

Our Lady of Hope Parish

Parish Office

570-824-7832

570-822-0765 Fax

www.ourladyofhope.us

Email: office@ourladyofhope.us

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: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am

Weekdays: Tuesday and Friday
8:00 am (Main Church)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45 pm

After 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.

VISION STATEMENT**Faith-Family-Friendship**

Casting a wide net to gather as many people as possible for the Kingdom of God.

MISSION STATEMENT

**To be a welcoming community that encourages and empowers
our family of believers to use their gifts and talents to be active,
intentional disciples of Jesus Christ.**

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 Klinges

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 the
Church Parish Hall
Sundays, September through May.
Grades K-8 10:00 am - 11:00 am

40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

We are now on Facebook
@olohwb

Baptism of the Lord



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 10

4:00 PM Rosemarie Tomasura - Mary Kennedy

Sunday, January 11

9:00 AM George Daru - Albert Mrackoski

Tuesday, January 13

8:00 AM Stephen & Anna Omasta - Daughter,
Lorraine

Friday, January 16

8:00 AM Barbara & Son, Larry Youngblood -
Daughter, Suzanne

Saturday, January 17

4:00 PM Chester Kwashnik, Jr. & Helen Ackerman
- Elaine

Sunday, January 18

9:00 AM Mark Mazzillo - Jeff & Carol Carter

Votives

Sanctuary - Happy & Healthy "2026" for our Parish
and the Parish Family

Please pray for the Sick of our Parish:

Deacon Joe DeVizia	William McLaughlin
Lindsay Kurtz	Ron Reiss
Monica Jendrzejewski	Theresa Belcastro
Helen Novak	Deacon Steve Frye

Weekend of January 4th

<u>Sunday Collection</u>	\$4,541.00
<u>Loose</u>	162.00
<u>Dues</u>	560.00
<u>Maintenance Fund</u>	135.00
<u>Taxes</u>	105.00
<u>Immaculate Conception</u>	21.00
<u>Care & Education of Priests</u>	308.00
<u>Air Conditioning</u>	137.00
<u>Fuel</u>	15.00
<u>Church in Latin America</u>	35.00
<u>Cemetery - Holy Trinity</u>	34.00
<u>St. Mary's Maternity</u>	266.00

Closing of 2025 Financial Books

Our financial books for 2025 will close on Sunday, January 18, 2026. All offerings that come in after that date will be credited to 2026.

January 11, 2026

Planned Parish Activities - 2026

- Install bathrooms on the main level of the Church
 - Chocolate-fest, Feb 13, 5:30-7:00 pm
 - Pot luck/soup before Stations of the Cross, 5:30 -7:00
 - St Anthony Novena, 13 weeks ending June 13, Tuesdays, 5:30 pm
 - Parish Social, fourth Sunday of the month, after 9:00 Mass
 - Adult Faith Formation, during regular CCD hours
 - Night at the Races, April 11
 - Bingo - quarterly
 - Bake sales ???
 - Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, June
 - Parish picnic, July
 - Catechetical Sunday, Catechist commissioning and social, September
 - Trunk or Treat, Oct 31
 - Mass of Remembrance with social, Nov 2, 6:00 pm
 - Turkey Dinner, Sunday, Nov 8
 - Parish Holiday Party, December
 - Evening Prayer, Sundays in Advent, 6:00 pm
- To accomplish these activities we need volunteers to chair them (individually or as a group). Please think about it, pray about it and if interested in chairing an event (or more than one if willing) please call the rectory.*

Finance Council Meeting

The first meeting of the Finance Council of Our Lady of Hope for 2026 was changed to Monday, January 12th at 6:00 PM in the rectory.

Poinsettia Tree Intentions

Grencavage, Molitoris & Petruska Families - Margaret Molitoris
Ben & Sophie Jurewicz - Ann Marie Jurewicz
Reiss & Day Family - Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Reiss

Offerings

Mr. Bruce Braden
Mr. and Mrs. John Dieso

Interested in being a Sacristan?

