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DEACON & PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Deacon Mark Bialkowski

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Peter Gonciarz

December 7, 2025 | Second Sunday of Advent



GET IN TOUCH!

RECTORY OFFICE

Monday- Friday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
(closed on Th. and Fri. from 1—2 p.m.)

716-828-9444 • 716-828-9429 fax

olvrectory@olvbasilica.org

SCHOOL

2760 S. Park Avenue, Lackawanna

Mary Doyle-Szlosek, Principal

716-828-9434

elementary@olvbasilica.org

www.ourladyofvictoryelementary.org

FAITH FORMATION

2760 S. Park Avenue, Lackawanna

Sunday: 7:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Monday- Friday: 7:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Carmelann Zomeri, Director

716-828-9437

faithformation@olvbasilica.org

GIFT SHOP AND MUSEUM

Open Daily 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

(closed 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. for lunch)

James Murphy, Gift Shop Manager

716-828-9433

olvgiftshop@olvbasilica.org

COME & WORSHIP

BASILICA HOURS

The Basilica is open for private prayer every day during the following hours:

Sunday: 6:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Monday- Friday: 6:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 6:30 a.m.—7:30 p.m.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon, 4:30 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday—Saturday:

7:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

There is an additional Mass at 8:15 a.m. on Fridays when school is in session.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: (except Holy Saturday)

3:00—4:00 p.m. and 7:00—7:30 p.m.

Eve of First Fridays: 3:00—4:00 p.m.

Eve of Holy Days: 3:00—4:00 p.m.

GUIDED BASILICA TOURS

Please call the Rectory Office at 716-828-9444 if you are interested in scheduling a group tour.

Address: 767 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218

Phone: 716-828-9444

Website: www.olvbasilica.org

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

DEAR BROTHERS AND
SISTERS IN CHRIST,

WEEK 2
Advent ELP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

In the Gospel for this Second Sunday of Advent, we hear of John the Baptist proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: *"A voice of one crying out in the desert, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."*

There is no better way for us to prepare for Christ's coming than by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by taking the opportunity to make a good confession. Confession is a Sacrament of Healing, not a Sacrament of judgment. It is a wonderful opportunity to rid ourselves of the baggage of sin that we may have been carrying around for years. No one is beyond the unconditional love and mercy of God.

Thus I encourage everyone to take time this Advent to come to confession and receive the healing grace and inner peace that only God can give to us. There are many opportunities here at Our Lady of Victory to receive this wonderful sacrament. The times for confessions are listed on page 3 of this bulletin.

I also encourage you to invite others, especially those members of your family and friends, who for whatever reason have drifted away from the practice of the faith, to return home to God and the Church this Advent and Christmas season. It is here that together we are nurtured and nourished by the Eucharist and the Sacraments. It is here that we discover the joy brought by the Lord Jesus in wanting to have a deep and abiding

relationship with each and every one of us.

All are welcome with open arms and loving hearts here at Our Lady of Victory Basilica. Oftentimes it just takes a kind personal invitation from us . . . "to please come and see!"

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE & WELCOMING

Last Sunday, November 30, we celebrated the Rite of Acceptance at the Noon Mass. This is an ancient Rite of the Church that recognizes the decision of the Catechumens (unbaptized) to begin the process of becoming a member of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist, and welcomes the Candidates (those who have been baptized in another faith tradition or baptized Catholic as a child, but never catechized in the Catholic faith) into full communion with the Catholic Church.

We are now asked to pray for our brothers and sisters who are anticipating to fully enter into the Church here at Our Lady of Victory Basilica Parish. Please pray for these candidates and join us in welcoming them here at Our Lady of Victory.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults:
[Jill Bermingham](#), [Thomas Bigouette](#),
[Dia Castro](#), [Victoria Christopher](#),
[James Clawson](#), [Melanie Delmendo](#),
[Sandy Dunkleman](#), [Linsey Heferle](#),
[Emily Hoffman](#), [Taylor Hollarn](#),
[Trent Kubiak](#), [Allison Malecki](#),
[Jared Murray](#), [Carol Parker](#),
[Evelyn Parker](#), [Sienna Pawlowski](#),
[Brenna Smith](#), [Tamara Sullivan](#),
[Murray Wright](#), [Natalie Wright](#)

**Order of Christian Initiation of
Children & Families:**
[Mea Alzaidi](#), [Gabriella Chicone](#),
[David Cordova](#), [Maria De Moura](#),
[Joseph Fox](#), [James Fox](#), [Jason Fox](#),
[Brady Hanlon](#), [Noah Hanlon](#),
[Chelsea Hanlon](#), [Zoe Hines](#), [Evan Lee](#),
[Gabrielle Lohr](#), [Gibson Mansfield](#),
[Giovanni Mansfield](#), [Adalis Pellow](#)

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—

**Holy Day of Obligation:
Monday, December 8**

This year, we celebrate the Patronal
Feast of the United States on Monday,
December 8.



