



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
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
Baptism:Claire Nolan, cbnolou@gmail.com. English or
Confesora Franco, 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 ~December
Mass Intentions:Tammy Crasto (518) 229-7345 or Confesora Franco (518) 542-4192

The Baptism of Our Lord - January 10, 2021

♪ ♪ *The Lord will bless his people with peace.* ♪ ♪

<p>January 10 9:30 am English Mass In Thanksgiving for <i>Debbie Klose</i></p> <p>12:00 pm Spanish Mass In Thanksgiving for <i>Deacon Miguel Fabian</i> on his Birthday</p>	<p>Mass Intentions</p> 	<p>January 17 9:30 am English Mass 12:00 pm Spanish Mass</p>
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<p>Sharing our Treasure ~ <i>Giving as an act of Worship</i> ~ <i>We need at least \$2,500.00 per week in the collections to break even, not counting unexpected maintenance costs.</i></p> <p>Collections As of January 3 Regular \$\$2973.00 January 1 \$384.00 Christmas \$500.00 Solemnity of Mary \$106.00</p> <p>If you are unable to attend Mass, please mail checks: 274 Sherman Street, Albany, NY 12206. <i>Do not mail cash.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you, each and all, who share your Time, Talent & Treasure with our community</i></p> <p>Fuel Collection – Winter is here!</p>	<p>Calendar of Events</p> <p>Sunday, January 10 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> <i>The Lord will bless his people with peace.</i></p> <p>Sunday, January 17 <i>Second Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> <i>Here I am Lord, I come to do your will.</i></p> <p>Tuesday, January 19 <i>Faith Formation Classes Begin</i></p> <p>To View Masses Online: Go to the Live Mass on Facebook for All Masses Held at the Shrine Church https://www.facebook.com/shrinechurchofourladyoftheamericas/</p>
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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.

Faith Formation Classes to begin on Tuesday January 19! All classes will be held virtually. Catechism classes are available for youth ages 9 and up and for adults 18 and over. We will also offer preparation classes for those wishing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Matrimony. To enroll, please call the Shrine Church office (518) 465-3685, ext. 11 and leave a message for *Cynthia Ortiz Ramirez*, Faith Formation Coordinator.

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 for the 9:30 Mass, and *Fausto Franco* at 518-330-8120 or fausto_franco@hotmail.com for the 12:00 Mass. ***Our parishioners at home greatly appreciate this service.***

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 gift!** If you have any questions, please contact *Mary Giordano* at mtgiordano20@gmail.com 518-248-5565

Lectio Divina

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

Readings for Sunday, January 17
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b, 1-19
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-5a, 17-20
Gospel: St. John 1:35-42

Looking Forward . . .

In late August of 2012, I started an incredible journey as Pastoral Associate at the Shrine. This past February, the words of the German theologian, Meister Eckhart, OP, rang true for me. "And suddenly you know: It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings." I told you then, that I realized it was time to resign my official role as Pastoral Associate as of March 2020. For a time of transition, I would work with the many who already have carried a lot of responsibility as they gradually took on more.

Well, we all know what happened in March in New York State. We were placed in lockdown. As a result, the immediate plans I had were interrupted, just as the lives of all of you were. There is another saying, "Life happens while you are making other plans." Some things that were planned, such as being confirmed or receiving First Communion, graduating or getting married, did happen, but not on the original timeline, and most in a very different manner than expected. "Life happened when we were making other plans."

Nine months later, our lives are still continually adjusting to the "new normal". At this point, I clearly realize that the gradual transition I had envisioned just didn't happen. Now I believe that I need to step away completely so that other leaders can actually take on more service roles.

In 2021, I am letting go of all administrative tasks so that new models of leadership may move this wonderful Shrine community forward. "It's time to start something new" in my life and that of this community, and to "trust the magic of beginnings". We have been thrust into the new and must trust that God is always with us. I look forward to peeking in on the Shrine family in 2022 to see the magic of your new beginnings and mine!

With affection and gratitude,
Amazed and Grateful Grace

Sister Grace R. Diaz, snjm

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!

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.

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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