



#### PASTOR/RECTOR

Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma

#### PAROCHIAL VICAR

Rev. Robert A. Contarin

#### IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Msgr. Paul J. E. Burkard

#### DEACON

Deacon Michael V. Comerford

#### DEACON & PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Deacon Mark Bialkowski

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Peter Gonciarz

April 20, 2025 | Easter Sunday



## 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](mailto:olvrectory@olvbasilica.org)

### SCHOOL

2760 S. Park Avenue, Lackawanna

Mary Doyle-Szlosek, Principal

716-828-9434

[elementary@olvbasilica.org](mailto:elementary@olvbasilica.org)

[www.ourladyofvictoryelementary.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.olvbasilica.org)

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

### DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

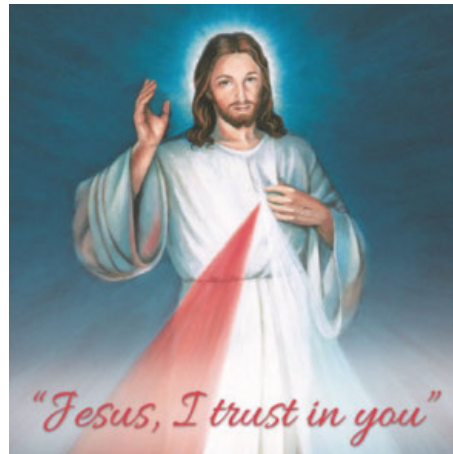
This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it! Alleluia! I extend a warm welcome to all who have joined us for the joyous celebration of Easter. I am so filled with joy and so grateful to God for the gift of each and every member of our parish family as well as all of our visitors and friends of OLV! I am especially grateful for our many new parishioners who have joined our Basilica family! In the words of St. Augustine, "We are Easter people and alleluia is our song!" The resurrection of Jesus is the centerpiece of our Catholic faith. On this Easter Day and throughout the coming fifty days of the Easter season, may we give glory and praise to God, singing our alleluias and bearing witness to the Risen Christ by the way we live our lives.

When our Risen Lord appeared to Mary Magdalene that first Easter morning, He sent her to announce the Good News to His disciples that He had truly risen from the dead. Our Lord sends us out to do the same. He calls us to live our faith in such a way that others will come to know, love and believe in Him, because they will see the difference our faith in Jesus Christ makes in our daily lives. During this beautiful season of Easter, please reach out to all those who need to hear this message of hope and the promise of New Life that only our Risen Lord Jesus can give. Invite others whose faith has grown lukewarm, or who for whatever reason have drifted away, to return to the Lord Jesus and the Sacraments of the Church, which we are so privileged to celebrate and receive. Please join me in praying this Easter prayer:

*Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it. Amen!*

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER): April 27, 2025

Next Sunday, we will have a Eucharistic Holy Hour at 3:00 p.m. for Divine Mercy Sunday. It will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Liturgy of the Word, Reflection, Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy, and Intercessions, and will conclude with Benediction and the Divine Praises. All are welcome!



### MORNING MASS LOCATION

In an effort to move forward with the restoration work both inside and outside the Basilica with the least amount of disruption, please note the following: **Beginning on Monday, April 21, the 7:30 a.m. daily Mass Monday through Friday will be held in the lower level chapel.** The 12:10 p.m. Mass will remain in the upper Basilica.

On Saturdays and Sundays, all Masses will be celebrated in the upper Basilica.

**Friday School Masses will be moved to the School Gym, beginning on Friday, April 25 at 8:15 a.m.** There will only be two Fridays when the School Masses will take place in the Basilica: May 30 for Ribbon Day and June 6 for the 8th Grade Baccalaureate Mass.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of ongoing restoration to care for our magnificent Basilica.

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL:

There is no better way to exercise the call to almsgiving than to support our Catholic Charities Appeal, which provides essential services to those who need it most.

The 2025 Diocesan Goal is \$8,500,000. **Our Parish Goal at OLV Basilica for this year is \$155,004. To date, we've raised \$132,395.51 from 198 donors.**

To make a gift, please mail in your donor card to Appeal 2025, donate online at [ccwny.org](https://ccwny.org), or text HOPE4WNY to 44321. Please identify yourself as a parishioner of Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica, so our parish is credited to ensure we make our goal. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit [ccwny.org](https://ccwny.org).

