Mission statement

Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Community is committed to living out the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to bear Christian witness as a loving, prayerful, and caring community of worship, shared faith, and service to all God's people. We are dedicated to providing opportunity for healing and growth and to invite each individual to place their gifts and talents in service of one another within the parish family, our diocese, and the larger community.

STAFF:

Interim Team:
Fr. Juanito Asprec
Deacon Gary Riggi

Administrative Assistant:
Laura Pelton

Religious Education Director:
Sena Monaco

Director of Music:
Linda Connors

Office Hours:
Monday - Wednesday 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Thursday 8:30AM - 12:30 PM

Parish Website:
http://parishes.rcda.org/olvchurch/
Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyoftheValleyParish/

Bulletin Items:
All bulletin items must submitted to the office by Monday morning.

Schoharie County Cluster Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil Masses:
4:00pm, Our Lady of Fatima in Delanson
5:45pm, Our Lady of the Valley
Sunday Masses:
9:00 a.m., Our Lady of the Valley
11:00 a.m., Our Lady of Fatima in Delanson
Weekdays:
9:00 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays at Our Lady of the Valley in Middleburgh
9:00 a.m. Thursdays at Our Lady of Fatima in Delanson
Holy Day Masses as announced
Devotions:
Rosary First Sunday of the month at 8:30 AM

Faith Formation Classes:
Please contact the office to register.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation:
3:00-3:45 PM on Saturdays at Our Lady of Fatima. (Church Confessional Room)
6:45 PM on Saturdays and 8:00 AM on Sundays, and any time by appointment at Our Lady of the Valley.

Infant Baptism:
It is celebrated for registered and active parishioners who have participated in baptismal preparation. Please contact the office for further information.

Marriage:
Registered and practicing parishioners who wish to celebrate their marriage at Our Lady of the Valley are asked to contact the office at least six months prior to the anticipated date and before any other arrangements have been finalized. If you are not registered and/or a practicing Catholic, please contact the office at least nine months before anticipated date.
No date will be reserved until a practicing commitment of three-months is made.

Anointing of the Sick:
Please contact the office.

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

111 WELLS AVE., PO BOX 311, MIDDLEBURGH, NY 12122 | 518.827.3301 | OLV2009@MIDTEL.NET

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Prepare the way of the Lord." - Mk 1:3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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"Therefore (…) Pray for one another (…). The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful"
James 5:16

MASS INTENTIONS

12/5 Sat. 5:45 p.m.	**Intentions needed**
12/6 Sun. 9:00 a.m.	**Tony Woznick by Betty and Willy Karlau**
12/9 Wed 9:00 a.m.	**Intentions needed**
12/11 Fri 9:00 a.m.	**Intentions needed**
12/12 Sat. 5:45 p.m.	**Elizabeth Malone by Mary and Kevin Harmon**
12/13 Sun. 9:00 a.m.	**Intentions needed**

Administration and Stewardship

Amount needed per week to run the Parish:
$2976.00
Offerings: First Sunday of Advent $1774.00
Difference: -$1202.00
Thank you for sharing your treasure and for your generosity

Bishop's Appeal 2020-2021
The goal for our Parish to collect is set at $28,258.00. If you'd like to know more about the appeal, please visit https://thebishopsappeal.org/

Please remember Our Lady of the Valley in your will.

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday December 5:	**Sunday December 6:**
Greeters: Jane Munger	**Greeters:** Sharon Riggi
Ushers: Robin Hazzard	**Ushers:** Joanne Newsome, Christine Schreieck
Lector: John Borst	**Lector:** Brynda Shultes
Altar Servers Caroline and Samuel	**Altar Servers** Seraphina
Eucharistic Ministers Maureen Mooney, Brynda Shultes	**Eucharistic Ministers** Barbara Brust-Lauritsen, Nora Masterson
Cleaners: The Borst Family	**Cleaners:** Rosary Society

Money Counters:
Lloyd, Blackmur, Farr

December Justice Challenge:
Random acts of kindness, paying it forward, or surprising people by just being nice should be something we as disciples of Jesus do every day. Sometime we may find that we have become more indifferent to those around us, and we often don't feel like helping others when we ourselves are struggling. Your challenge this month is to choose someone who has been mean or unjust to you in some way, and do something nice for this person—even if you have to grit your teeth to do it. Then choose someone to whom you have been unjust, see what you can do to right the wrong, and do one extra thing just to be "kind".

OLV ROSARY SOCIETY CORNER:

WE ARE WINDING DOWN FOR ANOTHER SEASON. WE WILL BE HAVING A BAKE SALE ON 12/12TH & 13TH AFTER MASS. COVID PRECAUTIONS MAINTAINED. BASKET RAFFLE TICKET WILL GO ON SALE AFTER MASSES STARTING ON 11/28/20: LUCKY WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED AFTER THE BAKE SALE ON DEC 13TH.