It is a Holy Day of
Obligation. Masses
will be celebrated at
7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
12:10 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Please come to honor
our Blessed Mother in
our beautiful Basilica
dedicated in her
honor as Our
Lady of Victory.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: December 13 & 14

Next weekend, we will take up the
collection for the Retirement Fund for
Religious. Men and Women Religious,
like our beloved Sr. Ellen O'Keefe, SSJ,
have spent their lives serving others in
prayer, ministry, education and care
for those in need—usually for little or
no pay. Today their religious
communities do not have enough
retirement fund savings. As they age,
they require essential care and
medications. Your gift will provide
essential care for nearly 20,500 senior
sisters, brothers and religious order
priests who have dedicated their lives
to serving others. Let us show our
gratitude to these selfless individuals
by giving generously.

To donate, you may use the envelope
that was included in your offertory
packet, use the online *Donate* link at
olvbasilica.org (and select *Special
Collections*), or use any blank envelope
for your gift and label it *Retirement
Fund for Religious*. Thank you for your
generosity!

LESSONS & CAROLS: Sunday, December 14 at 7 p.m.

A Festival Service of Lessons and Carols will take place here at OLV Basilica on Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. The service of Lessons and Carols traces, in scripture and song, the Nativity story as foretold by the Old Testament prophets and narrated by the Gospel writers. Begun in King's College Chapel, Cambridge University, nearly a century ago, the service of Lessons and Carols is repeated in churches of nearly every denomination worldwide. Please join us as we celebrate Advent and Christmas in scripture and song.



CHRISTMAS MASSES & CONFESSIONS:

Priests are available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Saturdays from 3:00—4:00 p.m. and 7:00—7:30 p.m.**

In addition, priests will also be available to hear confessions in the Basilica on:

- **Wednesday, December 17 from 6:30—8:00 p.m.**
- **Monday, December 22 from 3:00—4:00 p.m. and 6:30—7:30 p.m.**

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24 –
Masses at 4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and Midnight (11:30 p.m. choral prelude)

Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25 –
Masses at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon

Also, please note that all of our Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be livestreamed, so if you want to view any one of the Masses, simply go to our website at olvbasilica.org and click on "Live Streaming" in the top righthand corner a few minutes before the scheduled Mass time.

We will also provide a digital Christmas Mass that can be viewed on our website or social media sites anytime Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

JOIN US IN TRANSFORMING THE BASILICA'S SOUTHEAST ENTRANCEWAY

As we celebrate the remarkable restoration of Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica, I invite you to be part of a transformative journey creating a welcome plaza worthy of a saint! This inspiring project aims to create a stunning, accessible entrance that pays tribute to Father Baker's enduring legacy.

Excitingly, an anonymous benefactor is challenging us to rise to the occasion with a generous \$500,000 matching gift! The challenge gift will match 50¢ for every dollar contributed, increasing your impact, but only until December 31.

The welcome plaza initiative is a unique opportunity for our community to come together and create a lasting legacy for future generations.

Please take a moment to scan the QR code to review the materials about the welcome plaza. I encourage you to make a contribution—every gift, regardless of size, brings us one step closer to our goal. Together, we can design a welcome that reflects our faith and commitment to our community. Thank you for your unwavering support!



Be assured of my continued prayers during this Holy Season of Advent. May Father Baker intercede for you and Our Lady of Victory protect you and your loved ones. God bless you!

FR. DAVID



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



O God, who willed that your Son should become the High Priest of the new and eternal covenant, grant, we beseech You, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of all priests, many men may be inspired to embrace the call to the sacred priesthood and serve you and your Church with generosity and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Our Lady of Victory . . .
pray for us!*

For information about becoming a priest, please see one of our priests here at Our Lady of Victory or contact the Diocesan Director of Vocations, Rev. David Baker, at dbaker@buffalodiocese.org.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

PAGE 04 | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join in praying the Rosary for Peace on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Basilica.

**Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m.
December 9 and January 6**

Join our "Victory for Christ" prayer group in the Basilica's lower level chapel to praise, thank, and give witness to God.

