

# Church of the Blessed Sacrament

607 Central Avenue Albany, New York 12206 - Phone 482-3375

## Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas

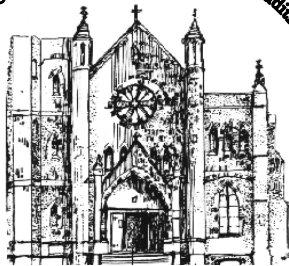
273 Central Avenue Albany, New York 12206 - Phone 465-3685

Rev. John J. Bradley, Pastor

Rev. Francis A. O'Connor - Shrine Church Chaplain

Rev. Brian Slezak - Associate Pastor

Over One Hundred Years of Faith and Tradition



Established 1902

Organist: Ed Savoy  
Pastoral Associate: Sr. Judith Kapp, RSM  
Parish Secretary: Fred Talarico  
In Residence (Retired) Rev. George St. John  
In Residence Rev. Francis A. O'Connor

Parish: <http://www.blessedsacramentalbany.org/>  
Email: [blessedsacramentalbany@aol.com](mailto:blessedsacramentalbany@aol.com)  
Religious Education Office: 446-0997

Religion Education: Mrs. Kelly Hession  
Mrs. Christina Wiley  
School Principal: Sr. Patricia Lynch, RSM  
School Secretary: Mrs. Nancy Kelly  
Shrine Church Pastoral Associate: Sr. Grace R. Diaz, S.N.J.M.  
School: <http://www.blessedsacramentschool.net/>  
Email: [bss@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bss@nycap.rr.com)  
Blessed Sacrament School: 438-5854

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21 AND 22, 2015

Processional: Forty Days and Forty Nights – Gather #384  
Penitential Rite: Gather #196  
Responsorial Psalm: Be Merciful O Lord – Gather #56  
Gospel Acclamation: Praise To You Lord Jesus Christ - Gather #160A  
Preparation of the Gifts: On Eagles Wings - Gather #611  
Holy, Holy: Music Card #4

Mystery of Faith: Save Us – Music Card #6  
Great Amen: Gather #182  
Lamb of God: Gather #312  
Communion Music: Taste and See – Gather #814  
Recessional: Lord Who Throughout These  
Forty Days – Gather #392

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Last Tuesday evening, our parish was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award for its support of the Sister Maureen Joyce Center. The soup bowl presented to the Parish in appreciation, and letters of congratulations from Congressman Paul Tonko, State Senator Neil Breslin and State Assemblyman John McDonald are on display on a table near the Baptismal font. I thank and congratulate all of you for your support of the work we do for the Center.

This Sunday at the Cathedral at 2:00 PM, the "Rite of Election" will be celebrated. At this ceremony Bishop Scharfenberger will enroll those to be Baptized at the Easter Vigil as "the Elect." He will also welcome and recognize those previously Baptized and now becoming members of our Catholic Church by a profession of faith at the Easter Vigil. They are from all areas of our Diocese of Albany.

Our candidates for Baptism to be enrolled as "The Elect" are: Mykkel Aragon, Holly Cordi and Quira Walker. Our candidates to be received into full Communion are: Eva Blackman, Tony Borgado, Susan O'Connell and Ray Parker.

At the Noon Mass this Sunday, we will have "The Rite of Sending." It is parish recognition of our sending these Catechumens and Candidates to the Rite of Election at the Cathedral. It is a pledge of our prayers and support as they continue their journey of faith.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is an important part of our Lenten Observance. It is available every Saturday from 3:00 to 3:30 PM, and we will have a special Service with visiting Priests on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM. There are purple flyers at all the exits listing the times of Confession and Reconciliation Services in the area. It also contains the steps for going to confession, and an examination of conscience. Please take one in preparation for the Sacrament.

Our Girl Scout Troop will be selling Girl Scout cookies on the weekend of March 14 and 15. They appreciate your support.

### PLEASE NOTE THE DATES OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

**LENT: FAST and ABSTINENCE:** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and Abstinence. As a sign of our penance, we preserve for the Diocese of Albany the custom of abstinence from meat on the Fridays of Lent. Abstinence binds all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Fasting binds all Catholics who are 18 years of age, but not yet 59. Fasting refers to the quantity of food eaten. Traditionally, fasting calls for only one full meal per day. By retaining these traditions for our Diocese we do not intend that they be interpreted as laws binding under pain of sin, but as customs from which we will not hold ourselves lightly excused. They are expression of our desire to be converted in our hearts, to be reconciled with each other and to love our neighbor.

