



# 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)  
[www.stmaryavoca.com](http://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

✠ **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time** ♦ **February 15, 2026** ✠

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

## Ash Wednesday Potato Pancake & Lenten Food Sale!

**Wed, Feb. 18, from 11a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the church garage**

Potato pancakes: \$20/dozen, Potato/cheese pierogi: \$12/dozen, Halushki: \$5/pint, Meatless soups (seafood bisque, lentil, potato leek, Manhattan clam chowder): \$12/quart. Food will be sold first-come, first-served in Belarski Alley. *All items are homemade!!*

**Please return the blessed palm** received last Palm Sunday by Feb. 15. A basket for palm branches is in the narthex of our churches.

**An Easter Food Drive** is being sponsored by SH/SM 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> grade CCD students during Lent. Parishioners are invited to bring non-perishable foods to church and place them in the bin located in the narthex from Feb. 21 until Sunday, March 29. This drive will support the Avoca Food Pantry at Bethel United Methodist Church.

**The Parish Offices will be closed** on Mon., Feb. 16 in observance of Presidents' Day. The offices will reopen Tues., Feb. 17 at 8:30 am and 9:30am.

### ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

February 18: 7:00 am – Mass (SH)  
12:10 pm – Liturgy of the Word (SH)  
4:00 pm – Liturgy of the Word (SM)  
6:00 pm – Mass (SM)

**THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU:** on Mondays of Lent, Confessions will be heard in church from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on these dates: Feb. 23 (SM), Mar. 2 (SH), 9 (SM), 16 (SH), 23 (SM). The deanery penance service will be on March 30, 6:30pm at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston.

**Stations of the Cross** will be prayed in common each Friday evening throughout Lent at 7 p.m. You are invited to walk with Our Lord along the Way of Sorrows. Do not miss the opportunity to be drawn closer to Him. The Stations schedule is as follows:

Feb. 20 (SH), Feb. 27 (SM), Mar. 6 (SM), Mar. 13 (SH), Mar. 20 (SM), Mar. 27 (SH), Apr. 3 (SM)

**Cash Bingo in Avoca!** You are invited to a Cash Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday, April 19, 2026, in Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Bingo begins at 1 p.m. Players must be 18 years of age or older. Cash prizes range from \$50–\$200 per game. Admission: \$25 in advance. \$30 at the door. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Individual game sponsors, donations of baskets for a basket raffle, and volunteers to help work the event are now being sought. For more information, to volunteer, or to purchase tickets, please contact John Labrosky, 570-881-3959.

**A St. Brigid & St. Patrick Irish Tea** will be held by SM Altar & Rosary Society on Sunday, March 15 after the 8 a.m. Mass in Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall. Donations of Irish soda bread, scones, or any other baked goods for the social are now being sought. Please call Jane Maxwell (570) 335-8678 to either donate or volunteer. Reservations are not required. All are invited to attend.

**Gorzkie zale**, the traditional Polish-language Lenten devotion known as the “Bitter Lamentations,” will be held on Sunday, March 22, at 3 pm in our church. The devotion is a sung reflection on the Passion of Christ and his Sorrowful Mother. Our choir will lead us in the singing. Msgr. John Sempa, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, West Pittston, will be the guest homilist. A light reception will follow in the church hall. All are invited to attend.

## You are invited to our Parish Lenten Retreat!

**Return to the Heart of the Father: A Three-day Parish Lenten Retreat** will be held February 26-28, presented by guest speaker Allan Wright. Anyone wishing to attend either or both catered meals as listed below is asked to contact the SH parish office at [shojesuschurch@gmail.com](mailto:shojesuschurch@gmail.com) or 654-3713. Please provide your name, the date of the meal you will attend and the number attending.

Feb. 26 – held at Sacred Heart, Dupont

5:30pm, Mass

6:15pm, Catered dinner in the church hall (RSVP required)

7pm, Presentation in hall: *Disciples on Journey with Christ to the Cross*

Feb. 27 – held at Saint Mary’s, Avoca (two sessions)

1pm, Stations of the Cross

1:30pm, Presentation in church: *Return to the Heart of the Father*

5:30pm, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6pm, Catered light meal (RSVP required)

6:45pm, Presentation in church: *Return to the Heart of the Father*

7:45pm, Stations of the Cross

Feb. 28 – held at Sacred Heart, Dupont

9am, Mass

9:30am, Presentation in church: *Living this Lent with Intention: Bringing Joy and Charity to a Broken World*

Penance service to immediately follow in church.

**A 2026 Polish Picnic meeting** will be held on Monday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. in SH church hall. This very important first meeting will determine the scope and dates of our biggest fundraiser in 2026. All parishioners are encouraged to attend!

