

# Our Lady of Hope Parish

**Parish Office**  
570-852-5303  
570-852-5310 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.

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

# 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 8, 2026



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, February 7

4:00 PM Constance "Connie" Plewniak -  
Kathleen Lloyd

### Sunday, February 8

9:00 AM Mary Lynch - John, Helene & Jennifer  
Jewell

### Tuesday, February 10

8:00 AM People of the Parish

### Friday, February 13

8:00 AM Tom Woods - Albert Mrackoski

### Saturday, February 14

4:00 PM Ernest Jendrzejewski - Mayor Carl Kuren

### Sunday, February 15

9:00 AM Edward Blazejewski - Son, David  
Blazejewski & Family

### Votives

Sanctuary - In Memory of Christian Royek  
By Godmother, Ellie & Aunt Sharon

### Please pray for the Sick of our Parish:

Deacon Joe DeVizia	William McLaughlin
Lindsay Kurtz	Ron Reiss
Theresa Belcastro	Helen Novak
Mary Pat Gill	

### Weekend of January 25th

<u>Sunday Collection</u>	\$3,419.50
<u>Loose</u>	159.00
<u>Dues</u>	560.50
<u>Taxes</u>	375.00
<u>Air Conditioning</u>	168.00
<u>Charities</u>	84.00
<u>Fuel</u>	25.00
<u>Latin America</u>	108.00

### Weekend of February 1st

<u>Sunday Collection</u>	\$4,382.00
<u>Loose</u>	208.00
<u>Dues</u>	474.50
<u>Taxes</u>	174.00
<u>Air Conditioning</u>	117.00
<u>Maintenance</u>	65.00
<u>Fuel</u>	80.00
<u>Care and Education of Priests</u>	351.00
<u>Solemnity of Mary</u>	18.00
<u>Initial Offering</u>	30.00

## Our Lady of Hope has new phone numbers

Rectory # 570-852-5303 Fax# 570-852-5310

### Blessing of the Parish Hall

**Bishop Bambera will be here on Friday, February 13th, at 5:30 PM to bless our newly renovated Parish Hall.**

### Choco - Fest

Our "first" event in our freshly painted PARISH HALL, will be this Friday, February 13th. The starting time will be 5:00 PM to accommodate Bishop Bambera joining us to bless the hall and taste some of our chocolate delicacies. We remind you, the **Choco - Fest** is not a fundraiser. It is an opportunity to gather with our fellow parishioners, neighbors and friends to celebrate how the "family" of Our Lady of Hope - by pulling together - accomplished a giant step forward for the Parish. There is NO ENTRANCE FEE. We invite anyone who has a favorite Chocolate delight, and would like to share it with others, to bring it to the rectory on Thursday or Friday morning. This will allow us time to set up before the Bishop arrives. It's important to remember, you don't have to bring anything. We will provide coffee/tea and soft drinks. Just bring yourself and enjoy spending time with the "family" of Our Lady of Hope.

### Planned Parish Activities - thru July 2026

- Install bathrooms on the main level of the Church
- Chocolate-fest, Feb 13, 5:00-7:00 pm
- Stations of the Cross, Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm
- Evening Prayer, Sundays in Lent, 6:00 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
- Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, June
- Parish Family Picnic, July 12, Wilkes-Barre Twp. Settlement Camp

*To accomplish these activities we need volunteers to chair them. We have had someone volunteer to chair the Choco-Fest, but we still need chairpersons for the other events. If interested please call the rectory.*

### 50-50 Tickets

There will be 50-50 tickets sold at the doors of the church this weekend, and at the Choco-Fest. The drawing will be held at the end of the Choco-Fest. You do not have to be present to win. The proceeds will benefit our parish activities. Thank you for supporting Our Lady of Hope Parish.

