



A Father Baker Legacy

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

January 12, 2025 | The Baptism 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

THE HOLY GHOST

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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.

WELCOME

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN CHRIST,



FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD: Sunday,

January 12, 2025

This weekend we officially conclude the Christmas season with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River to

inaugurate His earthly mission and ministry to announce the Good News of the Kingdom of God and to bring God's unconditional love and mercy to the world. We are reminded on this Feast Day that, by virtue of our own baptism, we too are called and challenged to live our Christian faith and bring Christ's love and mercy to all whom we encounter in our daily lives. Together may we bear witness to the love of Christ in all that we say and all that we do and thus draw people back to the practice of the faith and the celebration of the sacraments. This is our mission and ministry in the world today as Catholic Christians.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY: Monday, January 20, 2025:

As part of our ongoing Centennial Celebration, Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica is pleased and honored to host the **City of Lackawanna Annual Observance of** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with an Interfaith Prayer Service on Monday, January 20 at 1:30 p.m. in the Basilica. There will be representatives from Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 1st Baptist Church, 2nd Baptist Church, Potters House Church of God, Steel City Church, Men of Action Community Group, Bethel AME Church, and other faith communities, as well as Lackawanna city officials and community leaders. There will be a joint choir as well as various speakers and leaders of prayer.

All are invited and encouraged to attend this wonderful celebration to bring us together from various faith traditions to pray for peace and justice and an end of racism, hatred and violence in all of its forms. In observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., let us resolve to honor and respect every human being as created in the image and likeness of God. And let us resolve to restore peace, justice and love in all that we say and in all that we do.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

You will notice that the scaffolding is back up in the nave of the Basilica. This is for the purpose of the ongoing work by Swiatek Studios to restore and clean our beautiful stained glass windows. This work and other restoration work will continue over the next few months, to be concluded by Holy Week.

The replacement of the copper dome will resume as weather permits and is expected to hopefully be completed by the end of 2026.

BASILICA ELEVATOR CLOSED:

In order to install a new elevator, the elevator has been shut down. The excavation and installation of the new elevator will take approximately three months to complete. 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. I thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of ongoing restoration to care for our magnificent Basilica.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (OCIA, former RCIA) RITE OF WELCOME:

Last Sunday, January 5, at the 12:00 Noon Mass, I am pleased to announce that we celebrated the Rite of Welcome for 23 adults who will be received into the Church here at Our Lady of Victory Basilica Parish at this coming Easter Vigil. These women and men of various ages are being prepared over the next several months to receive the Easter Sacraments by our Parish OCIA Team and Deacon Mark. Four of these adults (now called Catechumens) are unbaptized and will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The other 19 Candidates will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and/ or Eucharist. Please pray for these individuals during this time of formation leading up to the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19:

Catechumens:

David Buckley Doug Darling Ryan Halligan Alexander Metros

Candidates:

Daniel Benimoff Jack Bracci Lisa Carter Regan Darling Riley Darling Rider Darling Riker Darling Ryan Davern Adam Garbacz Peyton Maeder Alyss Penfield Samuel Perpetus David Piscitello Andrew Sannes Mariana Smith Shannon Smith Eric Umphreyville Estefany Valladares Courtney Wendling

May Father Baker intercede for you and Our Lady of Victory protect you, and may Almighty God bless you abundantly with His love and peace.

GRATEFULLY, FR. DAVID

PRAYER & WORSHIP

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MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11—Christmas Weekday

7:30 am	Paula Schreier (living) by Maria Carr Lalley
10:30 am	Funeral for Rev. James Kasinski

- 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

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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

MONDAY, JANUARY 13—Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (First Week in Ordinary Time)

7:30 am	Paul Fultz by the Lukaszewicz Family
12:10 pm	Robert Pleas Smith, Jr. by Pat Stafford

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14—Weekday

7:30 am	Mrs. Marjorie O'Neill by Mr. Robert J. O'Neill
12:10 pm	LuAnn Batt (living) by Tim Batt

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15—Weekday

7:30 am	OLV Helping Hands Club Members		
	Robert & Anne Marie Riccio by Bernadette Wood		
12:10 pm	Valentina and Violeta Rojas (living) by Joe & Edie Kibler		

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16—Weekday

7:30 am	Anthony Canzoneri (Anniversary of Death) by the Canzoneri Family
12:10 pm	Lissette Dernier by Mr. & Mrs. David Zielinski

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17—Saint Anthony, Abbot

- 7:30 amMrs. Mary Fliss by Jim & Peg Velasquez8:15 amAll Souls Intentions12:10 nmMark Descen by the Steinweld Semily
- 12:10 pm Mark Deacon by the Steinwald Family

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18—Weekday

7:30 am	Patricia E. Smith by Kevin & Janis McNamara
12:10 pm	Nicholas Del Vecchio by Regina A. Del Vecchio
4:30 pm	Mary Ann Krajcer by the Gawel Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19—Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am	Walter Pula by Mr. & Mrs. David Zielinski
10:00 am	Dillon Siblings—Joanne, Bill, Theresa & Peggy by the Dillon Family
12:00 pm	Stephanie "Bebe" Downey by the Downey Family
4:30 pm	Marian Check (Birthday Remembrance) by 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.

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.



"Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased."

Actually, each one of us is chosen by God . . . but chosen for what? The answer is different for everyone. Could it be religious life or priesthood? The Vocation Office is here to help you discover the answer. Contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org.

