

From the Pastor's Desk. It is said that wisdom comes with age. But it doesn't come automatically with age. Only if we "watch for" it will we gain wisdom, as today's first reading from the Book of Wisdom states. Therefore, we must take the time in reflection and examination (including in examination of conscience before the sacrament of confession) to gain wisdom, to grow in wisdom. The reading also recommends watching "at dawn", presumably because this is quiet time, before the business of life distracts us. But there is also the opportunity to go on "retreat" for a time of extended reflection and prayer, even as 35 of us did a few weeks ago, to do so on a pilgrimage, having nothing but time to walk and reflect, and to talk and to pray, of course. But we were away from the distractions of life for a different perspective. I pray that everyone takes the time to reflect, certainly regularly, daily, but also in these extended ways of retreat or pilgrim age.

## From Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

\*Thank you to all the families and catechists who've made this year a great success so far! Please keep them all in your prayers! We will meet next on Sunday, November 19th to *celebrate Confirmation* at the 9 a.m. Mass and then have a brief reception in the gym with the Bishop. *Our next regular session is Sunday, December 3^{rd} beginning with 9* a.m. Mass, then refreshments and breakout sessions until 11:30 a.m. Registration is open all year and can be found on the parish website ... or e-mail us for more information!

\*We ask you to please take home a special paper dove from the vestibule and pray for our students, their sponsors, and their families who are making their *Confirmation on* Sunday, November 19th at the 9 a.m. Mass here at Blessed Sacrament: Juliana, Natalie, Christopher, J'Anni, Cadence, and Joseph! May the Holy Spirit dwell in their hearts and keep them strong, faithful, and joyful.

\*We have started planning for this year's *Christmas Pageant*, which will be held on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at noon. All children in the parish are welcome to take part; you do not need to be in the Faith Formation program.

\*If you are interested in learning more about the pageant, registering for classes, volunteering in any way, or have questions, e-mail us at faithformationbsc@gmail.com.

Priesthood & Diaconate Vespers Service There will be a combined Priesthood & Diaconate vespers service on Friday, November 17 @ 6 pm at St. Edward the Confessor Church, Clifton Park.

## Blessed Sacrament Parish Council Nomination Form

Please use this ballot to nominate a parishioner, even yourself, for a three-year term for Blessed Sacrament Parish Council. Nominate someone who you believe would have the best interest of the parish at heart, be willing to pray for the parish, and represent the parish's and parishioners' needs. All nominees are invited to a meeting on Tuesday, November 21st to hear more about the role of the council and the responsibilities of membership. Instead of an election, this will be a discernment to discover whether those nominated feel that it is the right time to serve our parish in this capacity. Please tear off this form and place it inside an offertory basket or give it to our parish office.

I nominate

for Blessed Sacrament Parish Council.

• 11/16 — Rosary Guild meeting, 12:30 p.m. • 11/19 — Confirmation (9 a.m. Mass with

Bishop Scharfenberger with a reception afterward in the school)

• 11/23 -- Thanksgiving Day (Mass at 9 a.m.; all parish offices will be closed Thursday and Friday)

**Thanksgiving Day** Join us on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 a.m. for Thanksgiving Day Mass! Bring a nonperishable food item for donating to our food pantry. Bread loaves will also be blessed and distributed as a Thanksgiving gift.

Women's Conference "Unleashing Love: Awakening Our Hearts to Share God's Love" will take place at St. Pius X Church, Loudonville, on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m., and a continental breakfast will be offered. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Keynote speakers will be Fr. Chris Alar, MIC; Mary DeTurris Poust; and Anne Costa. The event will include three presentations, Reconciliation, Adoration with worship music by the Sisters of Life, the Rosary, Mass with Bishop Scharfenberger, a boxed lunch, and beverages. For conference information and the registration link, please visit online at https:// www.rcda.org/UnleashingLove. The discounted early registration cost is \$40 (until November 30<sup>th</sup>); regular registration (December 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>) is \$45. Registering the day of is \$50.

