

**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 Baby Shower** will be at noon on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, please note that their next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. in the church basement. They'll be collecting pasta, sauce, and tuna for the food pantry. All women of the parish are welcome!

\*The **Holy Name Society (HNS)** March raffle winners are: \$200 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50 prizes = Stephan Drobroucky. \$25 prizes for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> are B. Munoz, L. Loparco, and Helen Borgo. April 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 proudly served 204 households in February! There were 183 children, 363 adults, and 62 seniors. **Our food pantry currently needs the following items:** canned corn and personal hygiene items. **Food pantry volunteers are also needed** from 9 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Thursdays. 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 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**

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 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be left up through April 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and March 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. For information, visit online: [ivcusa.org/Schutte](http://ivcusa.org/Schutte).

**OFFERTORY: SHARING OUR TREASURE**

Regular: \$7,065

*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!*

*This weekend, our second collection will go toward **Black & Indian Missions**. For more information, visit online: [blackandindianmission.org](http://blackandindianmission.org).*

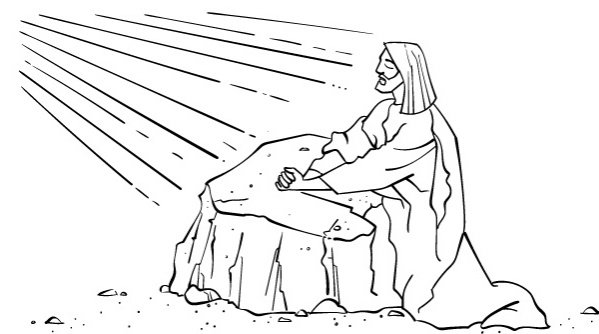
*The printing of our parish bulletin is generously provided by:*



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**BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH**

607 CENTRAL AVE., ALBANY, NY 12206



**9 MARCH 2025**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

<p><b>BAPTISMS</b></p> <p><b>FUNERALS</b></p> <p><b>WEDDINGS</b></p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, 3/8/25 — 4 PM</b></p> <p>✠ Krisann Crouchley ✠ Helen &amp; Harm Swits ✠ Evan Kvinlaug</p> <p>♥ Michael Anthony Sparks</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, 3/9/25 — 9 AM</b></p> <p>✠ Mary Ellen Kalled ✠ Antonio Pebreira ✠ Cesario Rodriguez ✠ Judite Sabado Gomez ✠ Mary Schmitz</p> <p><b>6 PM — URDU</b> <i>First Sunday of Lent</i></p>
	<p><b>MONDAY, 3/10/25 — 7 AM</b></p> <p>♥ Kaitlyn Wilson Thompson</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY, 3/11/25 — 12 PM</b> <i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>✠ John &amp; Mary Lynch ✠ Casey Ryan Lynch ✠ Donald Partyka ✠ Katie Lynch Farrell ✠ Agostinho Ribeiro ✠ Victor Alicea</p>
	<p><b>WEDNESDAY, 3/12/25 — 8:15 AM</b></p> <p>♥ Michael Anthony Sparks</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY, 3/13/25 — 12 PM</b> <i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>✠ Robert Mittler ✠ Elizabeth Luecy ✠ Bianca Audino</p>
	<p><b>FRIDAY, 3/14/25 — 12 PM</b></p> <p>♥ Kaitlyn Wilson Thompson ♥ Pilar Mercader ♥ Lynne Michelle Santiago</p> <p><i>Stations of the Cross: 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 6 p.m.</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><b>SATURDAY, 3/15/25 — 4 PM</b></p> <p>♥ Bill C ✠ Betty Canepi ✠ Ruth Ann Testa ✠ Frank Testa ✠ Gary Matthews</p> <p><i>Albany St. Patrick's Day Parade</i></p>	<p><b>SUNDAY, 3/16/25 — 9 AM</b></p> <p>For the People Pro Populo</p> <p><b>6 PM — URDU</b> <i>Second Sunday of Lent</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  
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**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**For submitting bulletin items:**  
[bulletin.blessedsacrament@gmail.com](mailto:bulletin.blessedsacrament@gmail.com)

**STAY CONNECTED**  
**Parish Website:** [blessedsacramentalbany.org](http://blessedsacramentalbany.org)  
**"Like" us on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/blessedsacramentcatholicchurch](http://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.*

The Beauty and Blessings of Lent  
by Lisanne Jensen

“And even though I don’t know what your plan is,  
I know you make beauty from these ashes ...”  
~“Broken Hallelujah” by The Afters

Lent is my absolute favorite time of year. I know that might sound crazy to some, considering that this liturgical season is so solemn and serious with a focus on sin and repentance. After all, on Ash Wednesday we hear the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” — providing us with a stark reminder of our own mortality. How could that possibly be joyful? But still, the night before Ash Wednesday, I feel like a kid at Christmas. I get so excited about embarking on this 40 days of preparation for Easter — and each Lent enriches my faith in such different and meaningful ways.

