

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 Anthony Ligato, Rector

Reverend Juanito Asprec, Parochial Vicar

Reverend Paul Mijas, Parochial Vicar

Mr. James M. Agnew, Deacon

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:

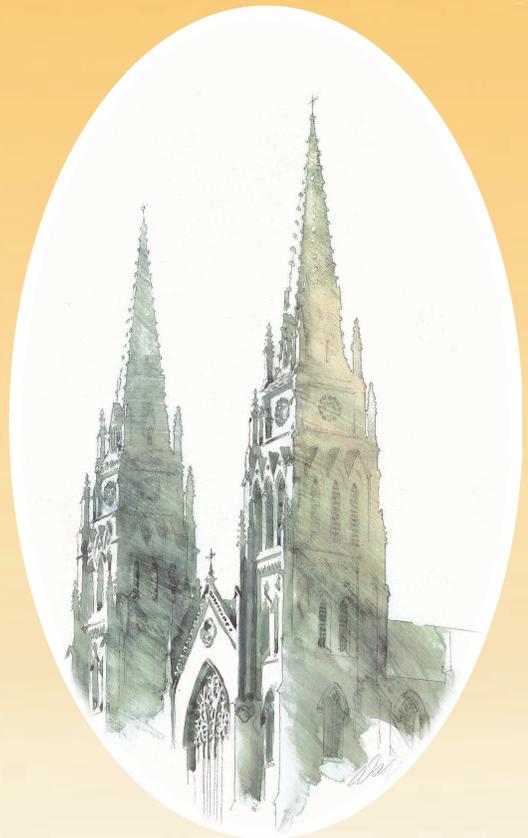
Please check the bulletin and website.

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



125 Eagle Street Albany, New York 12202-1718

Telephone: 518-463-4447 Email: CICALban@rcda.org Website: www.cathedralic.com

Ephphatha! Let Your Heart Be Opened!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

These days with so much division in our nation and our world it seems so easy for us to close our ears and our heart to toward God and one another. Jesus himself challenges us to be open to people who are different from us. After all Jesus went to the District of the Decapolis, "Ten Cities" which was a gentile region. A faithful Jew would not go to a district or region which was filled with Gentiles, they would be made impure. That did not stop Jesus, he went where others would not go and he brought healing to those who would have been seen as not worthy of God's healing. He even spoke in their language, Aramaic. How open are we to bringing Jesus' message of new life to places where we might feel uncomfortable or unsafe or where the people are different from us? Jesus healed a Gentile who was deaf and had a speech impediment. Jesus says to the crowd as he places his fingers in the deaf man's ears, "Ephphatha", be opened. The deaf man could now hear, and the hearts of the crowd were opened.

In the Gospel of Mark, often after Jesus heals, he gives the command to those who were healed to stay quiet about the healing they received. This command was rarely if ever followed by those Jesus commanded to remain quiet. This is true in today's Gospel as well. Today's Gospel from Mark 7:31-37 this fact explicitly, "he ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it." Jesus asked for nothing to be said after he had healed the deaf man who had a speech impediment. The words of Jesus which brought about the healing go beyond physical healing to spiritual and emotional healing as well. "He put his finger into the man's ears and spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him Ephphatha! That is, be opened." Jesus not only opened the ears of the deaf man, but he also opened his mouth which allowed him to proclaim to others that he was healed. How do we know this? The fact we are telling others today about this healing. The deaf man must have told others and the crowd who witnessed the healing as well must have told others. This is the sign their hearts were opened to Jesus' healing. The Aramaic word Ephphatha is referring to far more than physical healing. Jesus opened the hearts of all those who witnessed the healing as well as the man who was healed. "They were exceedingly astonished, and they said, He has done all things well."

St. Augustine tells us that the ultimate act of healing happens on the cross, "By His death, the one most true sacrifice offered on our behalf, He purged, abolished and extinguished whatever guilt we had." When Jesus healed the deaf man, he groaned for his groan was the pain and suffering Jesus himself would suffer on the cross as he was bringing about a new creation. Recreation and Healing happens for us all by Jesus extending his hands on the cross. The Ephphatha prayer is said during the Rite of Baptism "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the mute speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father. Amen." With the pouring of water and anointing with oil and extending of hands over the baptized, we are recreated and that which was lost in the garden at the first creation is made new in Jesus' extending of his hands on the cross.

The people of Israel had to remain hopeful even as they suffered and were persecuted especially when they were in exile in Babylon. They longed for restoration and the words of the Prophet Isaiah promised a future restoration. But just as they expected an earthly king, they expected a physical healing in turn they received a spiritual healing that brought about a new creation. "Thus, says the Lord, Be strong fear not! Here is your God he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you." (Isaiah 35:4-7a) Isaiah encourages Israel in exile to remain open to God and not shut themselves off to divine healing.

