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Deacon Mark Bialkowski

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August 24, 2025 | Twenty-First 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.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

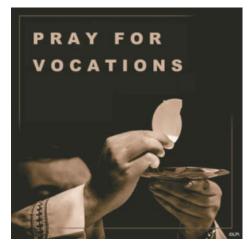
CALL TO PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

I am asking everyone here at Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica to fervently pray daily for an increase of Vocations to the Priesthood. This is the first year that we have not had an Ordination to the Priesthood in the history of our diocese. In 2026, we are expected to ordain two men. At the present time, we have a total of 96 active Diocesan Priests ministering in our diocese with 160 parishes/worship sites. We have 10 seminarians in formation for our diocese at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. There is a great need for all of us to encourage the young men in our parish and in our families and friends to prayerfully consider becoming a priest.

I recently celebrated 38 years as a Priest. For me personally, I could not be more grateful to God for my vocation that was nurtured by the priests and women religious in my home parish at Our Lady of Pompeii in Lancaster, NY. I feel especially blessed that the late Monsignor Robert Wurtz baptized me at Our Lady of Pompeii back in August of 1960. Msgr. Wurtz was ordained a priest on March 1, 1958. I am also grateful to my parents and my maternal grandmother, who in a special way nurtured and encouraged my desire to say yes to God's call to be a priest.

In the words of Pope St. John Paul II, "There can be no Eucharist without the priesthood, just as there can be no priesthood without the Eucharist." And from the documents of Vatican II "...in the person of Christ (in persona Christi), [the ordained priest] effects the Eucharistic Sacrifice and offers it to God in the name of all the people." (Lumen Gentium, no. 10)

Please join me and my brother priests in fervently praying for vocations.



Here at the spiritual home of our beloved founder, the Venerable Nelson Baker, we have the unique privilege of praying before his tomb for more young men to follow in Father Baker's footsteps. As Father Baker trusted in the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Victory, let us ask the Mother of all Priests to open the hearts of more young men to generously respond to God's call.

I also encourage everyone who comes for Adoration on Fridays here in our Basilica to make this a special intention in your prayers before the Blessed Sacrament.

I offer you these examples of prayers that you can offer for an increase of vocations to the priesthood:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our High Priest. We pray that You would call many young men to follow in His footsteps and serve as priests in Your Church. May those who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood be open to Your will and respond with generosity and courage. Strengthen them in their discernment and grant them the grace to follow Your call wherever it may lead. We also pray for our priests, that they may be holy, faithful, and effective ministers of Your Word and sacraments. May they be filled with Your love and compassion, and may their ministry bring many to You. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who willed that your Son should become the High Priest of the new and eternal covenant, grant, we beseech You, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of all priests, many men may be inspired to embrace the call to the sacred priesthood and serve you and your Church with generosity and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Victory...pray for us!

For information about becoming a priest, please see one of our priests here at Our Lady of Victory or contact the Diocesan Director of Vocations, Rev. David Baker, at dbaker@buffalodiocese.org. Thank you!

OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN REGISTRATION:

There is still time to register for the 2025-2026 school year at our excellent Our Lady of Victory Elementary School. I encourage you to reach out to family and friends who have school-age children to come see the "gem" of a school we have at OLV Elementary and to strongly consider registering. Encourage families you know to take a personal tour of the school to see for themselves all that we have to offer. Simply call the school at 716-828-9435 and Mrs. Mary Szlosek, our wonderful principal, will be happy to provide you with more information and arrange for a personal tour. All are welcome... please come and see for vourselves. OLV Elementary is truly a happy, safe, and nurturing environment to provide quality education for the most precious gift of our children!

May Father Baker intercede for you and your loved ones, and Our Lady of Victory protect you. God bless you!

GRATEFULLY, FR. DAVID

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025 | PAGE 03

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23—Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin

7:30 am Living and Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica

12:10 pm All Souls Intentions

4:30 pm Carol LaBelle by Burning Bush House of Prayer

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24—Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am	David J. Greenway by Family
10:00 am	Bart Danahy (Birthday Remembrance) by Tom & Pat Smith
12:00 pm	George & Mary Ann Najuch by daughter, Linda Smolen
4:30 pm	Geraldine Iannuzzelli by Ron, Audrey, Erin and Tim Collins

MONDAY, AUGUST 25—Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest

7:30 am
OLV Spiritual Society Intentions
Jim Walsh by Dan and Bill Cusella

12:10 pm
Nancy Procknal by the Swiech Family
Brenda Martin by Michelle Liberatore and Sam Bova

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26—Weekday

7:30 am

OLV Father Baker Guild Members

OLV House Blessing Intentions

12:10 pm

Robert Brooks by Linda Brooks

Alice M. McCarthy by daughters

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27—Saint Monica

7:30 am Jack Felschow by Dan & Linda Herbert
Marsha Canetti by Donna Leary
12:10 pm Maureen Coppola (living) by Jeff Papia
Thomas Licker by the Burlow Family