We're transitioning to high school aged sacristans. Duties include setting up for mass and ensuring all mass vessels and books are serviced after mass. If interested, please contact Deacon Steve.

St. Joseph's Table

For the month of January the request is for **Baked Beans**. Winter is long and cold for all of us but especially for those who hunger. We are blessed, be a blessing for someone else. Thank you and God Bless you!

Scripture Reflection

On this final day of the Christmas season we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We hear in dramatic fashion of Jesus rising from the waters of the River Jordan, the heavens opening before him, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, and a voice from the heavens proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Though not as visible, we too have risen from the waters of baptism and received the Holy Spirit. As beloved children of God, we pray that God is also well pleased with us.

What I would like you to PRAY ABOUT:

God's words in Matthew's account of Jesus' Baptism can also be said about each one of us. "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." But LIVING as God's beloved is not always easy. We are all too quick to speak critically and act negatively about ourselves and others. We listen to voices that are NOT God's whispering "You are not enough." "You are not smart enough." "You are not old enough." "You are too old." When we hear these voices of the evil one, may we be quick to silence them and instead listen to God's voice, which tells us we are loved totally and unconditionally. May our prayer ask God's help in making this possible.

Thoughts from Deacon Bill:

When they were young, our children listened to a musical group called The Grateful Dead. This group sang a song that included the verse, "What a long, strange trip it's been." Trust me, I can relate. It was about fifteen years ago when thoughts of the Permanent Diaconate began entering my mind. After five years formation, I was ordained and assigned to St. Nicholas Church, where I had been a member for over thirty years. After a relatively short time, I was "asked" to become the parish life coordinator of St. Andrew Parish. I accepted a six-year assignment that turned into seven. When I left there, I asked to be assigned to a parish as a deacon, and I ended up right here. I told this story because I want you to realize that God often writes straight with crooked lines. My life is a living example of this, and I'll bet yours is too. Think about the hands of God and how those hands led you to where you are today. We have much to be thankful for - but sadly, we rarely offer thanks. Let's change that right now. We might have been on a long, strange trip - but it's what made us what and who we are. Thanks, God.



Now You Know.... From the PLC

We can sum up the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord that we celebrate today with two words: manifestation and mission. Like the Feast of the Epiphany last Sunday, the Baptism of the Lord is a manifestation of Jesus. After Jesus is baptized we hear God the Father say, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." This voice from Heaven is directed at each of us. God announces that the servant that Isaiah speaks about in the 1st reading, the chosen one with whom God is well pleased, is the Jesus who will be manifested to the whole world. The Holy Spirit anoints Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, sent to bring the Good News of salvation. Jesus, the suffering servant, comes into our world, becomes one of us, and transforms us from within. The ongoing Good News, that God is with us, then becomes the mission of Jesus, the mission of the Church, and our mission. Like the Baptism of Jesus, our Baptism involves manifestation and mission. When we are baptized we share in the Spirit of the Lord. God is well pleased with us and we begin to make our lives more Christ-like. We are called to show that God is present in our hearts and lives and to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel. We need a vigorous faith to engage a culture that is so different from a Christian culture. We must realize the difference between a life shaped by Gospel values and a life guided by the changing values of our culture. We are called to deepen our faith so we can manifest Jesus and carry out His mission in our society. *Now you know!*

Deacon Steve

Thank you!

Your parish leadership team - Deacon Steve, Fr. Mark, and Deacon Bill - thank you for the Christmas wishes and smiles, and the prayers the parish family offered for us this Christmas Season. We also want to thank everyone for the cards and gifts you shared with us. We are so very grateful to acknowledge our parish family and to thank you for welcoming us into it. This is the season of love - and we hope you feel our love as much as we felt yours. Have a wonderful New Year. May the tears of 2025 water the garden of life in 2026!