

SAINT ROBERT BELLARMINE PARISH + EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS PARISH

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish

Celebrating Liturgy at
St. Aloysius Church



Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish
143 W. Division Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 2:00pm

Address: 143 West Division Street,
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706

Phone: 570-823-3791

Fax: 570-826-0233

E-mail: stalschurch@staloysiuswb.com

Web: www.stalschurchwb.com

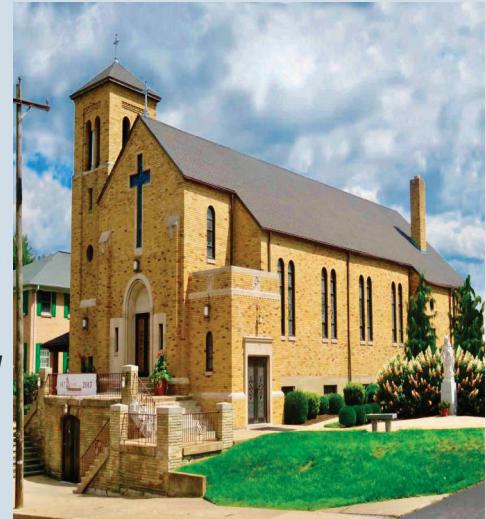
Mission Statement

We the Catholic Community of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish continue our tradition to bring together all generations, to welcome new growth in the Sacramental Life of our Parish through Word, Worship, Community and Service.

We walk humbly with our God.

January 18, 2026

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish



A Welcoming Community

Pastor

Reverend Richard J. Cirba, V.F.

Senior Priest

Reverend Andrew Amankwaa

Mass Schedule

Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish
*Celebrating Liturgy
at St. Aloysius Church*

Weekday----- See bulletin
Saturday ----- 4:00 pm
Sunday ----- 7:00, & 11:00 am

Confession
Saturday----- 3:00 pm

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish

Weekday----- See bulletin
Saturday ----- 5:30 pm
Sunday ----- 9:30 am

Confession
Saturday----- 5:00 pm

**Exaltation of the
Holy Cross Parish**
420 Main Road
Hanover Twp, PA 18706

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 12:00pm

Address: 420 Main Road
Hanover Twp., PA 18706

Phone: 570-823-6242

Fax: 570-829-4732

E-mail: exhc@aol.com

Web: www.exhc.org

Mission Statement

We, the parish family of Exaltation of the Holy Cross, as missionary disciples strive to be a haven for spiritual growth, a symbol of faith-based hospitality, a foundation for outreach in the community and a focus for meeting the liturgical and sacramental needs of our parish, all with the help of God.

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.

Mass and the blessing of candles is celebrated forty days after the birth of Jesus Christ commemorating the holy day on which Jesus was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses.

Candles blessed on Candlemas day are brought home to be used throughout the year for religious celebrations, sick room visitation and as sacramental during time of hardship, danger and for Divine guidance. To prepare for a priest at the home of the sick or dying arrange a small stand on which a clean white cloth has been spread. Placed on the cloth a standing crucifix, two blessed candles and a saucer containing Holy water.

Candles for home use will be blessed. You may purchase these blessed candles, from either Church, at the Parish Offices or **after all the weekend Masses on Jan 31/Feb 1.** The suggested donation is \$4 per box of two blessed candles.

CANDLEMAS WEATHER FOLKLORE

If Candlemas day be sunny and bright, Winter again will show its might.

If Candlemas day be cloudy and gray
Winter soon will pass away. Winter soon will pass away.



**Parish Offices
are closed
Mon., Jan 19th
in Observance of
Martin Luther King Day.**



**For more information
on online giving
contact your
Parish Office.**

PLEASE REMEMBER: With the Cold Weather here please be mindful of closing the doors when you enter or leave the church. **Thank You.**



**For daily Mass at
St. Robert Bellarmine or
Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Parishes.**

If Hanover Area or Wilkes-Barre Area School Districts have a delay or are closed there will be no morning Mass.



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's name on the envelope and drop it in the collection basket. Remember these donations are tax

Parish Membership:

Anyone who worships with us should consider becoming a registered member of the parish.

Unfortunately, unless there is a formal registration, we are unable to write letters of recommendation and/or fill out sponsor forms for Baptism and Confirmation.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Please check one:

I am new in the parish & wish to register

Change of Address/Phone Number

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@staloysiuswb.com

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Weekend & Daily Masses in: St. Aloysius Church
January 19-25, 2026

Mon.		No Mass	
Tues.	8:00am	James McDermott	Beth Mangan
Wed.	8:00am	Edna Finnegan	Maureen Finnegan
Thurs.		No Mass	
Fri.		No Mass	
Sat.	4:00pm	Ronald Witkowski	Bob & Peg Warmouth
Sun.	7:00am	Linda Koprowski	Jackie & Patrick Lehman
Sun.	11:00am	Anita Huda	Rich & Mary Ann Augaitis



Both Tabernacle Candles

This week are in loving memory of
Raymond Wasilewski requested by wife, Elaine.



