

Gate of Heaven Parish

Dallas, PA



Our Lady of Victory Parish

Harveys Lake, PA

Two Parishes, One Faith Community

Serving the Back Mountain Community  
Of Luzerne County

January 9, 2022—The Baptism of the Lord

PASTOR

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, M. Div.



Pastoral Staff at Gate of Heaven

Deacon Thomas M. Cesarini  
Deacon John C. Jorda

Office Manager Carol Carroll  
Director of Music/Liturgy Anthony Kubasek  
Organist Tom Morenko  
Director of Religious Education Jim Casey  
Facilities Wayne Frederick

Our Parish Catholic Schools

Elementary School  
Good Shepherd Academy  
316 North Maple Avenue  
Kingston, PA 18704  
570-718-4724

Jim Jones, Principal

High School  
Holy Redeemer High School  
159 South Pennsylvania Avenue  
Wilkes Barre, PA 18701  
570-829-2424

Doreen S. Dougherty, Principal

Pastoral Staff at Our Lady of Victory

Deacon Thomas M. Cesarini  
Deacon John C. Jorda

Office Manager Renee Boland  
Director of Music/Liturgy Helen Neylon  
Director Of Religious Education Amy Clark  
Facilities/Sacristans Ed Bilder & John Wilson

Pastoral Staff at both  
Our Lady of Victory and Gate of Heaven

Business Manager Helen Neylon  
Administrative Assistant Renee Boland  
RCIA Coordinator Deacon John Jorda  
Mission Liaison Carol Carroll  
Webmaster Dan Gallagher

**Parish Mission Statement** *We*, the faithful members of Gate of Heaven and Our Lady of Victory Parishes, in union with our Bishop and Pastor, are called through baptism to share in the mission that Jesus Christ has entrusted to us. **We** celebrate the Sacraments and pledge our service to the community through use of time, talent and treasure. **We** are dedicated to proclaiming the Word of God, to deepening the faith of our parishioners, and to reach out to all those in need. **We** provide the necessary resources to educate in sharing our faith. **We** encourage our parents, grandparents and parish family to pray for vocations. Through Baptism, **we** each have an active role to play in the life and mission of the Church. **We** celebrate our faith as linked parishes jointly working together in many ways while maintaining our heritage as individual churches in the Back Mountain community.

## STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE REPORTS

### GATE OF HEAVEN

		COLLECTION	ATTENDANCE
DECEMBER 24	5:30PM	\$3,827.00	125
DECEMBER 24	10:00PM	\$3,119.00	115
DECEMBER 25	9:00am	\$3,514.40	81
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$10,460.40</b>	<b>321</b>

### OUR LADY OF VICTORY

		COLLECTION	ATTENDANCE
DECEMBER 24	4:00PM	\$7,597.00	239
DECEMBER 25	12:00AM	\$1,525.94	74
DECEMBER 25	10:30AM	\$1,857.00	71
MAIL-IN		\$2,075.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$13,054.94</b>	<b>384</b>

		COLLECTION	ATTENDANCE
DECEMBER 26	9:00AM	\$2,144.00	136
MAIL-IN		\$3,358.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,502.00</b>	<b>136</b>

		COLLECTION	ATTENDANCE
DECEMBER 26	10:30AM	\$2,857.00	128
MAIL-IN		\$670.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,527.00</b>	<b>128</b>

		COLLECTION	ATTENDANCE
JANUARY 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY	9:00AM	\$1,710.00	80
JANUARY 2	9:00AM	\$2,220.00	135
MAIL-IN		\$2,675.00	
<b>TOTAL FOR WEEKEND</b>		<b>\$6,605.00</b>	<b>215</b>

		COLLECTION	ATTENDANCE
DECEMBER 31 SOLEMNITY OF MARY	9:00AM	\$1,044.16	88
JANUARY 2	7:30AM	\$1,554.50	52
JANUARY 2	10:30AM	\$3,306.00	80
MAIL-IN		\$6,227.00	
<b>TOTAL FOR WEEKEND</b>		<b>\$12,131.66</b>	<b>220</b>

### FROM THE PASTOR

#### **3 Keys to a Great 2022**

- 1. Keep your Vision Alive: Through adversity keep looking forward.**
- 2. Stay Positive:  
When you hit setbacks believe the best is yet to come. Faith > Fear.**
- 3. Stay Connected:  
To your family and your team. You are more powerful together than alone.**

*God Bless, Fr. Andrew*

### *Christmas Collections*



Many thanks to all who participated in the Christmas liturgies this year, both in person and online. We are grateful for the time, talent and treasure that you share with your parish families.

#### **Christmas Offerings for 2021 as of Jan.4, 2022:**

Gate of Heaven: \$14,994.00

Our Lady of Victory: \$15,084.00

We hope to be able to at least reach the same levels of giving that we achieved last year, as operational costs for both parishes have increased accordingly.

#### **Christmas Offerings for 2020:**

GOH: \$18,257.00

OLV: \$19,325.00

We will accept your Christmas offerings through January.

