

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

Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time, July 12, 2026

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Erick Balderas Vega M.Afr, Parochial Vicar /Administrator

Rev. Henry Byamukama M.Afr, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Biju John, 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

Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time Sunday, July 12, 2026

Sunday: Isaiah 55:10-11, Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14, Romans 8:18-23, Matthew 13:1-23
Monday: Isaiah 1:10-17, Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23, Matthew 10:34-11:1
Tuesday: Isaiah 7:1-9, Psalm 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8, Matthew 11:20-24
Wednesday: Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16, Psalm 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15, Matthew 11:25-27
Thursday: Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19, Psalm 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21, Matthew 11:28-30
Saturday: Micah 2:1-5, Psalm 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14, Matthew 12:14-21

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, July 12th

8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Monday, July 13th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Tuesday, July 14th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Wednesday, July 15th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Thursday, July 16th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Friday, July 17th

8:00 AM
9:00 AM

Saturday, July 18th

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, 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 07/05//26	#of Adults	#of Children	Collections	
8:00 AM	81	5	\$1,023.00	
10:00 AM	98	8	\$2,569.00	
12:30 PM	18	4	\$301.00	
Online	N/A	N/A	\$1,325.00	
Totals	197	17	\$5,218.00	

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

GOD'S WORD NEVER FAILS

Dear Family of Our Lady of Light, The first reading from Isaiah beautifully captures the essence of God's unwavering faithfulness:

"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose" [Isaiah 55:11].

Imagine the gentle rain and snow that nourish the earth, allowing it to transform and bear fruit. In much the same way, **God's Word is at work in our hearts, often in quiet and unseen ways. This is a powerful message of hope for every Christian, every family, and every parish out there.**

When we find ourselves feeling discouraged by slow progress, a decline in the practice of faith, or witnessing the struggles of our loved ones, let us remember: **God's saving plan is never defeated. This assurance is echoed by Jesus in the Gospel through the compelling Parable of the Sower. Picture the sower, steadfast and hopeful, casting his seeds wide, undeterred by the rocky ground and thorny patches. He knows that amidst the challenges, some seed will fall on rich soil, bringing forth an abundant harvest.** So, let's hold on to that hope together, trusting that even in our most challenging moments, God's Word is at work, nurturing growth and transformation in ways we might not yet see.

The Soil of Our Hearts

The parable opens our eyes to the immense generosity of God, but it also invites us to take a closer look at the condition of our own hearts. **The pivotal question we must ask ourselves isn't whether God speaks to us—He certainly does—but rather if we are truly listening.** In the biblical sense, "hearing" transcends mere auditory recognition. **It involves a deep, open-hearted engagement with God's Word: understanding it, embracing it, and allowing it to transform our lives.** As St. Augustine wisely noted, "The Word of God is not heard unless it is obeyed."

Every Sunday, countless individuals hear the Gospel, yet many **allow the worries of life, the lure of wealth, distractions of entertainment and social media, or even feelings of resentment and apathy,** to stifle the seed of the Word before it can flourish.

A Challenge for Our Lady of Light Parish

The Gospel beckons each member of the Our Lady of Light community to reflect:

- **Am I merely attending Mass, or am I genuinely allowing God's Word to transform my life?**
- **Is my family deepening in faith, prayer, forgiveness, and charity?**
- **How can we cultivate our parish into fertile soil where new disciples are nurtured?**

Our parish thrives not just through programs or activities, but through hearts that are continually converted by Christ. Every ministry, each Eucharist, every Bible study, and every act of service provides a unique opportunity for God's seed to take deep root within us.

A Message to Our Youth and Adults

Our youth navigate a world filled with **constant distractions, relentless digital noise, and immense pressure to equate success with popularity or material possessions. Yet Christ calls them to discover a deeper identity as beloved sons and daughters of God**, an identity that no amount of social media approval can ever fulfil.

Adults face their own set of thorns: **financial strains, family duties, anxiety about the future, and the temptation to let work overshadow prayer. Jesus doesn't condemn these concerns but cautions against allowing them to suffocate our relationship with Him.** As St. John Paul II often reminded us, "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ."

Living in Hope

St. Paul, in his second reading, reminds us that all creation is "**groaning**," eagerly awaiting the fullness of God's redemption [Rom 8:22]. We, too, feel the weight of suffering, uncertainty, and waiting. Yet our Christian hope is not rooted in our own strength but in God's unshakeable promises.

Let us strive to become fertile soil, receptive to the Word of her Son at Our Lady of Light. Inspired by Mary, who listened, treasured, and lived God's Word [Lk 2:19], may we bear fruit, "**thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold**", **for our families, our parish, and the world.** Together, let us embark on this transformative journey!

May the Word of God inspire and strengthen us to follow the example of Our Lady of Light, guiding our Parish family as we warmly welcome Fr. Biju John among us.

Fr. Erick Vega Balderas, M.Afr, Fr. Biju John, M.Afr and Fr. Henry Byamukama, M.Afr

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS

FR. BIJU JOHN M.Afr, WELCOME TO OUR LADY OF LIGHT!

With hearts full of gratitude to God, the parish family of **Our Lady of Light** warmly welcomes you, Fr. Biju. We thank the Lord for the gift of your priestly vocation and for your generous missionary spirit.

Though a missionary to Africa, you have responded with the same openness of heart to serve God's people here in the United States. Like Abraham, you have answered the Lord's call: "*Go from your country... to the land that I will show you*" [Genesis 12:1], trusting that the One who calls is always faithful.

May Christ, the Good Shepherd, strengthen and guide you in your ministry among us. May the Holy Spirit fill you with wisdom, joy, and zeal, so that through your preaching, your celebration of the sacraments, and your pastoral care, many may come to know the love of God. As St. Paul reminds us, "*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!*" [Romans 10:15].

We entrust your ministry and your stay among us to the loving care of **Our Lady of Light**, praying that she may protect you beneath her mantle and lead you ever closer to her Son. In the words of **St. Augustine**: "*For you I am a bishop; with you I am a Christian.*" May your priestly service always be marked by humble fraternity, faithful discipleship, and joyful mission.

**Welcome, Fr. Biju. May the Lord bless you and keep you, and may your ministry among us bear abundant fruit for the glory of God.
Clergy and Staff**

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

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 07/06/26 we have received \$81,862.00

pledged \$42,948 paid and balance due is \$38,914.00. 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

On Tuesday, August 11, 2026, we will have a **Thanksgiving Mass at 7:30pm at St. Catherine's.**
ALL ARE WELCOME!

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**

