



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 and Wednesday,
8:30 AM to 2:30 PM; Friday, 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM



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

✠ **Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** ♦ **August 30, 2026** ✠

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

~ 2026 Avoca Irish Night \$250 Sponsors~

Domiano Appliance Repair

State Representative Jim Haddock

Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Pittston

Kiesinger Funeral Services, Inc.

Avoca Order of Hibernians

Anonymous Parishioner

Grande Pizza

Joyce School of Irish Dance

~ 2026 Avoca Irish Night \$100 Donors ~

Thomas P. Kearney Funeral Home, Inc

Kniffen O'Malley Leffler Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc

EZ Corner Mart

Anonymous Parishioner

John Fischer, OD PC

Michaleen Harned

IMO Jim & Betty (Clifford) Timlin & Jim Thomas by Timlin
children & their families

Knights of Columbus *Redemptoris Custos* Assembly 3755

IMO Lorraine & Jack Borthwick & Carol & Jim Galvin, Sr.
by Jackie, Jim, JJ & Tom

Jeff & Heather Roche

Annual Blue Mass: borough council members, law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders from Avoca, Dupont, Hughestown, Moosic and other municipalities are invited to a "Blue Mass" celebrated on Patriot Day, September 11, at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Church, Avoca. This is a special liturgy, held annually, that honors and prays for the safety and well-being of all public safety personnel. A "Blue Mass" is a Catholic Eucharistic liturgy celebrated to honor and pray for law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders. It is a way to express gratitude for their service and to seek God's blessing for their safety and protection. The name "Blue Mass" comes from the traditional color of many first responder uniforms. The tradition of the Blue Mass began in 1934, but in recent decades its celebration has been tied to the remembrance of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our country, as well as the memory of those first responders who have died this past year. This Mass will include prayers for the fallen, those currently serving, and their families. It will also feature a procession of first responders in their dress uniforms from the Avoca Fire Department building to St. Mary's Church, a homily focused on the importance of their service, and a blessing of their equipment. All present are invited to a light social in our Queen of the Apostles Parish Hall following the Mass. Desserts are needed for the social following the Blue Mass. Please call Nancy at 954-0817 to sign up. Donations can be dropped off in the parish hall before the mass.

A special Mass on Labor Day will be celebrated in SH church on Mon., Sept. 7, at 9 a.m. Parishioners are invited to attend this Mass to thank God for the sanctification of human labor.

After a summer recess, our SH parish Holy Name Society will resume meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 7 p.m. in the hall. Our Confraternity of Christian Mothers will start meeting again on Monday, Sept. 14, at 6 p.m. in the hall. The societies will discuss at these initial meetings their calendar of events for the year ahead. Greg Zawacki is the HNS president and Tina Petcaugh is the CCM president. *New members are always needed and welcomed!*

The CCM will meet on Monday, September 14, at 6 p.m. in SH Hall. All women from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church are invited to join. We pray together, participate in fun-filled fundraisers, charitable events, and gather in celebration of special occasions. Nominations for officers will be held during the September meeting. *All current and new members are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in this important meeting.*

Our churches are not currently conducting food or toy drives. Non-perishable food items and children's toys have recently been left in the narthex of both of our churches. Kindly refrain from doing so until further notice. Food collections are only taken by our CCD children during Thanksgiving and Lent. The Christmas Giving Tree appears only in Advent at SM. Donations given outside of those timelines will not reach their intended destinations.

Pennsylvania March for Life: Bishop Bambera and the Office for Parish Life invite you to the Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg on September 21. The diocese is coordinating a bus trip to the March with stops in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. The registration fee is \$20 and includes the bus trip, snacks, and a hat. To register, please visit dioceseofscranton.org or call Bridget Maille at (570) 207-2213 ext 1133.

Requiescat in pace: please pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of Elizabeth McAndrew who was recently buried from SM church.

