



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

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.C.L., KCHS, Pastor

Rev. Father Michael B. Wurtz, CSC, S.L.D., Supply Priest

✠ The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ♦ August 10, 2025 ✠

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

A **special second collection** will be taken at the Masses this weekend in Avoca to collect money to pay the Pittston Area School District property taxes levied against Queen of the Apostles Parish. Please be as generous as your means allow. It is also understood that Queen of the Apostles Parish will also be receiving Luzerne County and Avoca Municipal taxes from the Avoca tax collector, at which time another special collection will be taken.

Members of both SM Finance and Pastoral Councils who wish to continue to serve must notify Fr. Petro by August 10. Please email or call the SM parish office.

With gratitude to God for their response to His call to serve Him at His altar, the following Queen of Apostles Parishioners have contacted the parish office to declare their intention to continue service as liturgical volunteers at Mass as acolytes, lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Some of these Eucharistic Ministers will continue to bring the Eucharist to the homebound on the First Fridays of the month. The SM liturgical volunteers are: *Nancy Adomiak, Ann Jake, Peggy Krisiewicz, Pat Tanski, Carol Trzcinski, Carol Wood, Pat Bartnicki, Kim Gill, Barbara Gregorio, Thomas Kaplovka, Ruth Lee, Lauren Orr, Marc Phillips, Jennifer Susko, Tammy Urbanski, Regina Wright, Kaitlyn Brogan, Jase Dudzinski, JJ Galvin, Thomas Gilchrist and Alexander Maruska*. Also, we are grateful to the SM choir members who have responded to the call to continue singing in loving praise and adoration of the Lord. They are: *Jack Coffay*.

Diocesan assessments must be paid to the diocese by every parish each month. June's assessments had not been paid, and July's are also overdue for Queen of the Apostles Parish. The total assessment invoice for these two months is \$23,363.50. Since Queen of the Apostles Parish does not hold sufficient funds in its general operating account to pay these assessments, a transfer from the Queen of Apostles Diocesan Savings account to pay this assessment has taken place. The total amount in this savings account was \$28,174.10. After the withdrawal from savings, the total remaining is \$4,810.60. As of today, \$8,645.69 is the total amount in the general operating account (parish checking). The bill for the August diocesan assessment has arrived, payable by August 31. The August assessment is \$10,799.50. Currently, Queen of Apostles Parish is in debt to the diocese in the amount of \$720,310.00.

The **"Social Concerns/Respect Life Committee"** is a group in Queen of the Apostles Parish created to care for the poor and promote the pro-life message. At the start of June, the group had \$7,514.56 in its charitable account. By the end of the month, only \$279.83 remained. On June 11, a check for \$200 was sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen in Wilkes-Barre. On June 18, five checks were written: \$1,000 to Holy Rosary School, Duryea; \$1,000 to the Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvanians for Human Life, \$1,000 to the Scranton Pennsylvanians for Human Life; \$2,000 to Providence Pregnancy Center, Scranton; \$300 to West Side Social Club, Avoca. On June 26, the group had a party for themselves at Colarusso's 2.0 and spent \$914.74 on food and \$70.04 on cake. On June 27 another check was written to the Wilkes-Barre Pennsylvanians for Human Life in the amount of \$800. Given these extraordinary financial expenditures, after much consideration, Fr. Petro has temporarily frozen their account and suspended their activities. Pending a report from a recently completed diocesan audit, Fr. Petro will address this concern, and others pertaining to Avoca, with the diocese.

Requiescant in pace: pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of Dorothy Novak (SH) and Robert Strelish (SH) who were recently buried from our church.

"Count Teams" are in the process of being created for Queen of the Apostles Parish. These two teams will consist of parishioner volunteers who will count the weekly offertory contributions. Such teams following diocesan guidelines had not existed prior in Avoca.

Marian Scholarships have traditionally been granted to graduating high school seniors from Queen of the Apostles Parish. A \$50 gift would be given to each graduate, and they and their families would be treated to a meal. However, this year each graduate received a Marian Scholarship of \$300 in June, thereby bringing the balance in the scholarship fund checking account to \$0. This account was subsequently closed at the bank immediately prior to Fr. Petro's arrival, thus ending the parish scholarship tradition.

The air conditioning repairs to the units in the ceiling of St. Mary's Church are ongoing. Water continues to collect in the trays, not making it possible to turn the units on again until the technical problem is solved. Insurance will not cover the expense of the mechanical repairs, but it will cover the expenses incurred on our ceiling murals (\$1,000 deductible). Ritterbeck of Moosic had been contacted to repair the paintings. However, the 2025-2026 insurance premium is due for Queen of the Apostles Parish in the amount of \$23,226.00. It has not been paid.

