

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas

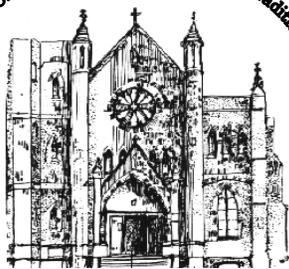
273 Central Avenue Albany, New York 12206 - Phone 465-3685

Rev. John J. Bradley, Pastor

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

Rev. Juanito Asprec-Parochial Vicar

Over One Hundred Years of Faith and Tradition



Established 1902

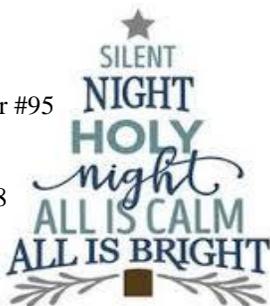
Organist: Ed Savoy
Pastoral Associate: Sr. Judith Kapp, RSM
Parish Secretary: Rebecca Hanson
In Residence (Retired) Rev. George St. John
In Residence Rev. Francis A. O'Connor
Deacon: Raymond Sullivan
Parish: <http://www.blessedsacramentalbany.org/>
Email: blessedsacramentalbany@aol.com
Religious Education Office: 446-0997
BlessedSacramentChurchAlbany.FF@rcda.org

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
Blessed Sacrament School: 438-5854

Christmas The Nativity of The Lord December 25, 2017

Processional: **O Come All Ye Faithful- Gather #341**
Responsorial Psalm: **All The Ends of the Earth- Gather #95**

Gospel Acclamation: **Celtic Alleluia – Gather #258**
Offertory: **Hark The Herald Angels Sing – Gather #348**
Holy Holy: **“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts...”**



Mystery of Faith: **“When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup We proclaim your Death, O Lord until you come again”**

Great Amen: Gather #168
Lamb of God: #171
Communion: **Silent Night – Gather # 352**
Recessional: **Joy to the World – Gather #343**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Today, with our Fellow Christians around the world, we joyfully celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ at Bethlehem**. The world received on that day the *greatest gift* that could be given, the gift of **God Himself**, come to live among us here on earth. **God the Father** sent **Jesus His Son** so that we could know God, know God's love for us and to love and care for each other now empowered and filled by the presence and Spirit of God Himself!

Our presents, our tree, the decorations, our dinners, etc, should all remind us of the great gift of Christmas. God in Jesus has come to us, to be our joy, our peace, our hope.

The Christmas Season now continues until **January 7th**. Next Sunday we celebrate the *Feast of the Holy Family* and on Monday New Year's Day, and the **Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God**. On Sunday, January 7th, we **Celebrate the Epiphany Of the Lord**, the revelation of Christ to ALL the nations of the world symbolized by the coming of the Kings to Bethlehem, a very special Feast for Hispanic families here, and our Shrine Church of the Lady of the Americas. Please keep your Christmas Crib and decorations up until this Feast to celebrate this Holy Season.

In preparation for Christmas the entire Parish Family and other groups and parishes have reached out to the poor, the infirmed, the shut ins, and nursing home residents as a sign of the love and care of Jesus present within us and among us. While those words are more evident at this Christmas time, they go on in our parish family throughout the year.

Through the Christmas Giving Tree we were able to help 135 families with 291 children. Over 900 gifts were given by you, and parishioners of All Saints Parish. In addition, various organizations, offices, schools, businesses, and others provided for the needs of 52 of our own school families providing over 600 gifts for the children and food vouchers for all of the above families.

Our school children collected hats and gloves for our soup kitchen, went caroling for our soup kitchen guests, and at Colonie Center. They also sent cards to all our shut-ins. Our youth group did caroling for the residents of the Atria in Delmar and collected items for our food pantry.

The Parish Thrift Shop made extra efforts to have Christmas items displayed and available as well as a host other items for Christmas and winter use. The Rosary Guild also sent Christmas cards and notes to our shut-ins and nursing home parishioners.

These and many other events and service projects show the results of Christ coming, and forming us into a community of faith, caring for others as members of Gods own family.

I want to thank personally and on behalf of the Parish Family, all who help make Christmas so special. They include Ed Savoy and our choir, those who decorated the Church, Pete Krasher and helpers, those who helped with everything inside and outside the Church, our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, servers and greeters. Thank you to these and all of you who make everything possible.

Sr. Jude, Fr. Juanito and I extend to you our prayerful best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a peace-filled, healthy New Year. Please accept our sincere thanks for all that you do for our Parish Family and for the many cards, notes and remembrances you shared with us at this season. Be assured of remembrance in our prayers.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Scripture readings for this week: **IS 9: 1-6; TI 2: 11-14; LK 2: 1-14**

COLLECTION NEWS: The special Christmas collection enables to continue the many parish ministries that continue the work and presence of Jesus among us today. Please consider a special Christmas gift to your parish family on this feast.

