

November 30, 2025

Rev. Richard J. Cirba, V.F., Pastor

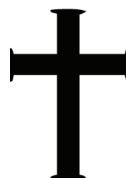
Rev. Andrew Amankwaa, Senior Priest

First Sunday of
ADVENT

HOPE

SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE PARISH

Celebrating Liturgy at St. Aloysius Church
143 West Division Street
Wilkes Barre, PA 18706



EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH

420 Main Road
Hanover Twp, PA 18706

Parish Information

Joining the Parish

New Parishioners are always welcome. Call your Parish Office for a Census Form.

Planning a Baptism

The birth of a child brings joy to the family. Through Baptism, that child is joined to the family enrolled in the Church.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is administered yearly to all 8th Grade students in our Religious Education Program and students attending Catholic Schools. Students wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled for at least two years before they are eligible to receive Confirmation.

Scheduling Weddings

Couples contemplating marriage are asked to contact the Parish Office and schedule the date before making any other plans. An appointment with the Pastor should be made at least 6 months prior to the Wedding Date. Couples must be registered parishioners and active practicing Catholics.

Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may take place at any time, especially if one is seriously ill. Please contact the office to schedule a time for a priest to visit.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA) is the process the Catholic Church uses to welcome adult members into the faith. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this process or in obtaining more information about it, please call the Parish Office to speak with a priest.

Funeral Preparations

The loss of a loved one is a particularly difficult time for those who are bereaved. Our parish community collaborates with local funeral directors in assisting families during their time of grief.

Bequests to the Parish

Please remember your Parish with Memorial gifts at the time of death or with a bequest in your will. Make a return to the Lord for all the good He has given you.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

We would like to thank all who Sponsor an ad in our bulletin. We greatly appreciate your support of the weekly bulletin.



Welcome to St. Robert Bellarmine and Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parishes.

If you are new to our church or just visiting, please stop and introduce yourself. We are pleased to have you share in this celebration of the Eucharist. If you do not have a church home, or your church is not home to you, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. Both churches are open to anyone looking for a spiritual home. You may register at the Parish Office or call us and we'll send you a form. We are glad that you are here and hope that you will come back again for Mass or become a parishioner.

Monday, Dec 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day

8:00AM	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
12:10PM	St. Robert Bellarmine
6:00PM	Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Important Reminder regarding receiving the sacraments.

All Parish children in public, private or Catholic Schools who are eligible to receive First Penance, First Communion or Confirmation must receive their sacraments at their Parish.

To receive First Penance or First Communion

students must be at least in 2nd grade and must show evidence of two (2) continual years of religious education.

To receive Confirmation students must show evidence of two (2) continual years of religious education beginning in 7th Grade. The student will then be eligible to receive Confirmation in 8th Grade.



Blessing of Baby Jesus weekend of Dec. 20th-21st.

"The blessing of the "Bambinelli"-as they are called in Rome-reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secret of true joy."

Each year, on the Third Sunday of Advent, children gather with their families in St. Peter's Square for "Bambinelli Sunday." The children bring with them figures of the Christ Child-the "Bambinelli"-from their family's Nativity scene, or presepe. During the noontime Angelus prayer, the pope blesses the children and the figurines they have brought.

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 4
7:00 PM**

St. Maria Goretti Church
42 Redwood Drive
Lafayette, PA 15702

**YOUNG ADULT
EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION**

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OUR CALL TO SERVE
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

YOUR GIFT MATTERS!

A gift of \$180 (which is \$15/month or \$0.50/day) helps to regularly provide one week of meals for a family in need through food pantries managed by Catholic Social Services.

Support the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal at: AnnualAppeal.org



St. Casimir Cemetery

The groundskeeper has started and will be at the cemetery through the fall. There is a cost of \$950/month to maintain the Cemetery.

If you would like to make a donation to St. Casimir Cemetery you can do so with a check made payable to the cemetery.

Put it in an envelope marked with the cemetery name on the envelope and drop it in the collection basket. Remember these donations are tax deductible!

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Please check one:

☐ I am new in the parish & wish to register

☐ Change of Address

☐ Moving out of Parish

Please drop Membership Form into the Offertory Basket or mail to the Parish Office.



