

**PARISH MINISTRY UPDATES**

\*January's *Holy Name Society (HNS)* drawing and meeting will take place on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. (please note this changed date!). All parish men are invited. As always, you may obtain \$1 raffle tickets from HNS officers, at the parish office, or before/after weekend Masses.

\*The **St. Francis Prayer Group** meets every third weekend of the month. Their next gathering will be Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> after the 9 a.m. Mass.

**FOOD PANTRY**

\*Blessed Sacrament's Food Pantry has been selected again as a partner in the **Hannaford Bloomin' 4 Good Program!** We will receive \$1 for each specially marked Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during January 2025 at the Hannaford store located at 900 Central Ave. (Century II Mall), Albany. Why not surprise someone with a beautiful flower bouquet and help support local families at the same time?

\*Our pantry currently needs the following items: cooking oil, coffee, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and feminine hygiene products. Thank you for your donations!

**THE BOUTIQUE**

\*Please note that our thrift store will be **closed through New Year's Eve** for organizing purposes. We will reopen on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and will resume accepting donations beginning Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers welcome!

**COLONIE CENTER SCHOOL BUCKS PROGRAM**

*When you're shopping at Colonie Center Mall, use your receipts to help our BSS students! Monetary prizes will be awarded to participating schools based on their total points, and first prize is \$8,000! We receive 2 points per \$1 spent. Fill out the School Bucks form and place it in the drop box at the mall's security desk along with your original receipts, or show original receipts at the mall's management office. You can also bring receipts to our parish or school offices. Receipts must be submitted within 60 days of purchase and be original, not a copy. If you need help, someone in our parish office can submit and return your receipts for you. For details, visit:*  
<https://shopatcoloniecenter.com/school-bucks/>

**December 2024 Opportunities:**

**3x:** Nordstrom Rack, Cinnabon, Stitch in Time, and Grill & Wraps; **4x:** Five Below, Famous Footwear, H&M, Avis Budget. **Extra: 1,000 bonus points for every Carter's receipt handed in!**

*The printing of our parish bulletin is generously provided by:*



208 N. Allen St., Albany, NY, 12206; (518) 489-0188  
 Visit their website: [www.mcveighfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcveighfuneralhome.com)

**NEWS FROM THE ALBANY DIOCESE**

\*Please join us as we open the **Jubilee Year for 2025** here in our Albany Diocese! On Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m., there will be a prayer service at Historic St. Mary's in downtown Albany, and a pilgrimage will begin afterward. It will last for a half mile, processing to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany. At 3 p.m., there will be Mass at the cathedral with Bishop Scharfenberger as celebrant. It's a great opportunity for us to come together as a community of faith to celebrate the start of this holy year! To learn more about the Jubilee Year, please visit the website [www.rcda.org/jubilee-2025](http://www.rcda.org/jubilee-2025).

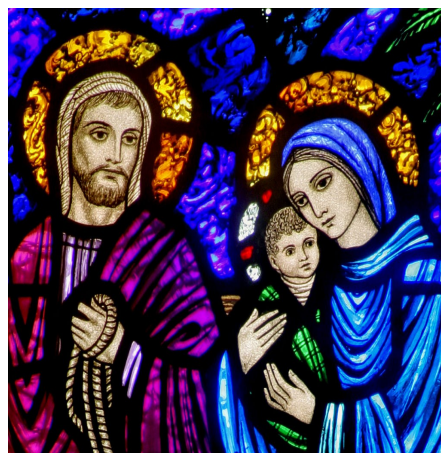
\*Save the dates! Our diocese has announced that August 9<sup>th</sup> will be our next **Step Up Men's Conference**, and October 18<sup>th</sup> will be our next **Unleashing Love Women's Conference**. Both events will be held at St. Edward the Confessor Church, Clifton Park. For more information, you can send an e-mail to Tom Cronin at the diocese: [thomas.cronin@rcda.org](mailto:thomas.cronin@rcda.org).

**HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

\*Have you felt the invitation to follow Jesus Christ as a Catholic priest? Gather with other young men across New York State who are considering the **call to the priesthood**, hear dynamic talks delivered by NYS vocations directors, meet seminarians and hear their stories, and take your life of discernment to the next level! A NYS Discernment Retreat will take place January 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> at The Good News Center, Utica, for ages 18 and older. Please register by e-mailing [vocations@syrdio.org](mailto:vocations@syrdio.org).

\*Join others from across the country to march on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on January 24<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling, which legalized abortion in all 50 states. The **March for Life** is the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. Learn more by visiting online: [www.marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/](http://www.marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/).

