



# Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

215 Lackawanna Avenue, Dupont, PA 18641

Phone 570-654-3713 • E-mail [shojesuschurch@gmail.com](mailto:shojesuschurch@gmail.com)  
[www.sacredheartdupont.com](http://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](mailto: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 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ♦ September 7, 2025 ✠

*Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.*

**The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross** is celebrated on Sunday, September 14. During the Masses in our churches, a relic of the True Cross will be exposed for public veneration. Also, devotional materials promoting the Rosary of Our Lady of Sorrows will be blessed and freely distributed.

**The Confraternity of Christian Mothers (CCM)** is inviting all women from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church to join our women's organization. We pray together, participate in fun-filled fundraisers, charitable events, and gather in celebration of special occasions. The CCM's first meeting is Monday, Sept. 8, at 6pm in the SH School building. We hope to see you there!

**All students** in Catholic, public and home schools are invited to attend the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, September 21, for the annual back to school blessing for catechists. This blessing coincides with the national "Catechetical Sunday" of dioceses throughout the country. Teachers will come forward to the sanctuary for the blessing at the end of the homily.

**Special Collection for Gaza:** Parishes in the Diocese of Scranton have been requested to hold a special collection to support Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, which are providing vital emergency aid, medical care, and relief to those suffering in Gaza. Our parishes will take up this special second collection the weekend of September 13/14.

**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.

**Our parish choirs and cantors** practice on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the SH church choir loft. New members are encouraged to attend - contact Anthony George, music director, at 570-881-9991 or by email at [TPianoman321@gmail.com](mailto:TPianoman321@gmail.com) if you are interested. *Please note that choir practice will not be held on Thursday, Sept. 11. Instead, our combined choirs will sing at the Blue Mass that evening, with musical preludes beginning at 6:40 p.m.*

**The parish office (SH) will be closed** on Thursday, Sept. 11 and Friday, Sept. 12. The office will reopen on Monday, Sept. 15 at 8:30am.

**The Catholic Light** updated its subscription record database. Any person who donates at least \$10 to the Diocesan Annual Appeal automatically receives a complimentary copy of The Catholic Light newspaper for the following year. Gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal will soon be requested of our parishioners as we begin again the process of conducting the Appeal throughout the diocese. Please consider giving at least \$10 which will give you an annual subscription to our diocesan monthly newspaper.

**The 2025-26 Catholic Ministries Appeal** weekly progress report provides a timely update of progress to goals and potential rebates. 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: \$5,505.00 - % to Goal: 16.42% - Balance to Achieve Goal: \$28,029.00. SM Goal: \$35,767.00 - Total Committed: \$3,541.00 - % to Goal: 9.90% - Balance to Achieve Goal: \$32,226.00

**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 in our church hall (SH) on

Saturday, September 13, 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 14, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., \$3 bag day!

(Bags will be provided.)

**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](http://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. 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](mailto:sacredheartccd@comcast.net)

**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.

**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 Diocese of Scranton** will host the annual Diocesan Youth Rally on Saturday, September 27 at Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School, East Stroudsburg. This event is for students in grades 7 through 12. The Rally will be from 1:30-8pm, with check-in beginning at 12:30pm. The theme for this year's Youth Rally is Anchored in Hope, taking its inspiration from Jeremiah 29:11-12. The day will consist of prayer, music, Adoration, keynote speakers, Mass, and community. To sign up, please reach out to your parish Director of Religious Education by September 12.

***Novena in honor of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary***  
Start with 9 Hail Marys on September 7 in honor of Our Lady’s birthday and continue with 9 Hail Marys for nine days ending on September 15 (the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows) in honor of the nine months spent in the womb of her mother, St. Ann. At the end, the Hail Marys will become roses presented to Our Lady.

**29<sup>th</sup> 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.

**New parishioners are welcome!** Please call or email the parish office. If you are moving away or returning, please let us know so we can maintain accurate records. Changes in phone numbers and email addresses are also appreciated.

**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.

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

**SM Update:** the non-functioning exit signs and emergency lights have been replaced by our sexton at St. Mary’s Church. Fr. Petro has accepted the bid from Ritterbeck Painting of Moosic to repair the water-damaged ceiling mural of the Ascension of the Lord for \$2,460. Two volunteers from SH parish have been helping our sexton clean the debris at the SM church, school and rectory – more helpers are needed. Only two altar servers attended last week’s altar server training at SM church – please speak to Fr. Petro about other possible training opportunities.

**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. 6, 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 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.

