

PARISH MINISTRY NEWS

*Attention crafters! Our annual **Family Festival** will be held on September 27th. Once again, we will have a table of handmade crafts. Last year, we had many beautiful items made by our talented parishioners. Also, if you know someone else who would donate their creations, please spread the word!

*The **Holy Name Society's** next meeting and drawing will be held on Wednesday, June 4th at 7 p.m. in the church. All parish men are invited. Note: \$1 raffle tickets are available in the rectory or from any HNS officer. Also, *unused* mailed tickets may be returned to the rectory.

FOOD PANTRY

Please note that we have adjusted our procedures so that the line to get into the pantry is now set up inside.

*Our food pantry will receive a \$1 donation for every \$2.50 reusable **Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag** that is sold during the entire month of May at the Hannaford store located at 96 Wolf Rd. (Windsor Plaza), Colonie!

***We need volunteers!** Sr. Patricia unfortunately has lost several long-time volunteers. Volunteers will be asked to set up and take down tables before and after pantry hours. Some volunteers are needed to help keep the flow of guests moving smoothly between check-in and pick-up stations. Volunteer your time anywhere from one day a month to every day the pantry is open! Each pantry day sees about 40 guests. Contact our parish office if you can help!

*We **always** in need the following items: feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, disposable, and laundry detergent (liquid or pods). We also currently need: jelly, instant potatoes, and chili.

*The food pantry is open **Mondays and Thursdays**, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

THE BOUTIQUE

*The Boutique thrift store's **shopping hours** are 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays with donations accepted Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon. Please note that we **cannot** accept winter clothing until the fall due to space constraints.

*Visit our webpage for complete details about The Boutique and guidelines for items that are accepted and not accepted: <https://blessedsacramentalbany.org/boutique/>.

Charismatic Renewal Invites you to join us for:

PENTECOST Celebration
 Sunday, June 8th 2025
 Rev. Martin Fisher, Presiding
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
 125 Eagle St, Albany
 4:30 – Prayer and Praise
 (Music by "Joyful Heart")
 5:00pm – Mass
 (Healing Prayer to follow)

Contact us at:
 AlbanyCCR@gmail.com or visit us at www.AlbanyCCR.org
 Parking Available:
 Behind Cathedral, enter from Madison Avenue






HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

***Spa City Catholic**, a regional young-adult group, in collaboration with the Albany Diocese, is planning to launch the Alpha Program this summer. Alpha is a great tool to be used as an entrance ramp into the Christian faith and an opportunity to reconnect with those who have fallen away to reignite their faith. Alpha is an 11-week course that creates a space where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life, and God. Alpha is about making connections around great content and conversation. Details: Saturday mornings, 10-11:30 a.m., June 21st through August 30th. Where: St. Peter's Parish Center, 62 Hamilton St., Saratoga Springs (behind St. Peter's Church). Alpha can be for all ages, but our group is geared toward young adults ages 19-39. For more information about Alpha, visit <https://alphausa.org/catholic-context/>; for questions or more information about Spa City Catholic, e-mail SpaCityCatholic@gmail.com.

*RCDA Pastoral Care Ministry invites all **pastoral care ministers** to attend a special retreat presented by Fr. Anthony Barratt, director of the diocesan Prayer and Worship Office. The theme will be: "Pastoral Care: Being Ministers of Hope in the Jubilee Year." Fr. Barratt is the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Columbia County. The program will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (check-in and breakfast start at 9 a.m.). The location is St. Edward the Confessor, 569 Clifton Park Center Rd., Clifton Park. Admission is \$25, which includes light breakfast fare and a complimentary lunch. Register online by June 4th at <https://webapps.rcda.org/ParishFaithFormation/> (look in the drop-down menu for "Pastoral Care Ministry Day"). Or, you may call in your registration at (518) 453-6660. Please e-mail Mary Fay at mary.fay@rcda.org if you have any questions.

*St. Anne Institute, 160 N. Main Ave., Albany, will host a **plant sale** on Thursday, May 22nd from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (or until all the plants have been taken). Plants cost \$2 each (a four-pack or single). There will be more than 100 options for vegetables, flowers, and herbs to choose from!



