

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

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

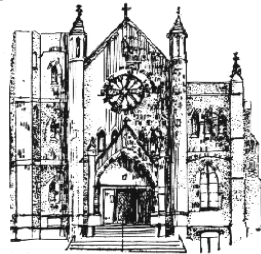
Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas

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



Established 1902

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
Facebook: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 29, 2020



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: I received word from the diocese that there will be no public Masses on Palm Sunday and no blessed palm available. Considering the spread of the Corona virus in our area, I expect that there will be no public Masses on Holy Week or Easter.

While I am deeply saddened that we won't be together to celebrate the holiest days of the year together, I have been deeply moved by your personal stories of people you know who have tested positive for the virus, the first deaths in the Albany area, the growing isolation that so many are experiencing.

We need to stay connected during these times. Blessed Sacrament is reaching out (the church is open, bulletins, postcards, social media with Mass and messages). You can reach out to family and neighbors (call folks on the phone, use your social media, talk with each other, pray together). Listen. Help one another. Above all, keep in touch!

Peace and Blessings, Fr. Joe

PS: Thanks to all the new volunteers who stepped forward to help staff the Food Pantry! You are a Godsend.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS: Ezekiel 37:12-14, 10-13; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45.

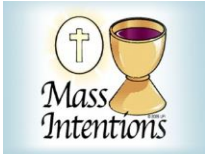
COLLECTION NEWS: Regular collection was \$3,362 and Catholic Relief Services was \$372. Many thanks to everyone who mailed in or dropped off their offertory envelopes! We depend on your support for the church and the school. Your generous stewardship makes all things possible at Blessed Sacrament. If your means permit, let me humbly ask you to mail your offertory and Easter gifts to our parish office. Thank you. I deeply appreciate the sacrifices you make to support Blessed Sacrament.

STAY CONNECTED: Here are some ways we may stay connected:

- Visit and bookmark our website: blessedsacramentalbany.org
- "Like" our Facebook page: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
- Visit our YouTube Channel: Blessed Sacrament Church Albany, NY
- Our email address: blessedsacramentalb@gmail.com

Our website will have the most recent bulletins, links to current YouTube message/Mass and updates. 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.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish office will not be staffed during this time as the secretary will be working remotely. Feel free to contact the office via email or leave a message on the office answering machine as they are being attended. Please call before you plan to visit the office.

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| Saturday 3/28/2020 Katie Lynch Farrell Gonzalez & Segarra Familes Al Russo Robert Umholtz Mary Newell Gerald Miller | Monday 3/30/2020 William & Mabel Herkenham Sharon Rockenstier | Wednesday 4/1/2020 William Watts, Jr. FMJC | Friday 4/3/2020 Rev John Malecki Denise Taber Thomas J. Lydon |
| Sunday 3/29/2020 Mary D. Pearson Adel Lambert Curran (30 ann) Joseph Szczepkowski Margaret Franklin | Tuesday 3/31/2020 Beverly Shogry | Thursday 4/2/2020 Frances Weir Wilfred Godin Frances T. Collins |  |

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

Church will be open for private prayer seven days a week from 7 am to 2 pm. Come spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. Bring along some spiritual reading. Enjoy our stained glass windows on a sunny day find a moment for prayer. Pray the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross or the Chaplet. We ask that social distancing be practiced. The church is disinfected daily but not between each person's visit.

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.



If you are doing your shopping from home using Amazon, Blessed Sacrament School 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: As of the date of posting this, the Baby Shower scheduled Sunday, April 19th has not been postponed yet. 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. 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 all of you. I encourage you to stay up to date and informed through our parish social media pages: Facebook: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and Instagram [blessedsacramentym](https://www.instagram.com/blessedsacramentym).

Mass is being celebrated and recorded by Fr. Joe and is available on our parish YouTube channel as well. Please continue to check your emails and or call us if we can help you in any way.

OUR FOOD PANTRY: CHANGE IN SCHEDULE. The Pantry is open only on Monday 10-11:30 am. As of publication date, the Food Pantry is operating according to guidelines appropriate to keeping everyone safe. 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 518-482-3375.

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.