will be held on Sunday, March 22, at 3 pm in our church. The devotion is a sung reflection on the Passion of Christ and his Sorrowful Mother. Our choir will lead us in the singing. Msgr. John Sempa, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, will be the guest homilist. All are invited to attend.

Finger foods are needed for the reception following *Gorzkie zale* on Sunday, March 22. Please drop off donations in SH church hall by 2:45pm on Sunday, March 22. Thank you for your generosity!

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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. Anyone wishing to attend either or both catered meals as listed below is asked to contact the SH parish office at shojesuschurch@gmail.com or 654-3713. Please provide your name, the date of the meal you will attend and the number attending. RSVP deadline for meals is Mon., Feb. 23.

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.

An Easter Food Drive is being sponsored by SH/SM 6 and 7th grade CCD students during Lent. Parishioners are invited to bring non-perishable foods to church and place them in the bin located in the narthex from Feb. 21 until Sunday, March 29. This drive will support the Avoca Food Pantry at Bethel United Methodist Church.

Consider attending weekday Mass during Lent, or at least on the penitential days of Wednesday and Friday, during this holy season.

CCD News: First Penance will be celebrated on March 7 at 2:30 p.m. in SH church; First Communion will be celebrated on May 3.

"Operation Rice Bowl" Cardboard boxes for pocket change for the poor can be found in the narthex if you wish to make use of them.

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held in Queen of the Apostles Hall on Tuesday, March 3, 1:30 - 6 p.m. Go to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Holy Saturday Kolache Sale

~ Only \$16 each, freshly made by Bakery Delite! ~
Pick-up date: Saturday, April 4, 11am - 12pm in the church hall during the blessing of Easter baskets. *Return this form with payment to the Parish Office no later than March 9.* Please write quantity of each on the line provided:

NUT ROLL: _____

POPPY SEED ROLL: _____

CHEESE ROLL: _____

Name: _____

Phone No.: _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for my order.

Payment must accompany all orders. Thank you! - HNS

OCIA: Two catechumens from our parishes, Tyler Mulvihill and Michael LaRocca, are currently receiving instructions in the Faith. They are preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil this year. A candidate, Susan Davi, is also preparing to be received into full communion with the Church. This Sunday, February 22, they will celebrate the Rite of Election at St. Peter’s Cathedral with Bishop Bambera. They will receive a blessing at 5:30 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses this weekend before they are sent to Scranton. Baptized but uncatechized Catholics Victoria Rivera and Heather Baldacci are also receiving instructions in the Faith in preparation for Confession, Communion and Confirmation.

Last Sunday, Gabriel Francis Pasquariello was baptized in our church. Please pray for him and his family as they grow in God’s wisdom and grace.

Requiescant in pace: pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of JoAnn Bennie (SM) and Donna Jezowski (SM) who were recently buried from our church.

Lenten Communion Calls: Fr. Petro will visit the home-bound members of our parish March 5 (SM) and March 6 (SH) to administer Confession, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion. If you would like to be added to the monthly home visitation list, please call Kathy at the Parish Office at your earliest convenience.

Homebound parishioners may have Holy Communion brought to them on the First Friday of each month by calling the Parish Office and requesting this service. Confession and anointing of the sick are offered to all homebound parishioners every Advent and Lent.

Building Fund envelopes – please make use of them! All money donated to our church by way of the Building Fund envelopes will be deposited into our Restoration Account. This money will only be used for capital improvements and special maintenance on our parish facilities.

Easter Duty: All Catholics have the serious obligation to make a worthy Confession and receive the Holy Eucharist during Paschal Time which runs from the beginning of holy Lent through Pentecost. Please do not neglect this.

The traditional Slovak Stations of the Cross and Lenten Hymn Sing will be held on Sunday, Mar. 15 at St. Ignatius Church, 339 N. Maple Ave., Kingston. The service will begin at 2pm and will conclude with Benediction. Refreshments will follow.

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 and encouraged to attend. The theme for this year’s Lenten Holy Hour will be “Finding Peace in Challenging Times.” Please mark your calendar for this special opportunity to gather for prayer, reflection, and Eucharistic devotion during the Lenten season.

The Holy Name Society of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston, will be selling potato pancakes (3/\$5) and your choice of take-and-heat red pizza or white pizza with broccoli (\$15 a tray) each Friday in Lent, including Good Friday. Call 570-654-0053 to place your orders which are due the day before you wish to pick up your food. Pickup will be each Friday from 3:30 to 6pm in the Pastoral Center Auditorium (entrance on Church Street).

