

SEPTEMBER 2020

# Our Lady of the Assumption

498 Watervliet-Shaker Road  
Latham, NY 12110  
(518) 785-0234

Website: [www.olalatham.org](http://www.olalatham.org)  
Email: [ourlady@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ourlady@nycap.rr.com)



Dear Parishioners,

Greetings to all in this most unusual "Covid-19" time. I hope you are well and had a chance to relax and enjoy some of the summer days. It has now been six months since the initial shutdown. We have all been trying to find our way through these months meeting the challenges of everyday life. I thought it would be good to send out a summary of where we are as a parish and to let you know what has transpired here at OLA.

## OLA Census 2020

Since 2020 is a census year, the parish council initiated a parish census in January. We asked folks to fill out the census form here at church or online. Little did we know how helpful updated census data would be when we were shut-down these many months. We were able to create a phone tree to stay in touch with parishioners, especially the senior members of the congregation. If you have not completed an OLA Census form, one is included in this mailing or you can complete it online. [www.olalatham.org](http://www.olalatham.org) It can be found under "News" on our homepage.



***Thank you for completing your OLA Census Form.***

*A check mark affirms you completed the census form.*

## Eucharistic Liturgy, Prayer & Worship

Our Liturgy Schedule: Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. we are streaming Mass. You can find it on **YouTube**, type in **Our Lady of the Assumption Faith Formation**. Once the Mass is streamed, you can access it at any time. Only the Lectors, Musician and Cantor are present in the church for this liturgy which allows us to have music and singing. Communion is distributed in the parking lot at 5:30 p.m. On Sundays, we have a 9:00 a.m. Mass that we are asking people to sign up for by calling the Faith Formation Office at 518-785-1605 or by sending an email to register, [ourlady@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ourlady@nycap.rr.com). Attendees are asked to fill out a Covid-19 Declaration Sheet and are seated by our ushers. We can accommodate up to 90 parishioners at this time. We started with 50-60 parishioners but are now up to 80+ each week in the congregation.



Communion is also distributed in the Parking Lot on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. I am grateful to all who are assisting with this schedule. People are beginning to get the flow and all is going smoothly. I resumed Mass at the Provincial House on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. This Mass is restricted to the resident sisters at the Provincial House.

**Tuesday 6:30 a.m. Mass is open seating, sign-in, sanitize, sit in the center aisle.**

**Wednesday weekday Mass is streamed at 9:00 a.m. with musician & cantor. We hope that in the near future this Mass can have in-person attendance.**

Covid brought a strange end to Lent this year. Holy Week and Easter were all virtual on YouTube. I am so grateful that we previously installed the media equipment and cameras in the church and hall so that we could continue to provide Mass and spiritual offerings.

**Parish Office (518)785-0234 E-mail: [ourlady@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ourlady@nycap.rr.com)**

The parish office is open Mon. Wed. & Fri. mornings from 9:00 a.m.— 12:00 noon. You can leave a message on the phone system at any time and we will return your calls. *Please leave your name and slowly give your phone number.*

**OLA Bulletin** Beginning in July we were able to have printed bulletins again and they are available at Mass, Drive-in Communion, and at the Gathering Space entryway. The bulletin is also on line at [www.olalatham.org](http://www.olalatham.org)

### Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

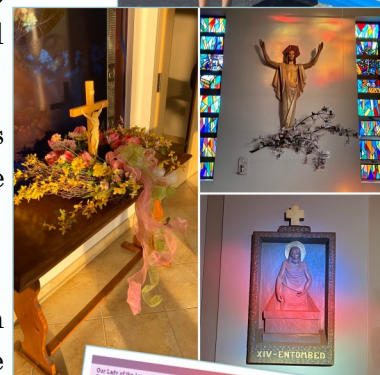
Kristi Pegarella and Rosemary Gavin are working very hard to stay in touch with our youth and families. Mary Coleman, administrative assistant in the Faith Formation Office, is coordinating the lists of attendees and volunteers for mass and communion distribution. Zoom sessions have been created for high school and junior high level grades. Fun packs have been available for the younger groups. A separate mailing was just sent out to all Faith Formation Families with details for the coming year's sessions. Knowing how difficult it is for the schools to plan re-openings, we are waiting to see how things develop for the academic year and delaying our start for a few weeks.

### Pastoral Care & Parish Nursing

The pastoral care team continues to stay in touch with our homebound and sick. Greeting cards are sent out regularly to the hospitalized and those in nursing homes. If you know someone whom we should contact please call the parish office. (518)785-0234 ext.104

### Human Concerns

Weekly food donations collected here at OLA are brought to the Food Pantry at St. Ambrose. OLA continues to send quarterly donations to support the Blessed Sacrament Food Pantry, Sr.







Maureen Joyce Center, and St. James Society for Peru Mission. We are also grateful for your support of the **Back-Pack** program that provides single serving meals/snacks for children and youth.