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16 Responsorial: Psalm 63:2-8 Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

# BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL NEWS

Phone: (518) 438-5854 | E-mail: info@blessedsacramentschool.net \*Let's go Giants! November 27<sup>th</sup> is the drawing for winning four tickets to the Giants vs. Packers game on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Kickoff is at 8:15 p.m. (MetLife Stadium). Seats are in Level 1, Section 103 (reserved parking included). Tickets are \$25 each (five for \$100), and sales benefit our school! Posters are available at all exits, and tickets are available in the sacristy, rectory, and school. Get your tickets ASAP ... November is



going by quickly! \*Baptized in Christ: Many of our students will be baptized on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> (the first Sunday of Advent) during the church's 9 a.m. Mass. We are beyond excited!

\*Winter Concert: Please save the date for our Winter Concert, to be held on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

\*Book & Bake Sale: What's better than books and yummy baked goods to enjoy with them? Join us on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the gym for a fun Book & Bake Sale to benefit our school!

\*Annual Tuition Assistance Drive: Letters have gone out to our regular donors and alumni, but we also appeal to new donors (and everyone!) to support Catholic education for our children. It costs about \$10,000 to educate each child in our school for a year. Due to your generosity over the years, we have been able to keep tuition relatively low. A child in Grades K-8 is \$5,000; a second child in the same family is \$2,100; and we ask \$500 for each additional child. Tuition for three- and four-year-olds in preschool is \$5,800. The biggest expense that tuition pays for is our teachers. Right now, our teachers salaries average is only \$39,000, and we would like to be able to pay more reasonable and competitive salaries in the future. Again, this year the Mons Concepit Foundation will match all donations received for the school between October 1st and December 31st up to \$125,000. Make a difference today and help us achieve our goal!

Food Pantry We are now collecting socks for men, women, and children. Our food pantry is open Mondays and Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Thank you for your support!

We need all sizes of infant and children's clothing! We also need men's The Boutique shoes and coats as well as men's pants in sizes 28-34 and men's shirts in sizes S and M. The Boutique is open Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon, and accepts donations on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon. We cannot accept books, some electronics, fabric scraps, or clothing that needs repair or is dirty. We are also looking for children's shoes and clothes in sizes 4 and up (boys and girls). We are now accepting Christmas items.

Coaches Needed We're looking for men and women who would like to assist us with our parish basketball program as coaches. Call Deacon Gerry at (518) 482-3375!

November's raffle winners: \$300 1st prize, Bill Majewski; \$150 Holy Name Society 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, Linda Loparco. Next drawing and meeting: December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. All parish men are invited to attend. Reminder: December's \$1 raffle drawing will be a special Christmas one: prizes of \$300 (1<sup>st</sup>), \$200 (2<sup>nd</sup>) and five extra \$50 winners (\$750 total). Questions: call Gene Loparco at (518) 265-0242 or e-mail loparco88888@yahoo.com.

**RCIA/OCIA** All sessions take place on Sunday mornings from 10-11 a.m. Here is our upcoming RCIA/OCIA schedule: November: No sessions on November 19th and 26th; December: No session 12/3; Saints/Holy Days, 12/10; 12/17-12/31 — No sessions.

Rosary Guild Rosary Guild will meet on Thursday, November 16th at 12:30 p.m. in the church basement and will collect socks for the food pantry. Sr. Patricia requests "Sunday socks" for men, fuzzy socks for women, and any kind for children. They will also take reservations for their Christmas Brunch (Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>; cost: \$25).

Asylum Seekers The Capital Region Sanctuary Coalition (CRSC) is hosting a Food/ Resource Fair for asylum seekers currently living in Albany hotels. The fair will be Saturday, November 18th from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament. Volunteers from CDBW would be appreciated; the greatest need for volunteers is between 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Volunteers are also needed for setup from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and cleanup from 2:30-4 p.m. If you speak Spanish, French, or Arabic, that would be helpful but isn't required. If you are able to volunteer, please e-mail Carrie and indicate what time you can volunteer. Carrie's e-mail is: kuehlcarrie@gmail.com.

