

# CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Established 1848*

## **Mission Statement**

We, the worshipping community of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, rooted in the Gospel and the celebration of the Eucharist, seek to make known God's love in the world through serving one another, sharing our faith and welcoming all.

Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger, D.D.  
Bishop of Albany

Very Reverend David R. LeFort, S.T.L., V.G. Rector  
Reverend John Tallman, Parochial Vicar  
Reverend Paul Mijas, Parochial Vicar  
Mr. Timothy J. Kosto, II, Deacon

## **Schedule of Liturgical Celebrations**

The Holy Eucharist (Mass)

### **The Lord's Day:**

Sunday 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### **Weekdays:**

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday 7:15 a.m.

### **Holy Days:**

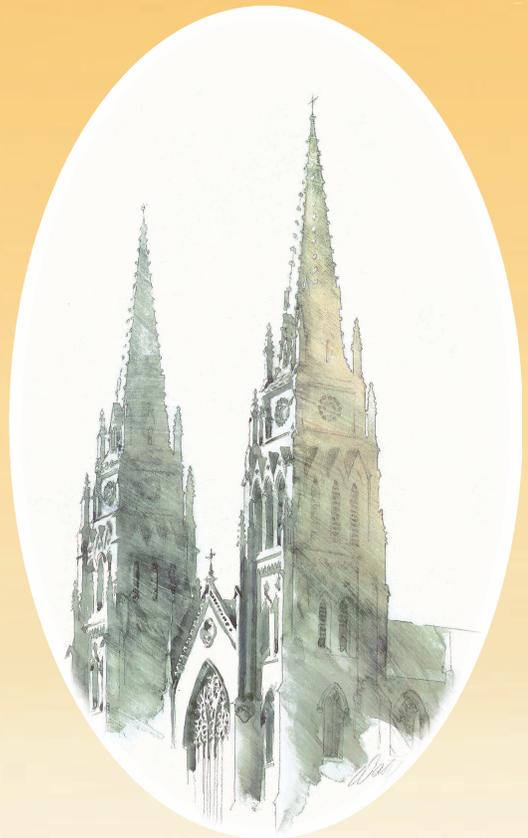
Please check the bulletin and website.

### **The Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 11:30 a.m.

Sunday 10:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m.

and other times by appointment



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**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For lepers, the law of Leviticus must have seemed very harsh. They could not live in the camp with anyone. They had to warn people that they were coming. Actually, any skin disease was considered leprosy unless proven otherwise. The Book of Leviticus devotes two chapters to laws requiring a period of separation and examination before anyone with a skin lesion is allowed back into the camp. Leprosy was worse than other ailments because the opening on the skin often exposed blood, the source of life, and any contact with blood made a person unclean.

Every Jew reading Mark's account of the Gospel would have been familiar with the laws regarding leprosy. When Jesus touched the leper to heal him, Jews collectively gasped. Not even the prophet Elisha cured a leper this way. Touching the leper made Jesus unclean, yet neither he nor Mark seem concerned. The encounter with the leper again shows Jesus confronting the conditions that separate people from each other. The possessed man was disturbed and frightening; Peter's mother-in-law could not fulfill her place in the family; the leper is alienated by the unclean nature of his disease. In each case, by word or touch, Jesus restores the person to the family and the community.

Mark adds two interesting details to this story. First, Jesus is "moved with pity" for the man. Mark, who tells the story of Jesus more simply than the other Gospels, describes Jesus' emotional state. This makes Mark's portrayal of Jesus very human. But he also emphasizes the healing power of Jesus to show his divine identity. Second, as he did with the demons, Jesus urges the leper to tell no one. Jesus did not want followers based solely on his ability to heal. If we were to hear all of verse 45 in this reading, we would understand what Jesus feared. He is no longer able to move about openly because people flock to him seeking healing. In the face of their preoccupation with physical healing, his message may well be lost.

**Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, February 17th is Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the Lenten Season. Masses, with the distribution of blessed ashes, will be celebrated at 7:15AM, 12:15PM and 5:15PM.

