

PARISH MINISTRY UPDATES

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

*Just a reminder: the **Rosary Guild's Baby Shower** will be Sunday, April 6th. Please keep making blankets and sweater sets! Thank you!

*It's almost time for the announcement of our **School Bucks** winner! Join us to support BSS on Saturday, February 15th from 9-10 a.m. at Colonie Center Mall's center court!

*February's **Holy Name Society (HNS)** raffle winners are as follows: \$200 — 1st = Doug Mero; \$50 — 2nd = Mary Strycharz; \$25 — 3rd = Ron Guiry; \$25 — 4th = Earl Knowles; and \$25 — 5th = Linda Loparco. The \$1 raffle tickets are available at the rectory, from HNS officers, at weekend Masses, and by mail. Any *unused* raffle tickets may be returned to the rectory. Next drawing/meeting: Ash Wednesday, March 5th, at 7 p.m. All parish men are invited to attend. Thank you for supporting this raffle program!

FOOD PANTRY

*Our food pantry currently needs the following items: toilet paper, juice (64 oz.), tuna fish, jelly, beef stew, and rice (1lb). Personal & feminine hygiene and cleaning products are *always* needed. Looking to have a list of volunteers on an 'as needed' basis to cover for sickness and planned time away. If you can help, please contact our parish office!

THE BOUTIQUE

*Shopping hours are 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays, with donations accepted on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon. We cannot accept books, some electronics, fabric scraps, or clothing in need of repair or dirty. Unwanted items are an expense to the church to dispose of. **We need men's winter coats!**

COLONIE CENTER SCHOOL BUCKS PROGRAM

Just a reminder of how you can support our school with purchases made at Colonie Center Mall!

2 points per \$1 spent; a minimum of 8,000 shopping points is required to qualify to win. The School Bucks program is based on actual dollars spent by personal visits of family members, friends, and supporters of each participating school. This program is not a receipt drive. Bills made from non-in-store purchases will not be accepted (cell phone bills, cable bills, credit card bills, etc). Store employees may not be used to collect receipts for participating schools. All receipts must be redeemed within 60 days of purchase date.

Receipts will be collected from January 1, 2025 until January 15, 2026. Receipts dated prior to 1/1/25 will not be accepted. Receipts for returned merchandise will also not be accepted. Schools that are in violation of program rules may be subject to removal from the School Bucks program.

February 2025 Opportunities:

3X: Carters, Famous Footwear, Hallmark, Go Playland

4X: Regal, Five Below, H&M, L.L. Bean

1,000 bonus points for every Five Below receipt turned in!

DIOCESAN NEWS

*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 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.allsaintssc.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.

Our food pantry proudly served 255 households last month! That included 197 children, 430 adults, and 66 seniors! Thank you so much to everyone who so generously helps us fulfill the needs in our community!

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

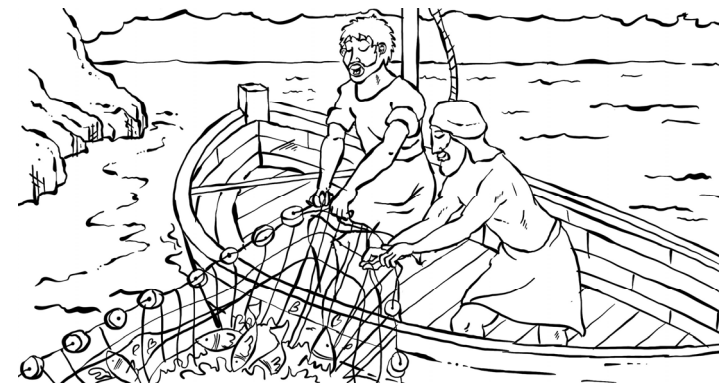
OFFERTORY REPORT

Regular: \$5,010; **Fuel:** \$166; **The Evangelist:** \$100

Our second collection next weekend will be taken for School Support.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

