



# OUR LADY OF VICTORY NATIONAL SHRINE AND BASILICA

767 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, New York 14218

Phone: (716) 828-9444; FAX: (716) 828-9429

E-mail: [olvrectory@olvbasilica.org](mailto:olvrectory@olvbasilica.org)

Website: [www.olvbasilica.org](http://www.olvbasilica.org)



## *Sunday, December 15, 2019 - Third Sunday of Advent*

**PASTOR/RECTOR:** Rev. Msgr. David G. LiPuma  
**IN RESIDENCE:** Rev. Msgr. Paul J. E. Burkard  
**PAROCHIAL VICARS:** Rev. Justin J. Steeg  
 Rev. Romulus Rosolowski, OFM Conv.  
**DEACON:** Deacon Michael V. Comerford

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:**  
 Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Sunday: Closed

**SUNDAY MASSES:**  
 Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m.  
 Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Folk Mass),  
 Noon (Choir), 4:30 p.m.

**HOLY DAY MASSES:** Please see bulletin

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m. (Mon.-Sat.)  
 8:15 a.m. (Friday when school is in session)

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:**  
 Saturday: 3:00-4:00 p.m. and 7:00-7:30 p.m.  
 Eve of Holy Day: 3:00-4:00 p.m.  
 Eve of First Friday: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

**SCHOOL:**  
 2760 South Park Avenue, Lackawanna, NY  
 Mrs. Carolyn M. Kraus, Principal  
 Phone: (716) 828-9434  
 E-mail: [elementary@olvbasilica.org](mailto:elementary@olvbasilica.org)  
 Website: [www.ourladyofvictoryelementary.org](http://www.ourladyofvictoryelementary.org)

**RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE:**  
 2760 South Park Avenue, Lackawanna, NY  
 Ms. Carmelann Zomeri, Director  
 Phone: (716) 828-9437  
 E-mail: [religioused@olvbasilica.org](mailto:religioused@olvbasilica.org)

**GIFT SHOP and MUSEUM:**  
 Dianne Bosinski, Tours & Basilica Programs  
 (716) 828-9424/[dbosinski@olvbasilica.org](mailto:dbosinski@olvbasilica.org)  
 James Murphy, Gift Shop Manager  
 (716) 828-9433/[olvgiftshop@olvbasilica.org](mailto:olvgiftshop@olvbasilica.org)

**GIFT SHOP and MUSEUM HOURS:**  
 Daily 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**ROSARY:** Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

**Sacrament of Baptism:**

Our Parish offers a special Pre-Baptism preparation program for parents who desire to share their faith with their children. Parents-to-be must attend this class prior to the birth of their child. Baptisms are usually scheduled two times each month. Call the Rectory to register for classes. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics. Non-parishioners are required to have a Letter of Recommendation to serve as a sponsor.

**Sacrament of Marriage:**

To be married in the Basilica, you must be an active parishioner for at least 9 months prior to setting a date. Engaged couples should contact the pastor before making other wedding arrangements. Couples are required to attend a Pre-Cana Conference, or equivalent pre-marriage preparation program.

**Letters of Recommendation:**

Recommendations to act as sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation can be issued only to registered members of Our Lady of Victory Parish who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, attend Mass and receive Holy Communion regularly, have their children attending a Catholic school or Religious Education class. If married, the marriage must be in conformity with the regulations of the Catholic Church.

**Devotions:**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins immediately after the 12:10 p.m. Mass in the Basilica on Fridays and concludes with Benediction at 5:00 p.m.

**First Friday:**

On the eve of the First Friday of each month there are confessions from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Mass is celebrated at 7:30 p.m. on First Friday.

**Care of the Sick:**

Please notify the rectory office for a visit to any family member who is sick, in the hospital or confined to home. Regular home Communion visits are usually on the First Friday of the month by a priest, deacon, or minister of the Eucharist.

**Tours:**

To schedule a tour of Our Lady of Victory Basilica, please contact Dianne Bosinski, Tours & Basilica Programs by email at [dbosinski@ourladyofvictory.org](mailto:dbosinski@ourladyofvictory.org) or by phone at (716) 828-9424.

**Message from the Pastor**

It is hard to believe that we are already celebrating the Third Sunday of Advent. Traditionally this Sunday is called "Gaudete Sunday" from the Latin word meaning to "rejoice." The entrance antiphon for the Mass calls us to "Rejoice in the Lord, always: again, I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near."