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28—Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:30 am

Byron & Gloria Ball (Wedding Anniversary) (living) by A.J. and Samantha Ball Frank & May Twist by Family

12:10 pm

Otto Misso (Anniversary of Death) by the Misso Family (Children)

Angelo & Teresa DeGiuli by Ann Marie Wingert & Family

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29—The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

7:30 am Patrick E. Connors (Birthday Remembrance) by Geri Maraschiello Sandra Berdysiak by Rosemary Scahill
 12:10 pm Living & Deceased Members of the Bayerl & Pettit Family by Family Ellen Roller by the Gascoyne Family

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30—Weekday

7:30 am All Souls Intentions

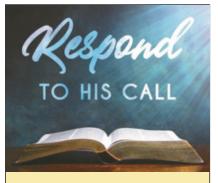
11:30 am Wedding: Katilyn Sadallah and Cody Novo

(no 12:10 p.m. Mass today)

1:30 pm Wedding: Cassidy Territo and Jonathan Codi 4:30 pm Mary Kujawski by Albert & Susan Ward

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31—Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am	Marilyn Trojanovich by Norm Denny & Family
10:00 am	John & Patricia Phelan by Diane Bona
12:00 pm	Scott Eagan by Mom, Stan, Kelli, Melissa, John & Family
4:30 pm	Michael O'Hara by Family



"Strive to enter through the narrow gate," Jesus says.
Today's narrowest gate is definitely the priesthood. Do you feel called to knock on that gate and enter? Contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.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. Sept. 9 & 23 and Oct. 7 & 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. PAGE 04 | SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

JOIN THE OLV **SERVICE CLUB**

We are looking for new members of all ages! Our Service Club will host our opening meeting on Sunday. September 7 in the School Cafeteria from 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. (following Noon Mass). We will review our upcoming calendar of events, always focusing on the corporal works of mercy. and soliciting ideas for new activities. We scheduled our meetings around the Bills schedule!

Service Opportunities:

Resurrection Church Food Pantry is undergoing renovations and is limited on the number of volunteers that can come to the pantry, so our volunteer time here is temporarily suspended.

Sat. Sept. 20 • 9—11 a.m.— Woodlawn Beach Sweep

Fri. Nov. 7—Spaghetti **Dinner**—our only fundraiser, supporting Christmas gifts for foster children

Thank you to our wonderful parishioners and the 2025 Confirmation candidates for their help in stocking the self-serve food pantry over the summer months!

Please consider joining us! Our service activities are family-friendly and great for all ages as we continue Father Baker's legacy and bring light to our world! For more info, contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887 or bowood62@ gmail.com, or go to the OLV Service Club Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you on September 7th!

UPCOMING EVENTS

OLV BOOK CLUB

Wed., September 3 ● 1:00 or 6:30 p.m.

The final meeting of this summer's OLV Book Club will be held in the Basilica's Marian Room. Come to either the 1 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. session. For questions, contact Deacon Mark at the Rectory Office at 716-339-0767 or mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org.

DOUGHNUTS & DISCIPLESHIP

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

Please stop down in the Marian Room after Mass for an informal social. Enjoy a doughnut, coffee or juice, and some time for discipleship! Sponsored by the Father Baker Council of the Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Columbiettes. Representatives from both groups will be present if you'd like to find out more about what they do.

GREETER & USHER TRAINING

Monday, September 8 • 6:30 p.m.



Are you feeling called to get more involved at Mass? Then register for our greeter and usher training session! Scan the QR code to register, visit https://bit.ly/

OLVTraining, or call/text Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767. The meeting will take place in the Basilica, as long as volunteers are registered to attend.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. • Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 18, or Dec. 9



If you are a new parent looking to have your baby baptized, please 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 OR code. For questions, contact Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767 or mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN "COR"

Thursday, September 18 • 6:30 p.m.

Our Knights of Columbus Father Baker Council is sponsoring and inviting all men of our parish 18 years and older to join us for our first monthly COR meeting in the Marian



Room in the lower Basilica. The format will include light refreshments, saying the rosary as a group, and an engaging discussion regarding our personal faith in Christ. Consider taking that next important step in your journey to becoming closer to Christ! Please consider joining COR.

OLV CHARITIES CAYMAN ISLAND RAFFLE

Win a I week stay at The Grand Caymanian Resort! Includes accommodations for 4-6 guests and a \$2,500 Visa gift card courtesy of Parkview Health! Winner will be drawn on Thursday, September 17, 2025, at Victory Nite and you need not be present to win.

Tickets are \$25 each. To purchase, call 716-828-9648 (select option 1) or email Shannon Donovan at SDonovan@olvcharities.org or Joyce Newton at JNewton@olvhs.org. Must be a resident of Erie, Niagara, Wyoming, Chautauqua, or Cattaraugus County.

For more information and details about Victory Nite, please visit olvcharities.org/victorynite.



