

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
@olohweb

Solemnity of Mary



MASS INTENTIONS

Wednesday, December 31 Solemnity of Mary Vigil

4:00 PM Rita Tarnalicki - Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary - New Year's Day

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Friday, January 2

8:00 AM David Talacka - Ann Orbik

Saturday, January 3

4:00 PM Walter & Florence Shubilla - Sons

Sunday, January 4

9:00 AM Ernest Jendrzewski - Judy & Richard
Partington

Tuesday, January 6

8:00 AM Francis & Gene Belardinelli - Suzanne
Youngblood

Friday, January 9

8:00 AM John A Supplee - Family

Saturday, January 10

4:00 PM Rosemarie Tomasura - Mary Kennedy

Sunday, January 11

9:00 AM George Daru - Albert Mrackoski

Votives

Sacred Heart - In Memory of Anne Catherine Zawol
Kochuba By Family

Please pray for the Sick of our Parish:

Deacon Joe DeVizia	William McLaughlin
Lindsay Kurtz	Ron Reiss
Monica Jendrzewski	Theresa Belcastro
Joseph Kordek	Helen Novak

Weekend of December 21st

<u>Sunday Collection</u>	\$5,328.50
<u>Loose</u>	239.00
<u>Dues</u>	469.00
<u>Fuel</u>	25.00
<u>Taxes</u>	25.00
<u>Immaculate Conception</u>	50.00
<u>Care & Education of Priests</u>	105.00
<u>Retirement Fund for Religious</u>	81.00
<u>Air Conditioning</u>	88.00

January 1, 2026

Reflection on The Solemnity of Mary

On January 1st we not only celebrate the start of a new year, we also celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as the mother of God. That she is the mother of God is implied by our understanding of Jesus. Jesus is fully human and fully divine, not split into two persons with natures that can be kept separate. Therefore, Mary bore Jesus as man and as God. The fact that this is also the octave day of Christmas, the eighth day after Jesus was born, means that we also recognize his circumcision on this day, which God told Abraham would be required of every male child as a sign of the covenant. As we celebrate a new year, let us celebrate the Incarnation, the Son of God as true God and true man, and the Blessed Mother's essential role in it.

First Friday Visitation

January 2nd is the first Friday of the month. Visitation to those who are shut-ins and requested Holy Communion will be made by Deacon Bill. If there is someone you know who is not currently receiving these visits but would like to, please call the rectory and we will gladly add their name to our list.

Change in Communion under Both Species

Due to the significant flu outbreak, we are suspending the distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass beginning this weekend. Remember, reception of the Body of Christ includes the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus.

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!

Planned Social Activities - 2026

Chocofest - Parish Hall - February 13th
Nite At The Races - Parish Hall - April ?
Halloween Trick or Treat - October 31st
Turkey Dinner - Parish Hall - November 7th
Bingo - 4 times - Dates TBD

Poinsettia Tree Intentions

Sandherr & Kurtz Families - Matthew Kurtz
Pasquale & Marie Graziano - Carolyn Graziano
Al Graziano - Carolyn Graziano
Theresa & Dominic Placida - Carolyn Graziano
Clark, Conwell & Monahan Families - Mary Jo Clark
and Son, Brian

Scripture Reflection

The Epiphany of the Lord commemorates the day when Jesus Christ was made manifest to the wider world. The magi, who were not Jewish and not from that region, were guided by the star, which eventually led them to Bethlehem. There they paid him homage and offered their finest treasures as gifts. In many cultures and traditions, today is the day Christians travel to be with loved ones and exchange gifts, often celebrating Epiphany as the high point of the Christmas season, for it marks the manifestation of the Lord to the whole world.

What I would like you to PRAY ABOUT:

Sometimes, God appears to us in the grand and the brilliant, like the star of Bethlehem. At other times, God appears to us in the smallest of the small, like the newborn child found lying in a manger. God desires to make himself known to us - to reveal his infinite love - in the silence of prayer, in the embrace of a loved one, in the gift of himself in the Eucharist. Where is God trying to reveal himself to YOU today?

Thoughts from Deacon Bill:

Jean just teased me about watching "Ancient Aliens." I have to admit, I watch at least one episode each week. It's not that I envision little-green-beings, but I do wonder if any of them are "out there." I had an uncle who lived on Cape Cod. Once when we were there he asked a question that's stayed with me all these years. He asked, "If an alien spaceship landed on earth, would it destroy your faith?" My Uncle Marty was, at best, an agnostic. I tried my best to tell him I thought it would be the height of arrogance to assume we are God's only creation. If we believe ours is the God of the universe, then he must have had something in mind when he created distant galaxies. Sometimes, humanity's greatest fault is assuming we are the best of the best. Other people just might have ideas that are better than ours. Just because WE think one thing doesn't mean we are always right. Our God created all of us in his image and likeness. It really doesn't matter if we are white, brown, red, yellow - or green. And Uncle Marty, if aliens landed in Kirby Park, it would prove that God's love and his creative spirit are universal.



Now You Know.... From the PLC

What is an Epiphany?

"Epiphany" is from a Greek word that means "manifestation", a showing or revelation. Today's Feast of the Epiphany is actually one of *four* epiphanies, *four* times Scripture manifests something very special about Jesus. First, the Nativity. The angels revealed the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, to Israel, the Chosen People. Second, the Feast of the Epiphany. Before the liturgical calendar changed we celebrated this Feast on January 6, the Twelfth Night. This reveals the Messiah to the Magi and shows that Jesus came for all Nations. The gifts of the Magi are epiphanies, too, revealing truths about Christ. The gold reveals He is King; the frankincense manifests His priesthood in the order of Melchizedek; and the myrrh, used to anoint bodies for burial, shows His Passion and Death. Many cultures exchange gifts on Epiphany in memory of the gifts of the Magi. Third, the Baptism of Jesus. Although Jesus had no need of Baptism, His consent anticipates His Baptism of Blood on the Cross and acceptance of His mission on earth. When Jesus accepts, His Father proclaims His delight. The trinity is revealed: we hear the Father's voice; we see the Son, and the Holy Spirit arrives in the form of a dove. Fourth, the miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. Jesus performs His first public miracle and reveals His Divinity. By changing the water into wine Jesus responds to a very human need in a way that manifests His Divinity. Mary saying, "Do whatever He tells you." (John 2:5) is great advice, which will take us a lifetime to carry out! These epiphanies remind us to share our gifts and the Good News of Jesus so we can be epiphanies to others. *Now you know!*

Deacon Steve

Finance Council Meeting

The Finance Council of Our Lady of Hope will have its first meeting of 2026 on Monday, January 5th, at 7:00 PM in the rectory.

