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September 15, 2024 | 24th 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.

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,

ROAD TO RENEWAL: FINAL DECISIONS

On Monday, September 9, Bishop Michael Fisher and Rev. Bryan Zielenieski, Vicar for Renewal, addressed the clergy and the lay representatives from the vicariates (regions) of our diocese to share the announcement of Final Decisions for the rightsizing and reshaping of the Diocese of Buffalo. Rev. Sean DiMaria, who is the Vicar Forane of the Southern Erie Vicariate of which we are a part, shared how this affects us here in our area.

Within our Family #26 (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Orchard Park, Our Mother of Good Counsel, Blasdell, Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica, Our Lady of Bistrice, Queen of Angels, & St. Anthony, Lackawanna), the Final Decisions are:

Projected number of active priests for this family by 2030 = 3 (including OLV)

1. St. Anthony, Lackawanna will merge with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Orchard Park—entire property of St. Anthony will be sold.
2. Our Mother of Good Counsel, Blasdell will merge with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Orchard Park—entire property of OMGC will be sold.
3. Queen of Angels, Lackawanna will merge with Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Orchard Park and become a secondary worship site for multi-cultural ministry.
4. Our Lady of Bistrice will merge with Our Lady of Victory, with the opportunity for the Croatian Mass and priest to work with OLV and continue their ministry. This would need to be discerned with the leadership of OLV as to how this will take place.

Parishes open in family:

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
Orchard Park
Our Lady of Victory Basilica,
Lackawanna

Secondary worship sites:

Queen of Angels, Lackawanna

Parish merging/closed:

St. Anthony, Lackawanna
Our Mother of Good Counsel, Blasdell
Our Lady of Bistrice, Lackawanna

Further details on the timeline and implementation for the changes, and last Masses at the locations will be shared with you soon as they are known.

I know this is not easy for anyone, but especially for the parishioners of parishes that are closing and merging. My heart and my prayers go out to all of the people in our area as well as throughout our entire diocese. I specifically want to reach out to Fr. Christopher Coric, OFM Conv. and the lay faithful of Our Lady of Bistrice Parish. On behalf of all of us here at Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica, we welcome with open arms, all of the individuals and families that belong to Our Lady of Bistrice. It is with profound sentiments of gratitude and esteem, that I thank Fr. Chris, for his many years of exemplary priestly ministry as Pastor of Our Lady of Bistrice and his dedication to the Croatian Community both near and far. I can assure you, I will do whatever needs to be done to ease the transition and to honor the faith and traditions of Our Lady of Bistrice Parish.

I invite everyone to pray fervently for our entire Diocesan Family, our Bishop Michael Fisher, our clergy, religious and laity as we navigate these challenging times and strive to remain strong in faith, hope and love. We are facing a shortage of priests, so we need to pray daily for an increase of vocations to the priesthood as well as for the diaconate and religious life. We also need to encourage our young

people and families to attend Mass and receive the Sacraments. This is what guides our moral compass and helps us to live our lives according to the will of God. Jesus repeatedly mentions in the Gospels, "Do not be afraid, I am with you!" Let us journey now together and support one another through faith, prayer and good works.

When Father Baker built this magnificent shrine, he wanted it to be a place where all are welcome. That is our tag line here at Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica as we continue to celebrate our Centennial (2021-2026). All are truly welcome! May Our Lady of Victory watch over and protect our entire diocese and may Father Baker inspire us to never give up and to trust that God will always, always provide!

HONOR OUR CATECHISTS AND TEACHERS: September 15, 2024

The United States Bishop have designated today as Catechetical Sunday to honor all those who share in the evangelizing and teaching mission of the Church. Here at Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica, I am so grateful for the dedicated ministry of these persons who have accepted the call to catechize other adults in the RCIA process, youth and children in our Faith Formation Program as well as our Principal Mary Szlosek & Faculty at Our Lady of Victory Elementary School.

I want to particularly acknowledge our Sunday Faith Formation Team under the leadership of Carm Zomeri, our Director of Religious Education.