St. Robert Bellarmine Parish

www.stalschurchwb.com

Phone Number: (570)823-3791

email address: stalschurch@stalloysiuswb.com

**Weekend & Daily Masses in: St. Aloysius Church
December 1-7, 2025**

like us on facebook



HMon.	8:00am	No Mass	
Tues.	8:00am	Charles Manfre	Wife, Valerie & Family
Wed.	8:00am	Erv Valerius	Wife, Dorothy
Thurs.	8:00am	No Mass	
Fri.	8:00am	No Mass	
Sat.	4:00pm	Rose Doran	Darice & Zachary Januszewicz
Sun.	7:00am	Mary Brodhead	Robbin Madar
Sun.	11:00am	Andrew Kovalski	Michael Hart & Alisha Panetta



November 23, 2025

*Thank You and God bless you
for your Weekly Sacrifice!
We are grateful to all those who
financially sacrifice to support our
parish and its ministries!*

*May God bless you for your faithfulness,
generosity and love.*

*No figures are available due to the early
publication of this bulletin.*



Both Tabernacle Candles

**This week are in loving memory of Paul Sinay
requested by Wife, Mary & Son, Paul.**



Eucharistic Bread & Wine

**Blessed at all our weekend masses
are in loving memory of Benito Tranguch
requested by Barbara Flora & Family.**



**Our Advent Candles
this year are in
Loving Memory of
The Pstrak/Stankunas Families**

Requested by Irene and Gary Pstrak



WREATH SALE

**All who placed an order!
Pick-up Sunday, Nov. 30th
from 8am-12noon
in St. Aloysius Cafeteria.**

VETERANS DAY FLAGS:

Thank you to all who supported our "Veterans Day Flags." The money we collected will go to **Tunnel of Towers**. God Bless All of You who gave so generously by serving our country!



Big Brothers/Big Sisters Christmas Party Sunday, December 7th at 1pm in St. Aloysius School Cafeteria

Once again this year, in conjunction with the Back Mountain Police, St. Robert Bellarmine Parish will be co-hosting a **Christmas Party** for about **100 children**. **If anyone knows of a child(ren) in need of a coat please let them know they are invited to this party! All they have to do is contact the Parish Office to RSVP.**

We are asking the parishioners of St. Robert Bellarmine, if possible, for a **donation of hats and gloves for these children**. You can drop these items off in the back of our Church. **The last day for donations will be Dec. 1st.**

If interested in helping with this party please contact the Parish Office.



2025 Annual Appeal!

Our parish goal: \$34,181.00

Total Raised: \$20,535.00

Amount over/under goal: **-\$13,646.00**

Thank you for your support!!



Make A Child Happy

Our Parish Family is helping the Hanover Twp Lions Club once again this year for children to have a joyous Christmas.

The Lions Club will be having "Toys for Tots" with the Marines at the Crossroads

on Sun., Dec. 7th from 2-5pm for drop off of toys for children.

If you would like to drop your gifts off here at St. Al's you can do so by the weekend of Dec. 7th and someone from the Lions will pick up the toys after the 11am mass on Dec. 7th.



The Little Blue Book

2025 Advent and Christmas Season

Six-minute reflections on the Advent/Christmas seasons weekday Gospels.

These books can be found in front of the pulpit.
A donation of \$1 is appreciated for each book.

Annual Operation Christmas Tree

**Make Checks payable to:
St. Robert Bellarmine Parish**



_____ Gold \$100.00
_____ Silver \$50.00 _____ Blue \$25.00
_____ Green \$10.00 _____ Red \$ 5.00

In Memory of: _____

Requested by: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish

Website: www.exhc.org

e-mail: exhc@aol.com www.facebook.com/holycross420

Phone Number: (570) 823-6242

December 1, 2025 - December 7, 2025

Mon.	8:00AM	Sophie Bienias	Son, David
Tues.		No Mass	
Wed.		No Mass	
Thurs.		No Adoration	
Fri.		Barbara Pencak	Walt
Sat.	5:30PM	Julius Rasmus	Pat & Carol Murphy
Sun.	9:30AM	Joe Altavilla	Joan and Family



Bread & Wine
for this weekend are offered:
In Memory of Joseph Herman by Nick & Pat Baran.

Candles are lit for 1 week beginning November 30th:
Sanctuary Candle: Health & Blessings for Sylvia Mangan by Ann.

Blessed Mother Candle: Health & Blessings for Matt Redick by Joanie and Ann.

Infant of Prague Candle 1: Health & Blessings for Pete Klemash by Ann.

Infant of Prague Candle 2: Thanksgiving Blessing to all parishioners at Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish.

There will be a Cancer Walk / Cancer Ministry wrap up meeting after the 9:30AM mass on Sunday, November 30 in the church hall. All are welcome!!



Tree of Giving

Please select a tag(s) from the tree in the vestibule of the church and return the item(s) unwrapped with the tag attached by Sunday, December 14th. The Hanover Area Helpful Hearts Committee is so grateful for your commitment & dedication to helping our community.



Scheduling Bread & Wine/Candles/Masses for 2026



The office is now scheduling Bread & Wine/Candles/Masses for 2026. If you want to schedule a mass, call the office from 8:00-noon, Monday - Thursday. 570-823-6242.

Off hours, you can leave a message for Joanie, option 2.

Leave your name & phone number and she will get back to you.

12 Days of Christmas Cash Raffle

Cost: \$20.00 a ticket. Each ticket gives you a chance to win up to \$10,500 in cash prizes!

