

January 8, 2023 | The Epiphany of the Lord



OLV

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A Father Baker Legacy

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PGonciarz@olvbasilica.org

## 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

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday, 7:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Tues., Wed., Thurs., 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Carmelann Zomeri, Director

2760 S. Park Avenue, Lackawanna

716-828-9437

religioused@olvbasilica.org

#### GIFT SHOP AND MUSEUM

Open Daily 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

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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  
(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.

Address: 767 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218

Phone: (716) 828-9444

Website: [www.olvbasilica.org](http://www.olvbasilica.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

### DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

#### STATEMENT FROM BISHOP MICHAEL FISHER ON THE PASSING OF POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI:

I share with you the statement that Bishop Fisher released on the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI:

*We honor and celebrate the memory of Pope Benedict XVI who served so long and well the Church he loved intensely as a true "Servant of the Servants of God." His keen intellect and passion for teaching and promoting eternal Truths defined his long and esteemed life as priest, theologian, bishop, cardinal and ultimately as Supreme Pontiff. When he discerned that his physical stamina would no longer allow him to continue to fulfill the demands of leader of our Catholic Church, he demonstrated uncommon humility and selflessness, surrendering his pontificate and retiring to a life of prayer and reflection. We will forever give thanks to God, our Supreme Ruler, for the life and ministry of Joseph Ratzinger. May the Lord in His boundless love and mercy welcome this good and faithful servant into His eternal kingdom even as his life's work to teach and manifest the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a troubled world continues to bear fruit.*

*Eternal rest grant unto your servant Benedict, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

#### NEW PHASE IN OLV BASILICA RESTORATION PROGRAM:

As you know, over the past number of months, we have done a considerable amount of restoration work on the outside of the Basilica, including the drainage system, roof replacement and repairs, as well as ongoing work with the stained glasses windows in the nave.

Our Basilica Restoration Program is now shifting into a new phase with the restoration of the pews and floors. For some time, we have had a section roped off near the St. Joseph Altar to demonstrate what will be done.

I am very excited to announce that the famed Kittinger Furniture Company, located here in Clarence, New York, has been selected to refinish and restore our 100 year old African mahogany pews. Kittinger has a long, distinguished history, including creating furniture for the White House and the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. The pews will also have new padded kneelers and, when re-installed, will allow us to widen the main aisle.

The removal of the pews will commence on Monday, January 9. Approximately one-quarter of Basilica pews will be removed at any one time. While certain sections of pews will be offsite, the corresponding floor areas will be worked on and restored. Under the pews, an epoxy surface will be applied. Contiguous marble aisle walkways will be repaired, burnished, and coated. It is our hope that a majority of the work will be completed by the beginning of Holy Week, April 2.

We should all be prepared for a fair amount of disruption in the Basilica. I kindly ask for your patience and understanding, but our goal is to keep the Basilica open throughout the construction period.

When you enter the Basilica, signage will indicate if daily Mass will take place in the upper Basilica or the Brvenik Community Room (former Choir Room), located on the lower level of the Basilica. Weekend Masses will still be accommodated in the Basilica as per usual, but with modified seating and location of a temporary altar. Daily visitors are still welcome, but may be restricted in certain areas of the Basilica and please be aware that there will be noise and disruption.

This is truly an exciting new stage in our Basilica restoration efforts. All of

this is being done as part of our five year Centennial Celebration of the building of the Basilica, begun by our beloved founder, Fr. Baker, in August of 1921 and completed for the Dedication/Consecration of the Basilica in May of 1926.

In May of 2026, we look forward to a grand celebration for the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Basilica and ensuring that this magnificent treasure that has been handed on to us will be cared for now for the next 100 years.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sentiments of deepest gratitude and appreciation to David Kersten, CEO for OLV Charities, Yordan Kovatchki, Director of Facilities, Michael Sullivan, Diocesan Director of Buildings & Properties, and a very talented team of architects and engineers, who meet every two weeks to guide and direct our Basilica Restoration Program. You can be assured that our Basilica is in good hands!