607 CENTRAL AVE., ALBANY, NY 12206



9 FEBRUARY 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<p>BAPTISMS</p> <p>FUNERALS</p> <p>WEDDINGS</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 2/8/25 — 4 PM</p> <p>✠ Rose Guiry ✠ Sr. Mary Coons ✠ Sam Grimaldi ✠ Luigi & Elvira Cosentino ✠ Ellen Araujo</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 2/9/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>✠ Roger Knuth ✠ Marie Scahill ✠ Bernadine Fioravanti ♥ Bill C</p> <p>6 PM — URDU <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p>
	<p>MONDAY, 2/10/25 — 7 AM</p> <p>♥ Amelia & Theo Ridenaur ✠ David Sweetapple ✠ Ray Renzoni</p> <p><i>Memorial, St. Scholastica</i></p>	<p>TUESDAY, 2/11/25 — 12 PM <i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>✠ John & Mary Lynch ✠ Katie Lynch Farrell ✠ Casey Ryan Lynch ✠ Donald Partyka</p>
	<p>WEDNESDAY, 2/12/25 — 8:15 AM</p> <p>✠ William Houlton, Jr. ♥ Bill C</p>	<p>THURSDAY, 2/13/25 — 12 PM <i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>✠ Robert Mittler ✠ John Mooney ✠ Helen & Stephen Zakens</p>
	<p>FRIDAY, 2/14/25 —</p> <p>NO MASS</p> <p><i>Memorial, Sts. Cyril and Methodius; St. Valentine's Day</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>SATURDAY, 2/15/25 — 4 PM</p> <p>♥ Michael Anthony Sparks ✠ Edward O'Brien ✠ Michael Agneta ✠ Bill & Jean Pfeiffer ✠ Sylvie Berrete</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 2/16/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>✠ Francesco & Mafalda Benincasa ✠ Elise Benincasa ✠ Carmine Benincasa ✠ Mary Nardiello ✠ Raymond Saint Cyr ✠ Pierre Ernest Fequire 6 PM — URDU <i>Sixth 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

607 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206
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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.

FROM OUR PAROCHIAL VICAR

Ralph Waldo Emerson once quipped that “Every wall is a door.” While his remark may appear to be puzzling, upon further reflection it speaks of the fundamental truth that behind every apparent failure, a new opportunity waits to be seized.

Take, for example, our Gospel reading for the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Peter, Andrew, James, and John have just completed an abysmal night of fishing. Despite their serious efforts, they caught nothing. And so, rather than unloading fish to be taken to market in a triumphant procession, they are cleaning the mud, slime, and seaweed from their empty nets. But “every wall is a door,” for their failed venture has now given them the opportunity to encounter Jesus in a profound way.

Two requests are aimed at Simon: “Put out a little from the land” and “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” The first request is designed to capture the hearts of the people listening to Jesus’s teachings. The second is intended to capture the hearts of Simon and his fellow fishermen.

Rachel’s Vineyard is a retreat of healing and reconciliation for women and men whose lives have been touched by abortion. The retreat will be held May 30th-June 1st at the Dominican Retreat & Conference Center, Niskayuna. The weekend will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God’s love, forgiveness, and compassion. The cost is \$195, which includes a private room, meals, and retreat materials. Financial assistance is available for those unable to pay the entire cost. For more information or to register, contact Pat Mousaw, (518) 222-1160 or Katie Bolibaugh, (518) 495-3574 or e-mail: rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com.

Each accomplishes its mission. Each required Simon to seize the opportunity; to give his “yes.” Yet, how easy it would have been for Simon to say one simple, two-letter word: “No!” “I’m exhausted. I’m dejected. I’m done. No Jesus. I will not put out a little from the land. I will not cast my net another time this day. Come back tomorrow.” How easy it would have been, therefore, for Peter to miss this opportunity — and with it, his vocation, his call.

As writer F. Scott Fitzgerald remarks, “Our lives are defined by opportunities. Even the ones we miss.” Praised be to God, then, that His grace was at work in that moment so that Simon Peter could see the door in the wall and step through it. Thus, in the midst of the apparent failures, obstacles, and walls of your life, look for the door. Look for the opportunity that Jesus is offering you. And no matter how tired and dejected you may feel, say yes when you hear His invitation; walk through the door when it presents itself.

