

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

Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 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

Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11, Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 ,
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23

Monday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Psalm 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6
-7, John 19:25-34.

Tuesday: 1 Peter 1:10-16, Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4,
Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday: 1 Peter 1:18-25, Psalm 147:12-13, 14-
15, 19-20, Mark 10:32-45

Thursday: 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12, Psalm 100:2, 3, 4, 5,
Mark 10:46-52

Friday: 1 Peter 4:7-13, Psalm 96:10, 11-12, 13, Mark
11:11-26,

Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25, Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6,
Mark 11:27-33

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, May 24th

Happy 89th Birthday to
Marion Henry

Monday, May 25th

Tuesday, May 26th

Wednesday, May 27th

Thursday, May 28th

Friday, May 29th

Saturday, May 30th

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 05/18/26	#of Adults	#of Children	Collections	
8:00 AM	62	3	\$240.00	
10:00 AM	135	25	\$1,178.00	
12:30 PM	N/A	N/A	\$0.00	
Online	N/A	N/A	\$980.00	
Totals	197	28	\$2,405.00	

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13; John 20:19-23

“RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT”

Dear brothers and sisters,

Happy solemnity of Pentecost! Happy birthday to the Church and to all of us!

The Holy Spirit Comes to Renew Us

Pentecost is the feast of the Holy Spirit, marking a transformative moment in history. The disciples, once filled with fear, became courageous leaders. They emerged from behind locked doors, ready to spread their message to the world. **What was once a room shrouded in fear transformed into the birthplace of the Church.** This is significant for us because **Pentecost is not just an event from the past; it represents what the Holy Spirit continues to do within us, our families, and our parish today.**

The Holy Spirit Draws Us Together

In the first reading from Acts, Jerusalem is filled with people from many nations and languages. When the Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles, each person hears the mighty works of God in their own language. This is one of the most beautiful signs of Pentecost: **God speaks in a way that everyone can understand. God does not communicate solely to one culture, one group, or one type of person. The Holy Spirit gathers people together and creates unity where there was once division.**

Here in Queens, we understand this well. At Our Lady of Light, Pentecost is not just an abstract concept; we witness it whenever individuals from different backgrounds, languages, and life experiences come together at the same altar as one people in Christ. However, **the miracle of Pentecost is not just that the apostles speak; it is also that people hear. This brings up an important question for us: Do people hear the love of God through us?**

Sometimes we may know the language of faith, but our actions may convey a different message. **Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit teaches us to express ourselves not only with words but also through mercy, patience, compassion, forgiveness, and kindness.** In a city where many people carry burdens of worry, exhaustion, loneliness, and uncertainty, **the clearest witness to the Gospel can be simple: a listening ear, a word of encouragement, a warm welcome to a stranger, or a small act of faithfulness done with love.**

The Holy Spirit Works Through Each of Us

Then Saint Paul reminds us in the second reading from the first Letter to the Corinthians that the Holy Spirit does not work in only one way. “There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.” That means the Church is not meant to be made up of one kind of person with one kind of role. **The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people, and every one of those gifts matters.**

That is true in every parish. Some teach. Some sing. Some welcome. Some visit the sick. Some help quietly behind the scenes. Some carry heavy responsibilities at home and still find ways to serve with generosity. **Some may think they have little to offer, but in the eyes of God, no gift offered in love**

is ever small. And this is important for us to hear: **no one in the Church is without value. No one in this parish is forgotten. The Holy Spirit has not passed anyone by. Each person has a place in the Body of Christ. Each person has something to offer for the good of the Church.**

In a place like Queens, we especially see this. **The Holy Spirit is at work in families carrying many burdens, in immigrants building new lives, in the elderly who remain faithful in prayer, in young people searching for direction and hope, and in all those who quietly sustain parish life through generous acts of love. A parish becomes alive when many people offer what they can with faith.**

The Risen Lord Comes with Peace and Sends Us Forth

Then in the Gospel, we find the disciples behind locked doors. They are afraid. They are wounded. They do not know what comes next. And into that fear, Jesus comes and says, *"Peace be with you."* That is such an important part of this Gospel. Jesus does not come to shame them. He does not begin with an accusation. He comes with peace. **He comes with mercy. He comes with a new beginning.**

And maybe many of us know what those locked doors feel like. **Sometimes we carry grief, disappointment, anxiety, or spiritual tiredness.** But the beauty of this Gospel is that **the risen Lord still enters behind locked doors.** He still comes to His people. And He still says, *"Peace be with you."* Then Jesus shows them His hands and His side. **The wounds are still there, but now they are signs of love. And that is part of the hope of the Christian life: when Christ touches our wounds, they do not have the final word.**

Then Jesus breathes on them and says, *"Receive the Holy Spirit."* **He gives new life to His disciples and begins the Church's mission in the power of the Spirit.** And from that moment of peace, mercy, and forgiveness, Jesus sends them out: *"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."* That is the heart of Pentecost. **The Holy Spirit is given not only to comfort us, but also to send us. Not only to bless us, but to make us a blessing. Not only to fill our hearts, but to make our lives witnesses to Christ.** And the beautiful thing is this: Jesus does not wait for perfect disciples. He comes to them in their weakness, breathes His Spirit upon them, and sends them forth with trust. **The same is true for us. The Lord does not wait until our lives are perfectly in order. He comes to us as we are. He strengthens us in our weakness. He meets us in mercy. And He sends us out, not because we are perfect, but because His grace is enough.**

