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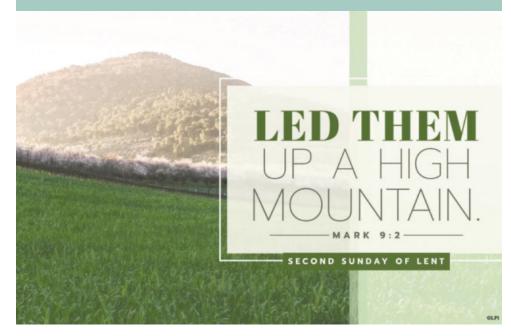
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Deacon Mark Bialkowski

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Peter Gonciarz

February 25, 2024 | Second Sunday of Lent



GET IN TOUCH!

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

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James Murphy, Gift Shop Manager

716-828-9433 olvgiftshop@olvbasilica.org

COME & WORSHIP

BASILICA HOURS

The Basilica is open for private prayer from 6:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. daily and until 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

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:

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.

PAGE 02 | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL 2024

The Season of Lent always coincides with our Annual Catholic Charities Appeal and Fund for the Faith. As we heard on Ash Wednesday, the three disciplines of Lent are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. There is no better way to exercise the call to almsgiving than to support our Catholic Charities Appeal, which in 2023 impacted more than 102,512 individuals and family members in our immediate Lackawanna community. 57,272 of these lives were children under the age of 18.

This year marks the 100th Appeal for Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities continues to be a beacon of **HOPE** for individuals, children and families in need across the eight counties of WNY. We serve people from all walks of life, without regard to faith. We **strengthen** and **empower** people to achieve meaningful, healthy and productive lives. We deliver support to meet immediate needs, and then assess for other needs to ensure long-term success.

In 2023, the contributions from OLV Basilica to the Appeal helped provide many essential services to those who need it most in our community including basic needs programs, care coordination, education and

workforce training, family safety and stabilization, immigration and refugee assistance, in-school counseling and support, mental wellness, and older adults support.

The Diocesan Goal for Appeal 2024 is \$9,500.000. Our Parish Goal here at Our Lady of Victory National Shrine & Basilica for this year's appeal is \$131,058. To date, we have raised \$905 from 9 donors.

I encourage everyone to consider making a gift to this year's appeal. If you have donated in the past, please consider an increase in your gift this year. If you have never donated, please consider making a donation to this year's appeal. Due to the lingering effects of the pandemic and the financial challenges that so many in our community are facing, the need for assistance is greater than ever for those who are struggling financially, emotionally and physically.

You may also make a pledge, which is what I do every year. In doing so I find that I can make a larger contribution spread out in four payments throughout the year. To make a gift, please mail in your donor card when you receive it to Appeal 2024, 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 that our parish is credited to ensure we make our parish goal.

For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit **ccwny.org**.

Please remember that HOPE starts with you. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus' message is clear: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Your support of Appeal 2024 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.

APPEAL PRAYER 2024

The Patron for Appeal 2024 is Saint Patrick. St. Patrick, God's calling was revealed to you only in the midst of poverty and captivity, not in the material comfort of home. Pray then. that we come to our work with humility. Open our hearts to God's calling and guide us to do His work, just as you did. May your example of perseverance, forgiveness, and hope guide our efforts for our 100th Appeal. Through your intercession, St. Patrick, we pray that our Loving God will bless us and those we serve, and that through Him, we will be successful. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. St. Patrick, pray for us!

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

GRATEFULLY, FR. DAVID



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | PAGE 03

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24—Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Michael X. Allman (Anniversary of Death) by Family
 12:10 pm Joseph Battista by wife and the Battista Family
 1:30 pm Wedding: Berkeley Kozuch and Michael Lamb
 4:30 pm Bette Crowley by Theresa and Maureen Sweeney

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25—Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 am Dennis Farrell by Rick & Sheila Cannon

10:00 am Deceased Family & Friends by Dick & Lu Powers and Family

12:00 pm Robert Brooks by Linda Brooks

4:30 pm Alfreda Bodziak by the Bodziak Family

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26—Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Mariah Horrigan & Family (living) by Dan & Michele Cusella

