



**SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Week of December 3, 2017**

<b>Sat</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	All Souls
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Pauline McDuff by McDuff and Griffin Families
<b>Mon</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Giselle Depatie by Thomas and Donna Depatie
<b>Wed</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	David Bryant by Marietta Sheehan
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Vigil of the Immaculate Conception TheranWilliams by Anonymous
<b>Fri</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Pierre Bilodeau by Paul Quesnel
<b>Sat</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	David Driscoll Jr. by Laura Driscoll
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Alice Quesnel by Cram & Quesnel Families

**Parish Support**

**Offering for the weekend of November 26, 2017**  
**(Our Goal is \$1,800.00 each week)**

**Sunday Collection**

<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$150.45</b>
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$895.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1045.45</b>

*The Parish of St. Mary /St Agnes depends mainly on each parishioner's contribution of his or her fair share. A suggested minimum contribution for each working adult is one hour's wage per week. Many thanks to those who have contributed to the collection this past week. Your gifts are really essential to our parish. Please, let us continue supporting our parish!*

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

**Readings for the Week of November 26, 2017**

- Sunday:** Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9  
**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:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
**Next Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



*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, Francine Leary, 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, and Brendan Holbriiter.*

**Ministry Schedule**



<b><u>Eucharistic Ministers</u></b>	<b><u>Lectors</u></b>
12/02 Joe Flynn	Joe Flynn
12/03 Jeannine Griffin	CCD Students
12/09 Marge Munger	Marge Munger
12/10 Robert Rojecki	Laura O'Brien
<b><u>Gift Bearers</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Servers</u></b>
12/02 L. Bertrand Family	Jordan Bertrand
12/03 CCD Students	B. Thornton & B. Stanley
12/09 Scott & Marge Munger	Brooke Bertrand
12/10 Russell Doty Family	ADepatie & M.Harding

**Collection Counters**



12/03 Carolyn Walker & Bob Gearwar
12/10 Mike Frankiewicz & Carol Bertrand
12/17 Donna Swingleton & Carolyn Walker



**St. Mary's Cemetery**

Location: RT 73 E. Forest Dale Rd, Brandon Contact Information - Please call St. Mary's Rectory.

**PARISH WEBSITE**

Please visit our parish website: [www.saintmaryagnes.org](http://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](mailto:gale@ottercreekmedia.com).

**Reminders !**

St. Mary's Church is officially named Our Lady of Good Help. If you are writing out a check, please write Our Lady of Good Help or O.L.G.H. Thank you!

**Office is open on Wednesday**  
**10:00 am—3:00 pm**  
**Thursday 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**2nd Collection for weekends in Dec.:**

- 12/03 Restoration Fund**  
**12/10 Retirement Fund for Religious**  
**12/17 Utility Fund**

**Contribution Envelopes and Calendars for 2018** will be available for pick-up starting this weekend in the church after mass. Please remember to get yours or sign up for one if you are not already on the list. Thank you

**Church Cleaning:** Reminder that those who can, you are invited to help clean the church hall this Sat., Dec 2, starting at 9:00 a.m. I have to take care of recycling first, then will be there. Bringing coffee and breakfast bread to share. Gloves and buckets and cleaning rags probably a good idea too! See you then! Diane

**December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is a Holy Day of Obligation  
 Vigil Mass at 7 PM on Thursday, December 7  
 and Mass at 9 AM on Friday, December 8

**Parish Potluck Dinner:** On Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding our second annual Christmas potluck dinner for all parishioners at the Church Hall following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of the Church for those who are able to bring a dish to share (appetizer, main dish, dessert). Any questions, contact Wanda Murray at 247-6937 or e-mail at [wandamurray66@comcast.net](mailto:wandamurray66@comcast.net). Please join us for a delicious meal while celebrating Christmas together as a church family!

