

The Communities of

St. Helen's

1803 Union St.
Schenectady, NY 12309
(518)346-6137
www.sainthelenschurch.com

Our Lady of Fatima

2216 Rosa Road
Schenectady, NY 12309
(518)370-3136
www.olfatima.cc

Shared Ministries & Events

Dear Friends:

Christmas is a promise. Or better yet, it fulfills the promise of God that we would never be abandoned. It offers the friendship of God in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. God's never ending quest to be understood as love culminates in the drama of the Son of God being born among us. Even in the crass commercialism of Christmas, there is a whisper of the generosity God has showered so magnificently on us. (After all, the giving of gifts is the reflection of the greatest gift.) And even in the secular and banal general message of Christmas of peace, kindness and goodwill, we can still make out through these shadows the bold picture of the Messiah breaking into the world. But for us who believe, Christmas is a fire that emblazons the night sky. God's entrance into humanity has flooded humanity with grace. We are irrevocably different because of what happened so far away so long ago. My prayer is that we rejoice in that difference every day; that God breaks into our lives both as dramatically as a virgin birth and as peacefully as a newborn child asleep in their mother's arms. And we thank you for how you have shared the gift of Christ this year during this time of change for our parishes. We can only go forward with the peace and assurance that this Christ whose birth we celebrate will be with us as we spread his word and dedicate ourselves to his Gospel.

Peace,
Fr. Bob

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)

Merry Christmas to all! Celebrate Jesus' Birthday over your Christmas break. Sessions will resume the week of **January 8th**.

Do you think it is too late to register for Faith Formation sessions for your child? Never! If interested, please call: Pat Policastro at Our Lady of Fatima or Kris Rooney at St. Helen's.

Our Lady of Fatima: Pat Policastro 370-0027
St. Helen's: Kris Rooney 377-3119

Liturgy - When and why should we bow?

Sometimes our rituals and liturgical gestures become so ingrained that we fail to appreciate their history and why they are part of our worship. For example, **have you ever wondered why we bow during Mass?** Bowing is symbolic of our smallness in the presence of the greatness of the Lord. Borrowed from the court etiquette of the Roman Empire, bowing entered the church's rituals in the early 4th century. It's actually a modified version of prostration.

We, as worshipping community, should join the priest and deacons in making a solemn bow from the waist during the Creed when we say the words: "*and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man*" and **during the Consecration**.

We are also invited to make a simple bow of the head before receiving Communion as we respond "Amen" to the minister's words, "*The Body of Christ*" or "*The Blood of Christ*".

May our gestures and postures exemplify our attitudes and intentions. For we are a Eucharistic people who gather as family... as companions of Jesus ... to give active thanks and praise to the One who saves us and reconciles us to the Father.

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

Anna and Lisa wish all of our young people and their families a very **Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!!**

- Sessions for grades 6-8 will start back again on **January 8 & 9**. If you are new to our parishes and would like to enroll your child(ren) in our program, please contact Anna Denney or Lisa Kuban.
- **Confirmation Prep II (11th grade) Retreat on January 6-7** at St. Helen's Parish Center. Permission forms are online.
- Don't forget the deposits for the Habitat for Humanity of Sandtown, Maryland trip are now due!
- We are always looking for young adult or parent volunteers for our program! Please contact Anna or Lisa if you would like more information!

• **Anna Denney** 377-3119 youth1803@gmail.com
• **Lisa Kuban** 370-0027 ym612@olfatima.cc

Saint Helen's



Thank You to the following parishioners who made donations for altar flowers during the Christmas Holiday:

In Memory of:	From:
Thomas G. Carroll	Mary P. Fritz
Anthony Tulio and	Theresa Tulio
Frank & Rena Vatrano	
The Smyth & Tentor Families	Kathleen Tentor
The Caruso & Corridore Families	Maria L. Caruso

PARISH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY on **Sunday, Jan. 14**, which is the Winter Ordinary Time decoration of St. Helen's Church at 9:30am. We need more youth volunteers to help us decorate the church. To sign up please call Anna Denney at 377-3119.

