

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.

ANOIDING 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

1st Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 21

4:00 PM Mary Lynch - John, Nancy, Jim & Ada Lynch

Sunday, February 22

9:00 AM Anne Catherine Zawol Kochuba & Leonard Bernard Kochuba - Leonard & Deborah Kochuba

Tuesday, February 24

8:00 AM Joseph Pekol - Dorothy Griffith

Friday, February 27

8:00 AM For the People of the Parish

Saturday, February 28

4:00 PM Ernest Jendrzejewski - Grandchildren- Rosalyn, Richard, & Sydney Partington

Sunday, March 1

9:00 AM Gabriel Spak - Daughter, Kimberly Blazejewski & Family

Votives

Blessed Mother - In Memory of Raphael & Theresa Procida By Caroline Graziano

Sacred Heart - In Memory of Leonard Bernard Kochuba By Kochuba 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

Weekend of February 15th

<u>Sunday Collection</u>	\$4,142.00
<u>Loose</u>	253.00
<u>Dues</u>	890.00
<u>Taxes</u>	74.00
<u>Air Conditioning</u>	84.00
<u>Maintenance</u>	29.00
<u>Fuel</u>	55.00
<u>Charity</u>	88.50
<u>Care and Education of Priests</u>	93.00
<u>Solemnity of Mary</u>	25.00
<u>Initial Offering</u>	35.00

Christian Women

The Christian Women of Our Lady of Hope Parish will meet this Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the parish rectory. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

Our Lady of Hope has new phone numbers

Rectory # 570-852-5303 Fax# 570-852-5310

Lenten Services

Stations of the Cross - Fridays at 5:30 pm

Evening Prayer - Sundays at 6:00 pm

Adoration with Confessions - Thursday evenings, 6-7 pm

The Light is on for You

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

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

Daily Lenten Exercises

Sunday, February 22 - Identify one temptation that weakens you and ask Jesus for strength.

Monday, February 23 - Perform a hidden act of charity.

Tuesday, February 24 - Pray the Our Father slowly, meditating on each phrase.

Wednesday, February 25 - Spend 5 minutes in silence, asking Jesus to speak to your heart.

Thursday, February 26 - Ask God for one specific grace today.

Friday, February 27 - Seek reconciliation or pray for the desire to reconcile.

Saturday, February 28 - Pray a Hail Mary for someone you struggle to love.

Fast and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence. Fridays are obligatory days of abstinence.

When fasting a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Fasting is obligatory from age 18 until age 59.

Abstinence means no meat should be consumed. This is binding from the age of 14 onwards.

Rite of Sending/Rite of Election

Our Parish family is proud of our Catechumens - Richard, Brian, and Amy - as they prepare for an important rite of passage in their journey toward becoming Catholics. This Sunday, February 22nd, they will be going to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election where Bishop Bambara will welcome them as the Elect of God. This means they will be baptized, confirmed, and receive the Eucharist on Holy Saturday. We are proud of THEM, but we are also proud of You. They use all of us as role models for the rest of their lives. This transformation will begin with the Rite of Sending here at Our Lady of Hope at the 9 am mass this Sunday. We will voice our approval of their preparation and lovingly send them to Bishop Bambara. Please pray for them as they begin their final days as Catechumens. It's been a long journey - and they have performed admirably.

Scripture Reflection

Throughout the Old Testament, the Scriptures use metaphorical language to speak of Israel as God's son. Yet like us today, the Israelites persist in disobedience, straying from their Father's will. God thus sends Jesus, who is tempted in the desert to disobey God. Jesus' example of obedience reveals what true sonship requires.



Now You Know.... From the PLC

How could Jesus be tempted?

What I would like you to PRAY ABOUT:

Fortunately, we hear in the reading from Romans, *when sin increases, graces increases even more*. In Matthew's narrative, Jesus' temptation in the desert comes immediately after his baptism. Like Christ, our life in the Spirit allows us to navigate the temptations we face daily. We cannot pretend that temptations do not exist. They do. What we can do is remain grounded in what both we and Jesus heard at our baptisms: *You are my beloved*. If we are willing to accept our "beloved-ness," the temptations we encounter will no longer seem impossible to resist. Rather, they are opportunities to surround ourselves in God's love and remain faithful to the one who first loved us. Let us pray we are always up to that task.

Thoughts from Deacon Bill:

Every one of us can sometimes feel broken. For many of us, the path of life hasn't led us to the destination we planned. Life can be difficult, but we should always remember, God doesn't send trials our way to punish us. After all, he loved us to his death... and beyond. I believe when God gave US free will, he allowed the whole of his creation to determine its own path. God doesn't make some of us wealthy and others not. God doesn't make some of us healthy and others not. God made us all. Period. And the amazing thing is, he loves us if we are wealthy or poor. He loves us healthy or not. Through Jesus, our God is just that... our God, our Savior, and our Brother. He knows what it is like to live a life of poverty. He knows what it's like to be betrayed and to die young. He knows what it's like to feel broken. But through his life, passion, death, and his resurrection, he reminds us that even broken crayons can still create beautiful images. If you sometimes feel broken, take that brokenness to God, and ask Him to help you realize that even in your brokenness, the seeds of beauty and wonder are still there - and will sprout and grow if they are tended.



As God, Jesus cannot be tempted. "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted with evil and He Himself tempts no one." (James 1:13). God cannot do things contrary to His nature. He cannot lie, suffer, be tempted, or do evil. He cannot stop being God. When He came to save us Jesus, God, took upon our human nature, which can be tempted. God cannot be tempted, but as man, Jesus can be tempted as today's Gospel (Matt 4:1-11) records of Him in the desert. So, there is no contradiction that Jesus, though God, can be tempted, since He is fully God and fully man. Exactly how Jesus experiences temptation in His human nature is quite mysterious. Jesus is like us in all things except sin and the harm it inflicts. He did not have the woundedness that comes from Original Sin or the weakness that comes from repeated sinning. Because we have these things, it much harder for us to resist temptation. Jesus came to restore humanity to perfection and show us what it means to be perfectly human. This perfect humanity is fitting since Adam was sinless and perfectly human before he was tempted and disobeyed. So, it is right that Jesus, the New Adam, should also be sin-free. As perfect man, Jesus faces down temptation and obeys His Father, unlike Adam who was perfectly human, but did not. Each time we go to the Sacrament of Penance, we receive the sanctifying grace that forgives our sins, plus a sacramental grace that enhances our resistance to temptation. So go, receive God's grace to be more divine. *Now you know!*

Deacon Steve

Ave Maria Hall

On February 13th, during our Choco-Fest, Bishop Bambera blessed our newly renovated Ave Maria Hall, the name chosen by our parishioners. This initial event was a big success due in part to our chairperson, Suzanne Wielgopolski, as well as all those who donated the delicious chocolate goodies. Deacon Steve, our Parish Life Coordinator, would like to thank everyone who had a part in the Choco-Fest as well as those who helped in the renovation of Ave Maria Hall.

Interested in being a Sacristan?

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

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 Donating

We are looking for donations to help offset the cost of installing the new bathroom in the church. If interested, please call the rectory.