

Blessed Sacrament Parish
Shrine of Our Lady of the Americas

Shrine Entrance: 273 Central Avenue

Mailing Address: 274 Sherman Street, Albany, New York 12206 (Rear Entrance of the Church)

Office Phone Number: (518) 465-3685, Ext. 12 (Bilingual) **Fax:** (518) 462-5487

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: **by appointment.** Call 465-3685, Ext. 12; Closed on Fridays

Website: www.ourladyoftheamericas.org ~ **E-mail:** OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com

Staff: Pastor: *Rev. Joseph O'Brien*, (518) 482-3375

Shrine Chaplain: *Rev. Francis O'Connor*, (518) 588-2531(cell) (Bilingual)

Deacon: *Miguel Fabián*, (518) 229-2634 (cell) (Bilingual)

Pastoral Associate: *Sister Grace R. Díaz*, (518) 465-3685 ext.12 (Bilingual)

Faith Formation Team Coordinator: *Maria Aricapa*, (518) 465-3685 ext. 11

Music Minister: *Deborah Klose*, e-mail: dklose@nycap.rr.com or (518) 986-0269 (cell)



General Information

Reconciliation: SUNDAYS, before and after both Masses or by appointment, Fr. O'Connor Cell: (518) 588-2531

Healing Mass: 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*, (518) 209-6477 or cbnolou@gmail.com in English & *Confesora Franco*, (518) 542-4192 in Spanish.

Marriage: Meet with Shrine Chaplain **six months in advance.** Instruction required. Call the Parish Office.

Quinceañera: Schedule **6 months in advance with Father and Sister**; then with *Griselle Maldonado-Torres*

Hospital/Nursing Home Visitation (Bilingual): Fr. O'Connor: (518) 588-2531; Gladys Miranda, (518) 229-0695

Deadline for Bulletin Announcements & Attachments: TUESDAY @ *NOON – tmerasto@hotmail.com – Dec.

<p>December 23</p> <p>9:30 am Mass in English ✠ <i>Petrina Hamm</i> by Sister Peg Keddell</p> <p>12:00 Mass in Spanish ✠ <i>Fermin Fabian</i> by his granddaughter, Confesora Franco</p>	<p>Mass Intentions</p>	<p>December 30</p> <p>9:30 am Mass in English <i>For the families of our parish community</i></p> <p>12:00 Mass in Spanish <i>For the families of our parish community</i></p>
<p>Weekly MASS Intentions: Request in 2 easy steps! ***Step #1 is FIRST.*** Step 1: Call the Church Office at 465-3685, ext. 12 or EMAIL OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com with your name, phone number, the desired date, & intention.</p> <p>Step 2: Put your offering envelope in the collection basket any Sunday with information regarding the Mass intention.</p>		

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 23, 2018

♪ *Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.* ♪

<p align="center">This Week's Liturgical Ministers</p> <p>9:30 am Mass in English: Sacristan: <i>Mack McPherson</i>; Leader: <i>Rick Eckhardt</i>; Readers: <i>Fred Boehrer</i> and <i>Colleen Cain</i>; Eucharistic Ministers: <i>Judy Houck</i>, <i>Grant Ford</i>, <i>Linda Dalton</i>, and <i>Barbara Crawford</i></p> <p>12:00 Mass en Español: Sacristán: <i>Maria Argueta</i>; Lectores: <i>Juan David Ochoa</i> and <i>Elena Alcantar</i>; Ministros eucarísticos: <i>Patricia Reyes</i>, <i>Fausto Franco</i>, and <i>Juana Barbosa</i>; Hospitalidad: <i>Miriam Dominguez</i>, <i>Maria Aricapa</i>, and <i>Briselys Vásquez</i>; Ujieres: <i>Abelardo Jiménez</i>, <i>Estilita Zarza</i>, <i>Luís Zarza</i>, and <i>Ana Castillo</i></p> <p align="center">Sharing our Treasure ~ <i>Giving as an act of Worship</i> ~</p> <p><i>We need to have at least \$2,500.00 per week in the collections to break even, not counting unexpected maintenance costs.</i></p> <p>Collection for December 16: to be announced later</p> <p align="center"><i>Thank you, each and all, who share your Time, Talent & Treasure with our community.</i></p> <p>As the weather gets colder, please look for your "Fuel Collection" envelope. Thank you.</p>	<p align="center">Calendar of Events</p> <p align="center">Sunday, December 23 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:30 am English Mass & 12:00 pm Misa en Español</p> <p align="center">Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve Centering Prayer – any time between 7:45 am-8:45 am Christmas Eve Caroling – 4:30 pm Christmas Vigil Bilingual Mass – 5:00 pm</p> <p align="center">Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day 9:30 am English Mass & 12:00 pm Misa en Español</p> <p align="center">Wednesday, December 26 Choir Practice: English at 5:30, Spanish at 6:30</p> <p align="center">Friday, December 28 Centering Prayer – any time between 7:45 am-8:45 am Misa de Sanación - 7:00-9:00 pm</p> <p align="center">Sunday, December 30 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 9:30 am English Mass & 12:00 pm Misa en Español</p>
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Our January 6th Mustard Seed Collection will be for the **Interfaith Drop-in-Center**

