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#### 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

January 5, 2025 | The Epiphany of the Lord



## 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](http://www.olvbasilica.org)



## WELCOME TO OLV NATIONAL SHRINE & BASILICA

As a National Shrine, we are a destination site for upwards of 30,000 pilgrims and visitors from all over the world. People come to visit the tomb of Venerable Nelson Baker, our founder, who is a candidate for canonization and whose final resting place is inside the Basilica.

Many worshippers, pilgrims, and visitors find the Basilica a place of great comfort and peace as they come to pray for themselves and their loved ones. Many others come to take in the beauty of the Basilica itself.

The Our Lady of Victory parish includes an elementary school for PreK through 8th Grade and an active Faith Formation program, along with a variety of parish-based organizations and activities.

If you are interested in joining the Basilica parish, please call 716-828-9444 or email [olvrectory@olvbasilica.org](mailto:olvrectory@olvbasilica.org). All are welcome!

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

**DEAR SISTERS AND  
BROTHERS IN CHRIST,**

### **BASILICA ELEVATOR CLOSING:**

As part of our restoration work at the Basilica, a new elevator will be installed. **Beginning on Monday, January 6, the present elevator will no longer be in use.** The excavation and installation of the new elevator will take approximately three months. **We are asking 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.** We thank you for your patience and understanding.

### **SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:**

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem, He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation.

The star that guided the Magi to Jesus is one of the central symbols of the feast. It represents divine guidance, enlightenment, and the revelation of Christ to the world. The gifts brought by the Magi, such as gold, frankincense, and myrrh, symbolize Jesus' identity as the King, Priest, and Savior. In the moral sense, i.e., how we are to live, Pope St. Gregory the Great says in his *Homilies on the Gospels* (10) that the three items represent gifts that we are to present to God in our daily lives: gold is Christ's wisdom, which is to shine in our lives; frankincense is the prayer and adoration we are to give him (see Rev.8:3-4); and myrrh is our daily self-sacrifices to the Lord (see Matt. 39; Rom. 12:1).

### **Epiphany Prayer:**

*Dear Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith. Help us to desire You as ardently as they*

*did. Give us the grace to overcome all the obstacles that keep us far from You. May we, like them, have something to give You when we appear before You. Amen.*

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025:**

As we enter this New Year, I pray 2025 will be filled with many graces and blessings of good health and happiness for you and your loved ones. Please continue to spread the good news that everyone is welcome here at Our Lady of Victory Basilica, especially those whose faith may have grown lukewarm or who have drifted away from the practice of the faith for whatever reason. All are welcome!

I also wish to express profound sentiments of gratitude to all of our parishioners and visitors for your generous contributions to OLV Basilica during the weekend Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Christmas, Holy Family, and New Year's Masses. Your presence and generous support are deeply appreciated.

As we begin this New Year 2025, I share the following prayers with you: *Remember us, O God; from age to age be our comforter. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever. Amen.*

And one of my personal favorites, *The Prayer of St. Francis: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen!*

God bless you! Happy New Year 2025!

**GRATEFULLY,  
FR. DAVID**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 4—Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

7:30 am	OLV Father Baker Guild Members
12:10 pm	Eugenia W. Mwose by the McKeown Family
4:30 pm	Henry & Florence Zacharyasz by Dave & Cindy Schaefer
5:30 pm	Kids' Night Under the Dome (ends at 7:30 pm)

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5—The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am	John Tiberio by Joan Deinhart
10:00 am	Novela Anton (living) by Bernadette Anton
12:00 pm	Living and Deceased Members of the OLV Altar & Rosary Society
4:30 pm	Barbara Przybysz by Elizabeth Barton

### MONDAY, JANUARY 6—Saint André Bessette, Religious

7:30 am	Mary Roche by Kathleen Roche Tommy Cowan by Parents
12:10 pm	For the Deceased Members of the Burkard & Heim Families

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

7:30 am	Michele M. O'Connor by Joe & Diane Leary
12:10 pm	Irene Wozniak by Barbara Kozlowski Lillian Melohusky by the Melohusky Family

