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Rev. Robert A. Contarin

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### **DEACON & PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

Deacon Mark Bialkowski

#### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Peter Gonciarz

### August 31, 2025 | Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



### **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.

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### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

## DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,



### What is the OCIA?

Are you or someone you know unbaptized and would like to become a Catholic? Or are you a baptized Catholic or baptized in another Christian Faith Tradition and would like to be received into the Catholic Church? Then OCIA is for you!

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a process for adults to join the Catholic Church. Formerly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the process is a gradual journey of faith formation, learning Catholic Christian teaching, deepening of a life of prayer, and community involvement, that allows individuals to explore the Catholic faith and to receive the sacraments during the Easter Vigil. (This year, the date is Saturday, April 4, 2026.)

The OCIA is more than a course of instruction, but rather a process of conversion, designed to meet the unique and individual needs of the participants.

#### Who is OCIA for?

- unbaptized adults who wish to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist
- non-Catholics baptized in another Christian Faith Tradition who want to be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Confirmation & Eucharist
- those who were baptized Catholic as infants but never received religious education, and who want to receive the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation

The OCIA process will begin Thursday, September 25, 2025.

The first session will be held at Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church at 3148 Abbott Rd. Orchard Park, 14127 (in the lower church – please park behind the church building and you will see the entrance to the lower church).

Sessions will be held weekly on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The sessions will alternate month to month between being held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Orchard Park and Our Lady of Victory Basilica.

If you have any interest, please feel free to call Fr. Rob at 716-828-9428 or email him at rcontarin@ olvbasilica.org.



Or you can easily register online at https://bit.ly/OCIA-2025-2026 or scan this QR code. ALL ARE WELCOME!



## OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: WELCOME BACK!

This week, our OLV Elementary School will begin classes on Thursday, September 4. On Wednesday evening, September 3, at 6:00 p.m. we will have the "Blessing of Backpacks" outside by the Pavilion. We are excited to begin this new school year!

I encourage all our parishioners to be "ambassadors" for OLV by sharing the good news of our school that welcomes all children and families. We have an exemplary leader in our principal, Mrs. Mary Doyle-Szlosek, a dedicated faculty and staff, and a

state-of-the-art computer lab and updated technology, as well as many opportunities for our students to learn, grow, and thrive in a safe environment.

Please encourage parents and families of school-age children to come and see for themselves the "gem" we have in OLV Elementary School. All are welcome!



### HAPPY LABOR DAY

I would like to wish everyone a happy and enjoyable Labor Day Weekend!

Labor Day, as you know, is an annual holiday to celebrate the economic and social contributions of workers to the strength, prosperity, and wellbeing of our country. Let us pray in thanksgiving for all who labor to serve our fellow men and women. Let us also remember the unemployed and the under-employed, that they may find work that allows them to receive a just wage and benefits to care for themselves and their families. May we always be grateful for all those who labor on our behalf.

Be assured also of my special prayers and blessings for all of our children and students as they prepare to go back to school, as well as for all of our teachers.

Enjoy this holiday weekend and be safe and well! May Father Baker intercede for you and Our Lady of Victory protect you. God bless you!

GRATEFULLY, FR. DAVID

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025 | PAGE 03

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30—Weekday

7:30 am All Souls Intentions

9:00 am Funeral for Edmund Monaco

11:30 am Wedding: Katilyn Sadallah and Cody Novo

(no 12:10 p.m. Mass today)

1:30 pm Wedding: Cassidy Territo and Jonathan Codi 4:30 pm Mary Kujawski by Albert & Susan Ward

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31—Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Marilyn Trojanovich by Norm Denny & Family 10:00 am John & Patricia Phelan by Diane Bona

12:00 pm Scott Eagan by Mom, Stan, Kelli, Melissa, John & Family

4:30 pm Michael O'Hara by Family

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1—Weekday

7:30 am All Souls Intentions <u>AND</u> Mary Rog D'Andrea by Gary & Gail
12:10 pm Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica
Matt Comerford (Birthday Remembrance) by the Comerford Family

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2—Weekday

7:30 am OLV Golden Treasury Intentions

Colin J. MacDonald by the Regis Family

12:10 pm Donald Barletta by Chet & Carol Ogrodnik

Francine McBride (living) by Jack Zimmerman

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3—Saint Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church

7:30 am Ronald J. Simchick (Anniversary of Death) by wife and daughters

12:10 pm Norman & Bev Woloszyn by nephew Michael L. Osborne by OLV Charities

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4—Weekday

7:30 am OLV Spiritual Society Intentions <u>AND</u> Frank J. Rog by Gary & Gail
12:10 pm Esther, John, Tim Downs, Charles Kosich & Tony Guadagno by Family

