OUR CORE VALUES

Living **together** as a **family** of *faith*.
Welcoming all with *love* & **compassion.**
Being **anointed & devoting** our lives to **prayer** and *reverence* to **God.**
Showing **gratitude** with our **service & stewardship.**
Seeking transformation, growth and *fulfillment* in **God.**

WE began as a community of faith in the Back Mountain almost 100 years ago. Our Lady of Victory Church was the first outpost of Catholicism in the Back Mountain in 1923. Our Lady of Victory would become a mission church of Gate of Heaven Church when it was opened over 25 years later. In 1969, both churches became separate parishes. Now we have been rejoined again as a faith community in 2013.

Over the last year, the Parish Council has reached out to all the parishioners through our survey and other means to listen to your needs and take action on feedback and desires for the future direction of our faith community. The vibrancy of our parishes in our community and spiritual life was evident in the feedback you provided. We are extremely grateful to you for your participation, and this document is a summation of that effort and the feedback you have shared.

The goals we have identified will help us guide our parishes. As we grow together, may we bless our people with the welcoming experience of a spiritually and emotionally nourishing environment. We hope that through our parishes, God can interact with his people.

Over the last seven years I have experienced the faith and love in both Gate of Heaven and Our Lady of Victory as we have built the foundation of a strong vibrant community of believers. Now let us 'bring it all together' and be all that God calls us to be. In all that we do, may we follow God's will and be an instrument of his peace, love, hope and mercy.

Sincerely in Christ's love,
Father Daniel Toomey

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER. These are the goals identified in our listening process with both parishes.

I. Connecting with each other by:

- Focusing on parish activities which bring us together as families and parishes.
- Enhancing communication media for the most effective reach to our faith community and beyond.
- Strengthening the multi-generational dimension of parish events and ministries.

II. Connecting faith and everyday life by:

- Providing opportunities for spiritual development and growth for all ages and people, in various life circumstances.
- Fostering religious formation approaches designed to help families live out dynamic faith.
- Providing worship experiences which especially apply the gospel to current daily experiences.

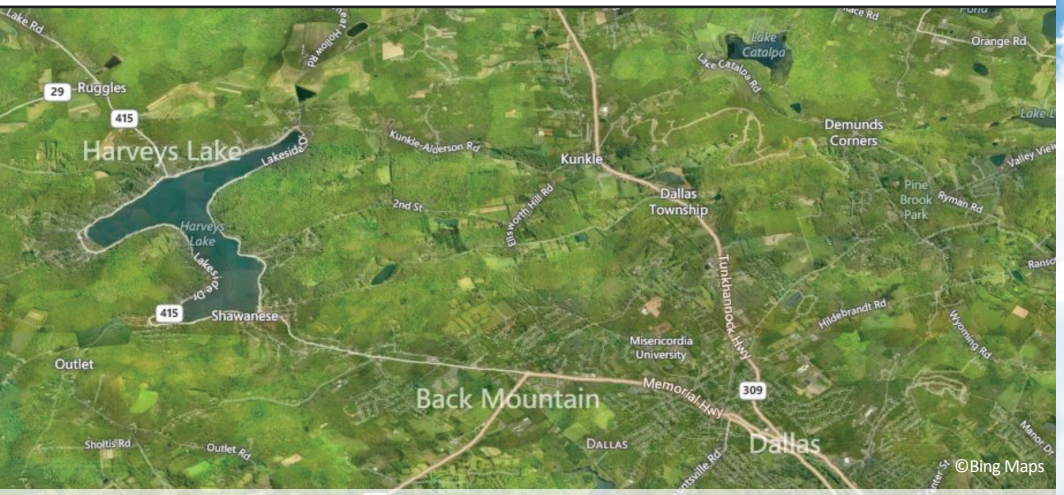
III. Connecting with the broader community by:

- Crafting service opportunities we engage in together to energize our faith and our efforts.
- Ensuring heightened visibility of our service and outreach initiatives.
- Broadening service in response to specific identified needs in our community.

Our Mission & Vision 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 our **Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** has entrusted to us. We celebrate the Sacraments and **pledge our service to the community through use of our time, talent and treasure.** We are dedicated to proclaiming the Word of God, to deepening the faith of our parishioners, and to reaching 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.



Gate Of Heaven & Our Lady Of Victory

TWO PARISHES - ONE FAITH COMMUNITY

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Gate of Heaven 570.675.2121
40 Machell Avenue Dallas, PA 18612

m a r i a n c h u r c h e s . o r g

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