

Fourth Sunday of Advent — 21 December 2025



The Parish of
Saint Francis of Assisi

The Cathedral Church
of The Immaculate
Conception

Historic St. Mary's
Church

Welcome! - Bienvenido! - Mabuhay!

Parish Network Mass Times			
Historic St. Mary's	Sat 4:00 PM	Sun 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	M-F 12:05 PM
St. Francis Delaware Ave	Sat 4:00 PM	Sun 9:00 AM 10:30 AM (Spanish)	
St. Francis South End		Sun 10:30 AM	
The Cathedral		Sun 11:00 AM 5:00 PM	

Confession Times	
Historic St. Mary's	Sat: 3:15 PM Mon, Wed, Fri 11:30-11:55 am Tues & Thurs (after Mass by request)
St. Francis Delaware Ave	Sat: 3:15 PM
St. Francis South End	Before or after Mass (by request)
The Cathedral	Sun: 10:30 AM-10:50 AM 4:00 PM—4:50 PM

Central Offices & Mailing Address
125 Eagle Street
Albany, New York 12202

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM — 4:00 PM
Office Phone: 518.463.4447
Email: CICAAlban@rcda.org | SFAAlbany@rcda.org | SMAAlbany@rcda.org

The Cathedral

125 Eagle Street
Albany, New York, 12202

www.cathedralic.com
www.facebook.com/CathedralAlbany
@cathedralalbany

Saint Francis of Assisi

Delaware Site:

391 Delaware Avenue
Albany, New York 12209

South End Site:

93 Fourth Avenue
Albany, New York 12202

www.facebook.com/SaintFrancisAlbany
@saintfrancisalbany

Historic Saint Mary's (518) 462.4254

10 Lodge Street,
Albany, New York 12207

www.hist-stmarys.org
www.facebook.com/historicstmarychurch
Open daily

Cathedral Church Hours

Sunday: 9:00 AM—6:00 PM
Monday—Saturday: 9:00 AM—4:30 PM

The Cathedral and Parish Offices will be closed on National Holidays and other days throughout the year as noted in the bulletin.

Saint James Food Pantry

St. James Place, Albany, NY 12209 | 518.414.1929
Monday & Wednesday: 10:00am—12:30pm

Saint John's/Saint Ann's Center

88 Fourth Avenue, Albany, NY 12202 | 518.472.9091
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 10:am—12pm; 1:pm 3pm
WELCOME TABLE
Tuesday and Saturday: 11:30am—1:00pm

St. Mary's Food Pantry

10 Lodge Street, Albany, New York 12207 | 518.462.4357
Tuesday & Friday, 9:00—11:30 AM

Holy Hours of Adoration:

Thursday 6:30 pm—7:30 pm with The Most Holy Rosary at St. Mary's
First Friday 8:00 am—Noon at St. Mary's | 11:30 am—3:30 pm at Cathedral | 7:30 pm—8:30 pm at St. Francis—Delaware
First Saturday 5:15 pm-6:15 pm at St. Francis—Delaware (Spanish)

Fourth Sunday of Advent — 21 December 2025

*"Come Celebrate Christmas at
Albany's Historic Catholic Churches"*
— Father Ronald Torres, Pastor

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM	Historic St. Mary's
5:00 PM	Cathedral
8:00 PM	St. Francis (Delaware)
Midnight	Cathedral

Christmas Day

8:00 AM	Historic St. Mary's
10:00 AM	St. Francis (South End)
10:30 AM	St. Francis (Delaware) <i>Spanish/Español</i>
11:00 AM	Cathedral



CHRISTMAS IN ROME: A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY

Christmas in Rome follows the celebration of the Nativity throughout history, from a tiny grotto in Bethlehem to the biggest Nativity scene in Saint Peter's Square, and from small groups of early Christians to the enormous multitude of believers at Christmas Masses in St. Peter's Basilica. See how one of the greatest events in human history is celebrated today...right from the heart of the Church.



<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/581940>

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day 1/1/26)



This eighth day of Christmas is the oldest Catholic feast day in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Coinciding with the first day of the civil calendar, it marks a wonderful way to begin the New Year. Similar to last year, there will be one Mass (at the Cathedral, Thursday, January 1, 10:30 a.m.) to host all three parishes in our parish network, in order to express the unity of the Catholic Church. If you wish to

support your particular parish, please bring your parish contribution in an envelope with your parish's name written on it, and your donation will be sent to your parish. Please join us for this holy day of obligation to honor Mary our Mother in her Mother Church of our Diocese!

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

(DECEMBER 21, 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT)
The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21)

As the "foster" father, Joseph was instructed to name Mary's child "Jesus" (whose name means "God is salvation" or "Savior"), because the little child will "save His people from their sins." Jesus will save us from our sins because he is also called "Emmanuel" or "God with us," as foretold by the prophet Isaiah. How mysterious it is that God doesn't save us by an extravagant display of majestic might, flattening His foes, but instead comes first as a tightly swaddled newborn, attracting shepherds and angels to adore Him.

