



# 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

## ✠ Second Sunday of Lent ♦ March 1, 2026 ✠

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

**THANK YOU** to all who helped in any way to make our Lenten Food Sale a success! The total gross amount raised was \$11,902.00. The expenses totaled \$1,691.61, and the net profit was \$10,210.39.

**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.

**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.

**Homemade Milk Chocolate Easter Eggs** made by the CCM of Sacred Heart will be available for purchase Saturday, March 21 from 1 to 5pm and Sunday, March 22, from 9:30am to noon, in SH church hall. Milk Chocolate Peanut Butter and Milk Chocolate Coconut Cream eggs will be available. Small eggs: 6 for \$12 or 12 for \$24; Large eggs: \$8 each. *Eggs will be sold first come, first served. Orders will not be taken. Cash payments only.* Volunteers are needed for molding and dipping on Sunday, March 14, from 9am to 3pm. To volunteer, use the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Tina Petcaugh at 991-2114 or Marie Ferretti at 905-0384.

**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.

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

**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.

**An American Red Cross Blood Drive** will be held in Queen of the Apostles Hall on Tuesday, March 3, 1:30 - 6 p.m. Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment.

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

**Gorzkie zale**, the traditional Polish-language Lenten devotion known as the "Bitter Lamentations," will be held on Sunday, March 22, at 3 pm in SH 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 SH church hall. All are invited to attend.

**Finger foods are needed** for the reception following *Gorzkie zale* on Sunday, March 22. Please drop off donations in SH church hall by 2:45pm on Sunday, March 22. Thank you for your generosity!

**Fr. Petro has nominated young parishioners** from both of our parishes to receive the Bishop's Youth Award this year. Their letter of merit was mailed on January 29. Please congratulate our loyal altar servers Troy Papiercavich (SH) and Gregory Orr (SM). They and their families are invited to attend Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, on March 1 at 2:30 pm. to receive the award from Bishop Bambera. We are grateful for their service to our parishes!

**At the recent SH picnic meeting** the chairmen and volunteers decided that a one-day picnic will be held on Saturday, June 27, from 4 to 9pm. This year's chairmen are Charyl Nagy and Joe Petro. The next meeting will be held March 10 at 6pm in SH church hall. If anyone would like to volunteer in any way, please contact Charyl Nagy: 540-5478 (please text during the day and provide your name or call after 5pm). Anyone interested in being a chairman for any area of the event is encouraged to attend this upcoming meeting.

**The 2026 Paschal Candle** is available for sponsorship at St. Mary's Church. An individual may donate it in memory of a deceased loved one. It will be blessed at the Easter Vigil and used at every baptism and funeral in the church. Please contact Kathy Hudzinski at the Parish Office if you are interested. This year's paschal candle in Dupont has already been sponsored.

**Lenten Communion Calls:** Fr. Petro will visit the home-bound members of our parish March 5 (SM) and March 6 (SH) to administer Confession, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion. If you would like to be added to the monthly home visitation list, please call Kathy at the Parish Office at your earliest convenience.

**Please make use of the Easter Flower envelope** in your offertory envelope pack. Donations will help defray the cost of purchasing flowers to adorn our sanctuaries for Easter.

### **Holy Saturday Kolache Sale**

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

Pick-up date: Saturday, April 4, 11am - 12pm in SH 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*

**We are most grateful** to Allan Wright for conducting such a meaningful parish mission this past week. Many souls were nourished by his thoughtful words. May the fruits of this mission bear fruit in our hearts this Lent and beyond. We also wish to thank all volunteers who helped make this mission possible, particularly Kathy Vojta. She applied for the diocesan grant to underwrite the mission, secured the presenter, organized the meals and the liturgies and oversaw all of the details in both our parishes for the three-day mission. Now, let's make this the best Lent ever!

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are days of fasting and abstinence from meat. All Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence from meat. Fasting prescribes that only one full meal be taken. Two smaller meals may be taken to maintain strength, but these taken should not equal another full meal. Fasting obliges from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 59<sup>th</sup> birthday. Abstinence forbids the eating of meat. Abstinence obliges from the 14<sup>th</sup> birthday on.

**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.

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

**For the season of Lent**, a new Mass setting will be used entitled "*Missa Jubilate Deo*" for the parts of the Mass sung in Latin.

**CCD News:** First Penance will be celebrated on March 7 at 2:30 p.m. in SH 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.

**Bishop Bambera** will be traveling throughout the Diocese of Scranton during Lent to lead Holy Hours in each of the Diocese's 12 deaneries, continuing a tradition that began several years ago. The Lenten Holy Hour for the Pittston Deanery will be held on Thursday, March 12 at Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Duryea at 7 p.m. All are invited and encouraged to attend. The theme for this year's Lenten Holy Hour will be "Finding Peace in Challenging Times." Please mark your calendar for this special opportunity to gather for prayer, reflection, and Eucharistic devotion during the Lenten season.

**The Office for Parish Life** invites you to the Diocese of Scranton Group Night with the WBS Penguins! Friday, March 13, come out with the Diocese of Scranton to cheer on the Penguins as they take on the Hershey Bears! This night is open to people of all ages, so bring your family, friends and neighbors as we come together as a diocesan family. Gates open at 6pm, and the puck drops at 7:05pm. Discounted food vouchers are available for purchase until 3/6/26. To purchase discounted tickets visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org). You can also call Tyler Rothman directly at (570) 208-5407 to purchase tickets over the phone. Location: Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Cost: There are two Pricing Options: Green Zone (\$20+fees) or Blue Zone (\$17+fees).

