

PARISH MINISTRY UPDATES

*An update on our **Christmas Program**: as of December 23rd, we have collected enough to serve 127 children — just three short of our goal. Thank you so much for your support!

*January's **Holy Name Society (HNS)** drawing and meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6th 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. If you've ever wondered what the HNS is dedicated to, you can visit their national website at www.nahns.org.

*Blessed Sacrament's **St. Francis Prayer Group** meets every third weekend of the month. Their next gathering will be Sunday, January 19th after our 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

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. Thank you for your donations that serve many people and help support the many ministries of Blessed Sacrament

COLONIE CENTER SCHOOL BUCKS PROGRAM

The 2024 School Bucks contest ended on December 31st. We have until **January 15** to submit eligible receipts to count towards our total points. Please submit receipts to the Colonie Center Management Office before 1/15. If you would like us to submit your receipts, please have them in the parish office no later than 1/14. There is no word on whether the program will continue so hold on to any Colonie Center receipts until we know.

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

NEWS FROM OUR DIOCESE

*Please save the dates! The Albany Diocese has announced that August 9th will be the next **Step Up Men's Conference**, and October 18th will be the 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: 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 9th through 11th at The Good News Center, Utica, for ages 18 and older. Please register by e-mailing vocations@syrdio.org.

*The NY Capital District Christian Women's Connection is sponsoring its **"New Beginnings" luncheon** on Tuesday, January 14th at the Guilderland Elks Lodge, 3867 Carman Rd., Schenectady, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Your reservation is necessary no later than January 8th; cancellations are a must. Please call Nancy at (518) 320-2649 or Mae at (518) 895-8977 for reservations. On the menu this month is chicken and biscuits with an alternative choice of grilled chicken salad. The cost is \$17 inclusive (cash only). The speaker will be Sue Richter from Albany. Shirley Sousa, owner of "The Garden," will be sharing about the winter care of indoor plants (with some plants available for purchase).

MARCH FOR LIFE BUS
HOSTED BY ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK
FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025

COST PER PERSON: \$100 CHECK OR CASH, \$105 DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD.
PLEASE MAIL CHECKS TO
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH, 2777 ALBANY ST. SCHENECTADY, NY 12304

DEPARTURE TIMES AND LOCATIONS:
WADE TOURS 1:00AM
CROSSGATES MALL COMMONS (PET SMART) 1:20AM
CATSKILL PARK AND RIDE EXIT 21 2:10AM
DEPARTING WASHINGTON DC 5:00PM TO RETURN HOME

IF THE BUS IS NOT FILLED BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025, THE TRIP WILL BE CANCELLED, CHECKS WILL BE HELD UNTIL THAT TIME.
IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THE TRIP BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO SPONSOR SOMEONE YOU CAN SEND CHECKS TO ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH.

"THUS SAYS THE LORD WHO MADE YOU, WHO FORMED YOU FROM THE WOMB AND WILL HELP YOU: FEAR NOT, FOR I HAVE REDEEMED YOU; I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME, YOU ARE MINE."
IS 44:2

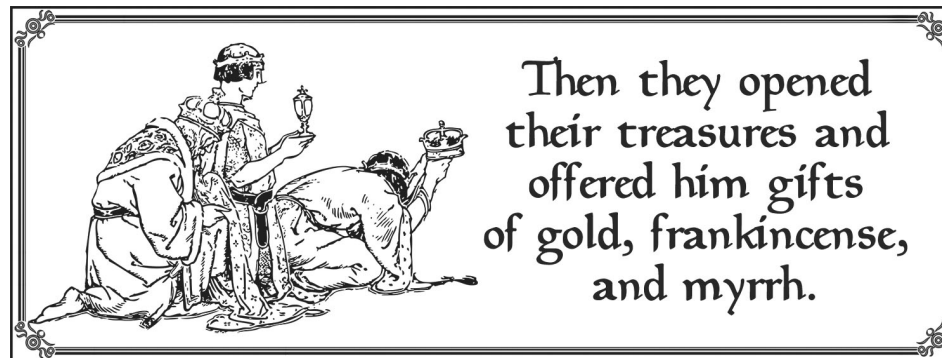
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CONTACT KATIE GROGAN
GROGAN.K@TUUCATHOLIC.ORG
(518) 377-8886

OFFERTORY REPORT

Regular: \$4,496; Christmas: \$2,630

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

607 CENTRAL AVE., ALBANY, NY 12206



05 JANUARY 2025

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

<p>BAPTISMS</p> <p>Azaire Abner</p> <p>FUNERALS</p> <p>WEDDINGS</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 1/4/25 9 AM</p> <p>4 PM ✠ Frank Zell ✠ Michael Agneta ✠ Florence, Joseph & Richard Zabinski</p> <p><i>Memorial, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</i></p>	<p>SUNDAY, 1/5/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>Alumni Living & Deceased</p> <p>6 PM — URDU</p> <p><i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i></p>
	<p>MONDAY, 1/6/25 — 7 AM</p> <p>✠ Kathleen VanDeLoo</p>	<p>TUESDAY, 1/7/25 — 12 PM</p> <p>♥ Michael Anthony Sparks ✠ Mary Gambacorta ✠ Francis Crane</p>
	<p>WEDNESDAY, 1/8/25 — 8:15 AM (SCHOOL MASS)</p> <p>✠ Robert Sagar ✠ Delores De Thomasis</p>	<p>THURSDAY, 1/9/25 — 12 PM</p> <p>✠ Silue Kanigui ✠ Michael K McLoughlin ✠ Luigi & Elvira Cosentino</p>
	<p>FRIDAY, 1/10/25</p> <p>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>SATURDAY, 1/11/25 — 4 PM</p> <p>✠ Eleanor Rafferty ✠ Eleanor Weingarden ✠ Margaret Sullivan Hart</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 1/12/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>For the People Pro Populo</p> <p>6 PM — URDU</p> <p><i>The Baptism 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: 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.

