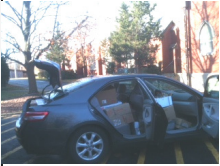


Shared Ministries & Events

Faith Formation (Grades K-5)



A VERY FULL car load of books went down to Owego to the Owego Family Reading Partnership Program. Thank you to all for your generous donations!

We have Faith Formation classes this week and next before the Christmas season is upon us. We have a lot to learn about Advent and Jesus' birthday, so we look forward to seeing everyone! A reminder that no one is to park in the fire lane at St. Helen's for the safety of our children.

We are hoping to have an **Epiphany pageant on January 8th**. The pageant will take place at the 8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima. Any child from either parish is welcome to participate. Please contact Pat Policastro at 370-0027 or ffk5@olfatima.cc.

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

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

- All Youth Ministry sessions, grades 6 - 9 resume this week.
- We'd like to thank everyone who volunteered and/or attended last Sunday's Christmas Breakfast with Santa. It was a great success. A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus for being our kitchen crew! The pancakes were delicious! And a wink and a nod to Santa...rumor has it the "in" gifts this year are any type of iPod or the iPad.
- Bringing Christmas to others...volunteers are needed to help with the City Mission Toy Store set up; on Tuesday, December 20th from 6pm-9pm. Space is limited so don't wait to sign up.
- Looking for an opportunity to serve over Christmas recess? On December 30th, we are serving the evening meal at the Schenectady City Mission. We leave the Our Lady of Fatima parking lot at 4:45pm and return at 6:45pm. Chaperones/drivers needed.
- To all Confirmation Prep II families...the packet of paperwork handed out at the Fall Meetings should be completed and returned to the Youth Ministry Office. This includes your letter to Bishop Hubbard and your 1-2 paragraph essay on your Confirmation name.

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

Adult Faith Enrichment

A Play and Pray Time: The Mom-Dad-Kids' Group. Life can be both wonderful and exhausting all at the same time – especially if you are a busy at-home Mom, Dad, or grandparent caring for little ones! Give yourself a morning break and come to our **'Mom's Group' on Wednesday, December 14th at 10 am at Fatima's Community Room**. Call Helen Moon at OLF's Parish office, 370-0027, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sharing faith, insights and questions can be invigorating and fun! This week will be focusing on the meaning of Jesus' Birth Stories and the meanings they contain. Come and join us and let Scripture come alive with meaning and insights for you. We meet on Tuesday at 4:00pm OR 7pm (the RCIA process) OR Thursday at 1pm at Fatima's Community Room.


MEMORIES GROUP - All those who have lost a spouse are invited to join our Memories Group. We have different events throughout the year. Our Christmas Gathering is the **Joint Senior/Memories Group Christmas Luncheon on Wed., Dec. 14 at 11:30 at Our Lady of Fatima**. See the Bulletin for complete information. Watch future Bulletins for notices of our 2012 activities. All are welcome. For further information about our group contact Sharon Maneri @ 785-1139.

MIDNIGHT MASS will feature our **high school and college aged people** sharing their amazing talents. If you would like to participate in the choir, sing a solo or play an instrument, please let us know. It would be a great Christmas gift to your faith community. Rehearsal is scheduled for 5pm on Thursday December 22nd with music beginning at 11:15pm on Christmas Eve. Please contact St. Helen's office or email Fr. Bob at frbob1803@gmail.com if you are interested.

SAVE THE DATE: January 21, 2012. St. Helens/Our Lady of Fatima will be having our first International dinner called "We Are The World". It will be held in the Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center from 5:30-8:00pm. More information later.

Saint Helen's

Please **return gifts unwrapped (with tags) by Sunday, Dec. 11th.** The agencies need to pick up their gifts and we need time to sort them. If you have any questions, please contact Carol at 393-0918. Thank you for helping to make someone's Christmas more merry.

 **DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** in the Sanctuary may be made in memory of a loved one or for an anniversary. An acknowledgement will be placed in a future bulletin. Please place your contribution and intention in an envelope and place it in the weekly collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office.

