



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-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ♦ September 6, 2026 ✠

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever. Amen.

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.

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.

The Parish Offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day. It will open again on Sept. 8 at 9:30 a.m. (SM) and 8:30 a.m. (SH).

Altar & Rosary Society will meet Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 10:30 a.m. in Queen of the Apostles parish hall. All members are asked to attend.

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. Come pray, plan fund-raisers and support charitable events. We will hold nominations for officers *New and current members are strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting.*

New parishioners: Please welcome to SH parish the Benjamin, Angeline & Cora Jones family of Avoca and the Anthony & Darlene Boccardi family of Dupont.

BULLETIN EDITOR NEEDED: due to his many responsibilities, Father Petro is no longer able to edit the bulletin for our parishes. Anyone wishing to assist in this matter is kindly asked to contact the parish office.

Our parish choirs and cantors practice on Thursdays beginning September 10 at 6:30 pm in the SH church choir loft. New members are encouraged to attend - contact Anthony George, music director, at 570-881-9991 or by email at TPianoman321@gmail.com if you are interested. *Our combined choirs will sing at the Blue Mass (SM) on September 11 with musical preludes beginning at 6:40 p.m.*

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on Monday, September 14. During the 7:30 am Mass (SH) a relic of the True Cross will be exposed for public veneration. Also, devotional materials promoting the Rosary of Our Lady of Sorrows will be blessed and freely distributed.

The School Support envelope can be found in this month's envelope pack (SH). Your school support contributions help defray expenses incurred by our CCD program through the academic year.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society: this parish account is used solely to support the charitable work of our parishes. An annual envelope appears in your packets, around the September 27 feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, which you may use to make a direct donation to support the charitable needs of our local parishioners.

The Church celebrates the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, Oct. 4. Fr. Petro will administer a special blessing to all pets on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 9:00 a.m. in Avoca in the parking lot behind the church and at 10:00 a.m. in Dupont in the picnic grove. Parishioners and friends of our parish are invited to bring their animals to the church to pray for the intercession of the saint who loved nature and all of God's creatures. Members of SH Holy Name Society will host a light outdoor social following the blessing in Dupont. To provide a safe environment for all who attend this event, please be sure that all pets are properly restrained.

Children and Student Envelopes: If you would like your child to receive a boxed set of donation envelopes for 2027, please contact the parish office. Envelopes will be available in the narthex during the month of December for those who have requested them.

30th Anniversary of the Wyoming Valley Knights of Columbus "Tomb of Unborn" — Respect Life Sunday, October 4 at 2 pm. Prayerful commemoration at the Knights' Tomb of the Unborn, located at the top of Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Carverton. Fr. Petro, chaplain of Greater Pittston Knights of Columbus Assembly 948 will celebrate the Order for Visiting a Cemetery, followed by the recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. All Knights of Columbus, our parishioners and area faithful are invited to attend.

The Catholic Light updated its subscription record database. Any person who donates at least \$10 to the Diocesan Annual Appeal automatically receives a complimentary copy of The Catholic Light newspaper for the following year. Gifts to the Catholic Ministries Appeal will soon be requested of our parishioners as we begin again the process of conducting the Appeal throughout the diocese. Please consider giving at least \$10 which will give you an annual subscription to our diocesan monthly newspaper.

Novena in honor of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Start with 9 Hail Marys on September 7 in honor of Our Lady's birthday and continue with 9 Hail Marys for nine days ending on September 15 (the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows) in honor of the nine months spent in the womb of her mother, St. Ann. At the end, the Hail Marys will become roses presented to Our Lady.

