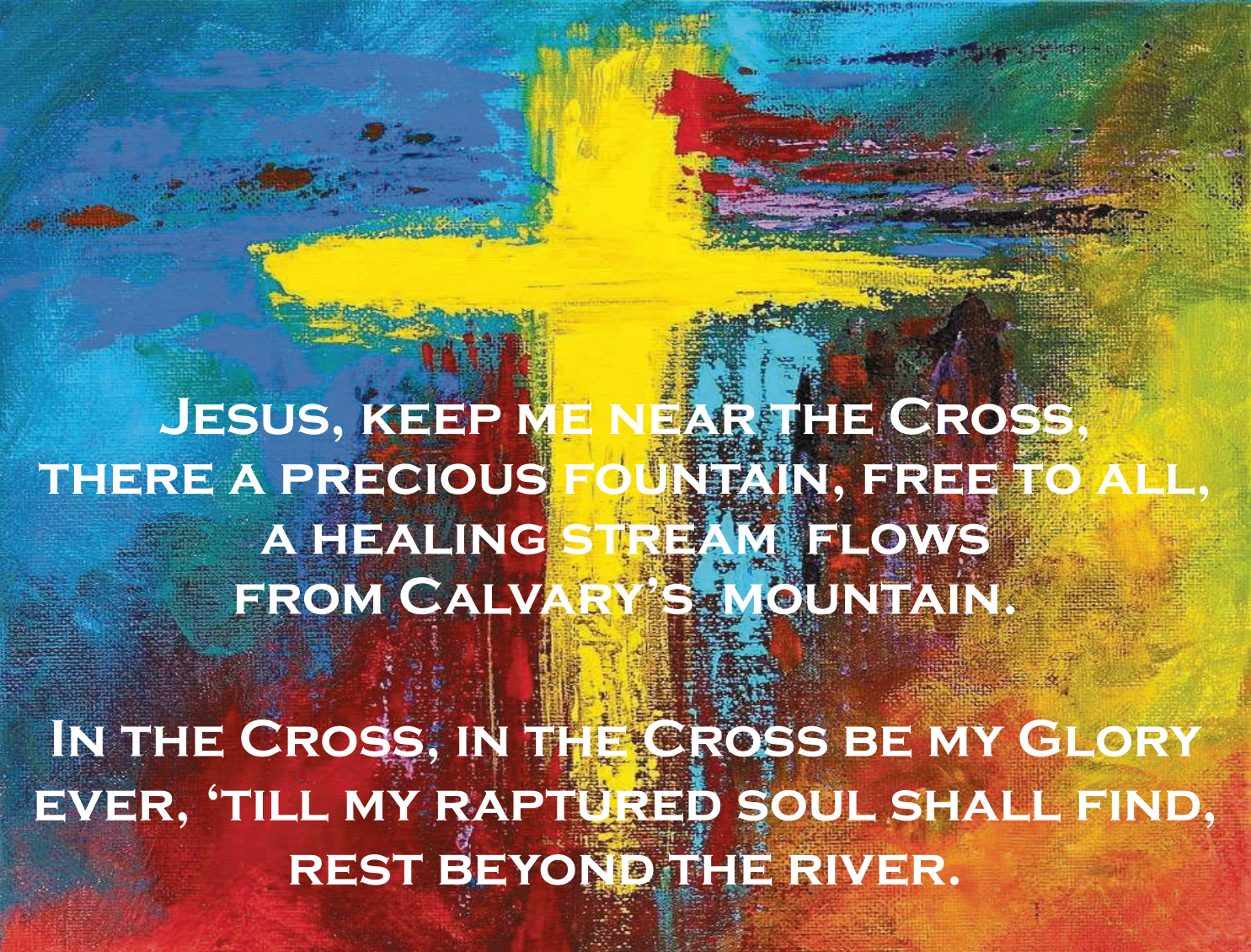


APRIL 6, 2025
5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



**JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS,
THERE A PRECIOUS FOUNTAIN, FREE TO ALL,
A HEALING STREAM FLOWS
FROM CALVARY'S MOUNTAIN.**

**IN THE CROSS, IN THE CROSS BE MY GLORY
EVER, 'TILL MY RAPTURED SOUL SHALL FIND,
REST BEYOND THE RIVER.**

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: Kathy Burgin

Liturgical Ministries Coordinator: AnneMarie Robinson
518-701-1575

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 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.

