



SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS

Week of December 31, 2017

Sat 4:00 PM Francis Keith by Donna Swington
Sun 10:00 AM Gil, Ellie & Mike Kupfer by Laura & Pam
Sun 7:00 PM Pro Populo
Mon 10:00 AM Marcus Carr Jr. by the Carr Family
Wed 9:00 AM Marian DiFebo by Anonymous
Thurs 9:00 AM Gene Scheck by Anonymous
Fri 1-3 PM Adoration
Sat 4:00 PM Alice Quesnel by Cram Family
Sun 10:00 AM Jeanette George by Fred and Terry Zimmer

Parish Support

**Offering for the weekend of December 24, 2017
 (Our Goal is \$1,800.00 each week)**

Sunday Collection

Loose	\$148.22
Envelopes	\$661.00
Total	\$809.22

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 31, 2017

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

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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 Holbriiter, and Rosa Santos.

Ministry Schedule



<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
12/30 Marge Munger	Laurie Bertrand
12/31 Charlotte Frankiewicz	Bernie Carr
01/06 Diane Benware	Diane Benware
01/07 Charlotte Frankiewicz	CCD Students
<u>Gift Bearers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
12/30 Scott & Marge Munger	Jordan Bertrand
12/31 Glenda & Bob Gearwar	A.Hayes&M.Harding
01/06 E. Parmalee & S.Munger	Jordan Bertrand
01/07 CCD Students	Ashlyn& Olivia Depatie

Collection Counters



12/31 Helen Williams & Bob Gearwar
 01/07 Mike Frankiewicz & Carol Bertrand
 01/14 Tina Wiles & Glenda 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 Jan.:

01/01 Solemnity of Mary

01/14 Restoration Fund

01/21 Utility 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

Happy New Year to All of you! 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.

Memorial Poinsettias for 2017: Marcus Carr Jr., Faith Rideout, Neil Rideout, The Carr and Kennedy Families, The Hanson and Rideout Families, Louis Denis and Norma Norton, Joe Kennedy, Deacon Gary Griffin, Philip and Marjorie LaPorte, Philip & Gladys LaPorte, Joseph & Grace Sherlock, George & Margaret Nicklaw, Theron & Peg Williams and Judy Williams, Lee & Leona Stanley, Edward & Agnes Groeger, Deacon Gary Griffin, Gaston & Pauline McDuff, Glendon&Irene Griffin, The Brutkoski family, The Buzzell family, Dan Bugnacki ,In memory of my partner Russell G. McAdams III, In memory of my son Francis E. Roberts III, In memory of Tisa Porior, Bresnahan family (Carole & Bill Shouldice) Shouldice family(Carole & Bill Shouldice), The Kupfer & DesjaddonFamilies, Viola & Alfred Disorda, Anna & Joseph Anair, Helena Branchaud, Mike Keith, John Swington, Barbara Keith Foley, Francis & Frances Keith, Francis & Mildred Leary, Francis & Mildred Leary, John Swington, Mary & Georger Swington, Terri Weeden, John & Mary Kerr

Diocesan News: Year of the Family: THE JOY OF LOVE In 1994, Pope John Paul II, now St. John Paul, announced a Year of the Family with a particular call to contemplate the life of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. He said that the "Holy Family is the beginning of countless other holy families." Throughout his papacy, St. John Paul often spoke of the many attacks on the family institution itself — poverty, migration, cultural and societal changes, etc. — and how urgent it was to rediscover the value of the family and to help it in every way to be as God wanted it to be. He said, "The family is a human and divine reality that should be defended and promoted as a fundamental social good." This coming year, the Diocese of Burlington will celebrate our own Year of the Family with a particular focus on Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the family, "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love"). The exhortation clearly shows how the teaching of St. John Paul has proven more than prophetic. All of the challenges to family life of which he spoke are still present to us today and in some instances, even worse now. At the same time, we face new challenges such as the redefinition of marriage itself, the isolating and alienating tendencies of digital culture and the opioid crisis in America. In the "Joy of Love," Pope Francis unambiguously confronts these challenges while offering a hopeful message that challenges us to be courageous believers who strive to live as holy families and encourage the healthy lives of families in our culture. Like last year's Year of Creation, this Year of the Family offers us a year to ponder the Church's teaching on the family and embrace it ourselves. "The most beautiful thing that God made, the Bible says, was the family. He created man and woman, and He gave them everything. He gave them the world! Grow, multiply, cultivate the Earth, make it produce, make it grow. He presented to a family all of the love that He made in this marvelous creation. ... All of the love that God has in Himself, all of the beauty that God has in Himself, all of the truth that God has in Himself, He gives to the family. And a family is truly a family when it is able to open its arms and receive all of this love." — *Pope Francis at the World Day of Families in Philadelphia, 2015* The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne., Bishop of Burlington

Reflections for the week

As 2017 draws to a close, many of us are putting the finishing touches on some New Year's resolutions. In the readings for today, Abraham is an example of a man of faith. He can assist us in the decisions we make about how to live more faithfully in 2018. The writer to the Hebrews says that Abraham believed God's promise that he would have an heir "for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy." Notice what the Genesis and Hebrews readings do not say - that he knew how God was going to fulfill his promise. It is one thing to believe that someone is trustworthy and will do what they say but it is another matter altogether to know how they are going to do it. In fact, Abraham seems to know how God is *not* going to do it. He is not going to give him a son from his wife, Sarah. So, he has certain suggestions for how God can pull it off. Proposal A is that he adopt one of his servants, Eliezer. This was not an uncommon way to obtain an heir and Eliezer must have been a loyal, noble person because Abraham made him the steward of his house. By the way, his "house" is not like anything we see today. Once Abraham had to gather the fighting men of his house to go and rescue his nephew, Lot, who had been taken captive. His fighting men numbered 318. Abraham was a wealthy man with a huge household and Eliezer was his right hand man. So, Proposal A isn't really a bad idea, from Abraham's standpoint. However, God says No, "your own issue shall be your heir." He knew God could not give him this heir through Sarah but at least now he knew that God would fulfill his promise through his own son and not an adopted servant. Abraham believed God. That does not stop Abraham from offering Proposal B. Our Genesis reading for today comes from the 15th and 21st chapters of Genesis. In between those chapters you can read about Abraham's second proposal. Abraham has a son by one of his slaves. Since it is his own issue, Abraham just knows that God will fulfill his promise through this particular son. Again, God says No; you will have a son through your wife, Sarah. At this, Abraham laughs in God's face. Sarah also laughs. God, you made me a promise and we believe you. However, this way of fulfilling your promise is impossible. Sarah cannot have children. When Sarah becomes pregnant and has a son, Abraham and Sarah are so blown away by it that they remember how they laughed at the prospect and name their son Isaac which means "he who laughs." Every time they see Laughing Boy they remember that they laughed at God's promise right up until the day when they laughed for joy at this bouncing baby boy. What can Abraham teach us who want to live by faith in 2018? On more than one occasion I have believed God's words but then decided to help God out by telling him how to fulfill them. We can learn an important lesson from Abraham: trust God and wait for him to do amazing things. He may fulfill his promise through some normal, natural way. On the other hand, he may fulfill it in a way that is unimaginable. Abraham trusted God from the beginning but had to learn how to stop telling God how to be God. Perhaps in 2018 we, too, will learn that God is not only trustworthy but that his ways are not our ways. May the God who does miracles grant us a Happy New Year. onlineministries.creighton.edu