

# 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:**

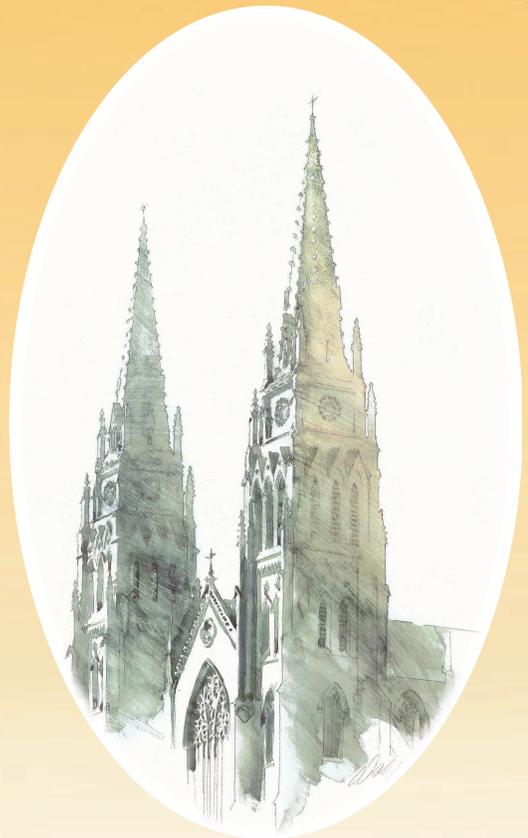
Please check the bulletin and website.

### **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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**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Today's Chronicles reading tersely ends the sorrowful story of Judah's disobedience toward God. For this writer, the exile to Babylon was a natural outcome of grievous sin. He was heir to the viewpoint: "If you obey God's commandments, you will prosper. If not, you will perish". In this way the writers explained Israel and Judah's respective defeats by foreign powers as acts of divine justice that had been foretold. In today's text, we can hear the priest's concern that the rituals associated with the code of holiness could no longer be performed. This is reflected in the report of the fiery destruction of the Temple and its vessels and the interpretation of the seventy years of exile as a Sabbath rest for the land. But suddenly the divine sun shines through the storm clouds of the exile when Cyrus proclaims the release of the captives; the people are freed to return to their land, to rebuild their temple, and to restore their spiritual fortunes. For the haggard exiles, the decree was an unimaginable grace, lavish and unexpected, an unparalleled act of Divine Mercy.

Imagining the beneficence of a new king and the state of the returning exiles gives us a perspective on the cornucopia of theological language of Ephesians. The Good News is the proclamation of favor issued by a powerful ruler and generous patron, "rich in mercy", with "immeasurable riches of grace" that are continually dispensed to the subjects.

This generosity is beyond all measure, "far more than we can ask or imagine", even when we were like the exiles, victims of our disobedience, "dead through our trespasses and sins". This "kindness" is massively out of proportion to what we might have expected. Clearly, this situation is none of our doing but the result of God's unlimited favor. In Christian language, it is "grace" which excludes all boasting and spiritual preening.

<p>THE PIPES ARE Calling</p>	<p>at the Cathedral</p>
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We are grateful to welcome the Schenectady Pipe Band again for this year's Pipers Mass. We were happy to hear of their willingness to join us again after having to cancel last year's Pipers Day at the beginning of the pandemic lockdown.

This week, we take up **The Catholic Relief Services** Collection to help Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide struggling communities with relief and support and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

**Sunday, April 11, 2021:**

Join Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for Divine Mercy Sunday Mass and our annual Consecration to Divine Mercy. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. and Livestreamed at [www.rcda.org/livestream](http://www.rcda.org/livestream).



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### THE SCRUTINIES

Over these next three Sundays (the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent), those parishes with adults and older children preparing for initiation into the church at Easter will celebrate rituals called the "scrutinies" during Mass. They are part of a series of rites belonging to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) that are celebrated during the season of Lent.