**The Season of Lent**

The season of Lent focusses on two closely related matters: the pre-baptismal and the penitential. The pre-baptismal character is evident when the parish accompanies catechumens and elect through the Period of Purification and Enlightenment as they prepare to enter the Catholic Church and receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Lent's penitential character is seen when the baptized reflect upon their faithfulness to the Gospel, seek God's mercy and forgiveness for their failings and the Holy Spirit's guidance in following Jesus' way more closely. All the Lenten practices of the Catholic Church, such as prayer, fasting and acts of charity are directed to support these ends. It is summed up well in the prayer that is said as the ashes are given: "Repent, and Believe in the Gospel."

**Lenten Fast & Abstinence**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting (limiting the consumption of food) and abstinence (refraining from eating meat). As a sign of our penance, there is also the custom of not eating meat on the Fridays of Lent. Therefore, all Catholics, 14 years of age and older are obliged to refrain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the other Fridays of Lent. All Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are obliged to fast. Fasting refers to the quantity of food eaten. Traditionally, fasting allows for eating only one full meal per day. Two additional, smaller meals may be eaten and there is no eating in between meals. By following these traditions, it is not intended that they be interpreted simply as laws; but as customs from which we will not hold ourselves lightly excused. They are ways of expressing our desire to be converted in our hearts, to be reconciled with each other, and to love our neighbor. It is helpful to remember that the ability to decide how much or little one will eat is in itself a gift.

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is pleased to offer VIRTUAL sessions based on an exciting program offered by the Augustine Institute through their web based program [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org).

Our parish is a subscriber and we encourage you to explore the videos offered by signing up. And it's free!!! Just put in your email, the name of our parish and the zip code (12202). The Search from FORMED is an innovative video-based journey that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, Chris Stefanick and experts from the fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence. To watch the trailer visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=QOwZFL5Wpj8>

Ready to get started? Here's what you need to do:

1. Send an email to the following address: [darrylmichael11@gmail.com](mailto:darrylmichael11@gmail.com)
2. Set up a time with Darryl Michael to make sure you can join in on the ZOOM call if you have never done this before.
3. You will get a reminder and the link for joining the ZOOM session following the proposed schedule listed below. Click on that link at the appropriate time/day and join us for the session.

Schedule for The Search during Lent 2021

(Lenten Mondays at 6:30pm-7:30pm):

February 15: Episode 1—What Do You Seek?

February 22: Episode 2—Who Are You?

March 1: Episode 3—Why a God?

March 8: Episode 4—What's Our Story?

March 15: Episode 5—Who Is Jesus?

March 22: Episode 6—Am I Saved?

March 29: Episode 7—Why a Church?

Each of these wonderful video sessions last about 30 mins after which we will open the floor up for a Q&A session where our parishioners can share their reactions and thoughts with the group.

### **Ash Wednesday – February 17, 2021**

7:15 a.m. Mass – Reverend Paul Mijas, Presiding

11:30 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) 12:15 p.m. Mass – Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, Presiding

5:15 p.m. Mass – Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, Presiding

### **Lenten Schedule Masses**

Sundays: 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Weekdays: M, W, F at 12:15 p.m.; T, Th at 7:15 a.m.

### **Reconciliation**

Sunday: 10:30am-10:45am, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Weekdays: M, W, F at 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### **Stations of the Cross**

Fridays: at 5:30 p.m.

