

# 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.

**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

## 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday, January 31

4:00 PM David Albosta - Antellocy Family

#### Sunday, February 1

9:00 AM Deceased Members of L.A.O.H. -  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

#### Tuesday, February 3

8:00 AM For the People of the Parish

#### Friday, February 6

8:00 AM James Wasilewski - Claire Cohen  
& Family

#### Saturday, February 7

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

#### Sunday, February 8

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

#### Votives

Sanctuary - 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
Mary Pat Gill	

#### Blessing of Throats

Tuesday, February 3rd, is the Feast of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr. There will be a general blessing of throats with the availability of individual blessings at the 4 PM mass on Saturday, January 31st, the 9 AM mass on Sunday, February 1st, and the 8 AM mass on Tuesday, February 3rd.

#### Weekend of January 18th

<u>Sunday Collection</u>	\$3,081.00
<u>Loose</u>	352.00
<u>Dues</u>	1,038.00
<u>Taxes</u>	115.00
<u>Air Conditioning</u>	35.00
<u>Solemnity of Mary</u>	88.00
<u>Maintenance Fund</u>	58.00
<u>First Offering</u>	45.00
<u>Christmas</u>	70.00
<u>Care &amp; Education of Priests</u>	12.00
<u>Campaign for Human Development</u>	88.00

February 1, 2026

#### We Have a NEW Number!!!

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 on 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 - 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, 5:00 pm
- 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, 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 Lent and Advent, 6:00 pm

*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.*

### Scripture Reflection

Matthew structures his Gospel around five lengthy sermons of Jesus and today we hear the beginning of the first of them, the well-known and oft-quoted Sermon on the Mount. It can be a challenge to hear it as the radical departure from conventional thinking, that it was when Jesus first spoke these words from the mountaintop. May we ask God for the grace to realign our ideals and realize the kingdom of heaven.

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

While certainly future-oriented, the reality of the Beatitudes is also very present in today's world. While we look forward to the day when all will be comforted and no one will go hungry, we cannot ignore the real needs of so very many people in our world today. We cannot allow ourselves to treat the words of Jesus in today's Gospel as something that will only occur at the end of time. The kingdom of God is both **here** and **not yet**. While we wait for the coming of the fullness of God's Kingdom, we must actively assist in the building of God's Kingdom on earth...today. This is the task of discipleship. Let us pray we are up to the task!

### Thoughts from Deacon Bill:

When I was in high school, I was far from being a shining star. I just wasn't motivated and didn't know how to study. One of my luckiest days was when King's College admitted me to the Class of 1973. It was there when academics began to assert itself - but not right away. My MOST lucky day was when a certain redhead entered my life. I remember when she invited me to her house "to study." I showed up at the correct time, but when she answered the door, she just stared at me. She said, "Where are your books?" And she sent me home to get them. After that night's awakening took root, I even got a letter from the Academic Dean congratulating me on my grades. Even I noticed I did better when I did more than carry my books to class. I wonder how many of us try to go through life, and yes - our spiritual life, without exerting any effort at all. I thought all I had to do in college was buy the books. Too many of us think being Catholic means being baptized and attend mass every now and then. Being an active and practicing Catholic BEGINS when mass ends. It involves searching for Christ's face in everyone we meet. If we do that, and offer loving respect to those we encounter, we will be one of Jesus' shining stars.



### 50-50 Tickets

There will be 50-50 tickets sold at the doors of the church this weekend, next 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.



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

***When people leave Mass early they do the Judas shuffle.***

The Code of Canon Law (No. 1247) says, "*On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.*" Notice it doesn't say participate in "part" or "certain parts" of the Mass. It says, "participate in the Mass", the whole thing. The word "Mass" comes from the Latin, *Ite missa est*, meaning "*Go forth, the Mass is ended.*" The Mass is a transmission of God's grace and a commission to go forth and preach the Good News.

When people leave before the Blessing and Dismissal they insult Jesus and the congregation. Think about it. Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper. He commanded us to "Do this in memory of Me." After Jesus gave His Body and Blood to His disciples, Judas left. He didn't go back to his pew and pray. He turned his back on God. Jesus and the Eleven then went out and sang hymns to God. Judas didn't sing the recessional hymn. He did the *Judas shuffle*.

At Mass Jesus draws close and opens the Scriptures to us. He gives Himself completely to us in His Body and Blood. At the Blessing and Dismissal Jesus gives us we must take into the world. We become Christ to others. We need to live the Mass. It defines our Christian life. Ours is a life of self-giving, a life in Christ. We should always be there for God's Blessing and His sending us forth to live our lives in Christ. When we leave without His blessing and sending forth, we do the *Judas shuffle*, which leads us away from God.

*Now you know!*

***Deacon Steve***

### Parish Council Meeting

There will be a meeting for the current members of our Parish Council on Monday, February 2nd, at 6 pm in the rectory. Any parishioner interested in being part of Parish Council is invited to attend.

### 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!

### 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.