

Our Lady of Hope Parish

Parish Office

570-824-7832

570-822-0765 Fax

www.ourladyofhope.us

Email: office@ourladyofhope.us

Marymount Parish Center

570-823-4740

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday

9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Bulletin Deadline

Articles and announcements
must be submitted to the office
by Noon Monday.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday evening: 4:00 pm

Sundays: 9:00 am

Weekdays: Tuesday and Friday

8:00 am (Main Church)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 pm

Before Daily Mass or by
appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

You must be registered in the Parish for six months. Arrangements for the Baptism must be arranged by the parents. All sponsors should be carefully selected and must be at least 16 years of age. Non-practicing, fallen away Catholics are not eligible for sponsorship, even if they are close relatives or friends. The Sponsors are required to bring a letter of eligibility from their Church.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Couples planning a wedding must contact the rectory six to nine months before the date. Couples are obligated to follow Parish Policy and are required to attend the Diocese Pre-Cana Program.

**ANointing OF
THE SICK AND SICK CALLS**

In case of serious illness or advanced age, please call the Parish Life Coordinator. Also notify the rectory if admitted to hospitals and nursing homes. Arrangements can be made to bring Holy Communion.

Parish Life Coordinator

Deacon Steve Frye

Sacramental Minister

Rev. Mark DeCelles

Pastors Emeriti

Rev. John S. Terry M. Div.

Rev. Theodore L. Obaza

Deacon

Deacon William Behm

Parish Secretary

Jean Behm

Business Manager

Suzanne Cosgrove

Director of Music

Andrea Yorkonis

Liturgy

Noah Klings

Director of Religious Education

Diane Lakkis

OCIA**(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

Adults interested in becoming Catholic or those who have not received First Eucharist or Confirmation should call the rectory. Program runs from September through Pentecost.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes are held in Marymount Parish Center on South Hancock Street Sundays, September through May. Grades K-8 10:00 am - 11:00 am

OUR LADY OF HOPE MISSION STATEMENT

The people of Our Lady of Hope Parish are called to be a welcoming community of faith, hope and love; committed to Jesus Christ and to His Gospel; to grow in our love for others as Jesus loves us. Through the prayerful intercession of Mary, our Patroness, we seek to live in unity and hope as we strive to assist those in need through our good works, sacrifices and stewardship.

By celebrating the Mass and Sacraments, by providing various opportunities for Catholic Education, by calling forth more of our members to ministries and service, we seek to help one another grow closer to the Lord in this life as we journey together towards the complete happiness that awaits us in Heaven

40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

We are now on Facebook
@olohweb

2nd Sunday of Advent



Saturday, December 6

4:00 PM Mooneen Bielecki - Husband, John

Sunday, December 7

9:00 AM Peter & Patricia Smeraglio - Family

Monday, December 8 Feast of Immaculate Conception

9:00 AM Stanley J Buckley - Godchild, Mary Frances

5:30 PM For the People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 9

8:00 AM Andrew Polifko III - Parents

Friday, December 12

8:00 AM Mary English - Sons, Tony & John

Saturday, December 13

4:00 PM Robert Delescavage - Eddie Day Pashinski

Sunday, December 14

9:00 AM Arthur J Long - Mary Ann & Sons

Votives

Sanctuary - In Memory of Marvin Jayma By Mom

Blessed Mother - In Memory of Lena Flynn By Son, Bob,
Sharon & Sean

Please pray for the Sick of our Parish:

Deacon Joe DeVisia	William McLaughlin
Lindsay Kurtz	Ron Reiss
Helen Novak	

<u>Sunday Collection</u>	\$4,362.50
<u>Loose</u>	263.00
<u>Dues</u>	129.00
<u>Charity</u>	45.00
<u>Fuel</u>	754.00
<u>Air Conditioning</u>	30.00
<u>Immaculate Conception</u>	21.00
<u>Campaign for Human Development</u>	45.00
<u>Care & Education of Priests</u>	55.00
<u>Christmas Flowers</u>	104.00

Adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will continue after our daily Masses until 9:00 AM and on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM. During Advent confessions will also be heard during the Thursday Holy Hour, 6-7:00PM. We hope this addition will make this sacrament even more accessible - and LOVED.

December 7, 2025

Toys for Tots

Our **Toys for Tots** boxes will be collected December 10th. Please consider donating if you have not already done so. There is a great need for donations for older children. Please help us to provide a very Merry Christmas for many deserving children.

Bring the Little Children to Me

Starting next Sunday, December 14th, children age 3 through 6, will be invited to leave mass before the readings for an age - appropriate Liturgy of the Word. They will return to us before the Offertory. This will be during the Sunday (9AM) Liturgy. We see this as an opportunity to welcome children's participation leading to a life-long journey of faith. We also hope this will encourage families to come to church.