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5—Weekday

7:30 am Edmund Mende, Sr. (Birthday Rem.) by Bob & Carolyn Rebmann and Families

Ann Coleman (Birthday Remembrance) by Mary Ann Gerstle

8:15 am OLV House Blessing Intentions

Casimir M. Slaski & Family

12:10 pm Mary Coughlin Flis (Anniversary of Death) by Eileen Charleton

Virginia Chmeilowiec by Family

2:30 pm Wedding: Taylor Lioy and Joseph Ramia

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6—Weekday

7:30 am Rev. Daniel Leary (living) by Steve Perencevich

10:30 am Funeral for Rose Marie Delaney

12:10 pm The Wilk and Wojtanik Families by Joanne Scofield

1:30 pm Wedding: Selina lozzo and Shaighn Irving

4:30 pm Sharon Wojnowicz and Brian Bohan by Dave & Cindy Schaefer

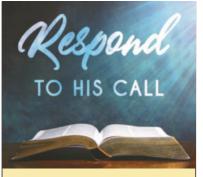
### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7—Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Joanne Boshart by Family

10:00 am Victor & Natalie Stachowski by Diane Bona

12:00 pm Living & Deceased Members of the OLV Altar & Rosary Society

4:30 pm Lucy Farina by Family



"You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering ... and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel."

The Letter to the Hebrews is talking about the Mass. All of this happens every Sunday in our church. In the midst of this spiritual vortex stands the priest. Sound interesting? Visit buffalovocations.org.

## JOIN US IN PRAYER

### Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

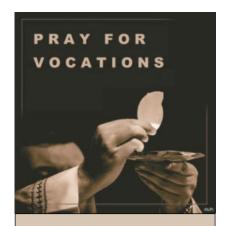
All are welcome to join in praying the Rosary for Peace on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Basilica.

### Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m. Sept. 9 & 23 and Oct. 7 & 21

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. PAGE 04 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025



Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our High Priest. We pray that You would call many young men to follow in His footsteps and serve as priests in Your Church.

May those who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood be open to Your will and respond with generosity and courage. Strengthen them in their discernment and grant them the grace to follow Your call wherever it may lead.

We also pray for our priests, that they may be holy. faithful, and effective ministers of Your Word and sacraments. May they be filled with Your love and compassion, and may their ministry bring many to You.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Our Lady of Victory . . . pray for us!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

### PLEASE NOTE:

The Rectory Office will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 1.

### **OLV BOOK CLUB**

Wed., September 3 • 1:00 or 6:30 p.m.

The final meeting of this summer's OLV Book Club will be held in the Basilica's Marian Room. Come to either the 1 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. session. For questions, contact Deacon Mark at the Rectory Office at 716-339-0767 or mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org.

### **DOUGHNUTS & DISCIPLESHIP**

Sunday, September 7 • after 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses

Please stop down in the Marian Room after Mass for an informal social. Enjoy a doughnut, coffee or juice, and some time for discipleship! Sponsored by the Father Baker Council of the Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Columbiettes. Representatives from both groups will be present if you'd like to find out more about what they do.

### **GREETER & USHER TRAINING**

Monday, September 8 ● 6:30 p.m.



Are you feeling called to get more involved at Mass? Then register for our greeter and usher training session! Scan the QR code to register, visit

https://bit.ly/OLVTraining, or call/text Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767. The meeting will take place in the Basilica.

### **BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. • Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 18, or Dec. 9



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

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

### AN INVITATION TO JOIN "COR"

Thursday, September 18 • 6:30 p.m.

Our Knights of Columbus Father Baker Council is sponsoring and inviting all men of our parish 18 years and older to join us for our first monthly COR meeting in the Marian Room in the lower Basilica. The format will include light refreshments, saying the rosary as a group, and an engaging discussion regarding our personal faith in Christ. Consider taking that next important step in your journey to becoming closer to Christ! Please consider joining COR.

### **OLV CHARITIES** CAYMAN ISLAND RAFFLF

Win a I week stay at The Grand Caymanian Resort! Includes accommodations for 4-6 quests and a \$2.500 Visa gift card courtesv of Parkview Health! Winner will be drawn on Thursday, September 17 at Victory Nite; you need not be present to win. Tickets are \$25 each. To purchase, call 716-828-9648 (select option 1) or email Shannon Donovan at SDonovan@ olvcharities.org or Joyce Newton at JNewton@olvhs.org. Must be a resident of Erie, Niagara, Wyoming, Chautaugua, or Cattaraugus County. For more information and details about Victory Nite, please visit olvcharities.org/victorynite.