Friday Afternoons

Join us each week for Eucharistic Adoration in the Basilica on Fridays after the 12:10 p.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE MASS

Holy Cross Cemetery and the Catholic Cemeteries of Buffalo invite all to attend a Christmas Remembrance Mass on **Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Holy Cross Chapel Mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna.** Mass will be celebrated by Fr. John Adams. This is a prayerful time to remember those we love and entrust them to the mercy of Christ. Families are welcome to bring an ornament to place on the tree following Mass, a simple expression of love and remembrance during this season of hope. For more information, call Holy Cross Cemetery at 716-823-1197.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6—Saint Nicholas, Bishop

- 7:30 am Ann Coleman by Sister Ellen O'Keefe
- 12:10 pm Kathleen Burns by John & Camille Madsen
- 1:30 pm **Wedding: Bri Clark and Thomas Smith**
- 4:30 pm Frank John Cerny by Elizabeth Willard

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7—Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Stanley & Rosamond Szachta by Family
- 10:00 am Mary Powers by Dick & Lu Powers and Family
- 12:00 pm Living & Deceased Members of the OLV Altar & Rosary Society
- 4:30 pm Jack Dulak by Frank & Jean Dulak

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 7:30 am Deceased Members of the Dusza Family by David Sasiadek
Timothy Jachlewski by Buffalo Grand Knights of St. John
- 9:00 am Paul Wolfe by Michael & Teresa Ryan
- 12:10 pm Rosemary Vaner Harghe (Anniversary of Death) by Ed & Pat Jarosz
Marian Coco "Mare" Reilly by Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma
- 7:30 pm Benjamin & Judith Jagodzinski by Chad & Lorraine Strittmatter

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9—Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

- 7:30 am OLV Spiritual Society Intentions
Christopher Floyd Allan by grandmother, Patricia Allan
- 12:10 pm Dominic & Carmella Chechile by Dan & Michele Cusella
Frances Babcock (Birthday Remembrance) by Eileen Charleton

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10—Our Lady of Loreto

- 7:30 am The Duquinn Family (living) by Jeff Papia
Barbara M. Walleshauser by Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma
- 12:10 pm Deceased Members of the O'Neil & Murphy Families by Kevin & Mary Ann O'Neil
Mary Rog D'Andrea by Gary & Gail

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11—Saint Damasus I, Pope

- 7:30 am Maureen Guiodotti & Family (living) by Kathleen Palermo
Joseph Roeder by Dave & Susan DiCarlo
- 12:10 pm Ed & Norma Jean Ambrose by Steve Ambrose
Teresa Urena by the Urena Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 7:30 am Kemper Matt, Sr. by OLV Charities
Patricia Smith by Arthur Smith & Family
- 8:15 am Rev. Msgr. Robert C. Wurtz (Anniversary of Death)
Timothy Jachlewski by Knights of St. John Second Buffalo Regiment
- 12:10 pm Mary Rog D'Andrea by Gary & Gail
John "Jack" Joyce by Bill Evans and Ann O'Donnell

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13—Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

- 7:30 am Maria Farrell by Joan Haley
- 12:10 pm Edward, Genevieve & James Kilian by the Kilian Family
- 1:30 pm **Wedding: Erin Stoklosa and Nicholas Rzezniak**
- 4:30 pm Walter F. Balon (Anniversary of Death) by the Balon Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14—Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Living & Deceased Members of the OLV Holy Name Society
- 10:00 am Joseph Battista by wife and children
- 12:00 pm Carl Joseph Mastyskarz by David & Maureen Mastyskarz
- 4:30 pm Jack Dulak by John & Lorraine Szematowicz
- 7:00 pm **Festival of Lessons and Carols**

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADVENT PREPARATION

Prepare your hearts for the coming of Jesus by joining us for the special events planned at OLV Basilica. All activities are free.



Enrich your spiritual journey on **Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. by joining us for Lessons and Carols**, a reflective service of Scripture and song.

View the **Nativity Set Exhibit** with more than 100 sets from around the world, part of Fr. Roy Herberger's unique collection. If you came last year—don't worry—the 2025 exhibit is all new! And throughout this season, come and view **Sacred Stories in Glass**, a close-up exhibit of some of the Basilica's beautiful stained-glass windows. Both exhibits are available to view on the lower level of the Shrine during regular Basilica hours through January 6, 2026.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m.
December 9, January 13, February 10,
March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9



If you are a new parent looking to have your baby baptized, please plan to attend one of our upcoming Baptism Preparation classes.

Choose the class that fits best with your schedule. Sessions are held in the Basilica's Marian Room. Scan the QR code to register. For questions, contact Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767 or mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org.

MAZUREK'S BAKERY & OLVHS HOLIDAY MARKET

Wednesday, December 10 & Thursday, December 11 • 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Mazurek's baked goods (usually available on Wednesdays after 12:10 Mass in the Basilica) will NOT be on site this Wednesday (12/10). Instead,

all are welcome to visit the OLV Human Services' Holiday Market across the street at 790 Ridge Road, where there will be multiple vendors set up on the ground floor hallway. Please come and support the students! For questions, contact mazureksbakery@gmail.com.

VICTORIOUS HEARTS ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Wednesday, Dec. 10 • 7:00 p.m.

