

# 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

**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

40 Park Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

We are now on Facebook  
@olohwb

# 4th Sunday of Lent



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, March 14

4:00 PM For the People of the Parish

### Sunday, March 15

9:00 AM Ernest Jendrzejewski - Christian Women

### Tuesday, March 17

8:00 AM Mooneen & John Paul Bielecki - Husband  
& Father, John Bielecki

### Friday, March 20

8:00 AM Genevieve Buczynski - Godchild, MaryFrances

### Saturday, March 21

4:00 PM Joseph E Sobeck - Wife, Mary

### Sunday, March 22

9:00 AM For the People of the Parish

### Votives

Votives 3 & 1 - In Memory of Joseph E. Sobeck  
By Wife, Mary

Blessed Mother - In Memory of Raymond Ondish  
By Sister, Rose Marie

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

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

### Weekend of March 8th

<u>Sunday Collection</u>	\$4,001.00
<u>Loose</u>	330.00
<u>Dues</u>	270.00
<u>Air Conditioning</u>	60.00
<u>Fuel</u>	86.00
<u>Charity</u>	53.00
<u>Lenten Sacrifice</u>	200.00
<u>Rice Bowl</u>	5.00
<u>Care &amp; Education of Priests</u>	39.00
<u>Catholic Social Services</u>	60.00
<u>Maintenance Fund</u>	5.00
<u>Ash Wednesday</u>	15.00
<u>First Offering</u>	10.00
<u>Catholic Relief</u>	120.00
<u>Campaign for Human Development</u>	40.00
<u>Christmas</u>	20.00
<u>Cemetery: Holy Trinity</u>	204.00
<u>St. Mary's Maternity</u>	562.00

# March 15, 2026

### Lenten Services

Stations of the Cross - Fridays at 5:30 pm

Evening Prayer - Sundays at 6:00 pm

Adoration with Confessions - Thursdays, 6-7 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 on 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 on Tuesday, March 24th, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

### Daily Lenten Exercises

**Sunday, March 15** - Ask Jesus to heal any blindness in your heart.

**Monday, March 16** - Pray for someone in need of healing.

**Tuesday, March 17** - Bring a deep burden to Christ.

**Wednesday, March 18** - Spend 10 minutes in silence seeking God's will.

**Thursday, March 19** - Ask St. Joseph to watch over your family.

**Friday, March 20** - Pray for patience in an unsettled situation.

**Saturday, March 21** - Read a Gospel passage as if hearing Jesus' voice for the first time.

### Special Presentation of the "Holy Face"

On Sunday, March 29th, at 10:30 am in Ava Maria Hall, Ms. Tamaro Klapatch will show and discuss the Veil of Manoppello. The "Volto Santo" or "Holy Face" is one of the most revered relics in Christianity. According to tradition, the veil absorbed the very first breath of the Risen Christ. This presentation is open to everyone.

### 2nd Scrutiny

Richard Partington, Amy Michaels, and Brian Magness continue their journey toward becoming Roman Catholics. This weekend, our three Elect of God will experience the Second Scrutiny. Please keep these three amazing people in your prayers.

### Christian Women Meeting

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

### St. Anthony Novena

Our 13 week devotion to St. Anthony will begin on this Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

### Meetings - in the Rectory

**Liturgy Committee** - Monday, March 16th, 6:00 pm

**Finance Council** - Monday, March 23rd, 6:00 pm

Scripture Reflection

The lengthy exchange in today's Gospel between the formerly blind man and the Pharisees serves as a reminder that we are all born blind and are given our sight at baptism, when we are first able to see through the eyes of faith. As our Lenten journey continues, let us pray that God will continue to open our eyes to his truth.

What I would like you to PRAY ABOUT:

Today's gospel shows a reality that we often encounter in our world today. When confronted with a man experiencing blindness, Jesus' disciples question what type of sin could have caused this lack of sight. When we encounter difficulties today - disability, illness, or loss - it is not uncommon to think, "God must be punishing me for my sins." We should always remember Jesus' response to the disciples' question. It's not a punishment. Each of us can make the works of God visible through us by our lives. Let us pray we can be true to this statement even during difficult and trying times.

Thoughts from Deacon Bill:

I just got a text from my son, Mark. He's on a business trip to Arizona and wanted me to know he arrived safely. That's a comfort. Every parent wants to know their child is safe. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if everyone we know who has gone to heaven would be able to let us know they have arrived safely. Our faith tells us they will, but we are human beings, not saints and angels. Doubt is part of the human condition. And that just might be part of "the plan." If we knew all things, faith would never be part of our equation. If we had no doubts our belief would not be faith. I'm convinced that Jesus really didn't know at the moment of his death that he was the Son of God. If he KNEW what was on the other side of the Cross, his sacrifice would have been different. He was no less than God, but no more than man. His divine curiosity led to the Incarnation as much as winning our salvation did. That's a wonderful thing about Jesus. He understands all things - even doubt. May our days on this side of eternity be faith-filled. One day we WILL understand things better than we do now. But for now, **keep the faith!**



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

*How are we doing with our metanoia?*

Our sins sap us of our spiritual energy. Lent is a time to recharge ourselves. Just as Satan tempted Christ for 40 days in the desert, Satan tempts us every day of our lives. We celebrate Lent to change our hearts and minds to respond like Jesus did so we can become more Christ-like. We call this change *metanoia*. During Lent the Church invites us to take a step back and look at who we are and how we are doing in response to God's call for us to grow in holiness. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (No. 1438) says, "The seasons and days of Penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works)." So, how are we doing at our *metanoia*? Lent is the perfect opportunity for us to form new life-giving habits and give up old self-destructive habits. It is a time to explore God's plan for us and what it means to be more Christ-like. We can choose all or any combination of the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Our choices lead to our *metanoia*. We can accept ourselves as we are or we can challenge ourselves to respond to Satan's temptations. Let's take these last 14 days of Lent and change our hearts and minds to be more like Christ? *Now you know!*

*Deacon Steve*

Interested in being a Sacristan?

We transitioned to high school aged sacristans. Duties include setting up for mass and ensuring all vessels and books are serviced after mass. If anyone is interested, please contact Deacon Steve or call the rectory.

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 Priests/Chefs are all pictured. Find Fr. Mark and vote/donate. The proceeds benefit the hungry and homeless in our diocese. Thank you for helping those in need.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation will be held on Sundays in Ava Maria Hall from 10:15 to 11:15 am while our children are attending Religious Education classes. All are invited to attend.

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!

Interested in Donating

We are continuing to accept donations to help offset the cost of installing a new bathroom in the church, purchasing a St. Joseph statue, installing exterior OLOH Church signs with mass times, and installing Sanctuary handrails. If interested, please call the rectory.

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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