

Our Lady of Light Parish



By Mikedra 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

Thirteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time, June 28, 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

Thirteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time Sunday, June 28, 2026

Sunday: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a, Psalm 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11, Matthew 10:37-42

Monday: Acts 3:1-10, Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5, Galatians 1:11-20, John 21:15-19

Tuesday: Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12, Psalm 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8, Matthew 8:23-27

Wednesday: Amos 5:14-15, 21-24, Psalm 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17, Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday: Amos 7:10-17, Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11, Matthew 9:1-8

Friday: Ephesians 2:19-22, Psalm 117:1bc, 2, John 20:24-29

Saturday: Amos 9:11-15, Psalm 85:9 and 10, 11-12, 13-14, Matthew 9:14-17

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, June 28th

8:00 AM For the People of Venezuela
10:00 AM For the People of Venezuela
Pray for all of 2026 Graduates

Monday, June 29th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Tuesday, June 30th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Wednesday, July 1st

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Thursday, July 2nd

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Friday, July 3rd

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Saturday, July 4th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

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 06/22//26	#of Adults	#of Children	Collections	
8:00 AM	86	3	\$847.00	
10:00 AM	127	13	\$2,166.00	
12:30 PM	26	5	\$87.00	
Online	N/A	N/A	\$1,623.00	
Totals	239	21	\$4,723.00	

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 13-16a, Romans 6:3-4, 8-11, Matthew 10:37-42

“FROM MY FAMILY TO GOD’S FAMILY: LIVING THE NEW LIFE OF HOSPITALITY, DISCIPLESHIP, AND MISSION”

Dear Family of Our Lady of Light,

Today’s Gospel presents a challenging perspective from Jesus: *“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me”* [Matthew 10:37]. While family is central to our lives, our first experience of love and belonging, Jesus isn’t dismissing this bond. Instead, He invites us to expand our love to include the broader family of God. **Today’s readings remind us of this beautiful journey: hospitality brings blessings, baptism leads to new life, and discipleship connects us. Let’s embrace this invitation to see and love one another as part of God’s larger family!**

Hospitality Opens the Door to God’s Blessing

In the First Reading, a wealthy woman from Shunem recognises something special in the prophet Elisha. She says, *“I know that he is a holy man of God”*. In response, **she and her husband prepare a space for him in their home. Their hospitality is simple yet profound; they provide a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. This act of kindness transforms into a divine blessing, as, despite being childless and advanced in years, they receive the gift of a son.** The Shunammite woman teaches us an important lesson: when we make room for God, God creates something new within us. As St. Benedict wrote, *“Let all guests who arrive be received as Christ.”* **True hospitality transcends merely opening a door; it requires opening our hearts.**

As a parish family, we must reflect on our welcome: *Do newcomers feel embraced among us? Do young people sense they belong? Are the elderly remembered and valued? Do the poor find compassion? Do those struggling with their faith receive understanding rather than judgment?* **A parish thrives not just because people attend Mass but because they experience Christ’s welcome through His people.** Pope Francis often reminds us: *“The Church is not a customs office; it is the Father’s house where there is a place for everyone.”* May Our Lady of Light become, like the home of the Shunammite woman, a place where all find room in their hearts and a seat at the table.

Baptism Gives Us a New Identity

In the Second Reading, St. Paul delves deeper into our Christian identity: *“We were buried with Christ through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might live in newness of life”* [Romans 6:4]. **Baptism is far more than a mere ceremony of the past; it is the bedrock of our Christian identity. Through Baptism, we die with Christ, we rise with Him, sin loses its power over us, and we become cherished members of God’s family. Many people perceive Christianity as just an effort to be good. However, it encompasses so much more; it is about sharing in Christ’s own life.** St. Athanasius famously remarked, *“God became man so that man might become god.”* This profound statement underscores that through Christ, we partake in God’s divine life. The baptised are called to live in a transformative way: to forgive rather than seek revenge, to serve instead of dominate, to love instead of hate, and to hope instead of despair.

Today, young people encounter immense pressures from the need to fit in, to succeed, and to define themselves through popularity, appearance, or achievement. Yet St. Paul reminds us that **our identity runs much deeper: we belong to Christ.** Before being identified as a student, athlete, professional, or social media user, we are first and foremost beloved children of God. While the world advocates, *“Create yourself,”* the Gospel invites us to *“Receive your true self in Christ.”*

Jesus Expands Our Understanding of Family

The Gospel invites us to expand our understanding of love. **Jesus doesn't call us to love our families less; instead, He compels us to love everyone more. His vision of family transcends biological ties, embracing every human being as a potential brother or sister. This is why Jesus identifies with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, the imprisoned, and the forgotten. He teaches us, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" [Matthew 25:40]. When Jesus states, "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me," He invites us into a love that extends beyond our comfort zones. The cross represents not merely suffering but self-giving love. St. Augustine beautifully encapsulates this by saying, "Love, and do what you will." True Christian love inherently moves outward, seeking the welfare of others.**