12:10 pm John Otwell (Birthday Remembrance) by loving family

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27—Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

7:30 am Anthony D. Mancinelli by the Del Vecchio Family

12:10 pm Bryan Patrick Scully by Lorrie Abounader

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28—Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Rev. Msgr. Robert C. Wurtz (Birthday Remembrance)

Sgt. John Kupkowski by Family

12:10 pm Joseph J. Caligiuri by Family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29—Lenten Weekday

7:30 am David Freitus by Ann Freitus

12:10 pm All Souls Intentions

FRIDAY, MARCH 1—Lenten Weekday

7:30 am All Souls Intentions

8:15 am OLV Helping Hands Club Members

Sister Ellen O'Keefe, SSJ (living) by the Klemenich & Nowaczyk Families

12:10 pm Casimir M. Slaski & Family

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

7:30 pm Rev. Msgr. Robert C. Wurtz

SATURDAY, MARCH 2—Lenten Weekday

7:30 am Living & Deceased Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Basilica

12:10 pm Anthony & Sarah Ingrao by Matt & Mary Beth Freitas4:30 pm Louis, Ann & Donna Manzo by Frank & Jean Dulak

SUNDAY, MARCH 3—Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 am	Cheryl Ann and Stella Gawel by the Gawel Family	
10:00 am	Agnes Bengert and Bruce & Agnes Holmes by Jim & Karen Dillon	
12:00 pm	Living & Deceased Members of the OLV Altar & Rosary Society	
4:30 pm	Joanne Vitaris by the Balcarczyk Family	



STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND PENANCE SERVICE

Please note that we will continue to have Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent here at Our Lady of Victory Basilica at 7:00 p.m., followed by Mass at 7:30 p.m.

Our family of parishes (#26) is also hosting Stations of the Cross. If you wish to visit our neighboring churches, the schedule is:

- Friday, March 1 at 7 p.m. Queen of Angels, Lackawanna
- Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m. OLV Basilica, Lackawanna
- Friday, March 15 at 7 p.m.
 Our Lady of Bistrica,
 Lackawanna
- Friday, March 22 at 7 p.m.
 Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
 Orchard Park

PENANCE SERVICE

A Lenten Penance Service will also be held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Orchard Park at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20.

PARISH NEWS

PAGE 04 | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORD BEYOND SUNDAYS

Mondays in Lent ● 1:00 p.m. OR 6:30 p.m.

This Lent, take some time to reflect on God's Word Beyond Sundays by joining us to take a deeper look at each weekend's readings. Sessions will take place every Monday in the Basilica's Marian Room at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. We will meet weekly until Easter. Come to any or all sessions!

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Fridays • 6:00—6:50 p.m. March 1, 8, 15 and 22

Something new from the OLV Service Club! Beginning Friday, March 1, join us for one or all of our four Lenten Soup Suppers from 6:00—6:50 p.m. in the Basilica's Community Room before the Stations of the Cross. We will have three different kinds of meatless soups. All are welcome!

Each supper includes a guest speaker:

- 3/1—Christian Holdridge, Director of Development, Peaceprints of WNY
- 3/8—Kathryn Schultz, Founder of OLV Service Club
- 3/15—Amy Betros, Co-Founder of St. Luke's Mission of Mercy
- **3/22**—Ellen Wood, Director, Little Portion Friary

We are looking for volunteers to assist with setup, soup prep, and cleanup. Soups can be brought hot in a crock pot between 5-5:30 pm. We will purchase bread from Mazurek's Bakery. To volunteer please contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887.

DOUGHNUTS & DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday, March 3 ● after 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses

Our next *Doughnuts and Discipleship* will take place on Sunday, March 3, after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses in the Marian Room on the lower level of the Basilica. Come for Mass and stay for coffee, juice, and doughnuts

afterwards! Sponsored by the Fr. Baker Council, Knights of Columbus, and hosted by the Columbiettes.

NEW PARISHIONER WELCOME NIGHT

Tuesday, March 5 • 6:30 p.m.