This weekend we light the rose color candle on our Advent wreath and the priest wears rose color vestments symbolizing the joy that we are called to experience as Advent is almost over and Christmas is drawing near. It is good for us to focus on the joy that only the Lord can bring us. In the midst of all the hustle and bustle, the anxieties of life, and the pressure we may feel to have everything done in time for Christmas, it is important that we slow down and remember once again the real reason for the season: Jesus, born to be our Savior... Jesus the Son of God, the Word made Flesh, the One who dispels the darkness of sin and brings us the light of God's unconditional love... Jesus our Redeemer... Emmanuel... God who is with us!

As a Church we exist solely to proclaim to the world that God became man in Jesus Christ to forgive our sins and to restore our relationship to the Father. Everything else – the Church's moral teaching, its hierarchical structure, its charities – exists for no other reason than to help us bring Jesus Christ into the world and to make Him known. That is why the Church's message is called "Good News!" It is the joyful proclamation that God loves us, that He knows us by name, that He sees our struggles, sufferings and hardships, and that He has come to save us.

The essence of the Christian message, then, is that "God so loved the world that He sent His only Son not to condemn the world but to save it." It is our duty as Christians to share this "Good News" with others, especially those who are hurting or struggling in any way, and to invite others to join us at the table of the Lord and to receive the grace of the sacraments. This Advent and Christmas season, please join me in prayer and also through personal invitation, inviting those people whom you know need to be welcomed home here to the parish family at Our Lady of Victory Basilica.

As our diocese now moves forward under the leadership of our Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, let us pray in a special way for the healing of all victims of abuse and those who have been hurt and are struggling with all that has gone on in our local Church here in the Diocese of Buffalo. Let us pray for the restoration of trust and that we will become a much holier and stronger community of faith as priests, deacons, consecrated religious and laity. And let us pray that the Holy Spirit will send us a good, holy and effective Bishop to shepherd our diocese and bring Christ's healing love to all of the people here in Western New York.

This Advent season we celebrate a God who does not keep His distance from us, but is within us and all around us. Too often we lose sight of Him because of our rigid ideas and narrow expectations. Today we are being called to broaden our vision and raise our eyes to a God who is always greater than we can hope or imagine.

"Rejoice in the Lord, always: again, I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near!"

May God bless you and your loved ones!  
Fr. David



*Pray for the canonization of our founder,  
Venerable Nelson Baker*



## Summary of the Readings Third Sunday of Advent

Dark violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and “the coming of the Lord.” But on the Third Sunday of Advent, formerly known as *Gaudete* (Latin for “rejoice”) Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing.

Today’s first reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God’s saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God’s presence in the midst of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah’s prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf), Jesus’ presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: “The dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” (Matthew 11:5) Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Mass Schedule

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### Week of December 15, 2019

#### Saturday, December 14

4:30 Florence Zacharysaz by Cindy & Dave Schaefer

#### Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 Catherine Ward by Deborah Russell

10:00 Deceased Members of the Wood Family by Family

12:00 Deceased Members of the Filk Family & Friends by The Filk Family

4:30 Joe & Gretta Powers by Family

#### Monday, December 16

7:30 James & Stasia DePasquale by Judith & Peter Pawlak

12:10 Irene Olejniczak by Chester Partacz

For All Souls in Purgatory by Carmen Kozlowski

#### Tuesday, December 17

7:30 Novena in Honor of the Birth of Our Lord Intentions  
OLV Helping Hands Club Members

12:10 Albin Sasiadek by Son, David Sasiadek

#### Wednesday, December 18

7:30 Novena in Honor of the Birth of Our Lord Intentions  
Jennie Vertalino by Family

12:10 Joseph Battista by The Battista Family

#### Thursday, December 19

7:30 Novena in Honor of the Birth of Our Lord Intentions  
Phyllis M. Lahey by Kelly Carta & Zak Pivitt

12:10 William Roberts by The Roberts Family

Elizabeth Kovacs by Liz Kovacs & Family

#### Friday, December 20

7:30 Novena in Honor of the Birth of Our Lord Intentions  
Patrick Gallagher by Loving Wife, Marilyn Gallagher

12:10 Special Intention of Heather Ann Caputi by Family  
James Yoviene, Jr. by The Downey Family

#### Saturday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius

7:30 Novena in Honor of the Birth of Our Lord Intentions

12:10 Dr. Lawrence Carden by Mary Del Monte

4:30 Stella Gawel by The Gawel Family

#### Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 Deceased Members of the Plewinski & Murphy Families  
by Family