located in Sheridan Hollow. This place is open for the homeless and provides showers, washing machines, clean clothes, mailboxes, a hot dinner, and a warm place for the day. On days below freezing, they stay open for the whole night as a shelter. What they could use are **hats, gloves, scarves, laundry products, shower products such as shampoo, body wash, deodorant** etc. Thank you for your continued generosity to the poor!



The Intentions Book

Is located at the back of Church:
Add your special intentions.

The Intentions Book, *Hear Our Prayer, Prayers of the Faithful*, will be brought up to the altar during the

We will continue to share aloud our intentions, but we will not read aloud the intentions in the book.

Peek at Dec. 30th

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm: Psalm 128:1-5

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: St. Luke 2:41-52

9:30 am Mass in English: Sacristan: *Josie McPherson*; Leader: *Ed Falterman*; Readers: *Diana Conroy* and *Ellen McPherson*; Eucharistic Ministers: *Mack McPherson, Herb Barber, Ronny Williams, and Mary Giordano*

12:00 Mass en Español: Sacristán: *Maria Argueta*; Lectores: *Juan David Ochoa* and *Elena Alcantar*; Ministros eucarísticos: *Patricia Reyes, Fausto Franco, and Juana Barbosa*; Hospitalidad: *Miriam Dominguez, Maria Aricapa, and Briselys Vásquez*; Ujieres: *Abelardo Jiménez, Estilita Zarza, Luís Zarza, and Ana Castillo*

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Vigil

Carol Singing: 4:30 pm
Bilingual Mass: 5:00 pm

Christmas Day

English Mass: 9:30 am
Spanish Mass: 12:00 pm

New Year's Day

Bilingual Mass at 11:00 am



Shrine Church Parish Posadas Schedule
(7:00-8:30pm each night)



Sunday, December 23 ~ *Benedicta Asante*
8 Farnsworth Drive, Apt. # 10, Slingerlands, NY 12159

Our Posadas end at the Christmas Vigil Mass.

Christmas 2018



My Dear Friends and Parishioners,

It would have been easy to miss that first Christmas.

In the hustle and bustle of the crowded streets of Bethlehem, who would have noticed the young expectant mother riding on a donkey led by her travel weary husband?

On a chilly winter night in Bethlehem, who would have heard the cries of a new-born baby coming from a stable?

What about you and me? Are we noticing Jesus in our lives?

Those who noticed Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds experienced a great miracle - the Word made flesh – one of us – our own kin.

We witness this miracle every day: homeless families being sheltered in welcoming Churches; new born babies being presented to our community during Mass; family and friends gathering around a mother who has just lost her beautiful young daughter; a nurse's aide comforting an elderly person; children squealing with joy; babies rising from our baptismal font.

When we open our eyes, when we open our hearts to God's grace, we become aware of Jesus' presence. Jesus is living in me, in you. All is forgiven through our simple prayers, through love, through the prayer of our Church.

Our weary world rejoices. Don't hold back.

We love you! Merry Christmas!

Fr. Frank O'Connor
Deacon Miguel Fabian
Sister Grace R. Diaz
Debbie Klose, Music Ministry
Maria Aricapa, Faith Formation Coordinator

♪ Entrance Antiphon for the 4th Sunday of Advent ♪

"Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior."

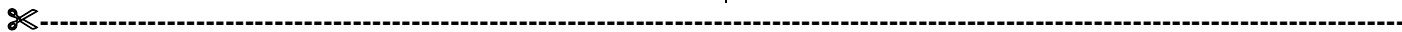
Based on Isaiah 45:8

✠ Weekly Reflection ✠

*"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word."*

Luke 1:38

How can we be like Mary,
open and ready to say yes to God?



Are you new to the Shrine Church? WELCOME! Or, did you recently move or get a new phone number?

Please fill in this form and drop it in the collection basket. **Thank you.**

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ () Send Envelopes

Over Please