CCD Registration for both our parishes began August 15. CCD registration forms will be available in the narthex of both our churches as well as on the websites of our parishes. After filling out the form for each child you may deposit it in the weekend collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Please include the required fee and a copy of your child's baptismal certificate (if they are a new student and were not baptized in our churches). *All school-aged children (both public and homeschoolers) who do not attend Catholic schools in grades 1 to 8 are required to attend CCD classes.* Please contact either DRE with questions: Nancy Beccaloni (SH) at sacredheartccd@comcast.net or Deborah Yuschovitz (SM) at 457-1284. Catechetical Sunday will be celebrated at SH on September 20, at the 10:30 am Mass. Our first day of CCD is Sunday, September 27.

A catechist meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12, in the schools following the 4pm Mass (SH) and following the 5:30pm Mass (SM). All catechists are encouraged to attend.

SM Parish office will be closed Tuesday, September 1. The office will reopen on Thursday, September 3 at 9:30 am.

The 2027 Mass book is now open. Anyone wishing to request a specific date on which Mass may be celebrated for their deceased loved one may visit the parish office during office hours or make use of the Mass Intention envelope in the narthex. The stipend is \$10 per requested Mass and must be paid at the time of scheduling. *Requests cannot be accepted over the phone.*

An appreciation dinner for those volunteers who worked at this years’ SH Polish Picnic will be held Saturday, September 12, 6 pm in SH church hall. Please RSVP by September 1 by completing this form and returning it to the parish office.

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2026 PICNIC APPRECIATION DINNER RESERVATION

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Number attending: _____

Please keep in your prayers Jerry Stefanowicz, the sexton of our parishes, who is taking a temporary leave of absence for reasons of health. Pray for his healing and the comfort of his family. We look forward to him serving our parishes once again.

First Saturday is Sept. 5. 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 Sat., Sept. 6, from 2:45 to 3:45 pm in SH church. All are invited to pray in preparation for the 4 pm Mass.

Attention adorers! A wooden collection box has been placed near the side entrance to St. Mary’s Church. Those individuals, both parishioners and guests, who visit the church for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays are asked to make a small donation for the upkeep and maintenance of St. Mary’s Church. The contributions received will help offset the utility bills and other expenses incurred from keeping the church open for twelve hours every Tuesday throughout the year. Parishioners may also safely deposit offertory envelopes in the wooden lockbox, if they wish.

Have you ever thought that God might be calling you to serve Him as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? If so, perhaps you may want to answer that call at this time in your parish. What are the basic requirements for an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? The person must be a regularly practicing Catholic 21 years of age or older. If married, the person must be in a sacramentally valid union. The person must remain in a state of grace by regularly celebrating the sacrament of Confession. The person must regularly attend Mass at our parish, not just when they are scheduled to serve. The person must be physically able to execute this ministry by easily entering and exiting our sanctuary and being able to consume a regular wheat host and drink wine. Speak to Fr. Petro if you feel called to serve the Lord in this way.

What is a “Marriage Validation?” The term means to have your marriage recognized or blessed by the Catholic Church. Those who seek a validation were usually married outside the Catholic Church. If you and your spouse wish to begin the validation process, please contact the parish office.

The Genesis Mission: Taking the Next Step in Faith - Are you looking to deepen your relationship with Jesus and learn how to share your faith naturally in everyday life? Supported by a recent diocesan ministry grant, our parish is launching new Genesis Mission small groups this Fall! This 7-week journey is open to all parishioners. Groups are forming now! To register, contact Regina Wright at (570) 207-2213 x 1135.

Men’s Conference: “Just be Catholic,” Saturday, October 10 at Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre from 7:30 AM to 3 PM. Cost is \$30. Call Mike at 570-721-0872 to register.

An offering of \$3.00 per candle is requested for votive candles in St. Mary’s Church. You may deposit your offering in either of the two wooden collection boxes located on the walls near the candle racks. Your sacrificial offering expresses your sincerity and gratitude in making your private prayer intention before the images of the saints and the Blessed Mother located in the niches.

Gluten free? Kindly approach the sanctuary with the Eucharistic minister at either the 5:30 p.m. or 8 a.m. Mass at St. Mary’s Church if you require a low gluten host because of a medical condition. Please sit in one of the pews immediately behind the Eucharistic minister during the Mass.

St. Teresa of Calcutta Fall Festival & Rummage Sale will be held October 3-4 at 1217 Prospect Ave., Scranton. The festival will feature a rummage sale, American and Hispanic food, children’s games, bake sale, theme basket raffle, and more.