10:00 John Graham by Gary Masterson

12:00 Joseph Bierut by Sharon & Lynne Bierut

4:30 Novena in Honor of the Birth of Our Lord Intentions



## Weekend of December 21-22

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#### Lectors:

##### **Saturday, December 21**

4:30 p.m.—S. Saunders

##### **Sunday, December 22**

8:00 a.m.—J. O’Connor

10:00 a.m.—E. Wieleba

12:00 p.m.—C. Swan

4:30 p.m.—M. Arza

#### Eucharistic Ministers:

##### **Saturday, December 21**

4:30 p.m.—Bush, Jackson, Schaefer, Stenzel, Wood

##### **Sunday, December 22**

8:00 a.m.—M. McCann, Murray

10:00 a.m.—Jarosz, Powers, D.&D. West, T. Wing

12:00 p.m.—Bonafede, Smolen, Trabucco

4:30 p.m.—Rick Grasso, Jackson, Stachowski

#### Servers:

##### **Saturday, December 21**

4:30 p.m.—M. Bush, A. Pavlovich, MG. Wood

##### **Sunday, December 22**

8:00 a.m.—V. Trojanovic, R. Harrington

10:00 a.m.—A.J. Matyas, L.J. Sokolik

12:00 p.m.—T. Sitarek, R. Litwin, E. James

4:30 p.m.—A. Mateer, D.N. Clark

(MC= J. Pearson)

**Tours: December 22:** Linda Rayburg



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School News

Christmas is coming and our school is very busy! Santa arrived right on time Sunday morning to visit with our parish and school families. Thank you H.S.A. for making him feel so welcome and thank you to everyone who attended the Breakfast with Santa.

Our Sweeps kickoff is in the past but the real event will arrive sooner than you think! You have until March 7 to pick up your tickets to attend the main event, but purchase now and you will be in it to win the Early Bird drawings that are coming up before March 7. All proceeds benefit our parish school. It's a great night filled with great food, good friends, basket raffles, split club and much more. Come out with us and have some fun!

Important Dates to Note:

- December 18: Christmas Concert in the Gymnasium beginning at 12:00 p.m.
December 19: Christmas vacation begins. No school for students.
January 2: School resumes

Get Your 2020 Sweepstakes Tickets

Sweepstakes tickets are available after weekend Masses at the exit on the lower level of the Basilica or in the Rectory, Gift Shop and School Office during regular business hours. Each ticket is \$50.00 and admits two people (21 and over) to the Sweepstakes Night on Saturday, March 7, 2020. We also are running a special that if you buy 5 tickets you get one free. If you are able to help with the Sweepstakes Drawing on March 7, please contact Deniece Diamond at 716-997-8125 or complete the form below and return it to the School Office or place it in the collection basket.

Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:40 a.m. Religious Ed Classes (School)
8:45 a.m. Confessions—Grades 3-5
12:00 p.m. RCIA (Rectory)
1:00 p.m. Baptisms (Bas)
1:00 p.m. RCIA (Rectory)

Monday, December 16

- Santa's Secret Shop (School)
8:15 a.m. School Nativity Mass (Bas)
7:00 p.m. Care for Creation Meeting (MR)
7:00 p.m. Folk Group Practice (Mus R)

Tuesday, December 17

- Novena in Honor of the Birth of Our Lord Begins
Santa's Secret Shop (School)
7:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting (R)
7:00 p.m. Rosary for Peace (Bas)
7:30 p.m. Prayer Group Meeting (SC) (MR)

Wednesday, December 18

- Santa's Secret Shop (School)
12:00 p.m. School Christmas Program

Thursday, December 19

- School Christmas Recess Begins
6:00 p.m. Legion of Mary Meeting (MR)
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Choir Loft)

Friday, December 20

- Museum closed to the Public all day; Rectory Closes at Noon
Pack Christmas Bags
1:00-5:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration (Bas)
6:30 p.m. Pro-Life Meeting (MR)

Saturday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius

- Deliver Christmas Bags
3:00-4:00 & 7:00-7:30 p.m. Confessions

Sunday, December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 a.m. Religious Ed Teachers Pot Luck Breakfast (School)
8:40 a.m. Religious Ed Classes (School)
11:00 a.m. Children's Liturgy Practice (Bas)
1:00 p.m. RCIA (Rectory)

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Congratulations

The first Early Bird Drawing for the 2020 Sweepstakes was held on Saturday, December 7. Winners are:

- \$100.00 - LueAnn Curtin - #539
\$200.00 - Daniel Piotrowski - #197
\$400.00 - Shad Garner - #693

The next Early Bird drawing will be held on January 7, 2020.

