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December 31, 2023 | The Holy Family



GET IN TOUCH!

RECTORY OFFICE

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

716-828-9444 • 716-828-9429 fax

olvrectory@olvbasilica.org

SCHOOL

Mary Doyle-Szlosek, Principal

2760 S. Park Avenue, Lackawanna 716-828-9434 elementary@olvbasilica.org

www.ourladyofvictoryelementary.org

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday: 7:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Carmelann Zomeri, Director

2760 S. Park Avenue, Lackawanna 716-828-9437

faithformation@olvbasilica.org

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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 from 6:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. daily and until 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

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:

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,

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH: December 31, 2023

On this, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, we honor the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In honoring them, we also honor all families, big or small. And in honoring all families, we honor the family of God, the Church. But most especially, we focus in on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

What was it like to live day in and day out in the household of St. Joseph? What was it like to have Jesus for a son, Mary as a wife and mother, and Joseph as a father and husband? Their home would have certainly been a sacred place and a dwelling of true peace and unity. But it would have also been so much more.

The family home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have been, in numerous ways, just like any other home. They would have related together, talked, had fun, disagreed, worked, eaten, dealt with problems, and encountered everything else that makes up daily family life.

Of course, the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and St. Joseph was a truly "just man." Therefore, the overriding characteristic of their home would have been love.

But with that said, their family would not have been exempt from daily toil, hurt and challenges that face most families. For example, they would have encountered the death of loved ones; St. Joseph most likely passed away prior to Jesus' public ministry. They would have encountered misunderstanding and gossip from others. Our Blessed Mother, for example, was found with child out of wedlock. This would have been a topic of discussion among many acquaintances for sure. They would have had to fulfill all daily chores, earn a living, put food on the table, attend

gatherings of family and friends and the like. They would have lived normal family life in every way.

This is significant because it reveals God's love for family life. The Father allowed His Divine Son to live this life and, as a result, elevated family life to a place within the Trinity. The holiness of the Holy Family reveals to us that every family is invited to share in God's divine life and to encounter ordinary daily life with grace and virtue.

Reflect, today, upon your own family life. Some families are strong in virtue, some struggle with basic communication. Some are faithful day in and day out, some are broken and deeply wounded. No matter the case, know that God wants to enter more deeply into your family life just as it is right now. He desires to give you strength and virtue to live as the Holy Family. Surrender yourself and your family, this day, and invite the Triune God to make your family a holy family.

Lord, I do offer myself to You this day and in doing so I offer You my family. I offer every relationship, be it good or difficult, and I offer every challenge we face. Please come and sanctify my family, making it holy in imitation of your family in Nazareth. Jesus, I trust in You.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD January 1, 2024:

We begin the New Year honoring our Blessed Mother Mary as the Holy Mother of God. Mary humbly, selflessly, and obediently bore Christ to the world. May we follow her example in this new year and bear Christ to all God's children in our own little corner of the world.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024:

I know we are all looking forward to a safer, happier and healthier New Year 2024. Here are some thoughts you might find helpful in your own spiritual journey throughout this New Year 2024:

Practice gratitude: Cultivating a grateful heart is the hallmark of a Christian. Every day, express thankfulness to the Lord and to others. Seeing the good in your life will allow you to keep your heart compassionate and loving.

Encounter the Lord each day: Find time to be with the Lord each day, whether it is for ten minutes or an hour. Have a conversation with the Lord. Give your joys and worries to Him as well. Allow God's love to transform them. Our encounters will keep our eyes and ears open to the presence of Christ in our midst.

Be present to others: There is much celebration and mourning, joy and sorrow in people's lives. What a blessing it is to share those times and not let others experience them alone. The gift of your presence is much more valuable than you realize.

Resist overwork: There is pressure to produce, meet goals, and be successful. But activities that lead us to overwork, constant fatigue and worry do not give glory to God. What God calls us to do we can do well. Be mindful that life requires balance.

Nurture family relationships and friendships: Our family and friends are those we choose to be with. They are a gift from God and give us a greater appreciation of God's love for us. They need our time and our love.

Give more: Realize that everything that we have is a gift from God entrusted to us and needs to be shared. Consider living more simply and be healthy.

Don't give up: People give up their New Year's resolutions because of perfectionism and unrealistic expectations. So take it slow, be kind to yourself and keep trying. Resist the urge to throw your hands up and quit. You succeed through small manageable changes over time.

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Turn to the Lord: Ask the Lord for guidance, strength and perseverance in achieving your resolutions. In his letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul writes: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." (Phil 4:13)

If Jesus is at the center of our New Year's resolutions, they have a better chance for success. God bless you and your loved ones with a Happy & Healthy New Year 2024!



GRATITUDE:

On behalf of Fr. Paul, Fr. Rob and myself, we wish to thank all those who sent us Christmas gifts, baked goods and other wonderful surprises at Christmas. You filled our rectory with love and peace. I am also deeply grateful to all of our parishioners and benefactors who continue to mail in or drop off their weekly contribution envelopes to the rectory. Your generous support enables us to maintain our beautiful Basilica as well as to support our ongoing mission and ministries. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS DECORATORS:

On behalf of all of our parishioners, I wish to thank the following individuals who came on Friday, December 15, to decorate the Basilica for Christmas: Gregory Stachowski (Director of Environment!) and his team of 30 volunteers and our Basilica Maintenance Staff under the direction of Yordan Kovatchki. I know we all agree they did a magnificent job and have made the Basilica all the more spectacular by the gift of their time and talent!

