



**Important Contact Information**

**Mailing Address:** 274 Sherman Street, Albany, New York 12206  
(Rear Entrance of the Church)  
**Office Phone Number:** (518)465-3685, Ext. 12 English; Ext. 13 Spanish  
**Website:** <https://ourladyoftheamericas.org/>  
**E-mail:** [OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com](mailto:OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com)  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/shrinechurchofourladyoftheamericas>  
**Shrine Chaplain:** Rev. Francis O'Connor, (518) 482-3375 or (518) 588-2531  
**Faith Formation Team Coordinator:** Cynthia M. Ortiz Ramirez(518) 465-3685 ext. 11  
**Music Minister:** Deborah Klose, [dklose@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dklose@nycap.rr.com)  
**Baptism:** Claire Nolan, [cbnolou@gmail.com](mailto:cbnolou@gmail.com). English or  
Confesora Franco, [cflovejesus@aol.com](mailto:cflovejesus@aol.com), Spanish.  
**Marriage:** Rev. Francis O'Connor, (518) 482-3375 or (518) 588-2531  
**Quinceañera:** Rev. Francis O'Connor, (518) 482-3375 or (518) 588-2531  
**Deadline for Bulletin Announcement & Attachment:**  
Wednesdays@Noon ~ [tmcrasto@hotmail.com](mailto:tmcrasto@hotmail.com) ~ December  
**Mass Intentions:** Tammy Crasto (518) 229-7345 or Confesora Franco (518) 542-4192

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – December 27, 2020**

♪ ♪ *Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.* ♪ ♪

<p><b>December 27</b> <b>9:30 am English Mass</b> ✠ Catherine Alice Nolan McEvoy by her nieces and nephews <b>12:00 pm Spanish Mass</b></p>	<p><b>Mass Intentions</b></p> 	<p><b>January 3</b> <b>9:30 am English Mass</b> ✠ Jillian Walsh by her family ✠ Frank McGinty by the McGinty Family <b>12:00 pm Spanish Mass</b></p>
<p><b>January 1- Solemnity of Mary</b> <b>11:00 am Bilingual Mass</b> <i>For Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All</i></p>		

**Sharing our Treasure**  
*~ Giving as an act of Worship ~*  
*We need at least \$2,500.00 per week in the collections to break even, not counting unexpected maintenance costs.*

**Collections As of December 20**  
**Regular: \$2263.15**

If you are unable to attend Mass, please mail checks:  
274 Sherman Street, Albany, NY 12206. *Do not mail cash.*

*Thank you, each and all, who share your Time, Talent & Treasure with our community*

**Fuel Collection – Winter is here!**

**Calendar of Events**  
**Sunday, December 27**  
*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*  
*Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.*

**Friday, January 1**  
*Solemnity of Mary*  
*May God bless us in his mercy.*  
Bilingual Mass – 11:00 am

**Sunday, January 3**  
*The Epiphany of the Lord*  
*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

**To View Masses Online:**  
Go to the Live Mass on Facebook  
for All Masses Held at the Shrine Church  
<https://www.facebook.com/shrinechurchofourladyoftheamericas/>

**Mass during Coronavirus pandemic:**

**Procedures:** Enter the Church using the Lake Avenue entrance; your name and phone number will be taken at the door. Face masks must be worn at all times. All will be escorted to a place to sit, directions will be given for receiving communion and at dismissal. Singing can cause the virus to travel longer distances listen, do not sing to the beautiful music. At all times, six feet social distancing must be observed. Do not gather in groups before or after Mass.

**Holy Communion:** to maintain appropriate “social distancing”, “ambassadors” will direct those going to Communion. Persons sitting on the **Blessed Mother’s side will go first; THEN, persons on the St. Joseph side of the church.** Those in the front of the church will receive in the front of the center aisle. Those in the back will receive in the **Gathering Area.** The advice from the health community and the Albany Diocese strongly encourages us to receive the Body of Christ in your hand. Then as you turn away from the minister of the Eucharist lower your mask, consume the Body of Christ, and then raise your mask again. This helps protect you and those who distribute the Holy Eucharist.

