

May 3, 2026 | Fifth Sunday of Easter



**IN MY FATHER'S  
HOUSE THERE ARE  
MANY DWELLING PLACES.**

— JOHN 14:2 —

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**OLV**

**National Shrine  
& Basilica**

A Father Baker Legacy

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Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma

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**IN RESIDENCE**

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**DEACON & PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

Deacon Mark Bialkowski

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Peter Gonciarz

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**Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.**  
(closed on Th. and Fri. from 1—2 p.m.)

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[olvrectory@olvbasilica.org](mailto:olvrectory@olvbasilica.org)

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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: 6:45 a.m.—6:00 p.m.**

**Monday-Friday: 6:45 a.m.—7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday: 6:45 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)

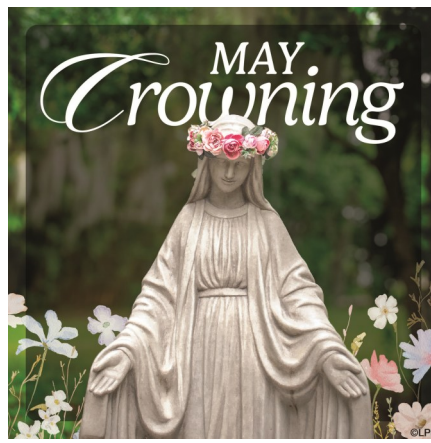
## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

### DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

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 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

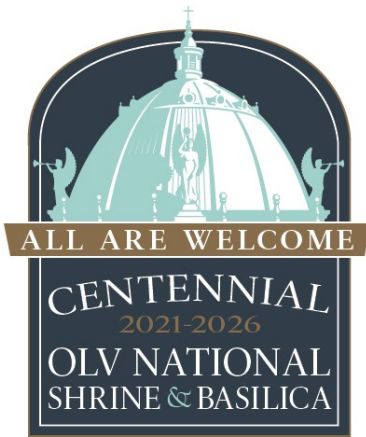
On **Sunday, May 10**, we celebrate Mother's Day and, during the **12:00 Noon Mass**, our First Communion children will crown the statue of Our Lady of Victory. All children who will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 9, are invited to wear their First Communion clothes and be part of the procession on Mother's Day.

### DELAY IN ENVELOPE MAILING

Cathedral Corporation, our offertory envelope provider, notified us that the next batch of envelopes for May 10 to July 5 will arrive close to—or after—the May 10 start date, as they continue to experience delays. Until you receive your envelopes, if you wish to make a weekly contribution, you may use any plain envelope and write your name on it, with your address and/or envelope number. You are also welcome to drop a loose check in the collection (with your envelope number on it, if available) or to utilize online giving (visit [olvbasilica.org](http://olvbasilica.org) and click *Donate*). Thank you for your patience and continued generosity!

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

As you know, the Diocesan Goal for this year's Catholic Charities Appeal is \$8,000,000. Our Parish Goal at OLV Basilica is \$172,709. **To date, we have raised \$141,897 from 219 donors, which is 82% of our parish goal.** Your support of Appeal 2026 carries out Jesus' call to us and brings HOPE and help to the lives of children, families, and adults in every corner of Western New York. **To make a gift, please mail in your donor card to Appeal 2026, donate online at [ccwny.org](http://ccwny.org), or text HOPE4WNY to 44321.** Please identify yourself as a parishioner of OLV Basilica, so our parish is credited to ensure we make our goal. Thank you to all who have contributed to date!



## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: Saturday, May 30 & Sunday, May 31

On Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31, OLV will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the Shrine, officially concluding our five-year Centennial Celebration.

The weekend will kick off with our **Centennial Gala at The Statler on May 30**, where commemorative program booklets will be distributed. A limited number of tickets and tables to attend the Gala are available to purchase at [olvbasilica.org/gala](http://olvbasilica.org/gala) or use the QR code.



