

April 27, 2025 | Divine Mercy Sunday



**OLV**  
National Shrine  
& Basilica

A Father Baker Legacy

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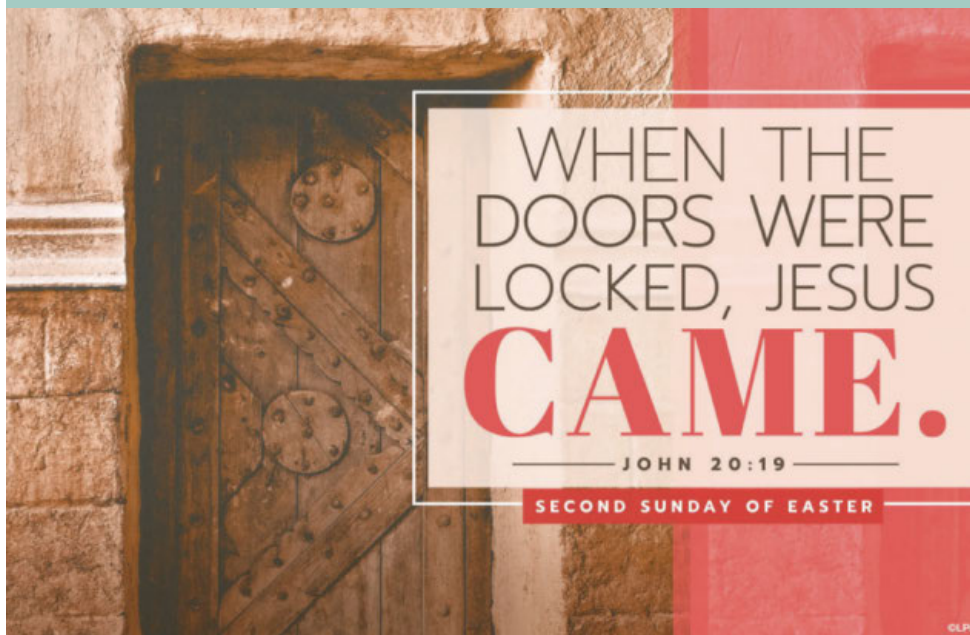
Deacon Michael V. Comerford

#### DEACON & PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Deacon Mark Bialkowski

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Peter Gonciarz



## 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,

POPE FRANCIS ...  
MAY HE REST IN PEACE!

The Church and the world has lost a great Spiritual Leader! Pope Francis was the moral voice of the Church and indeed the entire world. He was the voice for the voiceless and all who live on the margins of life. He preached Divine Mercy. Pope Francis opened wide the doors of the Church to all people. He led by example, living a life of humility, simplicity, poverty and obedience to the very will of God. He was truly the "Pope of the People." He inspired everyone to be non-judgmental, to be more accepting, loving and forgiving, to be mindful of the poor and the needy.

I love some of his famous quotes:

"The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we who tire of asking for forgiveness."

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just."

"Too often we participate in the globalization of indifference. May we strive instead to live global solidarity."

"Let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation."

"Kindness is firm and persevering intention to always will the good of others, even the unfriendly."

"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace."

"We will never be disillusioned or lose our way if we are guided by God."

"We all have the duty to do good."

Let us honor the legacy of our beloved Pope Francis and walk more gently and kindly through this world, spreading God's love, peace and mercy.



*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.  
And let perpetual light shine upon him.*

*O God, faithful rewarder of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom you made successor of Peter, and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:  
JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!**

In the Gospel of St. John for the Second Sunday of Easter, we read of one of the first post-resurrection appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus to His disciples. "On the evening of the first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he

had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'" My prayer for all of you is that when you reflect on this gospel today, you will hear the voice of Jesus speak to your heart, "Peace be with you!" With all of the uncertainty and the challenges we continue to face, we need to rely on the Lord Jesus and place our faith in His Risen Presence in our midst and know and believe that He will never leave us and will see us through whatever difficulties and challenges we face in our daily lives. May our prayer simply be "Jesus, I trust In You!"

**LETTER FROM BISHOP MICHAEL FISHER:**

At the entrances to the Basilica, please find a letter from Bishop Fisher to the people of our Diocese in regards to the Diocese's Chapter 11 process. As reported in the media this past week, it was announced to Judge Carl L. Bucki, the material terms of a settlement in principle with the Creditors Committee that would provide for total payments in the amount of \$150 million on behalf of the Catholic Family of Western New York.

