

Our Lady of Light Parish



By Mikeda Murphy

OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS

St. Catherine of Sienna

118-22 Riverton Street
St. Albans, NY 11412

Tel number: 718-528-1220/Fax number: 718-528-7907

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
10AM-3PM (or call for an appointment)

St. Pascal Baylon

112-43 198th Street
St. Albans, NY 11412
718-468-3511

Office Hours: Monday-Friday

9:30AM-4PM (or call for an appointment)

e-mail address: ourladyoflightsa@gmail.com

website: www.ourladyoflightqueens.org

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, February 8, 2026

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Erick Balderas Vega M.Afr, Parochial Vicar /Administrator

Rev. Henry Byamukama M.Afr, Parochial Vicar

Permanent Deacons: Albert Saldana, Luis Taylor

Director of Faith Formation: Deacon Marcial Cordon

Administrative Assistant: Veronica Cabrales

Buildings & Facilities Manager: William Loyd

Music Ministry: Francine Ross /Bridget Torres

Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinators:

Maxine Dinnall : ololpyoungadultministry@gmail.com

Jeffrey Hicks: ololpyouthministry@gmail.com

Maxine Dinnall: Health Ministry ololphealthministry@gmail.com



St. Pascal Baylon

113th Ave and 199th St.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 10am &

Spanish Mass 12:30 pm

Monday to Saturday: 9am

Adoration Thursday 11:30am &
7-8pm

Confession Thursday 6:30-7pm

After Every Mass or by appointment

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

**Our Lady of Light Parish is a
spirit filled Faith
community nourished by the
Eucharist.**

**Committed to be disciples of
Christ, we reach out in good
stewardship to the entire Parish
and the community at large. We
serve God and one another by the
values we proclaim.**



St. Catherine of Sienna

Riverton St. and Baisley Blvd.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8am

Monday to Saturday: 8am

Adoration Thursday 3:30pm &
7-8pm

Confession Thursday 6:30-7pm

After Every Mass or by
Appointment

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Sunday: Isaiah 58:7-10, Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16

Monday: 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13, Psalm 132:6-7, 8-10, Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30, Psalm 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11, Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kings 10:1-10, Psalm 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40, Mark 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kings 11:4-13, Psalm 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40, Mark 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19, Psalm 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15, Mark 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34, Psalm 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22, Mark 8:1-10

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Casimir Agbi

Steven Callender

Debye Cleveland

Kisha Clinton

Maxine Dinnall

John Paul Ezeani

Mari Jean Ferinande

Junie Hopkinson

Donna Nicholson

Sunday Odua

Bridget Torres

Marjorie White

Parish Finance Committee Members

Sylvester Atuegbu

Asemota Benson

Tiffany Broadwater

Dawn Hewitt

Marcia Mahon

Donna Nicholson

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, February 8th

8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Monday, February 9th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Tuesday, February 10th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Wednesday, February 11th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Thursday, February 12th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Friday, February 13th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Saturday, February 14th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Barbara Ricketts, Beverly Stanton
Charmayne Roberts, Julia Hodge Hollis Ford
Gemma LaRode, Gloria Wynter, Marion Henry
Leonora Best, Lawrence Pitiler, Madeline Finney
Ruth Wade, Jacqueline Pestano, Dawn Hewitt
Connie Miller, Fran Hicks, Helen R. Coleman
Dee Johnson

(Please let us know if a name should be removed from the Sick List)

Weekly Collections

Masses 02//02/26	#of Adults	#of Children	Collections	
8:00 AM	63	2	\$954.00	
10:00 AM	82	18	\$3,813.00	
12:30 PM	25	7	\$160.00	
Online	N/A	N/A	\$604.00	
Totals	170	27	\$5,531.00	

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

[Readings: Isaiah 58:7–9; 1 Corinthians 2:1–5, Matthew 5:13–16]

BECOMING LIGHT AND SALT TO THE WORLD

*On this Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Word of God invites us to contemplate two humble yet profound images: salt and light. Rooted in the rhythm of everyday existence, Jesus elevates these common elements to express the extraordinary vocation and purpose of his disciples. When we consider these images through the lens of the prophet Isaiah, a powerful truth is revealed: **authentic faith is never meant to be hidden or passive, nor can it remain locked away within ourselves. Instead, faith is called to shine with radiance, to heal wounded hearts, to preserve what is good, and to transform the world around us through visible acts of compassion and mercy.** As we embrace this calling, our simple, faithful actions become sparks that ignite hope and bring God's light into the darkest corners of our world.*

