



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

✠ The Epiphany of the Lord ♦ January 4, 2026 ✠
Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

First Saturday is January 3. It is very important in these times to pray the Rosary, meditate for 15 minutes on the Mysteries, and make sacramental confession and Communion in reparation for sins and blasphemies against Mary's Immaculate Heart. A Eucharistic Holy Hour will be held on Saturday, Jan. 3, from 2:45 to 3:45 pm in our church. All are invited to pray in preparation for the 4 pm Mass.

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany there is an ancient custom of announcing the dates of Easter and other movable feasts for the coming year. This custom originated in the age when calendars were not readily available for much of the population. Next Sunday, the Epiphany Proclamation will take place after the proclamation of the Gospel. As this ancient announcement is read, simply be seated and listen to descriptions of the celebration of the central mysteries of our faith.

In Poland, the Epiphany is called *Święto Trzech Króli*, or the feast of the Three Kings. Caspar, Melchior and Balthassar (*Kacper, Melchior i Baltazar*) brought gold (*złoto*), frankincense (*kadzidło*) and myrrh (*mirra*) to the Christ Child.

Holy water will be blessed at the 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. Vigil Masses of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Saturday, January 10. The Sprinkling Rite will be used in place of the Penitential Rite to remind us of our own baptisms at Mass that day. Please bless yourself with the sign of the cross as the priest sprinkles you with holy water at the start of Mass. Please feel free to bring a container to church to take home some of the newly blessed water. The Christmas season ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Christmas "undecorating" - As we enter winter Ordinary Time, volunteer help is needed on Sunday, January 11, after the 8:00 am Mass and the 10:30 a.m. Mass to help take down the Christmas decorations inside and outside of our churches.

SAVE THE DATE! *Return to the Heart of the Father: A Three-day Parish Lenten Retreat* will be held February 26-28, 2026, presented by guest speaker Allan Wright. We are happy to host Allan, who is a national speaker, author of over 20 books, adjunct professor at Seton Hall University and Executive Director of the NJ Family Policy Center. This retreat will take place at Sacred Heart Church and St. Mary Church, with a detailed schedule soon to be provided.
 Feb. 26 - Disciples on Journey with Christ to the Cross
 Feb. 27 - Return to the Heart of the Father
 Feb. 28 - Living this Lent with Intention: Bringing Joy and Charity to a Broken World

CCD News: Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 4.

If you have moved in the past year, have a new phone number, or e-mail address, please let us know so our records will be up to date by contacting the Parish Office.

Are you registered in our parish? If you are not receiving mail from the parish, chances are you are not registered. You are free to stop by the Parish Office to become a registered parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Parish registration is required to be a baptismal godparent or a confirmation sponsor.

If your child attends Catholic school and is anticipated to receive the Sacraments of First Penance (March 7) and First Communion (May 3) or Confirmation (April 20), be sure they are registered in our CCD program.

Requests for 2025 Contribution Statements for tax purposes can be made by contacting the parish office.

Free 2026 liturgical calendars are now available in the narthex. Every Catholic household should have one!

The Security Committee for our parishes will meet with Fr. Petro for the first time on Monday, January 5, at 6 p.m. in SH church hall.

The Church celebrates the solemn *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* on Feb. 2. This feast recalls the day on which Jesus Christ was presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph. This feast, also commemorated as the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, celebrates Jesus as the Light of revelation to all the nations. According to ancient tradition, candles are blessed on this day, both those used in the church and the home. In accordance with the liturgy for the day, special candles will be blessed at Mass for the faithful to take home and use. Families have customarily lit them at the table for Easter and Christmas dinner, for sacramental visits of Holy Communion and Holy Anointing, and for blessed protection in lightning storms and power outages. The candles will be blessed in a special ritual with a procession at 7:30 a.m. Mass on Monday, February 2 in SH church. The blessed candles may be obtained after the Mass for a donation of \$4 for a box of two "Candlemas" candles.

The Church celebrates the *Feast of St. Blaise* on Feb. 3. He was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. He is venerated today as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. Using candles blessed the day before at the Mass of the Presentation of the Lord, the faithful will be blessed through the intercession of St. Blaise. Throats will be blessed after all weekend Masses February 7/8, as well as on February 3.