Our Lady of Victory Parish  
16 Second Street, Harveys Lake, PA 18618

Parish Phone: 570-639-1535 — Fax: 570-639-1294 — Email: olvh1309@aol.com

Our Facebook Page: Gate of Heaven and Our Lady of Victory Website: <https://www.goholv.org>

**Mass Schedule/Devotions for January 10-16**

**Tuesday: January 11**

9:00am Mass Intention for Mary Doyle given by 9am Mass Friends

7:00pm Flame of Love Devotions

**Friday: January 14**

9:00am Mass Intention for Genevieve Nazarek given by the Cannon Family

9:30am Divine Mercy Cenacle

**Saturday: January 15**

4pm Mass Intention for Mary June given by Daughter, Linda June-Traver

**Sunday: January 16**

7:30am Mass Intention for Gavin Ayers given by Carol & Ned

9-10:15am CCD in Parish Hall

10:30am Mass Intention for Ann Domeracki given by her Husband

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

will be held on  
Saturdays  
in January  
from Noon until 1pm  
at Gate of Heaven.

**Sanctuary Candle**

burns for  
JOSEPH BULGER  
given by  
MR. & MRS. JAMES  
BULGER

**Ministry Schedule for January 15 & 16**

**4:00pm** Lector— Martha Herron Eucharistic Minister—Lynn Bartz

**7:30am** Lector—Regina Cannon Eucharistic Minister— Steve Batory

**10:30am** Lector— Courtney Michak Eucharistic Minister— Tom Kutzer

**New Mass Intention Book**

An intention book has been placed on the desk at the back of the church.  
Feel free to write in your own intentions. They will be prayed for at all Masses.

**2022 Flower & Sanctuary  
Candle Requests**

There are still some spots available for 2022. Sign up on the desk at the back of the church or call the office. Sanctuary Candles are \$10 per week and Altar Flowers are \$35 per bouquet. (2 bouquets needed per week)

**2021 Parish Statistics for Our Lady of Victory:**

Parishioners: 502 registered families

1261 registered members

Deaths: 15

**Total number of Sacraments received:**

Baptism: 9

Holy Communion: 11

Confirmation: 4

Marriage: 5

**May God bless the  
children of OLV who were  
baptized this year:**

Addison Jade Balent

Pierce John Chopka

Charlotte Jolene Dunn

Daytona Rose Evans

Carson James Hall

Olivia Anne Kidd

Natalie Marie Martinson

Annarose Christine Su

Clara Josephine Stepp



**CENTENNIAL 2023:** Mark your calendars NOW for Sunday, September 3, 2023 for our Centennial Mass. *The date has been approved and is on Bishop Bambera's calendar.* We will spend the whole year, from Labor Day 2022-Labor Day 2023, reflecting and celebrating the history of our faith community and the building we come to each Sunday to worship. **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 18th.** There will be many sub-committees that will work to make this year fun and successful. Think about joining a planning committee—we will have them for Liturgy, History, Reception/Events, Fundraising, and Improvements. We hope you consider being a part of the team. Don't forget that our regular second collection will be for improvements to our building and grounds for our Centennial year. Thank you!

Gate of Heaven Parish

40 Machell Avenue Dallas, PA 18612

Parish Phone: 570-675-2121—Fax: 570-675-7143—Email: parishoffice.goh@goholv.org

Our Facebook Page: Gate of Heaven and Our Lady of Victory Website: <https://www.goholv.org>

**Mass Schedule/Devotions for January 10– 16**

**Monday: January 10**

6:00pm Adoration  
6:30pm Rosary and Novena to the Miraculous Medal  
7:00pm Mass Intention for Maria deSalas given by the Salas Family

**Tuesday: January 11**

5-6 pm Eucharistic Adoration

**Wednesday: January 12**

9:00am Mass Intention for Joseph Urban given by Renee Boland  
9:30am Cenacle for the Marian Movement of Priests

**Friday: January 14**

2:00-3:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

**Saturday: January 15**

Noon-1pm Confessions  
5:30pm Mass Intention for Norman Darling given by Mary & Sons

**Sunday: January 16**

9:00am Mass Intention for Susan Lenko given by the Ubaldini Family  
10-11:15am CCD in School and Parish Hall  
3:00- 5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

will be held on Saturdays  
in January  
from Noon until 1pm  
at Gate of Heaven.



**Sanctuary Candle**

burns  
in loving memory of  
DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE  
PERKOSKI &  
WISNEWSKI FAMILIES  
given by  
SANDY BRADBURY

**Ministry Schedule for January 15 & 16**

5:30pm Lector– Louise Roberts Eucharistic Minister–Barbara Michaels  
9:00am Lector– Dan Ghezzi Eucharistic Minister–Dave Keating

**Altar Flower and Sanctuary Candle Requests for 2022**

Would you like to honor the memory of a loved one?  
A beautiful way to do so is to request the flowers that adorn the tabernacle  
each week or to sponsor the candle that burns in the sanctuary.  
Cost is \$35 for two bouquets of flowers and \$10 for each candle.  
Please contact Sandy Bradbury at 570-675-1837 to schedule.