In our culture, we often find encouragement to prioritise ourselves: our success, our comfort, our families, and our futures. Yet the Gospel challenges us with questions like: What about our neighbours? What about the lonely? What about the refugees? The unemployed? The individuals who go unnoticed? **Christian discipleship broadens our circles.** As St. John Chrysostom wisely observed, *"If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice."*

Even the simplest acts of kindness Matter

In Matthew 10:42, Jesus reminds us, "Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward." You don't need to perform miracles or become a renowned saint to make a difference. **Small gestures, such as offering encouragement, visiting the sick, or teaching a child to pray, can create a lasting impact.** As Mother Teresa wisely stated, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." Every act of kindness matters!

What This Means for the Family of Our Lady of Light

Today's readings encourage us to nurture a thriving community that welcomes, lives, loves, and serves. Inspired by the Shunammite Woman, we are called to open our hearts wide and create a space for Christ in everyone who enters our parish. As baptised individuals, we acknowledge our journey of dying and rising with Christ and step into a transformative way of life. In the spirit of Jesus, we expand our definition of family to embrace all of God's children, moving beyond mere biological ties to foster deeper connections. Following the example set by the Saints, we dedicate ourselves to performing even the smallest acts of kindness with immense love, recognising that each gesture has the power to make a difference. Together, let's build a community that truly reflects these values!

In conclusion, family of Our Lady of Light, as we prepare to pray "Our Father," we embrace a profound truth: God is the Father of all, making every person our brother or sister. The Eucharist reminds us of this unity. Let's strive to be a community marked by hospitality, discipleship, and mission—where our doors and hearts are open to everyone. In losing ourselves in love for Christ and others, we truly find life. Amen.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and warmly congratulate all the graduates of the Class of 2026, as well as their families. May the Lord of all blessings guide your paths.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS



Lord, as these graduates step into a new chapter of their lives, we ask You to be their constant guide.

Illuminate their paths with Your truth, and grant them the wisdom to make choices that honor You.

May they seek not only success in the eyes of the world but also the richness of a life rooted in faith, hope, and love. Amen

2026 Graduates

Nnenna Akamnonu

graduated from middle school to High School

Temitope Emokpae

graduated from Virginia Tech

Master of Engineering

major computer science and applications

Victoria Emokpae

graduated from SUNY Old Westbury

Bachelor's Degree

Major Policis, Economics and Law

Joseph McKenzie

graduated from Collaborative Arts Middle School

Devin Pitts

graduated from Kindergarten

St. Martin De Porres Catholic School

Anthony Previl

graduated from High School for Arts & Business
with Honors

Student Body President, Prom King

Attending Brooklyn College in the Fall

Dahlia Taylor

graduated from East Hills Elementary School

Grade: 5

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 06/22/26 we have received \$81,612.00 pledged \$36,523 paid and balance due is \$45,089.00.

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

Confirmation

Holy Father,

We come before You with grateful hearts for the newly confirmed. Grant them strength and courage as they embark on this sacred journey of faith. May Your Holy Spirit empower them to stand firm in their beliefs, to share Your Love boldly, and to navigate life's challenges with unwavering hope. Surround them with Your grace, now and always. Amen

Confirmands:

Nnenna Akamnonu

Joseph McKenzie

Lucas Oyero

St. Bernadette

St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel

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: Caesars, 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

NEWS NOTES COMING SOON

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.

**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.

SAVE THE DATES

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA ROSARY
SOCIETY OF OUR LADY OF LIGHT PARISH
INVITES ALL TO JOIN US FOR OUR
WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION WEEK**
Theme - ***"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND
THE LIGHT"***

WOMEN'S DAY PRAYER NIGHT –
Tuesday - October 20, 2026 - 7:30 P.M.
St. Catherine of Sienna Church

WOMEN'S DAY BRUNCH
Saturday - October 24, 2026
12:00 A.M.– 4:00 P.M.
DETAILS TO FOLLOW !

WOMEN'S DAY MASS
Sunday – October 25, 2026 – 8:00 A.M. Mass
LADIES, PLEASE WEAR WHITE

SAVE THE DATE

St. Pascal Baylon Rosary Society
OLDIES BUT GOODIES DANCE PARTY
Friday, November 20th 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM
Come dressed in your best 70's or 80's attire.
Get Ready to Dance the Night Away
More details to follow.

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.

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.

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.

“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**

