

NEWS FROM OUR PARISH MINISTRIES

*Our parish currently needs drivers for our **Transportation Ministry**. We have six people who need rides; one is even just across the street but the walk is a bit too far. If you can help, please contact our parish office!

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

*The **Rosary Guild's Annual Baby Shower** and luncheon will be on Sunday, March 30th at noon in the school hall. The Albany Christ Child Society has made more than 700 layettes for mothers in need this past year! Items needed are: 0-9 months: sleepers, onesies, towels, diapers, blankets, and sweater sets. Items can be brought to Masses on Saturday, March 29th, Sunday, March 30th, or left at the rectory weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All women of the parish are welcome to our shower!


*The **Holy Name Society (HNS)** March raffle winners are: \$200 1st and 2nd \$50 prizes = Stephan Drobroucky. \$25 prizes for 3rd-5th are B. Munoz, L. Loparco, and Helen Borgo. April 2nd is the next drawing and meeting at 7 p.m.; all parish men are invited. The church rectory and HNS officers have the \$1 raffle tickets.

FOOD PANTRY

***Our food pantry currently needs** spaghetti sauce, mac'n cheese and personal hygiene items. **Food pantry volunteers are also needed** from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Thursdays.

THE BOUTIQUE

*Shopping hours are 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays, with donations accepted Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon. We cannot accept books, some electronics, fabric scraps, or clothing in need of repair or dirty. **We are no longer accepting winter**



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



COLONIE CENTER SCHOOL BUCKS PROGRAM
MARCH
Turn in your shopping receipts to our parish or school offices! Thank you for your continued support!

March 2025 Opportunities:
3x: Bath & Body Works, Box Lunch, Regal, Kay's
4x: Victoria's Secret, Famous Footwear, Sephora, Torrid
1,000 bonus points for every Sephora receipt turned in!
Visit the School Bucks website:
<https://shopatcoloniecenter.com/School-Bucks/>

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

*All Saints Catholic Church, Albany, is preparing a niche altar to **St. Thorlak**, the unofficial patron saint of people with autism, on display starting the weekend of March 22nd and 23rd. It will be left up through April 6th, when those who identify as autistic or neurodivergent will be gathering after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass at All Saints for our prayer of consecration in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

*St. Michael the Archangel Church in South Glens Falls will host **"The Way of the Cross"** performed by The Mystery Players from Immaculate Heart Central School, Watertown. These "living Stations" are presented in a reverent, creative way. This free performance will take place on Friday, March 21st at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call (518) 792-5859. *Note: Due to the somber nature and theatre effects, this experience is not recommended for very small/younger children so as to not frighten them.*

*A Lenten retreat for **Catholic medical professionals** will take place on Saturday, March 29th from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, 23 Crumitie Rd., Loudonville. To register, visit <https://forms.gle/MGV9aREx9SaQWR3MA>.

*We are in a spiritual battle! How do we recognize the enemy? How do we win? Come learn more at a social event for young adults (ages 18-39) and older generation (ages 65+) to discuss the topic of **"Battling Spiritual Warfare"** on Wednesday, March 26th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church's parish hall, 2001 Route 9, Round Lake. The presenter will be Bishop Scharfenberger; hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and refreshments will be served. There is no cost, but a free-will offering will be available. The goal of this event is to bridge the gap between older and younger generations via discussions about faith and how we can help each other and the Church as a whole.


*The **Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC)** Albany will present liturgical composer and songwriter **Dan Schutte** for a Lenten Evening of Song and a Lenten Retreat at Christ the King Church, 20 Sumter Ave., Albany, on March 28th at 7 p.m. and March 29th at 9:30 a.m. For information, visit online: ivcusa.org/Schutte.

OFFERTORY: SHARING OUR TREASURE
Regular: \$5,341; Black & Indian Missions: \$1,283
This week's second collection is for School Support
3/30 second collection - Catholic Relief Services
We need at least \$9,000 each week in our collections to break even — not counting unexpected maintenance costs. Thank you so much for your prayerful giving as an act of worship!

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

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH
607 CENTRAL AVE., ALBANY, NY 12206



16 MARCH 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

<p>BAPTISMS</p> <p>FUNERALS</p> <p>J Edmond Guay Richard 'Dickie' Stevens</p> <p>WEDDINGS</p> <p>Colleen Spath & Joseph Hollner</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 3/15/25 — 4 PM</p> <p>✠ Betty Canepi ✠ Ruth Ann Testa ✠ Frank Testa ✠ Gary Matthews ♥ Bill C</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 3/16/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>For the People Pro Populo</p> <p>6 PM — URDU</p> <p><i>Second Sunday of Lent</i></p>
	<p>MONDAY, 3/17/25 — 7 AM</p> <p>♥ Michael Anthony Sparks ♥ Bill C ✠ Catherine Faraone</p> <p><i>Feast of St. Patrick</i></p>	<p>TUESDAY, 3/18/25 — 12 PM</p> <p><i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>✠ Michael K McLoughlin ✠ John J Waldron ✠ Bobbi & Dale Jeffers</p>
	<p>WEDNESDAY, 3/19/25 — 8:15 AM</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>THURSDAY, 3/20/25 — 12 PM</p> <p><i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>✠ Paul Schell ✠ George Endrich ✠ James B Ryan</p> <p><i>Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p>
	<p>FRIDAY, 3/21/25 — 12 PM</p> <p>Parish Website: blessedsacramentalbany.org 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</p> <p>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</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>THURSDAY, 3/20/25 — 12 PM</p> <p><i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>✠ Paul Schell ✠ George Endrich ✠ James B Ryan</p> <p><i>Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p>
	<p>SATURDAY, 3/22/25 — 4 PM</p> <p>✠ Jack & Brian Cromie ✠ RoseAnn DeSorbo ✠ Frank DeSorbo ✠ Judith Early ♥ Kaitlyn Wilson Thompson ♥ Bill C</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 3/23/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>✠ Nick Maniscalco ✠ James J Murphy ✠ Paul Fitzgerald ✠ Veronica Fredrick</p> <p>6 PM — URDU</p> <p><i>Third Sunday of Lent</i></p>

FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus's retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus's Transfiguration. The report of Jesus's Transfiguration is found in each of the synoptic Gospels — Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's account of the Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus's prediction of his Passion. This encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The three disciples see Jesus transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus's continuity with the law and the prophets. On witnessing Jesus's Transfiguration, his disciples are stricken in awe. Then, having awoken, they hear a voice from heaven — the same voice that was heard at Jesus's baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

In Jesus's Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of his Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus's Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus's Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus's Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus's Passion and death. ~Deacon Gerry



**SHRINE CHURCH OF
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Rev. Francis O'Connor, Chaplain
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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.**

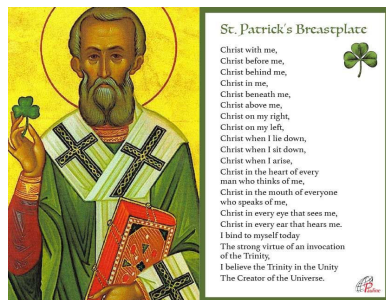
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WORKS OF MERCY

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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

Important Upcoming Dates:

*Sunday, March 16th — **Family Faith Formation** gathering (attending the 9 a.m. Mass together, then moving to the school gym for breakfast and the remainder of our session until 11:45 a.m.; this gathering will include Circle of Grace safe environment training for registered youth)

*Saturday, March 22nd — The sacrament of **First Reconciliation** at 2:30 p.m. in the church (parents and children, please arrive early if possible!).

*Sunday, March 23rd — **Mrs. Rose Reed's individual class** (First Communicants), 10 to 11:15 a.m.

*Sunday, April 6th — **First Communion Retreat** after the 9 a.m. Mass (meeting first in the church and then heading over to the school gym) until noon

*Sunday, April 13th — **Last Family Faith Formation gathering of the year** (attending the 9 a.m. Mass together, then moving to the school gym for breakfast and the remainder of our session until 11:45 a.m.)

*Sunday, April 27th — **Mrs. Rose Reed's last individual class** (First Communicants), 10 to 11:15 a.m.

*Tuesday, April 29th — **First Communion Rehearsal**, 6 to 7 p.m. in the church

*Sunday, May 4th — **First Communion** (at the 9 a.m. Mass)

For one reason or another, many people have stopped actively participating in the Church and attending Mass. Because the Church is a family, we miss those Catholics who may have left the Church or who have stopped participating in its sacramental life. Perhaps you or someone you know are in this situation and don't know how to come back or how to become active again. Catholics Come Home is a nonprofit, independent charity whose purpose is to invite inactive Catholics and others searching for a faith home to the Catholic faith. Their website helps answer questions about Church teachings and gives an overview of the Catholic faith: CatholicsComeHome.org.

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: rachelvineyardalbany@yahoo.com. For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations, contact 1-877-HOPE-4 ME or visit the Rachel's Vineyard website: www.rachelvineyard.org.



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Alexandra Faith Morazán,
Principal

Andrea Roberts,
Office Administrator

Kristine Ruddy,
Advancement Director
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info@blessedsacramentschool.net
www.blessedsacramentschool.net

*Pictured at left: this week, Grade 7 science students reviewed the concepts of mass, density, and volume.

*Save the date! BSS will have the honor of hosting the **Albany Catholic Schools Reunion** on Friday, May 30th from 5-9 p.m. There will be a cocktail party and hors d'oeuvres; tickets are \$25 purchased online or at the door. Visit online at <https://tinyurl.com/562zauey> to purchase tickets.

*Hungry for some chicken Parmesan? Save the date ... our school's **chicken Parmesan dinner** will take place on Saturday, May 3rd! You'll receive a delicious plate of chicken Parmesan, soup, penne pasta, bread, and a bottle of water. Tickets (\$15) will be available soon, and all proceeds will directly benefit our school! For more information, please contact Kris Ruddy at kruddy@blessedsacramentschool.net.

*For all BSS students and Faith Formation young people who will receive the sacrament of First Communion on Sunday, May 4th, we will be hosting a **First Communion Retreat** on Sunday, April 6th after the 9 a.m. Mass. Please save the date! *This retreat is designed for at least one parent/guardian to participate in along with their child.* We'll enjoy a variety of activity stations to help deepen our understanding of the sacrament and also create our First Communion banners! For more information, please call (518) 438-5854, ext. 119, or send an e-mail to: faithformationbsc@gmail.com.

THIS WEEKEND'S MASS READINGS (3/15-3/16)

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 27
SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17 to 4:1
GOSPEL: Luke 9:28b-36

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS READINGS (3/15-3/16)

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:3-7
RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 95
SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
GOSPEL: John 4:5-42