A REFLECTION FROM OUR PASTOR

We often stand in awe of power: seeing armies lined up is a show of force, even if it's just a parade. The power of a rocket taking off, a space shuttle, even just an airplane. The power of nature makes us stand in awe: the power of Niagara Falls. The power of a hurricane or tornado. The force of an explosion, a firework, or a blazing bonfire. The power of a voice, singing that high note at the end of the National Anthem.

However, little things can have a lot of power as well; for instance, a little baby. We act differently around babies, we get quieter, we think about everything we do and how it can affect them. We get worried about the baby's needs and what we have to do for him or her. That baby has a lot of power over us to make us change our behavior. It's the power of vulnerability. That sounds like a contradiction, an oxymoron.

In Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*, the main character, Jean Valjean, adopts a young girl, Cosette, whose mother had died. The rest of Jean's decisions and growth throughout the book are built up around that one impulsive decision to adopt that girl. Little girls are not generally known to be the most powerful type of people. But Jean's whole life has a different trajectory because of that girl.

That is the power of vulnerability: it can make the "more-powerful" take action. It even causes people to embark on long journeys, give expensive gifts, and bend their knee, like the Magi in almost every nativity scene. ~Fr. Dan



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!



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 (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

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS (1/11-1/12)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
 RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 29
 SECOND READING: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38
 GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Did you know that the gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the three kings gave baby Jesus as a gift actually represent something? The gold symbolizes wealth and divine kingship; the frankincense represents spirituality, purification, and our prayers rising up to God; and the myrrh represents suffering and sacrifice, as this oil was typically used in anointing and burial rites.

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

***Happy New Year!** We hope that you and your family had a terrific holiday season and are enjoying a joyful, beautiful, and healthy start to 2025!

*Our next **family Faith Formation gathering** will be held on Sunday, January 12th. 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: "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*" (Matthew 5:7). Adults stay for Faith Formation, too, and we have formed an awesome adult faith-sharing small-group discussion!

*The sacrament of **First Reconciliation** will take place on Saturday, February 1st at 2:30 p.m. in the church. We will have cards with the Act of Contrition for each child to take with them into Reconciliation. If you have any questions, please let our office know!

*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.

The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner he wills it; and thirdly, to do it because it is his will.

-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

MISSIONARIESOFCHRIST.COM

EPIPHANY RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

*In Bishop Robert Barron's "Word on Fire" series, he offers a homily/reflection on Epiphany: www.wordonfire.org/videos/sermons/epiphany/.

*Here are some fun ideas for celebrating Epiphany with your children: www.catholicicing.com/celebrating-the-epiphany-with-catholic-kids/.

*Why is the feast of the Epiphany important? Catechist.com offers some great insight: www.catechist.com/merry-christmas-again/.

*History of Epiphany: <https://tinyurl.com/mryvy2cz>.



Alexandra Faith Morazan,

Principal

Andrea Roberts,

Office Administrator

Kristine Ruddy,

Advancement Director

Phone: (518) 438-5854

info@blessedsacramentschool.net

www.blessedsacramentschool.net

***Happy New Year** from all of us at Blessed Sacrament School! Regular classes resumed on Thursday, January 2nd. Here's to a bright and beautiful 2025 filled with lots of educational and faith growth!



*In years past, **Blessed Sacrament's School Board** has played a vital role in planning and fundraising for our school. The board meets 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!

Epiphany

Z L I Y Z N R T W W Y M Z C I R Q
 Q S V V B E T H L E H E M A T D M
 V T V Z F G M A G I C F A M P N J
 N A G I F T S F B H T H R E E F T
 H R Y G A S P A R N D C X L J T N
 H J E P I P H A N Y R N S S V K B
 O F R B A L T H A S A R Y G K I J
 M E T W E L F T H L I G H T I N C
 A A M A N G E R Q E H N A N K G L
 G S T G M U R U G H B H M I I K W
 E T O F F E R I N G U Y J G N Y W
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 E O X R A M Y R R H V I S T H M S
 F R A N K I N C E N S E U S E M E
 K N K O D C H I L D D I S F R A M
 Z Z E J Z O M E L C H I O R O R E
 K I T R E A S U R E B Q Z O D Y N

Frankincense	Balthasar	Bethlehem	KingHerod	Epiphany
Melchior	Offering	Treasure	Twelfth	Wisemen
Camels	Gaspar	Homage	Manger	Child
Feast	Gifts	Jesus	Light	Myrrh
Night	Three	Gold	King	Magi
Mary	Star			