\*Ash Wednesday. This year, for the first time, I had the amazing honor and blessing of distributing ashes. I didn’t realize the huge impact it would have on me. At our 9 a.m. school service, the BSS preschoolers came to church for the first time — and they happened to be on my side for receiving ashes. I got to place ashes on their cute little foreheads! They did great ... some were a bit apprehensive while others boldly came forward and proclaimed a loud “Amen!” afterward! After the service was over, I was totally struck by how I got to make ash crosses on the foreheads of three- and four-year-olds, on older people, on babies, on moms and dads, on personal friends, and all ages in between. It shows how we are truly all connected as one community of faith — as the Body of Christ — and we are all in this together. Really, I feel like we are all just “walking each other home.”

\*Giving up something (or adding to). Normally, I do give up something for Lent — but this year, I’ve decided to actually add a practice instead. On each day of Lent, I’m writing a note of encouragement and positivity to someone and will give these notes to various individuals (especially those who might really need it right now). I want to shine Jesus’s light into the world even more by spreading love, kindness, and support. (Hey, one Lent I tried giving up coffee ... let’s just say that didn’t go well!)



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](http://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.

\*The feast days of St. Patrick and St. Joseph. If you ever get a chance to read St. Patrick’s writings, definitely do! They are incredibly beautiful and inspiring. Also, I am a huge fan of St. Joseph. He is such an amazing example for us of quiet leadership, family life, humility, devotion to God, hard work, and steadfast love.

\*Little Black Books. If you get a chance to get your hands on a Little Black Book, definitely take advantage of it! These mini devotionals for Lent offer incredible insight into scripture and Catholicism. They are published by the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan, and this year’s publication reflects on Jesus’s life based on the Passion narrative in the Gospel of St. John. The left side of each page in these books offers different forms of prayer, inspiring thoughts, quotes, etc. that are centered around the theme of “hope.” The right-hand pages contain scripture and questions for reflection. These books really have a way of causing us to think about life and our faith in new and different ways!

\*The great Easter Vigil. It’s probably because I went through the RCIA and received the sacraments of baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil ... but the night before Easter is probably one of my most favorite nights! Yes, the Mass is much longer ... but everything about it is unforgettable: the Easter fire being lit ... entering the dark church with only candlelight ... hearing a variety of readings that proclaim our salvation history ... all the lights coming on and singing the Gloria together ... joining the celebration of those who are being baptized and receiving the sacraments ... it’s a night unlike any other.

What do you love about Lent? How does it bring you joy?

**BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH STAFF**

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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**



\*BSC Confirmation catechists Holly and Chris McKenna, along with Lisanne Jensen, attended the 2025 diocesan Faith Formation/ministry retreat “**Hope Does Not Disappoint**” on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Matthew’s Church in Voorheesville. The retreat was led by Deacon Gary Riggi, who serves as the director and spiritual leader of the Schenectady City Mission’s Wellness Center.

\*Our next **family Faith Formation** gathering is Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>! We will attend the 9 a.m. Mass, then move to the school gym for breakfast and the remainder of our sessions. We will discuss the next Beatitude: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). Adults (parents) stay for our gatherings and have their own faith-sharing group! (Please note that Ms. Jensen will conduct Circle of Grace safe environment training for children during this Faith Formation session. If you wish to opt out your child or have questions about the material, please contact our office.)

\***First Reconciliation** has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the church! Parents and children, please arrive a little early if possible. Please keep our young people in your prayers as they experience God’s unending love, forgiveness, and mercy!



**THIS WEEKEND’S MASS READINGS (3/8-3/9)**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:4-10  
RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 91  
SECOND READING: Romans 10:8-13  
GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

**NEXT 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



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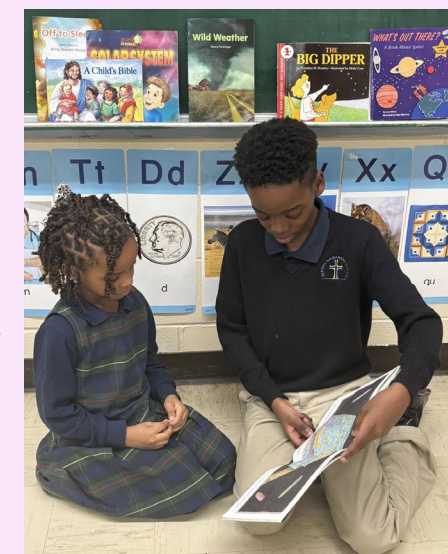
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\*BSS is celebrating **Read Across America** in a big way! Pictured at right is Grade 6 pairing with Grade 1 as “reading buddies.” What are you reading lately?



\*Save the date! BSS will have the honor of hosting the **Albany Catholic Schools Reunion** on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> 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 <https://tinyurl.com/bdc8rvvn> to purchase tickets and for more details!

\*Hungry for some chicken Parmesan? Save the date ... our school’s **chicken Parmesan dinner** will take place on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>! 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](mailto:kruddy@blessedsacramentschool.net).

\*For all BSS students and Faith Formation young people who will receive the sacrament of First Communion on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a **First Communion Retreat** on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:faithformationbsc@gmail.com).

**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.

[www.blessedsacramentschool.net](http://www.blessedsacramentschool.net)  
(518) 438-5854  
605 Central Ave Albany, NY 12206

**ENROLL TODAY**