\*A semi-formal **Epiphany Ball** dinner & dance, with appetizers & drinks, will be held at St. Mary's Church, Crescent, Saturday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 6-10 p.m. For more information, and to RSVP, please send an e-mail to: [ardensfidelis@proton.me](mailto:ardensfidelis@proton.me).



Congratulations to **Peter Crasto-Donnelly**, one of our parish Trustees, who has been appointed the new Executive Director of the Capital Area Council of Churches!

**OFFERTORY REPORT**

*Our collections will be reported next week. Thank you for your generous contributions to support our parish, school, community, and world!*

**BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH**

607 CENTRAL AVE., ALBANY, NY 12206



**29 DECEMBER 2024**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**

<p><b>BAPTISMS</b> Azair Abner</p> <p><b>FUNERALS</b></p> <p><b>WEDDINGS</b></p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, 12/28/24 — 4 PM</b></p> <p>✠ Dorothy Mittler, Catherine Mooney, Gerald Miller, and Dave Cratty ♥ Michael Anthony Sparks</p> <p><i>Feast of the Holy Innocents</i></p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, 12/29/24 — 9 AM</b></p> <p>✠ Nicholas Sfara, Veronica Kavanaugh, and Antoinette Elizabeth Anthony</p> <p><b>6 PM — URDU</b></p> <p><i>Feast of the Holy Family</i></p>
	<p><b>MONDAY, 12/30/24 — 7 AM</b></p> <p>♥ Chang-Ho Kim</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY, 12/31/24 — 4:00 PM</b></p> <p><i>For the Holy Day</i></p> <p>♥ Simon Kim <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5:30 Mass - Mater Christi</span> <i>New Year's Eve</i></p>
	<p><b>WEDNESDAY, 1/1/25 — 9:00 AM</b></p> <p>✠ Peg &amp; Otis Signor, Ann &amp; Elpert Anderson, Annie Ramos, and Barbara Connery Lima</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>8:00 - Mater Christi</span> <span>9:30 - Cathedral, St. Clare</span> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>10:30 - All Saints</span> <span>11:00 - Shrine (Bilingual)</span> </div> <p><b>6 PM — IN URDU</b></p> <p><i>Solemnity of the Bl. Virgin Mary, New Years' Day</i></p>	<p><b>THURSDAY, 1/2/25 — 12 PM</b></p> <p>✠ Angela &amp; Anthony Giminianni, Surriyia Michael ♥ Anthony Michael Sparks</p> <p><i>Memorial, Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</i></p>
	<p><b>FRIDAY, 1/3/25 — NO MASS</b></p> <p><i>Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i></p>	<p><i>Please note: Mass intentions with a ✠ indicate that the person is deceased; ♥ indicates that the person is alive.</i></p> <p><i>If you are having a Mass offered and would like to bring up the gifts, please see an usher before the liturgy begins.</i></p>
	<p><b>SATURDAY, 1/4/25 — 9 AM</b></p> <p>✠ Frank Zell, Michael Agneta, Florence, and Joseph &amp; Richard Zabinski</p> <p><b>4 PM</b></p> <p><i>Memorial, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</i></p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, 1/5/24 — 9 AM</b></p> <p><b>ALUMNI MASS</b> <i>Praying in thanksgiving for the generosity of all of our school donors.</i></p> <p><b>6 PM — URDU</b> <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i></p>

**CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

Weekend Masses: Saturdays, 4 p.m.  
Sundays, 9 a.m. (English) and 6 p.m. (Urdu)

Weekday Masses: As scheduled in the bulletin →

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays, 3-3:40 p.m.  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**CONTACT US**

607 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206  
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
(518) 482-3375

Website: [www.blessedsacramentalbany.org](http://www.blessedsacramentalbany.org)  
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**STAY CONNECTED**

"Like" us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/blessedsacramentcatholicchurch](https://www.facebook.com/blessedsacramentcatholicchurch)  
(Sunday Masses are livestreamed here)

Subscribe to our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@BSCAlbany>

Download myParishApp: Text app to 55321

*In case of an emergency requiring the ministry of a priest, outside parish office hours (and especially in danger of death), please contact the priests at (518) 482-3375. If no one answers, please leave a message.*

