



Pray for

The safety of our service men and women working as peacekeepers in today's trying times and for all who are ill, especially Lindsey Layn, Linda Bunn, Richard Barra, Mary McManus, Virginia Wolf, Carlita La Porte, Joel Rivera, Ginger Stearns, Betty Ferraro, Joseph Duprey, Charlotte Swain, Marilyn Morris, Mary Doherty, Ann-Marie Ford, David Philipsen, Katherine Bryant, Gloria Peduto, Rene Hendricks, Brendan Holbritter, Rosa Santos and Brian Kilpeck (son of Wanda Murray).

SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS

Week of December 2, 2018

Sat 4:00 PM For the People
Sun 11:00 AM Deacon Gary Griffin 3rd Anniversary by Jeannine Griffin & family
Wed 9:00 AM For the People
Thurs 9:00AM For the People
Fri. 1-3 PM Adoration
Fri. 7:00 PM Vigil of the Immaculate Conception
Sat 4:00 PM For the People
Sun 11:00 AM Gilbert Rossa by the Depatie Family

Parish Support

Offering for the weekend of November 25, 2018
(Our Goal is \$1,250.00 each week)

Sunday Collection

Loose	\$177.00
Envelopes	\$875.00
Total	\$1052.60



Ministry Schedule

<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
12/01 Marge Munger	Diane Benware
12/02 Jeannine Griffin	Terry Zimmer
12/08 Bob Rojecki	Joe Flynn
12/09 Sally Foster	Wanda Murray
<u>Gift Bearers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
12/01 L. Bertrand Family	David Bertrand
12/02 S. Ouelette Family	N. Depatie & M. Harding
12/08 E. Parmelee & S. Munger	Jordan Bertrand
12/09 R. Doty Family	Ashlynn & Olivia Depatie



Collection Counters

12/02 Tina Wiles & Glenda Gearwar
 12/09 Mike Frankiewicz & Carol Bertrand
 12/16 Donna Swington & Paula Bizon



St. Mary's Cemetery

Location: RT 73 E. Forest Dale Rd, Brandon
 Contact Information - Please call St. Mary's Rectory. The cemetery is closed for the winter.

PARISH WEBSITE

Please visit our parish website: www.saintmaryagnes.org for updates, news, activities, schedules of liturgical ministries and various resources to help you. For suggestions on our website, send your ideas to: gale@ottercreekmedia.com.

Office is open on Wednesday

10:00 am—3:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Parish Hall Library— by appointment.

Please call Emilie at 458-7962

2nd Collection for weekends in Dec.:

12/09 Retirement Fund for Religious

12/16 Utility Fund (Goal \$500)

Dodge House: Update: We are collecting items for the Dodge House in Rutland. We are not collecting clothing except for socks, gloves, hats and warm thermals. We are also collecting personal care items such as razors, shaving cream, shampoo and soap. Other items needed are umbrellas and hand knit/crotched blankets. Boxes are in the back of the church until Dec. 15th. Thank you.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be a Vigil Mass Friday, December 7th, at 7:00 PM at Our Lady of Good Help and a 9:00 AM Mass on Saturday, December 8th, at St. Alphonsus.

Pot Luck Supper: We will be having a pot luck supper after the 4PM Mass on Saturday, December 15th. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church. Please sign up to bring a dish. This is a free meal to get together for the holidays. Hope to see many there!

Advent Appeal 2018: Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in supporting the Annual Advent Appeal. The "Season of Giving" has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. With your help, we can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge. Help people like Grace and John keep the electricity and heat on. Grace, John and their three children were struggling to keep the utilities on as John's hours at work had been reduced and they faced unexpected medical bills. We helped them avoid the disconnection of their utilities and provided food cards for the family. Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, your gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donate, please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 or give online at www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal

