

Our Lady of the Assumption

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

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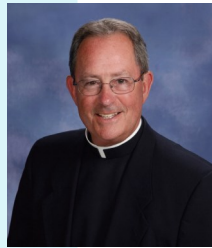
PASTORAL CARE

518-785-0234

Katie Swartwout, Pastoral Care Coordinator ext. 104

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"A Light To The Nations"



Greetings and blessings in this New Year 2022. I am writing this letter to you on the **Feast of the Presentation**

(Candlemas Day) when Jesus is declared to be "A Light To The Nations". The days are beginning to get longer now and we all enjoy having more light than darkness especially in these Covid times.

I hope you enjoy this message,
Fr. Burke

At our January Parish Pastoral Council meeting it was suggested that we reach out to you again to let you know what



has been going on in the parish. Although Covid has put some hurdles in front of us we are making strides to bring things back to normal.

Please accept our invitation to come for Mass if you feel comfortable. We do ask that you sanitize your hands and wear your mask during Mass according to the latest NYS guidelines. Attendance has been improving and we are happy to see many faces again. Our Sunday Mass is streamed for those who are not able to attend in person and the Wednesday daily Mass is also streamed.

In this letter I want to share with you input from the Parish Staff and the Parish Council as we move into the New Year and make plans for the coming months.



Parish Operations

The Church is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Parish Office is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9 a.m. – 12 noon for normal business, mass cards and appointments. The answering machine is on and you can always leave a message/ phone number and we are happy to return your calls.

More Parish Happenings



We welcome back Deacon Paul Kisselback after recovering from surgery.

Parish Finances

All Diocesan 2021 Reports & Budgets have been completed and accepted by the Diocese. We are grateful to you for your continued generosity and offertory envelopes for the support of the parish.

Average Weekly Collection 2021	\$8,164.00
Christmas Collection 2021	\$30,800.00

Maintenance and Upkeep

Annette Mielewski and Dan Cook

Annette is our faithful sacristan. She sets up for Mass and takes care of the sanctuary and church. If you need anything while you are at church she is happy to assist you. Dan is our new maintenance man. He is doing a fine job keeping the building and grounds in shape especially during these winter months.

Faith Formation Elementary

Kristi Pegarella

Mid-Level High School

Rosemary Gavin

Administrative Assistant
Mary Coleman

Classes for all levels are meeting in person and some individuals are virtual. Families with children and youth in our programs regularly receive notices and updates regarding schedules from the Faith Formation Office.

Parish Council News

Human Concerns

Doreen Sollecito,
Sherry Roach, Janet Kinsey

Great success with this year's Human Concerns programs. Fall Coat Drive 406 coats donated. Thanksgiving Food Drive brought in \$5,400 in grocery cards and the Angel Tree Program receive \$9,300 in gift cards. Thank you to all who donated and participated in these events. In March we will have our Personal Care Item collection for local shelters.

Buildings, Grounds, Technology

Fred Curley, Jim Papa,
Gene Itri, Rick Doty

Thank you to these guys who regularly give up a Saturday morning to keep the building and grounds in tip top condition. Two projects were recently completed: new black top for the entrance to the parking lot and a snow guard for the rectory roof.

Pastoral Care / Parish Nurse

Katie Swartwout,
Helen Aguilar, Christi Dudar

Each week regular columns are written for the bulletin with helpful information and interesting insights and humor. Katie covers pastoral care and Helen writes Nurses Notes.



From the Prayer, Worship and Education Committee of the Parish Council

Prayer, Worship and Education

Loretta Brzac, Katie Swartwout,
Holly Gilbert, Fr. Burke

Hello OLA Parishioners,

I pray this letter finds you well and safe. I want to introduce myself, my name is Loretta Brzac and I am the Prayer and Worship Committee Chairperson for Parish Council here at Our Lady of the Assumption. We have seen many parishioners return to Mass as we've adjusted to all that the Covid pandemic has thrown at us all. Even as Covid regulations/recommendations seem to change fluidly still, we have adapted and tried to make a safe environment for worship. Yes, we continue to wear masks, this allows us to protect the youngest of our parish family who cannot yet receive the Covid vaccine, as well as our parish members who have a few more health concerns. We also are asking everyone to hand sanitize on the way into church to keep as many germs out of church as possible (the flu and RSV are still active too.)