PRESENTED BY THE FRIENDS OF FATHER BAKER

### **SCHOOL & FAITH FORMATION**

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### FAITH FORMATION SESSION OPTIONS

Our Faith Formation program is designed to help children grow in faith, identity, and understanding of the Catholic Church. Sessions are held on Sundays from 8:40—9:50 a.m. for children in Grades K—9. Sessions begin on Sunday, September 14. Call 716-828-7494 to register.

## 2025-2026 PROGRAM INFO AND SESSION OPTIONS:

### Faith Formation Sunday (FFS), Gr. 1-9

Sessions are held on designated Sundays from 8:40—9:50 a.m.

### Family Faith Formation (FFF) Home Study, Grades K—8

In this option, parents work AT HOME with children to complete lessons as a family. Provided lessons (with videos, discussion, and quizzes) are reviewed by the Faith Formation Director.

## <u>Little Cherubs – NEW 2025 – PreK & Kindergarten</u>

Offered in-person and as home study. "God Made Everything" engages young children in activities to nourish their developing relationship with God and others. Print materials and online resources help young children learn Scripture and prayerful practices.

### First Reconciliation & Communion:

For children ages 8-10 in Grades 2-4. These are separate sessions held IN PERSON in addition to regular in-person and home study. At least one parent/guardian must attend the retreat with each child as the sessions are family catechesis. First Reconciliation will be Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Basilica.

### First Holy Communion:

For children in Grades 3-4 who have received First Reconciliation. These are separate sessions held IN PERSON in addition to regular in-person and home study. At least one parent/guardian must attend the retreat and practice with each child as the sessions are family catechesis. First Holy Communion will be Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Basilica.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

Our program is currently in need of catechists for Little Cherubs, Grade 7, and Grade 8. If you are interested or feel that God is calling you to work with the youth of the parish, please contact Carm Zomeri at 716-828-7494 or email czomeri@olvbasilica.org.

# JOIN THE OLV SERVICE CLUB

We are looking for new members of all ages! Our Service Club will host our opening meeting on Sunday, September 7 in the School Cafeteria from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (following Noon Mass). We will review our upcoming calendar of events, always focusing on the corporal works of mercy, and soliciting ideas for new activities. We scheduled our meetings around the Bills schedule!

### Service Opportunities:

Resurrection Church Food Pantry is undergoing renovations and is limited on the number of volunteers that can come to the pantry, so our volunteer time here is temporarily suspended.

Sat. Sept. 20 • 9—11 a.m.— Woodlawn Beach Sweep

Fri. Nov. 7—Spaghetti
Dinner—our only fundraiser, supporting Christmas gifts for foster children

Thank you to our wonderful parishioners and the 2025 Confirmation candidates for their help in stocking the self-serve food pantry over the summer months!

Please consider joining us! Our service activities are family-friendly and great for all ages as we continue Father Baker's legacy and bring light to our world! For more info, contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887 or bowood62@ gmail.com, or go to the OLV Service Club Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you on September 7th!

### SUPPORT OLV

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### Offertory

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



### **Vigil Candles**

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



### Save the Dome

Adopt an angel! Assist with the cost of replacing our deteriorating copper dome. Questions? Call Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.



### Volunteer

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



### It's safe. It's simple. It's convenient.

- Go to **olvbasilica.org** and click *Donate*.
- 2 Select a collection or event.
- Set up your donation using a credit or debit card, checking or savings account, PayPal, or Venmo. That's it!

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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! OFFERTORY COLLECTION for Sunday, August 3, 2025

### **PARISH COLLECTIONS**

Weekly	\$19,996.02
Monthly	\$1,325.50
Holy Day: Assumption (8/15)	\$60.00
Pennies to Heaven	\$684.00
Processing Fees (online)	\$7.29
Shrines / Votive Candles	\$5,941.00

### **ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS**

ψ2,104.00
\$2,104.00
\$95.00
\$40.00
\$10.00

#### MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 6—7 **EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** TIME **LECTOR ALTAR SERVERS** Saturday 4:30 pm Jeffrey Stenzel Susan Zakrzewski, Michael Zakrzewski, Jean Dulak Isaac Cacacho Regan, Riley, Rider, and Sunday 8:00 am Miriam Trojanovic Nancy Zippier, Catherine Bergen, Richard Grasso Riker Darling Erin Bialkowski 10:00 am Nathaniel Powers Terrence McCann, Patricia Osborne Nathaniel, Joshua, and Noon Doreen West Kathleen Roche, Ellen Scheiderer, Sandy Swiech Theodore Lindstrom 4:30 pm Cathleen Woods Gregory Stachowski, Patricia DiVito, Moey Oakley A.J. Ball. Samantha Ball

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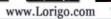
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