

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

Fourteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time, July 5, 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

Fourteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time Sunday, July 5, 2026

Sunday: Zechariah 9:9-10, Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14, Romans 8:9, 11-13, Matthew 11:25-30

Monday: Hosea 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22, Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday: Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13, Psalm 115:3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8, 9-10, Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday: Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12, Psalm 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday: Hosea 11:1-4, 8e-9, Psalm 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, Matthew 10:7-15

Friday: Hosea 14:2-10, Psalm 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14, 17, Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday: Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5, Matthew 10:24-33

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, July 5th

8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Monday, July 6th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Tuesday, July 7th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Wednesday, July 8th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Thursday, July 9th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Friday, July 10th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Saturday, July 11th

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 Pitler, Madeline Finney, Ruth Wade
Jacqueline Pestano, Dawn Hewitt, 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 06/29//26	#of Adults	#of Children	Collections	
8:00 AM	90	9	\$746.00	
10:00 AM	120	20	\$2,428.00	
12:30 PM	23	6	\$73.00	
Online	N/A	N/A	\$694.00	
Totals	233	25	\$3,941.00	

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9,11-13; Matthew 11:25-30
"COME TO ME... AND YOU WILL FIND REST"

This Sunday, we gather to reflect on a profoundly powerful message that resonates deeply within our hearts, especially as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation. In a world filled with anxiety, division, financial strain, family stress, and a tumultuous political climate, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Yet, amid this chaos, Jesus extends a heartfelt invitation to each of us: ***"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest."*** [Matthew 11:28]

This invitation knows no boundaries; it is open to all. Regardless of whether our burdens arise from illness, grief, loneliness, family conflict, demanding work, guilt, or concerns about our economic or immigration status, Christ welcomes our weary souls with open arms. His invitation doesn't depend on our worthiness; it simply asks us to come as we are.

The King Who Brings Peace

As we turn to the prophet Zechariah, we catch a glimpse of a king unlike any other: "Your king comes to you... humble and riding on a donkey." [Zechariah 9:9] In a time when kings typically arrive on grand war horses, Jesus approaches Jerusalem on a humble donkey. **This image challenges our understanding of power and might—it reveals that true strength lies in humility, mercy, and the pursuit of peace.**

The peace that Christ offers is profound; it transcends mere absence of conflict. The biblical concept of shalom embodies wholeness, harmony, and life in communion with God. It's a peace that remains steadfast, even as life's storms rage on. As St. Augustine wisely said, *"Our hearts are restless until they rest in You."* In our modern age, many chase after peace through success, material possessions, entertainment, or busyness. Yet, we discover that lasting peace can only truly be found in Christ.

Living According to the Spirit

In Paul's powerful words, he reminds us: *"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you... he will give life to your mortal bodies."* [Romans 8:11] **The Christian journey isn't merely about striving harder; it's about surrendering to the Holy Spirit's guidance each day.**

Living by the Spirit transforms our lives; it shapes our choices, our connections, and even our priorities. The Spirit liberates us from the shackles of fear, selfishness, and discouragement, replacing them with love, patience, hope, and joy. As St. Basil the Great beautifully teaches us: *"Through the Holy Spirit we are restored to paradise, adopted as children of God, and filled with peace."*

"Take My Yoke Upon You"

In the words of Jesus, "Take my yoke upon you... for my yoke is easy and my burden light." [Matthew 11:29-30] At first glance, these words may seem surprising. How can a yoke—a symbol of hard work—feel light? **A yoke enables two oxen to pull together, and here lies a profound image: Jesus never asks us to bear life's burdens alone. He walks beside us every step of the way, sharing our load. When we entrust our lives to Him, our burdens may not vanish, but they become lighter because we are not carrying them by ourselves.** We see this exemplified in Jesus during His time in Gethsemane, where He prayed, *"Not my will, but yours be done."* [Matthew 26:39] While the cross remained, by surrendering completely to the Father, He found the inner strength to bear it with

peace and dignity. Similarly, St. Paul encountered this truth when he heard the assurance, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*” [2 Corinthians 12:9] God may not always remove our crosses, but He promises never to leave us to carry them alone.

Living This Gospel at Our Lady of Light

As a parish family, we are invited by these readings to create a community where Christ’s peace is felt and shared. We respond in tangible ways:

-Daily Prayer: Come to Jesus in prayer every day, especially before the Blessed Sacrament, placing our burdens in His capable hands.

-Guidance from the Holy Spirit: Seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance in our choices, asking each morning, “Lord, lead me today.”

-Support for One Another: Carry each other’s burdens by visiting the sick, encouraging the lonely, supporting struggling families, welcoming newcomers, and praying for those who are suffering.

-Choosing Peace: Embrace peace over division by listening before judging, forgiving rather than holding onto resentment, and fostering unity within our parish family.

-Trusting God: Place our trust in God above our fears, remembering that Christ walks beside us through every difficulty.

Pope St. John Paul II often reminded us: “*Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ.*” When we open our hearts to Him, we discover that the One who calls us to follow Him also grants us the strength to do so.

Our Invitation This Week

This week, let’s consciously bring one burden to Jesus, be it a family concern, illness, grief, anxiety, a challenging relationship, or a struggle with forgiveness. Place it before the Lord each day and pray: “*Jesus, I choose to carry this burden with You rather than by myself.*”

May Mary, Our Lady of Light, who trusted God’s plan even amidst the Cross, teach us to live by the Holy Spirit, to invite Christ’s peace into our lives, and to become instruments of His consolation for everyone we encounter. Remember His promise: “*Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest.*” [Matthew 11:28]

A blessed and joyful 250th nation’s birthday to everyone. May our nation always remain under the sacred heart of Jesus.

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

Victor-Lee Chinapoo

Graduated from St. Francis Preparatory School

THANK YOU.

The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank everyone who supported their Bake Sale on Sunday June 28. In whatever way you supported us- buying cakes, giving of your time or a financial donation, it was very much appreciated. All proceeds will be used towards helping those who come to us for help. Members of SVdP

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

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 06/29/26 we have received \$81,862.00 pledged \$36,923 paid and balance due is \$44,939.00.

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

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.

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

NEWS NOTES COMING SOON

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.

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.**

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.

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.

Payment plan available.

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**