Drawings will be held **Live** on Facebook December 25 - January 5. All winners will be notified.

Tickets were mailed to all households.

To purchase a ticket(s), contact any parishioner/club member, order online at www.exhc.org or visit the office during business hours.



Food Collection for Ashley Food Pantry at St. Leo's
November food collection: Turkey Stuffing Mix/Gravy.
Thank you for your generosity!



Due to the early publication of the bulletin, contributions were unavailable to publish.

Thank you for your continued support to Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish!

Contributions will be published in next weeks bulletin.



2025 Annual Appeal!



Our parish goal: \$26,405.00

Total Raised: 16,197.00

Amount over/under goal: **-\$10,208.00**

Thank you for your support!!

National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)



Thank You to everyone who prayed for our delegation that attended the NCYC in Indianapolis November 19-23. This pilgrimage was made possible because of YOU and YOUR support! May God Bless You always for your generosity.

Pictured LtoR: Jarrod Sauerwine, Pablo Nunez, Natalie Weidner, Dymond Benninger, Alyssa Wasenda, Dominick Costantino, Jr., Christine Skiro.

14th Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

will be held Saturday, December 13 from 10:00AM-Noon in the Church Hall.



\$10.00 - Container (20 Cookies - you pick)

\$40.00 - Lg Platter (80 Cookies, candy, wrapped)

\$55.00 - Extra Lg Platter (120 cookies, candy, wrapped)

Platter orders must be placed by Wednesday, December 3.

To order contact Joan at 570-814-6444 or the office at 570-823-6242, option 2 or complete the online form at www.exhc.org.

Homemade Sauerkraut! Cost is \$7.00 a quart.
To place an order contact Theda at 570-262-1895.
It will be available at the Cookie Walk & after weekend Masses.



Upcoming Events

- 12/4 - Adult/Young Adult Choir Rehearsal at 6:30PM.
- 12/7 - Youth Family Mass at 9:30AM.
- 12/7 - Cookie Baking Day after 9:30AM Mass.
- 12/11 - Cookie Donation Dropoff - 6:00-8:00PM - Hall
- 12/12 - Assemble Cookie Platters at 3:00PM - Hall
- 12/13 - 14th Annual Cookie Walk at 10:00AM-Noon.
- 12/21 - Blessing of the Bambinelli (Baby Jesus) at Mass.
- 12/22 - Prayer Shawl Gathering at 5:30PM.
- 12/27 - Food Distribution at Noon-1:00PM.





✠ First Sunday of Advent ✠ NOVEMBER 30, 2025



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS, HIS WORD TODAY

by Rev. William J. Reilly, Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

"You know the hour in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. The night is far spent, the day draws near. Let us cast off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light"... 'The Son of Man is coming at the time you least expect.'"

Welcome to a another, a new season of advent. We are looking again for the coming of the Lord, remembering Bethlehem, but His promised coming again. Since our last advent have you ever thought of your final destiny, salvation won for you by the first coming of Christ?

Let's begin this advent thinking, not about our celebration of the birth of Christ, but His coming at the end of time and our salvation. Am I ready to meet Him? Am I concerned about the salvation of others, my friends and family? Consider the words of Paul in Romans as he stirs us to wake from sleep and both think and act, as we prepare for His coming to me. The words of the hymn echo in my heart 'Jesus is the Lord of my salvation; I trust in Him and have no fear.'

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The words of Isaiah urge all people to forsake war and to live in peace forever. The tone reaches a climax in the words, "One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again."

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Paul invites us to put away all the things of darkness and sin and to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

A comparison is made between the destruction caused by the flood in Noah's time and the need to be prepared for the second coming of Christ. "You must be prepared in the same way. The Son of Man is coming at the time you least expect."

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Father Cirba recently received a Thank You letter from Pro Life.

Dear Father:

Thank you so much for the donation of diapers. They are our most requested item and are provided monthly to our families. Without generous donations like yours, we could not continue to provide assistance for the children.

God Bless,
PA's for Human Life

ADVENT

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE



The First Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year.

It's a time of great anticipation as we await the arrival of Christ on Christmas morning. In fact, the word Advent comes from the Latin word ad-venire that means coming or arriving. Just as in Lent, the liturgical color of Advent is purple. Both of the seasons prepare for great feast days in the Church year. The final days of Advent, from Dec. 17 to Dec. 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).



Christmas Wafers (Oplatki)

Are available in both parishes
this weekend
Donation is \$3 per pack.



Advent Week 1

As you light the first candle in the Advent wreath, take a slow deep breath. Remember that achieving the perfectly orchestrated holiday doesn't matter. What matters is watching for God in every situation.

Reflection is adapted from St. Anthony Messenger Press.
www.AmericanCatholic.org

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator Mary Beth Pacuska at 570-862-7551.

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right car seat?

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