Giving Tree

The Social Concerns Ministry is once again celebrating the joy of the Christmas season by hosting the parishes Giving Tree. We are requesting gifts for teens Please take an ornament and donate the item listed. **Please return the ornament with gift by December 14th.**

Ordination Anniversary

Deacon Bill Behm celebrated the 10th anniversary of his ordination on November 28th. Let us thank him for answering "yes" when he was called to serve God's people.

Christmas Wafers

Our Christmas wafers are available at the exit on the parking lot side. We are asking for a donation of \$2.00 or more for a packet of four.

Christmas Flowers

Beautifying our church for Christmas is appropriate to honor our Lord's Nativity. It's only possible because of our parishioners. Be sure to print your names/intentions clearly on the envelopes. All intentions should be handed in by Sunday, December 14th. A donation of \$10.00/flower is requested.

Altar Servers

Training for new altar servers will be Saturday, December 13th, at 10:00AM. All current altar servers will have a refresher session 30 minutes prior to their next scheduled assignment. Please arrive 30 minutes before mass for these sessions.

Advent Lessons and Carols

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 35 S. Franklin St. Wilkes-Barre, will be hosting Advent Lessons and Carols Wednesday, December 10th, at 6:00PM. It is a beautiful way to experience the Advent season. All are welcome.

Just a Reminder

At all masses during Advent, the Apostles' Creed (page 10 in the Breaking Bread missal) will be recited instead of the Nicene Creed.

Scripture Reflection

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” So proclaimed John the Baptist as he prepared the world for the coming of the Messiah. We may not be preparing for Jesus Christ’s arrival in the flesh or plunging into the Jordan River, but John’s words apply just as much today as they did then. We must recognize and repent of our sins in order to be prepared for the Lord’s arrival in our lives in any way. And the kingdom of heaven is still at hand, glimpsed when we are reconciled with God and our neighbor. May we hear John’s words as if they were directed to us here and now.

What I would like you to PRAY ABOUT:

This is why John the Baptist’s words are so radical - justice involves looking beyond ourselves to better understand the realities of others. This task is not always easy or welcome. Fortunately for us, we are not the authors of justice. As Paul writes, “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus.” As we continue this season of Advent let us make this prayer our own. Like John, may we BE prophetic voices for justice in our world as we build up the Kingdom of Heaven.

Thoughts from Deacon Bill:

“Hey, long time - no see.” How many times have we thought or even said those words when we meet someone we haven’t seen in a very long time. Typically, we are very happy to see a long lost friend or relative. Jean and I recently visited a retired priest friend, and it was great to be together. We fell into a rapport that belied the fact that we hadn’t been together in quite some time. While awaiting sleep last night I thought about how someone’s relationship with God might fall into disrepair - but that disrepair might fall away if an effort was made to sit down and talk. I guarantee you a warm and hearty welcome if you make that effort, if you approach our God. He will not treat you as someone who abandoned him, but as a returning brother or sister he’s been longing to spend some time with. Now, how would this rediscovery affect you? I can’t say exactly, other than saying “better than you were before.” You will have rediscovered your God, your Savior, and your friend. Step up and renew that friendship. He’s waiting...patiently.



St. Joseph’s Table

For the month of December the request is for **Canned Fruit and Canned Vegetables**. Thank you for remembering those in need.



Now You Know.... From the PLC

What is the Immaculate Conception?

The Immaculate Conception is probably our most misunderstood teaching. Some think it means Mary was conceived without her parents having sexual relations. Not true. Many think it means Mary conceived Jesus in her womb without having relations with a man. This misconception is not surprising since the Gospel presents the Annunciation, where Mary conceives Jesus in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit, not by man. Not the Immaculate Conception.

At the instant a person is conceived in the womb, God places a soul there. God is all good, so the soul is without sin. Parents pass on Original Sin at the moment of conception. The Immaculate Conception means God prevented the passing of Original Sin to Mary by her parents. As a result, she did not have the inclination to sin as we all do because of Original Sin. Mary’s preservation from sin was necessary because, as the Mother of God, she would give Jesus, the Son of God, a human nature identical to hers. Jesus could not have a fallen nature, so God preserved His mother from Original Sin. He gave her an Immaculate human nature, which she would give to the eternal Son who became man without sin. God is the Father of the created world and Mary is the mother of the re-created world. Without God’s Son nothing could exist, without Mary’s Son nothing could be redeemed. Tomorrow is this Holy Day of Obligation when we celebrate the preparation God made for our salvation. God allowed Mary to share beforehand in the merits Jesus won on the Cross so that He could be like us in all things but sin. Mary gave birth to the one who created her! Wow! *Now you know!*

Deacon Steve

Building and Grounds Committee

We are starting an advisory committee for our buildings and grounds. Anyone with experience in facility maintenance, electrical, plumbing, grounds keeping, HVAC, carpentry, roofing, or concrete /paving who is willing to serve on this committee is asked to call the rectory.

Catholic Ministries Appeal

Our Lady of Hope is at 40% of our goal for the Catholic Ministries Appeal. We appreciate everyone who has donated to this worthwhile cause. The appeal is coming to a close but there is still time to donate if you have not. Thank you again for your generosity!

