



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

✠ **Fifth Sunday of Lent** ♦ **March 22, 2026** ✠

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

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.

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. 27 (SH), Apr. 3 (SM).

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU: Confessions will be heard in SM church from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on March 23. 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 14th birthday on.

The blessing of Easter food will be held on Holy Saturday, April 4, at 11:30am (SH) and 1 pm (SM) in the church hall. The faithful are invited to bring the cooked food that they will eat on Easter Sunday in baskets for blessing. This Eastern European custom spiritually links the nourishment we receive from our table with the nourishment we receive from the Eucharist. **SH Holy Name Society will distribute the pre-ordered *kolaczki* in SH hall that day from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Homemade pizzelles by Mike Silla will be sold by SH Holy Name Society on Saturday, April 4, 11am - 12pm in the church hall during the blessing of Easter baskets. Pizzelles will be available in anise flavor, chocolate and vanilla with sprinkles. They will be sold in containers of 8 pieces for \$5 while supplies last!

A ring was found at St. Mary’s Cemetery. If you think it belongs to you, please contact Charlie Vermac (570) 947-5981.

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)

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. Cash payments only.

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. There are only a handful of seats remaining! 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 needed. Theme basket donations can be dropped off in the church narthex during weekend Masses at both Sacred Heart and St. Mary’s Church. If you or your business would like to sponsor a game prize, if you would like to volunteer, or if you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact John Labrosky, 570-881-3959.

An Easter Food Drive is being sponsored by SH/SM 6 and 7th 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 Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated in SM church on Thursday, Apr. 2 at 7 pm. This Mass commemorates Jesus’ institution of the Holy Eucharist, His Holy Priesthood and His Holy Command to love and serve one another. *All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are requested to vest in their albs and participate in the Eucharistic procession. All adult and youth altar servers are also encouraged to vest and participate. Our First Holy Communion children will also participate.* Holy Communion will be administered under both kinds. 12 men will have their feet washed. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the church for a period of silent adoration until 10 pm when Night Prayer will be celebrated. Members of the Holy Name Society, Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Altar & Rosary Society will assist with adoration and pray the rosary.

SAVE THE DATE! Join us for the Diocesan Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the USA on the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 12, here at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Dupont! A Solemn Pontifical Mass with Bishop Bambera will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m., followed by a catered/potluck social in the picnic grove. This is an event not to be missed!

MARRIAGE BANNES

I. **Christopher Navarro**, Catholic, to **Megan Price**, Catholic, on April 18, 2026, in St. Mary Church.

I. **Emil Ishley**, Catholic, to **Victoria Barnett**, Protestant, on May 23, 2026, in St. Mary Church.

“**Operation Rice Bowl**” cardboard boxes may be returned before the end of Lent by placing them in the collection basket. Returns are now being accepted of your spare change.

Sacred Heart will be hold its annual Polish Picnic on Saturday, June 27, from 1 to 8pm. This year’s chairmen are Mary Griffin, Charyl Nagy and Joe Petro. Donations of instant lottery tickets are being sought as game prizes and can be dropped off in the collection basket in a marked envelope. 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). The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 7, at 6 p.m. Volunteers are needed!

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 basket 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.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church is in the process of working with funeral homes in the Pittston Deanery to collect all unclaimed urns of cremated remains for burial in the Holy Sepulchre section of SH parish cemetery. *A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in SH church during the Easter season, and the urns will be interred afterwards, free of charge.* No fees are asked of the families or funeral homes – all expenses for the liturgy and the burial will be covered by the charity of our St. Vincent de Paul Society. Parishioners and friends of both our parishes are invited to participate in the funeral liturgy when a date is finally selected. If you would like to assist in this very special corporal work of mercy, please speak to Fr. Petro. The SH SVDP is also seeking monetary donations to assist with the purchase of tombstones. Please place your donation in an envelope marked “SVDP Funeral” and either mail it to the SH parish office or drop it in the collection basket. Sometimes families do not take an interest in the passing of their members. Other times, people die without family and friends. Resources may be lacking in giving them a proper burial, especially when they have been cremated. Cremated remains of people are left unclaimed from time-to-time, and the funeral director may bear the responsibility of storing the urn in the funeral home for a long period of time. It is a sad reality that not everyone is remembered and given a proper burial. The season of Lent provides us with an opportunity to focus spiritually on the suffering and death of Jesus, which leads us to celebrate with joyful hearts his Resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday.