### THANK YOU

On behalf of Fr. Paul, Fr. Rob, Deacon Michael, Deacon Mark, and myself, we thank all of you for your wonderful dedication and generous support of our parish throughout the year. May God bless you and your loved ones with a blessed and joyous Easter! May Father Baker intercede for you, and Our Lady of Victory watch over and protect you!

**GRATEFULLY,  
FR. DAVID**



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, APRIL 19—Holy Saturday

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 9:00 am | Morning Prayer  |
| 1:00 pm | Blessing of Easter Baskets (inside the main Basilica)           |
| 8:00 pm | The Easter Vigil—Living & Deceased Parishioners of OLV Basilica |

### SUNDAY, APRIL 20—Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 8:00 am  | Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica |
| 10:00 am | Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica |
| 12:00 pm | Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica |

**Please Note:** There will be no 4:30 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday.

### MONDAY, APRIL 21—Monday within the Octave of Easter

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 7:30 am  | Peter Szalasny by mother, Joan Szalasny<br>The Allman Family (living) by the Cowan Family |
| 12:10 pm | Rose Walker by Kathi, Stan & Family<br>Patricia J. Breen by Jack Zimmerman                |

### TUESDAY, APRIL 22—Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 7:30 am  | Theresa Kind (Birthday Remembrance) by Pat Mendez<br>Anthony Rebmann (living) by Bob Rebmann            |
| 12:10 pm | Lillian Manka (Birthday Remembrance) by daughter Linda & Family<br>Roger L. Powell by the Powell Family |

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23—Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 7:30 am  | James B. Downey by the Downey Family  |
| 12:10 pm | Eugene & Effie Ringle by Marshall & Carol Lipkus<br>Dennis J. O'Hara by wife and sons |

### THURSDAY, APRIL 24—Thursday within the Octave of Easter

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 7:30 am  | Josephine Simchick (Birthday Remembrance) by Ron's Family |
| 12:10 pm | LuAnn Batt (Living) by Tim Batt                           |

### FRIDAY, APRIL 25—Friday within the Octave of Easter

|          |                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 7:30 am  | Paul Fultz by the Lukaszewicz Family |
| 12:10 pm | Charlotte Oczek by Marcia Mucato     |

### SATURDAY, APRIL 26—Saturday within the Octave of Easter

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 7:30 am  | Eileen "Birdie" Keenan Skrobacz (living) by Maryann Taylor       |
| 9:00 am  | Funeral Mass for Thomas Pascall                                  |
| 10:30 am | Memorial Mass for Agnes Ruchin                                   |
| 12:10 pm | George Stipanovich (Anniversary of Death) by Joanne Scofield     |
| 1:30 pm  | Wedding: Nicole Such & Jeffrey Hays                              |
| 4:30 pm  | Virginia Chmeilowiec (Birthday Remembrance) by Elaine M. Jaromin |

### SUNDAY, APRIL 27—Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 8:00 am  | The Heyden and Fahey Families by Chris                          |
| 10:00 am | Chester Wozniak by Barbara Kozlowski                            |
| 12:00 pm | John L. Tiberio (Wedding Anniversary) by wife Mary Ann & Family |
| 3:00 pm  | Divine Mercy Eucharistic Holy Hour                              |
| 4:30 pm  | Florence Danahy (Birthday Remembrance) by Tom & Pat Smith       |

## JOIN US IN PRAYER

### TELEVISED & ONLINE MASS

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.

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

### PRAY THE ROSARY

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

### JOIN OUR PRAYER GROUP

**Tuesday, April 29 • 6:30 p.m.**

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

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Join us each week on Fridays after the 12:10 p.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m.

## BASILICA ELEVATOR CLOSED

In order to install a new elevator, our current elevator has been shut down. **As a reminder, we ask that the front semi-circle driveway in front of the Basilica be only used by those who are disabled and have a handicapped permit. All others are please asked to park behind the Basilica.** Thank you for your patience and understanding!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PLEASE NOTE:

The Rectory Office will be CLOSED on Easter Monday, April 21.

The Basilica Gift Shop is CLOSED on Easter Sunday, April 20, however it will be OPEN on Easter Monday.

### "SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE" CHORAL CONCERT

Tuesday, April 22 • 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for an evening concert with the Frontier High School Concert Choir & Treble Choir, directed by Louis Shafer and accompanied by organist Tim Smith. Free will offering to be taken to cover expenses and to donate to the Basilica. All are welcome!