Light That Breaks Forth Like the Dawn

The first reading from Isaiah 58 stands out for its vivid practicality and urgency. The prophet does not separate worship from the demands of justice and compassion; rather, he weaves them together: *"Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them"* [Is 58:7]. Isaiah insists that authentic faith is shown not in ritual alone, but in acts of mercy that are tangible and transformative. When these works of charity are embraced, Isaiah proclaims, *"Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed"* [Is 58:8]. **Here, light is not a distant or abstract symbol; it is made real through compassion, fairness, generosity, and a steadfast refusal to take advantage of others.** When God's people embody this spirit, Isaiah assures them that the glory of the Lord surrounds and protects them; God's presence becomes their shield and strength. Even prayer is renewed in this context: *"Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, 'Here I am!'"* [Is 58:9]. For our community at Our Lady of Light, **Isaiah's words are a profound call to remember that prayer and service are inseparable. Our worship finds its truest expression when it overflows into concrete acts of love, especially toward those who are most vulnerable among us.**

"You Are the Salt of the Earth"

In the Gospel passage from Matthew 5:13–16, Jesus speaks to his disciples with immediacy and intimacy; not as distant heroes or future saints, but as they are in that very moment: "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world." In the context of ancient Israel, salt was invaluable and woven into daily life. The rabbis taught, **"The world cannot exist without salt."** **Salt preserved food, enhanced its flavour, purified, and symbolised constancy and faithfulness.** Scripture enriches this imagery further. In Leviticus 2:13, God commands: *"You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be lacking from your grain offering."* **Salt, therefore, becomes a profound sign of God's enduring and unbreakable covenant.** The prophet Elisha, for example, used salt to heal polluted water, bringing life where there had been only death [2 Kings 2:19–22]. In Ezekiel 16, newborn children are washed and rubbed with salt, a gesture symbolising strength, purity, and belonging.

This rich symbolism carried into the early Church, where salt played a part in the rite of Baptism. Salt was placed on the tongue of the newly baptised with the prayer: *"Receive the salt of wisdom. May it bring you God's favour and lead you to eternal life."* When Jesus calls his disciples "salt of the earth," he is inviting them to recognise their calling and identity profoundly.

To be "the salt of the earth" means to draw out the God-given goodness already present in the world, just as salt brings out the natural flavour of food. Disciples are not called to replace the

world, withdraw from it, or dominate it; rather, they are sent to enrich life quietly and faithfully, preserving what is good and helping to heal what is broken. In this way, their presence becomes indispensable—small in quantity, perhaps, but immeasurably impactful in quality, just like salt itself.

“You Are the Light of the World”

Unlike salt, light is inherently visible; its very nature is to be seen. If hidden, it ceases to fulfil its purpose as light. Jesus underscores this with clarity: *“No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a bushel basket.”* Throughout the Scriptures, light consistently symbolises God’s saving presence. The prophet Isaiah declares that Israel is chosen *“to be a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth”* [Is 49:6]. In Jesus, this mission finds its ultimate fulfilment; he confidently proclaims, *“I am the light of the world”* [Jn 8:12] and then entrusts that very light to his disciples. **Gathered around Christ, the disciples become the embodiment of Israel’s calling, carrying God’s light into the world.** This connection resonates deeply with today’s Gospel and is echoed at the conclusion of Matthew’s Gospel, where the risen Lord commissions his followers to go forth to all nations, assuring them: *“I am with you always, until the end of the age”* [Mt 28:20].

Light’s work is effortless yet transformative; it does not debate or coerce; it simply dispels darkness, enabling others to see with clarity and hope. St. John Chrysostom insightfully observed that the most powerful Christian witness occurs when virtue is made visible in our lives: ***“Nothing is so cold as a Christian who does not seek to save others.”*** Whenever mercy is shown and charity embraced, the light of Christ rises among us, turning the shadows of gloom into the brilliance of midday.

Lessons for Our Community

For our young people: being salt and light does not mean striving for perfection, but embracing authenticity. Even the smallest gestures, kindness, honesty, courage, and generosity shine with real brightness in a world so often clouded by confusion and harshness. Your genuine care can illuminate the lives of those around you.

For adults and elders: discipleship is a journey of patient perseverance. Like salt, faith often works quietly and steadily, preserving the bonds of family, strengthening marriages, nurturing prayer, and supporting our communities through steadfast love. Your enduring commitment provides a foundation that holds us together, especially in challenging times.