Wishing you all a Blessed & Grace-Filled New Year 2024! May Father Baker intercede for you and Our Lady of Victory protect you and all of your loved ones!

GRATEFULLY, FR. DAVID

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30—Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

7:30 am Timothy Luthart by Paul Pfentner and Stefan Gelle

12:10 pm OLV Golden Treasury Intentions

1:30 pm Wedding: Jodi Ball & Jesse Gordon

4:30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday: Joseph Morsillo by Christine Brown

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 am Thomas McDonnell (Birthday Remembrance) by Derek & Diane Smith

10:00 am Deceased Members of the Stachowski & Sikorski Families by Gregory Stachowski

12:00 pm Lisa Leach by Aunt Eileen

 $4\!:\!30~pm$ Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica

MONDAY, JANUARY 1—Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

7:30 am Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica 12:10 pm Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2—Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

7:30 am OLV Father Baker Guild Members

OLV Spiritual Association Members

12:10 pm OLV Helping Hands Club Members

Jim and Sandy Kulpit (living) by Mary Quinn and Sandy Cassatta

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3—The Most Holy Name of Jesus

7:30 am Dorothy A. Downey by the Downey Family

Martha Kupkowski by Family

12:10 pm OLV Spiritual Society Intentions

David Freitus by Ann Freitus

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4—Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

7:30 am Betty Rumfola by Rosemary Scahill

12:10 pm Joanne Desantis Fleischer by Carol Diliberto

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5—Saint John Neumann, Bishop

7:30 am Casimir M. Slaski & Family

8:15 am OLV Helping Hands Club Members

12:10 pm Lillian Melohusky by the Melohusky Family

Camille Brandon by Cronan Long

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6—Saint André Bessette, Religious

7:30 am Angelo Cordaro by the Italian American Police Association

12:10 pm Deceased Members of the Burkard & Heim Families

by Msgr. Paul J. E. Burkard

4:30 pm Henry & Florence Zacharyasz by Dave & Cindy Schaefer

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7—Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am Michael Kacmarski by Paul & Lucy Schaefer

10:00 am Shirley Motyka by June Kij

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

4:30 pm Mario Seggio by brother, Philip Seggio

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The Rectory Office will be closed Monday 1/1 and Tuesday 1/2.



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. Jan. 16, Feb. 6, and Feb. 20

Join our "Victory for Christ" prayer group in the Basilica's lower level Community Room 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

This is your **LAST** opportunity to interact with the St. John's Bible on display in the lower level chapel— **Don't miss it!** The public viewing of the St. John's Bible will conclude on January 7. The last presentation will be *The Word in Action* on Monday, January 8 from 6:30—7:30 p.m. by Deacon William Hayes in the Marian Room (lower level of the Basilica).

A NIGHT UNDER THE DOME

Saturday, January 6 • 5:30 p.m.

Families and friends of all ages are invited to A Night Under the Dome. Come for 4:30 p.m. Mass and stay for an encounter with the Word of God and the Basilica like never before! Families are encouraged to bring their children to experience the dome of our beautiful Basilica. Bring a blanket/ sleeping bag and wear comfy clothes/ pajamas to lie on the floor under the magnificent dome. See the story of the Magi come to life and experience the amazing Saint John's Bible up close. There will be kid-friendly activities, pizza, snacks, and hot chocolate. All are welcome!

DOUGHNUTS & DISCIPLESHIP

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

Please stop down in the Marian Room on the lower level of the Basilica after 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Mass on January 7 to enjoy a doughnut, drink, and some time for discipleship. As disciples we are called to love our neighbors, and the first step to loving our neighbors is to get to know them. *Doughnuts & Discipleship* is sponsored by the Fr. Baker Council Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Columbiettes.

ST. JOHN'S BIBLE: THE WORD IN ACTION

Monday, January 8 ● 6:30 p.m.

Join guest speaker Deacon William Hynes for a lively session designed to inspire us beyond the words and art of the St. John's Bible and into action! In this closing presentation, all are welcome to come and hear about the impact of the Word, see the Word illuminated, and be inspired by the Word into making a difference.

HELP FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

January 26—28

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated and angry with each other? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times. Call 716-474-9371 or visit HelpOurMarriage.org. Next program weekend is January 26-28. Please register by January 3. Space is limited. All calls are confidential.

DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Sunday, February 11 • 10:30 a.m. St. Joseph Cathedral, Buffalo

The Diocese of Buffalo wishes to honor couples who will observe their 25th, 50th, 60th, and 70th wedding anniversaries in 2024 with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Fisher. Brunch will follow at St. Anthony Church Center, 160 Court Street (behind Buffalo City Hall). Registration is required. Please call the Rectory (716-828-9444) by 1/10 to register.