Diocesan News: Taking the Time for Advent: Quite naturally, when we think of Advent, Christmas isn't far behind in our minds. Somehow though, with Christmas on our minds, the time of Advent becomes obscured. Instead of a "period of devout and expectant delight" as one Church document describes Advent, we find the endless to-do lists: Christmas shopping, Christmas card writing, prepping for meals, Christmas decorating. Advent is indeed a time of preparation for Christmas, but I'd like to propose another way of thinking about Advent, and it is simply this: At the center of Advent is the theme of time. As a season of preparation for Christmas, Advent gives us an opportunity to look back in time — at the coming of God in the flesh into the world. Observing the Nativity of the Lord at Christmas is an ancient custom in the Church, and the Nativity forms one of the two hinges of the liturgical year. Just as we need to prepare for our own celebration of Christmas, we also need to spend time spiritually preparing to celebrate and remember the birth of Our Lord. Advent gives us that time. The latter part of Advent, especially, focuses on this theme of looking back in time in preparation to celebrate the first coming of Jesus. Much of Advent, however, gives us the opportunity to look forward in time — to the glorious coming of Christ at the end of time. Thinking about the end times can be a frightening idea, and Advent Scripture even alludes to this fear: "People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world ..." (Lk 21:26). But this doesn't have to be a fearful time. In fact, Advent calls us to be ready for the Second Coming of Christ and to wait with joyful anticipation! Why is this? Because of what ultimately is promised in the Second Coming: "When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads, because your redemption is at hand!" (Lk 21:28). In the midst of the calamity that is foretold, there is a message of hope and redemption. Finally, Advent calls us to take the time to look at the present and seek Christ in our lives today. Advent offers us a time to renew our relationship with Christ today, especially through the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Do we see Christ in those in need? Sometimes, we don't even need to look further than our own families. So, let us take the time for Advent. Let us take the time to thank God for the gift of Himself in the child Jesus. Let us take the time to acknowledge continually the presence of God in our lives today. Let us take the time to prepare ourselves for the second coming or, more personally, take the time to prepare to meet Christ at the end of our own earthly existence. If we take the time to enter into the opportunity Advent gives us to look at time past, present and future, then we will be ready to receive Christ into our lives, not only at Christmastime, but all the time. — *Josh Perry, Director of the Office of Worship*

Reflections for the Week

Anticipation. The readings on this first Sunday of Advent invite us to the feeling of anticipation. When I was a child the weeks before Christmas were a time of anticipation. The Christmas specials on TV were broadcast once a year and we were careful to not miss Rudolph or the Grinch. My siblings and I would pass around the Sears catalog that became well worn as we prepared our letters to Santa. The kitchen would be filled with the rich smells of baking Christmas cookies. Each year my mother would gently remind us of the true meaning of Advent by inviting us to create a "Spiritual Crib for Baby Jesus." On the first Sunday of Advent she gathered the four of us around the table to each create our poster. We selected a nativity scene from a collection of last year's Christmas card and generated a list of everything Baby Jesus would need such as a warm blanket and soft hay. Then next to each of the items for the crib we would commit to acts of kindness, service and generosity to prepare our spirits for the arrival of Baby Jesus. Focusing on building our Spiritual Crib for Baby Jesus helped us keep the true meaning of Advent. The secular preparations for Christmas were still fun, but had the context of the birth of Jesus. And although sometimes we got competitive in our preparations, we always supported each other and often worked together on our acts of service. My mother created just the right balance for her children. In today's gospel from Luke Jesus reminds us how easy it is to get lost in the busy activities of December. He warns us: *Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.* Without prayer and embracing intentional stillness in the season of Advent it is so easy to feel as if the weeks before Christmas are racing by at a breathless pace. When I hear Paul's words to the Thessalonians, I am reminded of my mother inviting me to create a Spiritual Crib for Baby Jesus: *Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.* Now as an adult I wonder how I can, this Advent season, build a Spiritual Crib for Baby Jesus. I pray for the strength to listen to those I do not want hear, to reorder my priorities to allow myself to be present to those who need some attention, to focus on serving another rather than simply ticking one more item off my to-do list, to act for justice in our community and in our world. *Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.* onlineministries.creighton.edu

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Readings for the Week of December 2, 2018

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Lk 21:25-28

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6