Then, on Sunday, May 31, I invite you to join me for a 2:00 p.m. Mass, followed by a tent reception behind the Basilica. No tickets are required to attend the Mass and tent reception, however it would be most helpful if you would register at [CentennialMass.org](http://CentennialMass.org) (or use the QR code) if you plan to attend.



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**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, MAY —Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

- 7:30 am Staff Sgt. John Kupkowski by Family
- 9:00 am **Funeral for Robert J. Hooper, Sr.**
- 10:30 am **Funeral for Joseph Ables, Jr.**
- 12:10 pm Kathleen Battaglia by mother and sisters
- 1:30 pm **Wedding: Amelia Slusarz and Andrew Rice**
- 4:30 pm Steven J. Cipolla, III by Family

### SUNDAY, MAY —Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 8:00 am Pam Nice by Eileen Ward
- 10:00 am Dolores A. Strasser (Anniversary of Death) by Paula, Bill & Sonny Martinez
- 12:00 pm Living & Deceased Members of the OLV Altar & Rosary Society
- 4:30 pm Maryjo Mascio by Linda Smolen and the Columbiettes

### MONDAY, MAY —Easter Weekday

- 7:30 am Matthew John Prout, Jr. by Great-Grandma Prout  
Mary M. Walsh by Ken & Cheryl Campbell
- 12:10 pm OLV Father Baker Guild Members  
Frank Chiodo by Mike & Paula Chiodo

### TUESDAY, MAY —Easter Weekday

- 7:30 am OLV Spiritual Society Intentions  
Robin Govenitto by Dominic
- 12:10 pm Mary Melohusky (Anniversary of Death) by daughter

### WEDNESDAY, MAY —Easter Weekday

- 7:30 am Alice M. McCarthy (Anniversary of Death) by daughters
- 12:10 pm Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica  
Anna Filippetti by brother, Frank

### THURSDAY, MAY —Easter Weekday

- 7:30 am The Argauer Family (living) by the Schneider Family  
Miguel Castro (living) by Mary Lafferty
- 12:10 pm Tommy Cowan (Anniversary of Death) by Family  
Kevin Bonner by Carol Wiles and Family

### FRIDAY, MAY —Easter Weekday

- 7:30 am OLV Helping Hands Club Members  
Kathleen Lauck by Patricia Regan
- 8:15 am **(in School Gym)** Joseph B. Miller by Stephen & Lucille Marsh
- 12:10 pm David Freitus by Elaine Freitus  
Jane Mattimore by the Steinwald Family
- 3:00 pm **Wedding: Isabella Luciano and Marc Anteck**

### SATURDAY, MAY —Easter Weekday

- 7:30 am All Souls Intentions
- 10:00 am **First Holy Communion Mass**
- 12:10 pm Paula Biniewski-Heimburg by Gabriella Gorman
- 4:30 pm Alice Grzybowski by Leonard Grzybowski & Family

### SUNDAY, MAY —Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 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

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING

Are you feeling called to get more involved? There is a series of interest meetings and training sessions coming up for volunteers who feel called to participate at Mass in a special way. Please register using the links below, scan the QR code, or call/text Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767. Sessions will take place in the main Basilica, but will only run if there are volunteers registered to attend.

For youth who are interested in becoming altar servers, please register by scanning the QR code or go online to: <https://bit.ly/OLV-Altar-Servers>



◁ Youth Altar Server Training:  
Monday, May 11  
from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

For adults, please register at <https://bit.ly/OLVTraining> or scan the code:



◁ Extraordinary Minister Interest Meeting:  
Monday, June 15  
from 6:00—7:00 p.m.

◁ Lector Training:  
Monday, June 15  
from 7:00—8:00 p.m.

◁ Sacristan Training:  
Monday, August 17  
from 6:30—8:00 p.m.