**Thank you** for your generosity in our last raffle. We made \$410.00 on raffle tickets. 50/50 netted \$85.50 for an overall total of \$495.50. Winners were:

- Lilac Inn— Mike Mahoney  
 Syrup— Jeanne Lemarre  
 Flash Bag by Carr's Gift Shop— Bob Long  
 BHOP certificate— Dean Cerutti  
 50/50—Bob Long

**Reminder: Memorial Poinsettias for Christmas** may be ordered at Carr's Florist and Gifts.

**Diocesan News: Taking Time for Advent**

Quite naturally, when we think of Advent — Christmas isn't far behind in our minds. 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. Advent is indeed a time of preparation for Christmas, giving us an opportunity to look back in time — at the coming of God in the flesh into the world. Much of Advent, however, gives us the opportunity to look forward in time — to the glorious coming of Christ at the end of time. And all of Advent gives us the opportunity to look at the present moment in time — how God is at work in the world today. Through all this, Advent calls us to take the time to look at the past . . . the present . . . and the future. Do we take the time to thank God for the gift of Himself in the child Jesus? Do we take the time to continually acknowledge the presence of God in our lives today? Do we take the time to prepare ourselves for the second coming or, more personally, do we 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 Christmas time, but all the time. — *Josh Perry, Director of Liturgy and Worship for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington*  
 Josh will offer a presentation called "Taking the Time for Advent" at 7:30 pm on December 5 in the Holy Family/St. Lawrence Parish Center.

**Advent Appeal – 2017** 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. 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](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal).

**Reflections for the week**

Happy New Year! Here we are, eleven months into the calendar year, five months into the fiscal year, about twelve weeks into the academic year — and our church has chosen this Sunday, about four weeks before our actual New Year, to be the start of our liturgical year. Would it have been a better idea to begin the church year with the calendar year? I think not. It is really a great idea that our liturgical year transcends and invades all those other cycles. That interruption reminds us — sharply — that the Christian community lives out time in a wholly different framework. Just as we have taught the whole world to mark all planetary history with Christ at the center, and all other time before and after him; and, so we insist on placing our "church year" slightly out of sync with the secular calendar year. The birth of Jesus Messiah centers our sense of time. Further, we begin the church year by focusing on our need for God, which God began to be address in a whole new way with the Incarnation. Today's Scripture readings help us contemplate our need for God. The first reading from the scroll of Isaiah was written by the one we have learned to call Third Isaiah, because he writes in what appears to be a third sage in the scroll, the time *after* the return of the Judeans from the Babylonian Exile but *before* they rebuilt the temple. The reading is a lament. The times were lamentable. Having been liberated from one empire, they are now laboring under the power of yet another empire, the Persians. Homecoming is not turning out to be all they had been hoping for. They feel their need for knowing the power of God in their collective life more than ever. Like a child calling for a parent, they address God, once again, as Father. They cry out, in effect, "Tear open the sky! Come and help us. Even our so-called 'good deeds' are not really what we intend. We are like clay trying to shape itself into a vessel. No. You are the potter. Come and shape us into what you want us to become. Father, we still need your help." The Gospel writer, Mark, when he begins narrating the public life of Jesus, writes that "the heavens were being torn open." He was not giving a weather report. He was alluding to Isaiah's lament and implying that the coming of Jesus, accompanied by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, some five centuries after Isaiah's writing, is the surprising response to that ancient prayer. When we now read Isaiah in our day, we recognize that we have been baptized into his body in the power of that same spirit, but we also know that we are unfinished work. The clay threatens to harden prematurely, and we need help to become more responsive to the potter's work, the Father's ongoing shaping of our lives. Later in his Gospel — today's reading — Mark, in his rendition of Jesus' speech on Mount Olivet, chooses to end it with that perfect little parable about the ultimate time frame of our lives. We do find ourselves like servants left behind to carry out tasks while the Master of the household is apparently absent. The message is that we are not expected simply to do a job, but to do it mindfully — awake, and alert to the reality that the power to do anything comes from the Master himself. This time of year in the northern hemisphere, when much around us is dying or dead and we feel cold and hungry, and our laboring is often clumsy — this is a good time to pray the prayer of the psalmist: *Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we onlineministries.creighton.edu*