### Christian Women

The Christian Women of Our Lady of Hope Parish will meet on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the parish rectory. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

**Scripture Reflection**

During the long winter we become keenly aware of the value of sunshine. The sun rises later in the morning and sets earlier in the afternoon; quite often it's gray and cloudy all day. Today we hear Jesus tell his disciples that they are to shine their light for all to see, as a lamp on a lampstand does. This winter, may we spread Christ's light to the world, bringing joy and life to darkness and gloom.

**What I would like you to PRAY ABOUT:**

Jesus told his followers, and through them - us, that they and we are the salt of the earth. Think of how bland our food would be if proper seasoning was not used. But let us also remember that salt is most effective when it doesn't attract attention to itself. In properly seasoned food, salt is not noticeable. We are to be the salt of the earth, but not in ways that focus on ourselves. How many times have we eaten something and said, "Wow. That was salty." We are to make the world a better place, but we should never be the focus of attention. When we do, we are taking away the attention that should be directed to God himself. Our job is to lead others to God. Let us pray we are aware of our task and be present in the world just enough to season it to perfection.

**Thoughts from Deacon Bill:**

On January 1, 1970 my Uncle Jack passed away - at the age of 43. I was a freshman at King's College when he died. He didn't exactly seem OLD to me, but at my age of 18, 43 was rather "mature." And now I have two of my own children who are older than my uncle when he died. He no longer seems so old. My uncle's death was a crushing blow to my grandmother. She had just turned 70 - and now I'm older than she when she passed away. As a deacon, I've witnessed more grieving than I ever thought possible. At a recent funeral I told the family, "I wish I had words to make the pain and sense of loss go away." As I was saying that I realized I DO have those words. As Catholic Christians, we believe Jesus spoke words of comfort to all who would follow him. "I am the way... all who follow me will NEVER die. We know Jesus conquered death, but we all too often fail to comprehend the total impact of those words. To me, they speak of death as a temporary separation, not an end. I feel the separation of life and life after death is very thin. Our loved ones are still by our side, still guiding us, still helping us. God IS love - and love we share with another human being never fully dies. Hopefully, these words can and will ease our minds when we lose someone dear. After all, we have God's word on the reality of eternal life.



**St. Joseph's Table**

For the month of February the request is for **Tea, Sugar and Sweeteners**. Thank you for helping those who are hungry and cold. God Bless you!



***Now You Know....  
From the PLC***

***Are there demon attacks and are they on the rise?***

A wider question might be, why does God allow people to suffer or be attacked by demons? People are not attacked by demons only, but even more so by fellow human beings. Demons cannot kill or maim, but humans can, and often do much greater harm than demons. Spiritually, demons can attack us in different ways such as temptation and depression. We are also affected spiritually by our own fears and our disordered, sinful actions. Moral evil exists because of abuse of freedom by humans and demons. God seldom intervenes in our free will, but He does limit the power of demons over us. We trust that God has a purpose when He allows people to suffer, most often it is to produce a greater good. We know He gives us the strength and graces necessary to deal with any attack. So, are these attacks on the rise? Most exorcists and pastors say yes. They also say the attacks are more severe and less hidden. It is not difficult to understand why. When people turn away from God and His commandments, the Mass, the Sacraments, and the spiritual life, they open themselves up to demonic influence and attacks. As our nation becomes less spiritual and more violent, more and more people are attacked and suffer. The dysfunction of families, the rise of sexual and physical abuse, and the loss of childhood innocence are some examples where the doors are left open for demons to attack. So we shouldn't be surprised at the rise in these attacks. We should never give in to them. We have great hope because we know the Sacraments, God's grace, guardian angels, prayer, and the ever-present fellowship of Jesus make a great defense. *Now you know!*

*Deacon Steve*

**Paschal Candle**

We will soon be ordering this year's Paschal Candle. This candle symbolizing the Light of Christ in our world., and is used at all baptisms and funerals. If anyone is interested in donating this candle in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a blessing received, please call the rectory.

**Interested in Donating**

We are also looking for donations to help offset the cost of installing the new bathroom in the church and purchasing a 6 foot statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. If interested , please call the rectory.

**Interested in being a Sacristan?**

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