



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 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time ♦ August 17, 2025 ✠

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

SH Polish Picnic Report: The gross profit for this year's Polish Picnic (i.e., before the bills are paid) amounted to \$50,775.36. Our picnic expenses totaled \$16,064.09. The net profit (after all the bills have been paid) amounted to \$34,711.27. *Thank you, volunteers!*

Fr. Jones Gyabaa-Yebo, a priest from the Sunyani Diocese, will visit our parishes the weekend of August 23/24. He will hear confessions and celebrate all Masses that weekend. Fr. Jones will speak about the works of the Diocese of Sunyani in Ghana, West Africa, which was established in 1973. With the permission of Bishop Bambara, Fr. Jones will make a missionary appeal in our parish (SH) to assist them in their work of evangelization. A second collection will be taken only at Sacred Heart for them that weekend.

Thank you to all who contributed to the special second collection taken at the Masses last weekend in Avoca to collect money to pay the Pittston Area School District property taxes levied against Queen of the Apostles Parish. A total of \$515 was realized.

Members of both SM Finance and Pastoral Councils were asked to notify Fr. Petro by August 10 if they wished to continue to serve as council members. The SM Finance Council members who wish to be retained are: *Michael Jake and Tom Kaplocka*. The SM Pastoral Council members who wish to be retained are: *Nancy Adomiak, Ruth Lee, Catherine Price, Kathy Sudol and Carol Wood*. More information about re-appointments, term limits and council composition will be forthcoming. Thank you for your service!

"Count Teams" are in the process of being created for Queen of the Apostles Parish. Two teams, A and B, will consist of parishioner volunteers who will count the weekly offertory contributions. We thank those who have volunteered to serve on Team A: *Barbara Quinman, Ann Satkowski, Diane VanLouvender, and Catherine Price*.

With the linkage of Sacred Heart and St. Mary's having taken place and a new Mass schedule established, all liturgical volunteers in both our parishes are being asked to complete the "volunteer sign-up sheet" once again with regards to scheduling availability and preference. Volunteers are not required to assist at both churches but are welcome to do so if they wish. All acolytes, lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are asked to complete the form and return it to the parish office via email or via the collection basket, by Thursday, August 21. Beginning the month of September, the monthly schedule will be combined, indicating all Mass times at both churches. Sacred Heart volunteers will still be asked to contact Kathy Vojta at the SH parish office and SM parishioners will contact Kathy Hudzinski.

Father Michael Wurtz, C.S.C. is a professor of theology at King's College in Wilkes-Barre. Beginning this month, he will assist Fr. Petro with the celebration of Masses in both of our parishes on a regular basis. We are grateful for his kind assistance. Please warmly welcome him to our parishes. *Thank you, Father Wurtz!*

Requiescat in pace: pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Daniel Skrzysowski (SH) who was recently buried from our church.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated for children from both of our parishes with Bishop Bambara at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston, on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Volunteers catechists are needed for Queen of the Apostles CCD program! At this time, not every class has a catechist. Please contact Deborah Yuschovitz, the SM DRE, at 457-1284 to help.

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 of Queen of the Apostles Parish,

As we prepare for the fall season, there are several clean-up and maintenance tasks that need attention around our church property. To help keep our parish home welcoming and beautiful, we are looking for volunteers to assist with these projects during the month of September 2025.

If you have some time to give—whether it's a few hours or a full day—your help would be greatly appreciated. Tasks may include light cleaning, yard work, organizing, and other small maintenance needs. Thank you for considering lending your time and talents to care for our church. Your generosity and dedication make a true difference in the life of our parish. If you are able to volunteer, please contact me at your earliest convenience so we can coordinate efforts:

John Labrosky

Sexton

570-881-3959 - johnlabrosky@gmail.com

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).

Eucharistic Adoration is cancelled this Tuesday, August 19, since Mass is not being celebrated that day in St. Mary's Church. The church will be closed during the week for cleaning and repairs.

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.

Fr. Petro expresses his gratitude to the many faithful and kind parishioners who gave from the first fruits of their harvest to adorn the altars of our parish. He is also grateful for the many delicious vegetables and fruits that were brought to the harvest blessing on the feast of the Assumption and then given to him as a gift. “Bless us, O, Lord, and these thy gifts.”

Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery, Dupont, is selling columbarium niches on a first-come-first-served basis. Please contact Kathy at the SH parish office should you like to reserve your spot in advance for future use – there is no need to wait until the time of death to purchase a columbarium niche. The pricing for the columbarium niches: Level 1 (bottom): \$1,100 for single space, \$2,200 for double; Level 2: \$1,200 single, \$2,400 double; Level 3: \$1,300 single, \$2,600 double; Level 4: \$1,300 single, \$2,600 double; Level 5 (top): \$1,300 single, \$2,600 double. Parishioners from both our parishes may purchase niches for cremated remains.

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!*

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.

Join in praying the St. Michael Prayer at the conclusion of all Masses: *St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

17th Diocese of Scranton Pilgrimage of Faith for the Jubilee Year of Hope to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC will be Wednesday, October 1. Register either via the diocesan website or contact our parish offices. Bus fare: \$80 per person made payable to either of our parishes with buses leaving from our deanery. Reservations are due by August 28.

Altar flower donations: commemorate a special occasion, or honor and remember a loved one by contributing to the weekly flowers that adorn the altar in our church. The donor’s name, and the name of the person or the occasion being honored or remembered, is published in the Sunday bulletin. The suggested donation is \$100. To make an altar flowers donation, please contact the parish office. The church secretary will take your information and place the order with the florist. In order to list the intention in the bulletin and create the floral arrangement for the weekend that you choose, a two-week lead time is necessary.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Monday (Aug. 18) Weekday

No Mass

Tuesday (Aug. 19) St. John Eudes

No Mass

Wednesday (Aug. 20) St. Bernard

No Mass

Thursday (Aug. 21) St. Pius X

No Mass

Friday (Aug. 22) The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No Mass

Saturday (Aug. 23) Vigil: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm (SH) Mary Opiela
by Diane and Steve McKitish

5:30 pm (SM) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

Sunday (Aug. 24) Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am (SM) Deceased members of the Biga family
by Maryann

10:30 am (SH) Martin McDonald
by wife, Theresa

WEEKLY OFFERING Last Sunday: (SH) \$4,363.57 (SM) \$3,727.00 Building Fund: (SH) \$302.00 Tax collection: (SM) \$515.00 <i>May the Lord reward your generosity.</i>

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle (SH): Emmanuel Ziobro, by his wife
Blessed Mother: Daniel Skrzysowski, Sr., by his mom and dad
St. Joseph (SH): Edward Kowalczyk, Sr., by wife and family
St. Therese (SH): Cassie Lopata, by Robert Lopata
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. 16, CCD registration begins Sept. 3, 7pm, HNS meeting, SH school Sept. 4, 6:30pm, Choir practice resume, choir loft Sept. 5, 7:30 am, 1 st Friday Mass and devotions, church Sept. 6, 2:45-3:45pm, 1 st Saturday Adoration/devotions, church

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule
<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
<i>August 23-24</i>
4pm: EM: <i>volunteer</i> , L: J. Roche, Acolyte: Collins family
5:30pm: EM: C. Wood, L: B. Gregorio, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist, M. Phillips
8am: EM: P. Tanski, L: T. Urbanski, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski, C Hoover, A. Marushka
10:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, L: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: Rupprecht

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.

The 2025 Celebrate Life Banquet will be held Friday, Oct. 24 at 6:30pm, at Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. Keynote Speaker will be Kayleigh McEnany, former White House Press Secretary. To reserve your seating, call 717-541-0034.

The Catholic Men’s Conference will be held Sat., Oct. 4, 8am-3pm at Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre. Register online at www.BeACatholicMan.com. The cost is \$40 for adults, early bird pricing of \$30 by Sept. 15 and \$15 for students. For details, contact Mike Kilmer at 570-721-0872 or mkilmer@thekilmergroup.com.

Amata (Beloved) Retreat: A retreat for high school aged girls with the Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth will be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Brodheadsville, Sept. 12-14. Talks, music, prayer, deepen your relationship with Christ, build new friendships and grow in the knowledge of the call to be His beloved child. Cost is \$35 which includes meals and snacks. To register or for more information contact: Jill Salvi at youthminister@qopchurch.org or call 610-681-6137 ext. 117. Registration deadline is Sept. 5.