



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

✠ Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time ♦ September 21, 2025 ✠

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

The 2025-26 Catholic Ministries Appeal has begun. Commitment cards for the Appeal have been mailed and will be in the pews this weekend. Parishioners are asked to consider what they can contribute to the Appeal. The Catholic Ministries Appeal benefits thousands of people throughout our diocese and beyond through good works funded by the Appeal. As parish support is critical to the success of the Appeal, our participation is key. Gifts of all sizes are welcome. Thank you to those who have provided their generous financial support for this year's Appeal so far.

SH Goal: \$33,534.00 - Total Committed: \$56,145.00

SM Goal: \$35,767.00 - Total Committed: \$54,831.00

THANK YOU to all who helped in any way to make our Flea Market so successful! The amount raised was \$2,729.00. Due to the support received from SM parishioners for this SH fundraiser, \$800 of the flea market profits will go to SM where it will be used to purchase new robes for our youth acolytes. The remainder of the proceeds will be deposited into SH building fund.

We are most grateful to everyone who helped make the annual 9-11 Blue Mass at SM so meaningful, especially our musicians, our acolytes, our Scouts and Sandy Vanluvender who coordinated the efforts. The SM Pastoral Council did a fantastic job of hosting a delicious reception in the hall. We look forward to commemorating next year's 25th anniversary Blue Mass on Patriot Day.

A Ziti Pasta Dinner will be held in the SH Church Hall on Saturday, October 11, 3 to 6pm. Dine in or take out. Cost is \$12 per dinner, and includes ziti with red sauce, salad, cake and "Eddie's Famous Meatballs!" Tickets will be sold after weekend Masses or can be purchased by contacting any member of our Holy Name Society.

John Labrosky, Sexton of both of our parishes, has recently resigned from his position for reasons of health. He will continue to be employed by SM as the Hall Manager. We are now looking to hire a replacement sexton (church maintenance person) for both of our parishes. Duties will include light maintenance work and groundskeeping. Parties interested in learning more about the work description or applying for this part-time job should speak to Fr. Petro directly. It is our hope to have this position filled in the near future. John had agreed to help in the training of his successor.

"Cemetery Sunday" devotions will take place this year on Sun., Nov. 2, beginning at 1pm in SH church. We will begin with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the praying of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. The names of parishioners from both our parishes who died and were buried from our churches since last year's devotions will be read aloud. *You are invited to bring photos of your deceased loved ones and place them on the table in front of the St. Joseph side altar.* After Solemn Benediction and Reposition, a procession will form to SH cemetery while the faithful sing the Litany of the Saints. The faithful who cannot walk in the procession may drive to the cemetery. Father will then bless the cemetery and visitation of the graves by the faithful will follow. Traditional Polish, Latin and English hymns will be sung. Please join in praying for the peaceful repose of the souls of all the faithful departed.

The Order for Visiting a Cemetery will be celebrated by Fr. Petro on All Saints Day at noon on Saturday, November 1, at Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Moosic, and at 12:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery, Avoca. All are invited to attend this traditional blessing ritual.

The parish office (SM) will be closed on Thursday, Sept. 25. The office will reopen on Monday, Sept. 29 at 8:30am.

For the month of October, our parishes along with parishes around the country conduct the "October count," a measure of attendance at Sunday Mass. The measure has been taken for many centuries, and in some European dioceses it is possible to measure the level of engagement in worship by the population over the course of many centuries. The October count has proven especially critical in the life of our Church as bishops use the figures to measure the vitality of parish life, to sketch parish boundaries, and even to decide when to close, merge, or form new parishes. *The ushers are asked to count at all Masses.*

We are happy to welcome to our parish (SH) Jose and Jessica Cartagena and family of Dupont. A warm welcome to you!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society: this parish account is used solely to support the charitable work of our parish (SH). An annual envelope appears in your packets, around the September 27 feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, which you may use to make a direct donation to support the charitable needs of our local parishioners. Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation toward this much needed outreach apostolate is asked to place their donation in the envelope marked "St. Vincent de Paul Society" and drop it in the basket or send it to the parish office.

A "Pro-Life Baby Shower" sponsored by our SH Confraternity of Christian Mothers will be held to benefit the Wyoming Valley Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life. They are now collecting baby items (new, unused) such as sleepers, blankets/afghans, quilts, washcloths and towels (sizes newborn to 24 months), disposable diapers, etc. Donations can be dropped off before or after all Masses and can be placed in the play pen located in the SH church narthex. Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted and can be placed in the collection basket or sent to the parish office in a marked envelope indicating a donation to the "Baby Shower." The CCM will host a mock baby shower on Monday, October 6, after their 6 p.m. meeting in the SH church hall.