◁ Greeter & Usher Training:  
Monday, September 21  
from 6:30—8:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JOIN US IN PRAYER

- ◁ Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.—All are welcome to join in praying the Rosary for Peace on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Basilica's Community Room.
- ◁ Tuesday, May 12 and Tuesday, May 26 6:30 p.m.—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 for Eucharistic Adoration each week in the Basilica on Fridays after the 12:10 p.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m.

### OLV SERVICE CLUB SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, May 9 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome to join the Service Club on Saturday, May 9 as we place 300 plants in the infant garden behind the back parking lot. We will meet in the OLV Elementary School Cafeteria to load cars with plants and then caravan through the cemetery. Please join us!

Our last event for this school year is Tuesday, June 2 from 3:00—7:00 p.m. We are hosting a picnic with fun outdoor activities including alpacas, facepainting, and karaoke for the residential school children and group home residents of OLV Human Services. Lots of volunteers are needed for this event! Contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887.

Our help-yourself food pantry in the parking lot is always in need of shelf-stable food items. (No bread items or perishable foods!) Please be sure to mark each item "not for resale."

If you have any questions, please contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887.

### BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, or Sept. 8

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 class



### VOCATION REFLECTION

Acts of the Apostles Chapter 6 recounts the ordination of the first deacons. The earliest Church had deacons, and this ancient calling is still open today. If Jesus is calling you to ordained ministry, contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit [buffalovocations.org](http://buffalovocations.org).

that best fits your schedule! Sessions are held in the Basilica's Marian Room. Simply scan the QR code to register for the class of your choice. For questions, contact Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767 or [mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org](mailto:mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org).



### MAY IS ALTAR & ROSARY MONTH

May is Altar & Rosary Month! The OLV Altar & Rosary Society is always open to having new members (women and men) become part of our organization. The mission of the Altar & Rosary Society is to provide for the adornment of the sanctuary and to promote a greater devotion to the praise and honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary through prayer, good works and devotion to the Rosary. Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month from 11:00—11:30 a.m. Dues are \$10/year. For more information, contact Linda Smolen at 716-418-3542 or [Smolen2364@roadrunner.com](mailto:Smolen2364@roadrunner.com). We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting!



## 5X i`h`7cbZ]f a Uh]cb

Are you a practicing adult Catholic who has been baptized and 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 or by contacting Deacon Mark at 716-339-0767 (call/text) or email [mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org](mailto:mbialkowski@olvbasilica.org).



An informational session will take place on Thursday, May 14 from 6:00—7:30 p.m. in the Basilica's Community Room.

### CLASS SESSIONS

The other sessions will take place on:

- ◁ Thursday, May 28 6:30—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Thursday, July 16 6:00—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Thursday, July 30 6:00—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Thursday, August 6 6:00—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Thursday, August 27 6:30—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Thursday, September 10 6:30—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Saturday, October 4 2:00—5:30 p.m.

Independent study is available.

## <][ \`GW\cc` 7cbZ]f a Uh]cb

High School Students entering Grades 10 - 12 in September who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation may attend classes at either OLV or Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Orchard Park. Please scan the QR code to register for this year's program at OLV or visit <https://bit.ly/2026-OLV-Youth-Confirmation>.



An informational session will take place on Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Orchard Park.

There is an \$85 fee for this program. Please make checks payable to *Our Lady of Victory* and bring the payment to the informational session. For questions, contact Carm Zomeri at 716-828-7494 or [czomeri@olvbasilica.org](mailto:czomeri@olvbasilica.org).

### CLASS SESSIONS

Classes will be held at Our Lady of Victory Basilica in the OLV Elementary School Cafeteria on:

- ◁ Wednesday, July 15 6:00—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Thursday, July 16 6:00—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Wednesday, July 29 6:00—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Thursday, July 30 6:00—8:00 p.m.
- ◁ Thursday, August 6 6:00—8:00 p.m.

A retreat will be held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Orchard Park on a date to be announced.