## OUR FIRST AMERICAN-BORN SAINT

by Lisanne Jensen

Shortly before becoming Catholic in 2011, I was asked to choose a Confirmation name. I consulted a “saint dictionary,” randomly flipping through the pages to see whether any saints stood out. I stopped in my tracks when I saw the words “St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.” I remarked how her name is so similar to mine (“Lisanne”), and I saw that she became a saint just two days after I was born (September 14, 1975). Right away, I knew that I had to read further about her life and faith. I discovered even more similarities. She became Catholic in her 30s (so did I). She was born in New York and moved to Maryland; I was born in Indiana and moved to New York. She was an educator (I was a preschool teacher at the time) as well as a catechist (I was serving as my parish’s kindergarten/Grade 1 catechist). St. Elizabeth Ann Seton knew the joys and challenges of being a mom; I have two children. She loved the French language; I majored in French in college. This quote of hers, however, touched me immensely as I prepared to be baptized, Confirmed, and receive First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil that year: “*I will go peaceably and firmly to the Catholic Church: for if faith is so important to our salvation, I will seek it where true faith first began, seek it among those who received it from God Himself.*” I couldn’t get enough of learning about her. She was the Catholic Church’s first American-born saint, and although she experienced great tragedies in her 46 years of life, her faith never wavered (and in fact, seemed to become even stronger). She founded our Catholic school system as well as the first religious order in the United States: the Sisters of Charity. In September 2021 for my birthday, I traveled to her national shrine in Emmitsburg, MD. It was a life-changing journey. I got to see the actual black shawl and bonnet that she always wore, a lock of her hair, handwritten letters and journal entries, the chapel where she frequently went to Mass — and I got to attend Mass at her basilica with the auxiliary archbishop of the Baltimore Archdiocese. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s remains are buried there in the basilica. (Next year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her canonization — and I hope to celebrate my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday there by visiting again!)



## THIS WEEKEND’S READINGS (12/28-12/29)

FIRST READING: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 128

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-21

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

## NEXT WEEKEND’S READINGS (1/4-1/5)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 72

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

Something else that I got to see during my Maryland trip was a rock. It wasn’t just any ordinary rock, however — it was the actual rock where St. Elizabeth Ann Seton frequently sat on Sundays, with children gathered around her, as she taught them about the wonders of our Catholic faith, Jesus’s true presence in the Eucharist, and God’s endless love for them.

I’m amazed that I get to do the same thing every single day. It’s such an honor to have the privilege of teaching religion at BSS as well as direct Faith Formation for our parish. And when I reflect on today’s awe-inspiring educational technologies — smartboards, laptops, Google Classroom, you name it — I try to remember something: the only curriculum that we really need is God’s word and sharing our own faith journeys — striving to make our lives a daily example. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton once wrote, “*Faith lifts the soul.*” How did she teach that to others? All she needed was a rock to sit on.



## BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH STAFF

Rev. Daniel Quinn, Pastor

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Rev. Stephen Yusko, Parochial Vicar

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Rev. Francis O’Connor, Shrine Chaplain

Rev. Dr. Gerald Ladouceur, Deacon

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## FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Lisanne V. Jensen, Pastoral Associate

Shannon Crisafulli, Coordinator

E-mail: [faithformationbsc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationbsc@gmail.com)

## WORKS OF MERCY

Sr. Patricia Lynch, Food Pantry Coordinator

Jean Huber, Heidi Stack, Michelle Syrotynski,

and MaryEllen Walsh, The Boutique

Sr. Maureen Joyce Outreach Center

369 Livingston Ave., Albany, NY 12206

(518) 462-9885

## FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

\*Our First Reconciliation

Retreat will be held Sunday,

January 5<sup>th</sup> after the 9 a.m.

Mass and will last until 12:15

p.m. This event is designed

for at least one parent/

guardian to participate in

together with their child and

is for children who will

receive the sacrament of First

Reconciliation in February.

The retreat will begin in the church and will continue in the

school gym. Reconciliation-themed activity stations will help

deepen the understanding of this amazing healing sacrament.

Students from Blessed Sacrament School as well as Faith

Formation children will be participating! If you have any

questions about the retreat, please let our office know.



\*Our next family Faith Formation gathering will be held on

Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. We will attend the 9 a.m. Mass

together, then come to the school gym for breakfast and the

remainder of Faith Formation until 11:45 a.m. We will

continue our exploration of the Beatitudes!

\*First Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, February

1<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the church. At least one parent must stay

with their child. We will have cards with the Act of

Contrition for everyone to take into Reconciliation with them!