So today, brothers and sisters, Pentecost asks something of us. **Are we willing to let the Holy Spirit open what we have closed, turn fear into courage, and help us offer our gifts for the good of the Church and the service of one another?** And maybe that is the prayer we need today: *Come, Holy Spirit. Come into our fears, our weariness, our families, and our parish. Renew our courage. Deepen our compassion. Teach us how to live as one Body in Christ.*

The Holy Spirit is still at work. The Holy Spirit is still gathering people of every nation and language into one Body. The Holy Spirit is still breathing life into the Church. And the Holy Spirit is still able to do something new in us. So let us ask for that grace today: **that we may receive the peace of Christ, welcome the fire of the Holy Spirit, and go forth as faithful witnesses of the Gospel in the way we speak, in the way we serve, and in the way we love.**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS

Confirmation

Please keep the following Confirmand's in your prayer as they prepare for confirmation:

**Joseph Mckenzie
Logan Oyero
Nnenna Akamnonu**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated by Bishop Paul R. Sanchez.

We will join with two other parishes: St. Bonaventure-St. Benedict the Moor Parish and St. Pious V Parish.

Date: Saturday, June 27th, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: St. Bonaventure Catholic Church



2026 Graduates

We would like to honor our graduates who are graduating in 2026. We will publish the names of all who graduated from Elementary school to College in 2026. **The last day to submit graduate's name is Thursday, June 18th.** Please email me at ourladyoflightsagmail.com. The following information

Name, School Name, Grade, Degree

We will celebrate our graduates at all our Sunday Masses on Sunday, June 28th.

World Youth Day Seoul 2027

"Take Courage! I Have Conquered the World!" Bishop Robert Brennan invites you to journey with the Diocese of Brooklyn to World Youth Day in Seoul from August 1-9, 2027. **Cost: 4,820.00.**

Youth must be 16 years old by July 31, 2027

If interested please contact the rectory.

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Pascal Baylon Church will be hosting a Bake Sale on June 28, 2026, at SPB Church after the 10:00 a.m. mass.

Assorted homemade "goodies" will be on sale: **Rum cake, Pound Cake, Carrot Cake, Fruit Cake, Breads, Puddings, Pastries and more. Tea and coffee are free with any purchase.**

All proceeds will go towards providing help to those who come to us for assistance. Please come out and support us. SVDP Members

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 05/18/26 we have received \$81,318.00 pledged \$30,533.00 paid and balance due is \$50,784.00. If you have already pledged, thank you for your support. **We thank all who have participated with a gift to the 2025 Appeal.**

St. Catherine of Sienna Men's Club

St. Catherine of Sienna Men's Club

Invites you to

ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP

Bus leaves from

St. Catherine of Sienna Church

118-22 Riverton Street St. Albans, NY 11412

To: Tropicana Atlantic City

Cost:\$60.00 Rebate:\$20

Bus will load at church location at 7:30 am

And will depart at 8:00 am SHARP

For tickets please contact:

Deacon Luis Taylor (718) 723-9722

Mr. Casimir Agbi (917) 545-5951

Mr. Dwayne Taylor (917) 903-9423

Mr. Joseph Rajaram (917) 418-5771

LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

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

PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE 2027

Joins us as we travel around Greece and Turkey following in the footsteps of St. Paul. Land and sea trip with an optional extension to Istanbul.

The date for **Greece is October 10-30, 2027**

Optional extension to Istanbul October 30-November 1, 2027. An informational meeting will be held via **ZOOM on Thursday May 28, 2026 @7pm**

Topic: **GREECE PILGRIMAGE**

Time: May 28, 2026, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81707542236?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81707542236?pwd=gDUrZiKS9eB7WqbqxLbLCxXIMmMkt7.1)

[pwd=gDUrZiKS9eB7WqbqxLbLCxXIMmMkt7.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81707542236?pwd=gDUrZiKS9eB7WqbqxLbLCxXIMmMkt7.1)

Meeting chat link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81707542236>

Meeting ID: 817 0754 2236 Passcode: 984255

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.

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS CLASSES.

Registration for religious classes is always on going. We encourage you to register your children early, as these classes play a vital role in their spiritual development. By registering early, you help us start the courses promptly and ensure we have the right resources in place. Please complete the registration form and return it to me or drop it in the rectory. Textbooks are ordered in advance according to the number of registered students. Registration applications are at the rear of the Church. We deeply value your cooperation in this process. Your support allows us to provide these essential religious classes for our community's children. Your involvement is crucial and greatly appreciated. **Diocesan guideline: A two year sacramental preparation is required to receive Sacraments of Holy Eucharist/ Communion and Confirmation.**

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.



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**