## JUWUh]cb`6]V`Y`GW\cc`



Monday, July 20—Friday, July 24  
6:00—8:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible school is returning this summer to OLV! This year's theme is *Summer with the Saints: Superheroes of Faith* and will take

place July 20—24, from 6:00—8:00 pm. Come grow deeper in your faith, learn about Saints, and have fun evenings! Snacks, crafts, and other activities are provided each evening.

Those ages 4-11 are invited to attend as participants, and the cost is \$30 per child in order to help offset the cost of the week's supplies. Scholarship and multi-child discounts are available. No child wanting to grow in faith will be turned away. We are also looking for those ages 12+ to participate as volunteers for free.

Registration is required for participants and volunteers by visiting <https://bit.ly/2026-OLV-VBS> or scan the QR code.

## C@J`9`Y a YbhUfm`GW\cc`



Attention Lackawanna residents! Did you know OLV Elementary offers a UPK 4 program? Our full-day, five-day program provides enriching, developmentally-appropriate experiences in a warm and nurturing environment where children thrive as confident learners.

Call 716-828-7592 to learn more or schedule a tour today!



# SUPPORT OLV

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**CZYfhcfm**

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



**J][ ]`7UbX`Yg**

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



**KY`Wc aY`D`UnU**

Support our Basilica Centennial Campaign. Questions? Call Shannon Donovan at 716-828-9610.



**Jc` i bhYYf**

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

## 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 OLV Basilica!

### Offertory Collection for Sunday, March 29, 2026

#### PARISH COLLECTIONS:

Weekly	\$25,111.02
Monthly	\$232.00
Ash Wednesday	\$11.00
Christmas	\$200.00
Easter	\$235.00
Easter Flowers	\$675.00
Processing Fees (online)	\$14.16
Shrines (Votive Candles)	\$3,669.00
Sr. Ellen O'Keefe Angel Fund for OLV Elementary	\$5.00

#### ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS:

Altar & Rosary Society	\$20.00
Black and Indian Missions	\$71.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$5.00
Central & Eastern Europe and Poland	\$5.00
Holy Land / Good Friday Collection	\$101.00

**TOTAL** **\$30,354.18**



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- 1** Go to [olvbasilica.org](http://olvbasilica.org) and click *Donate*.
- 2** Select a collection or event.
- 3** Use your credit/debit card, checking or savings account, PayPal, or Venmo. That's it!

## OLV BASILICA MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR MAY —

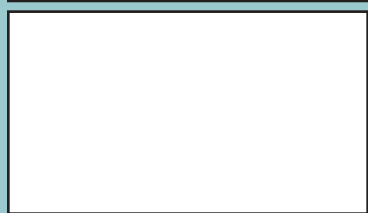
	TIME	LECTOR	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	ALTAR SERVERS	SACRISTAN
<b>SAT.</b>	4:30 pm	William O'Rourke	Mary Stenzel, Susan Zakrzewski, Michael Zakrzewski, Tracy Allen	Erin Bialkowski, Isaac Cacacho	Sandy Swiech
<b>SUN.</b>	8:00 am	Paul Miazga	Albert Ward, Nancy Zippier, Mary Patricia Allman, Eugene Allman, Catherine Bergen		Kevin O'Neil
	10:00 am	Laura Schuh	Patricia Osborne, Kathleen Roche, Lynn Velasquez		Diane Bona
	Noon	Christopher Swan	Roman Mayers, Michalene Murray, Jon Paul Trabucco	Nathaniel, Joshua, and Theodore Lindstrom	Robert McDonough
	4:30 pm	Linda Pawenski, Matthew Minton	Michele Pusatier, Michalene Murray, Patricia DiVito	Carter Cofield	Michalene Murray

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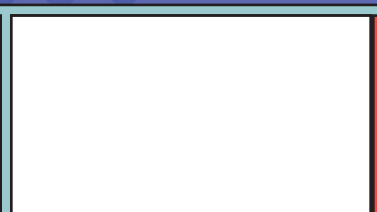
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