


## **DECEMBER 21, 2025: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### **A New Creation in Christ.**



**COME, LET'S BUILD  
Come, let's build the Holy City.  
Come, let's build a family.  
Come let's build a new tomorrow  
where our children will be free.  
We can be a holy people  
living in the Light of God.  
Come, let's build the Holy City  
Build it out of Love.**

#### **OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY**

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

**Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM**

**Bishop of Albany Diocese:** Mark O'Connell

**Bishop Emeritus:** 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

**Bereavement support:** Call the office.

**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.

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#### **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 Our Lady of the Valley in Middleburgh

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

#### **DEVOTIONS**

**ROSARY:** Mondays at 5:00 PM.

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:** Last Monday of the month 5:00 PM.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Mondays 5:30—6:30 PM.

## Liturgy Schedule

**Saturday, December 20, 2025, 6:00 PM**  
Noelle Hellingsworth by Mary + Kevin Harmon

**Sunday, December 21, 2025, 9:00 AM**  
Edward Jandrositz by daughters Stephanie, Ruth and Lori + families  
Doug Foland by the Buzon Family

**Monday, December 22, 2025**  
5:00—5:30 PM Holy Rosary  
5:30—6:30 PM quiet Adoration

### Christmas Mass

**Wednesday, December 24, 6:30 PM, Our Lady of the Valley**  
For children everywhere

**Thursday, December 25, 9:00 AM Our Lady of the Valley**  
For healing in our lives, in our Church

**Saturday, December 27, 2025, 6:00 PM**  
John Bolen by Patty and Kitchell Paser

**Sunday, December 28, 2025, 9:00 AM**  
John Smith by Jackie and Ed Guntert

### Welcome!

We embrace and welcome with great joy our new Bishop, Mark O'Connell, who is called upon to serve all the people of our Albany Diocese. We uplift Bishop Mark with our prayer of love. We thank Bishop Edward Scharfenberger for his years of dedicated service.

### We Pray Advent

We gather in these weeks before Christmas filled with expectations, joy, and hope. As we light candles on our wreath, we join with all Creation – with snow and rain, wind and stars – to become what God truly intends... a world filled with peace, justice, wonder, and life. We sing of the God who loves us. Our hope grows each week until all four candles are lit.

Our response to the Hebrew Scripture is Psalm 122:

"Let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord." All are always welcome. Proclaiming Gospels alive in anticipation, we happily sing "Soon and very soon, alleluia!". We come to the Lord's Table to celebrate Christ in our midst. We live the mystery: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." We enter into the Cross of the world, for our sisters and brothers, even as we await Love's fulfillment. After sharing Eucharist, we gently sing of building up the Holy City, a family living in the Light of God, with doors and hearts, and minds always open that God's peace, God's justice, God's freedom might flourish in us all. We are sent out to continue the mission.

## Administration and Stewardship



### Offerings:

2nd Sunday of Advent Collection: \$4280.00

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

Thank you for your generosity!

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### Christmas Offering

If you use the Christmas offering envelope mailed to you from our parish, your contribution will be counted as restricted funds dedicated to church upkeep.

## WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Saturday, December 20, 2025

#### Greeters:

Barb Valosin

#### Ushers and Seat Counters:

Bill Kuehnle

#### Lector:

Ringuette

#### Altar Servers

Arrietta and Nathan Kuehnle

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Michele Cullam, Katie Hagan

#### Set-up/Shut down:

Barb Valosin

### Sunday, December 21, 2025

#### Greeters:

Joann Coonradt, Doreen Buzon

#### Ushers and Seat Counters:

Sharon Riggi, Denise Lloyd

#### Lector:

Stephanie Tinker

#### Altar Servers:

Sera Wargo, Mary McGrail

#### Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down

Pattie Sainsbury, Jim Buzon

#### Money counters:

Jane Munger, Bonnie Jorgensen

### Saturday, December 27, 2025

#### Greeters:

Mary Bailey

#### Ushers and Seat Counters:

Robin Hazzard

#### Lector:

Patty Paser

#### Altar Servers

Arriette and Nathan Kuehnle

#### Eucharistic Ministers

Michele Cullam, Katie Hagan

#### Set-up/Shut down:

Robin Hazzard

### Sunday, December 28, 2025

#### Greeters:

Michele Finin, Betty Karlau

#### Ushers and Seat Counters:

John Conroy, John Millett

#### Lector:

Brynda Shultes

#### Altar Servers:

Peter Sherer

#### Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down

Joann Coonradt, Margaret Ostermann

#### Money counters:

Shultes, Millett and Chirico

### BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

*It could be said that God's foot is so vast  
that this entire earth is but a field on God's toe,  
and all the forests in this world  
came from the same root of just a single hair of God's.  
What then is not a sanctuary?  
Where can I not kneel and pray at a shrine made holy by His  
presence?*

~ St. Catherine of Siena



baby Zoey Nashville, Ellen Wilford, Jodi Connors, Greg Filisko, Scott Troughton, Joseph Cassella, Jill Zullo, Debbie Calabrese, Andrea Virtuoso, Michele and Phil Smith, Ed Guntert, Arthur Barrett, John Lewis Simmons, Lynn Fileccia, Nina Wayman, Nate Clements, Anthony Chieco, Barbara St. George, Mary Harmon, Joan McCalip, Carol Hoffmann, Joe S., Bob Troidl, Betty Karlau, Linda Quinn, Mundy Zullo, Linda Ballou, Bill Valosin, Brian Barbella, Marge Sainsbury, Annette Casano, Charlie Paduano, Paul Pagano, John VanDerwerke, Margaret Buzon, Marthe Therrien, Kelly and Caleb, Matt Nieminski

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

**10 Week Club Winners**

Week 3: Mike Lang, Fr. Peter Chepaitis, Erica Stark.

