

JANUARY 11, 2026: The Baptism of the Lord



OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

111 WELLS AVE., PO BOX 311, MIDDLEBURGH, NY 12122
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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.

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 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
Monday, January 12, 2025 5:00—5:30 PM the Holy Rosary 5:30—6:30 PM quiet Adoration
Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 9:00 AM Adrienne Bartholomew by Tarcila and Ricky Patino
Saturday, January 17, 2026, 6:00 PM Wanda Barr by Robin Hazzard
Sunday, January 18, 2026, 9:00 AM William Puotinen by Diane M. Puotinen

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 *Aubrey Simeon (10 y.o.)*

Administration and Stewardship

Offerings:

*The Holy Family Sunday Collection: \$1143.10
The Epiphany Sunday Collection: \$2187.00
Thank you for your generosity!*

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 10, 2026	Sunday, January 11, 2026
Greeters: Mary Bailey	Greeters: Michele Finin, Helen Lindstrom
Ushers and Seat Counters: Bill Kuehnle	Ushers and Seat Counters: Marcia and Jackie Guntert
Lector: Patty Paser	Lector: Denise Lloyd
Altar Servers Arrietta and Nathan Kuehnle	Altar Servers: Mary McGrail
Eucharistic Ministers Michele Cullam, Tom Valosin	Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down Margaret Ostermann, Betty Karlau
Set-up/Shut down: Barb Valosin	Money counters: Lloyd and Blackmur
Saturday, January 17, 2026	Sunday, January 18, 2026
Greeters: Ringuelette	Greeters: Caroline Borst
Ushers and Seat Counters: Bill Kuehnle	Ushers and Seat Counters: Denise Lloyd, Sharon Rigg
Lector: Ringuelette	Lector: Borst
Altar Servers Arrietta and Nathan Kuehnle	Altar Servers: Sam Borst
Eucharistic Ministers Gail Borst, Tom Valosin	Eucharistic Ministers/Shut down Jackie Guntert, Marcia Guntert
Set-up/Shut down: Barb Valosin	Money counters: Jane Munger, Bonnie Jorgensen
BEATITUDES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING	
"Faith can no longer be a matter of habit! Its truths, which we have been hearing since childhood, must consume and capture our interest. In a word, we must become living Christians again!... Let us be blunt. If our religion is but a "Sunday thing" and we do not draw any ideals or strength from it in order to handle our everyday toils, what is the use of such religions? See this as a calling for our times and as a calling from God in today's struggle for faith. O Christian! Put your religion again at the core of your daily life!" ~Fr. Jan Franciszek Macha (a Polish priest executed by the Nazis in occupied Poland 1942).	



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, Debbie Donnelly

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: Small Group Session 3 (Oil – anointing, laying on of hands and being sealed): Sunday, February 1, 2026 at OLF Center.

Becoming Catholic

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

A Word from God

I want you to know I love you today and forever.. I always have. I want you to know how much I truly cherish you.. Just as you are.

I'm with you every moment. I enjoy laughing with you. I'm thrilled at your adventures and fun times. My heart leaps at your loves and dreams. Let my joy enthuse you.

My heart aches with your hurts and worries. Let my tears heal your wounds.

I want you to live in peace and take care of each other. Have faith in yourself.. Believe in your amazing abilities.. your goodness.. your creativity.. Trust your spirit... let it soar.

Each day wake up knowing you are never alone. When your cross is too heavy, remember I've been there and we can do it together. And when darkness, tombs overwhelms... I breathe life into you.

Remember.. When you come together, listen to each other, eat around the Table... I am here among and with you.. born again...right now.. When you need skin.. I give you my heart...I give you each other... I give you my word...Jesus.

Respectfully,

God

God's Word to humanity is not primarily the word read in a book, but it is the Word Incarnate, not only as a human being, but present as the element in all beings, in all created reality... seen and unseen... understood and beyond. The feast of Jesus' birth says that it's good to be human, it's good to be on this Earth, it's good to have a body, it's good to have emotions, it's good to have dreams and hopes. Let's never be ashamed or fearful... let us be a new dawning... filled with joy, renewed connections, and wonder.



Our frigid first day hike along the Schoharie...brrr

Upcoming Events

Render unto Caesar...

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

N.E.T. Dinner

Wednesday, January 14: Soups from around the world. Soups from around the world will be served. If you would like to share a specialty soup, please bring it before 5:00 PM. Desserts are always needed, especially cheesecake.

Knights of Columbus—Pasta Takeout Festa

Drive by and pick up a home-made dinner of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, and bread at the Our Lady of the Valley parking lot on Chestnut Street in Middleburgh on Friday, January 16, 2026 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm while supplies last. Cooked and served the Knights of Columbus. Suggested donation \$15.

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 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 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.

Thank you

For all the Christmas cards, prayer cards, well wishes, food and gifts this Season. All are most appreciated. Merry Christmas.

~ Fr. Tom Zelker



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