Christianity demands that we make a leap of faith, placing our lives in the hands of Jesus.

The first reading tells of Isaiah having a vision of heaven, in which he sees the Lord, is purified of his sin, and is called to be a prophet of God. The second reading reminds us to be faithful to Christ and the truth of the Gospel, so that we might come to enjoy eternal life in heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus calls Simon Peter, James and John to come and follow him.

In order to be a true follower of Jesus, we must let go of the security of an earthly life and place our lives into the hands of the Lord. This daunting challenge can be met by remaining firm in our faith and belief that Jesus has saved us and opened the way to eternal life in heaven. We can rely upon the Lord to be our strength.

Please pray for all those who have asked for our prayers and especially men and women in military service and their families, all cancer patients, Christine Battaglia, Tom Miller, Dennine Davis, Irene Wasilawski, John Deere, Denny Solan, Chris Hill, Joe Wolonowski, Sr., Joe Wolonowski, Jr., Beverly Doolen, Gloria Messercola, Milton Cromme, Richard Akullian, Merry Sparano, Albert Doolen, Patty Hopkins, Nancy Ciasullo, Kathleen Baron, Kathy & Don Michaud, Jeff Verra, Merry Aziz, Anthony Pettogrosso, Lillian Burr, Rita May, Elizabeth Vojinar, Audrey Kearns, Randy Vojinar, Grace Vojinar, George Keeler, Kathleen Gramlich, Lois Foltman, Bob Keating, Jane O’Connor, Michael Stephenson, Celeste & Tahlia Hadley & family.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>St Jerome Emiliani; St Josephine Bakhta, Virgin 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3, 4, 5, and 10, 11; Mk 7:1-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ash Wednesday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Our Lady of Lourdes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td>Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td><strong>First Sunday of Lent</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ST. ARCHANGEL CHURCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY</strong></td>
<td>February 8, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ash Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>February 10, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
<td>February 11, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td>February 14, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE CHURCH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY</strong></td>
<td>February 8, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUESDAY</strong></td>
<td>February 9, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></td>
<td>February 10, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong></td>
<td>February 12, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SATURDAY</strong></td>
<td>February 13, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td>February 14, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This Week at St. Gabriel's

Monday (2/8)
9:30 am Divine Mercy/Chaplet Prayers ~ C
4:00 – 7:00 pm Youth/Teen Ensemble ~ C.
4:00 – 5:00 pm Faith Formation Gr. 1-6 ~ S.
7:00 – 8:30 pm Choir ~ C.H.
8:00 – 9:30 pm CYO ~ G.

Tuesday (2/9)
4:45 – 6:15 pm Youth Choir. ~ C.
5:00 – 9:00 pm CYO ~ G.

Ash Wednesday (2/10)
No activities

Thursday (2/11)
9:30 am Divine Mercy/Chaplet Prayers ~ C.
6:30 – 7:30 pm Cub Scouts ~ S.
7:00 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts ~ G.

Friday (2/12)
5:00 – 9:00 pm CYO ~ G.
6:30 – 8:15 pm Girl Scouts ~ C.H.

Saturday (2/13)
9:00 am – 9:00 pm CYO ~ G.

Sunday (2/14) Valentine’s Day
8:00 am – 12:00 pm Community Breakfast ~ G.
1:30 – 9:00 pm CYO ~ G.

ST. GABRIEL’S CHURCH

MINISTERS for February 14, 2016

ALTAR SERVERS & ACOLYTEs

7:30 AM Volunteer Needed
10:30 AM Emma Sinisgalli & Emma Phillips

LECTORS

7:30 AM Dave Bullett
10:30 AM Judith Pagois

CANTORS

7:30 AM Mark Sabatini
10:30 AM Debbie Fontes

Sanctuary Lamp for the week of February 7 – 13, 2016
In Memory of Raffaela & Agostino Lento
By Isabella and Carmelo Lento

POINSETTIA FLOWERS
As we get ready for Lent, the last of the poinsettia flowers (white) need to be removed from the church. The flowers are located in the Gathering Area at St. Gabriel’s Church and are available for parishioners to take home. Please take one or more plants. Thank you.