CCD Registration for both our parishes has begun. CCD registration forms are 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. It will meet at the Avoca campus from 9 to 10 a.m., and at the Dupont campus from 9:15 to 10:15 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.* Questions? Contact Deborah Yuschovitz (SM) at 457-1284 or Nancy Beccaloni (SH) at sacredheartccd@comcast.net

Catechetical Sunday is celebrated by the Church this year on September 21. The 2025 Catechetical Sunday theme is *"Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope"* (1 Pet 3:15). On this day, catechists are formally commissioned for service to the parish. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each baptized person plays in handing on the Faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Fr. Petro will bestow a "Back to School Blessing" upon our students and teachers during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Teachers from both our parishes will come forward to the sanctuary for the blessing at the end of the homily. We are most grateful to our catechists for sharing their gift of Faith with our youngest parishioners!

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Queen of the Apostles financial update: Prior to our parish linkage, on June 25, 2025, a total of \$2,700 was transferred from the Social Concerns/Respect Life Committee’s checking account to the parish’s General Account to cover payroll. On June 30, 2025, the total remaining in the Social Concerns/Respect Life Committee’s account was \$279.83. However, on September 11, a check was cashed in the amount of \$1,000 from the Social Concerns/Respect Life account which had been given as a gift to a local Catholic grade school. The check “bounced” due to insufficient funds caused by the transfer on June 25 and an overdraft fee of \$35 was charged. The bank thankfully waived the fee, but the parish is now responsible for paying the \$720.17 balance to the school from the general fund to honor the gift made in June by the committee.

Burial Guidelines from the Vatican: The church continues to prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased because this shows a greater esteem towards the departed. Nevertheless, cremation is not prohibited unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian faith. When cremation of the body has been chosen, the human cremated remains of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place (ie., a cemetery). This helps to ensure that due respect is shown to the faithful departed and that they are included in the prayers and remembrance of their family and the Catholic community.

Children and Student Envelopes: If you would like your child to receive a boxed set of donation envelopes for 2026, please contact the parish office. Envelopes will be available in the narthex during the month of December for those who have requested them.

The School Support envelope can be found in this month’s envelope pack (SH). Your school support contributions help defray expenses incurred by our CCD program through the academic year.

29th Anniversary of the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus “Tomb of Unborn” — Respect Life Sunday, October 5 at 2 pm. Prayerful commemoration at the Knights’ Tomb of the Unborn, located at the top of Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Carverton. Fr. Petro, chaplain of Greater Pittston Knights of Columbus Assembly 948 will celebrate the Order for Visiting a Cemetery, followed by the recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. All Knights of Columbus, our parishioners and area faithful are invited to attend.

Inactive Catholics: Baptized Catholics who have not been practicing their faith are most welcome to return. Please call or email the parish office if you have any questions.

Are you interested in the Catholic faith and becoming Catholic, or do you know someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic? If you are interested in entering the Church, please contact Fr. Petro for more information.

The Church celebrates the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, Oct. 4. Fr. Petro will administer a special blessing to all pets on Sunday, Oct. 5, at 9:00 a.m. in Avoca in the rectory backyard and at 10:00 a.m. in Dupont in the picnic grove. Parishioners and friends of our parish are invited to bring their animals to the church to pray for the intercession of the saint who loved nature and all of God’s creatures. Members of SH Holy Name Society will host a light outdoor social following the blessing in Dupont. To provide a safe environment for all who attend this event, please be sure that all pets are properly restrained.

The choirs and cantors from both our parishes practice on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the SH choir loft. New members are needed! Contact Anthony George, music director, at 570-881-9991 or by email at TPianoman321@gmail.com if you are interested.

The Third Order of Franciscans Secular will celebrate a Day of Recollection for their Order on Saturday, October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, at Sacred Heart Church and School, Dupont. If you are interested in finding out more about this group of Franciscans, you may call Ed Schirra, OFS at 570-396-5122 or eschirra@msn.com.

The University of Scranton will host two Open House events for prospective students and their families on Sunday, Oct. 26, and Sunday, Nov. 9. At the Open House, participants can learn about undergraduate majors, meet with faculty, students, admissions counselors and financial aid representatives. Call 1-888-SCRANTON or visit www.scranton.edu for more information.

