




**SHRINE CHURCH OF  
OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS**  
A MISSION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

**Shrine Entrance:** 273 Central Avenue, Albany, New York, 12206  
**Mailing Address:** 274 Sherman Street, Albany, New York 12206 (Rear Entrance of the Church)  
**Office Phone Number:** (518) 465-3685, Ext. 12 (Bilingual)  
**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday: **by appointment.** Call 465-3685, Ext. 12; Closed on Fridays  
**Website:** [www.ourladyoftheamericas.org](http://www.ourladyoftheamericas.org) ~ **E-mail:** [OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com](mailto:OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com)  
**Staff:** Pastor: *Rev. Joseph O'Brien*, (518) 482-3375  
Shrine Chaplain: *Rev. Francis O'Connor*, (518) 482-3375  
Deacon: *Miguel Fabián*  
Pastoral Associate: *Sister Grace R. Díaz*, (518) 465-3685 ext.12  
Faith Formation Team Coordinator: *Cynthia M. Ortiz Ramirez* (518) 465-3685 ext. 11  
Music Minister: *Deborah Klose*, e-mail: [dklose@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dklose@nycap.rr.com)

**General Information**

**Reconciliation:** SUNDAYS, before and after both Masses or by appointment, *Fr. O'Connor*  
**Misa de Sanación:** Last Friday of every month 6:30 pm (Praise & Worship), 7:00 pm Mass (Not in Lent)  
**Baptism:** Instruction required. **5 weeks in advance** contact *Sister Grace FIRST, for needed documentation, then Claire Nolan*, [cbnolou@gmail.com](mailto:cbnolou@gmail.com) in English & *Confesora Franco*, [clovejesus@aol.com](mailto:clovejesus@aol.com) in Spanish.  
**Marriage:** Meet with *Shrine Chaplain six months in advance.* Instruction required. Call *Father* or *Deacon Miguel*.  
**Quinceañera:** Schedule six months in advance with **Father and Sister**; then with *Griselle Maldonado-Torres*  
**Hospital/Nursing Home Visitation (Bilingual):** *Fr. O'Connor; Gladys Miranda*  
**Deadline for Bulletin Announcement & Attachment:** TUES. @\*\*NOON → [cbnolou@gmail.com](mailto:cbnolou@gmail.com) - March

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 23, 2020</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:30 am English Mass</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">✠ <i>Michael Hourigan</i> by the Jeffers Family <i>Journey Retreat participants</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12:00 pm Spanish Mass</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">✠ <i>Joaquín Bermúdez</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">✠ <i>Luis Manuel González Mejía</i> by his wife, <i>Marta Nuñez &amp; his children,</i> <i>Cristian Manuel y Katherine González</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">**<i>In thanksgiving for Eduardo Kin Valverde Salas</i> <i>on his birthday by his wife, Laura Uriña de</i> <i>Valverde</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">✠ <i>Rosa Emilia Báez</i></p>	<p><b>Mass Intentions</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March 1, 2020</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9:30 am English Mass</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">✠ <i>Edward Hall (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">✠ <i>John and Phyllis Schillaci</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">** <i>Robert Martinez</i> on his birthday</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12:00 pm Spanish Mass</b></p>
<p><b>Weekly MASS Intentions: Request in 2 easy steps! ***Please do Step #1 FIRST.***</b></p> <p><b>Step 1:</b> <u>Call the Church Office at least 5 days before the desired date</u> <u>at (518)465-3685, ext. 12 or EMAIL: <a href="mailto:OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com">OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com</a></u> <i>with your name, phone number, the desired date, &amp; intention.</i></p> <p><b>Step 2:</b> Put your offering envelope in the collection basket <b>any Sunday</b> with information of the Mass intention.</p>		

