



SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS

Week of September 17, 2017

Sat 4:00 PM Carl Frankiewicz by M&C. Frankiewicz
Sun 8:00 AM St. Agnes— Gil, Ellie & Mike Kupfer by Laura & Pam
Sun 10:00 AM Pro Populo
Mon 9:00 AM No Mass
Wed 9:00 AM Laura MacLachlan by M. MacLachlan
Thurs 9:00 AM Yvonne Carr by F. Rideout, C. Carr
Fri 9:00 AM Ed Walker by Carol Bertrand
Sat 4:00 PM Edna & Edward Mahar by K. Mahar
Sun 8:00 AM St. Agnes— Pro Populo
Sun 10:00 AM Mark & Emily Griffin's 4th Wedding Anniversary by Jeanine Griffin

Parish Support

Offering for the weekend of September 10, 2017
(Our Goal is \$1,800.00 each week)

Sunday Collection

Loose	\$341.00
Envelopes	\$885.00
Total	\$1,226.00
VT Catholic Magazine	\$282.32

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 September 17, 2017

Sunday: Sir 27:30—28:7/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

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, Patricia Ward, 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



<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
9/16 Joe Flynn	Joe Whalen
9/17 Jeannine Griffin	Katie Murray
9/23 Jerry Flint	Laurie Bertrand
9/24 C. Frankiewicz	Bernie Carr
<u>Gift Bearers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
09/16 Richard Howland Family	Brooke Bertrand
09/17 T. Depatie Family	B. Thornton & B. Stanley
09/23 L. Bertrand Family	Jordan Bertrand
09/24 G.&B Gearwar	Ashlyn& Olivia Depatie

Collection Counters



09/17 D. Swingleton & Paula Bizon
 09/24 Glenda Gearwar & Tina Wiles
 10/01 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 Sept./Oct.:

09/17 Utility Fund
09/24 Catholic University
10/01 Restoration Fund

Emergency National Collection to Assist Dioceses Affected by Hurricane Harvey will be on the weekend of 7 & 8 of October.
Surprise Raffle: Sorry for another raffle so quickly. We needed to use these prizes by the end of the year (couldn't be helped). I called this "Surprise Raffle". Prizes are: 1st Prize: Lilac Inn/ I night w/breakfast; 2nd Prize: 1 Gallon Maple Syrup; 3rd Prize: Flash Bag by Carr's Gift Shop 4th Prize: \$20 Gift Certificate-BHOP; Drawing: Sunday, November 26, 2017 after the 10 am mass at St. Mary's; Tickets \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00 ; Special Raffle to start Sunday 9/17.

Harvest Festival: Oct. 1st at 1 pm at Estabrook Field. We will be selling donuts/coffee/hot cider/baked goods made from apples, & pumpkins as breads & cupcakes. If you would like to make something for us to sell bring it to the field between 12 & 1 pm.

October Parish Dinner: Oct. 7th Saturday Night Dinner at 5 pm Baked Stuffed Chicken/Mashed Potatoes/Gr.Beans/Tossed Salad/Desserts and beverage. \$8.00 per person/ 6-12 \$5.00 and Free for 5 & under. Tickets available at the back of the church before and after each mass. Please support your parish.

Parish Council Meeting: There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 7 pm in the rectory.

Social Concerns Meeting: There will be a Social Concerns on Monday, Sept.18th at 6 pm at the rectory. Please attend.

Catechetical Sunday: "The Office of Safe Environment Programs staff wishes to extend a heartfelt **thank you** this Catechetical Sunday to all of the directors of religious education, catechists, aides, youth ministry leaders and other volunteers working in the field of religious education. We sincerely appreciate your efforts to guide our children and young people as they develop their Faith. It is our honor to support your ministry through educational programs, policies, and guidelines which help maintain safe environments for all children and young people."