Catholic Connections "For those of us who live in the rhythm of the liturgy week upon week all our lives, the question must be, so what? What has happened to us as a result? Who have we become?" –Joan Chittister



Shrine Church of OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS A MISSION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT PARIS

REV. FRANCIS O'CONNOR, CHAPLAIN REV. MR. MIGUEL FABIAN, DEACON ALEJANDRA SAUCEDO, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE DEBBIE KLOSE, ORGANIST CONFESORA FRANCO, FAITH FORMATION

273 CENTRAL AVE., ALBANY, NEW YORK | (518) 465-3685 | WWW.OURLADYOFTHEAMERICAS.ORG MASS: SUNDAY, 9:00 AM (ENGLISH) & 11:00 AM (SPANISH) FRIDAY, 6:30 PM — MASS & ADORATION



# **Collections and Financial Support**

Parking Lot Paving & Painting \$7,555 (52% paid)

Refinishing our gymnasium floor during Thanksgiving break (cost to be determined) Scan the code on the left to donate! Choose recurring gifts or just once!

BULLETIN PROVIDED COURTESY OF THE MCVEIGH FUNERAL HOME

# Homebound Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament

Homebound parishioners (either at home or in nursing facilities) receive visits from our lay and clergy ministers who bring Communion and receive prayer books regularly as well as gifts at Christmas and Easter. They are regularly contacted by our Rosary Guild ministry and also receive holiday cards from our school children. Use this form to identify any homebound parishioners so that we can connect with them and keep them in our prayers! Please tear off this form and place it inside an offertory basket or give it to our parish office.

#### Stay Connected • Please visit and bookmark our parish website: blessedsacramentalbany • "Like" our Facebook page: Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (Sunday Masses are livestreamed here) • View our YouTube channel: Blessed Sacrament Church, Albany, NY • E-mail: <u>blessedsacramentalb@gmail.com</u> • myParishApp — text **app** to **55321** • Parish bulletin: Lisanne Jensen, editor: bulletin.blessedsacrament@gmail.com

Second Collection Please be generous in the special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, more than 11 percent of the population lives in poverty. Through this collection, you support programs that address the root causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition, 25 percent of the funds we collect remain in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. For more information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development: www.usccb.org/cchd.

Christmas Giving Program Signup for our Christmas Giving program for our school and food pantry families began in October. Food pantry clients and eligible school families can sign up to receive one gift certificate for each child in the household who is 12 years old or younger, along with a gift certificate to a local supermarket. To support this program, we are asking for donations to purchase gift certificates. Your generous support in previous years has helped hundreds of families. As a reminder of the need, we will place gift tags for each child in need on Christmas trees in the vestibules beginning the weekend of November  $18^{\text{th}}/19^{\text{th}}$ . For each \$20 donation to the program, we will remove one tag from the trees. If you can help, please drop your donation in the collection basket, at the Rectory, or by mail: 607 Central Ave., Albany, NY, 12206. Please clearly indicate that the donation is for the Christmas Program (monetary donations only, please). We are dealing with specific stores who have offered us discounts for their certificates. Thank you for your help!



'Tis the season for Christmas shopping ... and you can support our school at the same time! We receive 2 points for every \$1 spent at Colonie Center Mall! Original receipts must be presented for credit within 60 days from the purchase date. If you submit receipts to our parish office to register and would like to have them back, let us know and we'll mail them back to you. Dining out, including the food court and B.J.'s Brewhouse, are included. Receipts can be registered at the Management Office in the School Bucks Box at the security desk next to Five Guys (or at our parish office; we will

register them for you).

November 2023

**3X:** Sephora, J.Crew, Foot Locker, Daily Thread 4X: H&M, Carter's/Osh Kosh, Five Below, and Cinnabon Also, any receipts handed in from P.F. Chang's will be an additional 500 points!

Offertory Report **Regular:** \$5,281 All Saints and All Souls: \$252 11/12: School Support 11/19: Human Development 12/3: Fuel God bless you for your continued support!

#### I/We.

### , would like to bring to your attention that

is a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament who would appreciate a pastoral visit and would like to receive all the benefits that our homebound parishioners enjoy. I/We can be contacted at (phone/e-mail):