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Religious Give Thanks

"Thank you hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection.

Volunteers Needed for Sweeps 2020!

Our Sweepstakes Grand Prize Drawing will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2020, beginning at 5:30 p.m. We are in need of volunteers to assist with major areas of the Sweepstakes process.

\_\_\_\_\_ Theme Baskets, Donations for Large Raffle Items

Event Day (March 7, 2020)

- Setup Kitchen
Bartender 50/50 Split
Bell Jar Raffle Sales
Ice, Food, Beverages Take down

If you are willing to assist in any of these areas, please indicate your preference and fill in the information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Deniece Diamond or through the OLV School Office or drop in the collection basket as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call Deniece (716-997-8125) or the School Office (828-9434). Thank you.

## Save The Date! OLV Elementary Open House

On **Sunday, January 26, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** OLV Elementary will be holding their annual **Open House**.

OLV Elementary School has provided students with a vibrant, safe, and nurturing environment for more than 120 years! Whether in classrooms, computer labs, or sports fields, our teachers shape the leaders of tomorrow and provide the building blocks for unlocking each child's vast potential. OLV offers small class sizes, spiritual formation, and a proven track record of preparing children for high school and life! Additionally, we offer a morning / after school care program to further the social and educational development of our children. OLV is a licensed STREAM institution that has a forward-thinking curriculum that focuses on the areas of Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics.

## Care for Creation Meeting

Come join Father Justin Steeg, Sister Sharon Goodremote, FSSJ, Chairperson of the Buffalo Diocese Care for Creation Committee and Father Dan Horan, via YouTube, to reflect and learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches us about the importance of caring for creation as taught by the Catholic Church and specifically in Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si, Care for Our Common Home*. The workshop will provide a 15-20 minute YouTube by Father Dan Horan reflecting on sections of the encyclical. Then Father Justin and Sister Sharon will lead a reflection and sharing on the topics in the YouTube. There will also be practical actions we as followers of Jesus can do to care for this wonderful gift of Creation. The workshop will be offered on **Monday, December 16, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Marian Room**. Father Dan Horan offers information about the different ways Pope Francis shares in the encyclical of how we can see ourselves in our relation to creation in a way that brings us closer to God.

## Suggestion to Help Care for our Common Home

Unplug appliances when you're not using them. Plug a group of appliances into a power strip that can be turned off when not in use to conserve electricity and save money.

## From the St. Vincent de Paul Society

*The OLV St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks the parish community* because through your generous contributions of food, money and time *we delivered Thanksgiving baskets to over 150 families* in our neighborhood! We will also have a **Christmas food distribution, so we can use help packing bags of food on the morning of Friday, December 20. We will need drivers on Saturday, December 21, to deliver those bags and some toys to Lackawanna homes.** It's a hectic time for all, but please consider taking two hours of your morning/afternoon for a great start to the Christmas week! For more information, call the Rectory at 828-9444 to leave a message for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and a member will call you back. Thank you.



### Christmas Confession Schedule

Saturday, December 21: 3:00-4:00 & 7:00-8:00 PM  
Monday, December 23: 3:00-4:00 & 7:00-8:00 PM

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24  
4:00 PM - Children's Liturgy  
6:00 PM - Christmas Vigil  
12:00 AM - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25  
Nativity of the Lord  
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon  
No 4:30 PM Mass

### New Year Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve - Tuesday, December 31  
4:30 PM - Vigil Mass

New Year's Day - Wednesday, January 1  
The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God  
(*Holy Day of Obligation*)  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon  
No 4:30 PM Mass

## Children's Liturgy December 24 ~ 4:00 PM

Thank you to everyone who brought a new toy to Santa at our last Children's Liturgy. We are in awe of your generosity! The toys will be distributed by Santa's helpers (the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society) with their Christmas food distribution.

