



SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS
Week of December 24, 2017

Sat	4:00 PM	Eva Ryder by Elizabeth Howland
Sun	10:00 AM	Pro Populo
Sun	4:00 PM	Marthe Valcour by Angela & Dean
Sun	5:15 PM	Pro Populo
Sun	7:00 PM	Pro Populo
Mon	10:00 AM	Pro Populo
Wed	9:00 AM	Ina Ricard by Art & Jean Pfenning
Thurs	9:00 AM	Rhody Jefferson Dawney by Fran & Sally Geoffrey
Fri	9:00 AM	Guy Chicoine by Marilyn Chicoine & Family
Sat	4:00 PM	Francis Keith by Donna Swingleton
Sun	10:00 AM	Gil, Ellie & Mike Kupfer by Laura & Pam

Parish Support

Offering for the weekend of December 17, 2017
(Our Goal is \$1,800.00 each week)

Sunday Collection

Loose	\$248.00
Envelopes	\$766.00
Total	\$1014.00
Utility Fund	\$450.28

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 December 24, 2017

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27

Monday: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18 (698) Pss Prop

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3



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, and Rosa Santos.

Ministry Schedule



Eucharistic Ministers

12/23 Joe Flynn
12/24 Mary Bugnacki
12/24 Robert Rojecki
12/25 Jerry Flint

Gift Bearers

12/23 R. Howland Family
12/24 Thos. Depatie Family
12/25 L. Bertrand Family

Lectors

Tom Giblin
Laurie Bertrand
Katie Murray
Terry Zimmer

Altar Servers

Brooke Bertrand

B.Thornton & B.Stanley

Ashlyn & Olivia Depatie



Collection Counters

12/17 Donna Swingleton & Carolyn Walker
12/24 Glenda Gearwar & Tina Wiles
12/31 Helen Williams & Bob Gearwar



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 Dec./Jan.:

12/25 Christmas Offering

01/01 Solemnity of Mary

01/08 Restoration Fund

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

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Vigil Of Christmas (Christmas Eve)
4:00 PM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)
5:15 PM at St. Agnes (Leicester)
7:00 PM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)

Christmas Day

10:00 AM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)

New Year's Mass Schedule:

New Year's Eve
7:00 PM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)
New Year's Day
10:00 AM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)

I wish you all a very blessed and merry Christmas! Father Vincent

Synod Preparation - Regional Listening Sessions with Bishop

Coyne: As a part of our preparation for the Diocesan Synod, Bishop Coyne will be holding three regional listening sessions in January. These will be similar in format to the parish listening sessions, but with the bishop present to hear people's input.

Saturday, January 6, 10:00-11:30 am, Sacred Heart-St. Francis de Sales Parish, Bennington

Saturday, January 6, 2:00-3:30 pm, Mount St. Joseph Academy, Rutland

Saturday, January 13, 2:00-3:30 pm, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Burlington

All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

High School Youth Conference in Lowell, Massachusetts on July 13-15, 2018. A Pre-registration form and \$50 deposit are **due by Jan. 9, 2018**. The total cost of the conference is \$235. It is open to all high school teens, including current 8th graders who will enter 9th grade next fall. See poster and sign-up sheet on back table.

Diocesan News: Welcome and Merry Christmas: If you are reading this Christmas message, it is probably because you came to Christmas Mass and picked up a parish bulletin or a copy of *The Inland See*. I am pleased that you did so — not that you picked up a copy of this message but that you came to Mass. Many of you are regular Mass goers. Some of you come occasionally. Some come once or twice a year on the major holidays of Christmas or Easter. For others, this may be the first time you have been in a church for years or maybe even for the first time. To all of you, I say, "Welcome and merry Christmas!" Whatever your relationship with the Church may be, I invite you to consider how the moment of the Incarnation — God becoming man in Jesus Christ — has graced all of creation with the saving power of God. Throughout the course of the Church's history, great saints and poets have authored heartfelt praise to the mystery of the Incarnation in which they tried to capture what it meant that God, the Supreme Creator of all that is, became one like us. Writing in the fourth century, St. Gregory Nazianzen came close to offering a perfect blend of the poetic and the theological when he wrote: "The very Son of God, older than the ages, the invisible, the incomprehensible, the incorporeal, the beginning of beginning, the light of light, the fountain of life and immortality, the image of the archetype, the immovable seal, the perfect likeness, the definition and word of the Father: He it is who comes ... to take to himself all that is human, except for sin. ... He who makes rich is made poor; He takes on the poverty of my flesh, that I may gain the riches of His divinity. He who is full is made empty; He is emptied for a brief space of His glory, that I may share in His fullness." But, while St. Gregory's words may transport us into the Mystery of the Divine Majesty of God made manifest, the greeting of the angels to the shepherds that we hear proclaimed in the Gospel of Luke lead us deeply into Christ's humanity: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." In this Christmas celebration, we recall the mystery of Christ, true God and true man, and offer thanksgiving that "God so loved the world, that He gave us His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life." Every time we celebrate the Mass we encounter the same Christ present among us in the Church gathered, in the Word proclaimed and in the Sacrament of the Eucharist — and what a Christmas gift that is! The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne, Bishop of Burlington

Reflections for the week

"My life flashed before my eyes!" "That lecture lasted forever!" "I'm forty already!?" Where did the time go?" We've all had these time warping experiences where our *perception* of time's passage failed to fit the *reality* of time's passage. A certain Time Lord once noted that, "People assume that time is a strict progression of cause to effect, but *actually* from a non-linear, non-subjective viewpoint - it's more like a big ball of wibbly-wobbly, time-y-wimey... stuff." The Incarnation, God taking on flesh and so entering into Creation, demonstrates how "wibbly-wobbly" time can appear. King David contemplates building a temple for God, but God reminds David of his humble beginnings as a shepherd in the pasture, caring for his flock. It was God who elevated David to care for the people of Israel. All that David has come from God. So David will not build a house for God. Instead, God will "fix a place for my people Israel" and raise up from the house of David a heir: "I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me." Mary fulfills the prophecy with her yes, "May it be done to me according to your word" and so the Incarnation begins.... or so we like to believe. But God's entering into Creation had already begun. It was *always* part of the Divine Plan. God is love and the lover always wants to be with the beloved. Thus, God's desire to be *with* us goes back to the beginning of Creation and, transcending time, stretches into the far distant future. We see this desire manifested when we recognize God in Scripture, the Eucharist, Creation and one another. The Incarnation has occurred, is occurring, and continues to occur. Time is too wibbly-wobbly to simply constrain God's enfleshment to one specific time and place. In another reflection of time's "wibbly-wobbly" nature, today is the last day of Advent, Christmas Eve, and also (beginning with the vigil Mass) the first day of Christmas time. How will we occupy those few hours in between these two liturgical seasons? Will we spend our time obsessing over last minute Christmas shopping, preparing the Christmas feast or watching another TV Christmas special? Or can we find time to recognize how God is incarnate in our lives right now?

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