

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 26, 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

Fourth Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 26, 2026

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6,
1 Peter 2:20b-25, John 10:1-10

Monday: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4, John
10:11-18,

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26, Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7,
John 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24–13:5a, Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and
8, John 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25, Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25
and 27, John 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33, Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab,
John 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52, Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4,
John 14:7-14

8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Sunday, April 26th

Monday, April 27th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Tuesday, April 28th

Wednesday, April 29th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Thursday, April 30th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Friday, May 1st

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Saturday, May 2nd

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

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

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Barbara Ricketts, Beverly Stanton
Charmayne Roberts, Julia Hodge, 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, Eartha Hendrick

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

Weekly Collections

Masses 04/20//26	#of Adults	#of Children	Collections	
8:00 AM	85	5	\$510.00	
10:00 AM	120	12	\$2,174.00	
12:30 PM	25	6	\$85.00	
Online	N/A	N/A	\$1,133.00	
Totals	230	23	\$3,898.00	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER-“GOOD SHEPHERD” & VOCATION

SUNDAY

Gospel: John 10:1-10

“THROUGH THE GATE-LISTENING TO THE SHEPHERD WITH ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA”

Introduction

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus speaks with striking simplicity: “I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” [John 10:9-10]. He is not merely a guide among many; He is the pathway, the threshold, the sole source of true life. In a world filled with competing voices, the critical question is not whether we will listen, but whose voice we will choose to follow. The life of St. Catherine of Siena serves as a powerful testimony to what unfolds when one hears the Shepherd’s voice and follows it wholeheartedly.

A Young Heart That Recognised the Shepherd’s Voice

At just seven years old, Catherine made an extraordinary choice: **she offered her life entirely to Christ, committing herself to a vow of virginity out of profound love for Him.** Even at such a young age, she had begun to recognise the Shepherd’s voice. *“The sheep hear his voice... and they follow him” [John 10:3-4].* While societal or familial expectations may have swayed many her age, Catherine tuned in to something far deeper: **a divine call to belong wholly to Christ. She chose to enter through the gate that is Jesus, embarking on a journey that promised not just comfort or approval but true, abundant life.**

Trial and Fidelity-Choosing Christ Amidst Pressure

At just 16, Catherine found herself at a crossroads, **overwhelmed by societal expectations to marry. But her response wasn’t just a quiet dissent; it was a bold declaration of her devotion to Christ.** Cutting off her hair was her way of saying, **“I belong to Him alone.”** This act of courage didn’t come without its challenges. She faced harsh treatment from her mother, endured demanding household chores, and was met with opposition whenever she sought time for prayer and solitude. Yet, through it all, **Catherine held steadfast to her faith. She discerned a vital truth: the path laid out for her did not lead closer to Christ. This is the core of the Gospel message; many voices surround us, but not all lead to life. Even well-meaning voices can distract us from God’s call. Catherine inspires us to summon the courage to stand firm against pressures, even from those we love.** Eventually, her father recognised the authenticity of her calling, granting her a space for peace. God often sends unexpected support when we remain faithful to Him.

The Hidden Life: Hearing the Shepherd’s Voice in Silence

Catherine then entered a profound period of seclusion, **immersing herself in prayer and silence for nearly three years, venturing from her room only for Mass.** In that sacred solitude, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, embracing a life of prayer, penance, and contemplation. This hidden phase led to a deep encounter with Christ, culminating in her mystical marriage with Him. From this experience, we learn a vital lesson: **we recognise the Shepherd’s voice in the quiet. In a world filled with noise and distraction, it’s all too easy to get lost in the clamour. For Catherine, solitude wasn’t an escape; it was transformative. She let Christ shape her heart in ways that prepared her for future action with clarity and conviction.**

From Silence to Mission: The Shepherd's Call to the World

After years of hidden life, a new call emerged; **a voice urging Catherine to leave her solitude and embrace active service. And she obeyed. She ventured forth to care for the sick and poor, providing comfort during plague outbreaks, boldly addressing leaders, and advocating for unity and reform within the Church.** This transition unveils a profound truth about the Good Shepherd: He calls us not only into an intimate relationship with Him but also into a purposeful mission. Catherine didn't choose her mission; **she responded to the voice that led her into silence.** The same voice now urged her into action.

The Gate That Leads to Abundant Life

Jesus promises, *"Whoever enters through me will be saved... will come in and go out and find pasture."* [John 10:9] **Catherine's life exemplifies this promise: entering through Christ meant total surrender, staying united with Him through deep prayer, and courageous service in the world. While her life was fraught with challenges, it was also abundant: rich with meaning, rooted in peace, and marked by true inner freedom.** At every stage: childhood, suffering, solitude, and mission; she chose Christ repeatedly.