This mystery is expressed in a Nativity scene (or "crèche"), which shows that God became human and draws every generation "by smiling and opening his arms to all," Pope Francis said in a letter on the meaning and importance of Nativity scenes, even in public: "The Christmas crèche speaks to us of the love of God, the God who became a child in order to make us know how close he is to every man, woman and child, regardless of their condition," he wrote in his apostolic letter, "Admirabile Signum" ("Enchanting Image"). During the Christmas season, one receives a blessing when looking upon and praying in front of a blessed manger, as at our parishes.

Even more important, however, is to make our hearts and souls into an inner "Nativity scene," where the infant Jesus spiritually rests in tranquil silence, receiving our adoration and gratitude that God comes to us in such an approachable way. Remember that Christmas isn't just an event, but it's a season that lasts until we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus (January 11). Cherishing this season affords us the opportunity to grow in our appreciation for God's coming as a Child, that we not be afraid but rather drawn through Him to our Father, Who art in heaven.

Peace in Jesus through Mary,

Fr. Ronald R. Jones

"At Midnight Mass... in deep recollection...I saw the stable of Bethlehem filled with great radiance. The Blessed Virgin, all lost in the deepest of love, was wrapping Jesus in swaddling clothes... I was left alone with the Infant Jesus Who stretched out His little hands to me, and I understood that I was to take Him in my arms. Jesus pressed His head against my heart and gave me to know, by His profound gaze, how good He found it to be next to my heart." (St. Faustina, Diary, n. 1442)

2025 Christmas Masses

My goal as your pastor is to try to be with you during the Christmas Masses as much as possible. After consulting with parishioners from the four churches in our network, I will offer the Christmas Mass schedule below. If you wish to donate to your parish while attending Christmas Mass at another church in our network, just bring your donation in an envelope with your parish name and write that you would like your parish to be credited for your donation.

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm, Historic St. Mary's
5:00 pm, Cathedral
8:00 pm, St. Francis, Delaware Ave.

Midnight, Cathedral

Christmas Day

8:00 am, Historic St. Mary's
10:00 am, St. Francis, South End
10:30 am, St. Francis, Delaware Ave. (Spanish/Español)
11:00 am, Cathedral

COMUNIDAD HISPANA

391 DELAWARE AVE
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Santa Misa: Domingo 10:30 AM

Confesiones: Domingo 10:00 AM

Primer Domingo del mes: Bendición a todos los niños y jóvenes al final de la Santa Misa

- **Hora Santa:** Todos los primeros Sábados de cada mes a las 5:15pm.

Historic St. Mary's Parish Outreach Office



Thank you for your generosity!

We are still in need of **men's coats**. If you have any, please feel free to drop them off to the Outreach office at 10 Lodge Street, side entrance, during our **pantry hours (Tuesday & Friday: 9:00am-11:30am)**.



MARCH FOR LIFE BUS

HOSTED BY ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

COST PER PERSON: \$75 CHECK OR CASH, \$79 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 JANUARY 14, 2026, THE TRIP WILL BE CANCELLED. CHECKS WILL BE HELD UNTIL THAT TIME.

CAN'T MAKE THE TRIP? YOU CAN STILL SUPPORT SOMEONE BY SENDING A DONATION TO ST. PAUL'S.

WE WILL NEED TO TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. PLEASE PURCHASE A METRO RAIL PASS IN ADVANCE AT WMATA.COM.

"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@TUCATHOLIC.ORG
(518) 377-8886 EXT 106

PARKING LOT AVAILABLE!

All are welcome to visit and park in the "Madison Lot" next to the Cathedral on weekends all day and on weekdays after 4:00 pm!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To help our parish communities run more efficiently we are asking for volunteers for the following: sextons, office help, cleaning, computer data input.

STEWARDSHIP

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Monthly Offering—November

Regular Offertory	\$18,147.60
Average Monthly Need	\$ 35,533.33
SHORTFALL	(\$17,385.73)

The average weekly need is based on Total Expenses (2024-25)

Historic St. Mary Monthly Offering—November

Regular Offertory	\$22,351.00
Average Monthly Need	\$35,100.00
SHORTFALL	(\$12,749.00)

The average weekly need is based on Total Expenses (2024-25)

St. Francis of Assisi Monthly Offering—November

Regular Offertory	\$34,033.75
Average Monthly Need	\$45,500.00
SHORTFALL	(\$11,466.25)

The average weekly need is based on Total Expenses (2024-25)

Stewardship information will continue as a monthly report. Average monthly attendance will be added to the December Stewardship report that will appear in the January bulletin.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS



The office for Historic Albany Parishes of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Historic St. Mary, and St. Francis of Assisi will be **closed Wednesday, December 24 -Friday, December 26, 2025, and Thursday, January 1, 2026**. Messages and email will be checked regularly.
Merry Christmas!