I have been acting as greeter and hand sanitizer for the Saturday 4:30 p.m. Mass since we returned to in person Mass and I have had the privilege to see many familiar faces return to Mass. I have also had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know many people that I may not have ever gotten to know if the Covid pandemic never happened. I have to admit, before the pandemic, I came into church, found my seat, listened to Mass and served as Eucharistic Minister if

I was scheduled. I didn't really talk to many people if I didn't already know them. I would have said it's because I'm shy, or that I didn't think anyone really wanted to talk to me so I was better off keeping to myself. HOW WRONG I WAS!!! I have learned a great deal about the COMMUNITY of the Church during this Covid pandemic. I realize now that I was robbing people of the chance of connecting with others while we were all there gathered to celebrate the most beautiful gift Jesus has given us, the Eucharist!

During the last 2 years we have advanced our technology at OLA and we can now stream Mass at a time that fits into our lives, when we may have missed Mass entirely in the past or it's just more convenient. I too watched Mass online before the 4:30 mass opened back up. That was MY Mass and how could I possibly go to a different Mass time??? Well I still go to the 4:30 Mass, but every week I see people that come in that "normally" go to the 7:30 or the 9 a.m. Sunday Masses! Wait, we can do that?!?! (Of course, I knew I could, but we become such creatures of habit!) Seeing the faces of these people helps make the Church community feel larger, something MORE than my small self. I Corinthians 12:12 reads: "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ." Our own bodies are made up of many parts - hands, feet, eyes, ears - and if any of them were missing we would miss that part dearly as

each part is important and has a purpose. The same holds true for our Parish Community. We FEEL the missing parishioners from Mass. We miss the faces being in church, but more, we miss the SPIRIT that is brought in by each and every one of US! Without all of the parts of our church, we are missing out on being WHOLE. Since we've been back in church, have we been "managing" without having everyone back? Yes we have, thanks to a few very dedicated volunteers and faith-filled parishioners, but we would LOVE to have more members of our community return to Mass. We Miss YOU!

It is understandable if you're still cautious about being back in person if you are an at-risk individual. If so, please continue (or start - that's good also) to follow us on YouTube and watch the streaming Masses (Saturday Vigil and Wednesday Daily Mass.) We still want to connect with you in any way that we can. If you would like a phone call from one of the Parish Council members or to receive an "old fashioned" letter (I love to write those!) to reconnect with the community, call the Parish Office and we will reach out and connect.

For everyone else, please think about (or even PRAY about) returning to Mass as we get ready to start the season of Lent. This is the PERFECT time for the flock of Jesus to return HOME.

With much respect and blessings,

Loretta Brzac



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more members
of our
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YOU!"

Lent



Lent is right around the corner. **Ash Wednesday** is March 2nd. We will increase our weekday masses Monday-Friday and pray the **Stations of the Cross** each Friday at 12 noon. The Wednesday evenings of Lent at 7:00 p.m. we will follow the video presentation: **Pilgrimage Through the Holy Land, The Footsteps of Jesus** by Rev. Donald Senior, who is known for his Biblical

expertise. Please join us from 7-8 p.m. in LaSalle Hall for these evenings.

Daily Masses

Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday & Thursday at 6:30 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 12:00 noon



For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

Pope Francis has convened a world-wide synod inviting the entire church to embrace the themes of Communion, Participation, Mission. You can find information about the Synod on the Diocesan Webpage; Vatican Website; *The Evangelist*. Bishop Scharfenberger will be holding regional listening sessions during Lent. Each parish is asked to provide participants to engage in the discussion and dialogue.

Let's Stay in Touch

You can find the OLA Weekly Bulletin on line on the parish website or we can mail you a bulletin if you call the parish office (518) 785-0234. Looking to connect in a digital way? Check out these apps and links below!



OUR LADY *of the*
ASSUMPTION
Roman Catholic Church

Visit our website:

www.olalatham.org

Download our app! Visit your app store and look for **MyParish**.

Once downloaded, select Our Lady of the Assumption in Latham.



Follow us on

Facebook:

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish



Email us!

ourlady@nycap.rr.com

Subscribe to our **YouTube** Channel:

Our Lady of the Assumption Faith Formation



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