



# 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

## ✠ Fourth Sunday of Lent ♦ March 15, 2026 ✠

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

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent** is traditionally known as *Laetare* Sunday, so-called from the first word of the antiphon at the Introit. *Laetare*, (“Rejoice”), taken from the Latin translation of Isaiah 66:10-11, sets a tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery, as does the permitted use of rose-colored vestments. *You are invited to wear pink colored clothing to mass this weekend!*

**In the dioceses of the United States**, crosses in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for the Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the end of the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday. Images in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for the Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. We shall observe this ancient custom in our churches to focus our senses on the Lenten liturgy and instill a longing for the festive celebration of Our Lord’s Resurrection.

**A solemn blessing and procession of palms** will be held prior to the 10:30 am Mass at SH church on Palm Sunday, March 29. The faithful are asked to gather at the school on Sunday, March 29, by 10:30 am. The palms will be blessed there, and all will process into the church for Mass. The choir will lead us in song as we process through the rectory driveway, up the ramp and into the church. Palms will also be blessed in a simple ritual and distributed at all Masses in both of our parishes that weekend.

**On Good Friday**, our parishes will take up the annual collection for the Holy Land. We ask you to be generous. Your financial contribution will support the works of the Catholic Church in the Middle East and to protect the Holy Places and Christian shrines.

**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. The Stations schedule is as follows: 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: Mar. 16 (SH), 23 (SM). The deanery penance service will be on March 30, 6:30pm at St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston.

**All Fridays during Lent** are days of abstinence from meat. Abstinence obliges from the 14<sup>th</sup> birthday on.

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

**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.

**SH parish office will be closed** Wednesday, Mar. 18 to Friday, Mar. 20. The office will reopen on Monday, Mar. 23 at 8:30am.

### EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

#### Thursday (April 2) Holy Thursday

7:00 pm (SM) Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper  
10:00 pm (SM) Eucharistic Reposition & Night Prayer

#### Friday (April 3) Good Friday

3:00 pm (SH) Liturgy  
7:00 pm (SM) Stations of the Cross

#### Saturday (April 4) Holy Saturday

11:30 am (SH) Blessing of Easter food baskets  
1:00 pm (SM) Blessing of Easter food baskets  
8:00 pm (SM) Easter Vigil Mass

#### Sunday (April 5) Easter Sunday Masses:

7:30 am (SH), 9:30 am (SM), 11:00 am (SH)

**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. A musical prelude by the choir will begin at 2:40pm. 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. For more information, contact Beth Purdy or Dana Hinkley.

**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. 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, Mar. 21 from 1 to 5pm and Sunday, Mar. 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 Saturday, Mar. 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.

**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.

**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.

**Requiescat in pace:** pray for the repose of the soul of Raymond Cichocki, Jr. (SH) who was recently buried from our church.

**We are happy to welcome** to Sacred Heart Church Roger and Melody Orlandini of West Wyoming. A warm welcome to you!

**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.

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**The St. Vincent de Paul Society** is an international voluntary organization in the Catholic Church, founded in 1833 for the sanctification of its members by personal service of the poor. Started by Frédéric Ozanam and Emmanuel-Joseph Bailly de Surcy and named after Vincent de Paul, the organization is part of the global Vincentian Family of Catholic organizations. Innumerable Catholic pastors have established this group in their parishes to offer material help to the poor or needy. There are a great variety of outreach programs sponsored by parish groups, addressing local needs for social services and even pro-life advocacy work. The national headquarters is in St. Louis, Missouri. Group members are called "Vincentians." With nearly 90,000 Vincentian volunteers serving their communities, today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul works in 4,428 parish-based groups across the United States. Fr. Petro is now establishing a St. Vincent de Paul Society in Queen of the Apostles Parish. Elevating the former Social Concerns/Pro-Life Ministry to this new identity will bring a renewal of spirituality and accountability to the group. The SM St. Vincent de Paul Society will continue all the good work already begun, such as the Thanksgiving food baskets, the Christmas Giving Tree, the Easter food baskets, the pro-life baby shower, carnation sale and baby bottle campaign. Donations placed in the parish poor box located in the SM narthex are deposited directly into the St. Vincent de Paul Society checking account and will be used exclusively for the charitable needs of our parish. Each September a collection envelope appears in the envelope packs and all money collected also is deposited into their account. Individuals may make monetary donations at any time to SVDP by contacting the parish office. Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish also has a St. Vincent de Paul Society that operates in a similar manner but needs active membership. Are you interested in giving direct service to the poor and serving the most vulnerable among us, including the unborn? If so, SVDP is for you! New members are being actively sought in both of our parishes. For more information, please speak to Fr. Petro or visit [www.ssvpusa.org](http://www.ssvpusa.org)

**Easter Food Basket donations** for the needy are now being sought. The SM St. Vincent de Paul Society is in the process of creating food baskets that will be blessed and distributed on Holy Saturday in Queen of the Apostles Hall. Monetary donations are requested so that food can be purchased for the baskets. Please place your monetary gift in an envelope marked "Easter Food Baskets" and either drop it in the collection baskets or mail it to the parish office. If you or someone you know needs food for their Easter Sunday meal, please contact the SM parish office as soon as possible. The baskets will be arranged in the SM hall in preparation for the 1 p.m. blessing, after which they will be distributed.

**Father Petro is grateful** to everyone who recently sent him birthday wishes. He was overwhelmed with the beautiful cards, gifts and food sent to the rectory.