Pray For…

Please help us keep the list up-to-date

Danny Hardmin, Brian Collins, Richard Holmes, Joan Flynn, Nicki Himes, John Rossmann, Rosemary Gutkaiss, Christine Quandt and her Family, Bill Valosin, Patrick O'Grady, Irene Ostermann, Lincoln Marks (baby) and family, Jessica DeVietri, Ed Masterson, Barbara Barr, Linda Ballou, Fr. Michael Cambi, Joan McCalip, Adrienne Bartholomew, Callie Shaw (baby), Laurie Lowery, Joanne Snyder, Raymond Ceroalo, Jocelyn Ceroalo, Thomas Kemple, Cathy Saccento, Mary Bixby, Ed August, Stephanie Coxen, Pam Raquet, Paul Garcia, Kimber Taylor, Ellen Hazzard, Margaret M. Ostermann, Terri Repscher, Robert Scolaro, Margaret Cameron, Carmella Palmietto, Diane Beyer, Rose Bienert, Beverly Dyer, Lee and Finn, Dawn Schweikert, Tyler Schell, Ann M. Costello, Bill Zedaker, Kenneth Elhers, Vince Baim, Sharron Wood, Dan Hazzard Jr., Stanislaw Wisniewski

2ND SUNDAY ADVENT 2020:
Mark 1:1-8/2 Peter 3:8-14/Psalm 85/Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
THE DESERTED ROAD TO THE DESERT

The Christmas rush is officially on. Will the mad and frenetic days be here again? In these times of the COVID-19 pandemic, yes, Christmas buying will surely be different; reports say that 78% are using "Online-buying" and people are still very much excited to celebrate the Christmas holiday despite the pandemic. But while all the ads point to the mall and shopping centers, today's Gospel points us to a different website and a different road — often unoccupied, free from likes and views, and sometimes deserted: the site, the road to the desert. On this second Sunday of Advent, the figure of John the Baptist points us to this site & road - less traveled. In the Scriptures, the desert has always been a place of purification, of purgation, of being stripped down to the bare essentials. Israel was purified for 40 years in the desert before reaching the Promised Land. Jeremiah encountered God in a trying time in the desert. Jesus spent 40 days preparing for His active ministry in the desert as well.

When we tread the road to the malls or the shopping websites, the only god we will most likely encounter there is the god of commercialism, the god of want and invented needs. John the Baptist today proposes an alternative route and website — to the desert. An encounter with the true God is only possible when we are purified, purged and stripped down to the bare essentials because God is not a God of superficiality, shallowness and excess. He is the God of meaning, depth and simplicity.

Friends, let us fill up the oft-deserted road and website to the desert. Go to the desert this Advent season. Find your desert time. Visit the sacrament of reconciliation. Sign up for your parish Advent recollection. Volunteer yourself and your family members in some parish outreach or apostolate. Try your best to attend the Advent and Christmas Liturgies. Read the Scriptures. Set aside some sacred silent time for your soul.

Do not treat these days simply as preparation for the holidays. Make these days truly holy days of anticipation and welcome.

And let us invoke Our Blessed Mother Mary's help on December 8, 2020 (Tuesday) - the Feast of Her Immaculate Conception (a holy day of obligation this year) and join us at the Eucharistic Celebration and a 'Marian Consecration so that thru her help we can properly prepare ourselves for the coming of Her Son, Our Savior Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION QUESTION: Make your Christmas more meaningful this year. What concrete actions can you do to fill your desert time?

PRAYER: Help me to focus on You this Christmas, dear Jesus.

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley
Keep up to date with everything happening at Our Lady of the Valley!

Weekly updates and Video Mass Services are now uploaded to our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyoftheValleyParish/

Please feel free to share pictures and stories of your experiences here!

For the Safety of Our Children:

It is the policy of Our Lady of the Valley that children be escorted by an adult to the restroom during Mass, for their own protection.

First Eucharist & Reconciliation:

First Communion: For those who have completed at least 1 year of GIFT and will be 7 years of age by February 1st, 2021.

Confirmation: Candidates should have completed 1 year of GIFT and are in the 10th grade, and will be at lest 15 years of age by April 1st, 2021.

Any questions, please contact Sena Monaco at sena.monaco@gmail.com

GIFT 12/5th and 12/6th

I encourage any parishioner to join our GIFT gatherings either in-person or virtually to accompany our young people on their faith journey. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to sena.monaco@gmail.com

Upcoming schedules are as follows:

Our second session of The Jesse Tree project is scheduled for Saturday, Dec 5 at 4:30PM at Our Lady of the Valley.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE IN SCHEDULE: Arts and Faith – Advent Virtual Retreat is scheduled to begin Tue, Dec 1st at 6:30PM and is available to anyone from Our Lady of the Fatima or Our Lady of the Valley. The schedule continues on Thursday, Dec 10th and 17th at 6:30 pm ending Tuesday, Dec 22nd at 6:30PM. This is a reflective retreat on the Gospel readings during Advent using Ignatian spirituality and is so appropriate during the busy Christmas season. Teens and adults are encouraged to participate. Please email me with questions or interest in attending.

Please note: A special website has been added focused on Advent! It includes daily activities for families as well as weekly prayer, gospel scripture reflections/questions as well **as** music and **Pope Francis' prayer intention for the month of December.**
https://olfgrowinginfaith.weebly.com/advent.html

Be safe and have a blessed week!
Sena

Thank You

Thank you very much for participating in Operation Christmas Child. We contributed 70 boxes to the program. In this Covid year, it is a true sign of giving that we made the effort to spread Jesus and joy to children around the world. May 2021 bring peace and healing. Stephanie Tinker.

***

As this weekend passes, many of us may remember the Advent Tea that Linda Pagano and committee offered. Since Covid has prevented this welcomed event, please continue in heart and mind the beauty of anticipating our Lord's coming. Enjoy a cup of tea and some Advent readings . May peace be with you. Thank you Linda for many years of beautiful reflection.
Stephanie Tinker

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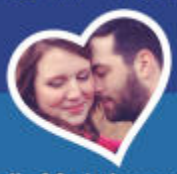

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