PRESENTED BY THE FRIENDS OF FATHER BAKER

SCHOOL & FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025 | PAGE 05

FAITH FORMATION SESSION OPTIONS

Our Faith Formation program is designed to help children grow in faith, identity, and understanding of the Catholic Church. Sessions are held on Sundays from 8:40—9:50 a.m. for children in Grades K—9. Sessions begin on Sunday, September 14. Call 716-828-7494 to register.

2025-2026 PROGRAM INFO AND SESSION OPTIONS:

Faith Formation Sunday (FFS), Gr. 1—9

Sessions are held on designated Sundays from 8:40—9:50 a.m.

Family Faith Formation (FFF) Home Study, Grades K—8

In this option, parents work AT HOME with children to complete lessons as a family. Provided lessons (with videos, discussion, and quizzes) are reviewed by the Faith Formation Director.

<u>Little Cherubs - NEW 2025 - PreK & Kindergarten</u>

Offered in-person and as home study. "God Made Everything" engages young children in activities to nourish their developing relationship with God and others by weaving together essential faith content and academic topics. Print materials and online resources help young children learn Scripture and prayerful practices.

First Reconciliation & Communion:

For children ages 8-10 in Grades 2-4. These are separate sessions held IN PERSON in addition to regular inperson and home study. At least one parent/guardian must attend the retreat with each child as the sessions are family catechesis. First Reconciliation will be Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Basilica.

First Holy Communion:

For children in Grades 3-4 who have received First Reconciliation. These are separate sessions held IN PERSON in addition to regular in-person and home study. At least one parent/ guardian must attend the retreat and practice with each child as the sessions are family catechesis. First Holy Communion will be Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Basilica.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Our program is currently in need of catechists for Little Cherubs, Grade 7, and Grade 8. If you are interested or feel that God is calling you to work with the youth of the parish, please contact Carm Zomeri at 716-828-7494 or email czomeri@olvbasilica.org.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OLV Elementary is currently seeking qualified candidates to hire as **Substitute Teachers**. For details, visit www.ourladyof victoryelementary.org/careers. Resumes may be submitted to olvc-careers@olvcharities.org. For questions, please contact Mary Doyle-Szlosek at mszlosek@olvbasilica.org.

OLV CHARITIES

OLV Charities has a job available as an **Annual Giving Manager**, with the opportunity to work alongside dedicated, mission-focused people. Visit www.olvcharities.org/careers for more information.

JOIN US AT OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Now Enrolling: PreK3 – 8th Grade at OLV Elementary School!

OLV Elementary School places a strong emphasis on a Christian attitude, academic achievement, and self-discipline for all our students PreK 3 – 8th Grade. If this is what you desire for your children or grandchildren, give us a call at 716-828-7592 or visit us online at OurLadyofVictoryElementary.org. Remember to check us out on Facebook and Instagram at Our Lady of Victory Elementary. Our first 100 years were awesome, the next 100 will be even better! *The Legacy Lives On*, join us!



SUPPORT OLV

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Offertory

Donate to the general offertory collection to support OLV National Shrine & Basilica.



Vigil Candles

Pay the requested offering (\$5 each) to light a candle inside the Basilica.



Save the Dome

Adopt an angel! Assist with the cost of replacing our deteriorating copper dome. Questions? Call Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.



Volunteer

Become an OLV Parish Volunteer! Fill out a form to indicate your interests.



It's safe. It's simple. It's convenient.

- Go to **olvbasilica.org** and click *Donate*.
- 2 Select a collection or event.
- Set up your donation using a credit or debit card, checking or savings account, PayPal, or Venmo. That's it!

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 or you may give online.

We are very grateful for your ongoing support of Our Lady of Victory Basilica! OFFERTORY COLLECTION for Sunday, July 27, 2025

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekly	\$19,766.02
Monthly	\$440.00
Holy Day: Assumption (8/15)	\$10.00
Pennies to Heaven	\$3,639.00
Processing Fees (online)	\$25.87

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS

Mission Cooperative Plan \$10.00
Peter's Pence \$95.00

TOTAL \$23,985.89

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 30-31

MINISTRY SCHEDOLL FOR ACCOST SC ST					
	TIME	LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	
Saturday	4:30 pm	Glenn Reid	James McEvoy, Michelle Radominski, John Leszak		
Sunday	8:00 am	Jodie O'Connor	Kevin O'Neil, Moey Oakley, Mary Patricia Allman	Riker, Rider, Regan, and Riley Darling	
	10:00 am	Michael (Mickey) Kipler	Bridget Wood, Dawn Zientara, Patricia Jarosz		
	Noon	Sandy Swiech	Jon Paul Trabucco, David West, Robert McDonough		
	4:30 pm	Linda (Mickey) Pawenski	Donna Gelle, Stefan Gelle		

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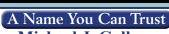
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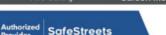
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