### **Buildings, Grounds & Technology**

Our spring clean-up was a great success and we have managed to stay on top of things regarding mowing and trimming of bushes. The crab grass is on the move so if anyone would like to weed a garden please do. The new Veterans Rose Garden around the flagpole is doing very well. A new granite bench has been added to the Memorial Garden this summer. It was donated in memory of Charles & Genevieve Ertelt. A tri-color beach tree was planted in memory of Bill Edwards and James Sanford.

### **Finances — Weekly Budget - \$9,500.00**

Our weekly offertory is coming in around \$7,500 per week. Given the circumstances and the usual summer attendance that is good but we are still \$2,000 below budget each week. If you can assist us with financial support it would be greatly appreciated.

**Please consider online or electronic giving as part of your stewardship.** It can easily be set up with your bank or call Victor Gilbert in the office at: (518)785-0234 ext.101. for assistance. Thank you for your faithful financial support and stewardship.

### **Annual Diocesan Appeal 2020**

Letters and envelopes have been sent out for this year's campaign. (Bishop's Appeal) Please return all gifts and pledges directly to the Diocese. Our 2020 OLA assessment: \$113,769.00 (2019 assessment: \$119,628.00)

### **Sacramental Celebrations**

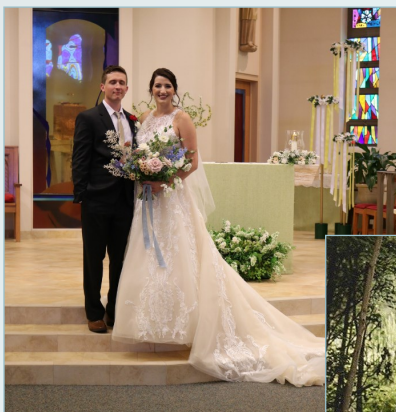
We celebrated **First Eucharist** on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Ten children received communion at that time. First Eucharist was also celebrated on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

**Confirmation** was celebrated on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> with Bishop Scharfenberger. Forty-seven of our youth received the sacrament.

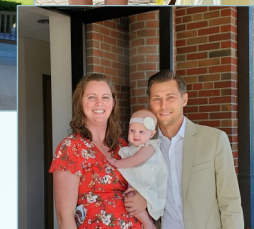
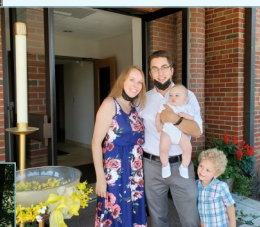




**Weddings** We have had two weddings this summer; Katie Donnelly & Josh Wygel, (left) and Sean Morrissey & Catherine Vu. Congratulations and best wishes!



**Baptisms** Little ones are being welcomed into the Christian Family on Saturday or Sunday mornings in the Meditation Garden. So far we have had 5 baptisms this summer and several more to come in October.



This is a lot of information but I wanted to keep parishioners informed during this Covid-19 period. Please stay in touch with the parish and if there is something that we can assist you with let us know. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I miss seeing everyone. Be safe, stay well.

Blessings to all, **Fr. Burke**

Want to stay connected on Social Media?



Our Lady of the Assumption Faith Formation  
*Subscribe to our channel*



Facebook: Our Lady of the Assumption Parish



Instagram: #olalathamny



MyParish App: Download and select Our Lady of the Assumption in Latham

## WHAT WE DID IN LOCK-DOWN

- Holy Week and Easter Celebrations were streamed on YouTube
- Outdoor Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Corpus Christi
- Confirmation Drive-By Sunday for candidates and families
- Shaker High Graduation lineup in the OLA Parking Lot
- We hosted a number of Drive By parades for neighbors
- Eagle Scout Honor Guard in the Parking Lot

## UP-COMING EVENTS PLANNED

- Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Blessing of Animals – 12:00 Noon Parking Lot
- Halloween Parade Sat. Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Time TBA

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mary Ann Singleton	President
Andrew Clancy	Vice President
Mary Ann Lundy	Secretary/staff
Edna Mae Reilly	Trustee
Mel Pettit	Trustee
Katie Swartwout	Pastoral Care
Christine Dudar	Pastoral Care
Doreen Sollecito	Human concerns
Janet Kinsey	Human Concerns
Fred Curley	Buildings & Grounds
Gene Itre	Buildings & Grounds
James Papa	Buildings & Grounds
Loretta Brzac	Prayer & Worship
Holly Gilbert	Prayer & Worship
Matt Rys	Faith Formation
Joe Szomjassy	Faith Formation

## EX-OFFICIO

Rosemary Gavin	Faith Formation/staff
Kristi Pegarella	Faith Formation/staff
Linda Berkery	Prayer & Worship
Rick Doty	Buildings & Grounds
Lou Recchia	Buildings & Grounds

## CLERGY

Fr. Burke	Pastor
Paul Kisselback	Deacon