What if you miss it? Ask for the forgiveness of Christ, and cast your gaze beyond the closed door to the next one that Christ wishes to open for you. Jesus is knocking. Let’s seize the opportunity and answer! ~Fr. Yusko

THIS 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

NEXT WEEKEND’S READINGS (2/15-2/16)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-8
RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 1

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH STAFF

Rev. Daniel Quinn, Pastor

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Rev. Stephen Yusko, Parochial Vicar

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FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

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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

*Our sacrament of **First Reconciliation** that was originally scheduled for Saturday, February 1st unfortunately had to be rescheduled due to snowy and icy weather. Please be on the lookout for an update when we have a new date established! We will be in contact with families!

*Our next **Faith Formation gathering** is supposed to take place this Sunday, February 9th; however, we are expected to receive more snowy and icy weather! Please watch your e-mail and social media for any potential cancellations.

*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.*

Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany
Office for Discipleship Formation
CALL, FORM, SEND

'Hope Does Not Disappoint'
Winter Retreat Day
[for any parish ministry staff, vol's, etc.]
Thursday, February 27th
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
[9-9:30 check-in & refreshments]
at St. Matthew's Parish
25 Mountain View St., Voorheesville NY
with Deacon Gary Riggi

Gary Riggi is the Director and Spiritual Leader of City Mission of Schenectady's Wellness Center, and has been faithfully serving at City Mission since 2006.

Under Gary's leadership and guidance, City Mission provides critical emotional and spiritual support every day to those it serves. Gary is a Catholic Deacon, and works with Mission's staff to ensure a robust spiritual focus for its efforts, which includes regular retreats, the involvement of parishes, and community advocates working alongside the poor, helping to put flesh on the words of the Gospel.

Among Gary's spiritual counseling experiences, he has served as Director of the Justice Foundation, he runs the Justice Retreat House in Albany and conducts retreats. Gary is a Diocesan Formator, Spiritual Director, Deacon of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, and participant in their Hope and Healing Ministry.

For his dedication to helping the poor, under-represented, and vulnerable in every community where he serves, Gary has been the recipient of the Office of the Aging Award for Schenectady County, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany's Evangelization Award, and a Schenectady Hero Award. Gary and his wife, Sharon, live in Albany and are the proud parents of three sons and grandparents to two grandchildren.

Register at the link below or via form/email - by Feb 20th (for lunch!)*
<https://webpages.rcda.org/ParishFaithFormation/>

Cost \$20/person
Includes Lunch & refreshments

email Erin Muir - erin.muir@rcda.org
or call 518-453-6670
if any special dietary needs for lunch

send form & payment to [OR bring day of]
Office for Discipleship Formation; Winter Retreat
40 N. Main Ave., Albany NY 12203

Name (s) _____
Parish(es)/Network _____
contact email _____ ph# _____
amt submitted \$ _____

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



Alexandra Faith Morazán,

Principal

Andrea Roberts,

Office Administrator

Kristine Ruddy,

Advancement Director

Phone: (518) 438-5854

info@blesseedsacramentschool.net

www.blesseedsacramentschool.net



*Spring after-school clubs began this past week! From “Play Dough Club” and “Amazing Athletes” to “Financial Literacy,” “Yearbook Club,” and “Dance Club,” students are enjoying lots of fun and educational activities as part of their school day! Pictured above is a student in French Club learning more about French culture and the French flag. Thank you to all the teachers who are providing these amazing opportunities for our young people!

*Barring any additional snow days, we will celebrate our **100th day of school** on Monday, February 24th!

*BSS is celebrating February’s **Black History Month** in a variety of fun ways. For example, every day at the morning assembly, students are presenting some important facts about Black History Month and people of honor!

*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 \$19,000. Make sure to click on Michelle Rosario’s page: fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/2025BOH/team/Rosario. On Tuesday’s “Dress Like Ms. Michelle Day,” BSS students and staff raised \$204 for the Beacon of Hope!

*BSS’s **school store** is now open! Visit online for awesome new merchandise featuring our school’s logo: <https://griffinspirit.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.

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.*