I am also profoundly grateful to all those who have donated towards our *Centennial Capital Campaign* to allow us to continue the legacy of Father Baker and to care for our magnificent basilica. If you are also interested in helping, please contact OLV Charities' Mission Advancement Office at 716-828-9572 or contact me at the rectory regarding how you can participate in our *Centennial Capital Campaign*.

Once again, I sincerely want to thank all of you for being wonderful parishioners, benefactors, and friends of OLV. None of this would be possible without your support.

I wish you and all your loved ones a Blessed, Happy & Healthy New Year 2023!

May Father Baker intercede for you, may Our Lady of Victory protect you, and may Almighty God bless you abundantly with His love and peace.

**GRATEFULLY,  
FR. DAVID**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 7—Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

7:30 am	Keith Matthews by Peggy Pfalzgraf and Rosemary Scahill
12:10 pm	Daniel C. Verdi by wife, Carol A. and son, Daniel T.
4:30 pm	Heather Anne Kelly by Elizabeth Willard

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8—Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am	Living & Deceased Members of the OLV Holy Name Society
10:00 am	Joe Sciortino by Angela
12:00 pm	Living & Deceased Members of the OLV Altar & Rosary Society
4:30 pm	Living & Deceased Members of the Bayerl and Pettit Families by Family

### MONDAY, JANUARY 9—Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

7:30 am	All Souls Intentions Arthur J. Pepe Jr. by Cronan Long and OLV Charities
12:10 pm	Pat Rivera by Donna Kraus Aubrey J. Millard by Glenn Reid & Jenny Xie

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 10—Weekday (First Week in Ordinary Time)

7:30 am	Mark Antonio by the Italian American Police Association John Shields by Mike & Sue Anderson
12:10 pm	Tess Marie O'Leary by Eileen Hudson & Greg Wolmering William C. Erich by Robert Ball

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11—Weekday

7:30 am	OLV Helping Hands Club Members
12:10 pm	Helen Rys by Carol Tokarczyk Joe Crozier by Derek & Diane Smith

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 12—Weekday

7:30 am	Cornelius P. Downey, Sr. by the Downey Family
12:10 pm	Maryann (Baron) & Jack Maynard by Brownie and Betty Ptak

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 13—Saint Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:30 am	Lucille V. Mancinelli by Regina A. Del Vecchio In Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered by Michael & Kathleen Palermo
8:15 am	OLV Father Baker Guild Members
12:10 pm	Shaun Joseph Vona (Anniversary of Death) by the Vona Family

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 14—Weekday

7:30 am	Kenneth Preston by Anita Juda
12:10 pm	James F. Harris by Bob Makin
4:30 pm	Antoinette M. "Toni" LiPuma by Kathleen Stock

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15—Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am	Arthur & Mary J. Damstetter by daughter, M. Alessi
10:00 am	Mary Ann Krajcer by the Gawel Family
12:00 pm	Donald Guay by Marcia Turner
4:30 pm	Carmela Aquino by Carol Mahiques



## CENTENNIAL PRAYER

Loving God,  
we thank you for  
the faith, vision and  
heroic ministry of  
Venerable Nelson  
Baker, who entrusted  
his full confidence  
to the powerful  
intercession of  
Our Lady of Victory.

As we celebrate  
the Centennial  
of our Basilica,  
may it continue to  
be a place of healing  
prayer, inspiration  
for the conversion  
of hearts, and  
encouragement  
for charitable service  
to those in need.

We ask this in the  
name of Jesus,  
who lives and reigns  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

*Our Lady of Victory,  
pray for us!*

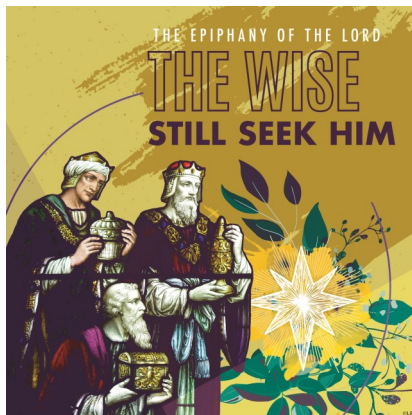


## TELEVISED & ONLINE MASSES

The Basilica's Sunday Mass is available each weekend online at [olvbasilica.org](http://olvbasilica.org) by clicking on the link that will appear in the popup box, or by selecting *Digital Mass Archive*.

