

**December 17, 2023:**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

And there will dawn a new Heaven and a new Earth...and let it begin with me...today.

**World Peace Prayer**

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to  
truth,  
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love,  
From war to peace;  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
Let peace fill our universe.



**OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY**

111 WELLS AVE., PO BOX 311, MIDDLEBURGH, NY 12122  
518.827.3301  
olv2009@midtel.net

**Bishop of Albany Diocese:** Edward Scharfenberger

**Pastor:** Fr. Thomas Zelker

tomzelker@gmail.com

**Deacon:** Gary Riggi

**Administrative Assistant:** Laura Pelton

**Religious Education Director:** Sena Monaco

**Parish Musician:** Linda Connors

**Office Hours:**

**Monday - Friday 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM**

**Parish Website:**

<http://parishes.rcda.org/olvchurch/>

**Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyoftheValleyParish/>

**Bulletin Items:**

All bulletin items must submitted to the office by Monday morning.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Church advances the Gospel message of Jesus Christ through liturgy, personal support, and community programs that emphasize the Beatitudes to create a community of faith that welcomes all into God's eternal embrace.

**SCHOHARIE COUNTY CLUSTER LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Saturday Vigil Masses:**

4:00 p.m. Our Lady of Fatima in Delanson

6:00 p.m. Our Lady of the Valley in Middleburgh

**Sunday Masses:**

9:00 a.m. Our Lady of the Valley in Middleburgh

11:00 a.m. Our Lady of Fatima in Delanson

**Weekdays:**

9:00 a.m. Wednesdays at

Our Lady of the Valley in Middleburgh

9:00 a.m. Tuesdays at Our Lady of Fatima in

Delanson.

**Devotions:**

Rosary First Sunday of the month at 8:20 AM

**Liturgy  
Schedule**

**Saturday, December 16, 2023 6:00 PM**  
For those who are lonely and homebound

**Sunday, December 17, 2023, 9:00 AM**  
Theresa Deutsch Jandrositz by Ed and Jackie  
Guntert

**Monday, December 18, 2023, 5:00—6:30 PM**  
Quiet adoration

**Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 9:00 AM**  
For high school students

**Saturday, December 23, 2023 6:00 PM**  
For hope in our world

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**  
**9:00 AM** For our families  
**Christmas Mass 6:30 PM** For babies born today

**Monday, December 25, 2023 CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**9:00 AM** For peace among us all



Our church is always open for quiet prayer,  
reflection, adoration, and contemplative walking.

**We Pray**

We enter into our prayer in quiet, candles are lit and light grows within us. We are reassured of God's boundless mercy and hope for us all in our sung Kyrie. We sing out, "Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." We attentively listen to hear how God is always among us... Our response the Hebrew Scripture is Psalm 25: "To you, O God, I lift up my soul; lift up my spirit to my Lord. To you I lift up my soul."

As we rise for the Gospel, we sing with exuberance: "Soon and very soon, Alleluia!" Our hearts abound in joy at the Word of God among us.

We then come to the Table to remember and celebrate Christ's abiding presence within and among us. We sing of this mystery: "We proclaim your death O Lord and profess your Resurrection until you come again." With living faith we can enter into the Cross of our world as people of Hope. We conclude with the World Peace Prayer leading us into the Reign of God today.

**BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING**

**"And if you have forgotten why you exist I will remind you once more, there is a heart that lives underneath your skin that holds the power to change everything in this entire world." ~ Dane Thomas**

God has a wonderful plan for our lives. His love for us will guide us to believe in ourselves and the impact we can have on each other, our community, and our world.

**Administration and Stewardship**

*Offerings:*

2nd Sunday of Advent Collection: \$F.B.A

Thank you for sharing your treasure and for your generosity!

**WEEKEND  
MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, December 16, 2023:**

**Greeters:**  
Marilyn Schulmerich

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Bill Kuehnle

**Lector:**  
Beth Cunningham

**Altar Servers**  
Arriette and Nathan Kuehnle

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Michele Cullam, Marilyn Schulmerich

**Set-up/Shut down:**  
Marilyn Schulmerich

**Sunday, December 17, 2023:**

**Greeters:**  
Doreen Buzon, Martha Conroy

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Theresa Charland, Marcia Guntert