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8—Christmas Weekday

7:30 am	Marjorie Murphy by William H. & Mary Lou Bond
12:10 pm	Kathy Caligiuri by Claudia & Family Arnold W. Beck (Anniversary of Death) by loving wife and family

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 9—Christmas Weekday

7:30 am	Amber Lyn Kepple (living) by Homer Harshberger and Family
12:10 pm	Mary Anne Friedman by Theresa Zielinski

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 10—Christmas Weekday

7:30 am	OLV Golden Treasury Intentions
8:15 am	Gerald Malloy by Robert J. O'Neill
12:10 pm	Ralph & Sylvia Hibbard by son-in-law, Robert McDonough

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 11—Christmas Weekday

7:30 am	Paula Schreier (living) by Maria Carr Lalley
12:10 pm	Nancy Barletta by Carolyn Ogrodnik
4:30 pm	Mary Tribuzzi by Jules & Beth Pasciak

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 12—The Baptism of the Lord

8:00 am	Living and Deceased Members of the OLV Holy Name Society
10:00 am	Joe Sciortino by Ang
12:00 pm	Gerald Stoklosa by Family
4:30 pm	Cornelius P. Downey, Sr. by the Downey Family



## 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.

January 7, February 4, February 18

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 until 5:00 p.m.



The greatest treasure we can place before the newborn Jesus is the gift of our life's work. What is He calling you to accomplish in your life?

If God is leading you to a Church vocation, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### VOLUNTEER AT THE BASILICA FOR A SPECIAL MINISTRY

Are you feeling called to get more involved? There will be a series of interest meetings and training sessions coming up for volunteers who feel called to participate at Mass in a special way.

Volunteers are needed for all these special ministries! Register for one or more sessions by visiting <https://bit.ly/OLVTraining>, scanning the QR code, or calling/texting Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767. Sessions will only run if volunteers are registered to attend. All meetings will be in the Basilica.



- **Extraordinary Minister Interest Mtg.:**  
Monday, January 6—6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Lector Training:**  
Monday, January 13—6:30-8:00 p.m.
- **Greeter & Usher Training:**  
Monday, February 3—6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Sacristan Training:**  
Tuesday, February 18—6:30-7:30 p.m.

### DOUGHNUTS & DISCIPLESHIP

**Sunday, January 12 • after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses**

Join us next Sunday for coffee, juice, and doughnuts! Please stop down on the lower level of the Basilica in the 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 generosity of the Fr. Baker Council of the Knights of Columbus and hosted by the Columbiettes. All are welcome!

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

**Sunday, January 12 • 10:00 a.m.**

Please join us for our next Children's Liturgy! Practice is on Saturday, Jan. 11 in the Basilica's Community Room. Singers practice from 9—9:45 a.m. and readers, greeters, collectors and gift bearers from 9:45—10:30 a.m. All ministers must practice. Schedule is:

- **Readers:** K. Walter, J. Wnuk, M. Dubik
- **Collectors:** H. Burton, E. Walter, S. Kujawinski
- **Gift Bearers:** Dylan & Sophia Feldt

- **Greeters:** Josephine Burton
- **Singers:** Hannah Sweeney, Lyla Oehler, Layla Feldt, Carlee Smolinski

Please call Tina (716-826-5075) to volunteer. We also invite the parish community to join us for refreshments in the Marian Room after Mass.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BASKETBALL FREE THROW

**Sunday, January 12 • 10:00 a.m.**  
(Doors open at 9:30 a.m.)  
OLV Elementary School Gym

Fr. Baker Council #2243 of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring its annual KofC basketball free throw competition for all boys and girls, ages 9 to 14. Please enter the gym by door #3C, which faces South Park. Participants should bring sneakers, birth certificate, and parental consent to participate. Contestants compete within their own gender and age group. Boys and girls not participating in any other KofC free throw contest are invited to participate. Entry forms available at the School Office and the registration table on the morning of the event. For further info, call 716-675-1804 or 716-348-6119.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

**Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m.**  
**January 14, February 11, or March 11**

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 Marian Room on the Basilica's lower level. To register, scan the QR code. For questions, contact Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767 or [mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org](mailto:mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org).



