

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, February 15, 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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, February 15, 2026

Sunday: Sirach 15:15-20, Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, Matthew 5:17-37

Monday: James 1:1-11, Psalm 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76, Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday: James 1:12-18, Psalm 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19, Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18, Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6, Luke 9:22-25

Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9a, Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19, Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday: Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Luke 5:27-32

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 15th

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

Happy Wedding Anniversary to
Monique & Larid Daniels

Monday, February 16th

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

Tuesday, February 17th

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

Wednesday, February 18th

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

In Loving Memory of
Charlene John-Baptiste
Forever Young

Thursday, February 19th

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

Friday, February 20th

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

Saturday, February 21st

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

Weekly Collections

Masses 02//08/26	#of Adults	#of Children	Collections	
8:00 AM	35	2	\$640.00	
10:00 AM	56	5	\$883.00	
12:30 PM	19	1	\$60.00	
Online	N/A	N/A	\$1,013.70	
Totals	110	8	\$2,596.70	

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 5:17–37

“I have not come to abolish but to fulfil.” [Mt 5:17]

This Sunday's Gospel shows that Jesus came to fulfil the law, encouraging a transformation of the heart rather than just external observance. He invites us to see the commandments as a journey toward love, reconciliation, purity, and integrity.

1. Jesus Fulfils the Law- From Letter to Life

This Sunday's Gospel delivers a powerful message as Jesus boldly proclaims, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil"* [Mt 5:17]. The Law, a precious gift from God to Israel, serves as a guiding light on their journey [cf. Ps 119:105]. However, **Jesus invites us to look beyond the Law as mere rules; He encourages us to understand it as a profound call to deepen our relationship with God and with one another.**

Jesus does not discard the commandments but enriches them with their true essence, love. St. Augustine beautifully expresses this: *"The New Law is the grace of the Holy Spirit given through Christ."* He writes these divine laws on our hearts [cf. Jer 31:33], transforming them from external commands to internal motivations. This fulfilment symbolises perfection, a complete expression of the Law rooted in love [cf. Rom 13:10]. Being a Christian is not about doing the bare minimum or asking, *"What is the least I must do?"* Rather, it calls us to seek transformation within ourselves and to ask, *"How can Christ live fully in me?"* Let's embrace this journey of love and growth together!

2. “You Have Heard... But I Say to You”-Jesus Deepens the Commandments with Divine Authority

a) Murder and Reconciliation

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not kill.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." [Matthew 5:21–22] In these powerful words, Jesus reveals a deeper truth about our relationships. Anger, contempt, and hatred not only harm those we target; they wound the entire Body of Christ. Consider how our words can assassinate someone's dignity, how silence can inflict deep wounds, and how bitterness can extinguish our joy.

St. John Chrysostom wisely teaches, *"To be angry without cause is to commit murder in the heart."* When we ignore someone, celebrate their failures, or engage in gossip, we diminish the value of life itself. Jesus calls us to prioritise reconciliation, even before we present our offerings: *"First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."* [Matthew 5:24] This is especially important at Our Lady of Light, where we encourage families to seek healing before approaching the altar, parishioners to choose dialogue over division, and ministries to practice forgiveness before serving. Let's remember: reconciliation is not optional; it is essential for our spiritual awakening.

b) Adultery and Purity of Heart

"Everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart." [Matthew 5:28] In this verse, Jesus shifts our focus from outward actions to our inner intentions, emphasising that the true struggle lies within the heart. St. Jerome reminds us that *"The Lord does not condemn beauty, but the lustful gaze."*

In a world filled with provocative imagery and easy temptations, Jesus' message is incredibly relevant. Purity is not about repression; instead, it is the freedom to love genuinely. His strong advice about *"cutting off"* anything that leads us to sin [Matthew 5:29–30] serves as an important reminder that true discipleship may require us to eliminate distractions. As St. John Paul II highlighted in his *Theology of the Body*, the body is meant to express the profound truth of love, while lust distorts that truth into something possessive.

We must find a balance between truth and compassion. While Jesus speaks firmly about divorce [Matthew 5:32] and emphasises the sanctity of marriage, it is essential to remember that divorced individuals remain our brothers and sisters. The Church stands in solidarity with those facing challenging marriages, offering both mercy and truth. St. Ambrose beautifully states, *"Where there is repentance, there is mercy."* At Our Lady of Light, our community should embody fidelity and compassion, upholding the sanctity of marriage while warmly embracing those who are struggling with its challenges.

c) Let Your "Yes" Mean Yes

"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No'" [Matthew 5:37]. In ancient times, oaths carried the weight of divine punishment for breaking promises. However, Jesus invites us to a simpler truth: integrity makes swearing unnecessary. God is not a punisher to fear; He is our loving Father. As St. Basil the Great wisely stated, *"The truthful man needs no oath; his life speaks."* In our everyday lives, let's ensure our commitments are reliable, our words straightforward, and our promises, whether in marriage, ministry, or service, steadfast. For our youth, the journey of integrity starts now, while the faithfulness of our elders serves as a guiding light for all.

3. The Law of Love: Higher Righteousness

Jesus declares, *"Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven"* [Matthew 5:20]. He calls us to move beyond mere legal compliance and embrace a transformative holiness. St. Thomas Aquinas explains that the New Law is the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. At Our Lady of Light, this means not only avoiding wrongdoing but also actively building a community of love, choosing acts of charity, and aspiring to become saints.

4. Implications for Our Lady of Light Community

As members of Our Lady of Light, regardless of age, we are called to:

1. **Engage in Reconciliation:** Mend divisions and foster connections within our community.
2. **Safeguard the Heart:** Uphold purity and encourage strong marriages.
3. **Practice Integrity:** Demonstrate trustworthiness in every area of our lives.
4. **Extend Mercy:** Embrace and support those who are facing challenges; remember, the Church is a place of healing, not judgment.

Let us pursue holiness by accepting grace and fully embodying the principles of the Law.

In conclusion, we reflect on Mary, who exemplified the Law with her complete "Yes" [Luke 1:38] and pure heart [Luke 2:19]. May she guide us to forgive, love, and live faithfully. Lord Jesus, fulfil Your commandments in our hearts, heal our anger, and strengthen our marriages. May Our Lady of Light help us embrace Your Law with joy and grace. Amen.

As we journey towards love, reconciliation, purity, and integrity, let us walk with the ancestors of faith during Black History Month.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS

Lenten Season

The penitential and grace-filled Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. It is a time of hope-filled renewal as the Church journeys towards Easter.

Abstinence: All the faithful who have reached 14 years of age are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting: All the faithful between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to one full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions during the day. Coffee, Tea and juice are permitted at any time.

Easter Duty: After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time of the year. By special indult, in the United States, the period for fulfilling this precept has been extended to include the period beginning the First Sunday of Lent (February 22nd) to the celebration of Pentecost (May 24th)

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

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

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

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: _____