OLV will host its second New Parishioner Welcome Night in the Basilica's Community Room. This event is open to any newly registered parishioner. Meet other new parishioners, get to know a bit about OLV's rich history, and hear about how Father Baker's legacy is still thriving. Light refreshments will be served.

OLV SERVICE CLUB MEETING

Sunday, March 10 • 5:30 p.m.

Our next Service Club meeting is Sunday, March 10 in the OLV Elementary School Cafeteria. We will be assembling Easter baskets for St. Luke's Mission of Mercy. Please join us if you can! Donations of coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, or Easter candies are welcome prior to March 1. For more info, please contact Bridget Wood at 716-536-3887. All are welcome to be part of the OLV Service Club!

LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES: LIVING OUT LENT

Tuesday, March 12 • 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14 • 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19 • 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a series of thoughtprovoking sessions designed to show you how Lent is lived out every day through acts of discipleship and giving. Speakers and themes are:

- 3/12—Fr. Ronald Sajdak, director of Reaching Out to Africa, shares the impact that Lenten discipleship has on the world, particularly in Africa.
- 3/14—Jeff Papia, Chief Strategy Officer of OLV Human Services,

shares his experiences of Lenten discipleship and the role it plays via the compassionate work OLVHS continues in Fr. Baker's name.

• 3/19—Sr. M. Johnice Rzadkiewicz, CSSF, founder of the *Response to* Love Center, shares her experiences with some of the most marginalized in Western New York

No cost to attend. Sessions will take place in the Community Room on the lower level of the Basilica.

ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 16 • 12:10 p.m.

All are welcome to join us at as we host the annual St. Patrick's Day Mass on Saturday, March 16 at 12:10 p.m. Following Mass will be the "shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade," beginning outside the Basilica and parading to Lackawanna City Hall. This year, Msgr. David LiPuma, Pastor-Rector of the Basilica, will serve as Grand Marshal of the parade.

ANNUAL OLV SWEEPSTAKES

Saturday, March 23 ● Doors open at 5:30 p.m. ● OLV Elementary Cafeteria & Gym

Purchase a ticket for the OLV Annual Sweepstakes 2024, sponsored by OLV Elementary School, with a total of 30 cash prizes including a Grand Prize of \$10,000! Each \$50 ticket admits two adults to the Grand Drawing. Winners need not be present. Party in the cafeteria and gym from 6—10 p.m. Pizza, snacks and beverages provided; outside food encouraged. Tickets available at the Gift Shop, School, and Rectory, or scan the QR code to visit https://olvbasilica.weshareonline.

org. For questions, call the school at 716-828-9435 or Rick Diamond at 716-253-4679. We appreciate your support!





RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Last Sunday, February 18, the Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher, the Bishop of Buffalo, presided at the Rite of Election at St. Joseph's Cathedral in downtown Buffalo. The Rite of Election takes place each year on the First Sunday of Lent. Catechumens (unbaptized individuals) indicate their desire to join the Church by signing the Book of the Elect (a formal record of the names of those from the parish who have been elected for Baptism), giving them the title "members of the elect." These members of the elect are on their way to being initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Here at Our Lady of Victory Basilica, we are very excited to welcome the following catechumens: Dennis Hidgon and Lamonica Hidgon.

As part of the RCIA process here at OLV, we are also overjoyed to announce that Libby Lutz, Alexander Preiss, Michael Spence, and Christopher Whalen (who have all been previously baptized into the Catholic Church) will receive the remaining sacraments of initiation, First Eucharist and Confirmation, at this year's Easter Vigil on March 30. Noelle Ortiz, who has already received the sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist, will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

Therefore, the OLV community in the spirit of gratitude would like to ask for continued prayers for those seeking to be fully initiated into our vibrant faith community. Let us continue to pray for our RCIA candidates: Dennis and Lamonica Hidgon, Libby Lutz, Alexander Preiss, Michael Spence, Christopher Whalen, and Noelle Ortiz.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL—MAMMA MIA

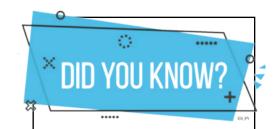
Friday, March 8 • 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 9 • 7:00 p.m. Sunday, March 10 • 3:00 p.m.

