



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—Food Pantry*  
Mr. Mark Ciavardoni

*Director of Music and Organist*  
Dr. Brian F. Gurley

*Development, Public Relations & Events*  
Mr. Thomas M. Prindle

*Parish Secretary*  
Ms. Pilar Dell

*Liturgical Coordinator*  
Dr. Melissa Martínez

*Parish Bookkeeper*  
Mrs. Kathy Zorian

*Facilities Manager*  
Mr. David Ucci, M.B.A

***Rectory and Cathedral Offices***

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***Social Services—Food Pantry Office***

93 Park Avenue (basement office)

Phone: 518-463-2279

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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)*

**The Lord's Day:**

(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 Days: Please check the bulletin and website.

*The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)*

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

...and other times by appointment

*The Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

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

*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, ext. 4

*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, 10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

*Pastoral Visits*

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

Tours of the Cathedral are available by appointment; please contact the Rectory Office for information and/or to schedule a tour.

## Third Sunday of Lent

### First Reading:

This passage includes two pivotal events in the life of the Israelites: the call of Moses and the revelation of God's name. A conversation with God was probably the last thing on Moses' mind when he spotted the mysterious burning bush. After all, Moses was in hiding after killing an Egyptian for beating an Israelite slave. He was hardly the person one might expect to witness an appearance of the divine. Moses' call follows the pattern of prophetic calls in the Scriptures. God appears to the prophet to be in a spectacular fashion and gives the new prophet a commission to "rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians." The prophet objects, citing unworthiness: "Who am I to tell them?" God then reassures the prophet, often giving the prophet a sign: in this case, God's own name. God's personal name is clearly meant to be a verb, most likely a form of "to be." Unlike most gods, who are defined by things, the God of Israel is a being that cannot be imaged. This story tells us about God's will and way. God does not wait until we are ready before calling us, and God calls those whom others might consider unworthy. The story also reveals that God is compassionate, will justice for the oppressed, and is greater than any of our descriptions.

### Second Reading:

Paul writes to those who see themselves transformed by Christ. They converted from worship of the Roman gods to faith in Christ, and they revel in the freedom that brings. From Paul's perspective, they may be too certain of their salvation and cannot, therefore, know when the need correction. Paul challenges their overconfidence with a story from Israel's sojourn in the wilderness. The Israelites went through their own -

Baptism, passing through the waters of the sea, and were sustained by manna and water in the wilderness. For Paul that experience was like the Corinthians' experience of Christ presence in Baptism and the Eucharist. Yet despite the richness of their experience with God, the Israelites still sinned. Because of their hardness of heart, none of them ever saw the Promised Land. The Corinthians are also in danger of assuming that their participation in the Christian community exempts them from wrong doing. Paul asks them to learn from their forebears' experience and turn to God for the strength that will help them resist temptation. With God's help they can stand firmly as examples of faithfulness to others.

### Gospel:

People come to Jesus with a question about the Galileans killed by Pilate and eighteen citizens killed by a falling tower. Were their deaths punishment for being sinners? No, says Jesus, they did not die because of their sinfulness any more than we live because of our righteousness.

While Jesus assures them that those deaths were not punishment, he also warns them, "Unless you repent, you will all perish." As an illustration Jesus tells a parable about an unproductive fig tree. In the bible the spiritual health of a country was measured by the health of its fig trees, which normally take three years to reach maturity.

The fig tree in Jesus' story passed the three-year mark and still does not produce any fruit. Its owner wants to destroy it, but the gardener bargains for another year of fertilizing care to allow the tree time to produce.

It seems that for us and for the fig tree, there is still time to change, and with God's help, a possibility of bearing fruit.

# Third Sunday of Lent

**Volunteer Opportunities** now available at the **Cathedral Food Pantry!** Are you interested in volunteering to help those in need and in having a strong positive impact on the Immaculate Conception Cathedral neighborhood and community? Volunteer opportunities available now! Experience required: good computer skills, good office administration skills, good interpersonal and customer service skills. Fast paced environment requiring flexibility and commitment to serving those in need. Background check required. Applications available at the Food Pantry Tuesdays through Thursdays 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Ask for Mark Ciavardoni, Director.

## Lenten Reconciliation Service

On Tuesday, April 2nd, beginning at 6:00pm in the Cathedral, Bishop Scharfenberger and several other priest will offer a communal reconciliation service with the opportunity for individual confessions. Please take this blessed opportunity to refresh your soul with God's mercy.

## SAVE THE DATE

**COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE**-April 2nd,2019 at 6:00 pm

**CHRISM MASS**- April 11th, 2019 at 7:00 p m

**HOLY THURSDAY** April 18th,Liturgy at 5:30 with Bishop Scharfenberger, Night Prayer at 10:00 pm

**GOOD FRIDAY** April 19th, stations of the Cross 3:00 pm

**GOOD FRIDAY** Liturgy 5:30 PM WITH BISHOP SCHARFENBERGER

**BLESSING OF EASTER FOODS:** APRIL 20TH AT 3:00 PM.

**EASTER VIGIL** APRIL 20TH at 8:00 pm Solemn Vigil of Easter and the Resurrection of the Lord with Bishop Scharfenberger.