**Diane Fritz has been retained in the role of Financial Secretary** at Queen of the Apostles Parish. She will be managing fiscal responsibilities and working in the parish office with Kathy Hudzinski, who remains in her position as Parish Secretary.

**New Finance Council members** - Jim McMahan and Regina Wright have been accepted as members of the Finance Council at Queen of the Apostles Parish. We are grateful for their willingness to serve their parish.

**A Lenten Soup and Hoagie Sale** will be held by SM Altar & Rosary Society on Friday, March 20 in Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall. Potato soup or vegetable soup will be available for \$12 a quart. Also available will be tuna hoagies for \$8 - please specify with or without onions. To order, call Mary Ann Gilchrist (570) 561-7940, Patricia Kwiatkowski (570) 457-7117, or Jane Maxwell (570) 335-8678. Orders can be picked up in the parish hall on March 20 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and between 4 and 5 p.m. Last day to order is Tuesday, March 17.

**Consider attending weekday Mass** during Lent, or at least on the penitential days of Wednesday and Friday, during this holy season.

**CCD News:** First Penance will be celebrated on March 7 at 2:30 p.m. in the church; First Communion will be celebrated on May 3.

**“Operation Rice Bowl”** Cardboard boxes for pocket change for the poor can be found in the narthex if you wish to make use of them.

**We are happy to welcome** to Sacred Heart Parish Mr. and Mrs. John Ostraszewski and family of Wapwallopen. **We are happy to welcome** to Queen of the Apostles Parish Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Scoda and family of Springbrook Twp. A warm welcome to you!

## Holy Saturday Kolache Sale

~ Only \$16 each, freshly made by Bakery Delite! ~

Pick-up date: Saturday, April 4, 11am - 12pm in the church hall during the blessing of Easter baskets. *Return this form with payment to the Parish Office no later than March 9.* Please write quantity of each on the line provided:

NUT ROLL: \_\_\_\_\_

POPPY SEED ROLL: \_\_\_\_\_

CHEESE ROLL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for my order.**

*Payment must accompany all orders. Thank you! - HNS*

The winner of the December HNS Match the Daily Number raffle was Jeff Roche (065) and the January winner was Matt Ellis (265). Congratulations!

SH Holy Name Society thanks those who supported their recent Super Bowl Sunday Hoagie Sale. The gross profit from the sale was \$1,002, the expenses totaled \$698, and the net profit was \$304.

**Thank You** to all who helped in any way to make the recent Altar & Rosary Society Stocking Stuffer fundraiser a success! The total profit was \$2,841. Congratulations to the winners: Chris & Christa Reedy #909, Drew Shimko #600, Marion Samelski #017, Eleanor Balent #439, Tom & Liz Blaskiewicz #461, Tim Maxwell #406, Ed Rutledge #423, Josephine Mullen #033.

**Beginning Ash Wednesday**, a new Mass setting will begin entitled "Missa Jubilate Deo" for the parts of the Mass sung in Latin.

**Blessed candles** may be obtained in either of our churches for a donation of \$4 for a box of two "Candlemas" candles.

**Homebound parishioners** may have Holy Communion brought to them on the First Friday of each month by calling the Parish Office and requesting this service. Confession and anointing of the sick are offered to all homebound parishioners every Advent and Lent.

**Building Fund envelopes** – please make use of them! All money donated to our church by way of the Building Fund envelopes will be deposited into our Restoration Account. This money will only be used for capital improvements and special maintenance on our parish facilities.

**Easter Duty:** All Catholics have the serious obligation to make a worthy Confession and receive the Holy Eucharist during Paschal Time which runs from the beginning of holy Lent through Pentecost. Please do not neglect this.

**The Order of Alhambra** is hosting a Spring Dinner Dance on Tuesday, Mar. 24 at Fox Hill Country Club, 454 Tunkhannock Ave. Exeter, for Special Olympics bowlers and guests. All are invited to attend the gala to be held from 5-8pm. Plated dinner includes fruit salad, penne, stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dessert. Musical entertainment will feature DJ Joe Hussey. Cost is \$35/person. Reservations, including name of special needs individual (if applicable) and name of guest(s) and check payable to Alhambra Caravan #4 are required by March 11. Remit to: Alhambra Caravan #4, 17 English St. West Wyoming, PA 18644. For more info contact Ada Magni at [amagni@earthlink.net](mailto:amagni@earthlink.net). The Order of Alhambra was founded in 1904 and is a Catholic fraternal organization dedicated to assisting the intellectually disabled.

**Ss. Peter and Paul Church**, 13 Hudson Rd., Plains, will hold a Night at the Races in Bernardine Hall on Saturday, Mar. 14. Doors open at 5:30pm and Post Time is 7pm. Admission is \$10 and includes food (haluski, pierogies, chicken fingers, sausage and peppers, whimpies, and pizza) and refreshments. Must be 21 years of age to enter. Horses and Admission tickets are sold at the Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Office, 825-6663.