**LENTEN PRESENTATIONS:** Please join us for our special 3 week Lenten Sessions taken from Father Robert Barrrens' "Catholicism." **All sessions will be at 7:00 PM on Thursday evenings** in the Forman Room, front of the Church Hall. The session dates and topics are: March 5<sup>th</sup> – The Communion of Saints (a Vast Company of Witnesses); March 12<sup>th</sup> – Saints Peter and Paul (the Indispensable Apostles); March 19<sup>th</sup> – The Eucharist (The Word Made Flesh). Everyone is invited to be part of any one or all of these as a special Lenten activity.

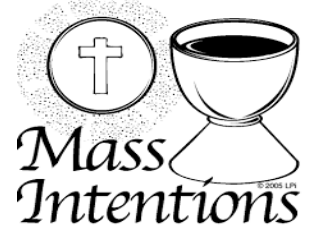
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Conducted on the Fridays of Lent at 12:30 PM, right after the noon Mass. Consider coming to Mass and making this a special Friday Holy Hour.

**OPERATION RICE BOWL:** As we begin our Lenten Journey, you are invited to participate in Catholic Relief Services, Operation Rice Bowl. Throughout Lent we will pray, fast, learn and give as a way to reach out in solidarity with our brothers/sisters around the world. Please take home a Rice Bowl packet and follow this simple yet powerful Lenten practice. Visit [orb.crs.org](http://orb.crs.org) for additional resources.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Scripture readings for this week: **GN 9: 8-15; 1 PT 3: 18-22; MK 1: 12-15**

**COLLECTION NEWS: Regular: \$7,345. School: \$1,938; If you are away, please remember the parish with your envelope on your return. We appreciate and need your ongoing support. The gifts placed in the poor boxes each Sunday are used to support our parish food pantry. If you would like a contribution report for 2014, please call the rectory and we will gladly send it to you. The second collection this Sunday is the annual for the Black, Indian and Central American Missions here in the USA.**

**BARNES & NOBLE FUNDRAISER:** Tuesday, February 24, all day long, Blessed Sacrament School will hold a fundraiser at Barnes & Noble. If you go to the store, please mention our school at the time of checkout in order for us to receive credit. If you prefer, you can also purchase online at [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs), February 24 – March 1, 2015. **Our online ID # is 11567435.** Thank you for your support.

<p><b>Saturday 02/21/15</b>  4:00 Victor Bagaway  Theodore Bury, Jr.  Charles Gatto  Loretta and Howard Miller  Tom Mittler  Al Motta  Ronald Stalpinski  7:00 Mary Dobek  Marie Kulbaka</p>	<p><b>Monday 02/23/15</b>  7:00 Special Intention  12:00 Helen Delehanty  Emily Kenfield</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 02/25/15</b>  7:00 Joseph and Frances Bologna  12:00 Mary Rourke  Gladys Soja  Donuta Turbak</p>	<p><b>Friday 02/27/15</b>  7:00 Special Intention  12:00 William Edwards  John Lynch</p>
<p><b>Sunday 02/22/15</b>  9:00 For the People  10:30 Jerry Fletcher  Marjorie Maney  Bill and Joan Pfeiffer  Salvatore Sgroi  12:00 Esperanza H. de Del Portal  Angela Nicotina – 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv  Nicola Spiezio – 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 02/24/15</b>  7:00 Maria, Luisa, Modesto  and Esperanza  Edward Scharfenberger  12:00 Consalata Calabro  Carmen Morales Clon  Margaret Larsen</p>	<p><b>Thursday 02/26/15</b>  7:00 William Hutchinson, III  12:00 Sr. Mary Coons  The Gonzalez Family  The Segarra Family  Salvatore Sgroi</p>	

