

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

Solemnity of The Body and Blood of Christ, June 7, 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

The Most Holy Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2026

Sunday: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a, Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, John 6:51-58

Monday: 1 Kings 17:1-6, Psalm 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, Matthew 5:1-12

Tuesday: 1 Kings 17:7-16, Psalm 4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8, Matthew 5:13-16

Wednesday: 1 Kings 18:20-39, Psalm 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11, Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3, Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6, Matthew 5:20-26

Friday: Deuteronomy 7:6-11, Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10, 1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 11:25-30

Saturday: 1 Kings 19:19-21, Psalm 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, Matthew 5:33-37

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

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9:00 AM

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Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, June 7th

Monday, June 8th

Tuesday, June 9th

Wednesday, June 10th

Happy Birthday in Heaven
Charlene John-Baptiste

Thursday, June 11th

Friday, June 12th

Saturday, June 13th

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Barbara Ricketts, Beverly Stanton
Charmayne Roberts, Julia Hodge, Gemma LaRode
Gloria Wynter, Marion Henry, Leonora Best
Lawrence Pitler, 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)

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

SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

Readings: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16; 1Corinthians 10:16-17; John 6:51-58 “

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” [John 6:51]

Dear family of Our Lady of Light, on this Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally called **Corpus Christi**, we stand in awe before the greatest gift Jesus left to His Church: Himself. At every Mass, **the Church gives thanks for the saving love of God revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.** The word “*Eucharist*” comes from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning “*thanksgiving*.” **This sacrament is not only a memorial meal; it is the making present of Christ’s sacrifice on Calvary. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the priest acting in the person of Christ (in persona Christi), bread and wine become the true Body and Blood of the Lord.** In no other sacrament do we encounter Jesus so intimately. This is the heart of the Church and the source and summit of Christian life.

The Eucharist-Jesus Truly Present Among Us

At the Last Supper, Jesus did not say, “This represents my body.” He said, “*This is my body which is given for you.*” [Luke 22:19] He also said, “*This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.*” [Mark 14:24] The Church has always received these words with literal faith and deep reverence. **At every Mass, ordinary bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. Their outward appearance remains the same, but their inner reality is completely transformed.** This mystery is known as Transubstantiation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: “**In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist, the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore the whole Christ, is truly, really, and substantially contained.**” [CCC 1374] This is why Catholics genuflect before the tabernacle, adore the Blessed Sacrament, and approach Holy Communion with reverence and faith. As Saint Thomas Aquinas beautifully wrote, “*Sight, touch, taste are all deceived in their judgment of You, but hearing suffices firmly to believe.*” Faith recognises what the eyes cannot see.

“My Flesh Is True Food”-The Bread of Eternal Life

In John chapter 6, Jesus speaks words that shocked many of His listeners: “*For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.*” [John 6:55-56] Many disciples turned away because this teaching was too hard for them. Yet Jesus did not soften His words or explain them away symbolically; He reaffirmed them. Peter then answered with faith, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” [John 6:68] **Each time we come forward for Holy Communion, we are invited to make that same act of faith, trusting that Jesus fulfils His promise to remain with us always.** Saint Ignatius of Antioch called this sacrament “*the medicine of immortality.*” **This gift nourishes divine life within us, strengthens the weak, forgives venial sins, deepens charity, and unites us more closely to Christ.**

Communion: Becoming the Body of Christ

Holy Communion is not just about receiving Jesus individually; it is also about becoming one Body together. Saint Paul writes, “*Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread*” [1 Corinthians 10:17]. When the minister says, “*The Body of Christ,*” and we

respond, “*Amen*,” we are affirming our faith not only in Christ's presence in the sacrament but also in Christ living within His Church. Saint Augustine beautifully expressed this idea: “*Be what you see, and receive what you are, the Body of Christ*.” This communion should influence how we live with one another; it breaks down walls of division and teaches us to recognise Christ in our brothers and sisters. We cannot truly receive the Body of Christ while refusing to offer love, forgiveness, reconciliation, or concern for others. This is why Jesus teaches, “*If you bring your gift to the altar and there recall that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there... first be reconciled*” [Matthew 5:23-24]. The sign of peace before Communion is more than a mere gesture; it is a call to genuine reconciliation and unity within our parish and our homes.

The Eucharist and the Life of the Parish

A parish draws its life from the Eucharist. In communities that cherish this gift, faith, charity, and mission thrive. A vibrant Eucharistic parish is characterised not only by beautiful liturgies but also by hearts transformed by Christ. Pope St. John Paul II stated, “*The Church draws her life from the Eucharist*.” This truth has practical implications for us. The mystery of the Eucharist cannot be confined to the walls of the church building. If we receive Christ at Mass but fail to recognise Him in the poor, the lonely, the suffering, and our neighbours, we have not fully understood what we celebrate. Pope Francis reminds us, “*A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented*.” This sacrament must shape how we live at home, at work, in our families, and in society. After every Mass, we are sent forth to be Christ's presence in the world.

Eucharistic Adoration- Remaining with Jesus

From the earliest days, Christians reserved the Eucharist for the sick and imprisoned, leading to the practice of Eucharistic adoration. This devotion invites us to be with Jesus, mirroring the beloved disciple's closeness to Him. In silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, we find healing, strength, and transformation. Saint Teresa of Calcutta beautifully stated: “*When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now*.” Adoration also prepares us for mission, teaching us to be broken bread for others in love and service.

Preparing Ourselves Worthily

Receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion is a profound gift that requires sincere preparation. We are called to examine our hearts, repent, and renew our commitment to discipleship. Accepting Communion means inviting the Lord to live, love, speak, and serve through us. Afterwards, our words and actions should reflect Christ, allowing others to encounter Him through us.

In Conclusion, dear family of Our Lady of Light, each Eucharist invites us into a transformative encounter with the Risen Christ. As we gather at His altar, let us come with reverence and gratitude. May our parish embody the spirit of the Eucharist not only in worship but also in unity, compassion, forgiveness, and service. Having received the Body of Christ, may we live as His hands and feet in the world. “*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him*.” [John 6:56]

May our lives always be lit up by the Eucharist through the intercession of St. Pascal Baylon.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS

Confirmation

Please keep the following Confirmation'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 ourladyof-lights@gmail.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 05/26/26 we have received \$80,868.00 pledged \$31,010 paid and balance due is \$49,857.00.

If you have already pledge, 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**

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.

St. Johns University Speech and Hearing Center

The St. John's University Speech and Hearing Center will be offering "**Hearing Aid Help**" from **June 8, 2026 through July 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 **June 8, 2026 through July 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.



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**