Blessed Mother Candle

This week is for Helen Sawka
requested by Children.



St. Joseph Candle

This week is for Theodore Sawka
requested by Children.



St. Robert Bellarmine Mardi Gras Party
on Sat., February 14th,
\$25/person, 6-10pm.

Doors open at 5:30pm
in St. Aloysius Church Hall

Tickets will go on sale beginning
the weekend of January 18th.



COLD CASH BINGO

To be held on
Sunday, February 1, 2026
in St. Al's Church Hall.

Doors Open at 12noon,
BINGO begins at 1pm.
Price: \$25.00 in advance
\$30.00 at the door

Only 250 tickets will be sold.

Tickets are being sold at the
rectory or after all weekend masses.

We are looking for monetary donations, Raffle Baskets
and helpers to set up, work the day of and clean up.

Anyone interested in helping with the BINGO please call
the Parish Office at 570-823-3791 ext 2.

**All are welcome at our next meeting on
Tuesday, Jan 27th at 5:30pm in the cafeteria.**

January 11, 2026



*Thank You
and God bless
you for your
Contributions!*

Sunday (online incl)	\$ 3,577.00
Loose	\$ 356.59
Dues (online incl)	\$ 675.00
First Offering	\$ 163.00
Christmas (add'al)	\$ 525.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 35.00
Candles	\$ 59.00
Manger	\$ 5.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 501.40
Total	\$ 5,896.99

Thank You to everyone who contributed to our
Christmas Collection this year.

As of the January 4th Collection our Christmas Collection
totaled \$22,827.55 we budgeted \$19,500.00.

If you have not given your Christmas gift
yet it is still not too late!

2025 Annual Appeal!



Our parish goal: \$34,181.00

Total Raised: \$26,635.00

Amount over/under goal: -\$7,546.00

Thank you for your support!!

Financial Statements for 2025

Will be mailed to all parishioners who donated by the end
of January.

**Interested in serving at Masses as a Eucharistic
Minister, Lectors or Altar Servers?** If you are interested
in serving in one of these ministries please contact the
Parish Office for more information.

FOR YOUR SAFETY! Please remember that the
ENTRANCE into our parking lot is across the street
from the church on Barney Street and the **EXIT** is on
Division Street. It is important for everyone's safety
that you follow the signs and enter and exit at the as-
signed areas.

Thank You!

January 2026 Holy Name Society 300 Club Winners

\$500	220	Hanover Twp Police
\$50	299	Frank Mazur
\$30	130	St Robert A & R
\$30	266	Dominick Costantino
\$25	215	Janet Golias
\$25	186	Ed Cavanaugh
\$25	128	Marion Samselski

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish

Website: www.exhc.org

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

Phone Number: (570) 823-6242

January 19, 2026 - January 25, 2026

Mon.	8:00AM	Ann Ropietksi	Phil & Ann Pisano
Tues.		No Mass	
Wed.		No Mass	
Thurs.		No Adoration	
Fri.	8:00AM	Lillian & Stanley Habzda	Bob & Arlene Osborne
Sat.	5:30PM	Evelyn Pyne	Family
Sun.	9:30AM	Barbara Wells	Ed & Georgette Siedlecki



Bread & Wine
for this weekend are offered:
Health & Blessings for The Prayer Shawl Group
by Kelly Bullock.

Candles are lit for 1 week beginning January 18th:

Sanctuary Candle: In Memory of Joan Bohinski by Bernie.

Blessed Mother Candle: In Memory of Jean Kotchick by Nieces.

Infant of Prague Candle 1: In Memory of Carolyn Kovach by The Ladies of Mary Society.

Infant of Prague Candle 2: Health & Blessings for Walt Pencak by Ann Williams.

EPHIPHY SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Thank you for all who participated in our celebration of the Epiphany Masses.



THE THREE KINGS 5:30PM
LToR: KEN SPENCER, JEFF BULLOCK, FR. ANDREW AMANKWAA, JOE URBAN.



THE THREE KINGS 9:30AM
LToR: DAVID MACEIKO, FR. RICHARD CIRBA, CHRIS PIVARNIK, & JOE MANOSKI.

January 2026 - Calendar Planning Meetings

On January 18 starting after the 9:30AM Mass, we will have Service Committee Calendar Meetings in the Church Hall to discuss upcoming events. 10:30AM-11:00AM - Cancer Ministry, 11:00AM-11:30AM - Service Committee
Get involved - ALL ARE INVITED!!!