Mrs. Kristen Sokolik - Grade 1
Mrs. Sandra Wnuk - Grade 2
Miss Laura Koepfel - Grade 3
Mr. Ryan Harrington - Grade 4
Mrs. Sarah Lindstrom - Grade 5
Mrs. Kathy Dimitrievski - Grade 6
Miss Kathryn Klein - Grade 7
Mr. Mike Sobaszek - Grade 8

Mrs. Stephanie Bialkowski - Grade 9

Eucharist Preparation:

Ms. Aimee Andrzejewski
Miss Natalie Horner

Reconciliation Preparation:

Mrs. Patti Fenzl

Sunday Sub:

Ms. Molly McClenathan

Please join me in thanking them for their dedicated ministry to all of our children. Also, if you have school age children and they are not enrolled in our Elementary School, it is not too late to register them for our Faith Formation Program. Please contact Carm Zomeri at 716-828-9437 for more information.

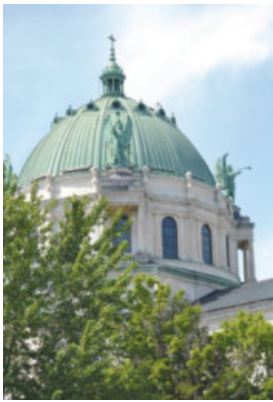
PLEASE NOTE: ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, THERE WILL BE NO 4:30 P.M. MASS.

Due to the Centennial BPO Concert, there will be no 4:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday, September 29. If you know people who regularly attend this Mass and are not parishioners of OLV, please share this information with them. Thank you!

Be assured of my grateful prayers and blessings. May Father Baker intercede for you and Our Lady of Victory protect you and your loved ones.

**GRATEFULLY,
FR. DAVID**

SAVE THE DOME / ADOPT AN ANGEL



As you know, the copper on the Basilica's dome needs to be replaced at a cost that will exceed three million dollars. Buffalo's harsh climate has taken its toll on the dome over the past 100 years since it

was completed in 1925 and water infiltration has significantly damaged the plaster and interior paintings.

It is now incumbent upon us to do our very best to care for this magnificent shrine for years to come. This public phase of our Centennial Campaign is a community-wide initiative. Our goal is to raise three million dollars. One way to get involved is through our "Adopt an Angel" initiative where individuals can adopt one of the more than 2,000 angels featured in the Basilica.

OLV is fortunate to have received a \$500,000 matching grant from the

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Enrichment Protection Fund, which will help support our restoration project.

If you have already contributed to our Centennial Capital Campaign and Restoration Project, thank you! If you have not, please prayerfully consider a gift. Every single gift, large or small, makes a difference. Just look at what Fr. Baker was able to accomplish 100 years ago when he asked donors from across Western New York and beyond for \$10 for a brick of marble!

For more information or to make a donation, please scan the QR code. For questions, or to discuss your personal gift or pledge over time, contact Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.



May Fr. Baker intercede for the success of our campaign and may Our Lady of Victory continue to protect us as we honor her patronage here at OLV National Shrine & Basilica.

PRAYER OF FAITH IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Heavenly Father, in this time of uncertainty and change, we come before You with heavy hearts and hopeful spirits. We pray for Your guidance and strength as we navigate these difficult transitions.

Fill us with the faith to trust in Your plan, even when it is hard to see.

Grant us the grace to support one another with compassion and understanding.

May we find new ways to come together, to worship, and to serve, in our new community.

Bless our Bishop, priests, deacons, and all those who lead us, as they too face these changes and seek to shepherd us with wisdom and love. Help us to carry the light of our faith into new places, and to build a strong, united parish family, wherever we may be.

We ask for Your peace to calm our fears, Your wisdom to guide our decisions, and Your love to sustain us through every challenge.

We trust in Your infinite goodness and mercy, and we hold onto the hope that in You, all things work together for the good of those who love You.

In Jesus' Name, we pray.
Amen.



Registration is open for the 2024-2025 school year.

Classes begin in October.

