

# Our Lady of Hope Parish

**Parish Office**  
570-852-5303  
570-852-5310 Fax  
[www.ourladyofhope.us](http://www.ourladyofhope.us)  
Email: [office@ourladyofhope.us](mailto: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.

**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

**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.

## 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



### Saturday, January 17

4:00 PM Chester Kwashnik, Jr. & Helen Ackerman  
- Elaine

### Sunday, January 18

9:00 AM Mark Mazzillo - Jeff & Carol Carter

### Tuesday, January 20

8:00 AM Kathleen Gill - Sister Mary Beth, S.C.M.  
& Paul S Makuch

### Friday, January 23

8:00 AM Ann Marie Finnegan - Russ Halchak

### Saturday, January 24

4:00 PM Robert Delescavage - Rick Marosellent

### Sunday, January 25

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

**Sanctuary** - David & Theresa Richards By Children  
And Family

### 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

### Weekend of January 11th

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	\$3,817.00
<u>Loose</u>	187.00
<u>Dues</u>	682.00
<u>Maintenance Fund</u>	524.00
<u>1st Offering</u>	121.00
<u>Christmas</u>	137.00
<u>Care &amp; Education of Priests</u>	126.00
<u>Cemetery: Holy Trinity</u>	154.00
<u>St. Mary's Maternity</u>	775.00

### Closing of 2025 Financial Books

Our financial books for 2025 will close this Sunday, January 18, 2026. All offerings that come in after that date will be credited to 2026.

### 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.

### We Have a NEW Number!!!

Our Lady of Hope has new phone numbers.  
**Rectory # 570-852-5303**  
**Fax# 570-852-5310**

**January 18, 2026**



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

*Is Baptism necessary for salvation?  
Absolutely!*

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) states, "Baptism is necessary for salvation for those who to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for the Sacrament. The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude." (CCC 1257). Our Catholic Faith is based on Sacred Scripture and Tradition. There are several key Biblical references that support the Church's teaching on the necessity of Baptism. After telling His disciples to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15), Jesus says, "Whoever believes and is baptized, will be saved" (Mark 16:16). He also tells His disciples to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Why would Jesus insist that they baptize people if it was unnecessary? Jesus also says, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit" (John 3:5). When asked about salvation, St. Peter says, "Repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38) and when referring to the waters of the great flood in Noah's time, St. Peter says, "This prefigured baptism, which saves you now" (1 Peter 3:21). Remember, during the Sacrament of Marriage the couple promises to raise their children in the Faith. This includes deciding to have the infant baptized, not waiting for the child to make that critical decision. To gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism, read CCC 1213-1284, and to gain a deeper understanding of the necessity of Baptism, read CCC 1257-1261.

*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
- Pot luck/soup before Stations of the Cross, 5:30 – 7:00 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 and social, 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 (individually or as a group). Please think about it, pray about it and if interested in chairing an event (or more than one if willing) please call the rectory.*

**Parish Financial Report—Our Lady of Hope-Trend Analysis**

	Fiscal Yr July 1-June 30				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>					
Collections	345,470	346,457	351,639	299,826	333,694
Faith Formation					
Fees	419	500	390	415	1,135
Fundraising/					
Development	52,500	69,155	69,103	126,172	86,582
Other Income	29,947	38,856	80,124	44,476	48,231
Designated Income/					
Grants/PPP Loan	4,000	3,000	-	-	-
Transfers Savings					
Account/Other	55,580	6,409	54,583	91,447	-
Diocesan Special					
Collections	12,104	17,636	2,706	3,359	16,475
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>500,020</b>	<b>482,013</b>	<b>558,545</b>	<b>565,695</b>	<b>486,116</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Administration	205,216	195,163	190,735	184,673	174,190
Rectory	35,262	29,294	31,885	23,008	15,541
Liturgy	43,768	42,015	38,693	43,187	44,298
Faith Formation	3,341	4,016	6,961	3,429	4,487
Social Justice	-	3,608	-	-	-
Op & Maint					
Of Plant	163,386	89,708	92,021	97,891	85,250
Fixed Expense	54,873	46,501	43,321	41,781	40,042
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlays	26,568	-	4,011	139,810	19,955
Designated Exp/					
Transfers Out	7,315	17,380	50,000	32,145	11,600
Catholic School					
Assessment	64,444	67,644	79,450	70,476	70,656
Diocesan Special					
Coll. Remittance	4,044	16,386	7,120	13,932	11,592
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>608,217</b>	<b>511,715</b>	<b>544,196</b>	<b>650,332</b>	<b>477,610</b>
<b>Parish Surplus/</b>					
<b>(Deficit) -</b>					
<b>CASH Basis</b>	<b>(108,197)</b>	<b>(29,702)</b>	<b>14,348</b>	<b>(84,612)</b>	<b>8,481</b>
<b>(Increase)/Decrease</b>					
<b>In Unpaid Diocesan</b>					
<b>Obligations(See Note)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>					
	<b>(108,197)</b>	<b>(29,702)</b>	<b>14,348</b>	<b>(86,612)</b>	<b>8,481</b>