New chasubles are sought for St. Mary's Church! Four new chasubles with stoles, to be worn by the priest at Mass, are needed for use at SM. These green, red, violet and rose chasubles are to be made at the Holy Rood Guild by the Trappist monks of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. Donors are sought to purchase them at \$525 each. If you would like to donate one of these simple yet elegant vestments, please speak to Fr. Petro. These "Christmas gifts to your parish" may be given in memory of loved ones. *Only the red one has not yet been claimed!*

If you have moved in the past year or have a new phone number, please let us know so our records will be up-to-date by calling or emailing the parish office. Also, if you have an email address that you would like to share with us for purposes of correspondence, *then please write your email address on one of your offertory envelopes and it will be added to your parish census information.*

Parish families are needed to bring up the gifts of bread and wine in the offertory procession for the weekend Masses. Would you consider accepting this honor? *At least two volunteers are needed at each of the weekend Masses that have music.*

The monthly Church Dues for our parishes will be \$10 per adult parishioner, per month beginning in 2026. This amount is printed on the front exterior of the dues envelopes. All parishioners are reminded of their obligation to support their parish financially according to their means.

The annual dues for membership in (SH) Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Holy Name Society as well as the (SM) Altar & Rosary Society are collected during the month of January. Please make use of your labeled contribution envelope in the mailing. All dues are deposited directly into each organization's account. A list is maintained of paid-up members.

If you know a parishioner who is hospitalized or homebound, and would like to receive the sacraments of Communion, Confession or Anointing of the Sick, then please call or email the parish office.

The parish envelope system is an invaluable means by which to reward the giver, acknowledge historic gifts, and keep track of parish participation. Beginning in the new calendar year, Fr. Petro will be reviewing the contribution records to determine the number of active parishioners and update the parish census for both of our parishes. Please know that electronic giving via BOTH our parish websites is also available. We grateful for your generous support.

2026 Children's Envelopes are now available for pick-up in the church narthex. If you would like a set for your child, please contact the parish office.

Our parishes need more lectors and altar servers. More Eucharistic ministers are needed to visit the homebound and altar pappies to serve funerals and weekday Mass. If you believe that God is calling you to serve your brothers and sisters, please speak to Fr. Petro.

Please consider sponsoring one of the five candles in our church sanctuary for a week in 2026. A perpetual candle burns near the Tabernacle to signify the repose of the True Presence of Jesus Christ. Candles also burn before the statues of the (SH) Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, St. Therese and St. Francis, as well as (SM) St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother. Your sponsorship of \$10 for a week not only covers the expense of these candles but allows you the opportunity to attach a specific prayer intention to their offering, much like you would a votive candle lit in church. Please write your intention and requested date in the book in the narthex and send your donation to the Parish Office. Also, the book for 2026 Mass intentions for our parishes is open in the office. The Mass intention stipend is \$10.

"Stocking Stuffer Pot of Gold" tickets are being sold after the weekend Masses (SM). Match the evening daily number during January to win. Cost is \$10 per ticket. For more info, call Jane Maxwell at 335-8678. This supports the Altar & Rosary Society (formerly the Women's Guild) of Queen of the Apostles Parish.

Match the Daily Number raffle tickets are available for purchase from our HNS members. \$5 will give you ten chances to win by matching your numbers to the PA Lottery Evening Pick 3. Raffle tickets can be purchased from any HNS member. The winning ticket must be presented. If you have the winning number, call HNS president Greg Zawacki, 570-947-8200.

During winter months our health is always a concern and we need to take precautions. Regarding the Sign of Peace, you are asked to please use your common sense. If you are not feeling well or are taking medicine for the flu, a cold, etc., a nod of the head with a smile or just a kind word is sufficient if you do not wish to shake hands. Thank you for your understanding.

Sacramental Sponsors: If you are asked to be a sponsor for Confirmation or a godparent for a Baptism, you must: be a registered, participating member of SH or SM, have received all Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation), and if married, be married in the Catholic Church. If you have a question about your eligibility or are in need of a sponsor form, you may contact the parish office.

If you are divorced, please speak to Fr. Petro about petitioning for a marriage annulment. All Catholics who marry in a valid sacramental union and divorce must obtain a decree of nullity before attempting marriage again. A civil decree of divorce does not dissolve the sacrament of holy matrimony. All Catholics are bound to marry before a priest in church for the marriage to be valid, even if they are marrying a non-Catholic. Catholics may not be admitted to the sacraments upon attempting marriage outside the church. They may be admitted to the sacraments once again after receiving an annulment and having their attempted marriage blessed by the Church. Annulments are now FREE, i.e., no payment is necessary.