We would also like to remind those children who signed-up as ministers for the **Christmas Eve Mass** that **rehearsal will take place on Sunday, December 22, at 11:00 a.m. after the 10 o'clock Mass.** We will meet upstairs in the church by the Folk Group stand. **All ministers must attend the practice.**

The Ministers are:

**Readers:** Nathan & Madelyn Powers, Annabelle Czekanski

**Collectors:** Kathryn Powers, Nicholas Czekanski, Olivia Maciuba

**Gift Bearers:** Jonathan Ramirez

**Greeters:** (no one yet)

**Singers:** Hannah Sweeney, Samantha Siwick, Olivia Maciuba

We still need another gift bearer, another collector, greeters and more singers. Please **call Tina Hatem at 826-5075** if your child would like to volunteer or if your child has problem making rehearsal. And don't forget your Christmas Wheat! If you need a pack of wheat and instructions to grow it, call Tina. Thank you and have a wonderful Christmas!

**Our Weekly Offering  
Sunday, December 8th**

Weekly:	\$	12,309.45
Monthly:	\$	778.00
Total:	\$	13,087.45
Shrines	\$	1,208.89
Pennies	\$	48.10
Christmas	\$	191.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	606.00
Immac. Conception	\$	1,425.04
Retirement/Relig.	\$	1,857.05
Human Develop.	\$	1.00

**Baptism**

We welcome *Brycen Joseph Girdlestone* into our Parish Community. He was baptized on Sunday, December 8, 2019 in Our Lady of Victory Basilica.

**Pro-Life**

We continue to follow the timeline of Mary’s pregnancy with Jesus. Week 39: There is only one week left of pregnancy! Breathing motions occur about 70% of the time. Baby can sometimes drink about 15 ounces of amniotic fluid each day. Baby is 20 inches long and is now the size of a pumpkin.

**Free Throw Championship**

Father Baker Council #2243 of the Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring its annual **Free Throw Championship on Sunday, January 5, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.** at the gymnasium of Our Lady of Victory Elementary School. The contests are open to all boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14. The championship is set up to have the contestants compete within their own gender and age group. Use door 3C on the South Park Avenue side of the school to enter the gymnasium. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and will need parental consent.

Boys and girls not participating in the free throw contest sponsored by other area K of C councils are invited to participate in this event.

Entry forms are available at <http://fatherbakerkofc.com> (click on “News & Announcements”) and at the event. Contact Father Baker Council members John (716-675-1804) or Bob (716-348-6119) for further information.

**Vocation Thought ~ Third Sunday of Advent**

John the Baptist urged his followers to turn from their sins and renounce anything that was keeping them from doing God’s will. If God is calling you to priesthood or religious life, what can you turn from in order to hear the call more clearly and answer more readily? If you think God is calling you, call Father Andrew Lauricella at 716-847-5535.

**Christmas Decorating at OLV Basilica**

As we prepare to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season, **volunteers are needed** to help decorate the Basilica and to water the Christmas flowers during the week and after weekend Masses. If you would like to help decorate, please join us in the Basilica **on Sunday, December 22, at 5:30 p.m.** (following the 4:30 p.m. Mass). If you are able to assist with watering the flowers throughout the Christmas season, a watering schedule will be posted in the work sacristy where you can sign up for the day(s) of your choice. For questions about volunteering or more information, please contact Gregory Stachowski at 716-949-1085. All are welcome to come and help us prepare our beautiful Basilica for the celebration of Christmas!



**AREA HAPPENINGS**

**St. Francis High School Christmas Concerts: Tuesday, December 17 - Instrumental Christmas Concert** at 7:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall Theatre featuring the Concert Band, Jazz Messengers and K-OS. **Thursday, December 19 - Vocal Christmas Concert** at 7:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall Theatre featuring the Chorus Classes, Men’s Choir and Senior Schola. All performances are free of charge.

**Cory James Gallagher & Concerts For The Soul** present *The Wonder of Christmas, A Musical~Poetic Journey on Friday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m., St. Michael’s Church, 651 Washington Street, Buffalo* and on *Saturday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary of the Lake Church, 4737 Lakeshore Road, Hamburg.* Come join Tenor Vocalist Cory James Gallagher and Writer-Poet Amy Gallagher as they take you on a musical-poetic journey through the wonder and nostalgia of this sacred season. All concerts are by donation. To dedicate a song and have your loved on included in our “Christmas Angels” segment, please contact Cory at 716-868-2047 or at [concertsforthesoul@gmail.com](mailto:concertsforthesoul@gmail.com).

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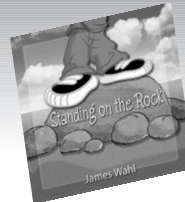
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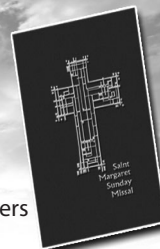
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