





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



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.

WELCOME

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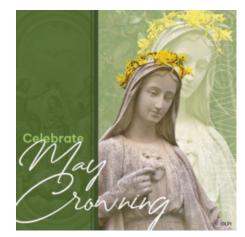
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

As you know, the month of May is dedicated in a special way to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through our Blessed Mother's powerful intercession, we have the opportunity to deepen our prayer life, especially as we face the challenges of our society today. Just as Mary pondered all the early events surrounding Jesus in her heart (Luke 2:19), we are invited to contemplate what the Holy Spirit chose to inspire and share with us regarding Mary, not only as the Mother of Jesus, but as our own.

I share with you the following reflection: What traits do you look for in a mother? What traits would God look for in a woman to mother His only Son? The Scriptures may paint the portrait, but the brush belongs to God.

- The Holy Spirit moves the most intimate inspiration. A woman created, a woman set apart. She stands as a model of chastity, of inner beauty, of humility and of purity; the golden vessel, chosen to carry the most important life the world will ever know.
- Are we not called every day to live for God? Did Mary not model openness to God the Father in every conceivable way? Did she leave any doubt that God's will was more important than her own? Did she run when it was difficult? Did she flee from discomfort? Did she trust in God even when the future was uncertain?
- Did Mary hide Jesus away or share Him with the world?
- Mary swaddled Him. She nursed Him. She guided Him through His early years. She stood beside Him... never abandoning Him...even in the most difficult moments.
- Now as our Mother, would Mary ever abandon us? God created her. Preserved her. He picked her. He descended upon her. He grew within her.



- Jesus listened to Mary, loved her, and honored her above any other. Not because she wanted it but because she deserves it. It was Mary's "yes" to God that set His brothers and sisters back on the right path. It was her "fiat"—her yes—that forever changed the world. "May it be done to me according to Thy will." (Luke 1:38) One "Yes" opened the door to hope: hope in salvation, hope for life after death, hope for even the most wretched of sinners.
- And Christ shows us how to love Mary. He wants us to know her, to admire her, to respect her and to trust her as our own, so He entrusted us to her and then gave her to each one of us. He wants us to know and experience the love that only a Mother can give—that only His Mother... the Mother of God... created and chosen by God, can give.
- God invites you to get to know Mary, to meditate on her heart as a window into His own. He calls us to honor her, modeling her humility, her openness, her chastity, and her abandonment to God's will for us.

(excerpts taken from Mark Hart Reflection Life Teen International)

May we honor our Blessed Mother Mary in a special way by taking time to pray and meditate upon the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary and by striving to do as she did and give our "yes" to God's will each and every day.

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 \$137,090.51 from 224 donors.**

To make a gift, please mail in your donor card to Appeal 2025, donate online at 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.

SWEEPSTAKES 2025

We had a very successful Sweepstakes Raffle Night on Saturday, March 29 after selling all 1,000 Sweepstakes tickets! Thank you to all who purchased tickets for the Sweepstakes, basket raffles, and 50/50 drawing. The event raised final net proceeds of \$34,244.57, which goes to benefit Our Lady of Victory Elementary School.

Special thanks to all who donated baskets and volunteered their time to assist with this amazing event. I am deeply grateful for the leadership of our wonderful Sweepstakes Committee chairs, Rick Diamond, and Merry Schmauss, and our OLV Elementary School Principal, Mary Szlosek, and our OLV Charities CFO,

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Mike Allaire. You all did a tremendous job in helping to make this such a successful event!

Congratulations to the Prize Winners! Here are the winners of the Cash Prizes:

Sweepstakes Drawings

	Prize	#	Winner's Name
1	\$10,000	994	Rich Lehr
2	\$4,000	79	Danah Troup
3	\$2,000	924	John Rahill
4	\$1,000	312	Mary Guillow
5	\$1,000	256	Jaime Swygert Wright
6	\$500	290	Joanna Janas
7	\$500	368	Lake Erie Italian Club
8	\$500	517	Debra & Tyler Gates
9	\$500	78	Sue Granger
10	\$500	920	Timothy Kennon
11	\$200	375	Renee Stankowski
12	\$200	558	Jill Kolb
13	\$200	272	Joe Patti
14	\$200	270	Mary Marrocco
15	\$200	671	Michael Koeppel
16	\$100	91	Brian Szymkowiak
17	\$100	554	Msgr. David LiPuma
18	\$100	374	Denise Murphy
19	\$100	467	John & Mary Krzan
20	\$100	282	Karen & Tim Mullins
21	\$50	798	Regina Eagen
22	\$50	467	John & Mary Krzan
23	\$50	123	Christine Reigle
24	\$50	511	Molly McClenathan
25	\$50	833	Wilson Martinez
26	\$50	942	Molly Fenske
27	\$50	37	John Rahill
28	\$50	585	John Leszak
29	\$50	783	Lake Erie Italian Club
30	\$50	721	Shirley/Eddy/Deanna Garwol

Be assured of my grateful prayers for all that you do for Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica. May this Easter Season bring you renewed hope, deeper faith and the grace of God's unconditional love and mercy.