Week 4: Tara Miller, George Brathauer, George Brathauer

Week 5: Al Bisogne, Michele Cullam, Pattie Bowman

Please contact Bill Sherer at 202-640-3840, if you have not yet received your prize money.

**Moms' Prayer Group**

Moms' Prayer Group is meeting this Monday, 12/22, starting with Eucharistic Adoration at 5:00 PM. We pray, we share our faith, and we lift each other up.

**Support the Livestreaming of Mass**

We are expanding our livestreaming of the Mass to include both Facebook and YouTube to improve streaming quality and reach parishioners who do not have a Facebook account. We need at least 50 YouTube subscribers to be allowed to livestream on YouTube. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/@OurLadyoftheValley-f2n>

**Ten Week Book Club**

"The Tears of Things" by Fr. Richard Rohr. We will read and discuss the Old Testament prophets and see how their message still resonates today. These books are being purchased by OLV Knights of Columbus.

**Change Our World**

In our hall is a container to collect all that pocket change that seems to lurk everywhere. All donations will be given to local charities. Our first recipients will be our Schoharie Scouts. All pennies, nickels, dimes, etc. are accepted.

**Middleburgh Food Pantries**

Food pantry needs: **chunky soups, peanut butter, cereal, rice, soap, cleaning supplies (detergents), personal hygiene items.** We also need help at our Food Pantry based at the Middleburgh Reformed Church. If you can assist, please call Russ Ryan at 518 817-1414.

**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.

**Bereavement**

We have a support group which meets every two weeks. If anyone has had a loss and needs support, please call our parish office, and leave your name and number, and someone will get back to you.

**The Incarnation of God  
Christ is Born**

Every second, every minute  
every hour, every day  
Everything, everyone  
Every place, every way

Where you walk, where you stand

Where you love, where you pray

All of life is holy ground

Every he, every she

Every what, every who

It's in her, it's in them

It's in me, it's in you

In the bitter, in the sweet

In the calm, in the storm

All of life is holy ground

So walk as if it's holy ground

Breathe as if it's all around

Talk and make a holy sound

Take your shoes off, you're on  
holy ground

When you hurt, when you heal

When you laugh, when you pray

When you hold, when you give it  
away

Every second, every minute  
Every hour, every day  
All of life is holy ground  
So walk as if it's holy ground

Breathe as if it's all around

Talk and make a holy sound

We take our shoes off,

we're on holy ground

We are one people, one story

One tapestry we weave

One journey, one glory

One legacy we mean

Every second, every minute

every hour, every day

Everything, everyone

Every place, every way

Where you walk, where you stand

Where you love, where you pray

All of life is holy ground

Can you feel the holy ground?

May all of your senses be fully  
alive – touch, see, feel, hear, and  
be for here is the holy!

**Advent**

**We serve, we pray, we support**



**Take Home Scripture Study** - the Gospel Truth about Jesus' Birth: Faith or Legend. Read at your leisure the Infancy Narratives.

**Church calendars** – a year of promise.

**Quiet Adoration and Rosary** – Mondays, 5:00 -6:30 PM at Our Lady of the Valley.

**Open Doors** – our church is always open for meditation, walking, and prayer.

**Winter Solstice Fire and Hot-dog BBQ** – Sunday, December 21, 5:00 PM at Fox Creek Park, Schoharie. We welcome winter!

**Vigil for all the World's children:** A Blue Christmas Advent Service of Hope – Sunday, December 21, 6:30 PM at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Middleburgh – A prayer for those who find the holidays difficult.

**Christmas Help**

After Mass this Sunday, 12/21, we need your assistance in putting up Christmas trees, hanging wreaths, arranging the Nativity Scene, and stringing lights. 'Tis the season!

**Christmas Mass**

**Wednesday, December 24**

4:00 PM Our Lady of Fatima, Delanson

6:30 PM Our Lady of the Valley, Middleburgh

**Thursday, December 25**

9:00 AM Our Lady of the Valley, Middleburgh

11:15 AM Our Lady of Fatima, Delanson

**Christmas Party**

Wednesday, December 24 after our 6:30 PM Mass: wine, cheese, eggnog, and cookies in our hall.

**New Year's Eve Gala**

Wednesday, December 31 after our 4:00 PM Mass: wine, cheese, shrimp cocktail, pigs in blankets — partying until the wee hour of 7:00 PM, at the latest! Gathering in our hall.

**Thanks to all!**

Who are helping make Advent and Christmas so festive and faith-filled : our musicians, decorators, cleaners, lectors, ushers, servers, Eucharistic ministers, shovellers, money counters, bell-ringers, and active participants of our assembly.

And a Blessed 2026!

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass**

Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 4:00 PM at OLV

Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 11:15 AM at OLF

**First Day Hike**

Thursday, **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026**, Meeting at Sonny's old garage (The vacant gas station) Route 7, Central Bridge at 12:30 PM. We are trekking along the Schoharie under limestone cliffs. Snow shoes, crampons, or hiking poles may be necessary.



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