

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas**



### **World Peace Prayer**

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood 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 be 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 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

**Monday, December 25, 2023, 5:00—6:30 PM**  
Quiet adoration

**Saturday, December 30, 2023 6:00 PM**  
John Bolen by Patty Paser

**Sunday, December 31, 2023, 9:00 AM**

**Theresa Jandrositz by Frank and Sena Monaco**



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

### We Pray Christmas

Our church is filled with sights, sounds, and smells of God's Incarnational presence among us. We are immersed with flowers, trees, lights, incense, figures, bread, wine, and each other that remind us of Christ here this day and forever.

We sing the Glory of God, echoing the hymn of the angels. Our response to the Hebrew Scripture is the canticle from Luke's Gospel: "Today our Savior is born." We join with all Creation (Psalm 96) in singing for joy. Our Gospel acclamation is the exuberant Caribbean "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" In our Eucharist, at Table, we sing our mystery: "Save us, Savior of the world, you have set us free." Together, God's Love is born anew in each of us.

### BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it." ~ Pope Francis

God loves us so much that he sent his only son. During this beautiful season of Christmas, show your love for Jesus by sharing your faith, your joys, and your blessings.

Bulletin cover art by Mary and Henry McGrail.

### Administration and Stewardship

#### Offerings:

2nd Sunday of Advent Collection: \$3075.00

3rd Sunday of Advent Collection: \$ T.B. A.

## WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**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/Shut down

Martha Conroy, Marcia Guntert

#### Money counters:

Martha Conroy, Anne Marie Robinson



**Saturday, December 30, 2023**

#### Greeters:

Marilyn Schulmerich

#### Ushers and Seat Counters:

Bill Kuehnle

#### Lector:

Beth Cunningham

#### Altar Servers

Arriette and Nathan Kuehnle

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Michele Cullam

#### Set-up/Shut down:

Marilyn Schulmerich

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**

#### Greeters:

Betty Karlau, Joanne Coonradt

#### Ushers and Seat Counters:

John Conroy

#### Lector:

Brynda Shultes

#### Altar Servers

Caroline Borst, Luna Pelton

#### Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down

Jackie Guntert, Rosemary Gutkaiss

#### Money counters:

Brynda Shultes, John Borst



**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.

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New Year's Day, Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
Mass at 11:00 AM at Our Lady of Fatima.  
First day Hike, 12:00 noon, trekking along the wintry Schoharie at Burtonsville (meet at OLF).



**A joyful Christmas to all!**



**GIFT**

**Winter/Spring GIFT schedule brochure is out.**

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!

**Epiphany Gift Blessing**

Bring your new toy, dolls, games, sports equipment or any presents to Mass on January 6 or 7 as we celebrate Epiphany. We remember the gifts brought to Jesus and now we bless the gifts given to our children.

**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.

**Rosary Society Corner**

Rosary Society Basket Raffle winner is Linda Hayhurst! Congratulations! Josephine Schulmerich won the cake. And our visit to the Robinson Terrace Assisted Living Center was a great success.



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