This Week at St. Madeleine Sophie’s

Monday (2/8)
5:30 pm CYO basketball (parish center)
7:30 pm PreBaptism Class (church mtg room)
7:30 pm Young at Heart practice

Tuesday (2/9)
5:30 pm CYO basketball (parish center)
7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (parish hall)

Wednesday (2/10) Ash Wednesday
9:45 am Faith Sharing (church meeting room)
2:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 1051 (parish hall, so.)
6:00 pm Faith Formation class (parish hall, so.)
7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (parish hall)
8:00 pm Joyful Singers practice

Thursday (2/11)
2:00 pm Bible Study (church meeting room)
3:30 pm Faith formation (school, parish hall)
5:00 pm Faith formation (school, parish hall)
5:30 pm CYO basketball (parish center)
7:00 pm Crash the Chatterbox (parish hall, up)
8:30 pm Men’s Basketball (parish center)

Friday (2/12)
1:30 pm Stations of the Cross (church)
5:30 pm CYO Basketball (parish center)
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (St. Gabriel’s)
7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (parish hall)

Saturday (2/13)
10:00 am CYO basketball (parish center)
3:00 pm Reconciliation

Sunday (2/14)
9:00 am Children’s liturgy of the word (church meeting rm)
9:00 am RCIA dismissal (church meeting rm 2)
10:00 am Intercessory prayer

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY BAKE SALE
The Christ Child Society will hold its annual Pre-Lenten Bake Sale this weekend after all Masses at St. Madeleine Sophie Church. Please plan on stopping by to see the delicious baked goods that are available, and support our efforts in helping children in need throughout the Albany Diocese.

WELCOME TO:
Brandon Noah Bergeron
Cameron Michael Bergeron
Emma Therese Dillon
Liliana Marie Ferretti
Hannah Jane Flynn
George Robert Krings

Baptized on January 30, 2016 at St. Madeleine Sophie Church.

God bless you and your family!
The 2016 Triduum will be a shared celebration of the two parishes and will be held at St. Gabriel’s. The Prayer and Worship Committees of St. Gabriel and St. Madeleine Sophie have put together a flyer with important information on Lenten activities and events. Copies will be available in the Gathering Areas of both churches.

Sign-up sheets for liturgical ministers will soon be placed in the Gathering Area of both churches for the Triduum. Please be sure to sign up as they need to be completed by March 13th.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The holy season of Lent begins Wednesday, February 10th. Ashes will be distributed during the Masses at 12:15 & 5:30 pm at St. Gabriel’s and at 9 am and 7 pm at St. Madeleine Sophie’s. There will also be a Liturgy of the Word with distribution of ashes at 6:30 am at St. Madeleine Sophie’s.

Liturgical ministers (lectors, sacristans, altar servers, ushers, Eucharistic ministers), please sign up to serve at one of the Masses on Ash Wednesday. Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area of both churches.

WEEKDAY MASSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
<th>Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>St. Gabriel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>St. Madeleine Sophie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>St. Madeleine Sophie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>St. Madeleine Sophie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>St. Gabriel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri.-Sat.</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>St. Madeleine Sophie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays after Ash Wednesday thru 5th week of Lent at 1:30 pm at St. Madeleine Sophie with school.

Fridays at 7 pm at St. Gabriel’s Church followed by exposition and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Living Stations will be presented at St. Gabriel’s on March 11 at 7:00 pm.

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism mass will be held on Thursday, March 17 at 7 pm at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. All are welcome to attend.
This week we joined over 6,590 other Catholic Schools in the United States to celebrate National Catholic Schools Week, our annual celebration of what makes education at St. Madeleine Sophie School outstanding. We began with Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, where Cathi Aloisi was honored with the Vicki Bullis Distinguished School Staff Award, which honors a school staff member who goes above and beyond the call of duty in her role. This dedication is demonstrated in daily activities which support the school’s mission and community. A large number of SMS families and friends joined members of the 22 other Diocesan Catholic Schools to honor Cathi. There is something special about being surrounded by people who share the same mission in our glorious Cathedral! We then went to see the masterpieces created by our students at the Diocesan Art Show at the Empire State Plaza South Gallery. What talented students we have!

This year’s National Catholic Schools Week theme centers on community: “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” The theme highlights the fact that schools are not only communities themselves; they are also part of many other communities, including families, parishes, towns/cities and our country.

FAITH FORMATION

"Protecting God’s Children” is the VIRTUS® program for protecting children from child sexual abuse. It is the initial program component for adults in the faith community who interact with minors.” A Virtus Training session for Adults has been scheduled in the School Building at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church on Tuesday, February 16th from 6:30-9PM. Pre-registration is requested by going to the rcda.org website and clicking on the Protecting Children tab at the top of the home page, or by going directly to virtusonline.org website and clicking on the word Registration in the left column on the homepage. Choose Albany, NY (Diocese) when you get to the dropdown menu for “Select Your Organization.” If you have questions or need assistance with registering, contact Terri at terri.bouchardsmsff@nycap.rr.com.

To highlight our Faith we participated in 3 liturgies, two in our own parish where our students shared their gifts and talents to enhance our liturgies.