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 6:00 PM
John Cullam Sr. by Michele Cullam
Rachel Wardell by the Kuehnle Family + Paul and Robin

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 9:00 AM
Eugene Paduano by the Pagano Family

Monday, April 7, 2025, 5:00—6:30 PM
Quiet Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 9:00 AM
Alma Warf by Mary T. Bailey

Friday, April 11, 2025 2:00 and 3:00 PM
Kingsway Nursing Facility Palm Sunday Masses

Friday, April 11, 2025, 7:00 PM
Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 6:00 PM
Dick Barr, Peter Rogers by Robin Hazzard

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025, 9:00 AM
Roger and Helga deRoziere by Family

Eternally Present Love

Divine love is the source of the universe and of the dinosaurs, the planets, the elements, and the air, the force that sparked us into existence and baffles us all while we exist, the current of love and joy and beauty that runs through the human experience.... All life flows into being out of one source, Divine Love, and it is forever deeply related and responsive to that love. That love defines, holds, and promises to be present to the lives that God calls into being. That eternally present love is, most simply stated, the definition of *grace*.... *God does not stay at a distance from us but constantly seeks to transform our lives by asking us to awaken to the divine presence.* God is a mysterious, creative, sustaining life force.... God is there all the time. The challenge for us is to open our eyes, ears, hands, minds, and hearts to receive the truth of God's real, *persistent presence*, God's grace. When we open ourselves to it, we are changed by it. The way we perceive the world shifts, like a radically refocused camera lens, and we experience life differently. You see everything around you as suffused with God's love. You see God's grace everywhere, saturating all existence. This process of awakening to what is already true, but you haven't previously seen it, is called *conversion*—a word that literally means "to see anew."

Sin simply refers to all aspects of life where the reality of grace is not manifest and evil flourishes. It's what happens when we've got the wrong story about reality in our heads. If we do not recognize grace, we latch onto lies about who we are. These lies are manifest in an endless variety of godless dispositions: hatred, violence, greed, injustice, pride, despair, isolation, self-loathing, unbridled arrogance, a hardened heart, a cold soul. When these lies are aggregated over time, they get compressed into social systems and cultural patterns that look to us as if they are true, when in truth they are not. They are evil and profoundly destructive. This is what it means to be *godless*—to not be awakened to the light of God's love. It describes grace-asleep people as well as whole grace-asleep societies....

This constant tension between sin and grace in our lived experience doesn't mean, however, that they are equal partners in determining our destiny. Because grace is of God, it ultimately wins. We are forgiven by God, whatever horrors we commit or are done to us, however unmeritorious our deeds and broken our lives, because that's who God is. Grace is free; we don't earn it nor are we required to deserve it. That's what makes grace *grace*. It comes unbidden to us all.

Administration and Stewardship

Offerings:

Fourth Sunday of Lent Collection: \$2337.00
Thank you for your generosity!



WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Greeters:
Pat Costello

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Robin Hazzard

Lector:
Pat Costello

Altar Servers
Luna Pelton

Eucharistic Ministers
Katie Hagan
Gail Borst

Set-up/Shut down:
Robin Hazzard

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Greeters:
Joanne Coonrad
Marilyn Nolte
Ushers and Seat Counters:
John Conroy
Marcia Guntert
Lector:
Denise Lloyd

Altar Servers
Peter Sherer

Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down
Brynda Shultes
Theresa Charland

Money counters:
Lloyd, Blackmur, Pagano

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Greeters:
Gabe Ringuette

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Bill Kuehnle

Lector:
Old Testament: A. Ringuette
New Testament: Patty Paser
Gospel part I: Pat Costello
Gospel part II: Patty Paser
Gospel part III: Fr. Tom
Universal Prayer: Pat Costello

Altar Servers
Arriette and Nathan Kuehnle

Eucharistic Ministers
Barb and Tom Valosin

Set-up/Shut down:
Barb Valosin

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

Greeters:
Michele Finin, Helen Lindstrom

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Jackie and Ed Guntert

Lector:
Old Testament: Kate Katsur
New Testament: Borst
Gospel part I: Brynda Shultes
Gospel part II: Deacon Gary
Gospel part III: Fr. Tom
Universal Prayer: Sharon Riggi

Altar Servers
Sam Borst

Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down
Jim Buzon, Pattie Sainsbury

Money counters:
Jane Munger,
Bonnie Jorgensen

BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayers."