**Please pray for our sick;** John Travis, Fr. Farano, James Frueh, Jack Krieger, Jean Rounds, Mary Ellen Stewart, Fr. William Pape, Fr. Frank O'Connor, Jeffrey Abraham, Robert Buell, Lucy Apisa, Stephen Beattie, Carol Bruce, Grace Isabelle Caruso, Mary Faith Colvin, Patricia Contti, Theresa Cooney, Marc Daniels, John Dare, Jr., Denise Degasparis, Michael Dolan, Ann Doherty, JoAnn DeLucia, Diane Fontanelli, Janette Fusco, Bernice Girma, Carol Greenshields, Jean Gutbrodt, Bryan Hanley, Jacqueline Heisler, Kelly Hemming, Kenneth Hockeson; Douglas Hoffeler, Alfred Iwanie, Dorothy Jordan, Reny Jose, Bill Keane, Amy Keegan, James Laung,, Gayle Leonard, Rebecca Leno, Therese Lenz, , Ted Murawski, Marie-Ann Melenfant, John McGrath, Mary Grace Meneses , Stephanie Merenda, Diane Mueller, James Murphy, Mary Murphy, Shane O'Donnell, Josephine Pitcherale, Marcia Pedone, Catherine Rappazzo, Mark Roman, Megan Ruthman, Elaine Spoor, Adam Ventura, Sebastian Vicencio, Richard Warner, Raphael Warner, Rosa Maria Santos, Mary Redmond

**February 14, 2021**

**Cathedral Liturgical Celebrations, Meetings and Mass Intentions for the week of February 13, 2021 – February 21, 2021**

Saturday, February 13,

Sunday, February 14,

11:00AM Mass

Intention: Beverly Dittmer

5:00PM Mass

Monday, February 15,

NO Mass

Tuesday, February 16,

7:15 AM Mass

Wednesday, February 17,

7:15AM Mass

12:15 PM Mass

5:15PM Mass

Thursday, February 18,

7:15AM Mass

Friday February 19,

12:15PM Mass

Intention: Raul Suarez

Intention: James Carter

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 20,

12:00PM Private Mass

Sunday, February 21,

11:00AM Mass

Intention: Beverly Dittmer

Intention: Betty Farone

2:00 PM Rite of Election

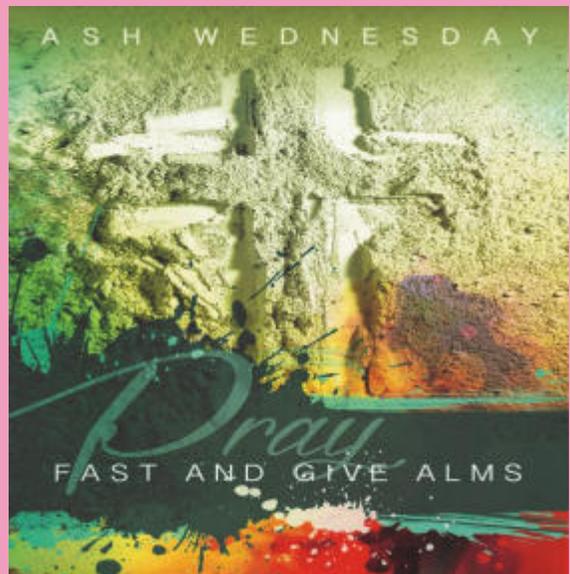
5:00 PM Mass

**February 14, 2021**

**Friday Stations of the Cross**

As is our tradition on Fridays during the Lenten Season, we will pray the Stations of the Cross beginning at 5:30pm as a community. If you wish to participate, please enter the Cathedral using the transept doorways, arriving before 5:30pm. Our traditional booklets will be at the doorways, please take one. Incidentally, please do be sure that if you take one, please also bring it home with you so that you can use the same booklet throughout Lent, just please remember to bring it with you each Friday thereafter. We believe we've recently purchased enough copies for all who will join us for Stations at least once this season. At the end of the Lenten Season, please keep that booklet as our gift to you for the remainder of the year.

Also, sadly, although many of the faithful enjoy the tradition of actually walking the Stations with the presider, due to COVID, we ask that all the faithful sit/stand/kneel in the stationary pews in the central nave (main part of the Cathedral). This way, the presider can move for all of us from station to station, without breaking a 6-foot distance from any faithful participant. Thanks so much for your cooperation during this significant devotion.





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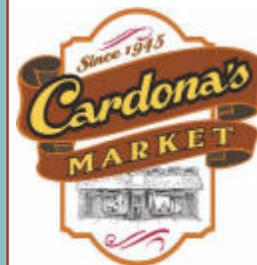
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