WE NEED COMMUNION VOLUNTEERS to take Communion to Sunnyview on Thursdays on a rotating basis (about once every 5 or 6 weeks) and to Ellis Hospital as part of our Communion teams. Please contact Bob Christoffel to volunteer 372-8260.

We still need **readers for each Christmas Eve Mass.** If you are available for the 4:30pm, 6:30pm or Midnight Mass at St. Helen's please call our office at 346-6137 to sign up.

ST. HELEN'S LITURGICAL MINISTERS

| Week of 12/17-12/18 | Saturday 4:30pm | Sunday 10:00am |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| READERS: | Paul Gochenaur Antoinette Kranz | Margaret Corey Kathy DeCataldo |
| SERVERS: | Treasa Kozakiewicz Emily Johnson Rebecca Scorzella Caroline McGraw | J. Chad Rockwell Helen Serafini Olivia Serafini Maddie Black |
| EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: | Team III | Team III |

| St. Helen's Parish Support | This year's collection | Last year's collection |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 12/4/11 | \$11,024 | \$8,908 |
| Works of Mercy Initiative | \$1,1613 | |

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Then the three wise men came to baby-sit while Mary and Joseph went caroling."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

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 | 12/10 | Third Sunday of Advent |
| 4:30 | p.m. | Deceased Members of Parrotta & Pomeroy Families (Family) Anthony Runfola (Family) |
| SUN | 12/11 | |
| 8:30 | a.m. | John & Maryangela Piccirillo (Carol & Angelo Piccirillo) Mr. & Mrs. Nguyen K. Doan (Family) Bob Goodwin (Jim & Judy Burns) Elsie Bertolino (Children) |
| 10:00 | a.m. | Dorothy Gale & Donald Flynn (Maureen Versaci) Christopher Ryan (Mae & Jim Burgess) |
| 11:30 | a.m. | Sharon Farhart (Daughter, Celeste) Dominick Conde (Daughter, Gloria) Bob Goodwin (Ken Brown) Angela Catrambone (Family) |
| MON | 12/12 | Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| 9:00 | a.m. | Intentions for the People |
| TUES | 12/13 | St. Lucy |
| 9:00 | a.m. | Mass at Heritage Home for Women (1619 Union Street) |
| WED | 12/14 | St. John of the Cross |
| 7:00 | p.m. | Intentions for the People |
| THUR | 12/15 | |
| 9:00 | a.m. | Bruno Kurz (Wife) Rustam Chinoy (Wife) William Vilardo (Sharon & Chuck Maneri) |
| FRI | 12/16 | |
| 9:00 | a.m. | Dorothy & Bill Slater, Mary & Art Moon, Mary Slater (Moon Family) |
| SAT | 12/17 | Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| 4:30 | p.m. | Michael Farina (Mary Louise & Stephen Farina) Lawrence Chamberland (Family) Joseph Printsky (Family) |
| SUN | 12/18 | |
| 8:30 | a.m. | Albert Tomassini (Daughter, Elsie Berti) Mary Renu (Dominick & Rita DeSimone) Robert Goodwin (Cindy & John Seacord) |
| 10:00 | a.m. | Anna & James Pepe (Daughters) Beatrice Blair (Mary Pepe) |
| 11:30 | a.m. | Agnes Wayne (Husband, Anthony) Brown Family, Martone Family, Mahony Family (Anne Marie Brown) Ruth Roche (Rosemary Booker) |

Shared Ministries (continued)

Socks, hats and mittens - thank you to all who brought in socks for the guests of Bethesda House! We will be providing 250 sets to the men and women there!

Service Day - Saturday, January 7 from 9:30 -12N at St. Helen's. Come join in the fun for a few hours of service for all ages.

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS: "Who am I?...What is my purpose in life?" It's tough to find answers to these questions today! Join us for "Getting Back to Basics: Theology of the Body in Prayer," A NIGHT OUT sponsored by the Capital Region Frassati and Magdalena Ministry young adult groups. Speaker, author, and young adult, Gerard-Marie Anthony will be our speaker. Explore the faith with your peers: Wed. Dec. 28 @ 7pm at Saint Ambrose Church in Latham. Delicious, homemade desserts, plus coffee, hot chocolate, and tea will be provided. All YOUNG ADULTS 18-39, single or married are welcome, FREE of charge. Spread the word! magdalenaministry@gmail.com

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel reports "there is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that don't start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.