For everyone in our parish family: Jesus teaches us that our good works are not for self-glorification, but so that others “may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father” [Mt 5:16]. St. Augustine reminds us, “The lamp is not lit for itself, but for those who see by it.” Our acts of mercy and charity become a beacon, guiding others to God’s love and presence.

Conclusion

This Sunday’s readings call us to rediscover our true identity in Christ: to be salt that brings out the richness and flavour of life, and light that helps others find their way to God. By feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, rejecting false accusations, and comforting those who are afflicted, we allow God’s light to shine brilliantly among us. May Our Lady of Light inspire our parish to live this mission with faithfulness, so that in our everyday acts of love, the world may glimpse the extraordinary mercy and compassion of God.

As we journey with our ancestors in faith during Black History Month, may we truly be light and salt, illuminating our families, Our Lady of Light family and beyond with acts of kindness, courage, and compassion.

Fr. Erick Balderas Vega M.Afr and Fr. Henry Byamukama M.Afr

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS



COME JOIN US!!!

Our Lady of Light Parish

St. Catherine of Sienna Rosary Society

Will be hosting a Very Tasty Valentine's Bake Sale on **Sunday, February 15, 2026**, after the 8 A.M. and 110 A.M Masses in the SCS Parish Hall.

Assorted Home Baked Cakes, Cookies, Brownies, Breads and Pastries

There will be 3 Raffles: A \$250 Mastercard, and 2 Spirit Baskets

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!!

Ash Wednesday

Masses for Ash Wednesday, March 18th will be held at

St. Catherine's at 8:00 a.m. and at 7:30 p.m.

St. Pascal's at 9:00 a.m. and at 7:30 p.m. in Spanish.

Ashes will be distributed at all Masses

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be done every Friday from **February 20th –March 27th**

St. Catherine's Station of the Cross will be at 7:00 p.m. St. Pascal's Stations of the Cross will be after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Our Lady of Light St. Pascal Rosary Society

Presents Silent Auction

on

Saturday, February 28th from 6:00pm-9:00pm.

St. Pascal's Parish Hall

Tickets \$30.00 per person

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

For tickets speak to any Rosary Society member.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA ROSARY SOCIETY

OUR LADY OF LIGHT

**ANNUAL ONE DAY LENTEN RETREAT
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

PLEASE JOIN US!!!

Saturday March 7, 2026 – 9 00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Continental Breakfast/Lunch Included –

Donation: \$40.00

St. Catherine of Sienna Parish Hall

Contacts: Margaret Arthur - 1-347-255-1117,

Debye Cleveland - 1-516-840-1250,

Yvonne Paultre - 1-718-723 -5081

The Activity Coordinating Committee

A Fun Day at the Casino

Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 8:am

Cost: \$60

Bus departs from St. Catherine's parking lot at 8:am sharp

Trip includes: roundtrip transportation and \$10 return for the Casino

If interested please contact:

Allister Gillaume 718.840.8142

Mary Lee 516.379.4736

Our Lady of Light

St. Pascal Baylon Rosary Society

Women's Retreat 2026

In Mary's Footsteps: A Journey of Faith, Strength, and Compassion!

Retreat Facilitator. Rev. Henry Byamukama, M.Afr.

When: Friday, May 15th to Sunday, May 17th

Where: Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
440 West Neck Road Huntington, NY 11743

Cost: \$370.00

1st payment of \$70.00 due to reserve room

2nd payment of \$100.00 due February 22nd

3rd payment of \$100.00 due March 22nd

Final payment of \$100.00 due April 19th

Knights of Columbus

General Stephen Moylan Assembly #715

In Honor of Our Veterans

Veterans Banquet honoring Deacon Luis Taylor

Saturday, April 11th at 1:pm

Msgr. Burke/Rockaway Council Hall

333 Beach 90th St. Rockaway Beach

Open Bar, Dinner & Dancing

Ticket: \$80 per adults and \$40 per child (10 years and under)

Contact; Tony S. Harilall 347.879.3714 or

Ken Faustin 646.872.4011

NEWS NOTES COMING SOON

FOR FEBRUARY 2026

DATE TIME LECTOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTER

Feb 1 st	8 am	Y. Paultre	T. Guillaume - M. Jean
Feb 8 th	8 am	R. Clinton	E. James - A. Odua
Feb 15 th	8 am	A. Persad	R. Lambert - V. Hodge
Feb 22 nd	8 am	D. Nicholson	P. Brown - G. St. Festin

Weekly Envelope Contributions

Weekly Envelope Contributions for 2025, please fill out the form below and return it to the Rectory. You can also request it by emailing the rectory: ourladyoflightsa@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ENVELOPE# _____

We thank you for your generous contributions for the past year.