**Lector:**  
Brynda Shultes

**Altar Servers**  
Sam Borst

**Eucharistic Ministers/Shutdown**  
Joanne Coonradt, Rosemary Gutkaiss

**Money Counters**  
Denise Lloyd, Elizabeth Blackmur

**Saturday, December 23, 2023, 6:00 PM:**

**Greeters:**  
Joanne Newsome

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Tom Valosin

**Lector:**  
Patty Paser

**Altar Servers**  
Gabe and Elise Ringuette

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Joanne Newsome, Michele Cullam

**Set-up/Shut down:**  
Barbara Valosin

**Sunday, December 24, 2023, 9:00 AM**

**Greeters:**  
Brynda Shultes, Helen Lindstrom

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
John Conroy

**Lector:**  
Stephanie Tinker

**Altar Servers**  
Luna Pelton

**Eucharistic Ministers/Shutdown**  
Jim Buzon, Bonnie Jorgensen

**Money Counters**  
Margaret Ostermann, Michele

**Sunday, December 24, 2023  
CHRISTMAS EVE 6:30 PM**

**Greeters:**  
Doreen Buzon

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Robin Hazzard

**Lector:**  
John Borst, Pat Costello, Ringuette

**Altar Servers**  
Sam and Caroline Borst

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Jim Buzon, Borst

**Set-up/Shut down:**  
Robin Hazzard

**Monday, December 25, 2023  
CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00 AM**

**Greeters:**  
Michele Finin, John Conroy

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Jackie and Ed Guntert

**Lector:**  
Denise Lloyd, Sharon Riggi

**Altar Servers**  
Sera Wargo

**Eucharistic Ministers/Shutdown**  
Martha Conroy, Marcia Guntert

**Money counters:**  
Martha Conroy, Anne Marie



**Advent**

Calendars, Little Blue Books and *oplatek* are available.

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 PM – Winter solstice fire and hot dog BBQ at Fox Creek Park, Schoharie.

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 PM Blue Christmas Prayer Service, Middleburgh Reformed Church: a time for support, healing, and encouragement.



**Christmas Mass**

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM Our Lady of the Valley, followed by festive wine and cheese, and snacks in the Hall.

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM Our Lady of the Valley.

**Advent Readiness**

Joy and gladness, O God,  
attend the advent of your reign in Jesus,  
for whenever the Good News is proclaimed to the poor,  
feeble limbs are made steady,  
and fearful hearts grow strong.

Give us strength for witnessing, that we may go and tell  
others what we see and hear.

Give us patience for waiting,  
until the precious harvest o your Kingdom,  
when the return of your Son  
will make your saving work complete.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who was, who is, and who is to come,  
your Son, who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. Amen.



Saint Nicholas visits our parish inspiring us to live joyfully.



**GIFT**

We need children to volunteer as Magi, Shepherds and angels for our 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass. Please contact Fr. Tom Zelker.

Winter/Spring GIFT schedule brochure will be available soon.

Please note that the Liturgy of the Word newsletter is available for our young disciples grades 1 – 5. They are in plastic bags with crayons that can be used during Mass. Please return plastic bags and crayons, and take the newsletter home to go over with your children to review each Sunday's Mass message.

**PARISH PRAYER, SERVICE AND FUN**

**It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...**

We need your help: Sunday, December 17th, right after our 9:00 AM Mass. We'll be setting up the Christmas trees, changing banners, and putting lights on the trees. Can you assist for half an hour? Please... and thank you!

**Community Christmas Caroling**

Sunday, December 17th, 6:30 PM at the Middleburgh Reformed Church, 178 River Street. All are welcome. Come and be uplifted by songs of the season; refreshments, too!

**Diocesan Appeal**

The 2023-2024 Appeal letters have gone out to all parishioners. If you did not receive one, offering envelopes are now available in the pews. Please make sure you put "Our Lady of the Valley" on the envelope. We do this together because we believe it is of vital importance to continue the ministry of Jesus in our 145 county Diocese... caring for the sick, educating our children, finding housing for the homeless, feeding the hungry, and training seminarians and parish leaders. This year our parish assessment is \$23,738.00; last year it was \$21,150.00. Thank you for your support!

**Cradle of Love**

We're continuing to collect diapers and baby wipes for Community Maternity Services in the bassinet in the hall. Please no toys or baby furniture, diapers and wipes only. Thank you for your continued support of this important need in our community.

**Knights of Columbus #4475**

**Ten Week Club Winners**

Week 6: \$25 William Karlau,  
\$15 Theresa Kennedy,  
\$10 Michael Moser.

Thank you for supporting Knights of Columbus programs.





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