Stabat Mater Dolorosa attributed to Jacopone da Todi, 1230-1306, in a setting composed by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi in 1736, will be performed in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, on Friday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear the beautiful setting of the texts of the meditations of the sorrowful mother of Jesus. This will be the 290th anniversary of its premier performance.

The Diocese of Scranton is looking for qualified candidates for the position of Director at the Villa St. Joseph. The Villa St. Joseph facility serves as the home for retired clergy of the Diocese of Scranton and is located in Dunmore, Pa. The Director reports to the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and will provide compassionate leadership and administrative oversight for the daily operations of the facility, ensuring that all programs and services align with our Catholic mission and core values. This role requires a commitment to the well-being of residents, effective staff management, and sound financial stewardship. Interested candidates for the Director position are encouraged to visit the Diocesan website at www.dioceseofscranton.org for a more detailed job description. Applicants are asked to submit a cover letter with salary requirements and a resume by February 28 to: James Burke, Diocesan Secretary for Human Resources, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton Pa. 18503. Or email jburke@dioceseofscranton.org.

Monday (Feb. 23) St. Polycarp

7:30 am (SH) Ceil Wrazien
by the Kurtz and Twardowski families

Tuesday (Feb. 24) Lenten Weekday

9:00 am (SM) Loretta Blake
by Jim, Jackie & JJ Galvin

Wednesday (Feb. 25) Lenten Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Joan Jemiola
by family

Thursday (Feb. 26) Lenten Weekday

5:30 pm (SH) Irene Peck Henning
by Betty Belles

Friday (Feb. 27) Lenten Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Cassie Barnak
by family
7:00 pm (SH) Stations of the Cross

Saturday (Feb. 28) Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm (SH) Donna Bartosiewicz
by Bob Bartosiewicz
5:30 pm (SM) Dennis Fitzgerald
by June Fitzgerald & family

Sunday (Mar. 1) Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 am (SM) Joseph Dente, Jr.
by Patrick & Ann Joyce & The Jolly Boys
10:30 am (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

WEEKLY OFFERING
Last Sunday: (SH) \$5,348.57 (SM) \$3,776.00
Building Fund: (SH) \$242.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle (SH): Victoria Tetlak, by daughters, Joanne and Marie and family

St. Joseph (SH): John Lacomis, by brother, Thomas Lacomis

St. Therese (SH): Eleanore Bryk, by Walter Bryk and family

Blessed Mother (SM): Barbara Pearce, by Jadus family

St. Joseph (SM): Peter Jadus, by Jadus family

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 23, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, SM church
Feb. 23, 6pm, Polish Picnic meeting, SH hall
Feb. 26, Parish Lenten Retreat begins, see schedule above
Feb. 27, Parish Lenten Retreat, see schedule above
Feb. 27, 1pm and 7:45pm, Stations of the Cross, SM church
Feb. 28, Parish Lenten Retreat, see schedule above
Mar. 1, 6pm, CCM meeting, SH hall
Mar. 4, 7pm, HNS meeting, SH hall
Mar. 5, 6:30pm, SH/SM Choir practice, SH choir loft
Mar. 6, 7:30 am, 1st Friday Mass and devotions, SH church
Mar. 6, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, SM church

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

February 21-22

4pm: EM: M. C. Wesley, L: A. Devlin, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist, M. Hudzinski

5:30pm: EM: C. Trzcinski, L: T. Kaplavka, Acolyte: T. Roxby

8am: EM: N. Adomiak, L: L. Orr, Acolyte: G. Orr

10:30am: EM: B. Jones, L: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: Toalongo

February 27: Stations of the Cross

1pm: B. Satkowski **7:45pm:** Collins family

February 28-March 1

4pm: EM: B. Jones, L: C. Purdy, Acolyte: Collins

5:30pm: EM: P. Krisiewicz, L: J. Klenner, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist

8am: EM: Volunteer needed, L: R. Wright, Acolyte: K. Brogan

10:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, L: M. Phillips, Acolyte: Papiercavich

✠ **Prayer before a Crucifix** ✠

Good and gentle Jesus, I kneel before you. I see and I ponder your five wounds. My eyes behold what David prophesied about you: “They have pierced my hands and feet; they have counted all my bones.” Engrave on me this image of yourself. Fulfill the yearnings of my heart: give me faith, hope, and love, repentance for my sins, and true conversion of life. Amen.
On any Friday during Lent, a plenary indulgence is granted the Christian faithful who, after Communion, devoutly recite the above prayer before an image of Jesus Christ crucified. On other days of the year the indulgence is a partial one.