



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

✠ **Third Sunday of Lent** ♦ **March 8, 2026** ✠

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as *Laetare* Sunday, so-called from the first word of the antiphon at the Introit. *Laetare*, (“Rejoice”), taken from the Latin translation of Isaiah 66:10-11, sets a tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery, as does the permitted use of rose-colored vestments. *You are invited to wear pink colored clothing to mass next weekend!*

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.

Homemade Milk Chocolate Easter Eggs made by the CCM of Sacred Heart will be available for purchase Saturday, Mar. 21 from 1 to 5pm and Sunday, Mar. 22, from 9:30am to noon, in SH church hall. Milk Chocolate Peanut Butter and Milk Chocolate Coconut Cream eggs will be available. Small eggs: 6 for \$12 or 12 for \$24; Large eggs: \$8 each. *Eggs will be sold first come, first served. Orders will not be taken. Cash payments only.* Volunteers are needed for molding and dipping on Saturday, Mar. 14, from 9am to 3pm. To volunteer, use the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Tina Petcaugh at 991-2114 or Marie Ferretti at 905-0384.

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.

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: Mar. 13 (SH), Mar. 20 (SM), Mar. 27 (SH), Apr. 3 (SM).

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: Mar. 9 (SM), 16 (SH), 23 (SM). The deanery penance service will be on March 30, 6:30pm at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston.

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.

The Social Concerns/Prolife Ministry will meet Monday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. in SM rectory. All members are asked to attend.

Gorzkie zale, the traditional Polish-language Lenten devotion known as the “Bitter Lamentations,” will be held on Sunday, March 22, at 3 pm in SH 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. A light reception will follow in the SH church hall. 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. For more information, contact Beth Purdy or Dana Hinkley.

We will conduct a one-day picnic this year on Saturday, June 27, from 4 to 9pm. This year’s chairmen are Charyl Nagy and Joe Petro. The next meeting will be held March 10 at 6pm in SH church hall. If anyone would like to volunteer in any way, please contact Charyl Nagy: 540-5478 (please text during the day and provide your name or call after 5pm). Anyone interested in being a chairman for any area of the event is encouraged to attend this upcoming meeting.

Please make use of the Easter Flower envelope in your offertory envelope pack. Donations will help defray the cost of purchasing flowers to adorn our sanctuaries for Easter.

All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Abstinence obliges from the 14th birthday on.

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

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.

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.

SH parish Holy Name Society will have their quarterly corporate Communion Mass on Sun., March 8, at 10:30 a.m. Members are invited to wear their suits and pins and participate in the procession.

The Girl Scouts will participate in the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, Mar. 8. They will participate in the procession. Following the Mass, they will sell Girl Scout cookies in the church narthex.

Holy Saturday Kolache Sale

~ Only \$16 each, freshly made by Bakery Deluxe! ~

Pick-up date: Saturday, April 4, 11am - 12pm in SH 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

Renovation work has concluded in the narthex and baptismal font areas of St. Mary’s Church. The walls of the confessional, bathroom and narthex have been painted. The baptismal font has been improved - no more leaks or continual running water. A portion of the carpet has also been replaced in the center aisle of SM church due to the oil stain that was imbedded about a year ago. The beautiful green Irish marble holy water stoups that had been stored in the church basement have been placed once again in the narthex. The stained-glass window depicting the Baptism of the Lord has been cleaned and the Blessed Mother statue has been re-positioned to give it better visibility and dignity. The generous contributions of parishioners to the Building Fund have made this much-needed work possible. Please continue to make use of the “Building Fund envelope” when it appears in your offertory pack!

Congratulations to the HNS 300 Club **Week 1 winners**: 1st prize: \$100, Hadley Bachkosky, 2nd prize: \$50, Ron Ziobro, 3rd prize: \$25, John Bonczek, 4th prize: \$25, Sue Tallini.

Lenten reflection music will be played 15 minutes prior to the start of the 10:30 a.m. Mass during the season of Lent. Musical instruments may be played only to give necessary support to singing during Lenten liturgies.

Please consider giving for the spiritual sustenance of all who partake of the Eucharist in our church for a weekend. A gift of \$20 provides for the Eucharistic elements for the three Masses celebrated in our church each weekend. You are invited to make use of the envelopes found in the narthex labeled “Offertory Gifts.”

All people from both our parishes who volunteer to serve as lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers and cantors are reminded of our continued request to be present in the sacristy approximately 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass. This allows the sacristan time to find a new volunteer (if necessary), the celebrant to give special instructions (if necessary) and the volunteers proper time to compose themselves prior to their participation in Holy Mass. If a scheduled volunteer arrives late and discovers that someone else has been asked to replace them at that Mass, then the scheduled volunteer is requested to graciously allow the replacement to serve.