Some people feel quite uncomfortable with the term "scrutiny". The word "scrutinize" means to examine in minute detail, and we may feel that it is intrusive or hypocritical to pry into the lives and motives of those who wish to join the church. Because of those misgivings, the term "rites of healing and strengthening" is sometimes used instead. The ritual book says that the purpose of the scrutinies is to "heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect" and "to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life". The rite also describes the scrutinies as "rites for self-searching and repentance".

Every time we celebrate the sacrament of baptism, we ask the questions, "Do you renounce Satan... and all his works...and all his empty promises?" These are serious questions. We should consider them carefully before answering. And that is what the elect, those preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, spend much of Lent doing. For those who are making their final preparation for baptism, Lent is a time of purification and enlightenment. In the light of God's word, they examine their lives and ask the entire Christian community to pray that whatever is weak and sinful within them may be eliminated and that whatever is good and holy may be affirmed.

(Continued)

After the homily, in a litany of intercession, the power of Jesus over all sin is proclaimed. A prayer is then said over the elect asking for their deliverance and strengthening. The presider, catechists, sponsors and other members of the community may also lay their hands on the heads of the elect in an ancient sign of forgiveness, healing and empowerment. Because the entire community will renew its baptismal promises at Easter, we all take this opportunity to examine our way of life and ask ourselves whether we are truly living as Christ's disciples, as people of the Gospel. When we and the elect are asked at Easter to renounce Satan, evil works and empty promises, our answer can be a thoughtful, strong and heartfelt "I do".



**Please pray for our sick;** Dave Worden, Mary Caluori, Seamus Gallagher, John Travis, Fr. Farano, James Frueh, Jack Krieger, Jean Rounds, 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

**March 14, 2021**

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

Saturday, March 13,

3:15PM Wedding

Sunday, March 14,

11:00AM Mass

Intention: Beverly Dittmer

Intention: Grace and James Phillips

5:00PM Mass

Monday, March 15,

12:15PM Mass

Tuesday, March 16,

7:15 AM Mass

Wednesday, March 17,

12:15 PM Mass

Intention: Susan Urchel

Thursday, March 18,

7:15AM Mass

Friday March 19,

12:15PM Mass

3:00PM Wedding

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 20,

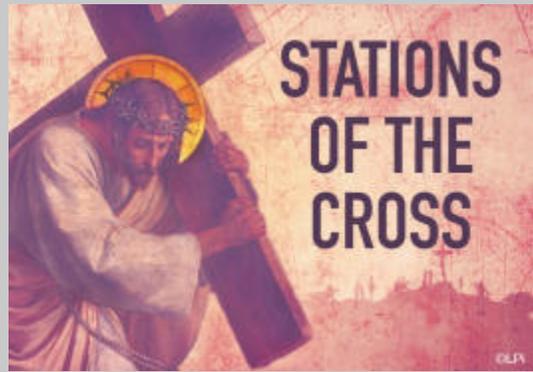
Sunday, March 21,

11:00AM Mass

Intention: Beverly Dittmer

5:00 PM Mass

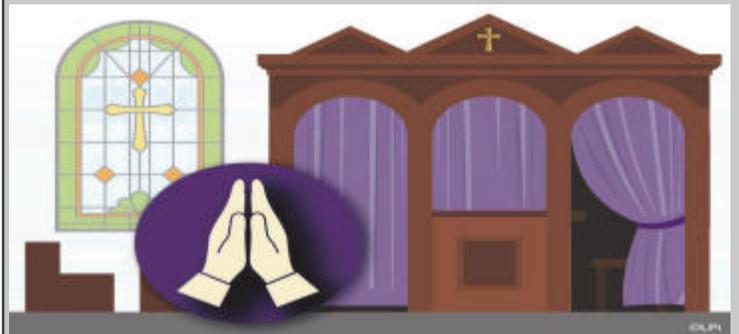
March 14, 2021



**Stations Of The Cross**

**Each Friday During Lent**

**5:30 P.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.





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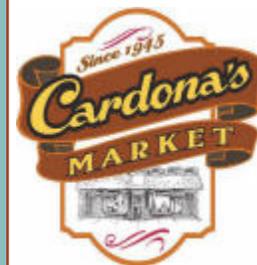
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