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ February 23, 2020**

♪    ♪    *The Lord is kind and merciful.*    ♪    ♪

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>This Week's Liturgical Ministers</b></p> <p><b>9:30 am English Mass:</b> Sacristan: <i>Mack McPherson</i>; Leader: <i>JoAnn Bisogno</i>; Readers: <i>Claire Nolan</i> and <i>Ed Falterman</i>; Eucharistic Ministers: <i>Teresa Crasto-Donnelly, Tammy Crasto, Mary Giordano, and Herb Barber</i></p> <p><b>12:00 pm Spanish Mass:</b> Sacristán: <i>Patricia Reyes</i>, Lectores: <i>Claribel Sánchez</i> and <i>Juan David Ochoa</i>; Ministros Eucarísticos: <i>María Stella, Miriam Domínguez,</i> and <i>Lourdes Fabian</i>; Hospitalidad: <i>Williams Gonzalez</i> and <i>Briselys Vásquez</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sharing our Treasure</b> <i>~ Giving as an act of Worship ~</i></p> <p><i>We need at least \$2,500.00 per week in the collections to break even, not counting unexpected maintenance costs.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collections</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 16: \$1,892.85</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you, each and all, who share your Time, Talent &amp; Treasure with our community</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Calendar of Events</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, February 23</b> <b>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 9:30 am English Mass followed by <i>Coffee and Conversation</i> 12:00 pm Spanish Mass followed by <i>the Journey Retreat</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Monday, February 24</b> Prayer and Worship Committee Meeting – 6:30 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday, February 25</b> Cenáculo - 6:30-8:00pm <i>Potluck Mardi Gras at Blessed Sacrament – 5:30 pm</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday, February 26</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Masses at Blessed Sacrament: 7:00 am, 10:00 am (School Mass), 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm Choir Practice: English - 5:00 pm &amp; Spanish – 6:00 pm Mass at Shrine Church: Spanish Mass, 7:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Friday, February 28</b> Bilingual Stations of the Cross, Soup, Reflection – 6:30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Saturday, February 29</b> Práctica de Bailes – Herminia 4:00 – 6:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, March 1</b> <b>First Sunday of Lent</b> 9:30 am English Mass; 12:00 pm Spanish Mass <i>We welcome members of AOH to the 9:30 Mass today!</i> Práctica/Bailes –Herminia - 4:00 – 6:00pm</p>
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## Lenten Schedule

### Ash Wednesday

Masses at Blessed Sacrament: **7:00 am**,  
**9:00 am** (School Mass), **12:00 pm**, and **5:00 pm**  
Mass at Shrine Church: **Spanish Mass, 7:00 pm**  
**Bilingual Stations of the Cross, Soup, & Reflection**  
Fridays in Lent at 6:30 pm

### Lectio Divina

This is a way of reading sacred Scripture  
which has aided many of us.

*Fr. O'Connor* has often encouraged us to use this  
as a way of greater deepening our prayer life.

You can download the **Lectio Divina Weekly Guide** in

**English:** <https://catholic.bible/category/lectio-divina/>

**Spanish:** <https://catholic.bible/lectio-divina-en-espanol/>



### Lunch Parish Fundraiser



Mark your calendars for our next Lunch Fundraiser  
**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** after the 12:00 Mass

*Join us for a delicious chicken lunch – eat in or take-out!*

### The Mustard Seed Collection for Next Weekend is for the Veteran's House,

at 180 First Street in Albany & run by the Albany Housing  
Coalition. They provide a safe haven for 50+ homeless  
veterans in their housing. The housing includes a secure  
transitional residence, independent transitional housing, and  
permanent housing. There are only men living here so  
toiletries like **razors, shave cream, body wash, shampoo,**  
**deodorant** are always needed. The men do their own laundry  
at the house so **laundry soap and dryer sheets** are helpful.

They also give new residents brand new bedding, so **twin  
sheets, pillowcases and twin blankets, must be new.** Most  
of these vets will be starting out fresh from life on the streets.

Let's show our **Vets** how much we value their service.

**Thank You!**

Dear **Friends of Emmaus House** (Albany Catholic Worker),  
Our furnace is broken. After several visits by repair folks,  
it's been recommended that we get a new furnace.