~ St. Padre Pio

God hears our prayers and He is merciful. Trust in His love for each and everyone of us.



baby Zoey Nashville,
Ellen Wilford, Jodi Connors, Greg Filisko, Scott Troughton,
Claire Evans, Joseph Cassella, Jill Zullo,
Debbie Calabrese, Andrea Virtuoso, Michele and Phil
Smith, Ed Guntert, Arthur Barrett, John Lewis Simmons,
Lynn Fileccia, Nina Wayman

Please contact the office to have someone prayed for/added to the list.



Growing In Faith Together Religious Education Program for children, youth and their families (GIFT)

The next preparation session for First Eucharist will be held on: Sunday, April 13th after the 9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Valley.

Please pray for our young disciples preparing to celebrate their First Eucharist on May 4th: Olivia Liuzzi, Mary McGrail, Gaia Pelton, Harper Risse, Dylan Ryan, Elizabeth Ryan, Piper Schulmerich.

Kits are available for our young disciples to draw and color during the service. It includes first liturgy reflection and readings, art activities, coloring pages as well as a few jokes here and there! Please keep the papers and return bag and crayons. Thank you.

PARISH PRAYER, SERVICE AND FUN

Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population.

Your support is essential to help the Church minister to parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard. Most of them depend on pilgrimages for work. The war made their situation even more dire. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land and to maintain a Christian presence where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Please be generous!

Next N.E.T. (Neighbors Eating Together) Dinner

Our next N.E.T. Dinner is Wednesday, April 9 at 5:00 PM at Our Lady of the Valley. Pulled pork is on the menu.

Visiting Homebound Neighbors

If you know of anyone who is unable to come to Church and pray with us, please call our parish office. Our Mass is also available on our website.

Middleburgh Food Pantries

Food pantry needs: cereal, rice, pancake mix, crackers, cookies, fruit bars.

Diocesan Appeal

Our parish assessment for 2024-2025 is \$23,223.00. Donation envelopes are available in Church or at our office. Please make sure your contribution envelope states Our Lady of the Valley. Thank you very much for your generosity. So far we have collected: 14,550.00.

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.

LENT 2025

WE GATHER, WE PRAY, WE SERVE

Stations of the Cross, Fridays of Lent at Our Lady of the Valley Church: Soup and sandwich at 6pm; prayer at 7pm.

Reconciliation Service, Tuesday April 8, 6pm at Our Lady of the Valley Church.

Good Friday Flounder Fish Fry April 18, 4:00 to 6:00 PM at Our Lady of the Valley Hall. A take-out dinner: fish, coleslaw, and fries, all for only \$15.00. Cooked and served by our Knights of Columbus.

Adoration, Mondays at 5pm, Our Lady of the Valley Church: Quiet time in Christ.

Rice Bowls, We support the ministry of Catholic Relief Services here and throughout our world; feeding the poor and hungry, planting trees, and helping farm families. Your donations are needed more than ever in the face of government cut backs.

Our Church is open for quiet prayer, meditation walks, and peace.

Holy Week Prayer

Passion (Palm) Sunday Mass:

Saturday, April 12, 6:00 PM and Sunday, April 13, 9:00 AM.

Holy Thursday Mass:

April 17, 4:00 PM.

Good Friday

April 18

Middleburgh Stations of the Cross: 12 noon — outdoor walking prayer.

Women of Jerusalem prayer: 2:00 PM
(We need readers to assist in this inspiring drama — please call our office).

Passion of the Lord: 7:00 PM at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Delanson.

Holy Saturday

April 19

12 noon—Blessing of food.

7:30 PM—Easter Vigil Mass—fire, Word, Initiation, Eucharist
(there is no earlier Mass today).

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20

Mass: 9:00 AM at Our Lady of the Valley
11:15 at Our Lady of Fatima

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