To encourage Knowledge we had a Math Enrichment day. Students made paper airplanes, used Minecraft, tangrams and other fun ways to explore measurement.

We are proud of the Service our participants in the United States to celebrate Catholic Schools Week centerpiece was honored Cathi. There is something special about being surrounded by people who share the same mission in our glorious Cathedral! We then went to see the masterpieces created by our students at the Diocesan Art Show at the Empire State Plaza South Gallery. What talented students we have!

We also made sure to include some purely fun activities: Dance Party, Pajama/ Movie Day and the much anticipated Faculty vs. Fifth Grade Volleyball game rounded out the week.

I hope you will visit our School this Sunday, February 7th between 10:00am-11:30am to enjoy the students’ displays and learn about their faith development and community service projects. Please bring your friends and neighbors, particularly those who may be considering Catholic education for their children.

I am grateful every day for the teachers, staff, board members, parents and volunteers who make our school a success. We are particularly grateful to Father Jim and you, our Parish Family for allowing us to learn, love, grow and share our faith in this special community. We are truly blessed to be members of St. Madeleine Sophie School and Parish!

To encourage Knowledge we had a Math Enrichment day. Students made paper airplanes, used Minecraft, tangrams and other fun ways to explore measurement.

We are proud of the Service our students participate in throughout the school year. During this week we collected Pennies for Patients to donate to the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society, we also made placemats for St. John’s/ St. Ann’s and cards for the newly baptized members of our parish. We also made a spiritual bouquet of prayers for baby Celeste Hadley, in addition to having a "free dress day" where students brought in a donation for the Hadley family and could forgo uniforms for a day. We try to teach our students how important it is to help those close to home as well as those in the greater community. We believe these lessons are some of the most important ones we teach.

We also made sure to include some purely fun activities: Dance Party, Pajama/ Movie Day and the much anticipated Faculty vs. Fifth Grade Volleyball game rounded out the week.

I hope you will visit our School this Sunday, February 7th between 10:00am-11:30am to enjoy the students’ displays and learn about their faith development and community service projects. Please bring your friends and neighbors, particularly those who may be considering Catholic education for their children.

I am grateful every day for the teachers, staff, board members, parents and volunteers who make our school a success. We are particularly grateful to Father Jim and you, our Parish Family for allowing us to learn, love, grow and share our faith in this special community. We are truly blessed to be members of St. Madeleine Sophie School and Parish!

"Protecting God’s Children” is the VIRTUS® program for protecting children from child sexual abuse. It is the initial program component for adults in the faith community who interact with minors.” A Virtus Training session for Adults has been scheduled in the School Building at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church on Tuesday, February 16th from 6:30-9PM. Pre-registration is requested by going to the rcda.org website and clicking on the Protecting Children tab at the top of the home page, or by going directly to virtusonline.org website and clicking on the word Registration in the left column on the homepage. Choose Albany, NY (Diocese) when you get to the dropdown menu for “Select Your Organization.” If you have questions or need assistance with registering, contact Terri at terri.bouchardsmsff@nycap.rr.com.
In case you don’t already know the dates, First Holy Communion will be celebrated on:

- Saturday, May 7th at St. Gabriel’s Church at 10AM mass; and Saturday, May 14th at St. Madeleine Sophie Church at 9AM and 11AM masses.

Please Note: If you didn’t attend the Meeting for parents/guardians of First Communion children, please contact us ASAP! Also, if you haven’t filled out and returned the Communion Information Form yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. We can be reached by calling or emailing the Faith Formation Offices at stgabriels.faithformation@aol.com or 355-4193; or at smsffo@nycap.rr.com or 355-3115. Thank you for your cooperation!

If you have children who still need to be baptized in the Catholic Church, or are older than Second grade and haven’t yet made First Reconciliation and/or Communion, please contact the Faith Formation Office so we can help get the process started! For more information, call 355-3115 (SMS) or 355-4193 (SGA) or email us at smsffo@nycap.rr.com or stgabriels.faithformation@aol.com. All are welcome... you just need to take the first step!

PRESENTATION ON JESUS by Phyllis Cardona. Sunday, February 28, 2016 at St. Gabriel the Archangel School Building, 3040 Hamburg Street, Schenectady. 12 noon to 2:00 pm. If you are an adult who wants to learn about Jesus, please join us. This is a RCIA teaching experience, a Catechist Certification Course and Adult Enrichment Opportunity. NO FEE. Please sign up by either calling the Faith Formation Office at St. Gabriel’s (355-4193) or St. Madeleine Sophie (355-3115) or email Donna Simone at donna.simonesmsff@nycap.rr.com. ALL ARE WELCOME!