Annual Blue Mass: borough council members, law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders from Avoca, Dupont, Hughestown, Moosic and other municipalities are invited to a "Blue Mass" celebrated on Patriot Day, September 11, at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Church, Avoca. This is a special liturgy, held annually, that honors and prays for the safety and well-being of all public safety personnel. A "Blue Mass" is a Catholic Eucharistic liturgy celebrated to honor and pray for law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders. It is a way to express gratitude for their service and to seek God's blessing for their safety and protection. The name "Blue Mass" comes from the traditional color of many first responder uniforms. The tradition of the Blue Mass began in 1934, but in recent decades its celebration has been tied to the remembrance of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our country, as well as the memory of those first responders who have died this past year. This Mass will include prayers for the fallen, those currently serving, and their families. It will also feature a procession of first responders in their dress uniforms from the Avoca Fire Department building to St. Mary's Church, a homily focused on the importance of their service, and a blessing of their equipment. All present are invited to a light social in our Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall following the Mass.

A Giant Indoor Flea Market will be held Saturday, Sept. 13 and Sunday, Sept. 14 in the SH church hall. *Donated items will be accepted from Aug. 1 – Sept. 6. (no clothing and no electronics.)* Please deposit them in the Walnut Street vestibule. Parishioners from both of our parishes are invited to participate! If you can help at this year's flea market, please contact Gene and Sharon Bartosiewicz (457-6945) or Bob Bartosiewicz (457-8403).

The book for 2026 Mass intentions for our parishes will open on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. You may visit the parish office, use the Mass intention envelopes found in the narthex, or use the postal system to make your 2026 requests. The offering of Mass for deceased loved ones is a real spiritual gift to assist souls in purgatory and allow our beloved dead to know of our loving remembrance. Many people have Masses said in their parishes on death anniversaries or other significant dates. Masses may also be offered for the intentions of the living. The stipend for a Mass intention is \$10. Our parish secretaries record the requests.

Dear Parishioners, Friends, and Community Members,

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Hall Manager of the Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall. It is a privilege to take on this role, and I am truly excited to serve both our parish and the wider community through this cherished and versatile space.

The Parish Hall has long been a gathering place for faith, fellowship, and celebration. Whether it’s hosting weddings, baptisms, parish events, or community functions, it is my goal to ensure that every event held here is welcoming, well-organized, and reflective of the values we uphold as a parish community.

With a strong commitment to hospitality and attention to detail, I look forward to working closely with individuals, families, and organizations to help bring their events to life. I am here to assist with planning, answer any questions, and ensure that every experience at the Parish Hall is a positive one.

If you are considering hosting an event or would like to learn more about our rental offerings, please don’t hesitate to reach out. I’m happy to help and look forward to connecting with you.

Thank you for the warm welcome I’ve already received. I look forward to serving you in this new capacity and continuing the tradition of excellence at Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall.

Warm regards,
John Labrosky
Hall Manager, Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall
(570)881-3959 (cell) johnlabrosky@gmail.com

CCD Registration for both our parishes will begin August 16. CCD registration forms will be available in the narthex of both our churches as well as online at www.sacredheartdupont.com. After filling out the form for each child you may deposit it in the weekend collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Please include the required fee and a copy of your child’s baptismal certificate (if they are a new student and were not baptized in our church). CCD begins on Sunday, Sept. 28 from 9-10 a.m. *All school-aged children (both public and homeschoolers) who do not attend Catholic schools in grades 1 to 8 are required to attend CCD classes.* A few of our Catholic school students have attended our classes and are most welcome! Questions? Contact Deborah Yuschovitz (SM) at 457-1284 or Nancy Beccaloni (SH) at sacredheartccd@comcast.net

A catechist meeting for Sacred Heart catechists will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13, in the school following the 4pm Mass.

Many people choose to go on vacation during the summer months. When away, please remember to attend Mass on Sunday. Determine the location and Mass times for the Catholic church nearest your vacation area *before* leaving home. Also, please do not forget to contribute to your home parish when you return from vacation by offering your missed weekly donations in addition to your regular Sunday contributions. *Remember: your parish’s expenses never take a vacation!*

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Please note that Friday, Aug. 15, is a holy day of obligation binding for all Catholics to attend Mass. The Church celebrates the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Mass schedule: Thurs., Aug 14, Vigil Mass: 4pm (SH); Fri., Aug. 15, Masses: 7am (SH) and 5:30pm (SM).

ASSUMPTION HARVEST BLESSING: Throughout the ages the Church in her ritual commemorated the feast of the Assumption by the blessing of herbs, flowers and other produce brought to church by the faithful. To perpetuate this pious custom, Fr. Petro will bless the herbs, flowers, fruits and vegetables from your gardens during the 4 p.m. Mass on Aug. 14 and the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Aug. 15. Please bring these items to the sanctuary of the church before Mass and place them on the table by the Blessed Mother altar.