Diocesan News: **Happy Catechetical Sunday!** On Sunday, September 17th, we recognize and support the religious educators that give their talent and time to educate our children in the Catholic faith. Outside of the home, this is one of the most delicate and important ways in which our children can be formed in Catholicism. However, the job of a catechist is not merely to teach our children facts about God and the Bible. Catechists everywhere strive to invite their students into relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship with Christ is the most important relationship that they, and we, will ever have. As we begin the school year, I encourage you to support your catechists and your parish religious education program in any way that you can. Thank your catechists for their time and effort. As we reflect on the importance of religious education, Catechetical Sunday also provides us with a good opportunity to remember that we can all be catechists, in one way or another. Whether we are a parent, grandparent, son or daughter, neighbor or co-worker, we are called to preach the Good News in our actions and our words. All of us, then, have some opportunity to teach others about Christ! However, the Catechism tells us that "whoever is called 'to teach Christ' must first seek 'the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ'" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 428). In other words, we cannot give what we do not have. We first need to have a relationship with Jesus Christ if we are going to be successful in guiding others to a relationship with Him. Let us take a few moments, then, to consider our relationship with Jesus Christ. Like any strong relationship, our friendship with Jesus requires time, communication and a knowledge of the other. What are some ways, this week, that we can grow in relationship with Jesus? Try something new — take five minutes for silent prayer, attend a daily Mass, read your Bible before bed, etc. Be creative and grow closer to our Lord! In this way, you will be better equipped to help bring others to him. In conclusion, take the time to appreciate your catechists and the important work that they do in your parish. Whether or not you are a catechist in your parish, you have opportunities in your daily life to teach others about our faith.- **Michael Hagan, Coordinator of Religious Education and Catechesis, Diocese of Burl.**

Reflections for the Week:

Today's readings are infused with truths about mercy and forgiveness. God's generous initiatives toward us provide great comfort and assurance: condescending to us, pardoning us, healing us, redeeming our lives, and removing our sins from us "as far as the east is from the west" (Ps. 103). But today's readings also caution us about hazards that threaten our state of blessedness, which are found in our disposition toward others. Sirach speaks candidly about the destructive power of wrath, anger, and vengeance. Few get through this world unscathed by mistreatment or injustice. Caution is advised, as our assessments are not infallible; sometimes we also blame others wrongly. Yet even in the midst of real injustice, we must guard against having the wrong disposition, even as we discern the right response. This is a tall order, particularly when we are still stinging from our wounds. At such a time, it seems like loving your neighbor is asking a bit much! But if having the wrong disposition toward our neighbor creates a barrier to blessedness, it behooves us to figure out how to navigate away from these hazards. So, how do we do that? The readings contain a few suggestions to ponder. Sirach reminds us to "remember your last days" and "death and decay." This advice is not found in modern positive thinking for prosperity! But sober thoughts about death, which is never really far from us, help us contextualize. The importance we attach to all the things we accumulate (or lose) may fade in light of the more enduring reality of the kind of people we are becoming. Justice is better than injustice, to be sure. But isn't suffering from injustice preferable to being the one doing injustice? The Roman philosopher Seneca once said, "Don't stumble on things that are behind you." That is good imagery. Moving on may be hard, but continuing to stumble is hard, too. If we cannot avoid hardship, let's make it work for us! Sirach also reminds us to "think of the commandment" and to "remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults." As we do this, we recognize that we fall short. Alexander Solzhenitsyn once said that the dividing line between good and evil runs inside our own heart. Neither sin nor goodness is ever really that far from us. Caution and respect, coupled with a rule of charity, should govern when we are required to make assessments. Otherwise, this advice to overlook faults is a good idea. Today's gospel reinforces this message of remembering our own need for mercy, while offering another insight to help us. The forgiven debtor somehow could not get his mind around the mercy shown to him. Perhaps he continued to think that he had to earn his way out. He could not comprehend the generous love shown to him, so he continued to live in the false, stingy reality he had known before, oppressing others as he was being oppressed. He needed a transformation in his mind, which did not happen in time to prevent a bad outcome. This cautionary warning draws us to seek a better path while we can. Can we find our way toward forgiveness and mercy, while moving away from anger, bitterness, and vengeance? Do we have faith for such a miracle, which seems contrary to our nature? Then let us ask for this gift. And let us also do our part by taking the steps suggested in today's readings, while praying for one another and seeking mercy even for this fault of ours. onlineministries.creighton.edu