

FEBRUARY 22, 2026: First Sunday of Lent

Following Jesus

Holy Spirit, come to us,

Kindle in us the fire of your Love.

Holy Spirit, come to us,

Holy Spirit come to us.

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 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
11:15 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, February 21, 2026, 6:00 PM
Florence "Riccie" Johnson by Lynn Fileccia

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 9:00 AM
Paul Pagano by Lynn Fileccia

Monday, February 23, 2025
5:00—5:30 PM Holy Rosary;
5:30—6:30 PM quiet Adoration

Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 9:00 AM
Brigid Nolan by Chuck and Michele Finin

Friday, February 27, 2026
6:00 PM Soup + sandwich
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 6:00 PM
Joan McCalip by the Rosary Society at OLV

Sunday, March 1, 2026, 9:00 AM
Paul Pagano by the Sherer Family
Lawrence Risse by Denise Lloyd & Family

WE PRAY LENT

Our worship space is simple, stark, and prayerful. Purples remind us of our call to continual conversion. Reds beckon us to live as a holy sacrifice for others. Bold willow branches help us to look forward to eternal spring; their winding twigs lead us along our pilgrim journey. The waters of our Baptismal Font are stilled until Easter. Our Eucharist is a sacred conversation with God and a sacred conversation with each other. The Cross centers us in our mission. We reverently gather together asking our Lord to keep us ever near the healing, freedom giving Cross of Jesus; may the Glory of God uplift us in life giving faith. We acknowledge the sin and need for our own healing among us and the whole world. We invoke God's Spirit in chant: "Holy Spirit, come to us, kindle in us the fire of your love. Holy Spirit, come to us, Holy Spirit come to us." We trust that God lead us and accompany us as we follow Jesus as credible disciples of faith. Our response to the Hebrew Scriptures is Psalm 103: "Loving and forgiving are you O Lord; slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving and forgiving are you." We recall how our Creator has always been among us, sharing the Divine gifts of wisdom and peace; as Heaven soars above, so God's mercy abounds. We approach the Gospel in stillness, with wonder and awe, as we hear God's story unfold among us. The Lord invites us to gather around the Table to be renewed by Christ's real presence as food for our journey.

We sing of our mystery: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." We are empowered to embrace the Cross of our neighbors as a community of life. Our Eucharistic prayer engages us to be the sacrament of Christ in our whole world. We sing: "We are God's People, beloved in Christ." The Great Amen culminates our prayer of thanksgiving. After sharing Communion, we listen and hear God speak tenderly, gently to each one of us, "I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have called you and you are mine." We respond wholeheartedly, invigorated in hope and faith to go forth as beloved, yet humble people abounding in peace, compassion, and love for our world! And Christ is with you.

Administration and Stewardship

Offerings:

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: \$2020.00

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Greeters:
Gabe Ringuette

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Robin Hazzard

Lector:
Dan Ringuette, Patty Paser

Altar Servers:
Arrietta and Nathan Kuehnle

Eucharistic Ministers:
Michele Cullam, Katie Hagan

Set-up/Shut down:
Robin Hazzard

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Greeters:
Michele Finin, Helen Lindstrom

Ushers and Seat Counters:
John Conroy, John Millett

Lector:
Brynda Shultes

Altar Servers:
Seraphina Wargo, Mary McGrail

Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down:
Jackie Guntert, Marcia Guntert

Money counters:
Shultes, Millett, Chirico

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Greeters:
Mary Bailey

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Bill Kuehnle

Lector:
Patty Paser

Altar Servers:
Arrietta and Nathan Kuehnle

Eucharistic Ministers:
Tom Valosin, Gail Borst

Set-up/Shut down:
Barb Valosin

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Greeters:
Joanne Coonrad, Marilyn Nolte

Ushers and Seat Counters:
Denise Lloyd, Marcia Guntert

Lector:
Sharon Riggi

Altar Servers:
Peter Sherer, Mary McGrail

Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down:
Theresa Charland, Jim Buzon

Money counters:
Ostermann, Sherer

BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

"You'll always be enough for one reason, and that's because Jesus Christ loves you." ~ Brad Arnold
Jesus loves us so much! We are reminded to love one another as He loves us.



baby Zoey Nashville, Ellen Wilford, Jodi Connors, Greg Filisko, Scott Troughton, Joseph Cassella, 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, Carol Hoffmann, Joe S., Bob Troidl, Betty Karlau, Linda Quinn, Mundy Zullo, Linda Ballou, Bill Valosin, Brian Barbella, Marge Sainsbury, Annette Casano, Charlie Paduano, John VanDerwerke, Margaret Buzon, Marthe Therrien, Kelly and Caleb, Matt Nieminski, Angelo and Debbie DeMelfi, Fred Pomygalski, Debbie Donnelly, Dion Thomas, Sharon Wood, Jim Ault, Linda Pagano, Tom Barr, Mary Hazzard, Helen Zebrowski, Joseph Pelton

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



GIFT
(Growing in Faith Together): Intergenerational Faith Formation Program

Our next GIFT Session at Our Lady of the Valley on Sunday, 2/22 after the 9AM Mass Our program for adults will be centered on “The Holy Spirit and Our Sanctification”. Our young disciples will center on St. Claire and preparing for Lent. Projects for the season are due at our GIFT sessions in March. More details to follow...



Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:
 Next meeting: March 1st.

Please pray for our Confirmation candidates as they prepare to be confirmed on April 26 at 2:00 PM Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany: Jack Mormando, Fletcher Mormando, Maya Murphy, Collin Castle, Jane Jenkins, Elise McDonald.

Becoming Catholic

If you or someone you know are interested in joining our Church at Easter please contact Fr. Tom Zelker.

LENT FOR US

The liturgical season of Lent is rich with the themes of Christian discipleship. Like all seasons, it passes but is also an opportunity to (re)adopt its themes of introspection, examination of conscience and life, self-denial and self-donation, and ongoing conversion in what it means to live as Christ-followers, as a way of thinking and being, as a whole identity. Drawing on biblical themes, Lent is meant to have ongoing implications and applications in real-world practical ways with the way we live our lives, how we treat others, the sort of persons we become. For these reasons the scriptural readings resound with the biblical imagery of desert and journey, and practices such as fasting and almsgiving. The readings also focus on the state of human alienation from God, neighbor, nature, and oneself – sin. They call us to take sin and its destructive outcomes seriously, whether personal, interpersonal, societal, global, or environmental.

Simultaneously the scriptures call us to take the love of God **even more** seriously. For God’s love is able to heal, restore, regenerate, transform, and able to open up possibilities where no potential seems possible. It is in Jesus that God has loved us with a human heart and loved us “to the end”. It is a love that saves us “in every way that human beings can be saved” and therefore divine salvation is also a very this-worldly experience. For this reason, the Christian experience of divine grace expressed in, and strengthened by, the scriptural witness focuses how we live our lives in light of the gospel of the life, teaching, passion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lent is also a journey leading toward the “Great Week” of the Christian calendar. Each year Christians walk this journey in preparation to renew our baptismal promises during Easter. Lent is an invitation toward transfiguration of ourselves and of our world. In and through Holy Week, the Great Week of the

Christian calendar, Christian communities everywhere participate in the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through our liturgies, scriptures, traditions, and prayers we unite ourselves to Jesus Christ as he united with us. We accompany him in his suffering and are united in his victory over death. We are present to him, and he is present to us as he joined humanity in our many forms of crucifixion – poverty, war, prejudice, oppression, and all the forms of personal suffering – all the “passion” of the human experience, of the experience of being human. The Paschal Mystery transforms us each year. The scriptures tell a story that we need, because it is *our* living story because of the Holy Spirit’s work in and through us.

We gather, we pray, and we serve
Our Lady of the Valley Parish

- ◆ **Fridays of Lent: Soup and Stations:** 6pm soup/sandwich 7 PM Stations of the Cross.
- ◆ **Mondays: Rosary and Quiet Adoration** 5pm – 6:30 PM.
- ◆ **N.E.T. Dinners:** Wednesday, February 11; March 11, 5 PM.
- ◆ **Saint Casimir Day:** Wednesday, March 4, 5 PM, Prayer and Polish and Mexican Foods.
- ◆ **Saint Patrick’s Corned Beef Dinner:** Sunday, March 15, 3:30—6:30 PM, \$17, sit down or take-out, sponsored by our Knights of Columbus.
- ◆ **Saint Patrick’s Day:** Tuesday, March 17, 12 noon at Our Lady of Fatima Hall Leftovers Lunch.
- ◆ **Reconciliation...** Confessions Saturday March 21 10 AM-12 noon, and every Saturday after the 6:00 PM Mass.
- ◆ **Little Black Books:** Meditations on the Passion from the Gospel of Mark (the first Gospel, written around 70AD).
 - ◆ **The Word Among us:** Daily Scripture insights.
- ◆ **Rice Bowls:** We look outward to help the poor of our world.

Our Church is open and lighted 24 hours a day for prayer, reflection, walking, and peace.

New Mass Time

Beginning Sunday, February 22, 2026 (the First Sunday of Lent) Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Fatima, Delanson will begin at **11:15 AM**.

Women’s Interfaith Bible Study

Thursdays: March 5, 19, April 2, 16, 30; at 6:30 PM at “The Living Room”, 289 Main Street, Schoharie. An open discussion of the Sunday Scriptures. For more information call Linda Godoy at 518-542-3530.

Diocesan Appeal

Thank you for your continued support. Offering envelopes are available in the pews. Please consider helping our parish to achieve our assessment.

Render unto Caesar...

If you need contribution statement for your income taxes, please call our parish office.

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 recipient will be the Iroquois Museum. 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 bassinets 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.

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