### PLANT SALE

Weekend of May 3—4

The Altar & Rosary Society will sponsor a Mother's Day Plant Sale after all weekend Masses. Stop by to see the beautiful plants that we hope will make Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma, Aunts, and all our ladies smile. Plants will be for sale on the Basilica's lower level after Masses.

### DOUGHNUTS & DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday, May 4 • after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses

Join us after Mass for coffee, juice, and doughnuts! Please stop down in the Basilica's Marian Room for an informal social after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses. Get to know your neighbors! Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Columbiettes. All are welcome!



### CALLING OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALUMNI!

Sunday, May 4 • 10:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars and join us for a special event! We'll begin with 10:00 a.m. Mass, followed by coffee, donuts, and great conversation in the school cafeteria. It's a wonderful chance to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate our shared OLV roots. We can't wait to see you there!

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m.  
May 13, June 10, or July 8

If you are a new parent looking to have your baby baptized, plan to 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 above. For questions, please contact Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767 or [mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org](mailto:mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org).

### COLLECTION FOR VETERANS

The Father Baker Columbiettes are sponsoring a collection for veterans during April and May. To donate, please place items such as socks, soap, body wash, or other toiletries in the boxes at the Basilica entrances. Items will be delivered for disbursement on Memorial Day. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

### JUNE FUNDRAISER TICKETS

The Father Baker Columbiettes are selling 3-Digit Daily Lottery Numbers Drawing tickets during April and May for our June fundraiser. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. All proceeds benefit local charities. Look for the Columbiettes after weekend Masses on the lower level of the Basilica. We greatly appreciate your support.

### ADULT CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Are you a practicing adult Catholic who has been baptized, regularly receives the Eucharist, but has never received the sacrament of Confirmation? Each sacrament is meant to strengthen us in grace on our journey as disciples. If you feel called to complete your initiation and to a deepening of your faith, please register for our Adult Confirmation Preparation sessions by scanning the QR code or by contacting Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767 (call/text) or email [mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org](mailto:mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org). Sessions will begin in May and meet once month until November.



### OLV SERVICE CLUB

A special thank you to our soup-makers and speakers who made the Soup & Speakers series a success this year! Thanks also to our volunteers who helped assemble 70 Easter baskets for St. Luke's Mission of Mercy and prepare a meal for the homeless. It was great to meet so many new volunteers! We appreciate our generous parishioners who support our activities, with food for the pantry, as well as their time and service.

Our next meeting is Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m. in the OLV Infant Cemetery. We will place flowers with prayer cards for families who lost children.

Our next day for Resurrection Life Food Pantry (2145 Old Union Rd.) is Thursday, May 15 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. (no April date for Resurrection Life Pantry)

Our self-serve food pantry located in the parking lot by the school is in need of shelf stable food donations.

The Service Club welcomes all ages to participate in performing the corporal works of mercy each month. Contact Bridget Wood 716-536-3887 for more details or information.

## OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our Lady of Victory is not just an ordinary elementary school, but an educational institution that values academic excellence, fosters a sense of community and belonging, provides opportunities for sports and extracurricular activities, and prioritizes the well-being and growth of each child. Registration is now open for students in PreK 3 – 8th grade. **Private tours are offered by calling 716-828-7592.**



**FOR  
PENNIES  
TO  
HEAVEN  
2025**

The members of our committee have begun planning! **This year will be a two-day celebration, taking place on Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27,** and will feature all of the food, fun and camaraderie you have come to love.

On Saturday, we will celebrate with our annual Jazz Mass, followed by a tent party and band. Sunday will feature our annual Mass to honor Father Baker and celebrate his legacy, as well as our 2025 Pennies to Heaven Penny Drop, Chicken BBQ and Family Carnival.

The best part? It's all for a great cause... proceeds will support the "Save the Dome, Adopt an Angel" campaign, helping to defray the significant costs of restoring the Shrine's signature dome. Mark your calendars and invite family and friends to do the same, and start saving those pennies! (Other change and dollar denominations are welcome too!) Watch our upcoming bulletins for further details, including ways to get involved and volunteer in the weekend fun. All are welcome!



## CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Next week, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, nearly 40% of diocese in the U.S. and its current and former territories are unable to fund essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support for this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Find more info at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### OLV CINCO DE MAYO MEAT RAFFLE

Let's fiesta! Join us on May 9 for the OLV Cinco de Mayo Meat Raffle in the OLV Elementary School Gym. Proceeds benefit OLV Charities and OLV Human Services.

Win premium meats, raffle baskets, 50/50 & more! Bring your own snacks (no outside alcoholic beverages), lots of singles and a cooler for your winnings.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the first spin is at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each or a table of 8 for \$100, and includes draft beer, wine, soda, chips and salsa.

Visit [www.olvcharities.org/olv-meat-raffle](http://www.olvcharities.org/olv-meat-raffle) or scan the QR code to purchase tickets. Questions? Call Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.



### FERTILITY CARE CENTER

Saturday, May 10 • 10:00 a.m. or  
Monday, June 16 • 6:00 p.m.

Sisters Hospital, Buffalo

Be empowered with knowledge.  
Learn how your fertility works.  
Understanding how your body

works puts you in charge of decision-making. Upcoming introductory sessions will be held at Sisters Hospital. To pre-register, please contact the Catholic Fertility Care Center of WNY at 716-862-1944.

### RENEWAL CONFERENCE

Friday, May 16 • 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Church,  
Adamski Social Center  
(389 Peckham St., Buffalo 14206)

Please join us for our 2025 Renewal Conference, "Renewing in a Time of Challenge." Registration is \$35 per person and includes light breakfast and lunch. Keynote speaker is Joshua Danis, the head of parish and diocesan partnerships for the Hallow app. We also will have national speakers from the Archdiocese of Chicago and different dioceses throughout the country, in addition to local speakers. General presentations will cover topics including life after bankruptcy, outreach/social justice, forming disciples, and more.

To register, visit [RoadtoRenewal.org](http://RoadtoRenewal.org) or scan the QR code. Registration deadline is Friday, May 2.





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- 1 Go to [olvbasilica.org](https://www.olvbasilica.org) and click *Donate*.
- 2 Select the collection or event of your choice.
- 3 Set up your donation or payment. That's it!

OR scan a QR code to go directly to a specific donation page:



**Offertory Collection**—Donate to the general offertory to support OLV National Shrine & Basilica.

**Vigil Candle**—Pay the requested offering to light a candle in the Basilica. (Requested offering is \$5 per candle.)



**Save the Dome—Adopt an Angel**—Assist with the cost of replacing the Basilica's deteriorating copper dome. More details to the right.

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 donations.

Offertory envelopes can be mailed or dropped off at the Rectory at **767 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218**.

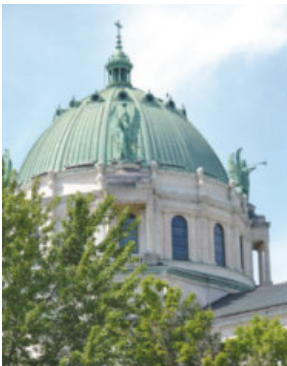
For online giving, go to <https://www.olvbasilica.org> and click *Donate* at the top of the page.

We are very grateful for your ongoing support!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
for Sunday, March 23, 2025

| PARISH COLLECTIONS                  |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly                              | \$18,354.53 |
| Monthly                             | \$526.63    |
| Ash Wednesday                       | \$16.00     |
| Easter                              | \$5.00      |
| Easter Flowers                      | \$171.00    |
| Pennies to Heaven                   | \$11.00     |
| Sister Ellen O'Keefe Angel Fund     | \$100.00    |
| Votive Candles/Shrines              | \$2,920.50  |
| ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS              |             |
| Black & Native Missions             | \$70.00     |
| Central & Eastern Europe and Poland | \$5.00      |
| TOTAL                               | \$22,179.66 |

SAVE THE DOME—ADOPT AN ANGEL



As you know, Buffalo's harsh climate has taken its toll on the Basilica's dome over the past 100 years and water infiltration has significantly damaged the plaster and interior paintings. OLV is in the process of raising \$3 million to replace the copper of the Basilica's dome. It is incumbent upon us to do our very best to care for this magnificent shrine for years to come. 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. Or simply make a donation of any amount. Every single gift, great or small, makes a difference. For more information or to donate, please scan the QR code to the left. To discuss your personal gift, contact Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.



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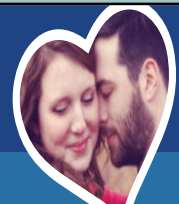


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