Hurting from an abortion? Experience the healing love of Jesus Christ on a **Rachel's Vineyard** weekend retreat, May 17-19, 2019 at the Carondelet Hospitality Center in Latham. The weekend will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. The cost is \$195. Some financial assistance is available. For more information or to register contact: Pat Mousaw, 518-222-1160, Kathy Kelly, 802-282-2028 or Denise Freeman, 607-353-0039 or e-mail: rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com. For a complete listing of retreat dates and locations contact: 1-877-HOPE-4 ME or visit the Rachel's Vineyard website: [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

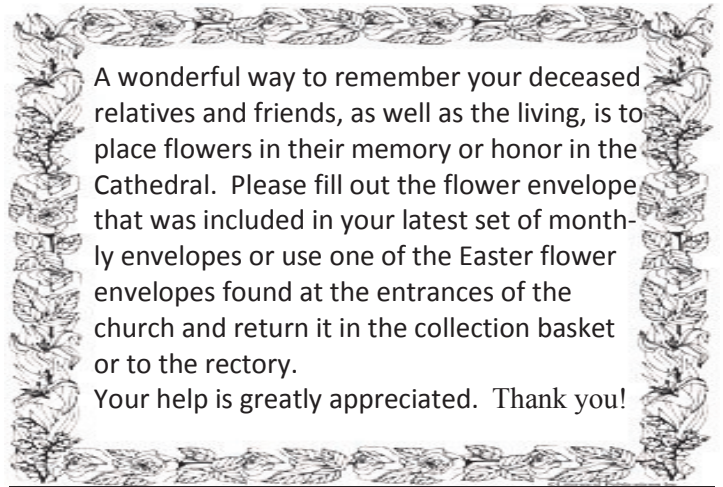
## Stewardship Treasure

The Collection for Sunday March 17th ,2019 was \$4,943.00.

The Second Collection was \$1,542.35.

**Thank you for all you have given to the Cathedral.**

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection, and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).



A wonderful way to remember your deceased relatives and friends, as well as the living, is to place flowers in their memory or honor in the Cathedral. Please fill out the flower envelope that was included in your latest set of monthly envelopes or use one of the Easter flower envelopes found at the entrances of the church and return it in the collection basket or to the rectory.

Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**Please pray for our sick;** Jeffrey Abraham, Robert Buell, Shirley Anderson, Lucy Apisa, Stephen Beattie, Carol Bruce, Grace Isabelle Caruso, Carmella Cervera, Mary Faith Colvin, Patricia Conti, 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, Jacqueline Heisler, Kelly Hemming, 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, Adam Ventura, Sebastian Vicencio, Richard Warner, Raphael Warner , Rosa Maria Santos

## **March 24,2019**

### **Cathedral Liturgical Celebrations, Meetings and Mass Intentions for the week of March 23, 2019 – March 31, 2019**

#### Saturday, March 23,

5:15PM Mass

Intention: Shirley and Thomas Riley

#### Sunday, March 24,

9:00AM Mass

10:00AM Faith Formation

11:00AM Mass

5:00PM Mass

#### Monday, March 25,

12:15 PM Mass

#### Tuesday, March 26,

7:15 AM Mass

12:00 PM AA Meeting (Rectory)

#### Wednesday, March 27,

12:15 PM Mass

#### Thursday, March 28,

7:15AM Mass

#### Friday March 29,

12:15 PM Mass

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

#### Saturday, March 30,

10:00 AM– Spring Cleaning

5:15PM Mass

#### Sunday, March 31,

9:00AM Mass

10:00AM Faith Formation

11:00AM Mass

Intention: Francis E. Scharfenberger  
(Uncle of Bishop Scharfenberger)

Intention: John Francis Calabrese

5:00PM Mass



**March 24, 2019**

**Ministry Recruitment**

Throughout this Lenten season we invite you to reflect on becoming more involved here in the Parish.

Please join us on this weekend, March 23-24. After each Mass our Liturgical Coordinator Melissa Martinez will be available to provide you with more information on the many ways you can share your talents and gifts with the Cathedral.

**Its time for spring cleaning.....!**

Bring a bucket and join the Cathedral Staff for a morning of Cleaning and Stewardship!  
Cleaning, Team Work, Lunch and Prayer!  
Join us beginning at 10:00 am Saturday, March 30th.

A presentation **“Mental Health, Faith and Self Care”** will be offered by Grace Fay on Wednesday, March 27th, 6:30 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Delaware Ave. Appropriate for all grades 6 thru adults, it will be a wonderful opportunity to discuss our emotions and self-care. All are welcome.

**RICE BOWL BOXES** can be found on the tables near the doors of the Cathedral. Please take one home and return it on Palm Sunday. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more information.

**Regina Caeli Academy**

**2019 Upcoming Admissions Events**

Join our exciting mission to form the next generation of Catholics! Regina Caeli Academy provides a classical, hybrid education in the Catholic tradition. Pre K3-12th grade students attend Socratic, hands-on classes two days a week and homeschool on the remaining days. Mark your calendar for our upcoming events:

**Spring Touring Event: Mon, April 1 at 9:30 am**

Event includes a tour, classroom observation, and Q&A; children welcome!

**RSVP to [imparisi.alb@rcanybrid.org](mailto:imparisi.alb@rcanybrid.org) or call (845) 379-0680**

201 Ten Broeck St. Scotia (Located inside Scotia United Methodist Church)  
[www.rcahybrid.org](http://www.rcahybrid.org)