**CONFESSIONS EVERY SATURDAY FROM 3:00 - 3:30 PM**

**ITALIAN DINNER:** School hosting Italian dinner, **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**, 5–8 PM in school hall. Cost \$10.00, \$6.00 for children. Menu: soup, chicken parm, spaghetti. Catered by **2 Shea's Catering**. Tickets available after Mass in parking lot vestibule, during week at school; rectory office; weekends in Sacristy. Please come for an enjoyable dinner to support the school. Invite others to come with you.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:** Follow us on facebook-[www.facebook.com/groups/bsyam](http://www.facebook.com/groups/bsyam) or e-mail [blessedsacyam@aol.com](mailto:blessedsacyam@aol.com)

**FAITH FORMATION FOR YOUTH:** **NO Religious Education** classes this week. We hope your winter break is filled with love, laughter and wonderful memories. Our **Sunday K-6** morning program **resumes** on Sunday, **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. Our **junior and senior** high school program resumes Monday, **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Our **Confirmation class** will meet on **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** for a ritual experience at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** **Siena Women's Basketball Game** at 2:00 PM on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please join us for 12:00 Noon Mass before hand. Our next **Youth Ministry Meeting, Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**. Our meetings are a wonderful time for us to share and grow in our faith. We also plan service projects and field trips. All are encouraged to attend. Questions: contact Mrs. Hession - Email: [kellyhessionbsc@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyhessionbsc@yahoo.com); Phone: 446-0997.

**OVER 50 CLUB:** Meeting, **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** after Noon Mass, downstairs Church Hall. Please bring a bag lunch and a dessert to share. Beverages will be provided. Come join us for conversation and bingo. For more information please call Anne Snyder at 869-5247.

**COLONIE CENTER SCHOOL BUCKS:** Purchases made within the last 60 days can be registered in name of our school. Receipts must be registered at the Service Desk next to CVS. Receipts will be collected from Aug-June. Thanks for your help.

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** There is a BSS Alumni Facebook page. All are welcome – <http://www.facebook.com/#!/BSSAlbanyAlumni/> You can see the whole calendar of parish events, including Mass times, social events, even funeral notices.

**EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT:** First Friday of the month after 7:00 AM Mass; Benediction at 11:45 AM.

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:** Prayed the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tues of each month after noon Mass. Instruction/prayer cards will be offered.

**LEGION OF MARY:** Legion has formed and meets every Tuesday at 6:00 PM in the Forman Room.

**RECITATION OF THE ROSARY:** First Tuesday of month after noon Mass; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month, 6:00 PM.

**KNIT, CROCHET OR QUILT?:** Please continue to make Baptismal blankets to continue this ministry. Blankets should be 30" x 30" and white. **PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY:** Parishioners in nursing homes. The warm embrace they give is symbolic of the prayers we offer them, especially prayers we pray while making them. Any color and style. A good size is 30 x 30".

**HOLY NAME SOCIETY:** **50/50** supports parish, youth, school activities. Tickets available in Sacristy before/after Mass. Next meeting/drawing: Mon. March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 PM, Church Hall. **We will have a corned beef dinner.** New members are always welcome.

**THRIFT SHOP:** is open **Wed and Sat, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM**. Items that are *clean* and in *good working condition* can be dropped off when the store is open. Stop in and check us out. **We are in need of household items, small appliances, lamps and linens.**

**PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TRAINING:** Beginning Tuesday, April 14, six week formation/skill building workshop entitled, "Pastoral Care to the Sick, Elderly and Homebound." St. Edward the Confessor Church, Clifton Park Center Road, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Registration is necessary and limited to 28 attendees. \$40 fee for materials. Call 641-6818 for questions. [Maria.schollenberger@rcda.org](mailto:Maria.schollenberger@rcda.org)

**FABULOUS FEBRUARY WINNERS:** See lists on Bulletin Boards.

**ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS & PARADE:** Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – Mass and reception to follow. If you can help as a greeter, usher or with reception, please sign the tab below and put it in the collection. We will meet Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM in Forman Room to organize volunteers. ( ) I can help with St. Patrick's Day Mass and reception. ( ) I can/cannot attend the meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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**NEW TO THE PARISH?** Welcome. Please sign below and drop in the collection. You may also use the form to receive envelopes and/or "The Evangelist". Check the appropriate boxes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) I am new to the parish  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Send me "The Evangelist"  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Please send church envelopes