### NEW PARISHIONER NIGHT

**Wednesday, January 15 • 6:30 p.m.**

All new parishioners are invited to come and meet other newly-registered parishioners, get to know a little bit about OLV's rich history, learn

about opportunities to get involved, and hear 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!

### OLV ANNUAL SWEEPSTAKES

**Saturday, March 29 • 5:30 p.m.**  
**OLV Elementary School**

Get your ticket for the OLV 2025 Sweepstakes, hosted by OLV School! Each ticket is \$50 and admits two guests (21+) for a chance to win one of 30 prizes, including a \$10,000 Grand Prize! Tickets available after weekend Masses, at the Gift Shop, or during office hours at the Rectory or OLV Elementary. To purchase online, scan this QR code or go to [www.olvbasilica.org](http://www.olvbasilica.org) and click *Donate*. On Saturday, March 29, the school doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with festivities in the cafeteria and gym from 6–10 p.m. Enjoy pizza, snacks, beverages, and feel free to bring your own food! For questions, contact the School Office at 716-828-9435 or Rick Diamond at 716-253-4679.



### OLV SERVICE CLUB

*"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you."*  
- Mother Teresa

Help spread the spirit of Christmas throughout 2025 by joining our Service Club! Our Service Club members are so incredibly dedicated to following in the footsteps of Fr. Baker. Young and old, members of our club work together to help those in need. While we take a pause during the month of January, we get right back to our service ministry on February 2, 2025. All ages are welcome to join our group! For questions, contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887.

## BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Sunday, August 18, 2024

- **Owen Andrew Fahy**, son of Dylan & Jessica Fahy
- **Jaxon Arthur Pawlik**, son of Randall Jr. & Mariah Pawlik
- **Abigail Louise Topper**, daughter of Patrick & Rebecca Topper
- **Jemma Elizabeth Burgess**, daughter of Kevin & Anne Burgess

Sunday, August 25, 2024

- **Benjamin Alan Starks**, son of Peter Starks & Crystal Wolf
- **Luna Alessandra Konrad**, daughter of Alex & Carmelina Konrad
- **Averi Joan Grecco**, daughter of Nicholas & Brittany Grecco

Sunday, September 1, 2024

- **Wolfgang Schmitt**, son of Kurt & Kiera Schmitt
- **Cassandra Jolene Sokolowski**, daughter of Kenneth Sokolowski & Rachel Nazaruk

Sunday, September 15, 2024

- **Ava Renee Dikeman**, daughter of Adam & Amanda Dikeman
- **Nicholas James Mann**, son of Christopher & Lisa Mann
- **Violet Malone Kearns**, daughter of Michael & Stephanie Kearns
- **Aria Rose Schubert**, daughter of Jeffrey Jr. & Alyssa Schubert

Sunday, September 22, 2024

- **Brooks Michael Walker**, son of Ryan & Justine Walker
- **Tatem Grace Skomra and Lainey Marie Skomra**, daughters of Mitchell & Haley Skomra

Friday, September 27, 2024

- **Piper Celestine Keating**, daughter of Donald & Stephanie Keating
- **Romaine Sophia Herman-Gonzales**, daughter of Daniel Gonzales & Raleigh Herman

Sunday, October 6, 2024

- **Evangelia Carmen Massimi**, daughter of Giovanni Massimi & Nicole DiCara

Sunday, October 13, 2024

- **Kora Pamela Diana Whitton**, daughter of Austin & Gabriella Whitton
- **Wilhelmina Lauryn Edwards**, daughter of Russell Edwards & Angelina Concialdi
- **Cecelia Emery Gorczyca-Mendola**, daughter of Jordan Mendola & Brianna Gorczyca
- **Violet Rose Keil**, daughter of Peter & Delaney Keil
- **Pepper Joe Pinelli**, daughter of Michael & Miranda Pinelli