FABULOUS FEBRUARY: IS BACK! Tickets are \$10 for a drawing every day in February.

On **Valentine's Day**, \$1,000 is given; on **weekends**, \$100 and **weekdays**, \$50. All winners are put back into the drum and could be pulled again. They make nice stocking stuffers for Christmas and can be sent in a card. Invite others to help with this fundraiser for the School by buying and helping to sell these popular tickets. Red flyers at the exits list prizes for each day and the bottom is the ticket. Cut it off and return with your \$10 donation. This is school's major fundraiser. Thank you for your support.



<p>Saturday 12/23/17 4:00 Charles and Irene Forlani Richard Zabinski Robert Mittler Rose and Nicholas Soldevere Gonzalez and Segarra Ruth Finnigan William Miles Kathy Maguire</p>	<p>Monday 12/25/17 9:00 11:00</p> 	<p>Wednesday 12/27/17 7:00 Special Intentions 12:00 Edward Foley</p>	<p>Friday 12/29/17 7:00 William Reilly 12:00 David Scaringe Richard O'Brien</p>
<p>Sunday 12/24/2017 9:00 For the People 12:00 Francesco and Mafolda Benincasa 4:00 6:00</p> 	<p>Tuesday 12/26/17 7:00 Catherine and Frank Crawley James Mangan William Kennedy 12:00 Patricia Maloney John Kolach Gayl Mineau Doherty</p> 	<p>Thursday 12/28/17 7:00 Souls in Purgatory 12:00 Laus Luciano Mindy Murray</p>	

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



PRE-SCHOOL/PRE-K: Are you looking for a *Pre-School 3 year old program*, or a *4 year old Pre-K*, or know someone that is for next September? **WE HAVE THE ANSWER**, our **Parish School** offers established programs in these areas. Call the School for information at 438-5854, email at bss@nycap.rr.com or check us out on line at www.blessedsacramentachool.net/.

Please remember the gift and presence of our Parish School. On **Sunday, January 28th, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, we will be having **Open House** for anyone interested in sending a child here next year for all our parishioners who would like to see the school. Our four-year old and three-year old Pre-K offers the option of full or half-day classes. The Kindergarten is a full day session. All have the option of after school care. You can register for all these programs and grades 1 – 8 at the Open House on January 28th. Please spread the word!

FOOD PANTRY FACTS: In the coming weeks if you are thinking of making a donation, could you please consider donating baby wipes, deodorant, toothbrushes, tooth paste. ***Thank you!***

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE: English classes for adults held each Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM in Forman Room. Please pass this information to anyone looking to learn English. If interested come on any Wednesday or Friday.

COLONIE CENTER SCHOOL BUCKS: **is now in full swing.** Purchases can be registered in name of our school. Receipts must be registered at the Service Desk (*now located near the 1st floor entrance near Barnes and Noble, under the movie theater, in front of Five Guys*) within 60 days of purchase. Receipts collected from Aug – June. Please help our school win cash prizes by registering your receipts in our school's name. You have helped us win in the past and we appreciate your support. Invite others to help us. If you would like to have a volunteer register your receipts, please put them in the collection or leave them at the rectory in an envelope with your name and address on it. You can register receipts from **all stores and restaurants in the Center, as well as the Post Office**. Please help the school again; ask others to help us. We are grateful for your support. ***Thanks for your help.***

FAITH FORMATION: Just a reminder that all grades will now meet Sundays from 9:00 a.m. until 10:15a.m. ***We encourage all students and families to attend 10:30 Mass afterwards.*** To register or if you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hession 518-424-8812

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

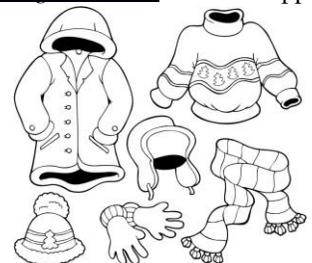
LEGION OF MARY: Meets every Tuesday at 6:00 PM in the Forman Room.

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

HOLY NAME SOCIETY: 50/50 raffle supports parish, youth, and school activities. Tickets available in Sacristy before/after Mass. Next meeting/drawing: **Mon. Jan. 2nd - 7:00 PM.** 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 ALWAYS in need of WINTER COATS household items, small appliances, lamps and linens.



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: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

- () I am new to the parish
- () Send me "The Evangelist"
- () Please send church envelopes