

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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 24

4:00 PM Robert Delescavage - Rick Marosellent

Sunday, January 25

9:00 AM Frank E Buczynski - Daughter,
Mary Frances

Tuesday, January 27

8:00 AM For the People of the Parish

Friday, January 30

8:00 AM Matthew Zedolik - Cathy & Roger
Lloyd

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

Votives

Blessed Mother - Tedd Richards By Brothers

Please pray for the Sick of our Parish:

Deacon Joe DeVizia	William McLaughlin
Lindsay Kurtz	Ron Reiss
Monica Jendrzejewski	Theresa Belcastro
Helen Novak	Deacon Steve Frye

Christmas 2025

Collection	\$21,231.00
Flowers	2,542.00

Thank You

Our God continues to send us his blessings each and every moment of our lives. Christmas is a prime example of his loving and generous nature. Our Creator God, our all powerful God, humbled himself by becoming one of his creation. This incredible gift of God's own self is staggering. We would like to recognize your personal gift to the Body of Christ - the church. Your generosity warms our hearts - and will help warm our parish buildings as well. You have returned God's love with your own. Our parish is stronger because of you! You are - and always will be in our thoughts and prayers in 2026 and beyond. Thank you and God Bless!

January 25, 2026

We Have a NEW Number!!!

Our Lady of Hope has new phone numbers.

Rectory # 570-852-5303

Fax# 570-852-5310

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.

Chocolate Fest

You are invited to attend the "first" event in our freshly painted PARISH HALL, on Friday, February 13th, from 5:30 until 7:00 pm. We remind you, the **Chocolate 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 along. It doesn't have to be a lot, just a bit to share. 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.

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.

St. Joseph's Table

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

St. Al's Cold Cash Bingo

A cash bingo will be held Sunday, February 1, 2026 in St. Al's Church Hall. Doors will open at 12 noon with bingo beginning at 1:00pm.
Win \$100 per game with 15 Regular games of bingo.
Win \$250 per game with 4 Special games of bingo.
Win \$500 with 1 Cover All.
Raffle Baskets, 50/50, food and beverages for sale.
Tickets : \$25.00 in advance
\$30.00 at the door

Scripture Reflection

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus call his first disciples. "Come after me," he calls out to the first two. "Follow me," he says to two more. We are the ones Jesus calls out to now. Today is the Sunday of the Word of God, the day Pope Francis chose to dedicate to the proclamation, the study, and the celebration of the scriptures. The call of the first disciples also reminds us of Jesus' own words. His words invite us to a deeper commitment, to one like Peter and Andrew and James and John made with him. May the word of God inspire us to enter our discipleship more deeply.

What I would like you to PRAY ABOUT:

The first disciples were fishermen by trade. This means they made their living by patiently waiting to bring in catches of fish. Jesus saw this gift in them. Patience would be necessary when sharing the Good News of the Christ. These men were used to hard days of labor, often with few fish to show for their efforts. The same would be true when they began preaching, and teaching, and healing. Jesus saw the unique gifts of these fishermen and said, "I can use your gifts - and I can use YOU." Jesus says the same thing to each one of us. Just think, Jesus says he can use Your gifts, and he can use YOU. Take these thoughts to God in prayer, asking him to lead you where your talents and personality can help him most. And then follow him there.

Thoughts from Deacon Bill:

When our kids were very young, we adopted a young English Springer Spaniel from the S.P.C.A. He ended up becoming an important and much-loved member of our family, but his earliest days with us were a bit "rocky". Not long after adopting Winston, Christmas was upon us. We went on our annual visit to Helen and Ed's Tree Farm and cut down a beautiful spruce tree. After putting it in its stand in our living room we let it relax for awhile. This meant hot chocolate for the family in the kitchen. While we talked over the day and casually mentioned Santa's naughty and nice lists, I looked into the living room to admire the tree. When I did, I saw Winston as he assumed a live tree in the living room meant "indoor plumbing." Our middle child looked at me and said, **"We're keeping the tree AND THE DOG, right?"** We did. Winston became my kids' best friend. We even still have a picture of him on our refrigerator. Sometimes I wonder if God ever looks at us after we do something that displeases him and just loves us anyway. Actually, I'm sure he does. God's love is forever! He's always ready to forgive and forget. Nobody has to look at God after we disappoint him - and say, "You're keeping me ,right?" He'd never even dream of doing anything else.



Now You Know.... From the PLC

Just before the Priest receives Holy Communion in Mass, he breaks off a small piece of the consecrated host and places it in the Chalice. Why? This liturgical action of the mixing of a particle of the Sacred Host with the Precious Blood is called *commingling*. The Priest says quietly, "May this *commingling* of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to those who receive it." These words show the significance of the action and express the desire that the promise of Jesus will be fulfilled when we receive Holy Communion. Jesus said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day" (John 6:54). This expresses our desire that we may receive life from Him who is life itself. Historically, the *commingling* action came about from the practice of the local Bishop sending a small part of a host that he had consecrated to each of his Parish Churches. This signified the unity of the Bishop with all his Parishes. The Pastors *commingled* the small piece of the host they received from the Bishop in their own Chalices as a sign of unity. Over the centuries the original meaning of this practice was lost and the Church discontinued this practice. Today, *commingling* can be seen as an image of the Resurrection since the Holy Body and Precious Blood are "reunited" in the Chalice. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, No. 83, says that this *commingling* action is to "signify the unity of the Body and Blood of the Lord in the work of salvation, namely, of the Body of Jesus Christ, living and glorious." *Now you know!*

Deacon Steve

Planned Parish Activities - 2026

- Install bathrooms on the main level of the Church
- Chocolate-fest, Feb 13, 5:30-7:00 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 Advent, 6:00 pm

To accomplish these activities we need volunteers to chair them. If interested in being the chairperson for any one event (or more if willing) please call the rectory.

