



The Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger, D.D. Bishop of Albany
The Very Reverend David R. LeFort, S.T.L., V.G., Rector
The Reverend John Tallman, Parochial Vicar
The Reverend Paul Mijas, Parochial Vicar
Timothy Kosto, II, Deacon

In residence

The Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard, D.D.
Bishop Emeritus

Religious Education and Faith Formation
Dr. Thomas Fowler

Cathedral Social Services Department
Sister Margaret Mary Hohl, D.C.

Director of Music and Organist
Dr. Brian F. Gurley

*Coordinator of Development /
Public Relations / Events*
Mr. Thomas M. Prindle

Parish Secretary
Pilar Dell

Parish Bookkeeper
Mrs. Kathy Zorian

Facilities Manager
David Ucci, M.B.A

Sacristans
Mr. Brian Cosgrave
Mr. Martin Powell

Trustees
Mrs. Debra Bleezarde
Mr. Claude Rounds

Parish Council Chair
Mrs. Gerry Johnson

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Social Services/Food Pantry Office

Mark Chirvadoni
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CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

In the City and Diocese of Albany

Established 1848 • Corner of Eagle Street and Madison Avenue (at the Empire State Plaza), Albany

Mission Statement

We, the worshipping community of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, rooted in the Gospel and the celebration of the Eucharist, seek to make known God's love in the world through serving one another, sharing our faith and welcoming all.

Schedule of Liturgical Celebrations

The Holy Eucharist (Mass)

Sunday Masses:

(Anticipated Mass) 5:15 p.m. on Saturday
9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday

Weekdays: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 12:15 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday 7:15 a.m.

Holy Day Masses: Please check the bulletin and
Website for Holy Day mass times.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Monday-Wednesday-Friday:
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
and by appointment

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Call the church office to make arrangements for appointment and instructions.

Please pass the bulletin on to a neighbor or friend.

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Couples should contact the parish office six to eight months in advance of the proposed marriage.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

If you are anticipating surgery, please contact the parish office.

Religious Education

To register, and for information, call: **518-463-4447**

Parish Food Pantry

93 Park Avenue; Basement, Entrance at north side of building
Food and personal care items collected on the last Sunday of the month. Food distributed Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Pastoral Visits

At home or in the hospital, please call the parish office.

Contact the rectory office to schedule a tour.

Tours of the Cathedral available by appointment

Personal amplifying units for the hearing impaired are available in the sacristy.



Handicapped-Accessible

www.cathedralic.com

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading:

As Advent commences, we hear from Isaiah, the mystic prophet of Israel. In an extended discourse, he speaks hopefully of the long anticipated new Davidic dynasty that has yet to be realized. This hoped-for-Messiah will be the salvation of Israel.

Second Reading:

Paul's powerful letter to the community at Thessalonica concludes with prayer and gratitude. His hope for the followers of Jesus is that they grow in love and persevere in right conduct as they continue to follow the Lord. Paul notes that he speaks not from his own authority, his instructions to them come "through the Lord Jesus"

Gospel:

Jesus speaks to his disciples about the cosmic occurrences at the time of the coming of the Son of Man. While others might be crushed with fear by the devastating reality of the end of the world, the followers of Jesus can stand with their heads held high, anticipating redemption. To be prepared for such a moment requires vigilance, however. They are called to watch and to pray, a foreshadowing of the instructions Jesus will give them in the Garden of Gethsemane as he faces the chaos and suffering of death on the Cross.

Happy New Year

This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. This marks the beginning of a new Church year and with it a new cycle of gospel readings: the gospel of Saint Luke.

Luke wrote at roughly the same time as Matthew. He was probably a Greek convert, given his mastery of the language, who wrote for a Greek audience. He is also recognized as the Author of Acts which chronicles the first century of evangelization. Whether he was an actual companion of Peter or Paul, as is often assumed, he does show a detailed knowledge of their movements in those early years.