Saturday, October 19, 2024

- **Briar Marie Sfeir**, daughter of John Paul & Kristen Sfeir

Sunday, October 20, 2024

- **Liliana Christine Colangelo**, daughter of Michael & Nina Colangelo

Sunday, October 27, 2024

- **Callie Lynn Sireika**, daughter of Robert & Rebecca Sireika
- **Adalynn Grace Atkinson**, daughter of Andrew & Christina Atkinson
- **Zoey Maren Fuller and Avery Elizabeth Fuller**, daughters of Anthony & Erika Fuller
- **Daisy Marie Connors**, daughter of Matthew & Lauren Connors

Sunday, November 3, 2024

- **David Joseph Basta**, son of Brian & Sarah Basta
- **Stevie Lynn Pusateri**, daughter of Stephen & Janelle Pusateri
- **Vincent Michael Pusateri**, son of Nicholas & Amy Pusateri

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

- **Gabriel Atlas Michael Rutigliano**, son of Michael & Victoria Rutigliano

Sunday, November 10, 2024

- **Sloane Lindsay Nuessle**, daughter of Brendan & Lisa Nuessle
- **Eleanor Kathleen Eddy**, daughter of Thomas & Keara Eddy
- **Leonardo Martin Mansur**, son of Nathaniel & Ashley Mansur

Sunday, November 17, 2024

- **Ava Christen Gonciarz**, daughter of Peter & LaTasha Gonciarz

Sunday, November 24, 2024

- **Josette Louise Arnold**, daughter of Devin & Christina Arnold
- **Atlas Leonardo Antosh**, son of Joseph Antosh & Jessie Shoemaker
- **Jaxon Anthony Schul**, son of Warren & Taylor Schul

Saturday, November 30, 2024

- **Everly Mae Maciejewski**, daughter of Peter & Karli Maciejewski

Sunday, December 1, 2024

- **Noah Emiliano Guzman**, son of Henry Guzman & Kimberly Clark
- **Sadie Ann Ruda**, daughter of Steven & Amanda Ruda
- **Jackson Graham Zaganiaczyk**, son of Eric Zaganiaczyk & Erika Millidge
- **George Matthew Coleman**, son of Matthew & Magdalena Coleman

Sunday, December 8, 2024

- **Francesca Ann Brady**, daughter of Sean & Emilie Brady
- **Caden Connor Kimball**, son of Connor Kimball & Elizabeth Nagle

Sunday, December 15, 2024

- **Kacie Renee Connors and Kyren John Connors**, children of Jonathan & Madison Connors
- **Anya Julia Konstabel**, daughter of Jesse Konstabel & Allison Janiga



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- 1 Go to [www.olvbasilica.org](http://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 You may also choose to scan a specific QR code below to go directly to that donation page:



**Offertory Collection—**  
Donate to the general offertory collection 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—**  
This public phase of our Centennial Campaign allows donors to 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 offertory donations. Offertory envelopes can either be mailed or dropped off at the Rectory Office 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—Sunday, December 8, 2024

PARISH COLLECTIONS	
Weekly	\$20,877.76
Monthly	\$1,688.00
Christmas	\$190.00
Christmas Flowers	\$1,065.00
Fuel	\$30.00
Holy Day: Immaculate Conception (12/9)	\$25.00
Holy Day: Solemnity of Mary (1/1)	\$25.00
Pennies to Heaven	\$21.00
Votive Candles/Shrines	\$1,871.00
ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS	
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$10.00
Religious Retirement Appeal	\$2,954.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,756.76</b>

SAVE THE DOME—ADOPT AN ANGEL



There is a line from a traditional Christmas film that says, “*Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings!*” It was Fr. Baker’s vision to ensure that at least one angel was found in every sightline within OLV National Shrine & Basilica. The more than 2,000 angels in the Basilica are a reminder

to us all that they are heralds of good news and comfort in difficult times. OLV is in the process of raising \$3 million to replace the copper of the Basilica Dome. Every single gift, great or small, makes a difference. Throughout the Christmas season, we invite you to consider **Adopting-an-Angel** in honor or memory of a loved one. 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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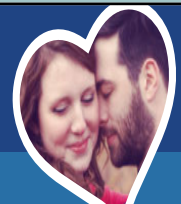


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