

## **DECEMBER 28, 2025: The Holy Family**



### **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 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

**Monday, December 29, 2025**  
5:00—5:30 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet  
5:30—6:30 PM quiet Adoration

**Wednesday, December 31, 2025**  
**No 9:00 AM Mass**  
4:00 PM Solemnity of Mary Mass at OLV

**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**  
11:15 AM Solemnity of Mary Mass at OLF

**Saturday, January 3, 2026, 6:00 PM**  
Sabina Wiśniewska by Laura Pelton

**Sunday, January 4, 2026, 9:00 AM**  
For Peace among the Nations

### 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 Christmas

The immense joy of Christmas is obvious in our worship space as flowers, wreaths, stars, and angels surround us. One can't help but smile. The feeding through manger is beneath the Table of the Lord where we are fed with the Body and Blood of Christ. As we gather, we echo the song of the angels "Glory to God!" Our response to the Hebrew Scripture is the canticle "Today our Savior is born. This is the day, Christ our Savior is born!". We arise for the Gospel singing "Alleluia!, Jesus is the Light of the world."

When we gather at the Table, we proclaim our mystery "Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free."

After our Great Amen we tenderly sing "Our Father...", inviting Jesus' words to uplift our hearts as a community of faith. We are sent forth to be the mission of Jesus Christ born among us.

## Administration and Stewardship



### Offerings:

**3rd Sunday of Advent Collection: \$3002.75**

**4th Sunday of Advent: \$ 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 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 Coonrad, Margaret Ostermann

**Money counters:**  
Shultes, Millett and Chirico

**Saturday, January 3, 2026**

**Greeters:**  
Pat Costello

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Robin Hazzard

**Lector:**  
Pat Costello

**Altar Servers**  
Luna and Gaia Pelton

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Michele Cullam, Katie Hagan

**Set-up/Shut down:**  
Robin Hazzard

**Sunday, January 4, 2026**

**Greeters:**  
AnneMarie Robinson, Marilyn Nolte

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

**Lector:**  
Sharon Riggi

**Altar Servers:**  
Peter Sherer

**Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down**  
Pattie Sainsbury, Joanne Coonrad

**Money counters:**  
Ostermann and Sherer

### BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

"Hope is not a dream  
but a way of making dreams become reality."  
- Leon Joseph Suenens

**Bulletin cover art by Luna Pelton (10 y.o.)**



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, Angelo and Debbie DeMelfi, Fred Pomygalski

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



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

Our next GIFT session will take place on Sunday, January 25 after our 9:00 AM Mass. We encourage you to stay after hospitality in the hall and re-discover with us the Catechism of the Catholic Church with the help of video presentations by Ascension Press. We will also have activities for our young disciples at the same time.



**Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

Confirmation Retreat: Oil and Bread, Sunday, January 4, 2026: 1:00 PM at OLF Center.  
Small Group Session 3 (Oil – anointing, laying on of hands and being sealed): Sunday, February 1, 2026 at OLF Center.

**The Christmas Message**

*“Love all God’s creation, the whole and every grain of sand in it. Love every leaf, every ray of God’s light. Love the animals, love the plants, love everything. If you love everything, you will perceive the divine mystery in things. Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend it better every day. And you will come at last to love the whole world with an all-embracing love... When you are alone, pray. Love to throw yourself down on the earth and kiss it. Kiss the earth and love it [with an all-consuming love].”*

~Fyodor Dostoevsky “The Karamazov Brothers”



The Love born among us at Christmas is timeless, beautiful, and worth living for...Barbara and Tommy in the 1950's.

**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.

**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.

**Epiphany Blessing of toys, stuffed animals, doll and gifts**

At Mass on January 3 and 4, we invite all children to bring in this Christmas presents to be blessed during our prayer.

**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.





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