

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 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.

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

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 through May.
Grades K-8 10:00 am - 11:00 am

40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

We are now on Facebook
@olohwb

5th Sunday in Lent



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 21

4:00 PM Joseph E Sobeck - Wife, Mary

Sunday, March 22

9:00 AM For the People of the Parish

Tuesday, March 24

8:00 AM Thomas Heiser, Sr - Albert Mrackoski

Friday, March 27

8:00 AM Mary Buckley - Niece, Mary Frances

Saturday, March 28

4:00 PM Joseph Pekol - Shirley Klauss

Sunday, March 29

9:00 AM Lena Flynn - Robert, Sharon & Sean Flynn

Votives

Sanctuary - In Memory of David & Theresa Richards
By Children & Family

Blessed Mother - In Memory of Vincent Aleo
By Wife & Family

Please pray for the Sick of our Parish:

Deacon Joe DeVizia	William McLaughlin
Lindsay Kurtz	Ron Reiss
Theresa Belcastro	Helen Novak
Joseph Mrozoski	Albert Mrackoski
Judy Manganello	

Typical monthly income **\$20,000**

Monthly assessments paid to Diocese **\$9,400**

Key monthly bills: utilities, phones, salaries **\$6,000**

These are the averages for my 5 months as OLOH PLC. As you can see, we have to manage our finances closely. We truly appreciate your generosity and support. Now you know why we ask you for donations for specific items that will help enhance our parish life, programs, and activities. Our project list seeking your donations currently includes:

- Handicap-accessible bathrooms-main level of Church
 - St Joseph statue, to balance with Mary on other side
 - Church signs: metal front & rear, and front computerized
- It's a great time to share your gifts of time, talent, & treasure.

March 22, 2026

Lenten Services

Stations of the Cross - Fridays at 5:30 pm

Evening Prayer - Sundays at 6:00 pm

Adoration with Confessions - Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 pm

The Light is on for You

Our Lady of Hope - Confessions - Thursdays, 6-7:00 pm

St. Nicholas St. Mary - Confessions - Mondays, 5-6:00 pm

Wilkes-Barre Deanery Penance Service

St. Nicholas St. Mary Parish will host a Deanery Penance Service this Tuesday, March 24th, from 5 to 6:30 pm. There will be multiple priests available to hear confessions. Please take this opportunity to receive the sacrament of Penance.

Lenten Holy Hour with Bishop Bambera

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery will hold its Lenten Holy Hour at Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Plains this Tuesday, March 24th, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

Daily Lenten Exercises

Sunday, March 22 - Ask Jesus to free you from what binds your heart.

Monday, March 23 - Extend mercy to someone today.

Tuesday, March 24 - Pray for deeper trust in God's presence.

Wednesday, March 25 - Say "yes" to God in a specific way.

Thursday, March 26 - Choose one of Jesus' teachings that you struggle with and ask Him to strengthen your fidelity to His word.

Friday, March 27 - Pray for persecuted Christians.

Saturday, March 28 - Prepare your heart for Holy Week.

3rd Scrutiny

This Sunday Richard Partington, Amy Michaels, and Brian Magness will continue their journey toward becoming Roman Catholics by experiencing the Third and final Scrutiny. Please keep these three amazing people in your prayers.

St. Anthony Novena

Our 13 week devotion to St. Anthony will continue this Tuesday, March 24th, at 5:30 pm.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation is held on Sundays in Ave Maria Hall from 10:15 to 11:15 am while our children attend their Religious Education classes. All are invited to participate.

St. Joseph's Table

For the month of March the request is for **Coffee and Tea**. Thank you for helping those who are hungry and cold. God Bless you!

Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel is not just about the resurrection of Lazarus. It is also about ours. Because the Spirit lives in us, death has no power over us. We, too, will share in Christ's resurrection. May this hope inspire and guide us through these final days of Lent.

What I would like you to PRAY ABOUT:

As in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus again reiterates that God is not vindictive but instead works through all things. When he hears of Lazarus' illness, Jesus responds, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Jesus invites us to see God's presence in all things, even the moments that are most challenging, and to remain faithful to God's promise. May we always put faith over doubt as we face challenges in our lives.

Thoughts from Deacon Bill:

Sometimes I think we are living in a world gone astray. I see on the news of another attack on a Jewish Synagogue that risked the lives of 140 children. Too many of us lump people into categories and decide they will hate based upon a particular one. I want to tell you a little bit about my Uncle Jack. He was a bus driver for Martz and when I was three, promised to take me on trips with him once I turned five. I remember showing him five fingers and saying, "I'm this many now. Where will we go first?" That first trip was to New York City. Many trips followed. I grew up thinking of Uncle Jack as a second father. My Uncle Jack was really my Uncle Jacob - and yes, he was Jewish. I never thought of him as anything but a favorite uncle, though. He thought of himself as a Jewish Christian, and his only son died while in the seminary preparing for priesthood. My wish is everyone in the world had an Uncle Jacob. I know the world would be a better and more peaceful place if we did. But remember, we all have a Jewish brother - Jesus of Nazareth. He urged us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Two thousand years later, we are still struggling to do just that. Let's redouble our efforts.

**Finance Council Meeting**

Our Lady of Hope Finance Council will meet this Monday, March 23rd, at 6:00 pm in the Rectory.

Christian Women Meeting

The Christian Women of Our Lady of Hope Parish will meet this Wednesday, March 25th, in the Rectory. All women are invited to attend.

Parish Pilgrimage to St. Francis Monastery, DC

We have scheduled a bus trip, June 10, to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the St. Francis Monastery, Wash D.C. In this Jubilee Year of St Francis, this trip gains us pilgrims a plenary indulgence.

***Now You Know...
From the PLC******Does God forget our sins when we confess them?***

The Season of Lent is a great time to examine our lives and confess our sins in the Sacrament of Penance. Does God forget those sins? Two Scripture citations appear to indicate He does. "You will cast all our sins into the depth of the sea" (Micah 7:19) and "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities and remember their sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12). However, God is omniscient and cannot forget. These verses really mean that God *forgives* our sins. However, forgiveness does not remove the effects of sin or the punishments. For example, kids playing baseball in their yard hit a ball that flies into the neighbor's yard and breaks a window. The kids apologize to the owner and he forgives them. However, the window needs fixed, there must be reparation. So when we die some finishing work is needed due to our sins. "And just as it is appointed for human beings to die once, and after that comes judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Any lingering imperfections and reparations must be purged. This is our understanding of Purgatory. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) says, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of Heaven" (CCC #1030). St. Paul gives us great insight when he writes, "each man's work will become manifest; for the (Judgment) Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done" (1 Corinthians 3:13). The Bible points to this final perfecting when it says God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes (Revelation 21:4). *Now you know!*

Deacon Steve

Rectory, Set, Cook

Voting for Rectory, Set, Cook continues until 4 pm on Friday, March 27th. To vote (\$10/vote) for our Parish Team led by Fr. Mark, along with Deacon Steve and Deacon Bill, just go to dioceseofscranton.org and click on Ready, Set, Cook. The proceeds benefit the hungry and homeless in our diocese. Thank you for helping those in need.

Night at the Races

Our Lady of Hope will sponsor a Night at the Races on Saturday, April 11th, in Ava Maria Hall. If you would like to purchase a horse (\$10), your entrance ticket will be free. Horses will be sold after weekend masses at church exits. Races can be sponsored for \$25.

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