OFFERTORY: SHARING OUR TREASURE
 Regular: \$5,487; Catholic Charities: \$1,568

We need at least \$9,000 each week in our collections to break even — not counting unexpected maintenance costs. To donate online, visit secure.myvanco.com/YHAN/home or scan the QR code at right. Thank you for your prayerful support!



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



Love one another, as I have loved you.

- JOHN: 13: 34



MAY 18, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

<p>BAPTISMS</p> <p>FUNERALS</p> <p>WEDDINGS</p>	<p>SATURDAY, 5/17/25 — 4 PM</p> <p>♥ Kaitlyn Wilson Thompson † Jo Keegan † John Tervay † Nacilia Alterat † Faverhome Marseille</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 5/18/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>Pro Populo For the People</p> <p>6 PM — URDU</p> <p><i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></p>
	<p>MONDAY, 5/19/25 — 7 AM</p> <p>♥ Bill C</p>	<p>TUESDAY, 5/20/25 — 12 PM <i>Confession and Adoration: 12:30-1:30 p.m.</i></p> <p>♥ Michael Anthony Sparks † Charlie Calderone † Patricia M Stack</p>
	<p>WEDNESDAY, 5/21/25 — 8:15 AM</p>	<p>THURSDAY, 5/22/25 — 12 PM</p> <p>† Joseph & Francis Bologna † Gina Bucolo ♥ Down Jerome</p>
	<p>FRIDAY, 5/23/25</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, 5/24/25 — 4 PM</p> <p>† Corrine LaRose † Ruth M Zell † Ann Downes</p>	<p>SUNDAY, 5/25/25 — 9 AM</p> <p>♥ Michael Anthony Sparks ♥ Fr. Frank O'Connor (63rd Ann Ord) † Czeslaw Kaszsluga † Daniel Lamphere Sr.</p> <p>6 PM — URDU</p> <p><i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</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.

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT MEAN TO YOU?

by Lisanne Jensen

If someone asked you, “What is the Holy Spirit?”, how would you respond? Identifying “God the Father” and “God the Son” (Jesus) might seem a bit easier than describing who the Holy Spirit is. We may think about symbols associated with the Spirit, such as a dove, a flame, or wind. The Holy Spirit also has several titles: “Helper,” “Paraclete” (which means *comforter*), “Advocate,” “Spirit of Truth,” and “Spirit of God,” to name a few.

This weekend’s Gospel (from St. John) provides anticipation for Pentecost, when we celebrate the Holy Spirit descending on Jesus’s apostles (often called the “birthday” of the Church). The word *Pentecost* originates from the Greek word meaning “50th,” which is fitting because Pentecost always takes place 50 days after Easter (this year, it’s Sunday, June 8th). Pentecost marks the ongoing role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and empowering us along our faith journeys.

Francis Chan, an American author, teacher, and Protestant minister, wrote a book called *Forgotten God* to explore “Why do we need the Holy Spirit?”, “What is our awareness of the Holy Spirit?”, and “How has God called us to more through the Spirit?”. We can reflect on these questions in our own lives, especially through scripture:

- The first verses of Genesis reveal the Holy Spirit’s presence: “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth — and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters ...” (Genesis 1:1-2).
- When Jesus was baptized, he rose from the water “and

behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him” (Matthew 3:16).



- In John’s Gospel, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit to Nicodemus: “The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).
- When the Samaritan woman at the well asks Jesus about worshipping God, he replies, “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth” (John 4:24).
- Later in John’s Gospel, we also hear, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you” (John 14:15-17).
- This weekend’s Gospel also describes the Holy Spirit: “The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you” (John 14:26).
- St. Paul’s letter to the Galatians lists the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, generosity, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22).



FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

*Although we’re very much in the beginning planning stages, we hope to offer a **Vacation Bible School** this summer at Blessed Sacrament! It’ll take place the week of July 7th through 11th and will be open to children who are entering kindergarten through Grade 5 this fall. (Young people who are going into Grade 6 and older are eligible to serve as our VBS leaders!) Our theme will be “Running Away ... and Journeying Home” (exploring some stories in scripture of becoming separated from God for various reasons but always finding the way back to Him). VBS activities will include singing and dancing, arts and crafts, outdoor games, Bible adventures, prayer, themed snacks, treats, and much more! Please watch this section of our bulletin for more information to come about this summer’s VBS. *If you’re an adult who enjoys working with young people and might like to help with VBS, please contact our Faith Formation office. (Diocesan-required safe environment training and a background check are required for volunteers 18 and older.)*



It was Grade 7’s turn for ministry roles at our school Mass on May 14th.

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
gladouceur@blessedsacramentschool.net
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

THIS WEEKEND’S MASS READINGS (5/17-5/18)

FIRST READING: Acts 14:21-27
RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 45
SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-5a
GOSPEL: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

NEXT WEEKEND’S MASS READINGS (5/24-5/25)

FIRST READING: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
RESPONSORIAL: Psalm 67
SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
GOSPEL: John 14:23-29



SHRINE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS
 A MISSION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Rev. Francis O’Connor, Chaplain
Rev. Mr. Miguel Fabian, Deacon
Confesora Franco, Pastoral Associate & Faith Formation
Debbie Klose, Organist

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.*



Centered in Faith,
 Focused on the Future.

Alexandra Faith Morazán, Principal

Andrea Roberts, Office Administrator

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

info@blessedsacramentschool.net
www.blessedsacramentschool.net



Having fun in after-school Board Game Club!

*Our 2025 **Central Albany Catholic Schools Reunion** is quickly approaching! It will be held on Friday, May 30th from 5-9 p.m. right here at Blessed Sacrament School! There will be a cocktail party and hors d’oeuvres. Tickets are \$25 each (online or at the door). You can scan the QR code above to purchase tickets or visit the website:



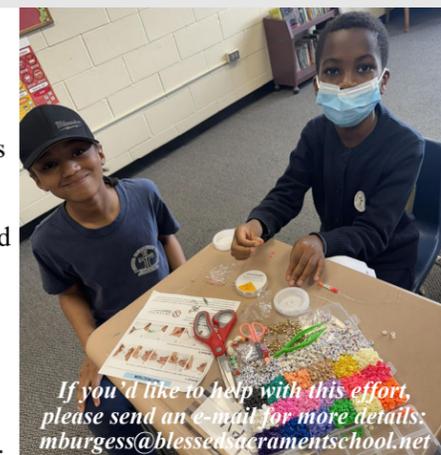
<https://tinyurl.com/562zauey>.

*It’s hard to believe, but BSS’s annual “**ABC Countdown**” to summer is currently underway! We kicked off our celebration with “A” for “Athlete Day” on Monday, May 12th. Each letter of the alphabet will bring fun activities and learning enrichment for all BSS students. From “K” for “Kindness Day” and “V” for “View the Universe Day” to “F” for “Flag Day” and “P” for “Pajama Day,” there will be something exciting for everyone!

*Registration is open for **BSS Summer Camp**, taking place June 30th through August 8th. The cost per child is \$200 a week. Please register by June 2nd, and for more information, e-mail info@blessedsacramentschool.net.

*BSS’s **Field Day** will take place on Wednesday, May 22nd.

BSS’s after-school **Service Club**, led by Grade 4 teacher Mrs. Burgess, is creating handmade bracelets as a fundraiser for “Baian’s Mission.” Baian is an 18-year-old from Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia who hopes to fill her school’s library with books! She gave a presentation to our students on April 24th.



If you’d like to help with this effort, please send an e-mail for more details: mburgess@blessedsacramentschool.net

Colonie Center Mall



- **Step #1:** Have fun shopping and dining at **Colonie Center!**
- **Step #2:** Bring your original receipts to either our **school or church offices** to accumulate points for BSS!

May Points Opportunities:

- **3X:** H&M, Dunkin’, Nori Japan, Bath & Body Works
- **4X:** Express, Auntie Anne’s, L.L. Bean, Regal Cinemas
- **Bonus:** 1,000 points for every Regal receipt turned in!

For every dollar spent at Colonie Center, we will receive two points. At the end of the year, the winning school earns **\$8,000!**