St. Johns University Speech and Hearing Center

The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center will be offering "**Hearing Aid Help**" from **February 2, 2026 through April 30, 2026**. This is a free service and is available for anyone who has a hearing aid and may be experiencing some difficulty caring for it or using it.

The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center will be offering **FREE** speech and hearing evaluations from **February 2, 2026 through April 30, 2026**. Please call the center at 718.990.6480 to schedule an appointment. The Speech and Hearing Center is located at 152-11 Union Turnpike, Flushing, NY.

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

The Food Pantry is in need of men volunteers to help with deliveries and on Pantry day. Deliveries are every other Tuesday's from 9-12pm at St. Catherine's. Food Pantry is on Wednesday's 12pm-2pm at St. Catherine's. **We are looking for men because of heavy lifting is involved on both days.** If interested please contact Junie Hopkinson at 917.261.1808 or the rectory 718.468.3511.

Heart to Hands Ministry Donation

Our Lady of Light's crochet and knitting group, Heart to Hands, is bringing joy and comfort to women and children of Hour Children this holiday season. With over two large bags filled with handmade crochet, knit, and loom hats, gloves and scarves, their gifts will keep the children and adults warm.

Heart to Hands now meets at the Best Life Senior Center on Farmers Blvd., after relocating from St. Pascal's parish hall to ensure accessibility for all members.

A special thank you goes to the Loomers of Rochdale Village Library, whose generous donation of loom-crafted items added even more love to this collection.

Together, these groups embody the true meaning of community—hands and hearts working in harmony to uplift others. If you would like to donate yarn to Heart to Hands, please contact the rectory.

Catholic Charities Call Center

Catholic Charities Call Center will help you get assistance with

- Behavioral Health Services
- Care Coordination
- Early Childhood & Head Start Programs
- Emergency Food Pantry
- Family Stabilization Programs
- Housing Information
- Immigration Services
- Limited Financial Assistance
- Senior Services
- Information & Referrals to Other Services
- Access to the Community Outreach Services

Call the Call Center at 718.722.6001, Monday-Friday, 8am-6:30am or visit www.ccbq.org and ask our Chatbot Sonya for help. For more info on events and activities, visit www.ccbq.org/liveitup.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. [1 Chronicles 29:14]

Gratitude is the memory of the heart. When we give thanks, we turn our attention back to the Giver, which is the highest form of praise. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever!" [Psalm 136:1]. Lord our God, You are the Source of every blessing. You breathe life into our dust and make us Your own. Today, with grateful hearts, we lift our voices to You, for everything we are and all that we possess are gifts from Your hand of love.

We thank You, Lord, for **the Gift of Life**, for every heartbeat, every breath, every sunrise. Teach us to cherish this precious gift, to use our days for Your glory and our neighbour's good. In You we live and move and have our being. [Acts 17:28]

We thank You, Lord, for **the Gift of Creation**, for sky and sea, for mountains and meadows, for all creatures great and small. May we tend creation with care, honouring Your handiwork with grateful hearts. *You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of all living things.* [Psalm 145:16]

We thank You, Lord, for the gift of **Faith and Salvation**, planted in us like a mustard seed, growing through grace and nourished by Your Word. We thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and our Friend, who gave Himself for love of us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [Romans 5:8]

We thank You, Lord, for **the Gift of the Church**, for the saints, and all who have gone before us, for all who witness to Your love today. Bless our parish family with unity and peace, that we may be a light in our community. *We are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.* [Romans 12:5]

We thank You, Lord, for **the Gifts of Family and Friendship**, for those You place in our lives: family who nurture us, friends who strengthen us, and companions who walk beside us on life's journey. May our love for one another reflect the love You have for us. *From You, every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.* [Ephesians 3:15]

We thank You, Lord, for **the Gift of Daily Bread**, for the work of our hands and the fruit of the earth that sustains us. Help us to remember that all we have is Yours. In offering it back to You, we find joy and freedom. *What shall I return to the Lord for all His goodness to me?* [Psalm 116:12]

We thank You, Lord, for **the Gift of Trials** and the challenges of life, for through them You refine our hearts. Grant us the grace to see Your hand at work in times of hardship and sorrow. *All things work together for good for those who love God.* [Romans 8:28]

Lord, all that we have and all that we are comes from You, our generous Giver. Returning to You in thanksgiving is our highest form of praise. May our gratitude overflow into acts of mercy, our hearts be filled with songs of joy, and our days be dedicated to serving Your Kingdom. To You, O Lord, be glory and honour forever. Amen

GiveCentral

We understand that most transactions today are done electronically. We want to provide you with that same convenient option at church. We believe that it benefits everyone to offer this flexible online tool. Please visit www.givecentral.org and take a few minutes to set up your donations! **We're pleased to offer mobile donations! Our text to give number is 712-217-3511. Text "SUNDAY" to easily make a donation.**

Give Central QR Code

To donate just scan.