Registration forms are available through the Faith Formation Office at 716-828-9437 or by emailing faithformation@olvbasilica.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.
September 24, October 15
October 29

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 on Fridays after the 12:10 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14—The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- 7:30 am Living and Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica
- 11:30 am **Wedding: Melissa Kathan and Nicholas Hester (no 12:10 p.m. Mass today)**
- 1:30 pm **Wedding: Danielle Hockwater and William Deland**
- 4:30 pm Genevieve Walker by Kathi, Stan, Kelli, Melissa & Family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15—Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 am Tom Bowman by Mary Jo Orzech
- 10:00 am Rev. Romulus Rosolowski, OFM Conv. by the Del Vecchio Family
- 12:00 pm Deceased Members of the Strycharz Family by Marion
- 4:30 pm Karen Beck by Joan Milazzo

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16—Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

- 7:30 am Stella Dusza by grandson, David
- Joseph Kind (70th Wedding Anniversary) by wife, Terry
- 12:10 pm Joanne Lipkus by Marshall & Carol Lipkus
- Joan Hartsock by sister, Nora Horan

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17—St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

- 7:30 am Eleanore F. Kaczmarczyk by Pat & Daughters
- Rev. Msgr. Robert Wurtz by the Del Vecchio Family
- 12:10 pm Walter & Mary Melohusky (Wedding Anniversary) by Daughter

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18—Weekday

- 7:30 am Nell Vidrine (Birthday Remembrance) by Pat
- 12:10 pm Eugene Ringle by daughter, Louise
- Mary Kathleen Maroney by Maureen Krause

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19—Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

- 7:30 am Wally Kupkowski Jr. by Family
- Daniel Stworzydlak by Family
- 12:10 pm Augusta K. Brannen by Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma
- Ann M. Hochreiter by Margaret Yeager

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20—Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

- 7:30 am Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica
- Kathy Caligiuri by Claudia & Family
- 8:15 am In Thanksgiving For Answered Prayers by Kathleen Palermo
- 12:10 pm Nancy Krzeminski by Betty Kelly

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21—Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

- 7:30 am Natalie Mattimore Lewis by Evan & Trish Lewis
- 12:10 pm Cosimo & Louise Incardona by the Flitt & Smith Family
- 4:30 pm Eugene Gary McCann by the McCann Family

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22—Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 am Lawrence McNamara by Deacon & Mrs. Michael Comerford
- 10:00 am Evelyn Albohn and David Lalka by Dick & Lu Powers and Family
- 12:00 pm Frank & Rita Hotnich by the Hotnich Family
- 4:30 pm Milena Casciani by Gabriella Gorman

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN THE OLV SERVICE CLUB

Sunday, September 15 • 1:30 p.m.

Our Service Club will host an opening meeting this Sunday after the Noon Mass in the OLV Elementary School Cafeteria from **1:30 – 3:00 p.m.** A pizza lunch will be provided. We will review upcoming events, always focusing on the corporal works of mercy, and solicit ideas for activities. We will also assemble homeless toiletry kits and collect socks to support the school's "SOCK-tober" service project. New members of all ages are welcome!

Upcoming Service Opportunities:

- **Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:00 p.m.**—Resurrection Church Food Pantry
- **Saturday, Sept. 21, 9:00 a.m.**—Beach Sweep
- **Friday, Dec. 6—Spaghetti Dinner**—our only fundraiser, supporting Christmas gifts for foster children

For more information, contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887 or go to the OLV Service Club Facebook page.

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS: ALPHA YOUTH

Mondays 6:45—8:00 p.m.

Parish Center Room 4 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Orchard Park

- September 16 and 30
- October 7, 21, and 28
- Special "Day Away"—Sat. Nov. 2
- November 18 and 25
- December 2

What is Alpha? A place to share special desserts and ask big questions that actually matter—Is there a God? Does it even make a difference to me? Does God still heal people? Who is Jesus? Why did he die?

Open to ALL high schoolers 9th-12th grade, including Catholic high school students and teens who have already received Confirmation. Come once or to the entire series! Bring a friend!! Questions? Contact Sarah Leahy at sleahy@olshop.org or 716-824-8209.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sunday, Sept. 29 • 10 a.m. Mass

Welcome to a new school year! Celebrate this special beginning at our Children's Liturgy! Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Basilica's Marian Room. **Practice will take place on Saturday, Sept. 28 in the Basilica's Community Room** (Singers practice from 9:00—9:45 a.m. Readers, gift bearers and collectors practice from 9:45—10:30 a.m.) We need readers, greeters, collectors, gift bearers and singers. Previous experience is not needed! Please call Tina Hatem at 716-826-5075 if your child wants to volunteer, even if your child is unable to make practice. We look forward to seeing all of you again and are eager to meet new friends. If you and your child have never attended a Children's Liturgy, please come! There's always room for more!