ST. HELEN'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Week of: 12/31-1/1	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday 10:00am</u>
READERS:	Mary Ann Lommel Jim Lommel	Jennifer Dominelli Nicki Foley
SERVERS:	TBA	TBA
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:	Team II	Team II

St. Helen's Parish Support This year's collection

Due to a publishing deadline, the collection for December 18th is not reported here.

Shared Ministries & Events

SICM Serves Schenectady. The SICM Food Pantry provided food for over 40,000 meals during 2011. The SICM Summer Lunch Program gave out over 35,000 lunches at sites through the city during the summer vacation period. These initiatives to feed the hungry of our community are programs to which St. Helen's and Our Lady of Fatima parishioners are greatly committed. To all those who contributed goods or volunteered their time to deliver to the Food Pantry or to serve lunch in Central Park, a special thank you and wishes for a blessed Christmas season.

Mass Intentions

Place
Magnet
Here

Masses held at **Our Lady of Fatima Church** are shaded.

Masses held at **St. Helen's Church** are not shaded

SAT	12/24	The Nativity of the Lord
4:30	p.m.	Intentions for the People
4:30	p.m.	Intentions for the People
6:30	p.m.	Intentions for the People
8:00	p.m.	Intentions for the People
12:00	a.m.	Intentions for the People
SUN	12/25	
10:00	a.m.	Intentions for the People
11:30	a.m.	Intentions for the People
MON	12/26	St. Stephen
9:00	a.m.	Morning Prayer
TUES	12/27	St. John
9:00	a.m.	Morning Prayer
WED	12/28	The Holy Innocents
9:00	a.m.	Liturgy of the Hours-Morning Prayer
THUR	12/29	St. Thomas Becket
9:00	a.m.	Mary & Jim Van Deusen (Family) Lucas Lynch (Tim Lynch)
FRI	12/30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
9:00	a.m.	George S. Bradford, 17th. Anniv. (Wife, Celeste)
SAT	12/31	Solemnity of Mary
4:30	p.m.	John Doyle (Antoinette Krantz) Janet Kalogridis (Carl & Joann Paulsen)
SUN	1/1	
8:30	a.m.	Mario Nicodemi (Dominick & Rita DeSimone) Bob Goodwin (Rosary Society) June Punte (Rick Johnson)
10:00	a.m.	Intentions for the People
11:30	a.m.	Jane & Bud Garahan (Laura Michelson)

Let us Remember the Sick in our Prayers: Mark Barsotti, Ruth Connelly, Mary Grace Doherty, Tom Grogan, Stacey Hopkins, Ruth Janiec, Eileen Kilrain, Edward Kleinkauf, Liam Lambeth, Pat Moskwa, Mary Catherine Muccigrosso, Kevin Olsen, Marian Smialek.

Our Lady of Fatima Staff

Deacon Richard Thiesen,
Parish Life Director
Rev. Robert Longobucco,
Sacramental Minister
Helen Moon,
Pastoral Assoc. Adult Faith Formation
Lisa Kuban/Anna Denney,
Pastoral Assoc. Youth Ministry
Patricia Policastro,
Pastoral Assoc. Faith Formation, K-5
Tricia Olson,
Pastoral Assoc. Administration
George Bollock,
Pastoral Assoc. Liturgy & Music
Jean Orthlieb,
Pastoral Assoc. Pastoral Care
Carol Mondello,
Pastoral Council President

St. Helen's Staff

Rev. Robert Longobucco,
Pastor
Deacon D. Thomas Sharrow,
Deacon
Anne Pomeroy,
Pastoral Assoc. Administration
Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ,
Pastoral Assoc. Evangelization
Barbara Musial,
Pastoral Assoc. Music
Anna Denney/Lisa Kuban,
Pastoral Assoc. Youth Ministry
Jennifer Chatain,
School Principal
Sr. Ellen Spellman, CSJ,
Pastoral Assoc. Religious Ed.
Kristine Rooney,
Pastoral Assoc. for Catechesis
Robert Christoffel,
Pastoral Council President