Scripture Readings for Next Sunday:

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27;
Luke 1:26-38

Gospel of the Week: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Question for Adults - How do you testify to the light?

Question for Children - John was showing the way to Jesus. How do you show the way to Jesus?

Let us Remember the Sick in our Prayers: Mark Barsotti, 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



DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS in the Sanctuary may be made in memory of a loved one or for an anniversary. An acknowledgement will be placed in a future bulletin.

Please place your contribution and intention in an envelope and place it in the weekly collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND USHERS: The schedule for Christmas Masses is posted on the bulletin board in the main entrance of the church. Please sign up as soon as possible to serve at one of these masses.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE. Christmas cards, featuring parishioner, Peg Giedraitis' Christmas wall hangings that are now hanging in the OLF Church, are available for purchase (12 cards for \$10.00) at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Offices. All proceeds will benefit SICM.

REST IN PEACE

WE PRAY FOR June Punte of OLF, who has gone before us to new life in the hope of the Resurrection.

| Our Lady of Fatima Parish Support | This Week's Collection | Weekly Budget | Difference |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------|
| 12/04/2011 Works of Mercy | \$6,848.40 \$981.09 | \$7,140.00 | -\$291.60 |

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

St. Helen's
Christmas Eve
4:30PM; 6:30PM and 12:00 Midnight
Christmas Day
10:00AM

Our Lady of Fatima
Christmas Eve
4:30PM and 8:00PM (preceded by
Christmas Carols at 7:30PM)
Christmas Day
11:30AM

Community News

St. Joseph's Church, located at 600 State Street (corner of State and Lafayette Streets) is sponsoring its **Sixth Annual Pre-Holiday Bake Sale** on **Saturday, December 17th from 4:00pm to 5:30pm** and **Sunday, December 18th from 7:30 to 11:00am** in the vestibule of the Church. All kinds of baked goods suitable for the Christmas holidays will be available including cookies, nut breads, cakes, etc., for a nominal fee. The public is cordially invited to attend. The Church is handicapped accessible and parking is available behind the Church.

Octavo Singers present **Handel's Messiah**. Come experience the magnificence of Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, **December 18th at 1:30pm at St. John the Evangelist Church** (812 Union Street, Schenectady). Curtis Funk will direct a chorus of 100+ with orchestral accompaniment. Ticket prices at the door are: Adult \$20; Seniors (60+) \$15; Students (with ID) \$10. There are group prices available in presale for groups of 10 or more. The site is handicapped accessible. For more information visit www.octavosingers.com or call 253-70888.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 1255 Pleasant St., Schenectady, is having their **Christmas Bake Sale and Craft Sale** on **December 17th and 18th**, following their weekend masses which are 4:00 PM on Saturday and 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM on Sunday. They will have a variety of Christmas Cookies and Cakes, Pitzelles, E-wands, Italian Rosettes, Vanilla, Anise and Lemon Biscotti, Horseshoes with Nut Filling, Almond Bars and Pepper Cookies, and Pasta Ciotta (Junior pies with pudding filling). Please take the time to check out the craft items and delicious baked goods. There will also be several Gift Baskets to be raffled off.

Thank you to our Sponsor:
Dominican Retreat & Conference Center
www.dslcny.org
 393-4169



Calendar of Events

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

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|--|--|---|
| 12/11 RE/YM 11:00am-3:00pm Christmas Tree Sale 6:00pm BB | 12/12 YM 7:45pm Volleyball | 12/13 RE 3:00pm Rosary 4:00pm Scripture Group. 7:00pm RCIA |
| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| 12/14 11:30am Senior Memories Christmas Luncheon | 12/15 1:00pm Scripture Group 6:00pm Karate 7:00pm Finance Mtg. | 12/16 |
| SATURDAY | SUNDAY | COMING |
| 12/17 | 12/18 RE/YM | Monday 12/19 1:00pm and 7:00pm Deanery Reconciliation at St. Anthony's Church - Nott St. |