IMPORTANT PARISH REMINDERS

The Sacrament of Baptism for Infants

Parents may contact the parish office to arrange for the baptism of their child at least one month in advance. Infant Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of the month at one of our weekend masses. Parents must be registered in Our Lady of Light or the parish they attend and participate in a Baptismal Preparation class.

Religious Education for Children and Youth:

Location and Times: Our Parish Faith Formation program takes place on Sunday mornings, in person this year. For more information, please contact , Deacon Marcial Cordon Director of Faith Formation, at 718 528-1220 or email at dre101269@diobrook.org

Ages and Requirements: Our program welcomes children and youth who are three years old through High School. We accept and prepare children and youth who have not received the Sacraments.

Parental Responsibilities: Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminds us in his new General Directory for Catechesis that those being catechized can live their life in a simple and spontaneous way. We are called to accompany each other on a journey toward Christ, with parents/guardians taking the lead for their children. In addition to having an active participation in the faith formation of their children, Parents or Guardians are also expected to attend Mass with their children and to attend parental preparations for Sacraments.

Reception of Sacraments for School Aged Children: Parents who would like for their child to receive the Sacraments must register them in our parish Sacramental Preparation Program. Our Program requires that children attend and prepare for two complete and consecutive academic years prior to the reception of each Sacrament. The Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is received beginning in grade 2 and up. The Sacrament of Confirmation requires attendance and preparation in our 2 year Confirmation Sacramental Preparation program. Confirmation preparation begins in grades 7 & 8. For each of the Sacraments, there is an extra fee, to cover the costs of the ceremonies. For more information, please contact, Deacon Marcial Cordon Director of Religious Education.

Reception of Sacraments for Adults (RCIA): Our Parish offers the RCIA program for those, ages 16 years and older, who are interested in becoming Catholic. It is also for those who have been baptized and in need of receiving the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. The Rite of Christian Initiation program is offered year- round and is also available for children ages 8 and older through the Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children program. Please contact Deacon Marcial Cordon , Director of Faith Formation to register or for more information.

Continuing Faith Formation for Adults: Our parish provides opportunities for lifelong faith formation through small faith sharing groups and bible studies. Please check our website, bulletin or contact the Faith Formation Office for more information.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Since Catholic marriage requires a time of preparation, arrangements should begin at least six months before the proposed date of the wedding to allow for the Marriage Preparation Program. Registered, participating and contributing parishioners, not a third party, may contact the parish office to begin the process.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

If you are entering a hospital for surgery, experiencing a prolonged or serious illness, or are very weak due to advancement of age, call the parish office to arrange for the Sacraments of reconciliation, communion and anointing at home. We can also arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to continue to visit you with the Blessed Sacrament. We are here to serve you, please call.

Funerals

The family member or friend handling the funeral arrangements are asked to contact the pastor to arrange a consolation visit from one of the Priests. He will help you with any questions you may have with planning the Wake and Funeral Mass. The Parish wishes to be with you at this moment of need, all other arrangements involving the church must be initiated by the funeral director. Strict adherence to the Roman Catholic Ritual for Funerals will be followed in all parish involved activities..

Proof of Parish Participation

References and proof of parish residency for both civil and religious purposes can only be provided for registered parishioners. Catholic Schools offering a discount for children of parents who are active members of their parish usually require that the family be registered at least six months previously in their home parish. It is also assumed that the children are registered in the religious education program of the home parish.

**Welcome
New
Members**



To all our Visitors: We hope you felt at home at the Feast of our Lord with your brothers & sister in Christ. We pray you will join us again! Letters proving membership for reference, referrals, recommendations or for any other reason, will only be provided to registered parishioners. **If we don't know you , we can't vouch for you!**

REGISTRATION

Registration is important in the event you may need testimonial letters, for baptism/confirmation sponsorships, wedding plans etc.! If we don't know you, we can't vouch for you! **Please register TODAY! Thank you!**

Name _____ Envelopes: Yes _____ No _____

Address _____ Apt.# _____ City _____ Zip code _____

Telephone # _____

REGISTRATION UPDATE REQUEST:

Envelope number _____

Change name to: _____ Change address to: _____