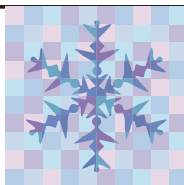
Luke's gospel account is one of the three synoptic gospels: Mark, Matthew and Luke. It recounts many of the same teachings and miracles as the other two. That, of course, is the result of Matthew and Luke's use of Mark and the hypothetical Q. However, there are certain themes in Luke that set it apart from the other synoptics:

- A) **Women** – in Luke's gospel women have a more significant role. He often pairs a man and a woman in important events: For example, Mary and Zachariah in the infancy narrative and Anna and Simon at the Presentation. And, his infancy narrative is presented from Mary's point of view rather than Joseph's as seen in Matthew.
- B) **Universality** – Jesus was a Jew and his ministry is seen as a fulfillment of the promise of a Messiah found in the Jewish tradition. This is certainly present in Luke but there is an emphasis on Jesus' message as one for all peoples and religions. Here a Samaritan, an outsider, is shown as the one who lives out Jesus' message of love and compassion.
- C) **Forgiveness** – one of the main themes of Jesus preaching in Luke's gospel is that of mercy and forgiveness. He alone recounts that paradigm of forgiveness, the parable of the Prodigal Son. We see too near the end, Jesus' prayer from the cross, "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing."

We should keep these in mind as we hear the Word of God throughout the coming year. In these readings, Jesus calls all of us to a life of compassion and love for all.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Just a gentle reminder... If you are among our parishioners who receive collection envelopes and “fly south” every winter, please call or email the parish office to temporarily suspend your envelopes. These envelopes are returned to the Parish Office and we must pay the postage on them. If you let us know when you plan on returning, we'll let the envelope company know when to restart sending them to you.



Are you an Amazon shopper?

Did you know that when you shop using Amazon Smile, the company will donate a half-percent of each purchase to a organization you choose?

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support **The Cathedral** every time you shop – and it comes at zero cost to you. It's a donation made by Amazon in your honor. You just have to select us at [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and use smile.Amazon.com instead of Amazon.com whenever you shop.

Winter Memorial Mass:

December 1st, 2018

St. Mary's Cemetery- Troy, NY—9:00 AM

Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery-9:00am

December 8th, 2019

St. Agnes Cemetery- Menands, NY - 9:00am

Update: 2018 Bishop's Appeal

Last Spring, we began our annual Bishop's Appeal here at the Cathedral. This year, our goal had been set at \$76,511.00, a reduction of 3% from last year's goal. That sounds like a lot, because it is a lot! But as of the end of November, we have received gifts/pledges totaling \$71,424.26, an astounding 93% of our goal! With only a little more than \$5,000 to go, we can make our goal by mid-March, the closeout of this year's campaign. If you are already sharing in this annual appeal, thank you! If you have not yet taken the opportunity to share in support of Bishop Scharfenberger and his ministry of shepherding our entire diocese, please consider making a pledge or gift. And to all: thank you for your prayerful and generous consideration.

Stewardship Treasure

The collection for November 25th was \$2,836.25. The second collection was \$798.87.

The Thanksgiving Day Collection was \$154.00

Thank you for all you have given to the Cathedral.

First Friday Devotions

December 7th.

Fr. Mijas has graciously accepted to hear confessions at 11:30am and to offer the 12:15pm Mass each Friday. On the first Friday of each month, immediately following the Prayer After Communion, Fr. Mijas will expose the Most Blessed Sacrament, singing the hymn of exposition, “*O Salutaris Hostia*”. At the conclusion of the hymn, he will lead the recitation of the litanies to the Sacred Heart of Jesus which will then allow for public adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. At 3:00pm, there will be recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, hymn before benediction—“*Tantum Ergo*”—concluding prayer, benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Praises, reposition and concluding hymn, “Holy God We Praise Thy Name”.

