

PARISH MINISTRY UPDATES

*The next *Holy Name Society* (HNS) **meeting and raffle drawing** will be held on Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Foreman Room. All parish men are invited! The \$1 raffle tickets are available at our parish office, from HNS officers, and by mail.

FOOD PANTRY

*How about purchasing a beautiful flower bouquet to chase away the winter “blahs” and warm up your home? Or, surprise someone with flowers just because! Our food pantry has again been chosen as a partner in the **Hannaford Bloomin’ 4 Good Program**. We 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.

***Our food pantry currently needs the following items:** toilet paper, juice (64 oz.), macaroni and cheese, tuna fish, egg noodles, elbow pasta, and regular pasta. **Food pantry volunteers are also needed** from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Fridays. If you can help, please contact our parish office!

THE BOUTIQUE

*Blessed Sacrament offers a wonderful **thrift store** in the church basement! Shopping hours are 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, with donations accepted on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon. (A 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!** Thank you for your donations that serve many people and help support the many ministries of Blessed Sacrament!



COLONIE CENTER SCHOOL BUCKS PROGRAM

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

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

*Our parish extends its sincere prayers and condolences to all who are grieving the passing of **Rev. Thomas Holmes**, 67, a longtime priest in our Albany diocese who died on January 13th after a courageous battle with ALS. To read his full obituary, visit online: <https://shorturl.at/WjJKT>.

*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

*Would you like to share your talents and time to serve others in your own parish or in the greater Albany area? Would you like to join a community of people of faith who gather together monthly to share and feed their souls? The **Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC)** provides opportunities for service grounded in Ignatian spirituality for people who are age 50 and older. Interested in learning more? IVC will have an information table at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses on January 26th at the Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas. Please stop by for information and to speak with one of the Albany Corps members. For more information: www.ivcusa.org/Albany or e-mail AlbanyNY@ivcusa.org.

*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.allsaintscc.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.

OFFERTORY REPORT

Regular: \$4,755; **School:** \$1,321

Please note: our second collection this weekend will go toward fuel expenses. Thank you!

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

607 CENTRAL AVE., ALBANY, NY 12206



the spirit of the Lord is upon me

-LUKE 1:18



26 JANUARY 2025

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<p>BAPTISMS</p> <p>FUNERALS</p> <p>WEDDINGS</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 1/25/25 — 4 PM</p> <p>For the People Pro Populo</p> <p><i>Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul</i></p>	<p>SUNDAY, 1/26/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>† Patricia Ren † Diane Cremisio † Guerino Ritmo ♥ Luz Mercader</p> <p><i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week begins</i></p>
	<p>MONDAY, 1/27/25 — 7 AM</p> <p>♥ Christina Kim All Souls in Purgatory</p>	<p>TUESDAY, 1/28/25 — 12 PM <i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>† Luis Vargas ♥ Michael Anthony Sparks All Souls in Purgatory</p> <p><i>Memorial, St. Thomas Aquinas</i></p>
	<p>WEDNESDAY, 1/29/25 — NO MASS</p> <p>† ♥</p> <p><i>Lunar New Year; parish and school offices closed</i></p>	<p>THURSDAY, 1/30/25 — 12 PM <i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>† Elanor Calderone All Souls in Purgatory</p>
	<p>FRIDAY, 1/31/25 — NO MASS</p> <p><i>Please note: Mass intentions with a † indicate that the person is deceased; ♥ indicates that the person is alive.</i></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><i>Memorial, St. John Bosco</i></p>	<p>SUNDAY, 2/2/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>† Veronica Kavanaugh † Mark Daly † Edmund Lynch † Nora Lou Prall All Souls in Purgatory 6 PM — URDU</p> <p><i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</i></p>
	<p>SATURDAY, 2/1/25 - 9 AM 4 PM</p> <p>♥ Thomas Traver † Veronica Kavanaugh † Catherine & Joseph Burns † Hilah Grecni All Souls in Purgatory</p> <p><i>Confession, 3-3:40 p.m.; First Reconciliation (Faith Formation), 2:30 p.m.</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

607 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206
Website: www.blessedsacramentalbany.org
Office Phone: (518) 482-3375
Office E-mail: blessedsacramentalb@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
For submitting bulletin items: bulletin.blessedsacrament@gmail.com

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.

RECONCILIATION: A GIFT AND CELEBRATION

As many young people in Faith Formation and also from Blessed Sacrament School prepare to receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation in early February, I find myself reflecting on this healing sacrament and the amazing experience of my own first Confession (which occurred back in 2011).

That year, shortly before becoming Catholic and being baptized at my parish's Easter Vigil, our RCIA team encouraged me to receive my first Reconciliation. I went to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany because Fr. O'Connor, who I knew extremely well, would be hearing Confessions and celebrating Mass that day. I felt so nervous. I walked into the cathedral prepared with a paper list of all my sins that I could possibly think of — because of course I didn't want to forget anything! I was worried that Father would think badly of me for things that I had done, and I felt anxious about remembering the Act of Contrition.

