

APRIL 13, 2025
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

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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 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

Monday, April 14, 2025, 5:00—6:30 PM
Quiet Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Holy Thursday, April 17, 4:00 PM

Good Friday, April 18, 2025
12:00 PM Ecumenical Way of the Cross in the village of Middleburgh
2:00 PM Women of Jerusalem dramatized meditation at OLV

Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025,
12:00 PM blessing of food
7:30 PM Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025
6:00 AM Dawn Service Ecumenical Prayer at the Middleburgh
Reformed Church lawn — breakfast in the fellowship hall following the
service
9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of the Valley Church, Middleburgh
11:15 AM Mass at Our Lady of Fatima, Delanson

The Passionate Love of Jesus

Are we the only animal that cries and sheds tears as an emotional response? It seems so, but what function do they serve for us? Jesus says we should be happy if we can weep (Luke 6:21), but why? Tears seem to appear in situations of sadness, happiness, awe, and fear—and usually come unbidden. What is their free message to us and to those who observe them? Has humanity gotten the message yet? Whatever it is, it's surely a message too deep for words.

There's an inherent sadness and tragedy in almost all situations: in our relationships, our mistakes, our failures large and small, and even our victories. We must develop a very real empathy for this reality, knowing that we cannot fully fix things, entirely change them, or make them to our liking. This "way of tears," and the deep vulnerability that it expresses, is opposed to our normal ways of seeking control through willpower, commandment, force, retribution, and violence. Instead, we begin in a state of empathy with and for things and people and events, which just might be the opposite of judgmentalism. It's hard to be on the attack when you are weeping.

Prophets and mystics recognize what most of us do not—that all things have tears and all things deserve tears. The sympathy that wells up when we weep can be life changing, too, drawing us out of ourselves and into communion with those around us. May the tears of the Cross move us in faith to love ever more fully.

BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

"How could I bear a crown of gold when the Lord bears
a crown of thorns and bears it for me?!"
~ St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Jesus suffered in order to redeem us. Great is His love!

Administration and Stewardship

Offerings:

Fifth Sunday of Lent Collection: \$2983.00
Thank you for your generosity!



WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
April 19, 2025**

Greeters:
Doreen Buzon

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Bill Kuehnle

Lector:
Genesis: Sharon Riggi
Exodus: Patrick Costello
Prophetic: Patty Paser
New Testament: Stephanie Tinker
Universal Prayer: Anne Ringuette

Altar Servers
Arriette and Nathan Kuehnle

Eucharistic Ministers
Jim Buzon, Tom Valosin

Set-up/Shut down:
Barb Valsoin

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Greeters:
Anne Marie Robinson,
John Conroy

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Sharon Riggi, Denise Lloyd

Lector:
Acts: Borst
New Testament: Denise Lloyd
Universal Prayer: Brynda Shultes

Altar Servers
Sera Wargo, Sam Borst

Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down
Marcia Guntert, Gail Borst

Money counters:
M. Ostermann
Michele Borst



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)

Many thanks to our young actors and actresses who participated in Stations of the Cross led by children at Our Lady of the Valley, in particular: Declan Kropp, Olivia Liuzzi, Hunter and Wesley Ortiz, Luna, Gaia and Enya Pelton, Dylan and Elizabeth Ryan, and Piper Schulmerich, and to the parents who brought soup and sandwiches. It was a touching event.

The next preparation session for First Eucharist will be held this 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.

During this year of Holy Pilgrimage, our Church doors are designated as "A Threshold of Hope". We go forth from this sacred space to witness to the sacred everywhere. Every time we come in, we remember that it is most important that we go out!... refreshed, invigorated, , uplifted, and committed to give birth to new hope in our world. For Christ's sake!

LENT 2025
WE GATHER, WE PRAY, WE SERVE

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, Please return all Rice Bowl donations by Monday, April 28. Your assistance keeps our Church vibrant in our ministry to the poor throughout our world.

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

You are invited to read the article in our Diocesan newspaper "The Evangelist" regarding immediate challenge facing the parishes of our Diocese. See it at <https://evangelist.org/news/2025/apr/02/the-challenge-before-us> To receive this weekly newspaper please call our parish office.

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

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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