Offertory Gifts: Would you please consider giving of yourself for the spiritual sustenance of all who partake of the Eucharist in our churches for a weekend? A gift of \$20 provides for the Eucharistic elements for the two Masses celebrated in each of our churches each weekend. You are invited to make use of the envelopes found in the narthex labeled “Offertory Gifts.” Please consider taking one of these and completing the information on it and placing your money in the envelope. Offertory Gift donation envelopes for the bread and wine may be placed in the collection basket or mailed to the Parish Office. You may make your donation in memory of someone, in honor of someone or for a special intention. You may also request a specific weekend to which your gift can be applied. *SH and SM offertory gifts are recorded separately: \$20 per weekend per church.*

Polish Language School for Adults on ZOOM is offering Beginner Polish Language classes for adults. The classes are 10 weeks, once a week for \$199. The Wednesday class starts Sept. 10, and the Thursday class starts Sept. 11. To register for class: www.paf-welcomehome.org. For details, email: dorenaw@paf-ct.org.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Monday (Aug. 11) St. Clare
7:30 am (SH) Marion Babiarz
by Andrew Babiarz

Tuesday (Aug. 12) St. Jane Frances de Chantal
9:00 am (SM) William Golla
by Joanne, children & grandchildren

Wednesday (Aug. 13) Ss. Pontian and Hippolytus
7:30 am (SH) Daniel Tetlak
by Marina, Dave and Austin Smithonic

Thursday (Aug. 14) St. Maximillian Kolbe
9:00 am (SM) Stanley Kuchar & Joseph Babiarz
by Mary Jane Kuchar

Vigil: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
4:00 pm (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

Friday (Aug. 15) Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:00 am (SH) Scott Sito
by his mom
5:30 pm (SM) John & Marilyn Monahan
by Frank & Angie Serino

Saturday (Aug. 16) Vigil: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 pm (SH) Donna Bartosiewicz
by Bob, Gene and Sharon Bartosiewicz
5:30 pm (SM) Dennis O’Brien
by Tom & Dorothy Sheridan

Sunday (Aug. 17) Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 am (SM) James Fela
by wife, Janet & mom, Roseann
10:30 am (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

WEEKLY OFFERING
Last Sunday: (SH) \$7,086.59 (SM) \$2,107.00
Building Fund: (SH) \$311.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle (SH): Donna Zigmund, RN, *by Donna Karwaski*
Blessed Mother (SH): Steve Haluschak, *by Michele & Brian Moletsky*
St. Joseph (SH): Sophie and Andrew Matt, *by Marian Wanielista*
St. Therese (SH): Michael Rowan, *by Catherine & John Helminiak*
Tabernacle (SM): Peter Jadus, *by Maryann & family*
Sanctity of Life (SM): Jason Kuna, *by family*
The offertory gifts (SM) *bread & wine for the month of August are IMO Anthony & Frances Krisiewicz, by Peg & Ed Krisiewicz*

UPCOMING EVENTS
Aug. 13, 6:30pm, Summer Theology Series meets, school
Aug. 16, CCD registration begins

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule
<i>August 9-10</i>
4pm: EM: J. Barket, L: C. Purdy, Acolyte: Collins family
5:30pm: EM: C. Trzcinski, L: T. Kaplavka, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist, M. Phillips
8am: EM: A. Jake, L: L. Orr, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski, G. Orr, T. Roxby
10:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, L: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: Toalongo
<i>August 14-15: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
4pm: EM: <i>volunteer</i> , L: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Rupprecht
7 am: L: <i>volunteer</i> , Acolyte: <i>volunteer</i>
5:30pm: EM: R. Lee, L: T. Kaplavka, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist, A Maruska
<i>August 16-17</i>
4pm: EM: C. Wesley, L: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: M. Hudzinski, E. Lyons
5:30pm: EM: P. Krisiewicz, L: R. Lee, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist, JJ Galvin
8am: EM: B.A. Flannelly, L: B. Gregorio, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski, C. Hoover, A. Maruska
10:30am: EM: B. Jones, L: G. Purdy, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich

The final Adult Summer Theology Series will be offered in the Sacred Heart of Jesus School of Religion on Wednesday, August 13 at 6:30 p.m. by Bill Jones, a former Lutheran pastor and Catholic convert. Parishioners from both our parishes, and the public, are invited to attend. **Topic:** “Pope Leo XIII and Pope St. John Paul II: the right person for the right time selected by God.”

The Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg will be held on Monday, Sept. 22, at the State Capital. The rally will begin at 11am and the march will follow at noon. For details, call 717-541-0034.