


## **DECEMBER 14, 2025: 3<sup>rd</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 13, 2025, 6:00 PM**  
Adrienne Bartholomew by Patty and Kitchell Paser

**Sunday, December 14, 2025, 9:00 AM**  
Elizabeth Malone by Mary and Kevin Harmon  
Maciej Gutowski by Laura Pelton

**Monday, December 15, 2025**  
5:00—5:30 PM Holy Rosary  
5:30—6:30 PM quiet Adoration

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 9:00 AM**  
Adrienne Bartholomew by OLV Parish Community

**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

### 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: \$T.B.A.*

*Thank you for your generosity!*



## WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Saturday, December 13, 2025

**Greeters:**  
Barb Valosin

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Bill Kuehnle

**Lector:**  
Pat Costello

**Altar Servers**  
Arrietta and Nathan Kuehnle

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Michele Cullam, Tom Valosin

**Set-up/Shut down:**  
Barb Valosin

### Sunday, December 14, 2025

**Greeters:**  
Michele Finin, Helen Lindstrom

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Stephanie and Bob Tinker

**Lector:**  
Denise Lloyd

**Altar Servers:**  
Peter Sherer

**Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down**  
Jackie Guntert, Marcia Guntert

**Money counters:**  
Denise Lloyd, Elizabeth Blackmur

### Saturday, December 20, 2025

**Greeters:**  
Barb Valosin

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Bill Kuehnle

**Lector:**  
Ringnette

**Altar Servers**  
Arrietta and Nathan Kuehnle

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Michele Cullam, Katie Hagan

**Set-up/Shut down:**  
Barb Valosin

### Sunday, December 21, 2025

**Greeters:**  
Joann Coonrad, 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

### BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

Welcome to this circle  
where love and grace abound  
We honor your journey  
and wherever you are bound  
We will walk beside you  
Encourage you on your way  
Celebrate your spirit  
and hold you as we pray.  
There is love for one like you  
There is grace enough

to see you through  
and wherever you have walked,  
whatever path you choose,  
May you know  
there is love for one  
like you



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...

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



### **Growing In Faith Together (GIFT)** **Intergenerational Faith Formation** **and Religious Education**

Reminder: Seasons of GIFT is our parish process for continual, lifelong, intergenerational faith exploration. Journey with us as we gather to learn, experience and share faith.

**All are welcome!**

### **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.

### **Be an Advent Person**

Awaken, my heart,  
God's reign is near;

the Peaceable Kingdom is in my hands.

If the wolf can be the guest of the lamb,

and the bear and cow be friends,

then no injury or hate can be a guest

within the kingdom of my heart.

Eden's peace and harmony will only return  
when first, in my heart, there hides no harm or  
ruin,

for the Peaceable Kingdom is in my hands.

Isaiah's dream became Jesus' vision:

"Come, follow me," Emmanuel's echo rings.

"Reform your life, recover Eden's peace,"

for only then will salvation appear.

For Advent's dream is the healing of earth,  
when the eagle and bear become  
friends,

the child and the serpent playmates.

Arise, awaken, my heart,

the Peaceable Kingdom is in your  
hands.



## **Advent**

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

**Little Blue books** and **The Word Among Us** – reflections on the Sunday Gospels;

**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.

**Community Caroling and Concert** – Seasonal sing-a-long – Sunday, December 14, 6:30 PM at Middleburgh Reformed Church.

**Communal Reconciliation Service** – Tuesday, December 16, 6:00 PM at Our Lady of the Valley – Confessions every Saturday 2:00 PM at Our Lady of Fatima.

**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 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 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.

### **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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