A 20th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 4 in the backyard of Kiesinger Funeral Home, 255 McAlpine St., Duryea. Registration begins at 9am and the event begins at 10am with a bike raffle followed by the egg hunt. Children from Queen of the Apostles and Sacred Heart Parishes are invited to join the fun. To sign up in advance, call Robin Kiesinger at 570-357-0370 and leave a message with the names and number of children attending. Donations of plastic eggs, candy, or small prizes can be placed in the Easter box located in the church narthex. Monetary gifts are also appreciated and can be sent to Kiesinger’s directly. Volunteers are needed to help fill eggs on Wednesday, April 1, at 6pm in the Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall. Additional volunteers are needed on the day of the hunt at Kiesinger’s from 7:30 to 10am.

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 10th, 25th, 40th or 50th 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. Register online at www.dioceseofscranton.org or call Bridget Maille at 570-207-2213 ext. 1113 by June 7 to participate.

† **MASS INTENTIONS** †

Monday (Mar. 23) St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

7:30 am (SH) Zigmund Romanczuk
by sister, Loretta

Tuesday (Mar. 24) Lenten Weekday

9:00 am (SM) Mary Ann Donovan
by Jack Donovan

Wednesday (Mar. 25) The Annunciation of the Lord

7:30 am (SH) James Jones
by the Jones family

Thursday (Mar. 26) Lenten Weekday

9:00 am (SM) Roman Misorek
by Timothy Healey & family

Friday (Mar. 27) Lenten Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Deceased of the Paul and Helen Belles family
by Betty Belles

7:00 pm (SH) Stations of the Cross

Saturday (Mar. 28) Vigil: Palm Sunday

4:00 pm (SH) Daniel Skrzysowski
by Eloise Antal

5:30 pm (SM) Patrick Plastow

by June Fitzgerald & family

Sunday (Mar. 29) Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:00 am (SM) Carol A. Mack
by Joan Lilli

10:30 am (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)

WEEKLY OFFERING

Last Sunday: (SH) \$3,835.73 (SM) \$4,108.75

Building Fund: (SH) \$240.00

Catholic Relief Services: (SH) \$205.00 (SM) \$320.00

May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of:

Tabernacle (SH): Julie & Sy Hudzinski, by Diana & Mark Kremitske



The offertory gifts (SM) of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of John Tobin, by Maryann Tobin

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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
- Apr. 2, 7pm, Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, SM church
- Apr. 2, 10 pm, Night Prayer, SM church
- Apr. 3, 3pm, Good Friday Liturgy, SH church
- Apr. 3, 7pm, Stations of the Cross, SM church
- Apr. 4, 11:30 am (SH) & 1 pm (SM), blessing of Easter food, hall
- Apr. 4, 8 pm, Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, SM church
- Apr. 5, Easter Masses - 7:30am (SH), 9:30am (SM), & 11am (SH)

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule

March 21-22
4pm: EM: B. Jones, L: S. Bartosiewicz, Acolyte: Collins
5:30pm: EM: P. Krisiewicz, L: T. Kaplavka, Acolyte: T. Roxby
8am: EM: N. Adomiak, L: L. Orr, Acolyte: G. Orr
10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, L: C. Purdy, Acolyte: Toalongo
March 22: <i>Gorzkie Zale</i>
3pm: L: M. Ferretti, A: T. Gilchrist, M. Phillips, C. Purdy
March 27: <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
7pm: M. Hudzinski, C. & T. Papiercavich
March 28-29
4pm: EM: C. Wesley, L: J. Roche, J. Klenner, Acolyte: Collins
5:30pm: EM: C. Wood, L: R. Wright, J. Susko, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski, T. Roxby
8am: EM: N. Adomiak, L: M. Phillips, L. Orr, Acolyte: K. Brogan, G. Orr
10:30am: EM: M. Moletsky, L: G. Purdy, M. Ferretti, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist, Rupperecht family

Congratulations to the HNS 300 Club Week 3 winners: 1st prize: \$100, Heather Roche, 2nd prize: \$50, Ron Ziobro, 3rd prize: \$25, David Pretzman, 4th prize: \$25, Ann Hellmann.

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

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.