Just as Israel had to remain open to the future hope of restoration, the author of James encourages the early church to be open and not discriminate against the poor, the marginalized and the impoverished. The second reading this Sunday is a homily given by the author of James which encouraged the church to remain open to receiving all people into the church no matter what their station in life or their background, whether it be rich or poor, slave or free, man or woman. "Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters, did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him." (James 2:1-5) The Ephphatha prayer that Jesus makes is clearly about more than just physical healing. The author of James says for us to be open and not discriminate against the poor and destitute but rather to receive all people with an openness of heart. What we are healed from in our baptism is prejudice, anger, and fear. Knowing we are healed, and the Lord opens our hearts to God's eternal word and as Psalm 146 proclaims we open our mouths and proclaim, "Praise the Lord my soul!" The Ephphatha prayer of Jesus opens more than just the ears and mouth of those who need to be healed it opens first our hearts so that we can accept Christ's healing. Let your hearts be opened, Ephphatha!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Anthony Ligato

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joint Parish Picnic

Saturday, Sept. 18th from 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Rain or Shine
Elm Ave Town Park in Bethlehem

The parishes will provide hamburgers, cheese, hot dogs, rolls, salads, sides, chips, desserts, and beverages. This year, a potluck style picnic will not be allowed. The parishes will provide everything.

The sign-up sheets are at the church entrances. If you have any questions please call Pilar at 518-463-4447.

Collection for Haiti

This weekend, we will hold a special collection through (your choice - traditional collection, designated envelope, basket in the back of church) for relief following the devastating earthquake in Haiti as requested by Bishop Scharfenberger and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Please be generous as always in helping our brothers and sisters in the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

Next weeks Second Collection is for Utilities.

Faith Formation Registration

Next Sunday, 12 September, Mr. Fowler, the Director of Religious Education will be available after both masses to register youngsters for this year's program.

The program here at the Cathedral has been re-activated and offers formation for grades one through high school, including sacramental preparation: First Eucharist, First Reconciliation and Confirmation.

We look forward to welcoming the youth and their families back to an innovative and engaging encounter with the faith.

P.S. If you are interested in exploring the role of catechist, please stop by.

Mass for an End to Violence

Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger invites you to join him to pray together for an end to violence in the Capital Region and beyond. Bishop Scharfenberger will celebrate a Mass for an End to Violence at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 125 Eagle Street in Albany, on Sunday, September 19, at 11 a.m. All are invited to join him as a sign of our shared hope for a world where love is more powerful than hate, a world where the things we hold in common are greater than any differences we may have.



The Cathedral Office, Food Pantry and Church will be closed Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day.

There will be no 12:15 pm Mass. Have a safe and happy Holiday Weekend!

Please pray for our sick; Frank Therio, Dave Worden, Mary Caluori, John Travis, 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, Douglas Hoffeler, 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

September 5, 2021

Cathedral Liturgical Celebrations, Meetings and Mass Intentions for the week of September 4, 2021 – September 12, 2021

Saturday, September 4,

1:00PM Wedding

3:30PM Wedding

Sunday, September 5,

11:00AM Mass

5:00 PM Mass

Intention: For all the deceased in the Cathedral Parish

Monday, September 6,

12:15PM **NO** Mass

Tuesday, September 7,

7:15 AM Mass

Intention: For all the deceased in the Cathedral Parish

Wednesday, September 8,

12:15 PM Mass

Thursday, September 9,

7:15AM Mass

Intention: For all the deceased in the Cathedral Parish

Friday September 10,

12:15PM Mass

Saturday, September 11,

3:30PM Wedding

Sunday, September 12,

11:00AM Mass

Intention: Nancy White

5:00 PM Mass

Intention: For all the deceased in the Cathedral Parish

September 5, 2021

Bishop Scharfenberger invites you to a
“Diocesan Day of Prayer and Celebration”
For ALL the people of the Albany Diocese

*Come Holy Spirit!
Renew Our Strength,
Reaffirm Our Hope*

Saturday, Sept. 25th– 9 AM to 2 Pm
St. Edward The confessor Church, Clifton Park
There is no cost for this event.

The day begins with a special prayer for God’s strength and an uplifting message from Father Bob Longobucco, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. From this morning prayer, there will be time to reflect more deeply on the gift of God’s hope, led by Bob McCarty, a well-known national presenter and former director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry. Finally, the event will conclude with a Holy Hour and a recommitment to “go announce the Gospel of the Lord!

Registration deadline is Sept. 15. You can register at: <https://webapps.rcda.org/ParishFaithFormation> or call The Office of Lay Ministry & Parish Faith Formation at (518) 453-6670.

Know a Boy or Girl who likes to sing?

Please tell his or her family about the Cathedral Choir School of Albany. We have fun opportunities for musical formation for children in Grades K-8, in a safe environment. The music staff is always happy to discuss the chorister program with prospective families. Choristers are welcome to join on open enrollment. For more information, visit our webpage <http://cathedralic.com/ensembles/>; or call 518-463-4447; or e-mail brian.gurley@rcda.org

NEW for 2021-2022! We are pleased to offer beginning piano and violin instruction through the Cathedral. If you know a boy or girl who may be interested in applied instrumental instruction, please contact the Cathedral Music Office for more information.



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