The Sunday Mass is also televised on WGRZ Ch. 2 at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday.

Our daily 12:10 pm Masses (Monday—Saturday) are livestreamed. To view the live Masses, go to [olvbasilica.org](http://olvbasilica.org) and click the "Live Streaming" button in the top right corner.



## MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS

Richie English & Amanda Torrelli were married here at Our Lady of Victory Basilica on Friday, December 30, 2022.

Jordan Doyle & Kimberly Brignon were married here at Our Lady of Victory Basilica on Saturday, December 31, 2022.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JOIN US IN PRAYER

Tuesday Evenings • 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.

Tuesday Evenings • 6:30 p.m.  
on January 10, February 7,  
and February 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.

### ANNUAL OLV SWEEPSTAKES

Saturday, March 25 • 6:30 p.m.  
OLV Elementary Cafeteria and Gym

Purchase a ticket for our annual sweepstakes, sponsored by OLV Elementary School, with \$25,000 in prizes and a Grand Prize of \$10,000. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a party and drawing from 7:00—10:00 p.m. Snacks/beverages provided; outside food encouraged. Each ticket admits two adults (ages 21+). Winners need not be present to win. Tickets are \$50 each and are available at the Rectory or School Office. For questions, please call the Rectory Office at 716-828-9444 or the School Office at 716-828-9434. Thank you for your support!

### HEALING MASS

Wednesday, March 29 • 7:00 p.m.

Please come and join us for a Healing Mass. The main celebrant will be Fr. Richard DiGiulio, the Director of Charismatic Renewal for the Diocese of Buffalo. All are welcome to attend.

## HIGH SCHOOL HONORS

Congratulations to the following high school students who achieved honors for the first marking period in this 2022-2023 school year:

### MT. MERCY ACADEMY

#### First Honors

Samantha Benes  
Ryan Geary  
Kendal Markiewicz

#### Second Honors

Nora Paul  
Kayla Pietrkiewicz

#### Merit Roll

Emma Colello  
Marlee Ventura

### BUFFALO ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

#### Honor Roll

Amelia Strittmatter

### ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

#### First Honors

Jude Strittmatter, Grade 12  
Mateo Torres, Grade 12

#### Second Honors

Brian Sibley, Grade 12  
Christopher Reidy, Grade 12  
Boston Pokigo, Grade 11  
Bradyn Chudoba, Grade 9



Our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the Marian Room on the Basilica's lower level.

If you are considering entering the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), please contact Fr. Rob at the Rectory Office

at 716-828-9444. All are welcome!

Please continue to pray for our RCIA participants here at Our Lady of Victory Basilica:

**Terica Pereira, Timothy Boatman, James Taylor, Ashley Cannon, Kelly Dlugosz, Delaney Dynas, John Hruby, and Joshua Malecki**



**PRAY & PLAY**  
AT OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### THINKING ABOUT SEPARATION OR DIVORCE?

Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? The Retrouvaille program is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health and is highly successful in saving hurting marriages. For details or to register, call 716-474-9371 or visit [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org). All calls are confidential. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. **The next program weekend is January 27—29.**

### 2023 CALENDAR COLLECTION

Have a 2023 calendar? Donate it to someone in prison by dropping it off at the OLV Rectory Office. Calendars cannot have any spirals. For more information, please call Mary Anne Jackson at 716-864-0747.



Happy New Year! Is giving back one of your goals for 2023? If so, become a Catholic Charities volunteer.

View all our current opportunities at [www.ccwny.org/volunteer](http://www.ccwny.org/volunteer) and start the year by becoming a beacon of HOPE in your community!

If you have an urgent need or you are facing a crisis situation, visit [www.ccwny.org](http://www.ccwny.org) to complete an online assistance form. Help and HOPE are available!

## OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OLV Elementary School has provided students with a vibrant, safe, and nurturing environment for more than 120 years! Whether in classrooms, computer labs, or sports fields, our teachers shape the leaders of tomorrow and provide the building blocks for unlocking each child's vast potential.

OLV offers small class sizes, spiritual formation, and a proven track record of preparing children for high school and life! Additionally, we offer a morning / after school care program to further the social and educational development of our children.

