

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

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

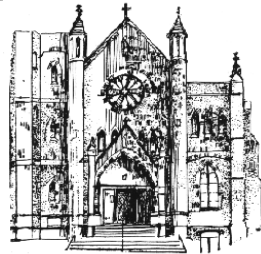
Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas

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

Rev. Joseph O'Brien, Pastor

Rev. Francis O'Connor - Shrine Church Chaplain

Over One Hundred Years of Faith and Tradition



Organist: Ed Savoy
Food Pantry Coordinator: Sr. Patricia Lynch
Parish Secretary: Barbara Collen
In Residence (Retired): Rev. George St. John
In Residence: Rev. Francis O'Connor
Deacon: Gerald Ladouceur
Parish: www.blessedsacramentalbany.org
Email: blessedsacramentalb@gmail.com
Faith Formation: faithformationbsc@gmail.com

Faith Formation: Mrs. Kelly Hession
Mrs. Shannon Crisafulli
School Principal: Ms. Maureen Daurio
School Secretary: Mrs. Nancy Kelly
Shrine Church Pastoral
Associate: Sr. Grace R. Diaz, S.N.J.M.
School: www.blessedsacramentschool.net
Email: info@blessedsacramentschool.net
Blessed Sacrament School: 518-438-5854

Established 1902

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 22, 2020



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: If you're reading this right now, you're reading our bulletin online. Thank you and please share the word about our website (blessedsacramentalbany.org) and Facebook page (Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church) with your friends. You can keep up with parish news (watch for my messages during the week) and we'll have Sunday Mass online (let's gather and pray). Fr. O'Connor and I will be celebrating private Mass this week and will include the daily intentions.

We're in uncharted territory right now and this experience is new for all of us. But we are not alone in this moment. Do not be afraid. We have the Lord. We have one another. While we are practicing *physical distancing*, remain *spiritually and socially connected to one another and, of course, always connected closely to the Lord and to our neighbor*.

Here are five things you can do to be while our Churches are closed during the COVID-19 pandemic:

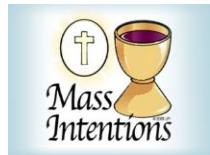
1. Tune into our Sunday Mass (website and Facebook) and pray. Gather family around and pray.
2. Listen to good some online reflections and homilies. Try '1 Minute Homily', or 'Catholic Women Preaching' or 'Bishop Robert Barron.' Let those insights shape your prayer.
3. Read the Sunday Scriptures (I will list the references in our bulletin) and pray with them. Quietly and prayerfully place yourself in the scene. Walk with Jesus. Listen to him talking with others, like the Woman at the Well or the Man Born Blind. What do you hear? What is the Lord telling you?
4. Call or email a family member or close friend and have a conversation on where you encountered the Lord in your life this week.
5. Do you remember the practice of Spiritual Communion? From St. Alphonsus Liguori: *Lord Jesus, I believe You are present in the this holy sacrament. I love You above all things and desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You and I unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Peace, Fr. Joe

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

Please help us stay connected by providing and/or updating your email address and phone number. Email your information to blessedsacramentalb@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 518-482-3375.

Church will be open for private prayer Monday-Friday, 7 am - 2 pm and Saturday and Sunday 8 am - 2 pm. We ask that social distancing be practiced.

Saturday 3/21/2020 Betty Canepi Mary Nally Bonnie Jean Henry Richard Carroll	Monday 3/23/2020 James B Ryan (bday) Helene J Blain	Wednesday 3/25/2020 James Smith Joseph Cahill Christopher Cunningham	Friday 3/27/2020 James Crisafulli Fred Soloby
Sunday 3/22/2020 William F Coburn Marjan Szczepkowski James Morrill Sara Tenney	Tuesday 3/24/2020 Beverly Shogry	Thursday 3/26/2020 Robert Dillon Sarlis Irini (Special Intention)	

CONFESSIONS: Confessions will be heard Saturday 3:00–3:30 pm. You may also make an appointment by calling the Parish Office.

COLLECTION NEWS: Our offertory collection from last weekend was **\$5,865. *Your continued stewardship makes all things possible.*** Many thanks! So many things are cancelled but the Post Office still delivers the bills. Please remember us during this time. You may send your envelopes through the mail.

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL NEWS: The faculty, staff and students of Blessed Sacrament School are keeping all members of Blessed Sacrament Parish close in prayer for their safety and health during this challenging time. Under the Governor's Directive and the Directive of the Albany Diocesan Catholic School Office, Blessed Sacrament School will be closed from March 16 through April 1, 2020 as a precautionary measure due to COVID-19.



Blessed Sacrament School now participates in the AmazonSmile program. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. We are asking that you please consider joining AmazonSmile and make Blessed Sacrament Church, Albany, NY your charitable organization. Money earned will help Blessed Sacrament School. Simply go to [Smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). Top left: Choose Blessed Sacrament Church, Albany, NY. It's that easy! We thank you, as always, for your support!!

ROSARY GUILD: Thursday's meeting has been cancelled. As of the date of posting this, the Baby Shower scheduled Sunday, April 19th has not been postponed. We will let you know if this changes.

SCHOOL BUCKS: If you have shopped at Colonie Center or are picking up take out, remember SCHOOL BUCKS! Receipts are acceptable for up to 60 days from purchase date. If you don't want to register your purchases at Colonie Center's office, drop them off or mail them to the Parish Office and our volunteer will register them for you. March Bonus points, triple points – Lane Bryant, Sephora, Cinnabon, Zales Jewelers and Sbarro, double points – The Cheesecake Factory, Auntie Anne's, Barnes & Noble, Angeleah Nails, & Bath and Body Works. Did you visit the Easer Bunny before contact was cancelled, there are **quadruple** points for purchasing a photo package with the Easter Bunny!



FAITH FORMATION NEWS: Thinking and praying for you all. Please continue to check your emails for updates and resources. If we can assist in any way, please don't hesitate to give us call us anytime. For the most recent news, be sure to follow us on social media. Our Facebook page is Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

OUR FOOD PANTRY: As of publish date, the Food Pantry is operating according to guidelines appropriate to keeping everyone safe. Pantry is open on Monday and Thursday, 10 – 11 am. We are aware that folks may find themselves in need of food pantry services due to no work and/or reduced income. If you are in our Food Panty service area, please bring proof of address and valid identification. We are in need of shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant. Would you like to volunteer at our food pantry? Call the Parish Office for more information at 51-482-3375.

THRIFT SHOP: The Thrift Shop is closed and is currently scheduled to re-open on Saturday, April 25 at 10 am. No donations will be accepted until that time. Please check back as this may change.

HOLY NAMES SOCIETY: April 6th meeting has been cancelled. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in May. April's monthly raffle has been cancelled as well.

BULLETIN PROVIDED COURTESY OF THE MCVEIGH FUNERAL HOME