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

GRATEFULLY, FR. DAVID

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDA	Y, MAY 3—Saints Philip and James, Apostles			
7:30 am	Peter Szalasny by Pat Wheeler			
9:00 am	Funeral Mass for Geraldine Schiavi			
12:10 pm	Leonard Szczesny by the Lukaszewicz Family			
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			
MONDAY, MAY 5—Easter Weekday				
7:30 am	Robin Govenitto by Husband, Dominic			
	Thomas Cowan, Jr. by Ed & Candace Zak			
12:10 pm	Frank Chiodo by Mike & Paula Chiodo			
	Loretta Panfil by Panil Family			
	MAY 6—Easter Weekday			
7:30 am	Andy Zippiroli (living) by Rob & Rita Bencini			
10.10	Joseph P. Bomba (living) by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ryan			
12:10 pm	Tommy Cowan (Anniversary of Death) by Parents			
	Anna Gawlak (Anniversary of Death) by brother, Frank			
WEDNES	DAY, MAY 7—Easter Weekday			
7:30 am	Mary Katherine Twist by Family			
12:10 pm	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Deck, Sr. by Jeff & Jeanne Magavern			
12110 [0111	Sharon Mezzio (living) by Jeff & Jeanne Magavern			
7:30 am	Y, MAY 8—Easter Weekday Joseph & Celia Lachajczyk by Regina A. Del Vecchio			
12:10 pm	Lt. Colonel Larry L. John			
	Tom & Carol Kowalczyk (65th Wedding Anniversary) by Family			
	1AY 9—Easter Weekday			
7:30 am	OLV Spiritual Association Members Joseph J. Del Vecchio by Regina A. Del Vecchio			
8:15 am	Lorraine E. Janssen by daughters			
0.13 4111	Lorraine E. Janssen by daughters			
12:10 pm	David Freitus by Elaine Freitus			
12110 [0111	Felicia Lago by the Lago Family			
SATURDA	Y, MAY 10—Saint John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest			
7:30 am	OLV Spiritual Society Intentions			
10:00 am	First Communion Mass			
12:10 pm	Paula Biniewski-Heimburg by Gabriella Gorman			
1:30 pm	Wedding: Terrika Chondia Pereira & Alejandro Santiago Laboy			
4:30 pm	Mary Stremlow by Family			
SUNDAY	MAY 11—Fourth Sunday of Easter			
	Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica			

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
4:30 pm Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica

PARISH NEWS

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JOIN US IN PRAYER

TELEVISED & ONLINE MASS

The Basilica's Sunday Mass is available each weekend online at **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 at olvbasilica.org.

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. 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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Join us each week for Eucharistic Adoration in the Basilica 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.



BAPTISM PREPARATION

Tuesdays • 6:30 p.m. May 13, June 10, July 8, or August 12

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.



COLLECTION FOR VETERANS

The Father Baker Columbiettes are sponsoring a collection for veterans during 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 Number Drawing tickets 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.

We will also meet on **Sunday, May 18 at 1:00 p.m.** (after the Noon Mass) in the OLV Elementary School Cafeteria.

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. We appreciate any contributions you might be able to make!

For questions or more information about any of our events, please contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887.

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 at **mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org**. Sessions will begin in May and will meet once a month until November.

-Pope Francis

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OLV ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Discover the Legacy of Our Lady of Victory Elementary School

At Our Lady of Victory Elementary School, we believe that education is much more than just a series of subjects; it's about the development of the whole child. As we embark on our next century of excellence, we invite you to discover why OLV Elementary School is a thriving community that prioritizes academic success, personal growth, and a culture of belonging.

"OLV Elementary is a wonderful school," said Mrs. Fenske, whose son is in second grade. "The teachers and staff truly care about the students. The small class sizes are great for one-on-one attention with the teachers, and for fostering strong bonds among students. My son loves his school so much it feels like I'm dropping him off with his second family each morning."

Registration is now open, and we invite you to be part of our journey into the future. For more information or to schedule a private tour or shadow day, visit us at www.ourladyofvictoryelementary.org or call us at 716-828-7592.

Be sure to like our Facebook and Instagram pages to stay updated on all the exciting happenings at Our Lady of Victory Elementary School! We can't wait to welcome you through our doors!



Wonderful School

ONE ON ONE ATTENTION



Second Family





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 Oym. 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 or the scan QR code to purchase tickets. Questions? Call Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.

SUPPORT OLV

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GIVE YOUR GIFTS ONLINE.

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

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

- Go to olvbasilica.org and click Donate.
- Select the collection or event of your choice.
- 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, April 6, 2025

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekly	\$29,608.52
Monthly	\$2,271.00
Ash Wednesday	\$38.00
Easter	\$285.00
Easter Flowers	\$1,234.00
Pennies to Heaven	\$36.00
Votive Candles/Shrines	\$2,407.00
ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS	
Black & Native Missions	\$5.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$52.00
Good Friday / Holy Land	\$2.00
TOTAL	\$35,938.52

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.



