

PARISH MINISTRY UPDATES

*2024 tax statements are available! If you would like a copy of yours, please contact our parish office.

*Join us on Sunday, February 16th at 9 a.m. at Colonie Center Mall for the **School Bucks winners announcement!** We are in the top seven schools!

*The Holy Name Society would like to thank ALL parishioners that support us via the "RMailing" Program and monthly donations. So far, it's a success for the Raffle Ticket. JAN., we added 3, \$25 Prizes - that makes it 5 Total Prizes (\$200-\$50-\$25-\$25-\$25). Next drawing-Meeting is Wednesday, February 5th, at 7pm. All parish men are invited. Ask any officer for \$1 Raffle Tickets, or in Rectory or at weekend masses.

FOOD PANTRY

*Our food pantry currently needs the following items: toilet paper, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti & elbows, white rice (1lb), corn, green beans, hash, stew and pork & beans. And we are *always* in need of feminine & personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies and diapers.

Food pantry volunteers are also needed from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Fridays. If you can't commit to fours, two hours will help too! If you can help, please contact our parish office.

THE BOUTIQUE

*Shopping hours are 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, with donations accepted on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon. (Gentle reminder: we cannot accept books, some electronics, fabric scraps, or clothing in need of repair or dirty. Please understand that unwanted items are a hardship and an expense to the church to dispose of.)

We currently need men's winter coats!

COLONIE CENTER SCHOOL BUCKS PROGRAM

When you're shopping at Colonie Center Mall, please consider using your receipts to help our BSS students!

Join us on Sunday, February 16th at 9 a.m. at Colonie Center Mall for the School Bucks Winners Presentation.

January 2025:

3X: Cinnabon, Famous Footwear, Avis/Budget, Sephora
4X: Stir Fry 88, Five Below, H&M, LL Bean

1,000 bonus points: every Regal Cinema 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

DIOCESAN NEWS

*Calling all parish ministry staff, volunteers, etc.: you are invited to a winter retreat day called **"Hope Does Not Disappoint."** It will take place on Thursday, February 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Matthew's Church, 25 Mountainview St., Voorheesville. The cost is \$20 per person, and the retreat will be led by Deacon Gary Riggi. To register or for more information, please visit <https://webapps.rcda.org/ParishFaithFormation>.

*Kindness matters — and our diocese is offering many ways in which you can promote God's love and **kindness** everywhere: <https://www.rcda.org/kind>.

*2025 is a **Year of Jubilee** — and our Albany Diocese has a webpage with lots of information about this special year and how to celebrate it: www.rcda.org/jubilee-2025.

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

*All are invited to Mass on Saturday, February 8th at 11 a.m. at **The Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes** at the Vincentian Institute (located at the corner of Madison and Ontario and Yates), in honor of the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes (which is February 8th).

*All Saints Church, Albany, is hosting a **pasta dinner and raffle** on Saturday, March 1st at 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per family, which includes a pasta dinner with homemade sauce; wine, beer, or soda; and desserts. Tickets will go on sale February 1st. For more information, visit www.allsaintsec.org.

*On May 19th and 20th, St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Delmar is sponsoring a bus trip to the **Sight and Sound Theatre** in Lancaster, PA, to see the 30th anniversary production of "Noah." This trip will include transportation, a stop at an Amish shopping center, dinner at Miller's, one overnight at a hotel, tickets to the show, and lunch at an Amish restaurant. For more details about the trip and to make a reservation, please contact Barbara Ruggirello at baruggirello@gmail.com.

*A monthly **charismatic healing liturgy** will be held at Christ Our Light, 1 Maria Dr., Loudonville, on February 12th with 7 p.m. prayer and praise music by Joyful Heart and a 7:30 p.m. liturgy, with healing Prayer to follow. The celebrant will be Fr. Michael Melanson. There will be individual prayer teams available after Mass.

*The **Beginning Experience Ministry** is a peer-led ministry serving those who are grieving the end of a spousal relationship due to death, divorce, or separation. All faiths are invited to participate. This winter and spring, two programs will be offered. For information or to register, please call Phyllis at (914) 261-5812.