## CALLING ALL OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALUMNI!

Mark your calendars and join us for a special event! On Sunday, May 4, all OLV Elementary School alumni are invited to join me at the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the Basilica. Immediately following Mass will be a reception in the OLV Elementary School Cafeteria with coffee, donuts, and great conversation. It's a wonderful chance to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate your shared OLV roots!



## MOTHER'S DAY: MAY CROWNING

On Sunday, May 11, we celebrate Mother's Day and, during the 12:00 Noon Mass, our First Communion children will crown the statue of Our Lady of Victory. All children who will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 10, are invited to wear their First Communion clothes and be part of the procession on Mother's Day. Thank you!

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL 2025:

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 \$136,430.51 from 217 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 details about Catholic Charities, visit [ccwny.org](https://ccwny.org).

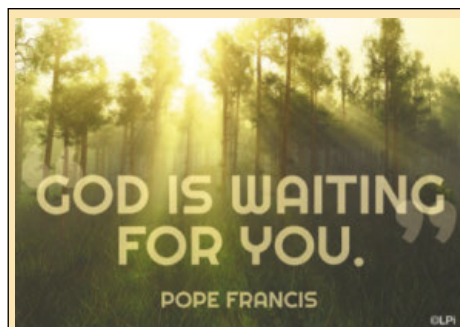
## WORDS OF GRATITUDE:

I wish to thank from the bottom of my heart all who assisted in making Holy Week and Easter such meaningful celebrations. Special thanks to our Facilities Team who did the cleaning and set up of the Basilica under the direction of Yordan Kovatchki and Patti Sawyer. I am also deeply grateful to Gregory Stachowski and the many volunteers who decorated the Basilica for Holy Week and Easter. I also extend my deepest gratitude to our Director of Music/Organist, Peter Gonciarz, our folk groups, and the choir/vocalists who assisted with Holy Week & Easter, as well as all those who served in our liturgical ministries—ushers, sacristans, servers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers. You all provided amazing ministry and service!

I am also deeply grateful to OLV Charities under the leadership of our CEO, David Kersten, and our OLV Media Team, John Pitts and Ashley Czarnota, for the taping of our Digital Masses, as well as for the livestream. You are all a blessing!

On behalf of Fr. Paul, Fr. Rob, Deacon Mark and Deacon Michael and myself, we thank all of our parishioners and benefactors for your ongoing support of our parish. May the Risen Lord Jesus fill you with His Peace! May our beloved Founder, Father Baker, intercede for you and your loved ones and may Our Lady of Victory protect you!

**GRATEFULLY,  
FR. DAVID**



## 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 deepen your faith, please register for our Adult Confirmation Preparation sessions by scanning the QR code below or by contacting Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767 (call/text) or by email at [mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org](mailto:mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org). Sessions will begin in May and will meet once a month until November.





# PRAYER & WORSHIP

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## 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 (Mon.—Sat.) are livestreamed at [olvbasilica.org](http://olvbasilica.org).

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

In addition to our regular Saturday times, Confessions will also be heard on the Eve of First Friday, which is next **Thursday, May 1, from 3:00—4:00 p.m.**

### PRAY THE ROSARY

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

### JOIN OUR PRAYER GROUP

**Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m.**  
**April 29, May 13, and May 27**

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.

Our desire  
for God  
can only  
grow when  
we place  
ourselves in  
His presence.

-Pope Francis



## MASS INTENTIONS

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

7:30 am	Eileen "Birdie" Keenan Skrobacz (living) by Maryann Taylor
9:00 am	<b>Funeral Mass for Thomas Pascall</b>
10:30 am	<b>Memorial Mass for Agnes Ruchin</b>
12:10 pm	George Stipanovich (Anniversary of Death) by Joanne Scofield
1:30 pm	<b>Wedding: Nicole Such &amp; Jeffrey Hays</b>
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	<b>Divine Mercy Eucharistic Holy Hour</b>
4:30 pm	Florence Danahy (Birthday Remembrance) by Tom & Pat Smith

### MONDAY, APRIL 28—St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignon de Montford

7:30 am	Dorothy Sesnie by Anna Tomani Joseph J. Del Vecchio by Regina A. Del Vecchio
12:10 pm	Timothy S. Downs by Family

### TUESDAY, APRIL 29—Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

7:30 am	OLV House Blessing Intentions Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica
12:10 pm	Dr. Daniel P. Schaefer, M.D. by Mr. & Mrs. Alfred F. Luhr III