An offering of \$3.00 per candle is requested for votive candles in St. Mary’s Church. Deposit your offering in either of the two wooden collection boxes located on the walls near the candle racks.

Attention adorers! A wooden collection box has been placed near the side entrance to St. Mary’s Church. Those individuals, both parishioners and guests, who visit the church for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays are asked to make a small donation for the upkeep and maintenance of St. Mary’s Church.

Monday (Sept. 22) Weekday

7:30 am (SH) James McDermott
by Thomas Winarski

Tuesday (Sept. 23) St. Pius of Pietrelcina

9:00 am (SM) Phyllis Galuska
by Mary Galuska

Wednesday (Sept. 24) Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Donna Bartosiewicz
by Bob, Gene, and Sharon Bartosiewicz

Thursday (Sept. 25) Weekday

9:00 am (SM) Shirley Berlew
by Eileen & Ray Krzak

Friday (Sept. 26) Ss. Cosmas and Damian

7:30 am (SH) Bernie Porter
by Vivian and Stanley Barket

Saturday (Sept. 27) Vigil: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm (SH) Bernard Zielinski
by the Goula family

5:30 pm (SM) Ronald Casper
by Mary Ann Ruane

Sunday (Sept. 28) Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am (SM) Peter Jadus
by Ann McMullen & family
10:30 am (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

<p>WEEKLY OFFERING Last Sunday: (SH) \$4,029.57 (SM) \$3,677.00 Building Fund: (SH) \$357.00 Collection for Gaza: (SH)\$813.00 (SM) \$468.50 <i>May the Lord reward your generosity.</i></p>
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The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle (SH): *the souls in purgatory, by Memento Mortuos LLC*
Blessed Mother (SH): *intentions of Tina Petcaugh, by Scott Hilenski*
St. Joseph (SH): *James Lopata, by Robert Lopata*



The offertory gifts (SH) *of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Eleanore Bryk, by Walter Bryk and family.*
The offertory gifts (SM) *of bread & wine for September are IMO Veronica & John Yuschovitz, by children & grandchildren*

<p>UPCOMING EVENTS Sept. 21, 10:30am, Catechetical Sunday blessing of catechists Sept. 25, SM/SH Choir practice, SH choir loft Sept. 28, First day of CCD: 9am (SM), 9:15am (SH) Oct. 1, 7pm, HNS meeting, SH hall Oct. 3, 7:30 am, 1st Friday Mass and devotions, SH church Oct. 4, 2:45-3:45pm, 1st Saturday Adoration/devotions, SH church Oct. 5, 9am, Pet Blessing, SM rectory backyard Oct. 5, 10am, Pet Blessing, SH picnic grove Oct. 6, 6pm, CCM meeting & mock baby shower, SH hall Oct. 8, 6:30pm, SM/SH Choir practice, SH choir loft Oct. 16, 6:30pm, SM/SH Choir practice, SH choir loft Oct. 19, 8 & 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 8 assists</p>

<p>Liturgical Volunteer Schedule</p>
<p><i>September 20-21</i></p>
<p>4pm: EM: C. Wesley, L: J. Klenner, Acolyte: C. Purdy</p>
<p>5:30pm: EM: C. Trzcinski, L: P. Bartnicki, Acolyte: JJ Galvin, T. Gilchrist</p>
<p>8am: EM: A. Jake, L: K. Gill, Acolyte: K. Brogan, G. Orr</p>
<p>10:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, L: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: Toalongo</p>
<p><i>September 27-28</i></p>
<p>4pm: EM: M. Phillips, L: A. Devlin, Acolyte: Collins, M. Hudzinski</p>
<p>5:30pm: EM: N. Adomiak, L: T. Kaplavka, Acolyte: JJ Galvin., T. Gilchrist</p>
<p>8am: EM: N. Adomiak, L: J Susko, Acolyte: K. Brogan, J. Dudzinski, G. Orr</p>
<p>10:30am: EM: B. Jones, L: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: Rupprecht</p>

Liturgical volunteers: If you are unable to serve as scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Volunteers are asked to be present in the sacristy 15 minutes prior to their scheduled Mass.

A Craft Fair will be held at Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis St., Scranton, on Saturday, Sept. 27, 9am-3pm in the Parish Center. Shop handmade jewelry, seasonal decorations, ceramics and gifts from local crafters. Door prizes, bake sale, 50/50, and refreshments available for purchase. Admission is \$2.