ANNUAL OLV SWEEPSTAKES

Saturday, March 23 • Doors open at 5:30 p.m. • OLV Elementary School Cafeteria & Gym

Purchase a ticket for Sweepstakes 2024, sponsored by OLV Elementary School, with 30 cash prizes including a Grand Prize of \$10,000! Each ticket (\$50) admits two adults (ages 21+) to the Grand Drawing on March 23. Tickets are available at the Gift Shop, School Office, and Rectory Office. To purchase tickets online, visit https://olvbasilica.weshareonline.org or scan

this QR code. For details or questions, please call the School Office at 716-828-9435 or Rick Diamond at 716-253-4679. Thank you for your support!





Sunday, October 8, 2023

- Ellie Grace Peters, daughter of Nicholas & Carlyne Peters
- Carl Joseph Montante IV, son of Carl III & Kelly Montante
- Kennedy Judith Welka, daughter of Andrew Welka and Jennifer McGroarty

Sunday, October 15, 2023

- Evelyn Gloria Long, daughter of Brandon & Sydney Long
- Lucia Rose Colangelo, daughter of Zachary Sigl and Laura Colangelo

Sunday, October 22, 2023

• Emilia Margaret Miecyjak, daughter of Alexander & Lauren Miecyjak

Sunday, October 29, 2023

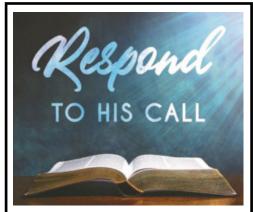
- Brea Suzanne Fiegl, daughter of Grant & Shannon Fiegl
- Callum Michael Babcock, son of Thomas & Mallory Babcock

SOUTHTOWNS CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays beginning January 9 10:30—11:45 a.m. OR 6:30—7:45 p.m.

Our Mother of Good Counsel, 3688 South Park Ave., Blasdell

Fall in love with the Mass! Examine Jesus' Jewish roots to understand more fully the Last Supper and the Eucharist. Your experience of Mass will never be the same! Participate as a full participant (with purchase of workbook) or a lite participant (view videos and join discussion for free). Registration is required. Call or text Deacon Michael Dulak at 716-913-0476.



The Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—always supported each other in doing God's will, even when it involved hardship. As the family of God's children, we must help each other follow God's will. Let us never stand in the way of those whom God has called to a Church vocation. Invite them to contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHARITABLE & BENEVOLENT RAFFLE WINNERS

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, Fr. Baker Council #2243, thank you to all who participated in the Charitable & Benevolent Raffle. \$1,350 was raised to benefit Our Lady of Victory Shrine & Basilica. Your support is very much appreciated. The final drawing was held on December 2, 2023 and the winners were: Carmine Bartoli, Joe Ingara, Maureen Metzger, William Busch, Marie Kruczlnicki, Cristina Celono, Sanet, OLBS Catholic Academy, Daniel Marengo, Robert H. Koch, Jeff Cadge, Michael A. Patti, and Mike Hoffman.



OLV SERVICE CLUB

"The fruit of silence is prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, the fruit of service is peace."

—St. Teresa of Calcutta

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas holiday and a peaceful new year!



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THANK YOU for your generosity

In order to continue to maintain our beautiful Basilica and support the mission and ministries of our parish, including our school, 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. For online giving, go to https://olvbasilica.weshareonline.org. We are very grateful for your ongoing support of Our Lady of Victory Basilica!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2023

PARISH	COLLECTIONS (including onlin	ne)

ARTION OCCUPATIONS (including online)				
Weekly	\$12,632.00			
Monthly	\$320.00			
All Souls	\$5.00			
Christmas	\$25.00			
Christmas Flowers	\$534.00			
Fuel	\$1,045.00			
Holy Day: All Saints (11/1)	\$5.00			
Holy Day: Immac. Conception (12/8)	\$10.00			
Holy Day: Solemnity of Mary (1/1)	\$3.00			
Pennies to Heaven	\$25.00			
Shrine / Votive Candles	\$1,978.45			

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS

Campaign for Human Development	\$80.00
Catholic Education	\$5.00
Holy Name Society	\$5.00
Respect Life Sunday for Moms & Babies	\$5.00
Seminarian & Diaconate Formation	\$5.00
World Mission Sunday	\$5.00

Total \$16,687.45



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- 2 Select the collection or event of your choice.
- 3 Set up your donation or payment. That's it!





MINISTRY SCHEDULE					
DATE	TIME	LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS		
Sat. 1/6	4:30 p.m.	Amanda & Richie English	Jean Dulak, Kathleen Roche, Joanne Setlock		
Sun. 1/7	8:00 a.m.	Chris Heyden	May Patricia Allman, Eugene Allman, Sheila Allman		
	10:00 a.m.	Children's Liturgy	Mickey Kipler, Carolyn Kipler		
	Noon	Robert McDonough, Paul Miazga	Ellen Scheiderer, Linda Smolen, Christopher Swan		
	4:30 p.m.	Mickey Pawenski, Patricia DiVito	Donna Gelle, Stefan Gelle		

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