

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

First Sunday in Lent Sunday, February 22, 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

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. 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



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

First Sunday in Lent Sunday, February 22, 2026

Sunday: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7, Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17, Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19, Matthew 4:1-11,

Monday: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15, Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday: Isaiah 55:10-11, Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19, Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jonah 3:1-10, Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19, Luke 11:29-32

Thursday: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25, Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8, Matthew 7:7-12

Friday: Ezekiel 18:21-28, Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8, Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8, Matthew 5:43-48

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 22nd

8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Monday, February 23rd

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Tuesday, February 24th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Wednesday, February 25th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Thursday, February 26th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Friday, February 27th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Saturday, February 28th

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

Weekly Collections

Masses 02//16/26	#of Adults	#of Children	Collections	
8:00 AM	88	9	\$1,817.00	
10:00 AM	93	5	\$3,572.00	
12:30 PM	26	8	\$146.00	
Online	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Totals	207	22	\$5,535.00	

LENTEN MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER

LISTENING AND FASTING: LENT AS A TIME OF CONVERSION

Dear Family of Our Lady of Light,

Welcome to the holy season of Lent. A story is told about an old clock found in the sacristy after a church's reinstallation in a parish in Italy. This beautiful and memorable clock had stopped working. An elderly priest quietly asked the sacristan not to fix it. When asked why, he responded, **"Let it remain so, to remind us that when prayer stops, time stops."** We can confidently say that Lent is God's way of restarting the clock of our souls. It is not merely about giving up sweets, meat, or alcohol; it's about giving God a chance again. In this reflection, we propose the Holy Father's Lenten message for 2026.

The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, reminds us that **Lent is a special time for renewal. The Church invites us to place God at the centre of our lives, ensuring that our daily worries, distractions, and sins do not consume our hearts. Lent is an opportunity to return to the Lord with sincerity and hope.** The Pope highlights two key Lenten practices that help us grow closer to God and become better Christians: **listening and fasting.**

1. Listening: Making Room for God

The Pope teaches that **conversion begins by allowing the Word of God to touch our hearts. Listening is the first step in any genuine relationship, both with God and with others.** In Scripture, God reveals Himself as one who listens: "I have seen the misery of my people... I have heard their cry" [Exodus 3:7]. **When we listen to the Word of God during Mass and in our personal prayers, we learn to listen more attentively to the world around us. The Pope reminds us that Sacred Scripture helps us recognise and respond to the cries of those who are suffering.** Some examples of listening during Lent include: paying close attention during Mass instead of rushing; reading a short passage of Scripture daily, even if it's just for five minutes; listening patiently to a spouse, child, parent, or neighbour; offering a listening ear to someone who feels lonely, sick, or is facing challenges, and being aware of the needs of the poor in our community.

2. Fasting: Purifying the Heart

The Pope explains that fasting extends beyond just abstaining from food. It is an ancient Christian practice that helps us recognise our true desires and what governs our hearts. Jesus teaches us that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God [Matthew 4:4]. Fasting offers several benefits: it enables us to control selfish desires, fosters a hunger for justice and goodness, encourages simpler living, and inspires us to become more generous to others. Examples of fasting during Lent include: fasting from extra meals or snacks, and donating the savings to the poor; fasting from luxury spending and unnecessary shopping; fasting from excessive social media, TV, or entertainment; and fasting from complaining, negativity, or impatience.

A Special Invitation: Fast from Harmful Words; One of the Pope's most impactful teachings encourages us to practice a form of fasting that is often overlooked: fasting from hurtful words. **He urges us to avoid harsh language, gossip, slander, insults, rude speech, and quick judgments about those who are not present. Instead, we are called to communicate with kindness, respect, and peace.** Scripture reminds us, "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up" [Ephesians 4:29] and "A gentle answer turns away wrath" [Proverbs 15:1]. Examples

include refusing to spread gossip at home, work, or church; choosing silence instead of engaging in arguments; speaking words that encourage and heal; and asking for forgiveness when we hurt others.

3. Together: Lent is Experienced as a Community

The Pope reminds us that **Lent is not only a personal journey; it is also a communal experience. Families, parishes, lay groups and Christian communities are invited to walk this path together.** The Bible illustrates how the people of God gathered to listen and fast as one: [Nehemiah 9:1–3]. The **Pope encourages parishes and families to create environments where the Word of God is heard, the suffering are welcomed, the cries of the poor are acknowledged, and everyone is treated with mercy and dignity.**

In conclusion, the Holy Father asks us to pray for the grace to experience Lent with genuine conversion by listening more attentively to God, fasting with humility, speaking with love, and caring for the poor and suffering. By doing so, our parishes and families can become havens of hope and peace, contributing to what the Pope describes as **“a civilisation of love.”**
[Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV for Lent 2026, 13.02.2026]

Dear family of Our Lady of Light, let us listen, fast and walk together as the Holy Pontiff invites us to the ‘civilisation of love’ this Lenten season. Have a blessed, fruitful and fulfilling Lenten season.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS

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

Become a BETTER DRIVER!!!