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Tuesdays • 6:30—7:30 p.m.
Oct. 1, Nov. 12, or Dec. 10

If you are a new parent looking to have your baby baptized, please plan to attend one of our upcoming Baptismal Preparation classes. Choose the date that best fits your schedule! Sessions are held in the Marian Room on the Basilica's lower level. To register, scan the QR code. For questions, contact Deacon Mark at the Rectory Office at 716-339-0767 or mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org.



NEW PARISHIONER NIGHT

Wednesday, October 2 • 6:30 p.m.

All new parishioners are invited to our New Parishioner Welcome Night. Please come and meet other newly-registered parishioners, get to know a little bit about Our Lady of Victory's

rich history, learn about opportunities for getting involved, and hear about how Father Baker's legacy is still thriving. Light refreshments will be served. We will meet in the Community Room on the lower level of the Basilica. This event is open to all new parishioners. All are welcome!

ALTAR & ROSARY MEETING

Sunday, October 6 • 11:00 a.m.

All ladies (ages 18+) are welcome to join the Altar & Rosary Society for our next meeting on October 6. We will meet in the Community Room on the lower level of the Basilica and will continue to meet on the first Sunday of each month. Our mission is to provide for the adornment of the sanctuary and to promote a greater devotion to the praise and honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary through prayer, good works, and devotion to the Rosary. For questions, contact Mary Anne Jackson at 716-864-0747 or MaryanneJack123@gmail.com

ALL-YEAR ALUMNI REUNION FOR OLV ELEMENTARY

Saturday, October 12 • 4:30 p.m.

You are cordially invited to a very special All-Year Alumni Reunion, and a very special birthday celebration for our own Sister Ellen O'Keefe, SSJ, on Saturday, October 12! Join us for Mass at the Basilica at 4:30 p.m. followed by a reception at OLV Elementary School at 5:30 p.m. Sing happy birthday to Sister Ellen! Enjoy refreshments while you relive your fondest OLV memories and reconnect with former classmates and staff. Meet current students and tour the school, including our new gym floor and state-of-the-art technology lab! RSVP to Paula at 716-828-7592 or pdeangelis-stein@OLVBasilica.org, or scan the QR code to fill out a simple online reply form.



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**

For online giving, please go to <https://olvbasilica.weshareonline.org>

We are very grateful for your ongoing support!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, August 18, 2024

PARISH COLLECTIONS	
Weekly	\$14,650.25
Monthly	\$800.00
Easter	\$9.00
Holy Day: Assumption (8/15)	\$4,403.00
Pennies to Heaven	\$5.00
Votive Candles/Shrines	\$3,097.38
ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS	
Altar & Rosary Society	\$10.00
Catholic University	\$437.00
Church in Latin America & Africa	\$5.00
Good Friday / Holy Land	\$20.00
Retired Diocesan Priests Medical	\$45.00
Sr. Ellen Angel Fund (OLV School)	\$5.00
TOTAL	\$23,486.63



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Set up your donation or payment. That's it!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Sat. 9/21	4:30 pm	Amanda & Richie English	Kathleen Clark, Bob Lohr
Sun. 9/22	8:00 am	Jodie O'Connor	Eugene Allman, Sheila Allman, Mary Ellen Carosa
	10:00 am	John Loss	Terrence McCann, Molly McClenathan, Bridget Wood
	Noon	Arthur Smith	Jon Paul Trabucco, David West, Doreen West
	4:30 pm	Kathy Dimitrievski	Patricia DiVito, Marsha Lipke, Gregory Stachowski

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We are deeply grateful to the following individuals and businesses who were event sponsors for OLV National Shrine & Basilica during our summer "Pennies to Heaven" fundraiser:

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VISIT THE OLV BASILICA GIFT SHOP

The OLV Gift Shop, located on the lower level of the Basilica next to the Father Baker Museum, carries a wide variety of Catholic gifts and religious merchandise, including materials related to Father Baker and OLV Basilica. **The Gift Shop is open 7 days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** (closed from 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. for lunch). Your purchases support OLV and help us to continue the legacy of Father Baker. Please stop in to see what we have to offer!

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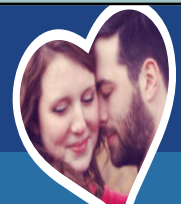


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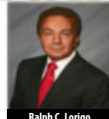
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