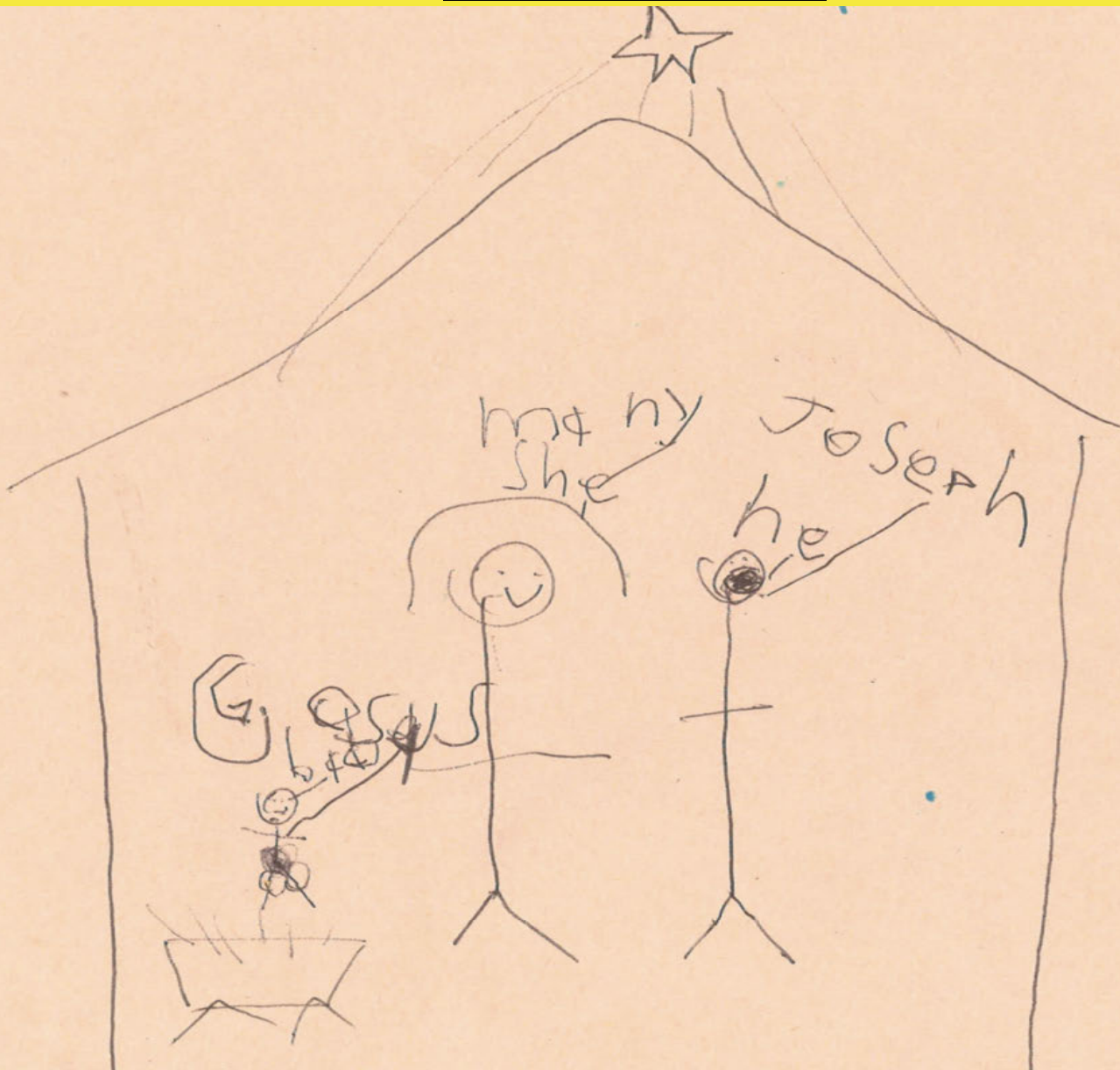


THE HOLY FAMILY



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

Sunday, December 31, 2023, 9:00 AM
Theresa Jandrositz by Frank and Sena Monaco

Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 9:00 AM
For mothers

Friday, January 5, 2024, 2:00 PM and 3:00 PM
Mass at Kingsway Nursing Home

Saturday, January 6, 2024, 6:00 PM

Sunday, January 7, 2024, 9:00 AM
The Epiphany of the Lord



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

"The charity which burned in the household at Nazareth should be an inspiration for every family. All the Christian virtues should flourish in the family, unity should thrive, and the examples of its virtuous living should shine brightly." ~ Saint Pope John XXIII

We are reminded of the importance of the Holy Family and our families. We should nurture our families with God's truth, grace, peace, and love for all of us.

Bulletin cover art by Joey Nieminski

Administration and Stewardship

Offerings:

3rd Sunday of Advent Collection: \$ 2265.25

4th Sunday of Advent Collection: \$ 5.B. A.