Our Lady of Fatima

"And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us and we have seen His glory ..." (John 1:14) These words come from the prologue of John's Gospel. For each of us and for all humanity, they are words that speak to us about our ultimate hope ... they are words that offer us the divine gift of unsurpassable peace ... they are words that instill in us an abiding and eternal joy. Not only did "the Word become flesh and make His dwelling among us" over 2,000 years ago, but, from the spark of divine DNA within each of us, Jesus' Spirit is reborn in us at every moment. And "we see His glory" as we love one another as He loves us ... as we forgive one another as He forgives us ... as we are patient with one another as He is patient with us. During this Christmas Season and always, may the Lord's peace, hope and joy make His dwelling in your heart.

Deacon Dick and the Staff



We wish to acknowledge the following donations for altar flowers during the Christmas Holiday:

IN MEMORY OF:

Bert & Tomassini Family
Arcangelo & Angelo Piccirillo,
Lucy Piccirillo, Michael Rizzo,
Concetta Mone

REQUESTED BY:

Elsie Berti
Henry & Marion Rizzo



WE WELCOME into our Christian Community Ty Lockwood Bell, son of Christina & Scott Bell

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Support This Week's Collection

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Shared Ministries & Events

Full Time Volunteer Opportunity - Are you a woman between 21 and 30 seeking to spend a year serving your neighbors in need, living in community, growing in leadership and enlivening your spirituality? The St. Joseph Worker Program may be for you. Contact Sr. Betsy 393-0528 or sjworkers@csjalbany.org or check out our website - www.sjworkers.org.

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving ACCEPTANCE of our children.

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday:

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

Gospel of the Week: John 1:1-18

Question for Adults - What does the Babe in Bethlehem teach you?

Question for Children - How does Jesus show you himself?

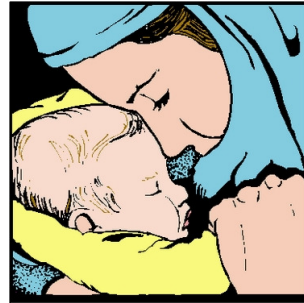
Shared Ministries & Events

Adult Faith Enrichment

The next two weeks there will NO scripture groups or other adult faith enrichment groups due to the Christmas/New Year holidays. May God's peace, hope and love fill your heart and mind! Let us also pray for inspiration as to how to reach out to those in need this Holiday time. Groups will again meet the week of January 8.

But Look! Good things are coming: A New Year of Gifts for your faith enrichment! Watch for these events; Mark your new calendars

- **Jan. 18th and 25th** at 7pm Sr. Linda Neil will be here to discuss the Book of Ecclesiastes with us; this new year will be a good time to consider the value and meaning of our lives!
- **Saturday Feb. 11** we'll be having a Morning of Reflection with prayer, sharing, a little Tai Chi to help us focus with our minds, our bodies, and our spirits.
- **Feb. 15th at 7pm** we will gather to discuss the book Thrift Store Saints: Meeting Jesus 25 Cents at a Time. These stories can lead us straight to the heart of Christ.
- Our dentists are again taking a trip to our Sister-Parish the end of January, Come and hear about their experience and the people on **February 16th**.
- During Lent Sr. Betsy will offer a four evening discussion of Fr. James Martin's book, The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything, **Feb. 29, March 5th, 14th, and 28th**.
- We will also be viewing and discussing 3 of Fr. Robert Barron's greatly acclaimed DVD's from the Catholicism series – 2 on Jesus, himself, and one on Prayer.



today
a
SAVIOR
has
BEEN BORN for you

Calendar of Events

Items in Blue take place at Our Lady of Fatima.
Black type, indicates St. Helen's Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
12/25 Merry Christmas	12/26 Parish Offices Closed Parish Offices Closed	12/27 3:00pm Rosary
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
12/28	12/29 6:00pm Karate	12/30 Parish Offices closed Parish Offices Closed
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	COMING
12/31	1/1 Happy New Year	1/2 Parish Offices closed Parish Offices Closed

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