Receive a Discount on your Auto Insurance

Reduce up to 4 points from your license

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Saturday, March 21, 2026

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

St. Catherine of Sienna Parish Hall

118-22 Riverton Street St. Albans, NY 11412

\$35 per person, payment due by 3/15/26

Sponsored by the St. Catherine of Sienna Men's Club

SEATS ARE LIMITED, register NOW by contacting:

Dwayne Taylor (917) 903-9423, Casimir Agbi

(917) 545-5951

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

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

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.

Second Collection

On Sunday, March 15th there will be a second collection for The Catholic Relief Services. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad.

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.

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.

St. Clare Catholic Academy

St. Clare Catholic Academy 137-25 Brookville Blvd. Rosedale, NY 11422. Registration is now open for the 2026/27 Academic School Year Seats available from FREE 3k and 4K programs. Grades Kindergarten through Eight Grade. Call us now 718-528-7174. Visit us at www.stclarecatholicacademy.org.

“What Do You Have in Your Hands?”

CHRISTIAN GIVING IS EUCHARISTIC

When the Lord asked Moses, “*What is that in your hand?*” [Exodus 4:2], **He invited Moses to recognise the power of what he already possessed.** The staff he carried, ordinary and shaped by daily life, became extraordinary when he returned it to God in trust. This poignant question resonates throughout Scripture and finds its deepest meaning in the Eucharist, whose very essence is thanksgiving.

Time and again, **God begins not with abundance, but with what is already held in grateful hands.** A widow may possess only a small jar of oil, yet when she offers it in faith, it never runs dry. A young boy provides five loaves and two fish, and in Jesus’ hands, they transform into nourishment for thousands. Another widow places two small coins into the temple treasury, and the Lord sees in her gift the fullness of a grateful heart. **In every instance, the gift may be small, yet the offering remains total. And in each case, thanksgiving unlocks God’s transformative power. This is the mystery we enter every time we approach the altar.**

The bread and wine we offer are described as the “**fruit of the earth and work of human hands.**” They gather the ordinary **substance of our lives; our labour, time, resources, joys, and struggles-** and present them before God in gratitude. As St. Irenaeus taught, in offering these gifts, the Church returns creation itself to the Creator with thanksgiving, and God responds by filling them with His divine life.

At the heart of the Eucharist stands Christ Himself, who takes, gives thanks, breaks, and distributes. Thanksgiving is not merely spoken; it is enacted. What is offered is not lost but transformed. What is broken is not destroyed but shared. St. Augustine reminds us that at the altar, we offer not just bread and wine, but ourselves. Our lives, like the staff of Moses, the oil of the widow, the loaves of the child, and the coins of the poor, are taken up into Christ’s perfect thanksgiving to the Father. This is why **Christian giving transcends mere practicality; it is Eucharistic. It flows from gratitude.** St. John Chrysostom teaches that true generosity is born when the heart recognises that all it possesses is a gift, and that nothing placed in God’s hands is ever wasted.

Each Eucharist gently asks us again: *What do you have in your hands today?* What we bring may appear small, but when offered in thanksgiving, it becomes united to Christ’s self-gift. In His hands, our humble offerings become blessings for many. May the Eucharist continually transform us into a people of thanksgiving; grateful in prayer, generous in providing, and confident that God can achieve more with our gifts than we can ever imagine.

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.



Our Lady of Light's Twelve Wishes

PARISH PURPOSE FOR THE YEAR 2026

Inspired by twelve intentions for the year 2026, we present

The Twelve Wishes of Our Lady of Light—

*twelve real needs of our parish that we hope to fulfill
throughout the year to beautify and dignify
our liturgical celebrations.*

This is a voluntary and open initiative,
a shared community purpose for the new year.

Our Lady of Light's 12 Wishes

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Paschal Candle
Saint Pascal Baylon
\$447 | 7. Paschal Candle
Saint Catherine of Siena
\$447 |
| 2. Two Candle Votive
Light Stands
Saint Pascal Baylon | 8. Indoor Area Rug (Office)
Saint Catherine of Siena
\$400 |
| 3. Indoor Area Rug
(Small Chapel) \$400 | 9. Processional Cross
Saint Catherine of Siena \$2,500 |
| 4. Gold Vestment (Priest)
Saint Pascal Baylon \$800 | 10. Processional Candles (Set)
Saint Catherine of Siena \$3000 |
| 5. Gold Vestment (Deacon)
Saint Pascal Baylon \$800 | 11. White Vestment (Priest)
Saint Catherine of Siena \$800 |
| 6. Sacred Linens \$1000 | 12. White Vestment (Deacon)
Saint Catherine of Siena \$800 |

How Can You Support This Initiative?

- ✓ By making a financial donation and indicating the wish you choose
- ✓ By offering a donation in memory of a loved one
- By making a partial contribution, according to your means.

Thank you for your generosity and love for our parish.

Liturgical Committee Our Lady of Light Parish

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: _____