\*\*NOTE\*\*

**Outstanding Diocesan Obligations could include: Diocesan assessments, School assessments, health insurance, self-insurance, pension and other expenses.**

**End of year Unpaid**

<b>Diocesan Obligations</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Begin of year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>(Increase)/Decrease</b>					
<b>In Unpaid Obligation</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>(25)</b>
<b>Diocesan Loan/Debt</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**Understanding Your Financial Report**

**Revenue**

**Collections:** include all offertory envelopes, online giving and loose collections, including for holidays, Holy Days and any special collection (flowers) envelopes.

**Faith Formation Fees:** include all registration and program fees for both faith formation and adults programs.

**Fundraising/Development:** includes any gifts or donations that are not regular parish offertory, bequests and memorials, parish activities (dinners, picnics, bingo, lottery, etc.) donations from parish societies and any parish rebate from the Diocesan Annual Appeal (75% over goal is refunded to the parish)

**Other Income:** includes rental of facilities, insurance refunds, interest income, sale of assets, funeral/wedding perquisites or any other income.

**Designated Income/Grants/PPP Loan:** includes donations or grants specifically earmarked for a designated purpose, reimbursements from linked parishes to help cover expenses and any Paycheck Protection Plan grant income.

**Transfers Savings Account/Other:** includes transfers from bank accounts that are excluded from operating income or have already been reported as operating income.

**Diocesan Special Collections:** are special collections (Care & Education of Priests or Emergency collections following a natural disaster) which get remitted back to the diocese.

**Expenses**

**Administration:** includes clergy salary and benefits, office staff salary and benefits, administrative expenses, telephone, computer services, postage, printing, envelopes and the Cathedraticum (9.5% parish assessment to the Diocese) and Clergy Care and Wellness Assessment

**Rectory:** expenses include the costs to run and maintain the rectory, as well as household expense for the pastor(s)/parish life coordinator.

**Liturgy:** includes salaries and benefits for musicians and liturgical staff including directors, musicians and sacristans. This also includes all liturgical equipment and supplies (printed materials, candles, flowers, decorations etc.)

**Faith Formation:** includes salaries and benefits of faith formation director and staff, including family and/or youth director. This also includes the cost of all textbooks and supplies, retreats, etc.

**Social Justice:** includes all social justice salaries and benefits, as well as the cost of all social justice expenses.

**Operation & Maintenance of Plant:** includes salaries and benefits of all maintenance staff. This also includes the occupancy costs of the parish building, including electricity, heat, water, cleaning, janitorial, repairs and maintenance, and any plant and maintenance supplies.

**Fixed expense:** includes insurance premiums from the Diocesan self-insured program for property, liability and workers compensation, real estate taxes and rental of facilities.

**Debt Service:** includes the interest and principal payments paid on outstanding parish debt

**Capital Outlays** includes any major repairs on the parish building or site or any new construction costs.

**Designated Expenses/Transfers Out:** includes all expenses designated for a specific purpose or transfers out to savings/building fund.

**Catholic School Assessments** paid are included here. These represent the parish's portion allocated for the support of the Diocese of Scranton Catholic School System which are 14.5% for a parish with a Catholic School it its county and 8% if there is no school in its county.

**Diocesan Special Collections Remittance** are the remittals of the Diocesan collections above.

**Parish Surplus/Deficit-Cash Basis** represents the increase or decrease in parish cash balances from the beginning of the year to the end of the year on a cash basis based on actual expensed paid.

**Increase/Decrease in unpaid Diocesan Obligations** represents the change in the parish's unpaid obligations over the year. If there is an increase in unpaid obligations, this number will be negative. If the parish reduced its unpaid obligations, this will be a positive number.

Actual Parish Net Surplus/(Deficit) value is the sum of the parish surplus/deficit and the increase/decrease of unpaid Diocesan obligations. The cash balance represents the net effect of operating activity on a cash basis. If a parish is current on all of its obligations, there would be no difference between the cash and Actual Parish Net Surplus/Deficit. However, if a parish is unable to stay current on its obligations, the increase of unpaid obligations will reduce their CASH bass Net Surplus/Deficit by the amount of the increase in unpaid Diocesan obligations. This actual Parish Net Surplus/Deficit reflects a parish's true ability to pay its current obligations.

Outstanding Diocesan Obligations highlights the change in a parish's unpaid diocesan obligations over each fiscal year. If a parish has an increase in unpaid obligations for the year, this will result in a lower Actual Parish Net Surplus/Deficit as these are an annual obligation of the parish that was not paid in the current year.

Diocesan Loan/Debt is the amount of outstanding loans of the parish.