

# JANUARY 4, 2026: The Epiphany of the Lord



## 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.

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

## Liturgy Schedule

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

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

**Monday, January 5, 2025**  
5:00—5:30 PM the Holy Rosary  
5:30—6:30 PM quiet Adoration

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 9:00 AM**  
For peace between Orthodox and Protestant and Catholic Christians (Orthodox Christmas)

**Friday, January 9, 2026, 2:00 and 3:00 PM**  
Christmas Masses at Kingsway Nursing Facility

**Saturday, January 10, 2026, 6:00 PM**  
John Smith by Paul, Robin, and the Kuehnle Family

**Sunday, January 11, 2026, 9:00 AM**  
For all baptized believers

### 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.

Bulletin cover art by *Hunter, Wesley, Michael and Izzy Ortiz.*

## Administration and Stewardship

### Offerings:

**4th Sunday of Advent Collection: \$6776.15**  
**The Holy Family Sunday Collection: \$ T.B.A.**  
Thank you for your generosity!

## WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### 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 Coonradt

**Money counters:**  
Ostermann and Sherer

### Saturday, January 10, 2026

**Greeters:**  
Mary Bailey

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Bill Kuehnle

**Lector:**  
Patty Paser

**Altar Servers**  
Arrietta and Nathan Kuehnle

**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Michele Cullam, Tom Valosin

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

### Sunday, January 11, 2026

**Greeters:**  
Michele Finin, Helen Lindstrom

**Ushers and Seat Counters:**  
Marcia and Jackie Guntert

**Lector:**  
Denise Lloyd

**Altar Servers:**  
Mary McGrail

**Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down**  
Margaret Ostermann, Betty Karlau

**Money counters:**  
Lloyd and Blackmur

## BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

And even though it often seems like things are crumbling around us, I feel like I'm falling apart, it's not like it used to be, and even how ruined my house might be... God lives here! God chooses to come and dwell with us right here! God pitches his tent among us! God builds a home within us, within you with a strong foundation held together with love. I might feel like a wreck... way behind in work, lots of things to do, friends can be distant, I'm so tired... But because of Jesus, we know we are a beautiful dwelling place, the home of God. This is the great message of this season.



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.

**A Pilgrimage of Faith**

The road home, O God, seems long  
and at times is difficult and painful.

Grant me a holy communion, a companionship with others,  
as I journey homeward to you.

I live in times of great trial:  
an age of change sits at my door.  
Without a community with others  
I can so easily loose the way,  
can be led astray by illusions of holiness,  
misguided by my ego's desires.

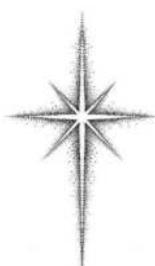
Open my eyes to your precious gift  
of the Church's Communion of Saints.  
"Saint" is a name I would never call myself,  
but the treasury of my faith

teaches me about my holy birthright,  
that I am part of the web of sacred communion,  
uniting me with all other home-bound pilgrims  
and with all who now rejoice  
at their homecoming in you.  
May I feed this day upon the food  
of this mystic, holy communion  
with those friends and fellow pilgrims  
with whom I share this planet Earth,  
as well as those saints now fully one with you.  
May this awareness of my companion journey

with all the saints  
deepen my life of prayer

and fertilize my faith in you, my Beloved.

By this communion of holy ones  
may I be daily challenged  
to greater compassion and charity  
as I walk the way of the pilgrim.



**Upcoming Events**

**Knights of Columbus—Pasta Takeout Festa**

Friday, January 16, 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM at OLV Hall: spaghetti dinners to go!

**Barn Dance and Country Chicken Picnic**

Sunday, January 25, 3:00 PM in Our Lady of the Valley Hall. Blue Grass music, square dancing, and line and country dancing.

**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.

**Expanding Horizons of Faith**

**During this Season:**

- ◆ \$125 was given to Community Maternity Services, the Joshua Project, and the Nature Conservancy from All Souls offerings (\$375 total);
- ◆ 11 pounds of change (\$132.00) was given to support Schoharie Boy Scouts;
  - ◆ 60 shoeboxes were filled to help kids in Africa;
  - ◆ Car loads of diapers were given to CMC families;
- ◆ Truck loads of towels and soap went to the Schenectady City Mission;
- ◆ With the Joshua Project: 500 Thanksgiving baskets of food were shared; 7 families received 96 gifts from our giving tree; 59 families were adopted; 300 families received Christmas gifts for 1000 children.
- ◆ 42 care packages were given to elderly home-bound by our Confirmation kids.

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