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30—Saint Pius V, Pope

7:30 am	Peter Szalasny by Joyce Chlepek Stanley & Virginia Chmielowiec by Family
12:10 pm	Joan E. Urban by Ruth Smokowski

### THURSDAY, MAY 1—Saint Joseph the Worker

7:30 am	Clarence E. & Teresa A. Neamon by Estate Staff Sgt. John Kupkowski by Family
12:10 pm	George Najuch by daughter, Linda Smolen Michael Joseph Semes by the McKeown Family

### FRIDAY, MAY 2—Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:30 am	OLV Golden Treasury Intentions Casimir M. Slaski & Family
8:15 am	Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica All Souls Intentions
12:10 pm	Jane Mattimore by the Steinwald Family Armando & Mary Mastrobattista by Mary Lou O'Hara and sons

### SATURDAY, MAY 3—Saints Philip and James, Apostles

7:30 am	Peter Szalasny by Pat Wheeler
9:00 am	<b>Funeral Mass for Geraldine Schiavi</b>
10:30 am	<b>Memorial Mass for Susan Marie Barnett</b>
12:10 pm	Leonard Szczesny by the Lukaszewicz Family
1:30 pm	<b>Wedding: Leah Conroy &amp; David Muszynski</b>
4:30 pm	Edward Walker by Kathi, Stan, Kelli and Melissa

### SUNDAY, MAY 4—Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 am	Carmelo & Rose Maiorano by daughter, Marian
10:00 am	Michael J. Bona by Petrina Bona & Family
12:00 pm	Living & Deceased Members of the OLV Altar & Rosary Society
4:30 pm	Bernard & Anne Glowacki by Michael Moore

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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!



### 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.

### 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).



### JUNE FUNDRAISER TICKETS

The Father Baker Columbiettes are selling 3-Digit Daily Lottery Number 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.

### OLV SERVICE CLUB

The Service Club welcomes all ages to participate in performing the corporal works of mercy each month.

**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.**

Our self-serve food pantry located in the parking lot by OLV Elementary School is in need of shelf-stable food donations, such as cereal, instant oatmeal, pasta, rice, dry beans, crackers, pouches of tuna, and plastic containers of peanut butter, apple sauce, or tomato sauce.

For questions or more information, please contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887.



**FOR  
PENNIES  
TO  
HEAVEN  
2025**

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 welcome too!) Watch our upcoming bulletins for further details, including ways to get involved and volunteer in the weekend fun. All are welcome!

### CINCO DE MAYO MEAT RAFFLE

**Friday, May 9 • 10:00 a.m.**

Let's fiesta! Join us for our Cinco de Mayo Meat Raffle in OLV Elementary's Gym. Proceeds benefit OLV Charities and OLV Human Services. Win premium meats, raffle baskets, 50/50 and more! Bring snacks (no outside alcohol), lots of singles and a cooler for your winnings. Doors open at 5 p.m. and first spin is 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each or table of 8 for \$100 and include draft beer, wine, soda, chips and salsa. Visit [www.olvcharities.org/olv-meat-raffle](http://www.olvcharities.org/olv-meat-raffle) or the scan QR code to purchase tickets. Questions? Call Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.





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Support OLV Basilica today using your credit or debit card, or checking or savings account.

- 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**.

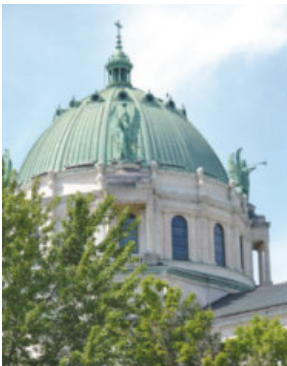
For online giving, go to <https://www.olvbasilica.org> and click *Donate* at the top of the page.

We are very grateful for your ongoing support!

OFFERTORY for Sunday, March 30, 2025

PARISH COLLECTIONS	
Weekly	\$18,809.78
Monthly	\$265.63
Ash Wednesday	\$45.00
Christmas	\$100.00
Easter	\$31.00
Easter Flowers	\$250.00
Fuel	\$20.00
Pennies to Heaven	\$2,980.00
Votive Candles/Shrines	\$3,990.00
ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS	
Altar & Rosary Society	\$10.00
Black & Native Missions	\$5.00
TOTAL	\$26,506.41

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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