St. Francis High School in Athol Springs is proud to announce that this year's musical will be Mamma Mia. Tickets are \$13 each and are available online at www.stfrancishigh.org or through the main office of the school at 716-627-1200. All seats are reserved, so visit or call early for the best selection. Thank you in advance for your support.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS THEME BASKET RAFFLE

Saturday, March 9 ● 3—6 p.m. Sunday, March 10 ● 8 a.m.—Noon

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 1311 Our Mother of Good Counsel will be holding a theme basket raffle at the Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish Center, located at 3688 South Park Avenue in Blasdell. Raffles will be drawn at Noon on Sunday, March 10; winners need not be present. For more information, please contact Therese Constable at 716-390-8618.



Did you know OLV Elementary School has a Pre-K program that offers full and half day options? This program presents the student with rich experiences that will assist in developing a happy, confident child in an atmosphere that fosters learning and the development of personal self-confidence and trust. Call 716-828-7492 for more details and take a tour today, or visit **OurLadvofVictory Elementary.org**. Our first 100 years were awesome, the next 100 will be even better! The Legacy Lives On, join us!

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 27, March 5, April 9, and April 23

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 in the Basilica on Fridays after the 12:10 p.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m. PAGE 06 | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024



WE ARE GRATEFUL!

In order to continue to maintain our beautiful Basilica and support the mission and ministries of our parish, including our school, 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**. For online giving, go to https://olvbasilica.weshareonline.org.

We are very grateful for your ongoing support of Our Lady of Victory Basilica!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR Sunday, January 28, 2024

PARISH	COLL	FCTI(ONS (inc	ludina	online)

Weekly	\$18,341.00
Monthly	\$113.00
Ash Wednesday	\$5.00
Christmas	\$60.00
Fuel	\$20.00
Holy Day: Solemnity of Mary (1/	1) \$78.00
Pennies to Heaven	\$385.06
Sr. Ellen O'Keefe Angel Fund	\$383.00
Votive Candles/Shrines	\$1,199.27

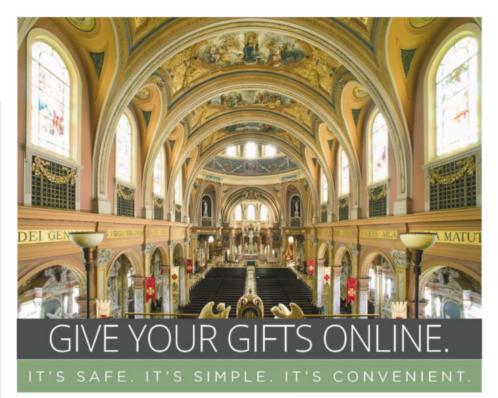
ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS

Catholic Relief Services \$817.00

Total \$21,401.33

VISIT THE GIFT SHOP

The OLV Gift Shop, located on the lower level of the Basilica next to the Father Baker Museum, carries a wide variety of Catholic gifts and religious merchandise, including materials related to Father Baker and Our Lady of Victory Basilica. **The Gift Shop is open 7 days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** (closed from 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. for lunch). Your purchases support OLV and help us to continue the legacy of Father Baker.



Support our parish today using your debit, credit cards, checking, or savings accounts.

- Go to: olvbasilica.weshareonline.org
- Select the collection or event of your choice.
- Set up your donation or payment. That's it!





MINISTRY SCHEDULE						
DATE	TIME	LECTOR	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS			
Sat. 3/3	4:30 p.m.	Jeffrey Stenzel	Jean Dulak, Mary Anne Jackson, Cindy Schaefer			
Sun. 3/4	8:00 a.m.	Catherine Bergen	Catherine Bergen, Mary Check, Richard Grasso			
	10:00 a.m.	Laura Schuh	Mary McClenathan, Patricia Osborne			
	Noon	Ellen Scheiderer	Robert McDonough, Linda Smolen, Lydia Zielinski			
	4:30 p.m.	Linda "Mickey" Pawenski	Donna Gelle, Stefan Gelle, Gregory Stachowski			

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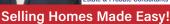






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