Please pray for our sick; Jeffrey Abraham, Robert Buell, Shirley Anderson, Lucy Apisa, Stephen Beattie, Judi Barlow, Carol Bruce, Grace Isabelle Caruso, Carmella Cervera, Mary Faith Colvin, Theresa Cooney, Sr., Gertrude Cosenke, RSCJ, Marc Daniels, John Dare, Jr., Denise Degasparis, Michael Dolan, Ann Doherty, JoAnn DeLucia, Diane Fontanelli, Janette Fusco, Bernice Girma, Karen Goral, Carol Greenshields, Jean Gutbrodt, Bryan Hanley, Sophie Hanley, Jacqueline Heisler, Kenneth Hockeson; Douglas Hoffeler, Dorothy Jordan, Reny Jose, Bill Keane, Amy Keegan, James Laung, Donald Law, Gayle Leonard, Rebecca Leno, Therese Lenz, Diane Lo Prete, Maria Marchio, Marie-Ann Melenfant, John McGrath, Mary Grace Meneses Sr., Maria Mercurio, CSJ, Stephanie Merenda, Diane Mueller, James Murphy, Mary Murphy, Shane O'Donnell, Josephine Pitcherale, Marcia Pedone, Catherine Rappazzo, Mark Roman, Matthew Rosato, Megan Ruthman, Elaine Spoor, Jane Strodel, Adam Ventura, Sebastian Vicencio, Richard Warner, Raphael Warner, Rosa Maria Santos

December 2, 2018

Cathedral Liturgical Celebrations, Meetings and Mass Intentions for the week of Decem- ber 2, 2018 – December 9, 2018

Saturday, December 1,

5:15PM Mass

Intention: John Ng

Intention: George Neumayr (Living Intention)

Sunday, December 2,

9:00AM Mass

10:00AM Faith Formation

11:00AM Mass

Intentions: Alexandra DeSanctis, Michael Voris
& Phil Lawler (Living Intentions)

Intention: Salvatore Alessi

5:00PM Mass

Monday, December 3,

12:15 PM Mass

Tuesday, December 4,

7:15AM Mass

12:00PM AA meeting (rectory)

Wednesday, December 5,

12:15 PM Mass

Thursday, December 6,

7:15AM Mass

6:00 PM PAC Meeting

Friday December 7,

12:15 PM Mass

First Friday Devotion

7:00 PM Cathedral Choir In Concert

Saturday, December 8,

11:00 AM Mass For The Solemnity of
The Immaculate Conception

5:15PM Mass

Sunday, December 9,

9:00AM Mass

10:00AM Faith Formation

11:00AM Mass

Intentions: Maiké Hickson, Dorothy Cummings
McLean, Charlie Specht, and Hilary White

5:00PM Mass

Intention: Adam Sean Lanoir

December 2, 2018

From Father LeFort

The Season of Advent

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).

Concert of Sacred Music

This Friday, December 7, beginning at 7:30pm join us at the Cathedral when the Cathedral Choir of Adults and Children performs music for Choir and Organ and Chamber Orchestra, honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of the Cathedral and the Diocese. The featured piece will be Franz Joseph Haydn's *Missa Cellensis* in E-flat, in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This concert is free, unticketed, and open to the public.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

This Saturday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mother. Bishop Scharfenberger will offer Mass with us at 11:00am. Come celebrate the patroness of our Cathedral and diocese.

Advent Reconciliation Service

On Tuesday, December 18 beginning at 7:00pm, the Cathedral will offer our traditional Communal Reconciliation Service. Bishop Scharfenberger will preside. There will also be several visiting priest confessors available for individual reconciliation and absolution.

Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord

The solemn liturgies of the Nativity of our Lord are scheduled at the Cathedral as follows: Monday, Dec. 24, 5:15pm Family Mass with Fr. LeFort; and at 11:15pm, a Service of Lessons & Carols with our choirs.
Tuesday, Dec. 25, 12:00am Midnight Mass with Bishop Scharfenberger; and 10:00am Mass with Fr. LeFort.