**What is a “Marriage Validation?”** The term means to have your marriage recognized or blessed by the Catholic Church. Those who seek a validation were usually married outside the Catholic Church. If you and your spouse wish to begin the validation process, please contact the parish office.

**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. 8) The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:30 am (SH) Irene Myers  
*by Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Purdy*

**Tuesday (Sept. 9) St. Peter Claver**

9:00 am (SM) Jane Conaboy  
*by Joe & Marie Burns*

**Wednesday (Sept. 10) Weekday**

7:30 am (SH) Thomas Skrzysowski  
*by Jerrie and Sharon*

**Thursday (Sept. 11) Weekday**

9:00 am (SM) Thomas McLaughlin  
*by James & Eileen Sperazza*  
7:00 pm (SM) Jack, Dennis & John O’Brien  
*by Erin, Mary & family*

**Friday (Sept. 12) The Most Holy Name of Mary**

7:30 am (SH) Rose and Nicholas Loncala  
*by Marian Wanielista*

**Saturday (Sept. 13) Vigil: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

4:00 pm (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)  
5:30 pm (SM) Lorraine Borthwick  
*by Irene C. Zigmund & Edmund Zigmund, Jr.*

**Sunday (Sept. 14) The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

8:00 am (SM) Helen Murphy  
*by John & Clare Bonczek*  
10:30 am (SH) Stanley Kivak  
*by Joseph Balent*

**WEEKLY OFFERING**  
**Last Sunday:** (SH) \$3,956.39 (SM) \$5,297.75  
**Building Fund:** (SH) \$73.00  
*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

*The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:*  
Tabernacle (SH): Gloria Balent, by grandchildren  
Blessed Mother (SH): Steve and Loretta Haluschak, by Michele and Brian Moletsky  
St. Joseph (SH): Thomas Skrzysowski, Jr., by sister, Joan  
St. Therese (SH): Eleanore Bryk, by Walter Bryk and family  
Tabernacle (SM): for the healing of Barbara Pearce, by mom & family



The offertory gifts (SM) of bread & wine for September are IMO Veronica & John Yuschovitz, by children & grandchildren

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
Sept. 6, 2:45-3:45pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Adoration/devotions, SH church  
Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m., HNS Corporate Communion Mass, SH Church  
Sept. 8, 6pm, CCM meeting, SH school  
Sept. 11, 7pm, Blue Mass, SM church  
Sept. 13, 5pm, SH catechists meeting, SH school  
Sept. 18, 6:30pm, SM/SH Choir practice resumes, SH choir loft

| Liturgical Volunteer Schedule  |
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| <i>September 6-7</i>   |
| <b>4pm:</b> EM: M. Moletsky, L: M. Phillips, Acolyte: C. Purdy                                 |
| <b>5:30pm:</b> EM: R. Lee, L: J. Susko, Acolyte: JJ Galvin, T. Gilchrist                       |
| <b>8am:</b> EM: B.A. Flannelly, L: K. Gill, Acolyte: K. Brogan, G. Orr                         |
| <b>10:30am:</b> EM: B. Jones, L: G. Purdy, Acolyte: Rupprecht                                  |
| <i>September 11: Blue Mass</i>   |
| <b>7pm (SM):</b> L: C. Trzcinski, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski, JJ Galvin, T. Gilchrist, M. Hudzinski |
| <i>September 13-14</i>   |
| <b>4pm:</b> EM: C. Wesley, L: H. Vogue, Acolyte: Collins                                       |
| <b>5:30pm:</b> EM: P. Krisiewicz, L: R. Wright, Acolyte: JJ Galvin., T. Gilchrist              |
| <b>8am:</b> EM: R. Lee, L: L. Orr, Acolyte: K. Brogan, G. Orr                                  |
| <b>10:30am:</b> EM: D. Suchecki, L: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: Papiercavich                        |

**Liturgical volunteer schedules** for September have been emailed for both our parishes. *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.*

**The Order of Alhambra** will host a rosary prayer service on Thurs., Sept. 18, at 6 pm at Christ the King Chapel on the campus of King’s College, 29 W. North St., Wilkes-Barre. The rosary will be recited along with chanted scriptural mysteries, Fatima prayers and Marian hymns. All are welcome to attend. The Order of Alhambra was founded in 1904 and is a Catholic organization dedicated to assisting the intellectually disabled. [www.orderalhambra.org](http://www.orderalhambra.org)

**Free “Word Among Us”** prayer books for the month of September are available in the SH narthex.