



SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS
Week of February 25, 2018

Sat	4:00 PM	Gracia Seguin by Anita Bilodeau
Sun	10:00 AM	Germain Bilodeau by Randy & Suzanne Denis
Mon	9:00 AM	No Mass
Wed	9:00 AM	No Mass
Thurs	9:00 AM	Jean Foster by Warren Foster
Fri	1-3 PM	Adoration
Sat	4:00 PM	Unice Flynn by Paul Quesnel
Sun	10:00 AM	Raymond Larose by Diane Benware

Parish Support

Offering for the weekend of **February 18, 2018**
 (Our Goal is \$1,800.00 each week)

Sunday Collection

Loose	\$230.30
Envelopes	\$601.00
Total	\$801.30
Catholic Charities	\$127.00

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 February 25, 2018

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



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, Brendan Holbritter, Rosa Santos and Jean Pfenning.

Ministry Schedule



Eucharistic Ministers

02/24 Laurie Bertrand
 02/25 Guy Beck
 03/03 Joe Flynn
 03/04 Charlotte Frankiewicz

Gift Bearers

02/24
 02/25 Glenda & Bob Gearwar
 03/03 E.Parmalee & S.Munger
 03/04 CCD Students

Lectors

Laurie Bertrand
 Bernie Carr
 Joe Flynn
 CCD Students

Altar Servers

Brooke Bertrand
 N. & O. Depatie
 David Bertrand
 B. Thornton & B. Stanley

Collection Counters



02/18 Donna Swington & Kathryn Bryant
 02/25 Tina Wiles & Glenda Gearwar
 03/04 Bob Gearwar & Kathryn Bryant



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 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.

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 Feb./Mar.:

02/25 Utility Fund

03/04 Restoration Fund

03/11 Catholic Relief Services

Annual Financial Contribution Statements for 2017 taxes that were requested are available on the back table.

Congratulations to **Charlotte and Mike Frankiewicz** as they celebrate their **50th Wedding Anniversary** this year!

Welcome Back Fr. Vincent!

Saturday Night Dinner : March 10th at 5PM. Baked stuffed chicken/Mashed potatoes/Corn/Cole Slaw/Rolls/Dessert. \$8.00 per person/ 6-12 yrs. \$5.00/ Under 5 Free. Tickets are available before and after Mass on Saturdays and Sundays.

CRS RICEBOWL - SECOND WEEK OF LENT: ENCOUNTER CESIA We encounter Cesia in Nicaragua, where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, young people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How can you work to improve the lives of others this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more. If you haven't already done so, please pick up a rice bowl from the back tables. Thank you.

Lenten Retreat Day for anyone who works for or ministers in the parish including: Administrative Assistants, bookkeepers, religious education leaders, maintenance personnel, music Directors, parish volunteers and other parish staff. **March 14** at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Ludlow or **March 21** at St. Jude Parish, Hinesburg. **9:30 AM to 3:00 PM**. There is no charge. To register or for more information contact Lori Daudelin: ldaudelin@vermontcatholic.org or 802-846-5813

Super Bingo Fundraiser for Camp Ta Kum Ta, a camp for children with cancer, be given by South Burlington Knights of Columbus on Sunday, April 8 in the Hotel Burlington. Tickets go on sale beginning February 16. Call 658-0763 for details or tickets.

Diocesan News: Taking the Time to Connect as a Couple In his document "The Joy of Love," Pope Francis focuses on the challenging realities of family life and considers how we can answer the call to holiness through the family. In one section, Pope Francis talks about how difficult it can be for couples to grow in a strong relationship with one another. He mentions that one of the challenges couples face is a lack of quality time together. One of his practical suggestions for couples, particularly young couples, is to intentionally plan free time together. Becky and Patrick Walsh, parishioners of St. Francis Xavier in Winooski, live in Essex with their two daughters and both work full time. They talked with us about how important planning free time together is for their marriage and how they've prioritized this over the years. While their lives have changed significantly from their marriage during graduate school in Michigan and spontaneous adventures that didn't require finding a babysitter, to life in Vermont with an infant and toddler and now a daughter swiftly approaching her pre-teen years, what hasn't changed is the enjoyment they find in each other's company and the importance they place on making sure they get this quality time together. Talking about a recent trip to Jeffersonville, Becky explains, "Twenty minutes from home was all we needed to again step out of the everyday and reconnect in a way that is refreshing to us as a couple and allows us to be prepared to dive back into the everyday work life of jobs and kids." To hear more about Becky and Patrick's experience planning free time together and what tips and tricks have worked for them, check out the second video in the Year of the Family video series at [facebook.com/dioburlington/videos](https://www.facebook.com/dioburlington/videos). To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: vermontcatholic.org/calendar

Reflections for the week

As I reflected on today's readings, the stories commonly known as the Testing of Abraham and from the Gospel of Mark the Transfiguration of Jesus, I was very curious about what would surface and what I could possibly have to share about these well know scriptures. As tends to happen, I was surprised. First I reflected how Abraham's story has been a troubling story for prayer recently for some on retreat. People question how God could put Isaac through that, let alone Abraham and does God really test us? Sometimes the conversation comes around to me asking "What if God isn't testing Abraham because God needs to know of his devotion but because Abraham needs to understand how devoted he (Abraham) is to God?" Could it be the testing was for Abraham? Then I reflected on the Transfiguration and a similar idea occurred to me. Sure, Jesus' transfiguration was witnessed by the disciples but I wonder if Jesus somehow "needed" this validation, the affirmation from God to bolster his courage for what was to come? Some may think this idea is crazy, I don't know. But if Jesus was fully human, could he not have had doubts and questions along the way? I think so. How wonderful of the Father to reach out and affirm him. Next, I was reminded how important it is for us to share our faith stories with one another. I often tell participants on a group retreat that sometimes we need to share our stories for ourselves. We need to hear ourselves and we need others to validate our experiences of God. Other times though, others may need to hear our experiences to see God from a different perspective or catch a different image of God. What a gift it is to share our experiences and images of who God is. It can only help in our understanding of the mystery that is the Divine. Suddenly my reflection was about the invitation and grace of seeing different perspectives. Lastly, I realized that this idea of sharing stories was in contradiction to the scripture when Jesus "charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone. . . ." That caught my attention and I started to pause until I read on ". . . except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead." There is an implication here that the Resurrection would give/does give meaning to the stories. The Resurrection would add to the depth and understanding of the stories. I think that was true then, and it is true now. So my questions for reflection today are: When have we found fruit in sharing our stories with another or listening to the stories on another? How does the Resurrection give meaning or invite a different perspective to our life stories?
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