Lenten prayer intentions: Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, peace in the Middle East and in Ukraine, and for our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters in Palestine, Iraq and Syria.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2025 Diocesan Annual Appeal. The diocese has not yet reached its goal. You can still contribute. Gifts of any amount are welcome and appreciated. You may drop an Appeal gift in the parish collection or go to www.annualappeal.org

Bishop Bambera will be traveling throughout the Diocese of Scranton during Lent to lead Holy Hours in each of the Diocese’s 12 deaneries. 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.” This is an evening of prayer and Eucharistic devotion.

The Office for Parish Life invites you to the Diocese of Scranton Group Night with the WBS Penguins! Friday, March 13, come out with the Diocese of Scranton to cheer on the Penguins as they take on the Hershey Bears! Gates open at 6pm, and the puck drops at 7:05pm. To purchase discounted tickets, please visit www.dioceseofscranton.org. You can also call Tyler Rothman at (570) 208-5407 to purchase tickets over the phone. Location: Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Cost: There are two Pricing Options: Green Zone (\$20+fees) or Blue Zone (\$17+fees).

The Wyoming Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life invites everyone to receive their monthly newsletter at *no charge*. **Membership** to the Pennsylvanians for Human Life is only \$10 per year or a one-time donation of \$100 for lifetime enrollment. To sign up for the newsletter or to join, call 570-826-1819.

Monday (Mar. 9) St. Frances of Rome

7:30 am (SH) Intentions of Carissa Belles
by Betty Belles

Tuesday (Mar. 10) Lenten Weekday

9:00 am (SM) Loretta Blake
by Jack Galvin

Wednesday (Mar. 11) Lenten Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Michael Sompel and family
by John Gerlak

Thursday (Mar. 12) Lenten Weekday

9:00 am (SM) Thomas Quinnan
by Barbara Quinnan & family

Friday (Mar. 13) Lenten Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Deceased members of the Lopata family
by Robert Lopata

7:00 pm (SH) Stations of the Cross

Saturday (Mar. 14) Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)
5:30 pm (SM) Joseph Bartnicki, Sr.

by Joe & Pat Bartnicki

Sunday (Mar. 15) Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 am (SM) Peter Jadus
by wife & children
10:30 am (SH) Richard and Arlene Sable
by family

WEEKLY OFFERING

Last Sunday: (SH) \$6,419.19 (SM) \$4,467.25
Building Fund: (SH) \$539.00
Care and Education of Priests: (SH) \$265.00 (SM) \$248.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:

- Tabernacle (SH): *Zigmond Romanczyk, by Ron and Sharon Ziobro*
- St. Joseph (SH): *Gilbert Antal, by Carol Antal*
- St. Therese (SH): *Viola Cebula, by the McLaughlin family*
- St. Francis (SH): *Leonard, Marlene, & Richard Milewski, by family*
- Tabernacle (SM): *John & Nellie Serafin, by daughter Jeanette*
- Blessed Mother (SM): *Jenelle Demsin (for health), by Gram Jeanette*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 7, 2:30pm, First Confessions for both parishes, SH church
- Mar. 7, 2:45-3:45pm, 1st Saturday Adoration/devotions, SH church
- Mar. 9, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, SM church
- Mar. 9, 6:30pm, Social Concerns/Prolife Ministry meet, SM rectory
- Mar. 10, 6pm, Picnic meeting, SH hall
- Mar. 12, SH/SM Choir practice, SH choir loft
- Mar. 13, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, SH church
- Mar. 14, 3pm, OCIA First Confessions, SH church
- Mar. 15, 9am, Irish Tea, SM hall
- Mar. 16, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, SH church
- Mar. 20, 11am, Lenten Soup & Tuna Hoagie Sale, SM hall
- Mar. 20, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, SM church
- Mar. 22, 3pm, *Gorzkie Zale* devotions, SH church

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

March 7-8
4pm: EM: M. Phillips, L: H. Vogue, Acolyte: M. Phillips
5:30pm: EM: C. Wood, L: P. Bartnicki, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist
8am: EM: N. Adomiak, L: J. Susko, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski
10:30am: EM: B. Jones, L: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: Rupprecht
March 13: Stations of the Cross
7pm: C., E. & J. Toalongo
March 14-15
4pm: EM: C. Wesley, L: A. Devlin, Acolyte: C. Purdy
5:30pm: EM: C. Trzcinski, L: J. McMahon, Acolyte: JJ Galvin
8am: EM: M. Phillips, L: B. Jones, Acolyte: M. Phillips
10:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, L: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: Papiercavich

The Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth invite young women (grades 9 – 12) to join them on Saturday, March 21, 11am – 4:30pm for their next Nazareth Group meeting. 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 March 19, please 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.

“Operation Rice Bowl” cardboard boxes can be found in the narthex that you can take home and in which you can place your pocket change during Lent. All money collected aids the poor.

✠ **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 indulgence is a partial one.