OFFERTORY REPORT

Regular: \$4,264; **Fuel:** \$1,737

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

607 CENTRAL AVE., ALBANY, NY 12206

My eyes have seen your salvation.
 -LUKE 2:30



2 FEBRUARY 2025

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

<p>BAPTISMS</p> <p>Addison Sarkies Maxwell Sarkies</p> <p>FUNERALS</p> <p>WEDDINGS</p> <p>Johanna Wittbrodt & Nathan Sweet</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 2/1/25 — 9 AM <i>Confession and Adoration: 7:30</i> 4 PM † Hilah Greci † Veronica Kavanaugh † Catherine & Joseph Burns ♥ Thomas Traver Souls in Purgatory</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 2/2/25 — 9 AM † Veronica Kavanaugh † Mark Daly † Edmund Lynch † Nora Lou Prall Souls in Purgatory <i>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</i></p>
	<p>MONDAY, 2/3/25 — 7 AM † David Tenney (bday) Souls in Purgatory</p>	<p>TUESDAY, 2/4/25 — 12 PM <i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i> † Albert Lubbe Souls in Purgatory</p>
	<p>WEDNESDAY, 2/5/25 — 8:15 AM (SCHOOL MASS WITH BISHOP SCHARFENBERGER) OPEN TO EVERYONE ♥ Michael Anthony Sparks ♥ Artemio M Cruz Souls in Purgatory <i>Memorial, St. Agatha; immediately after Mass: First Reconciliation for BSS students</i></p>	<p>THURSDAY, 2/6/25 — 12 PM <i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i> † Lawrence & Anne Gallo † Joe & Theresa Conley <i>Memorial, St. Paul Miki and Companions</i></p>
	<p>FRIDAY, 2/7/25 — NO MASS</p>	<p><i>Please note: Mass intentions with a † indicate that the person is deceased; ♥ indicates that the person is alive.</i> <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>SATURDAY, 2/8/25 — 4 PM † Rose Guiry † Sr. Mary Coons † Luigi & Elvira Consentino † Ellen Araujo</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 2/9/25 — 9 AM † Roger Knuth † Marie Scahill † Bernadine Fioravanti ♥ Bill C 6 PM — URDU <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</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 (Confession): Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 3-3:40 p.m.

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

CONTACT US

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STAY CONNECTED

Parish Website: blessedsacramentalbany.org
 "Like" us on Facebook: 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.

FROM THE PASTOR

The temple at the time Jesus was born is Jerusalem's "Second Temple". The first one had been ransacked and ultimately destroyed when Israel was conquered by the Babylonians. When it had been rebuilt, it wasn't quite the same as it used to be. It wasn't as splendid; some corners were cut. The most significant loss was the reason the temple was built in the first place: the Ark of the Covenant, which is generally believed to be lost ever since.

The Ark was God's presence; his physical presence. In the Ark was a jar of manna, and Aaron's staff, but most importantly it held the tablets with the 10 commandments. God wrote them. They were his words, and the evidence of their covenant with him.

So though the priests and the people had gotten back to all the activities of the temple, the prayers and sacrifices and presentations of babies, there had always been a sense of something being missing. People were still waiting hopefully for the Lord to enter his temple once again!

With Mary & Joseph carrying baby Jesus into the temple, the Lord has once again taken his place in his temple; the Light of the World has taken its place in its lampstand! But the Lord has also taken his place in his throne in each of his people. This is why we don't take Baptism, or Confirmation, or the Eucharist lightly, because God is powerfully present in those sacraments, and when he enters into each of us, we also become temples of the Holy Spirit where God is enthroned.



FROM OUR URDU COMMUNITY

We proudly offer Mass in Urdu every Sunday evening at 6 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament! Please join us!



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

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.*

THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS (2/1-2/2)

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4
RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 24
SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18
GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS (2/8-2/9)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 138
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-11

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH STAFF

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FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Lisanne V. Jensen, Pastoral Associate
Shannon Crisafulli, Coordinator
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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

***First Reconciliation** is Saturday, February 1st at 2:30 p.m. in the church. Please keep our Faith Formation young people who will receive this sacrament in your prayers: **Anaya, David, Emily, Madigan, Madison, and Savannah!**

*Sunday, April 6th after the 9 a.m. Mass will be our **First Communion Retreat**. This event is for parents and First Communicants to participate in together. BSS students who will be receiving First Communion are also invited (along with their parents). We will begin in the church and then visit activity stations in the school gym, including creating our First Communion banners! *First Communion will be at the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 5th.*

Ms. Jensen's religion students at BSS created bookmarks for BSC parishioners in honor of Catholic Schools Week! If you'd like, please take one before or after Mass from the basket located in the parking lot vestibule area.



AN EVENING WITH BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Who is **Blessed Carlo Acutis**? Born in 1991 in London, he left an extraordinary example of faith and service during his short life on earth before his death at age 15. Noted for his cheerfulness, computer skills, and devotion to the Eucharist, Carlo is a model for today's teens and young adults. A true "millennial saint," he will be canonized in Rome this April by Pope Francis. There will be a special presentation by Fr. Anthony Sorgie about Carlo's life on February 12th at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Church, 55 N. Lake Ave., Troy. Last year, Fr. Sorgie hosted Carlo's mother, Antonia Salzano Acutis, to speak in his parish about her son's life. She also gave him a relic of her son for public display.



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*What a fabulous **Catholic Schools Week** that we celebrated this past week! Thank you so much for your constant prayers and support of our school and church community — united as one family in faith! Pictured above is the "Math Buddies" activity that took place on Monday, where older students paired with younger students to help them work on their math skills in fun ways!

*The sacrament of **First Reconciliation** for BSS students will take place on Wednesday, February 5th immediately after the 8:15 a.m. school Mass. Please keep all of these young people in your prayers! Also, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger will be celebrating this school Mass — and our eighth-grade students will take on ministry roles. What a special liturgy it will be! All are invited to attend!

*Congratulations to eighth-grader **Christine** on winning the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" award! She received a \$50 gift card!

*For more information about how you can contribute financially to the 2025 **Beacon of Hope**, visit the website fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/2025BOH. This year's goal is raising \$19,000. Make sure to click on Michelle Rosario's page: fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/2025BOH/team/Rosario.

*Visit BSS's **school store**: <https://griffinspirit.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.

*We need a **part-time music teacher**. Contact our office if you are interested in this position!