A Message for Our Time

Today, we navigate a landscape filled with competing voices: cultural pressures, social media influences, and the fear of missing out. Like Catherine, we are invited to reflect: **"Does this draw me closer to Christ or lead me away?"** Her life encourages us to:

- Listen deeply in prayer,
- Stand firm in our convictions,
- Trust God's call, even when the path is tough,
- Serve others generously, guided by Christ.

Following the Shepherd with Courage

In conclusion, St. Catherine of Siena demonstrates that **following the Good Shepherd isn't just a momentary decision; it's a lifelong journey of listening, discerning, and responding. She entered through the gate, who is Christ, and discovered life in its fullness.** May we, like her, recognise His voice, reject distractions, and follow Him with unwavering courage and love. *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* [John 10:10] St. Catherine of Siena, pray for us.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed feast of Saint Catherine of Siena! May her spirit inspire us all to follow the Good Shepherd and enter through "The Gate, The Lord!"

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS



Welcome the newest members to Our Lady of Light through baptism.

Avarose Remy

This special day marked the beginning of a beautiful journey of faith. We give thanks to God for His blessings and invite you to join us in praying for Avarose Remy as she grows in love, grace, and the light of Christ.



We Remember All on the Journey to the Sacraments

We ask all our parishioners to remember the children of our parish who are preparing for Eucharist.

Camila Abreu

Joseph Abreu

Justin Abreu

Please keep them and their families in your prayers during these final weeks of preparation. As a parish community we will celebrate, **Frist Eucharist on Sunday, May 10th at St. Pascal's at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.**

St. Catherine of Sienna Men's Club

St. Catherine of Sienna Men's Club

presents a

CALYPSO PARTY

Saturday, May 9, 2026,

8:00 pm- 1:00 am Tickets: \$40.00

Food included Bring Your Own Bottle

St. Catherine of Sienna Parish Hall

118-22 Riverton Street St. Albans, NY 11412

For tickets & info contact:

Dwayne Taylor (917) 903-9423 BJ (917) 686-7212

Alister Guillaume (718) 840-8142 Casimir Agbi (917) 545

-5951 Nick Iwu (516) 993-3322 Joe Raj (917) 418-5771

Leon Cleveland (516) 965

Save the Date

Q9 Deanery Pentecost Revival will hold a four day revival leading up to Pentecost starting:

Thursday, May 21st Our Lady of Light at St. Pascal's

Friday, May 22nd at St. Clare

Saturday, May 23rd at Christ the King

Sunday, May 24th at St. Bonaventure

More Details to follow.

2026 Annual Catholic Appeal

We thank all who have participated with a gift to the 2025 Appeal and ask that everyone prayerfully consider making a gift to the 2026 Appeal. Our Lady of Light parish goal is **\$44,922.00**. As of 04/20/26 we have received \$63,808.00 pledged \$14,405.00 paid and balance due is \$49,402.00.

If you have already pledge, thank you for your support. **We thank all who have participated with a gift to the 2025 Appeal.**

The Rosary Society of St. Pascal Baylon

The Rosary Society of St. Pascal Baylon Church is sponsoring the following two programs:

1. A one year scholarship award program (2026-2027) for

young college bound women of OLOLP.

2. A youth award program for female students in good standing in Middle School or High School.

Applications are at the back of both churches and the deadline for completed applications is May 1st at 5:00 p.m. No applications will be accepted AFTER May 1st, 2026. Applications with the necessary signatures must be submitted in a sealed package to - Attn: Veta J. Griffith, Scholarship Chairperson and be dropped off at the Rectory.

Fr. Henry's 25th Ordination Anniversary

You are invited to celebrate Father Henry's 25 years of Faithful Priestly Leadership. On **August 14th, 8:00 PM to 1:00 AM, Antun's**. All you can eat and drink. You don't want to miss this event!

Parishioners have the option of paying for their tickets in installments.

1st payment of \$50, due on May 17th,

2nd payment on June 21st, and

final payment on July 19th.

Please make your checks payable to Our Lady of Light .

Adults \$150, Children 12 and under \$75.

For more information kindly contact Maxine Dinnall, Mary Lee, Millicent Platts, or Junie Hopkinson.

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

Today we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Right now, over 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

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: _____

**SCAN
TO REGISTER**