**St. John the Evangelist Parish**, 35 William St., Pittston, will welcome newly ordained Fr. Thomas Dzwonczyk on Wed., Mar. 11 for an evening of reflection and prayer this Lent. Fr. Dzwonczyk is the Assistant Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Ss. Anthony and Rocco Parishes in Dunmore and will be sharing a talk titled "Reflect, Renew, Rejoice!" The evening will conclude with Night Prayer. All are invited to this special evening, beginning at 6pm, in the Lower Level of St. John the Evangelist Church. Light fare will be served. For reservations or for additional information, email Ed at [esankus@stjohnspittston.com](mailto:esankus@stjohnspittston.com) or call 570-654-0053.



**Monday (Feb. 16) Weekday**

7:30 am (SH) Cecilia Boccardi  
by family

**Tuesday (Feb. 17) Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order**

9:00 am (SM) Cathy Wruble  
by Mr. & Mrs. David Slezak, Devon & John

**Wednesday (Feb. 18) Ash Wednesday**

7:00 am (SH) Walter Ruda, Jr.  
by Patricia Ruda  
12:10 pm (SH) Liturgy of the Word  
4:00 pm (SM) Liturgy of the Word  
6:00 pm (SM) Leonard Ziobro  
by Dolores Miller & family

**Thursday (Feb. 19) Thursday after Ash Wednesday**

9:00 am (SM) Mary Ann Donovan  
by Jim, Jackie, & JJ Galvin

**Friday (Feb. 20) Friday after Ash Wednesday**

7:30 am (SH) Frances Lenchak  
by family  
7:00 pm (SH) Stations of the Cross

**Saturday (Feb. 21) Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent**

4:00 pm (SH) Stephanie Perrins  
by family  
5:30 pm (SM) Our Parishioners (Missa pro populo)

**Sunday (Feb. 22) First Sunday of Lent**

8:00 am (SM) Patrick Shotwell Sr.  
by Colleen, Brian & Jase Dudzinski  
10:30 am (SH) Victoria Tetlak  
By daughters, Joanne, Marie, and families

**WEEKLY OFFERING**

**Last Sunday:** (SH) \$5,686.39 (SM) \$4,621.70  
**Care & Education of Priests:** (SH) \$304.00 (SM) \$218.00  
**Building Fund:** (SH) \$151.00  
*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

*The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:*

Tabernacle (SH): Paul J. Hilenski, by Tina Petcaugh

Blessed Mother (SH): intentions of Margaret Enosh, by Tina Petcaugh

St. Therese (SH): Eileen Gavigan Greene, by Patti Stonikinis

Blessed Mother (SM): Barbara Pearce by Judus family

St. Joseph (SM): Peter Judus, by Judus family



*The offertory gifts (SM) of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of James Pilosi, by Ned & Mary Kay Jones*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb. 15, 8 & 10:30am, CCD Mass, grade 1 assists  
Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday liturgies: SH 7am & 12:10pm; SM 4 & 6pm  
Feb. 19, 6:30pm, SH/SM Choir practice, SH choir loft  
Feb. 20, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, SH church  
Feb. 23, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, SM church  
Feb. 26, Parish Lenten Retreat begins, see schedule above  
Feb. 27, Parish Lenten Retreat, see schedule above  
Feb. 28, Parish Lenten Retreat, see schedule above

**Liturgical Volunteer Schedule**

<b>February 14-15</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: C. Wesley, L: H. Vogue, Acolyte: Collins
<b>5:30pm:</b> EM: C. Wood, L: J. McMahon, Acolyte: JJ Galvin
<b>8am:</b> EM: Volunteer needed, L: B. Jones, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: D. Suchecki, L: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: Rupprecht
<b>February 18: Ash Wednesday</b>
<b>7am:</b> EM: M. Moletsky, L: Betty Belles, Acolyte: B. Satkowski
<b>12:10pm:</b> Lector: S. Bartosiewicz
<b>4pm:</b> EM: Lector: J. Susko
<b>6pm:</b> EM: B. Jones, Lector: R. Wright, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist
<b>February 20: Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>7pm:</b> Rupprecht family
<b>February 21-22</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: M. C. Wesley, L: A. Devlin, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist, M. Hudzinski
<b>5:30pm:</b> EM: C. Trzcinski, L: T. Kaplavka, Acolyte: T. Roxby
<b>8am:</b> EM: N. Adomiak, L: L. Orr, Acolyte: G. Orr
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: B. Jones, L: G. Beccaloni, Acolyte: Toalongo

The Wyoming Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life is in need of 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.