**Stabat Mater Dolorosa** attributed to Jacopone da Todi, 1230-1306, in a setting composed by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi in 1736, will be performed in the Cathedral of Saint Peter, 315 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, on Friday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear the beautiful setting of the texts of the meditations of the sorrowful mother of Jesus. This will be the 290<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its premier performance.

**The Diocese of Scranton** is looking for qualified candidates for the position of Director at the Villa St. Joseph. The Villa St. Joseph facility serves as the home for retired clergy of the Diocese of Scranton and is located in Dunmore, Pa. The Director reports to the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and will provide compassionate leadership and administrative oversight for the daily operations of the facility, ensuring that all programs and services align with our Catholic mission and core values. This role requires a commitment to the well-being of residents, effective staff management, and sound financial stewardship. Interested candidates for the Director position are encouraged to visit the Diocesan website at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) for a more detailed job description. Applicants are asked to submit a cover letter with salary requirements and a resume by February 28 to: James Burke, Diocesan Secretary for Human Resources, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton Pa. 18503. Or email [jburke@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:jburke@dioceseofscranton.org).

**We are happy to welcome** to Queen of the Apostles Parish Susan Wasta of Dupont. A warm welcome to you!

**The Wyoming Valley Chapter** of the Pennsylvanians for Human Life invites everyone to receive their monthly newsletter at *no charge*. Membership to the Pennsylvanians for Human Life is only \$10 per year or a one-time donation of \$100 for lifetime enrollment. To sign up for the newsletter or to join, call 570-826-1819.

**Monday (Mar. 2) Lenten Weekday**

7:30 am (SH) Eileen Gavigan Greene  
by Patti Stonikinis

**Tuesday (Mar. 3) St. Katharine Drexel**

9:00 am (SM) Robert Avvisato  
by M/M Edward Rehoski

**Wednesday (Mar. 4) St. Casimir**

7:30 am (SH) Phillip Kuna  
by Gene and Sharon Bartosiewicz

**Thursday (Mar. 5) Lenten Weekday**

9:00 am (SM) Helen Hahn  
by Joseph & Linda Noto

**Friday (Mar. 6) Lenten Weekday (First Friday)**

7:30 am (SH) Jack Selesky  
by cousins, MaryAnn and Ron Rinaldi

7:00 pm (SM) Stations of the Cross

**Saturday (Mar. 7) Vigil: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

4:00 pm (SH) Intentions of Fr. Petro  
by Barbara Hopkins

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

**Sunday (Mar. 8) Third Sunday of Lent**

8:00 am (SM) Ruth & Christopher VanLuvender, Sr.  
by Dianne & Chris VanLuvender family

10:30 am (SH) Deceased members of our Holy Name Society  
by Sacred Heart HNS

<b>WEEKLY OFFERING</b>
<b>Last Sunday:</b> (SH) \$3,995.75 (SM) \$4,203.25
<b>Building Fund:</b> (SH) \$125.00
<b>Fuel:</b> (SH) \$1,171.00 (SM) \$518.00
<b>Ash Wednesday:</b> (SH) \$962.00 (SM) \$1,036.25
<b>Church in Central / Eastern Europe:</b> (SH) \$249.00 (SM) \$81.00
<i>May the Lord reward your generosity.</i>

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

Tabernacle (SH): intentions of Fr. Petro, by the Seven Sisters Apostolate

Blessed Mother (SH): living & deceased clergy, by Tina Petcaugh

St. Joseph (SH): intentions of Joseph and Marie Pistack, by family

St. Therese (SH): intentions of Irene Myers, by the Purdy family

Blessed Mother (SM): Barbara Pearce, by Jadus family

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

<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>
Mar. 2, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, SH church
Mar. 2, 6pm, CCM meeting, SH hall
Mar. 4, 7pm, HNS meeting, SH hall
Mar. 5, 6:30pm, SH/SM Choir practice, SH choir loft
Mar. 6, 7:30 am, 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Mass and devotions, SH church
Mar. 6, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, SM church
Mar. 7, 2:30pm, First Confessions for both parishes, SH church
Mar. 7, 2:45-3:45pm, 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Adoration/devotions, SH church
Mar. 8, 10:30am, Girl Scout Mass, SH church
Mar. 12, SH/SM Choir practice, SH choir loft

<b>Liturgical Volunteer Schedule</b>
<b>February 28-March 1</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: B. Jones, L: C. Purdy, Acolyte: Collins
<b>5:30pm:</b> EM: P. Krisiewicz, L: J. Klenner, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist
<b>8am:</b> EM: Volunteer needed, L: R. Wright, Acolyte: K. Brogan
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: M. Moletsky, L: M. Phillips, Acolyte: Papiercavich
<b>March 6: Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>7pm:</b> M. Phillips, J. Dudzinski, JJ Galvin
<b>March 7-8</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: M. Phillips, L: H. Vogue, Acolyte: M. Phillips
<b>5:30pm:</b> EM: C. Wood, L: P. Bartnicki, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist
<b>8am:</b> EM: N. Adomiak, L: J. Susko, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: B. Jones, L: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: Rupprecht

<p>✠ <b>Prayer before a Crucifix</b> ✠</p> <p>Good and gentle Jesus, I kneel before you. I see and I ponder your five wounds. My eyes behold what David prophesied about you: "They have pierced my hands and feet; they have counted all my bones." Engrave on me this image of yourself. Fulfill the yearnings of my heart: give me faith, hope, and love, repentance for my sins, and true conversion of life. Amen.</p> <p><i>On any Friday during Lent, a plenary indulgence is granted the Christian faithful who, after Communion, devoutly recite the above prayer before an image of Jesus Christ crucified. On other days of the year indulgence is a partial one.</i></p>
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