I walked over to Father, sat down, told him that it was my first Confession, and pulled out my piece of paper. He smiled and said, "Who told you to bring a list?" I laughed and said, "Well, Father ... I am 34 years old, and I've done a lot of stuff!" He kindly told me to put my list away and instead just share what was on my mind and heart. From there, I felt absolutely comfortable and nervous no longer. It was like having a personal conversation with Jesus, where I could totally be myself. I truly felt God's presence. When Father said the Prayer of Absolution ("Through the ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins ..."), I felt like a huge weight had been lifted. I experienced a peace unlike anything I had felt before.

I returned to my pew (as I was planning to attend Mass afterward) and prayed. Suddenly and unexpectedly, I started crying. I didn't care if the parishioners who were gathering for Mass saw my tears. I wasn't upset about anything, though ... it was more of a "release," if that makes sense. I felt like a

new person. I began to understand what St. Paul described in Philippians, that the peace of God "surpasses all understanding ..." (4:7).

When Mass ended, I left the cathedral and climbed into my car. Another "God moment" hit me. Right when I turned on the ignition, the song that was playing on the radio was "I Am New" by Jason Gray. I heard these lyrics:

*"Now I won't deny
the worst you could say about me
But I'm not defined
by mistakes that I've made
because God says of me
I am not who I was
I am being remade
I am new
I am chosen and holy
And I'm dearly loved
I am new ..."*

Reconciliation is such a healing, blessed gift that we can open again and again — and that God celebrates with us!

~Lisanne Jensen

THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS (1/25-1/26)

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 19
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
GOSPEL: Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

NEXT 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

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH STAFF

Rev. Daniel Quinn, Pastor
blessedsacramentalb@gmail.com
Rev. Stephen Yusko, Parochial Vicar
stephen.yusko@rcda.org
Rev. Francis O'Connor, Shrine Chaplain
Rev. Dr. Gerald Ladouceur, Deacon
ladouceurg@aol.com
Ed Savoy, Music Director
blessedsacramentalbanymusic@gmail.com
Barbara Collen, Administrative Director
blessedsacramentalb@gmail.com

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Lisanne V. Jensen, Pastoral Associate
Shannon Crisafulli, Coordinator
E-mail: 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 Communicants** (Mrs. Rose Reed's individual class) will meet for their next session this Sunday, January 19th from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

***First Reconciliation** is scheduled for Saturday, February 1st at 2:30 p.m. in the church. If you could, please

keep all of our Faith Formation young people who will receive this healing sacrament in your prayers: **Anaya, David, Emily, Madigan, Madison, and Savannah.**

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

*If you have any questions or need to get a hold of our **Faith Formation office**, e-mail faithformationbsc@gmail.com or call (518) 438-5854, ext. 119. You can also visit our website at www.bsc-ffym.org and give us a "like" on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bsc-ffym.

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL
Your Neighborhood School

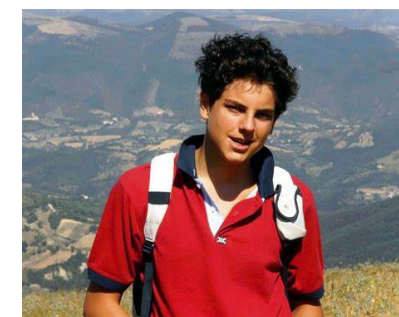
We are currently accepting new students for the 2025 academic year. Blessed Sacrament School is a premier Catholic Elementary School serving 3-year-olds through 8th grade. Bussing from surrounding districts available. Extended school hours available.

ENROLL TODAY

www.blessedsacramentschool.net
(518) 438-5854
605 Central Ave Albany, NY 12206

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.



Alexandra Faith Morazán,
Principal

Andrea Roberts,
Office Administrator

Kristine Ruddy,
Advancement Director
Phone: (518) 438-5854

info@blessedsacramentschool.net
www.blessedsacramentschool.net



*Mrs. O'Connor's **Future Cities** team captured third place this past weekend at their competition! They also won "Best Use of a Construction Material" and "Best Infrastructure." Huge congratulations to all on this amazing accomplishment!

*With great joy, we announce that BSS cafeteria manager **Michelle Rosario** is the 2025 Beacon of Hope Community Spirit Award winner! She goes above and beyond for our students in countless ways. For more information about this award, visit online: fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/2025BOH.

*Our **school store** is up and running: <https://griffinspirit.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.

*We're celebrating **Catholic Schools Week** beginning Sunday, January 26th through Saturday, February 1st!

*Please note that there is no school on Wednesday, January 29th due to the **Lunar New Year** holiday.

*Our school is currently searching for a **part-time music teacher**. If you are interested in learning more about this position and/or applying, please contact our school office!

*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!

*We still need school board members! If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact our school office!

FROM OUR URDU COMMUNITY



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



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.*