PRAYERS are requested for Christopher DeRouville and Valerie Konopka as they continue their journey in our RCIA Program. Both Valerie and Christopher are preparing to become fully initiated Catholics which will be held on Pentecost Sunday which is May 15, 2016. Additional information about RCIA is located in the gathering area.

**ACE**

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth
With the start of the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 10) there are many opportunities you can choose from that will help to enhance your spiritual growth. Here are just a few of the upcoming events:

- **Feb 11** An Evening of Reflection for Married and Engaged Couples

Feb 12 thru 17 Silent Reflection for men and women. You are welcome to join in all or any part of this retreat period.

Feb 23 Lenten Day of Retreat.

St. Gabriel’s **Faith & Spirituality Group** This group meets 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday (every month) in St. Gabriel’s church meeting room. They pray and share in their love of God through discussions about the Sunday Scripture readings, as well as have dialogues about books and current events. All are welcome.

**LIVING THE MASS**
The hour spent at Mass can be the most important investment of time you can make each week. How can one hour a week change your life? That depends on how you understand what happens during Mass. Is it just an obligation, or a tradition, or is it a life giving experience? What is it that we celebrate and how can we call it a “sacrifice”? Fr. Dominic Crassi a much loved pastor in Chicago, and Joe Paprocki, national consultant for faith formation, give some answers in this easy to understand power point presentation based on their book Living the Mass. The presentation will be offered on **Thursday, March 3 at 7:00PM** in St. Madeleine Sophie church meeting room. Sign-up sheets are available in the gathering area of the church today.

YOUTH MINISTRY

**Confirmation 2016:**
The Confirmation Reflection is on Sunday, March 13 from 2:00-8:00 at St. Madeleine Sophie. This retreat is for all Confirmation Candidates. It is the important final piece of Confirmation preparation. Please plan accordingly.

Confirmation Sponsors: please return your letter as soon as possible to the faith formation office! Thanks!

Please contact Donna Simone or Terri Bouchard about Confirmation: 355-3115 or smsffo@nycap.rr.com

**Young Adults 18 and older:**
Emmaus Retreat Program on February 26-28, 2016 at the Dominican Retreat Conference Center in Niskayuna! This is an interactive, faith-oriented weekend which seeks to give individuals an opportunity to better understand their relationship with God. For more information about the retreat and to make a reservation’ call or email Catherine Reid, Director of Campus Ministry, Albany Diocese 620-762-6026 or creid@uamail.albany.edu

**High School Youth:**
Save the Date: July 16-18, 2016 St. Isaac Jogues Youth Conference! Check out www.joguesyouthconference.com for more information!
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ST. GABRIEL’S COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, February 14, 2016
from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the gym

Join us for a great breakfast. We will be serving:
* Eggs and omelets (any way you like!) *Pancakes
* French toast *Bacon *Sausage *Toast
*Homefries *Coffee *Tea *Juice *Milk.
Tickets are $8.00 for adults and $5.00 for children under 10 years of age and will be available at the door only. Come join the fun, fellowship and a great breakfast while supporting our parish.

CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE – FEBRUARY 13, 2016

Can and bottle drive February 13, (Saturday after Super Bowl Sunday), to benefit St. Gabriel’s BSA Troop 32. Scouts and Adult leaders will be available between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on Saturday, February 13 to receive bottle and can drop-offs. Scouts and their leaders will be located next to the blue clothing drop-off bin on the Hamburg Street side of the St. Gabriel’s Church parking lot to facilitate easy access.

ST. KATERI TECAKWITHA PARISH SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS!

For further information, please contact Deacon Tom at 346-6137, ext. 236. or at deacontom@stkateriparish.org.

ACADEMY OF THE HOLY NAMES
MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

What makes Holy Names Middle School different? Everything! Learn more at our Middle School Open House, Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. Register online at ahns.org or contact Ann Rento at arenTo@ahns.org, 438-7895 x202. 1061 New Scotland Road, Albany.

SPRING ENRICHMENT 2016

God always knocks on the doors of our hearts. Wednesday – Friday, May 18-20, 2016 at the College of Saint Rose, Albany. Saturday, May 21 at Bishop Maginn High School, Albany; St. Henry’s Church, Averill Park; St. Francis deSales School, Herkimer; St Mary’s Parish Center, Oneonta; Our Lady of the Annunciation, Queensbury. Brochure will be in the March 10th issue of The Evangelist. For the latest information go to www.rcda.org/springenrichment.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNGER

Tired of the winter cold? Heat up your marriage on the next Marriage Encounter weekend March 11-13. Call 518-279-3243 or visit www.albanyme.org for information.

Like the parish Facebook page! See what is happening in our parishes, get some faithful inspiration and stay connected! Check out facebook.com/SMSandSGA