

Our Lady of Hope Parish

40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

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 Office

570-852-5303

570-852-5310-Fax

www.ourladyofhope.us

Email: office@ourladyofhope.us

Facebook @olohfb

Office Hours

Monday Tuesday Thursday Friday

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Closed Wednesday

Bulletin Deadline

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

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday and Friday: 8:00 a.m.
(Main Church)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 3:15 – 3:45 p.m.

After 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 Diocesan 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

Reverend Mark DeCelles

Pastors Emeriti

Reverend John S. Terry, M.Div.

Reverend Theodors L. Obaza

Deacon

Deacon William Behm

Parish Secretary

Jean Behm

Business Manager

Suzanne Cosgrove

Director of Music

Andrea Yorkonis

Director of 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 to May.
Grades K-8, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 29

4:00 PM Paul Papsun Jr – Ann & Michael

Sunday, August 30

9:00 AM Peter Smeraglio – Family

Tuesday, September 1

8:00 AM Maureen Lynn – Diane & Colton Stilp

Friday, September 4

8:00 AM Edward Klauss – Carol & George Daru

Saturday, September 5

4:00 PM Joseph, Frances, & Christopher Jacobs –
Dave & Barbara Jacobs

Sunday, September 6

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration is held after weekday Masses until 9:00 a.m.,
and on Thursday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Votives

August 30th -September 5th

Sanctuary – End to World Hunger

Please pray for the Sick of our Parish

Deacon Joe DeViszia	William McLaughlin
Lindsay Kurtz	Ron Reiss
Theresa Belcastro	Helen Novak
Carolyn Graziano	Carol Aten
Judy Manganello	Theresa Talacka
Fr. John Terry	Carol Zafia
Pat Kinsman	Mary Greenburg

Weekend of August 23rd

Sunday Collection	\$4,561.75
Portion going to the Diocese	\$ 25.00
Remaining at OLOH	\$4,536.75
Stewardship	\$1,355.00

August 30, 2026

First Friday

This Friday, September 4th, is the first Friday of the month. Mass will be at 8:00 AM followed by devotions to the Sacred Heart and Benediction. Deacon Bill will visit our shut-ins sometime this week or early next week to distribute Holy Communion. If you or a loved one is home-bound and would like to be added to Deacon's First Friday list, please call the rectory.

AED & CPR Courses -All Are Welcome

Come join us for a FREE AED/CPR training to be held in our Ave Maria Hall on Friday, September 18th at 5:30 PM. We are grateful to have Margaret Austin, RN and Julia Carey, PA-C leading this training. Sign up sheets are at the church doors or call the rectory.

CCD Registration Time

CCD will resume classes on September 13. Registration will continue this Sunday, August 30 following the 9AM Mass in Ave Maria Hall. Fee is \$25 per child. Hope to see you all very soon! - Diane Lakkis

Stewardship Campaign

To date, our Stewardship Campaign has raised \$16,335, which is fantastic! We are very close to reaching our \$20,000 goal. If you have given, thank you very much. If you have not yet given, please consider making a donation. Because of your generosity in our weekly collections, we have sufficient funds for our normal operations and facility upkeep. In coordination with our Finance Council, Deacon Steve plans to use our Stewardship Campaign funds to enhance the liturgical environment of the Church and Ave Maria Hall. I look forward to your recommendations for these improvements. Thank you for supporting this campaign with your prayers, financial contributions, or both. You are helping to make Our Lady of Hope not only a VERY GOOD Parish, but a GREAT ONE!

Catholic Men's Conference – Save the Date

The Diocese of Scranton will hold the 11th Annual Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, October 10, 8:00-3:00, Holy Redeemer High School, Wilkes-Barre. Register at: www.BeACatholicMan.com

Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us as his disciples to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow him. None of these actions are easy. To put God's will before our own, to willingly accept what will make us suffer, and to follow someone who was put to death on the cross, is very difficult. But we will not be alone, for Jesus is with us as we follow him. Also, as he tells us in the Beatitudes, our reward will be great in heaven. Let us realize his real presence as we celebrate and receive the Eucharist.

What I want you to PRAY about: Today's gospel reflects on Peter's reaction to Jesus' telling of the suffering he himself would ultimately undergo. Peter showed his dismay, as any good friend would. Peter wanted to prevent his friend from suffering a painful death. Jesus' response, however, sets the record straight: "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." God's ways are not human ways. God's logic is not human logic. Our human understanding of suffering is insufficient – so much so that Jesus insists, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Let us pray we always recognize God's divinity and our humanity and, in St. Francis' words, *change what we can and accept what we cannot.*

Thoughts from Deacon Bill

While visiting our son and his family in Buffalo, we had to visit a tire shop that was right next to a diner, and we went in for coffee. When we were nearly finished, I looked at Jean's mug. There was a saying on it that read, *A good diner has open doors, open arms, and open hearts.* When I saw this, I thought of Our Lady of Hope Parish. We should have that same attitude. Everyone who walks through our doors with the hope of faith and acceptance should be welcomed through those open doors with open arms and open hearts. Imagine the difference we could make in our church – and in our world – if we did just that. We are called to love our God with our whole heart and our whole soul – and to love our fellow humans as we love ourselves. That diner captured these commandments in just a few words. In the true spirit of being Catholic-Christians, let us share our hearts and our love with the world. After all, our God is reflected in the faces of everyone who walks through our doors, regardless, of whether or not they look like us.



Now You Know... From the PLC

Why the Sign of the Cross?

We say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." We use our right hand to touch our forehead at the mention of the Father; the lower middle of our chest at the mention of the Son; and the left shoulder on the word "Holy" and the right shoulder on the word "Spirit." We then join hands saying, "Amen." The Sign of the Cross is not simply an action, but a prayer that we say with reverence. We shouldn't rush through it to start the next prayer (or to begin eating). It's a very common prayer. We use it to begin and end prayers; when we bless ourselves with Holy Water entering and leaving a church; when we begin Mass; and when we pass a Catholic church where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle. So why the Sign of the Cross? With it we profess the deepest mysteries of our Faith: 1) the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and 2) the saving work of Christ on the Cross. It is a creed, a statement of belief. It is the Gospel in a single motion. Because we make the Sign of the Cross so often, we may rush through it, to say the words and ignore the profound symbolism of tracing the shape of the Cross, the instrument of Christ's death and our salvation, on our own bodies. This creed is not simply a statement of belief, it is a vow to defend that belief, even if it means following Our Lord and Savior to our own cross. *Now you know!*

Deacon Steve

St Joseph's Table

Donations for **St. Joseph's Table** which go to the **St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen** have a NEW location. The collection container, along with a statue of St. Joseph, is now in the vestibule of the church (Park Avenue church entrance). For the month of September, the St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen requests **Baked Beans**. Thank you for remembering the homeless and hungry in our community. God Bless You!

Parish Picnic

Our picnic scheduled for September 20 is postponed to Father's Day, June 20, 2027.

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