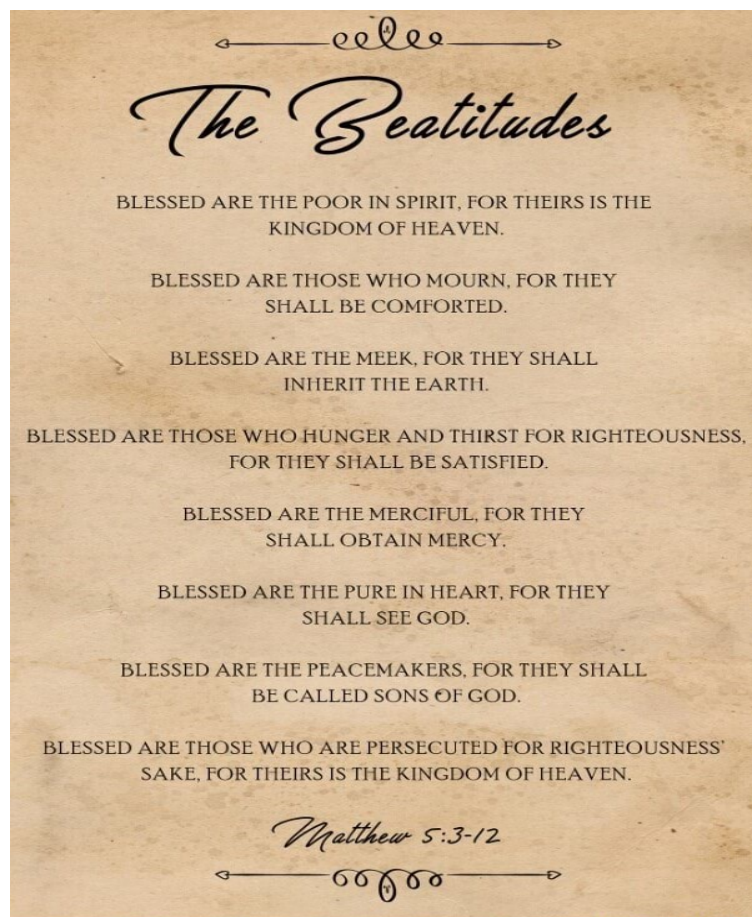
\*If you have any questions or need to get a hold of our Faith

Formation office, e-mail [faithformationbsc@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationbsc@gmail.com) or

call (518) 438-5854, ext. 119. You can also visit our website at

[www.bsc-ffym.org](http://www.bsc-ffym.org) and give us a “like” on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/bsc-ffym](https://www.facebook.com/bsc-ffym).



Alexandra Faith Morazán,

Principal

Andrea Roberts,

Office Administrator

Kristine Ruddy,

Advancement Director

Phone: (518) 438-5854

[info@blessedsacramentschool.net](mailto:info@blessedsacramentschool.net)

[www.blessedsacramentschool.net](http://www.blessedsacramentschool.net)



\*We hope that everyone is having a wonderful, relaxing, and healthy Christmas Break! Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>!

\*A big thank you to All Saints Catholic Academy (Albany) and St. Thomas the Apostle School (Delmar) for their huge donations to our Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry! For the past month, BSS students have collected toiletries for people in need. Sr. Patricia was thrilled!

\*In years past, Blessed Sacrament’s School Board has played a vital role in planning and fundraising for our school. The board meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June. If you are interested in serving on the board or would like more information, please contact the parish office at (518) 482-3375 or the school at (518) 438-5854. Thank you for your consideration!

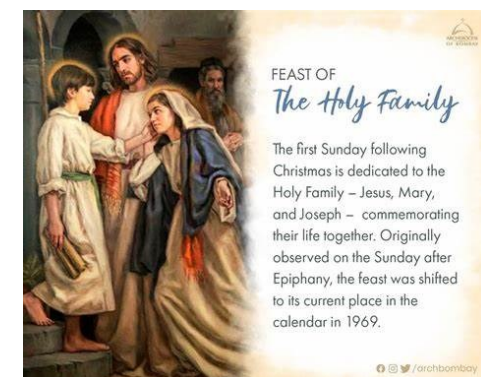
Registration is now open for our 2025-2026 school year!

Visit our website to find out more about the application

process at Blessed Sacrament School:

<https://blessedsacramentschool.net/how-do-i-apply/>

You can also schedule a school tour, too!



SHRINE CHURCH OF  
OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS

A MISSION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

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, NY, 12206; (518) 465-3685

[www.ourladyoftheamericas.org](http://www.ourladyoftheamericas.org)

Mass Schedule: Sundays, 9 a.m. (English) and 11 a.m. (Spanish); please note that there will be no Masses on Tuesdays or Fridays until Fr. O’Connor returns.