**May God bless the children of  
Gate of Heaven  
who were baptized this year:**

- Amelia Dillon Grasu
- Aubrey Jenkins
- Audrey Lynn Martin
- Monica Maria Salus
- Mia Rose Shotwell
- Roman Luke Stoodley
- Logan Valkenburg
- Otto Vojtko
- Bodhi Banks Warren



**2021 Parish Statistics for Gate of Heaven:**

Parishioners: 848 registered families  
2291 registered members  
Deaths: 39

**Total number of Sacraments received:**

Baptism: 9  
Holy Communion: 19  
Confirmation: 23  
Marriage: 0



## HAPPENINGS AT BOTH PARISHES

**Altar & Rosary Society** The next meeting for the Altar & Rosary Society will be on Monday, January 10th after the 7pm Mass. We will be installing the new officers at this meeting. New members are welcome!

**END OF YEAR STATEMENTS:** We will not be mailing out statements to all parishioners this year. If you would like an end of the year tax statement noting your 2021 contributions, please contact the office of the parish which you are registered. For those who do request a statement, they will be mailed by January 31, 2022. Thank you for your cooperation and patience with this process.



**January 22, 2022 will mark the 49th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States.**

As Catholics, we are called to stand up for all human life from the moment of conception until natural death. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children": "In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 shall

be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion." For additional opportunities to observe the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, please check out the following resources: 9 Days for Life 2022 at [www.respectlife.org](http://www.respectlife.org)

### **Vigil Mass for Life**

Thursday, January 20, 2022

St. Maria Goretti Church, (42 Redwood Drive, Laflin, PA 18702)

Celebrant: Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton



All are welcome to join us on the eve of the 48th annual March for Life to pray for a greater respect of all human life, from conception to natural death, and every moment in between. We invite you to bring a new pack of diapers to be donated to Shepherd's Maternity House and St. Joseph's Center Baby and Children's Pantry. This mass will also be broadcast on Diocese of Scranton social media and CTV. Please contact Shannon Kowalski at [skowalski@dioceseofscranton.org](mailto:skowalski@dioceseofscranton.org) or (570) 207-2213 if you plan on bringing a group of 10 or more people.

**MARCH FOR LIFE BUS TRIP:** A bus trip is being coordinated by the Pennsylvanians for Human Life to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Departure will be from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 116 Hughes Street, Swoyersville, Pa. 18704. The cost for the bus and dinner is \$65.00 for adults and \$35.00 for students. For those wanting to sponsor a student, checks should be made to PHL and can be sent to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish at the address above. For further information, call Chris Calore @ 570-824-5621. Thank You.

**For those who are unable to attend any of the other March for Life activities, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and pray the Rosary for the unborn on Friday, January 21st from 1-3pm at Gate of Heaven. We will be praying in unity with all the faithful supporters who will be marching in DC at the same time.**

*Day of Prayer for the*  
**LEGAL PROTECTION  
OF UNBORN CHILDREN**



**SYNOD 2021 -2023** Pope Francis is inviting Catholics both in the mainstream of church life and on the margins to voice their dreams, ideas, and concerns in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023. Each week this page will feature information concerning the Synod and how you can be a part of this process. Please visit [www.dioceseofscranton.org](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) for more information.

### **What is a Synod?**

Like many of the words that we use in our tradition, *Synod* is an ancient Greek word that means assembling to determine the path forward. A *Synod* is a *Process* that gathers Christ's disciples so that their voices can be heard. It is the Church's belief that each and everyone's voice is that of Christ. And when two or three of Christ's Faithful are gathered, He is present and alive in their midst.

The history of the Church also shows us that the model of Synodality was a critical tool at times of crisis and challenge. A particular 'synod' was called to address various crises in the life of the Church and history tells us that, in those moments, the presence of the Holy Spirit was alive in their midst, leading the Church forward. The model of a Synod allows the presence of Christ to be given voice at this moment in our history.

**What is the 2021-2023 Synod about?** On March 7, 2020, Pope Francis announced that a Synod of Bishops would convene at the Vatican in October 2023, the theme of which will be *For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission*. As a vital first step in the Synod process, the Holy Father has invited each diocese around the world to listen to the voices of its people including those who are marginalized or may have fallen away from the Church.

By virtue of our Baptism, all of us are called to be active participants in the life of the Church through discernment, participation and co-responsibility. Through a process of careful listening, our participation in the Synod process will enable us to better understand how the Christian community participates in the life of our Church in the Diocese of Scranton today and how that shared participation among our members might grow in the future. *(From Bishop Bambera's Letter to the Faithful, Oct 4, 2021)*

### **Why is this Synod taking place?**

Far from being a temporary or one-time experience in calling the Church to participate in the Synod process, Pope Francis is reminding us that the very mission of the Church requires the entire People of God to be on a journey together, with each member playing his or her crucial role, united with each other. The Holy Father's hope is that the experience of this unique world-wide opportunity will bring about a new springtime for listening, discernment, dialogue and decision-making in our Church, so that the whole People of God can better journey together with one another and the entire human family, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. *(From Bishop Bambera's Letter to the Faithful, October 4, 2021)*



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