BE A PRAYER PARTNER WITH POPE LEO



For those who have made the commitment to pray everyday for the monthly intentions of Our Holy Father, Pope Leo: For December he invites the faithful to join in praying for Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Thank you for your generous support!

If you would like to make a financial contribution to your parish through your smartphone, please use the QR code below. camera at the QR codes below and tap the link.



The Cathedral



St. Francis



Historic St. Mary's



Historic Albany Parish Network

The Most Rev'd Mark O'Connell, JCD
Bishop of Albany

Clergy

The Very Rev'd. Rendell R. Torres, Rector and Pastor

Fr.Rendell.Torres@rcda.org

Rev. Emmanuel Udoh, Resident Priest

udohe@rcda.org

Rev. Mr. James M. Agnew, Deacon

James.Agnew@rcda.org

Rev. Mr. Timothy J. Kosto, II, Deacon

Timothy.Kosto@rcda.org

Rev. Mr. Aaron Tremblay, Deacon

Aaron.Tremblay@rcda.org

Assisting Clergy

Rev. Julian A. Davies, OFM

Rev. John Moyna

Rev. Sean O'Brien, OFM

Rev. William Persia, CSC

Parish Operations Manager

Mrs. Barbara Koerner-Fox

Barbara.Koernerfox@rcda.org

Music & Liturgy

Dr. Brian Glikes, Director of Diocesan & Cathedral Music

Brian.Glikes@rcda.org

Mr. Patrick Buonacore, Liturgical Coordinator & Sacristan

Patrick.Buonacore@rcda.org

Mr. John Rodier, Sacristan & Cantor

518.466.1405

Saint Francis Music

Ms. Kristen Witham

Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Kurt Schlachter, Facilities Manager

Cathedralfacilities@rcda.org

Mr. Christopher Hewitt, Facilities Manager

518.462.4254

Saint James Food Pantry

Linda Cruz, Director

Weekday Mass Intentions

Historic St. Mary's		
Mon, December 22 12:05 PM	Julian Piontek	Requested by Eileen & John Piontek
	Maria Lily & Liam Mahar	Requested by A Friend
Tues, December 23 12:05 PM	† Anthony Bonacquisto	Requested by Son, Joseph
Wed, December 24 4:00 PM	† Barbara Castiglione	Requested by Family
	† Raeann Dinardi McElveen	Requested by Mom, Dad, and Siblings
Thu, December 25 8:00 AM	† Anthony & Joyce Bonacquisto	Requested by Son, Joseph
Fri, December 26 12:05 PM	† Robert Ego	Requested by † Robert Ego

Sunday Mass Intentions

Saint Francis (Delaware)		
Sat, December 20 4:00 PM	Pro Populo	
Sun, December 21 9:00 AM	Pro Populo	
Sat, December 27 4:00 PM	Pro Populo	
Sun, December 28 9:00 AM	Pro Populo	
Saint Francis (South End)		
Sun, December 21 10:30 AM	Pro Populo	
Sun, December 28 10:30 AM	† George A. Payne	Requested by Georgeann Payne
	† Lucy & Paul Tudico	Requested by Daughter
The Cathedral		
Sun, December 21 11:00 AM	† Marge and Joe Collondra	
Sun, December 21 5:00 PM	† Daniel Frederick Sr. Daniel Frederick Jr.	
Sun, December 28 11:00 AM	Pro Populo	
Sun, December 28 5:00 PM	Pro Populo	
Historic St. Mary's		
Sat, December 20 4:00 PM	† Rev. Lloyd Rebeyro	Requested by Friend
	† Marion Zrelak	Requested by Robert M. John
	† Judith Allyn	Requested by Family
Sun, December 21 8:00 AM	† James Patterson	Requested by Family
	† Rev. Michael A. Farano	Requested by A Friend
	† JJ Finnerty	Requested by Enninger Family
Sun, December 21 10:30 AM	† Jack Graber Sr.	Requested by Jack & Karen Graber
	† Rex Thrasher	Requested by Jack & Karen Graber
Sat, December 27 4:00 PM	† Geraldine Herman	Requested by A Friend
	† William Herman	Requested by A Friend
	† Rosemarie Flannery	Requested by Joseph Bonacquisto
Sun, December 28 8:00 AM	† Rose Patterson	Requested by Family
Sun, December 28 10:30 AM	Pro Populo	

Due to an early bulletin transmission date
Mass intentions are as of Monday, December 11, 2023.

DANIEL KEENAN

Funeral Home

490 Delaware Ave., Albany, NY 12209

(518) 463-1594

www.danielkeenanfuneralhome.com

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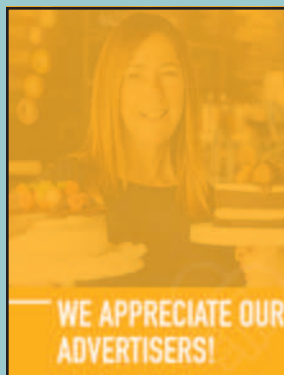


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CONTACT ME
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