Student Envelopes

Are in the vestibule. Envelopes are given to students from Kindergarten through High School. If you do not get them, and wish to receive them, please call the office at 570-823-6242, Option 2..



Food Collection for Ashley Food Pantry at St. Leo's
January food collection: Pancake Mix/Syrup
Thank you for your generosity!

*January 11th
Thank You and
God bless you
for your
Contributions!*



Diocesan:
Church in Latin
America:
\$10.00.

Sunday	\$ 3,469.40
Dues	\$ 1,012.60
Loose	\$ 98.00
Children	\$ 50.00
Candles	\$ 185.00
Initial Offering	\$ 283.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 125.00
Snow Removal	\$ 575.00
Memorial	\$ 200.00
Donation/Crib	\$ 9.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,007.00
St. Vincent dePaul Social Concerns	\$ 50.00

Christmas Collection

We are very grateful for all who contributed \$15,378.85 for our Christmas collection as of January 11.



May God bless you for your generosity.
There is still time to contribute.



2025 Annual Appeal!

Our parish goal: \$26,405.00
Total Raised: \$28,422.00
Amount over goal: \$2,017.00

Thank you for your support!!

January 2026

There will be a club activity calendar meeting on January 21 at 6:30PM in the Church Hall. All Club Representatives are asked to notify the office if they have a conflict so we can make other arrangements. This will help with overlapping activities.



Prayer Shawl Gathering

There will be a prayer shawl gathering on Monday, January 26 at 5:30PM in the rectory.
To join or for questions, contact Kelly at 570-332-3904.

**The Men's Club will have their monthly meeting
Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00pm.**

New members are always welcome! Come join them!!!

Financial Statements for 2025

Will be mailed to all members who have contributed using online giving or assigned envelopes. They will be mailed by the end of January. If you want credit for 2025, contributions must be received in the office before January 18th, 2026.



Upcoming Events

1/26 - Prayer Shawl Gathering at 5:30PM.
1/28 - Men's Club Meeting at 7:00PM.
1/31-2/1 - Blessing of Throats
2/1 - Youth Family Mass at 9:30AM.
2/21 - Men's Club Mass & Installation Dinner at 5:00PM.



✖ Second Sunday of Ordinary Time ✖ JANUARY 18, 2026

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS, HIS WORD TODAY
by Rev. William J. Reilly, Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ

"John testified further saying, 'I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever, you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.'"

As happened last week, we are still at the Jordan, observing the sign of the presence of the Spirit. Isn't it a powerful moment, when John the Evangelist in His first chapter quotes the Baptist saying, 'He is the Son of God?' The Baptist said he did not know Him. This is what we believe! How well do we know Jesus, not just about Jesus. Do I know Him as well as He knows me? Open the bible, read the word, join a discussion group. Jesus and His Spirit will join you.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

This reading is a short passage from the second song of the Servant of the Lord. The Lord will show his glory through His servant whose mission is to restore Israel and bring salvation "to the ends of the earth."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul sends greetings to the people of Corinth, who have been called to be holy and consecrated in Christ.

Gospel: John 1:29-34

When Jesus visits John, John recognizes Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John further indicates that Jesus is truly the Messiah and "God's chosen One."

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**Tuesday,
Feb. 3, 2029
FEAST OF
ST BLAISE
BISHOP &
MARTYR**

**Blessing of Throats will be
at all Masses the weekend of
Jan 31-Feb 1, 2026.**

KID'S KORNER Year A

Gospel Today
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | John 1:29-34

John was told by God to look for the sign of a dove descend upon His Chosen One. John saw the dove when he baptized Jesus, then told the others Jesus was "The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

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"I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

JOHN 1:34

BIBLE WORD SEARCH
Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.

John	N	D	R	B	R	L	H	F	R	O	M	J	A
Baptist	J	O	H	N	R	A	V	S	E	N	T	C	Y
Testimony	S	V	L	T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y	B
Behold	L	E	S	G	V	B	L	T	A	K	E	S	S
Jesus	W	N	N	J	E	S	U	S	I	G	N	C	P
Revealed	A	O	A	T	A	G	L	T	N	J	O	H	I
Lamb	H	I	R	W	L	H	S	T	W	A	T	E	R
God	E	H	A	L	E	N	G	A	Y	R	N	Z	I
Holy	R	Y	C	A	D	L	O	H	E	B	R	I	T
Spirit	I	L	V	N	T	Y	D	D	L	M	O	T	S
From	Y	E	A	H	L	N	O	Y	R	A	V	P	P
Heaven	N	E	S	O	H	C	T	H	U	L	M	A	E
Sent	Y	W	H	N	I	T	S	I	T	P	A	B	S
Sign													
Dove													
Remain													
Baptize													
Water													
Chosen													
One													
Takes													
Away													
Sin													
World													

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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