Can you please **pray for us** (and for other folks who have  
no heat.)? If possible, **make a donation** to help us buy a  
new, energy efficient furnace. Checks may be payable to  
either "Emmaus House" or "Albany Catholic Worker" and  
sent to: Emmaus House, 45 Trinity Place, Albany, NY  
12202.

**Thanks for your prayers & support. In peace,**  
*Fred Boehrer & Diana Conroy*

### We are all invited! Mark your calendars for these special events at Blessed Sacrament:

**Mardi Gras Potluck Supper** - Tuesday, February 25,  
from 5:30-6:30 pm in the gym.

**St. Patrick's Day Mass** - Saturday, March 14th at 9:00 am  
with a reception in the gym.

**Chicken Parm Dinner** - Saturday, April 4th after the  
4:00 pm Mass in the gym.

**Annual Garage Sale** - Saturday, May 2nd in the gym.

### Peek at March 1

**First Reading:** Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7,

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalms 51:3-6, 12-13, 17

**Second Reading:** Romans 5:12-19

**Gospel:** St. Matthew 4:1-11

**9:30 am English Mass:** Sacristan: *Mack McPherson*; Leader:  
*JoAnn Bisogno*; Readers: *Claire Nolan* and *Ed Falterman*;  
Eucharistic Ministers: *Teresa Crasto-Donnelly*, *Tammy  
Crasto*, *Mary Giordano*, and *Herb Barber*

**12:00 pm Spanish Mass:** Sacristán: *Patricia Reyes*,  
Lectores: *Lourdes Fabian* and *Elena Alcantar*; Ministros  
Eucarísticos: *Jacqueline Fabian*, *Delfina Santaski*, and *Nancy  
Pérez*; Hospitalidad: *Miriam Domínguez*, *Rosa Albarán*, and  
*Williams González*.

Through Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance,  
**families or individuals may be able to get one-time  
assistance for things like utilities, medical care or  
other costs in order to make ends meet.**

If you or someone you know is in need, **contact  
Catholic Charities by visiting [ccrcda.org](http://ccrcda.org)  
or calling 518-453-6650.**

### Today's Gospel Reflection

Jesus warns his disciples against the leaven of the Pharisees  
and of Herod. Conversely, he wanted them to be the leaven  
that would transform their culture. The Second Vatican  
Council spoke of the universal call to holiness—the summons  
of all the baptized to be a transforming leaven in the wider  
society. The Vatican II fathers wanted to inspire a generation  
in the hopes that such people would carry the holiness they  
learned in the Church out to their areas of specialization in  
the secular world.

The Church manifests the way of ordering things born of  
love—love for God and love for neighbor. Generosity, peace,  
nonviolence, and trust will give rise to a new way of ordering  
things. This is true of a family, a school, **a parish, a  
community**, a nation-state. Now, how in the world does one  
get this project off the ground? As should be clear to even the  
most naïve person, this never happens all at once, overnight.  
Rather, in small ways, people begin living according to the  
Lord's ways. And then, in God's time, this new community  
begins to have a leavening effect on the wider society.

Last Sunday, after asking people to stand when I  
mentioned a ministry they were in, all stood, showing the  
great involvement of our community in service to one  
another. Then I quoted a German theologian & mystic,  
Meister Eckhart, "And suddenly you know: It's time to  
start something new and trust the magic of beginnings."  
Through this insight, I realized that it is time to resign my  
official role as Pastoral Associate this month. I see myself  
working among you in a more informal way in March  
when I will work with the many who already carry a lot of  
responsibility. I will do so away from view so other  
leaders can be recognized for work they have been doing.  
I trust that you will continue your generous participation.

I know I cannot thank you or our God enough for the  
opportunity to serve with you in this very special  
community. Thank you.

*Sister Grace*

Grace R. Diaz, snjm, Pastoral Associate



### NEW TO THE PARISH? *Welcome!* HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE Number?

Please fill in your information below and drop in the collection.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) I am new to the parish

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Send me "The Evangelist"

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Please send church envelopes

Over Please