OLV is a licensed STREAM institution that has a forward-thinking curriculum that focuses on Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics.

**For more information or to schedule a personal tour, please call our school office at 716-828-9434.**



## PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

The Three Magi worshipped Jesus and then "departed by a different way."

Is Jesus asking you to live your life in a new and different way for the Kingdom of God? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, please contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit our website at [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org).

## WE ARE GRATEFUL!

In order to continue to maintain our beautiful Basilica and to 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 easy online giving, please go to <https://olvbasilica.weshareonline.org>. We are very grateful for your ongoing support of Our Lady of Victory Basilica!

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

#### PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekly	\$8,969.00
Weekly Online	\$2,137.00
Monthly	\$695.00
Christmas	\$930.00
Christmas Flowers	\$132.00
Fuel	\$20.00
Holy Day: All Saints (11/1)	\$20.00
Holy Day: Immaculate Conception (12/8)	\$64.00
Holy Day: Solemnity of Mary (1/1)	\$95.00
Pennies to Heaven	\$1,053.00
Shrine / Votive Candles	\$2,753.00

#### ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS

Black & Native Missions	\$5.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$25.00
Religious Retirement Appeal	\$230.00

**Total** **\$17,128.00**

### YTD FINANCIAL POSITION— NOVEMBER 30, 2022 (3 months)

#### OLV PARISH

Revenue	\$212,928
Less Expenses	\$511,667
<b>Net Surplus (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$298,739)</b>

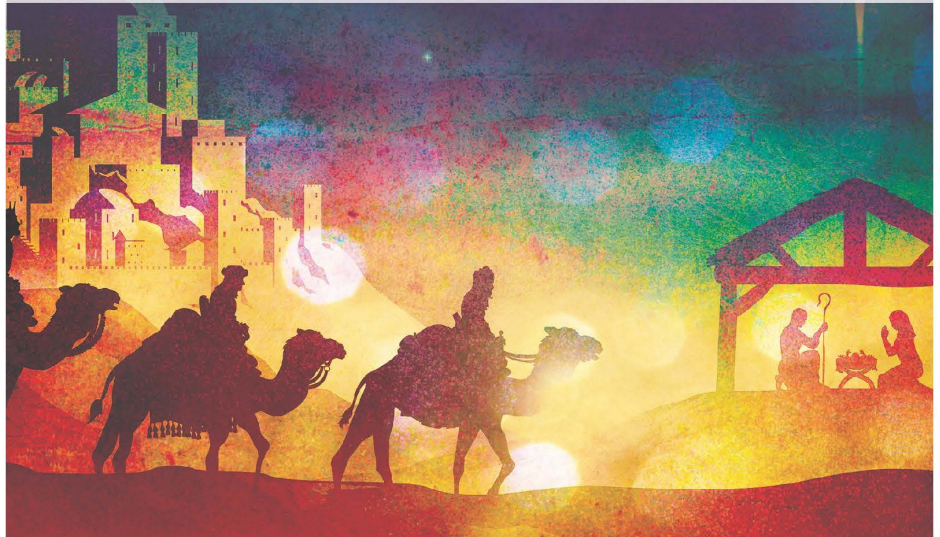
#### OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Revenue	\$175,445
Less Expenses	\$345,823
<b>Subsidy from Parish</b>	<b>(\$170,378)</b>

**Parish Net Surplus (Loss)** **(\$469,117)\*\***

\*\* Currently, OLV Charities is providing deficit funding to cover this loss.

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2

Select the collection or event of your choice.

3

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## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Sat. 1/14	4:30 pm	Robert McDonough	Cindy Schaefer, Joanne Setlock
Sun. 1/15	8:00 am	Jodie O'Connor	Mary Patricia Allman, Richard Grasso, Michalene Murray
	10:00 am	Michael (Mickey) Kipler	Patricia Jarosz, Carolyn Kipler, Terrence McCann
	12:00 pm	Art Smith	Christopher Swan, Sandy Swiech, Jon Paul Trabucco
	4:30 pm	William O'Rourke, Kathy Dimitrievski	Stefan Gelle, Gregory Stachowski



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