Christmas Collection: \$ 5.B. A.

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

Saturday, January 6, 2024

Greeters:
Pat Costello

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Bill Kuehnle

Lector:
Pat Costello

Altar Servers
Gabe and Elise Ringuette

Eucharistic Ministers
Pat Costello, Michele Cullam

Set-up/Shut down:
Robin Hazzard

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Greeters:
John Conroy, Betty Karlau

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Jackie and Ed Guntert

Lector:
Stephanie Tinker

Altar Servers
Luna Pelton

Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down
Theresa Charland, Marcia Guntert

Money counters:
Jane Munger, Bonnie Jorgensen



Danny Hardmin, Brian Collins, Bill Valosin, Patrick O'Grady, Irene Ostermann, Jessica DeVietri, Ed Masterson, Joan McCalip, Adrienne Bartholomew, Callie Shaw (baby), Joanne Snyder, Raymond Ceroalo, Jocelyn Ceroalo, Cathy Saccento, Mary Bixby, Ed August, Stephanie Coxen, Pam Raquet, Margaret M. Ostermann, Margaret Cameron, Beverly Dyer, Lee and Finn, Frank Ceroalo, Kyle and Katie Collazo O'Connor, Dennis Dailey (Afghan War veteran), Marsia Ferguson, Anjaine, Jack Robinson, Jim Crum, the Simeon Family, Debbie Lints, Mary Carlson, Nora and Joe Dougherty, Matt Nieminski, Joyce Montgomery, Eileen Scanlon, Thomas "Tucker" Hirsch, Tina Welman, Rick Conners, Annie Conneely, Francis McKiernan, Barbara St. George, Jesse Lints, Robert Tinker, Joseph Scolaro, Lisa Frangoulis, Davia Fileccia, Jamie Howard, Tom Guilianelli, Deborah Lobo, Joseph Pelton, Joseph Cassella, Paul Pagano, Donald Gaffney Jr., Michele Eckland, Diane Czarro, Bill Hudzik, Rick Stoddard, Tom Barr, Helen Zebrowski, Shane Stark, Nada Gaber Pitu, Joan Luhrs, Dick Kristel, Kate Mahoney, Chris & Karen Nieminski, Rose Ceroalo, the Scott Family, Karen Conners, P. J. D., Danny Vrooman, Natasha Samson

A Christmas Season Sunday Morning Prayer

I lift up my heart to you,
Creator God of heaven and earth and of all seasons.
In your cyclic design the earth now leans away from the fire
of the sun in this season we call winter.

Although the sun's light weakens
as the earth tilts away,
I ask in this time alone with you that your light not lessen
within me.

May I, with your assistance,
not turn away from the truth when it visits me,
even the truth about myself.
I desire rather that I turn toward the light in all I say and do,
in all I think and dream.

Guided by your light I now enter the cave of my heart
to be alone with you in stillness.

I rejoice, O Blessed One,
that you have placed within my small heart
not only your divine seed but the essence
of all that you have created.

I now express my joy in your being,
as I invest these words with love for you.

Today, Sunday, is a day of prayer and worship
for your children who follow Christ.

May my morning prayer be in harmony
with all the prayers, songs and acts of devotion
that rise up to you from churches and places of worship.

May I also be one with all who fail to worship you,
with all who reject you and your dream because those of us
who profess to be Jesus' disciples have failed to be
living examples of your love and justice.

Instill in me this Sunday the fiery heat of the sun —
and of the Son — so that ablaze with devotion for you,
I may enflesh your love and kindness in all I do
and with everyone I meet on this first day of the week.

Mindful of the needs of those I love, I pause to lift up into
your sacred heart the special intentions of: _____.

Care for them and for all the children of this planet
as it journeys through the winter of endless space.

Blessed and beautiful are you, my God.
May your light be my sun this winter day.



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

New Year's Hike

New Year's Day, Monday, January 1st, 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).

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.

Christmas Thank You

To all who help make this season so prayerful, faith-filled, and inspiring, our appreciation applauds our: altar servers, musicians, cleaners, decorators, ushers, lectors, ministers of Communion, money counters, shepherds, magi, angels, and all our active engaging parishioners.

Our Eucharist moves us to "be Eucharist" for our neighbors: Our NET serve 90—100 people monthly, Operation Christmas Child sent 2700 gift boxes, 70 from our Parish, to children in Africa. Our Giving Tree (Adopt a Family Program) shared gifts and ham dinners with 56 families throughout Schoharie County.

A Blessed Christmas to all!



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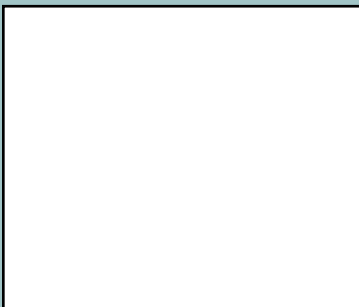
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