Engaged? Couples planning to marry in our church should meet with Fr. Petro before making any other wedding plans. To prepare well for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, this meeting should take place *at least 6 months* to a year before the anticipated wedding date.

The Wyoming Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life has the following items on their wish list: diapers sizes 4-6, wipes, winter clothes sizes 12, 18 and 24 months. Anyone who would like to make a donation of these items should call the Pro-Life Center at 826-1819.

The 2025-26 Catholic Ministries Appeal: donation envelopes for the Appeal are available in the church narthex. All parishioners are asked to contribute to the Appeal. Donation envelopes may be placed in the collection basket.

SH Goal: \$33,534.00 - Total Committed: \$20,740.00

SM Goal: \$35,767.00 - Total Committed: \$12,796.00

+ MASS INTENTIONS +

Monday (Jan. 5) St. John Neumann

7:30 am (SH) Richard Belles

by wife and children

Tuesday (Jan. 6) St. Andre Bessette

9:00 am (SM) Ann Marie O'Hop

by George and Ann Marie O'Hop, Jr.

Wednesday (Jan. 7) St. Sylvester I

No 7:30 am Mass

Thursday (Jan. 8) Christmas Weekday

No 9:00 am Mass

Friday (Jan. 9) Christmas Weekday

No 7:30 am Mass

Saturday (Jan. 10) Vigil: The Baptism of the Lord

4:00 pm (SH) Donna Bartosiewicz

by Bob, Gene and Sharon Bartosiewicz

5:30 pm (SM) Dennis Fitzgerald

by June Fitzgerald & family

Sunday (Jan. 11) The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 am (SM) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

10:30 am (SH) Thomas Skrzysowski, Jr.

by Karen and Henry Augenstein and sons

WEEKLY OFFERING

Last Sunday: (SH) \$4,307.39 (SM) \$3,026.00

Christmas: (SH) \$8,512.20 (SM) \$8,063.00

Building Fund: (SH) \$262.00

May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:
Tabernacle (SH): for clergy living and deceased, by Tina Petcaugh
Blessed Mother (SH): Margaret Milewski, by family
St. Joseph (SH): Henry Ziobro, by Ron & Sharon Ziobro & family
St. Therese (SH): Cassie Lopata, by Robert Lopata
St. Francis (SH): John Tetlak, by children, John, Ronald and Judith
Tabernacle (SM): O'Boyle & Hoffman families, by daughter
Blessed Mother (SM): Barbara Pearce for health, by mother
St. Joseph (SM): Peter Jadus, by wife

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The offertory gifts (SM) of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Dennis Fitzgerald by June & Maria Fitzgerald

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 3, 2:45-3:45pm, 1st Saturday Adoration & devotions, SH church
Jan. 3, 6:15pm, Sacred Heart CCM Wafer dinner, Agolino's
Jan. 5, 6pm, Security Committee meeting, SH church hall
Jan. 7, 7pm, Holy Name Society, SH hall
Jan. 10, 4 & 5:30pm, Blessing & distribution of Holy Water, church
Jan. 15, 6:30pm, SM/SH Choir practice, SH choir loft
Jan. 18, 8 & 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 4 assists

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

January 3-4

4pm: EM: M. Moletsky, L: H. Vogue, Acolyte: M. Philips

5:30pm: EM: N. Adomiak, L: J. Susko, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist

8am: EM: L: C. Trzcinski, R. Lee, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski

10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, L: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: Papiercavich

January 10-11

4pm: EM: C. Wesley, L: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Collins family

5:30pm: EM: P. Krisiewicz, L: R. Wright, Acolyte: JJ Galvin

8am: EM: A. Jake, L: L. Orr, Acolyte: G. Orr

10:30am: EM: B. Jones, L: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: Toalongo

All parishioners who serve as lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and altar servers are asked to be present in the sacristy approximately 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass.

Bold and Beloved Women's Retreat, hosted by the Diocesan Office for Parish Life, will take place January 30 – February 1, at Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center, Dalton. For more information or to register, call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213, x 1100.

Please be kind, don't leave your bulletin behind! Please help us keep God's house clean – if you take a bulletin before Mass, do not leave it in the pew; take it home with you. You are encouraged to pray quietly before the pulpit announcements and take a bulletin as you exit the church at the end of Mass. ☺

The choirs and cantors for both our parishes practice on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in SH church choir loft. New members are encouraged to attend - contact Tony George, music director, if you are interested.

SAVE THE DATE: Ash Wednesday Potato Pancake & Lenten Food Sale will be held on Wed., February 18, in SH church garage.