



# SHRINE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE AMERICAS

A MINISTRY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

274 Sherman Street, Albany, NY 12206 (Rear Entrance)  
(518) 465-3685, Ext. 12 English; Ext. 13 Spanish

[www.ourladyoftheamericas.org](http://www.ourladyoftheamericas.org) - [OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com](mailto:OLAmericaShrine@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/shrinechurchofourladyoftheamericas>

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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



## MASS INTENTIONS

December 22

9:00 am English Mass

11:00 am Spanish Mass

December 29

9:00 am English Mass

11:00 am Spanish Mass

## SHARING OUR TREASURE

*~ Giving as an act of Worship ~*

*We need at least \$2,750.00 per week in the collections to break even, not counting unexpected maintenance costs.*

**Collection Information for December 15, 2024**

**Regular Offertory: \$3058**

**Christmas: \$65 Christmas Flowers: \$35**

**Assumption: \$100 Immaculate Conception: \$131**

**Total: \$3389**

### Mission Statement

*"We are a vibrant, welcoming, multi-cultural Catholic community in the heart of the City of Albany celebrating and ministering the presence of Jesus with our parishioners and neighbors."*

**View Masses Online on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/shrinechurchofourladyoftheamericas/>

### Pennies for the Parish

Grab a jar or use your own! Fill it with your pennies, nickels, dimes & quarters! Hand in your filled jars at any Sunday Mass. Thank you very much! "A penny saved is a penny earned", so the saying goes.



## DIRECTORY

**SHRINE CHAPLAIN:** *Rev. Francis O'Connor*  
(518) 482-3375 or (518) 588-2531

**DEACON:** *Rev. Miguel Fabián*

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:** *Alejandra Saucedo*  
(518) 465-3685, ext.12.

**FAITH FORMATION TEAM COORDINATOR:**  
*Confesora Franco*, (518) 542-4192

**MUSIC MINISTER:** *Deborah Klose*, [dklose@nycap.rr.com](mailto:dklose@nycap.rr.com)

**BAPTISM:** *Claire Nolan*, [cbnolou@gmail.com](mailto:cbnolou@gmail.com)  
*Confesora Franco*, [cflovejesus@aol.com](mailto:cflovejesus@aol.com)

**MARRIAGE:** *Rev. Francis O'Connor*  
(518) 482-3375 or (518) 588-2531

**QUINCEAÑERA:** *Rev. Francis O'Connor*  
(518) 482-3375 or (518) 588-2531

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS & ATTACHMENTS:**

Deadline: Wednesdays@ Noon to:

*Tammy Crasto*, [tmcrasto@hotmail.com](mailto:tmcrasto@hotmail.com)

**MASS INTENTIONS:** *Tammy Crasto* (518) 229-7345

*Confesora Franco* (518) 542-4192

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, December 22**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

**Sunday, December 29**

**Solemnity of Mary**

*May God bless us in his mercy.*

## LECTIO DIVINA

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

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

**Sun., December 29 – xxx**

**First Reading:** Numbers 6:22-27

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

**Second Reading:** Galatians 4:4-7

**Gospel:** St. Luke 2:16-21

**Scam Alert:** If you receive an email or text from Fr. O'Connor or Fr. Dan requesting money or gift cards be sent to anyone in need, **It is a scam.**

**Hospital Visits:** Please notify our Shrine Church Office at 518-465-3685 and/or Fr. O'Connor at 518-588-2531 or Deacon Fabian or our Pastoral Associate Alejandra Saucedo about any member of our community who is in the hospital or is homebound and not able to come to church. **In case of an emergency** requiring the ministry of a priest, outside of parish office hours, especially in danger of death, please contact the priests at (518) 482-3375. If no one answers, please leave a message.

## Christmas Mass Schedule



### Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24

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

### Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25

9:00 am Mass in English

11:00 am Misa en Español

### Solemnity of the Mary – Wednesday, January 1

11:00 am Bilingual Mass



Brothers & Sisters,

In the northern hemisphere, Christmas and the Winter Solstice, the day of the year with the least amount of sunlight, are near each other on the calendar in a symbolic way. The sunlight starts to increase, a few minutes each day after Saturday, Dec. 22nd. Similarly, John the Baptist's feast day is June 24th, about when the sun starts spending less time in the sky each day. Placing our feasts in this way, signifies what John says, "He must increase; I must decrease". It really makes John's words tangible. His words start to fade away, and Jesus' presence at Christmas grows along with the light in the sky, and eventually the warmth of the sun, and air, and earth all follow suit until new growth comes out of the earth in spring, and what seemed like death buds forth new life.

Our beliefs take on the life of symbols when they are rooted in the tangible things of the material of the earth. So also does God take on the material of the earth, to better communicate to us all that God is. But more than taking on the material of the sun and earth, in a pantheistic sort of way, he skips over all the lesser of his creations and joins us on Earth in the full human flesh and personhood of a baby. He is Jesus: divine, and clothed in humanity. He is a baby, a boy, a man. He has a way of life, things to say, beliefs to share, help and grace to give. In this way, his can easily be mistaken for one human way of life among many, one set of beliefs proposed by one human among many. Or, He can be seen, as we see him, as the presence of God among us, the divine Messiah, the Savior of the world!

*Rev. Daniel Quinn, Pastor*

## CHILDREN'S CORNER



### Christmas Flower Donations in Memory/Honor of:

*Mary & Charles De Julio  
Samuel, Joe & John Pastore  
Whitfield F. Gooding  
Agnes C. Frank  
Veronica McGraw  
Frances Mrak  
Basilisa Correas  
Rafael Dominguez  
Thomas Martino Sr.  
Greg Martin  
The Asante Family  
The LeJunene Family  
Alice & Henry Tammany  
Don Engel  
Donnie Engel  
Benfatto Family  
Departed Family and Friends  
Claire L. Nolan  
James & Mary Curran  
Kitty & Norman Burgess  
Maureen & Brian Jeffers  
Juan Casado*

*Roseanne Goodman  
Linda Keeley  
Phyllis K. Gooding  
John McGraw  
Louis Mrak  
Angel Torres Vega  
Alejandro Dominguez  
Ed Olsieski  
Sam Martino Jr.  
Popi & Mimi Martino  
The Amissah Family  
Fr. Ackoh  
John Felts  
Mary Engel  
Irene Hillman  
Calcagno Family  
Fr. Jim Hayes  
Edward P. Nolan  
Red & Helen Flatthy  
Ariosto Alvarado  
Porfirio Gonzalez  
Guillermo Miguel Solis*

## Merry Christmas to All!



Blessings,

*Father O'Connor, Deacon Miguel Fabian,  
Alejandra Saucedo, Confesora Franco,  
and Debbie Klose*