**Lenten reflection music** will be played 15 minutes prior to the start of the 10:30 a.m. Mass during the season of Lent.

**All the faithful of the Diocese** are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, on Tues., Mar. 31 at 4 p.m. At this Mass priests from throughout the Diocese will renew their priestly promises before the Bishop, and the oils to be used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders will be blessed. Participation in the Chrism Mass is a beautiful way to pray for our diocesan priests.

**2026 Wedding Anniversary Mass** for couples celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries will be celebrated by the bishop at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, on Sunday, June 28, at 2:30 p.m. A reception will follow at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. Requests for an invitation can be made by registering online at [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) or calling Bridget Maille at 570-207-2213 ext. 1113 by June 7.

**The winner** for the February HNS Match the Daily Number raffle is Felicia Gigliello. Congratulations!

**Congratulations** to the HNS 300 Club Week 2 winners: 1<sup>st</sup> prize: \$100, Rose Dougherty, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: \$50, Sue Tallini, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: \$25, Joseph Petro, 4<sup>th</sup> prize: \$25, Steve Barnak.

**Lenten prayer intentions:** Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, peace in the Middle East and in Ukraine, and for our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters in Palestine, Iraq and Syria.

**A Lenten Holy Hour** will be held on Tuesday, Mar. 24 at 6:30pm in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 237 William St., Pittston. The evening will include Eucharistic Adoration, scripture readings and live music led by Brandon Jopling. All are welcome to attend.

**Monday (Mar. 16) Lenten Weekday**

7:30 am (SH) Mary Opiela  
by Patricia Andusko

**Tuesday (Mar. 17) St. Patrick**

9:00 am (SM) Joan McDonald  
by Dina Treanor & Tom McDonald

**Wednesday (Mar. 18) St. Cyril of Jerusalem**

7:30 am (SH) Helen Sedlak  
by children and grandchildren

**Thursday (Mar. 19) St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM**

9:00 am (SM) Robert & Shirley Berlew  
by family

**Friday (Mar. 20) Lenten Weekday**

7:30 am (SH) Frances Lenchak  
by family

7:00 pm (SM) Stations of the Cross

**Saturday (Mar. 21) Vigil: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

4:00 pm (SH) Donna Bartosiewicz  
by Gene and Sharon Bartosiewicz

5:30 pm (SM) Kathy Burns Alu

by Tony Alu

**Sunday (Mar. 22) Fifth Sunday of Lent**

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

10:30 am (SH) Paul and Frances DePrimo

by daughter, Debra, and family

**WEEKLY OFFERING**  
**Last Sunday:** (SH) \$6,362.69 (SM) \$5,300.05  
**Building Fund:** (SH) \$329.00  
*May the Lord reward your generosity.*

*The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:  
Tabernacle (SH): Joseph & Eva Stonikinis, by the Stonikinis family*

*Blessed Mother (SH): Delphine Tokash, by children*

*St. Joseph (SH): John Lopata, by Robert Lopata*

*Blessed Mother (SM): John & Gloria Levandowski & daughter Sharon, by sister Jeanette*

*St. Joseph (SM): Peter Jadus, by Mark & Veronica Seber*



*The offertory gifts (SH) of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Robert and Helen Sedlak, by children and grandchildren.*

*The offertory gifts (SM) of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of David Jones & Lisa Jones Kutra, by Ned & Mary Kay Jones.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mar. 14, 9am-3pm, CCM chocolate egg making, SH hall  
Mar. 14, 3pm, OCIA First Confessions, SH church  
Mar. 15, 9am, Irish Tea, SM hall  
Mar. 16, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, SH church  
Mar. 20, 11am, Lenten Soup & Tuna Hoagie Sale, SM hall  
Mar. 20, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, SM church  
Mar. 21, 1-5pm, CCM Chocolate Easter Egg Sale, SH hall  
Mar. 22, 9:30am-12pm, CCM Chocolate Easter Egg Sale, SH hall  
Mar. 22, 3pm, *Gorzkie Zale* devotions, SH church  
Mar. 23, 5:30-6:30pm, Confessions, SM church  
Mar. 26, SH/SM Choir practice, SH choir loft  
Mar. 27, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, SH church

<b>Liturgical Volunteer Schedule</b>
<b>March 14-15</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: C. Wesley, L: A. Devlin, Acolyte: C. Purdy
<b>5:30pm:</b> EM: C. Trzcinski, L: J. McMahon, Acolyte: JJ Galvin
<b>8am:</b> EM: M. Phillips, L: B. Jones, Acolyte: M. Phillips
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: M. Moletsky, L: T. Satkowski, Acolyte: Papiercavich
<b>March 20: Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>7pm:</b> T. Gilchrist, G. Orr, T. Roxby
<b>March 21-22</b>
<b>4pm:</b> EM: B. Jones, L: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Collins
<b>5:30pm:</b> EM: P. Krisiewicz, L: T. Kaplavka, Acolyte: T. Roxby
<b>8am:</b> EM: N. Adomiak, L: L. Orr, Acolyte: G. Orr
<b>10:30am:</b> EM: D. Suchecki, L: C. Purdy, Acolyte: Toalongo
<b>March 22: Gorzkie Zale</b>
<b>3pm:</b> L: M. Ferretti, A: T. Gilchrist, M. Phillips, C. Purdy

**A special second collection** will be taken at the Masses next weekend in Avoca to collect money to pay the Luzerne County and Avoca Municipal property taxes levied against Queen of the Apostles Parish. The amount of the tax bill is \$398.67. Please be as generous as your means allow.