**Christmas Flowers in honor of:**

*Helen Martino  
Patrick J Dalton  
Mr. and Mrs. William H Mayer  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dalton  
Vanessa Dalton  
Russell Lockenwitz  
James Martino, Sr.  
Christopher Dalton  
Edward P. Nolan, MD  
Rita M. Nolan  
Rose H. Haley  
James Haley  
Nolan Hennessey Family  
Dannemiller and McGowan Family  
Margaret and Ed LaPointe  
Louis Mrak  
Francis Mrak  
John McGraw  
Veronica McGraw  
Margaret and Ed FitzGibbons  
Marion Ford  
Grant Ford Sr.  
Gwendolyn  
Ruth  
Luz  
Eulalio*

**Act of Spiritual Communion**

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.*

**Online Ministry Needs:** The Shrine Church is in great need of **volunteers** to run the livestream for the Sunday Masses. If you are interested in helping please contact *Peter* at 315-853-1517 or [pdonnellyk@gmail.com](mailto:pdonnellyk@gmail.com) for the 9:30 Mass, and *Fausto Franco* at 518-330-8120 or [fausto\\_franco@hotmail.com](mailto:fausto_franco@hotmail.com) for the 12:00 Mass. ***Our parishioners at home greatly appreciate this service.***

**The Shrine Church Pantry Box**, donated by *Open World Relief*, is located near the North Lake Avenue entrance of the Church. This is a wonderful opportunity to fulfill Jesus' command to feed the hungry. Please place non-perishable food items in the box when you arrive at Church to help feed our West Hill neighborhood.

**Lectio Divina**

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

**Readings for Sunday, January 3**  
*The Epiphany of the Lord*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13  
**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3:2-3A, 5-6  
**Gospel:** St. Matthew 2:1-12

**Solemnity of Mary – January 1, 2021**  
**Bilingual Mass at 11:00 am**

**Thank You!**

The Christ Child Society is very grateful to everyone who donated items for the “comfort bags” which are being given to victims of domestic violence. We are also very grateful to the Christ Child Society for all they do for our community!

**Shrine Church Fundraiser**

Our very own parishioner and local artist **Milton “Mack” McPherson** has painted a beautiful image of **Our Lady of the Rosary**. Prints of this painting (20”x 16”) are available for a donation of \$75 or more to the Shrine Church. If you would like one, please place \$75 or a check made payable to the Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas in an envelope. Write your name, phone number and the word “Painting” on the envelope and place it in the collection basket. Your print will be ready for pick up the following Sunday. **What a wonderful Christmas gift!** If you have any questions, please contact *Mary Giordano* at [mtgiordano20@gmail.com](mailto:mtgiordano20@gmail.com) 518-248-5565

December 25, 2020

Dear Friends, Parishioners,

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” These words are in the opening verses of St. John’s Gospel.

We’ve all experienced overpowering darkness this year, creeping in from every corner; the pandemic, the horror of violence and racism in our own country, political division and hostility, scandal in our beloved Church and your own personal suffering. The darkness is intense. Our faith is tested. Is any light bright enough to conquer this darkness?

Our fear tells us no. The night is too dark, too intense, too heavy. But our faith tells us yes. This tiny light that sparked in Bethlehem, this light which shines in the darkness, which conquers all darkness, this light is the child born in darkness, born in poverty, born in weakness.

Behold this child wrapped in swaddling clothes, laid in a feeding trough, breathing the midnight air. He brings a great power into the world, God’s pure love. This power conquers every bit of darkness and this power is ours. All we need do is open our hearts in trust, in belief.

This little child Jesus reignites our faith. We believe, we share in this great light in this time of darkness this Christmas and into a New Year of hope and light.

We are grateful for all of you who worship with us in our Shrine Church.

**Merry Christmas,**

*Fr. O’Connor  
Deacon Miguel Fabian  
Debbie Klose  
Judy Stoffels  
and, of course,  
our beloved Sister Grace Diaz*

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**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