PARISH NEWS

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DOUGHNUTS & DISCIPLESHIP

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

Join us this Sunday after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses for coffee, juice, and doughnuts! Please stop down on the lower level of the Basilica in the Marian Room and get to know your neighbors! Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus; hosted by the Columbiettes.

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 by visiting https://bit.ly/ OLVTraining, scan the QR code, or call/text Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767.



Sessions will only run if volunteers are registered to attend. All meetings will be held in the Basilica.

- 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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW PARISHIONER NIGHT

Wednesday, January 15 • 6:30 p.m.

All new parishioners are invited to come and meet other newlyregistered 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!

SUPER BOWL CHILI COOKOFF

Sunday, February 9 • 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the Altar & Rosary Society's Super Bowl Chili Cookoff in the Marian Room. Please bring your chili for everyone to taste and vote on. Free will offering would be appreciated. Please come and enjoy an afternoon with us. For information, please call Mary Anne Jackson at 716-864-0747.

HEALING MASS WITH FR. RICHARD DIGIULIO

Tuesday, March 18 • 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Richard DiGiulio, Director of Charismatic Renewal of the Diocese of Buffalo, will celebrate a Healing Mass here in the Basilica. Please come and join us. All are welcome to attend.

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 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

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! We will be preparing welcome kits for newly paroled individuals.

Volunteers are needed for the Resurrection Life Food Pantry on Thursday, January 16 from 5:30— 6:30 p.m.

Our **self-serve food pantry** located in the parking lot by the school is in need of shelf stable food donations. Items that can withstand the freezing temperatures include cereal, instant oatmeal, pasta, rice, dry beans, crackers, pouches of tuna, plastic containers of peanut butter, apple sauce or tomato sauce.

All ages are welcome to join our group! For questions, contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that OLV Elementary School has bus service from Buffalo, Lackawanna, West Seneca, Orchard Park, Frontier and Hamburg? So if you are looking for a great Catholic school for your



children or grandchildren, look no further than OLV Elementary!

Call 716-828-7592 and take a tour today!

Visit us online at OurLadyofVictoryElementary.org.

Our first 100 years were awesome; the next 100 will be even better! *The Legacy Lives On*, join us!

HELP CELEBRATE CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK!

Celebrate Catholic Education Week by helping to provide a quality Catholic education for children enrolled in OLV School. Your generosity helps families with financial challenges offer their children a Catholic education with a personalized and nurturing focus within the OLV School community.

You can make a difference that will last a lifetime. Donate online by using this QR code or go online at www.olvcharities.org or mail your check today to

Sr. Ellen O'Keefe Angel Fund, c/o OLV Charities 780 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218

You may also use the Sister Ellen O'Keefe Angel Fund envelope provided in your parish offertory packet. Thank you for your support!



WITH JOYFUL HEARTS, WE WELCOME OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED.

Francesca Lee Gregoire, daughter of Keith & Caitlin Gregoire, was baptized here on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

Austin Allen Lutz,

son of Kyle & Libby Lutz, was baptized here on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

Valerie Ann Bax,

daughter of Daniel & Samantha Bax, was baptized here on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

Cecelia Louise Tomeno,

daughter of Christopher Tomeno II, was baptized here on Saturday, December 28, 2024.

Michael Edward Farrell III,

son of Michael II & Alyssa Farrell, was baptized here on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

Theodore Francis Norman,

son of Francis & Stephanie Norman, was baptized here on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

Ellie Jade LaComb and

Isla Joan LaComb, daughters of David & Jennifer LaComb, were baptized here on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE				
	TIME	LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS
Sat. 1/8	4:30 pm	Glenn Reid	Bob Lohr, James McEvoy, Cindy Schaefer	A.J. Ball, Samantha Ball
Sun. 1/19	8:00 am	Paul Miazga	Mary Patricia Allman, Catherine Bergen, Richard Grasso	Nathaniel Lindstrom, Joshua Lindstrom, Theodore Lindstrom
	10:00 am	Linda "Mickey" Pawenski	Terrence McCann, Patricia Osborne, Kathleen Roche	
	Noon	Sandy Swiech	Robert McDonough, Ellen Scheiderer, Arthur Smith	
	4:30 pm	Cathleen Woods	Donna Gelle, Stefan Gelle	Erin Bialkowski

SUPPORT OLV

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IT'S SAFE. IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S CONVENIENT.

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

- Go to 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

The Altar Rosary Society wishes to thank all who contributed and volunteered their time to our annual pre-Thanksgiving bake sale. The contribution of delicious baked goods and monetary donations was greatly appreciated. It could not have been a success without the support and generosity of our parishioners and others who were visiting the Basilica that weekend. Thank you so very much!

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 15, 2024

PARISH COLLECTIONS	
Weekly	\$16,510.00
Monthly	\$1,792.00
All Souls (11/2)	\$10.00
Ash Wednesday	\$10.00
Christmas	\$181.00
Christmas Flowers	\$556.00
Easter & Easter Flowers	\$20.00
Fuel	\$30.00
Holy Day: All Saints (11/1)	\$10.00
Holy Day: Ascension	\$10.00
Holy Day: Assumption (8/15)	\$10.00
Holy Day: Immaculate Conception (12/9)	\$1,583.00
Holy Day: Solemnity of Mary (1/1)	\$21.00
Votive Candles/Shrines	\$2,997.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$5.00
Peter's Pence	\$20.00
Religious Retirement Appeal	\$220.00
TOTAL	\$23,985.00

SAVE THE DOME— ADOPT AN ANGEL



A line from a traditional Christmas film 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.