Couples from OLV's Victorious Hearts Ministry will give a presentation at the Advent Speaker Series at **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church** (3148 Abbott Road, Orchard Park). They will share reflections on the importance of cultivating a Christ-centered marriage and how the Holy Family has inspired their unique journeys. All are welcome! A goodwill offering will be collected to support the ministry.

DOUGHNUTS & DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday, December 14 • after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses

Please stop down in the Marian Room after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses next Sunday to enjoy coffee, juice, and doughnuts, with some time to get to know your neighbors! Sponsored by the Father Baker Council of the Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Columbiettes.

OLV SERVICE CLUB

Please help us stock the OLV Service Club Food Pantry in the parking lot by OLV Elementary. Make sure to mark items "not for resale" and cross out the barcode; this helps ensure items go to homes that need it most. Canned good items needed for December are: turkey, chicken or ham; green beans; cranberries; white potatoes; sweet potatoes; yams; soups; gravy or gravy packets; and applesauce. Any help is greatly appreciated! For questions, contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887 or bowood62@gmail.com.

Giving TREE

If you have a tag from our OLV Giving Tree, please return the tag with the unwrapped gift(s) to the Rectory Office by next Friday, December 12. OLV Human Services needs this time to pick up, sort, and distribute the gifts in time for Christmas. We appreciate your help in making our children feel special this Christmas!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Monday, December 15 • 6:30 p.m.

As we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season, volunteers are needed to help decorate the Basilica. Please join us in the Basilica on Monday evening, December 15. All are welcome to come and help us prepare our beautiful Basilica for the celebration of Christmas! For questions about volunteering, contact Gregory Stachowski at 716-949-1085.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTION

The OLV St. Vincent de Paul Society is very grateful to our parish community because, through your generous continuing contributions of food, money, and time, we delivered food to over 200 struggling families during November. **We will also be helping families for Christmas and can use help with drivers to deliver those bags to Lackawanna homes on Friday, December 19 and Saturday, December 20, starting after 11:00 a.m.** It's a hectic time for everyone, yet please consider taking an hour or so for a meaningful start to the Christmas season. For more info, call the rectory at 716-828-9444 to leave a message for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and a member will call you back.



Offertory

Donate to the offertory collection to support OLV National Shrine & Basilica.



Vigil Candles

Pay the requested offering (\$5 each) to light a candle inside the Basilica.



Adopt an Angel

Adopt an angel for Christmas in support of our Basilica Centennial Campaign. Questions? Call Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.



Volunteer

Become an OLV Parish Volunteer! Fill out a form to indicate your interests.

This Advent...
GIVE YOUR GIFTS ONLINE!



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1

Go to olvbasilica.org and click *Donate*.

2

Select a collection or event.

3

Add a credit/debit card, bank account, PayPal, or Venmo. That's it!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR
Sunday, November 9, 2025

Weekly	\$19,571.65
Monthly	\$1,570.00
Christmas Flowers	\$185.00
Fuel	\$173.00
Holy Day: All Saints (11/1)	\$116.00
Holy Day: Christmas (12/25)	\$165.00
Holy Day: Solemnity of Mary (1/1)	\$125.00
Pennies to Heaven	\$195.00
Processing Fees (online)	\$22.62
Shrines / Votive Candles	\$2,676.00
Holy Name Society	\$5.00
Archdiocese for Military Services	\$986.00
All Souls Mass Intentions	\$147.00
Campaign for Human Develop.	\$85.00
Religious Retirement Appeal	\$360.00
Respect Life for Moms & Babies	\$5.00
Seminarian/Diaconate Formation	\$10.00
World Mission Sunday	\$5.00
TOTAL	\$26,402.27

In order to maintain our beautiful Basilica and support the mission and ministries of our parish, we depend on weekly offertory donations.

Offertory envelopes can be mailed or dropped off at the Rectory Office at:
767 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218
or you may give online.

We are very grateful for your ongoing support of Our Lady of Victory Basilica!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 13—14					
	TIME	LECTOR	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	SACRISTAN
SAT.	4:30 pm	James Schmigel, Jr.	John Leszak, Bob Lohr, James McEvoy		Mary Anne Jackson
SUN.	8:00 am	Allan Kuczka	Mary Patricia Allman, Eugene Allman, Sheila Allman	Nathaniel, Joshua, and Theodore Lindstrom	Laurie Grundner
	10:00 am	John Loss	Bridget Wood, Patricia Jarosz	Erin Bialkowski	Diane Bona
	Noon	Christopher Swan	Jon Paul Trabucco, Molly McClenathan		Sandy Swiech
	4:30 pm	Linda "Mickey" Pawenski	Gregory Stachowski, Donna Gelle, Stefan Gelle	Isaac Cacacho	Michalene Murray

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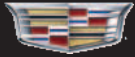


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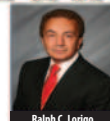
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