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows (also known as the Seven Sorrows of Mary or *Mater Dolorosa*). The Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows on Sept. 15, immediately following the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Sept. 14.

Monday (August 31) Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Jerry Race and Family
by John Gerlak

Tuesday (September 1) Weekday

9:00 am (SM) Agnes Lavelle
by June Fitzgerald & family

Wednesday (September 2) Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Carl & Elizabeth Rosa
by Gene & Sharon Bartosiewicz

Thursday (September 3) St. Gregory the Great

9:00 am (SM) Thomas Quinnan
by Barbara Quinnan

Friday (September 4) Weekday (First Friday)

7:30 am (SH) Daniel Telak
by James Lopata

Saturday (September 5) Vigil: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm (SH) Thomas Skrzysowski, Jr.
by Karen & Henry Augenstein and sons

5:30pm (SM) Joan McAndrew
by Nancy Allardyce & family

Sunday (September 6) 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am (SM) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)
10:30 am (SH)) Deceased members of our Holy Name Society
by Sacred Heart HNS

WEEKLY OFFERING
Last Sunday: (SH) \$3,160.60 (SM) \$3,283.00
Building Fund: (SH) \$60.00
May the Lord reward your generosity.

The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of
Blessed Mother (SH): *Michael Rowan, by Georgann*
St. Therese (SH): *Michael Rowan, by Catherine Helminiak*
Tabernacle (SM): *John & Nellie Serafin by Jeanette Gronski*
Blessed Mother (SM): *Barbara Jadus Pearce, by mother & family*
St. Joseph (SM): *Peter Jadus, by wife & family*
The altar flowers (SM) *this weekend are donated in memory of*
Dennis Fitzgerald, by June Fitzgerald & family

UPCOMING EVENTS
Aug. 29, 6pm, Avoca Irish Night, SM parish hall
Sept. 2, 7pm, HNS meeting, SH hall
Sept. 4, 7:30 am, 1st Friday Mass and devotions, SH church
Sept. 5, 2:45-3:45pm, 1st Saturday Adoration/devotions, SH church
Sept. 10, 6:30pm, SM/SH Choir practice resumes, SH choir loft
Sept. 11, 7pm, Annual Blue Mass, SM Church
Sept. 12, SH Catechists meet after 4pm Mass, SH school
Sept. 12, SM Catechists meet after 5:30pm Mass, SM school
Sept. 12, 6pm, SH Polish Picnic Appreciation Dinner, SH parish hall
Sept. 14, 6pm, CCM meeting, SH hall

Liturgical Volunteer Schedule
Aug 29-30
4pm: EM: C. Wesley, L: G. Purdy, Acolyte: Collins Family
5:30pm: EM: C. Trzcinski, L: J. Klenner, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist
8am: EM: N. Adomiak, L: K. Price, Acolyte: J. Dudzinski
10:30am: EM: B. Jones, L: M. Ferretti, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich
Sept 5-6
4pm: EM: B. Jones, L: H. Vogue, Acolyte: C. Purdy, M. Hudzinski
5:30pm: EM: P. Krisiewicz, L: R. Wright, Acolyte: T. Roxby
8am: EM: A. Jake, L: J. Susko, Acolyte: T. Gilchrist
10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, L: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: G. Donahue, AJ, N. Rupprecht

Liturgical volunteer schedules for September have been emailed for both our parishes. *If you are unable to serve as scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Volunteers are asked to be present in the sacristy 15 minutes prior to their scheduled Mass.*

St. Peter’s Cathedral sponsor its 5th Cathedral Cash Bingo on Sunday, September 27, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the first game will be played at 2 p.m. (20 games, 4 specials, \$100 prize per regular game; \$500 first three specials and \$1,000 final special!) Free parking is available on-street and the parking lot at the corner of Linden St. and Wyoming Ave. Handicap parking available will be available in the lot next to the Pastoral Center on Wyoming Ave. Purchase your tickets for \$25 by calling 570-344-7231 or online at www.stpeterscathedral.org. The event will also feature food, a theme basket raffle, and a 50/50 raffle.