Are you interested in the Catholic faith and becoming Catholic, or do you know someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic? If you are interested in entering the Church, please contact Fr. Petro for more information.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Franciscan Afternoon Retreat: Secular Franciscans of Order of Holy Dormition Fraternity on Sunday, October 4. 1PM to 4 PM at St. John Bosco Parish, 573 PA Route 93, Sugarloaf. Retreat Leader: Father Brian W.J. Clarke. Free and open to all. Reservations aren’t necessary but recommended. RSVP & Information: Phone: Joan Pesta at 570-926-0326 or Email at ofs.franciscan@gmail.com

Capuchin Sisters of Nazareth: A friendly Reminder that our Nazareth Group will meet on Saturday, September 26, from 11:00AM – 4:30PM. Join us as we reflect on the Holy Family and more beautiful aspects of our Faith. For more information or to RSVP by September 24, please call Sister Angela in Tunkhannock at [570-836-2737](tel:570-836-2737) or Sister Clare in Williamsport at [570-745-3334](tel:570-745-3334).

Drive Thru Chicken Dinner: St. Joseph’s Center, Sunday September 20th noon to 4 pm. Dinners are \$15.00 and can be ordered by going to our website www.stjosephscenter.org

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.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Monday (September 7) Weekday (Labor Day)

9:00 am (SH) Patrick Giambra
by Dana Hinkley

Tuesday (Sept. 8) The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 am (SM) Judith Warunek
by Ron Warunek, Amy & Ron Jr.

Wednesday (September 9) St. Peter Claver

7:30 am (SH) Dorothy Trolio
by Kevin & Marie O’Hop & family

Thursday (September 10) Weekday

9:00 am (SM) Helen Eckrote
by June Fitzgerald & family

Friday (September 11) Weekday

7:30 am (SH) Frank Rygiel & family
by John Gerlak

7:00 pm (SM) For living & deceased Emergency Service Providers
by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hudzinski, Sr.

Saturday (September 12) Vigil: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 pm (SH) Our Parishioners (*Missa pro populo*)
5:30pm (SM) Elaine Blazosek

by June Fitzgerald & family

Sunday (September 13) 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am (SM) Janet Koenig
by Mark & Veronica Seber
10:30 am (SH)) Joseph W. Tetlak
by daughters Joanne, Marie & families

WEEKLY OFFERING Last Sunday: (SH) \$3,728.24 (SM) \$2,814.50 Building Fund: (SH) \$262.00 Care & Education of Priests: (SH) \$267.00 (SM) \$ 192.00 <i>May the Lord reward your generosity.</i>
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The sanctuary candles burn this week in memory of
Tabernacle (SH): Thomas Skrzysowski, Jr., by sister, Joan Vogue
Blessed Mother (SH): Steve & Loretta Haluschak, by Michele
Tabernacle (SM): John & Mary George & family, by Roseann Fela
Blessed Mother (SM): Peter Jadus & Barbara Jadus Pearce, by Mary Ann Jadus & family
St. Joseph (SM): For the living and deceased First Responders of 9/11, by Ann Blaskiewicz
The offertory gifts (SH) of bread & wine this Sunday are donated in memory of Thomas Skrzysowski, Jr. by Karen & Henry Augenstein

UPCOMING EVENTS Sept. 8, 10:30am, A&R Society Meeting, QAP parish Hall 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
Sept 5-6
4pm: EM: B. Jones, L: Jeff Roche, 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: M. Moletsky, L: L. Rupprecht, Acolyte: G. Donahue, AJ, N. Rupprecht
Sept 11
7pm: EM: M. Phillips, L: J. McMahon, B. Collins, Acolyte: JJ Galvin, T. Gilchrist, M. Hudzinski
Sept 12-13
4pm: EM: M. Moletsky, L: H. Vogue, Acolyte: Collins Family
5:30pm: EM: M. Phillips, L: T. Kaplavka, Acolyte: M. Phillips
8am: EM: N. Adomiak, L: L. Orr, Acolyte: G. Orr
10:30am: EM: D. Suchecki, L: G. Purdy, Acolyte: C. & T. Papiercavich

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.

We are currently without the services of a sexton in our parishes. Any parishioner who would like to help with the upkeep of church buildings and grounds is asked to contact F. Petro ASAP. Pray for the speedy and complete recovery Jerry, our sexton.