



**SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Week of February 4, 2018**

**Sat 4:00 PM** John Swington by his Family  
**Sun 10:00 AM** Pro Populo  
**Mon 9:00 AM** No Mass  
**Wed 9:00 AM** No Mass  
**Thurs 9:00 AM** No Mass  
**Fri 9:00 AM** No Mass  
**Sat 4:00 PM** Pro Populo  
**Sun 10:00 AM** Gil, Ellie & Mike Kupfer by Laura & Pam

**Parish Support**

**Offering for the weekend of January 28, 2018**  
**(Our Goal is \$1,800.00 each week)**

**Sunday Collection**

<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$193.30</b>
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$685.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$878.30</b>
<b>Catholic Education</b>	<b>\$220.25</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 February 4, 2018**

**Sunday:** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

**Monday:** 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Mk 6:53-56

**Tuesday:** 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday:** 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Mk 7:24-30

**Friday:** 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Mk 8:1-10

**Next Sunday:** Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31—11:1



*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, Rosa Santos and Jean Pfenning.*

**Ministry Schedule**



<b><u>Eucharistic Ministers</u></b>	<b><u>Lectors</u></b>
02/03 Tom Giblin	Tom Giblin
02/04 Charlotte Frankiewicz	CCD Students
02/10 Donna Swington	Diane Benware
02/11 Jeannine Griffin	Guy Beck
<b><u>Gift Bearers</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Servers</u></b>
02/03 E. Parmalee & S.Munger	Brooke Bertrand
02/04 CCD Students	N. Depatie & A. Hayes
02/10 Karen Decker	David Bertrand
02/11 S. Oulette Family	B. Stanley & M. Harding

**Collection Counters**



02/04 Mike Frankiewicz & Carol Bertrand  
 02/11 Helen Williams & Paula Bizon  
 02/18 Donna Swington & 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](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 Feb.:**

**02/04 Restoration Fund**  
**02/11 Church in Latin America**  
**02/14 Vermont Catholic Charities**

**Annual Financial Contribution Statements** for 2017 taxes will be provided upon request. You may sign up at back table after masses or stop by the office, phone, or email if you would like one. Thank you. **Your statements will be available after masses this weekend on the back table.**

**Fr. Vincent will be on vacation from January 22nd to February 22nd.** For emergencies such as funerals, anointing of the sick— Fr. Richard Tinney— Tel: 802-773-7648(Rutland) or our deanery priests Fr. Yvon Royer— 802-334-6810 (Vergennes) or Fr. Luke Austin- 802-388-2943 (Middlebury).

The Parish Office will be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays. There will be no adoration on First Friday of February. Please pray for my safe travels.

**GUIDELINES FOR LENT**

- The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.
- The rule of **fasting** states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength", are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from 18 to 59.
- **Abstinence** refers to the eating of meat. The common estimation of the community is used to determine what falls under the category of meat. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years or older.
- The **substantial** observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation.
- Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended.
- Parents and teachers should see to it that, even those who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence because of age, are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

**The Confirmation class** will be coordinating the **Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl campaign** for our parish this year. Rice bowls will be available after mass next weekend. If you have any further questions regarding the project please go to [www.csricebowl.org](http://www.csricebowl.org).

**Diocesan News: Why Marriage Matters:** 30 Conclusions from the Social Sciences: **Family 1** Marriage increases the likelihood that fathers and mothers have good relationships with their children. **2** Children are most likely to enjoy family stability when they are born into a married family. **3** Children are less likely to thrive in complex households. **4** Cohabitation is not the functional equivalent of marriage. **5** Growing up outside an intact marriage increases the likelihood that children will themselves divorce or become unwed parents. **6** Marriage is a virtually universal human institution. **7** Marriage, and a normative commitment to marriage, foster high-quality relationships between adults, as well as between parents and children **8** Marriage has important biosocial consequences for adults and children. **Economy 9** Divorce and unmarried childbearing increase poverty for both children and mothers, and cohabitation is less likely to alleviate poverty than is marriage. **10** Married couples seem to build more wealth on average than singles or cohabiting couples. **11** Marriage reduces poverty and material hardship for disadvantaged women and their children. **12** Minorities benefit economically from marriage also. **13** Married men earn more money than do single men with similar education and job histories. **14** Parental divorce (or failure to marry) appears to increase children's risk of school failure. **15** Parental divorce reduces the likelihood that children will graduate from college and achieve high-status jobs. **Physical Health and Longevity 16** Children who live with their own two married parents enjoy better physical health, on average, than do children in other family forms. **17** Parental marriage is associated with a sharply lower risk of infant mortality. **18** Marriage is associated with reduced rates of alcohol and substance abuse for both adults and teens. **19** Married people, especially married men, have longer life expectancies than do otherwise similar singles. **20** Marriage is associated with better health and lower rates of injury, illness, and disability for both men and women. **21** Marriage seems to be associated with better health among minorities and the poor. **Mental Health and Emotional Well-being 22** Children whose parents divorce have higher rates of psychological distress and mental illness. **23** Cohabitation is associated with higher levels of psychological problems among children. **24** Family breakdown appears to increase significantly the risk of suicide. **25** Married mothers have lower rates of depression than do single or cohabiting mothers. **Crime and Domestic Violence 26** Boys raised in non-intact families are more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal behavior. **27** Marriage appears to reduce the risk that adults will be either perpetrators or victims of crime. **28** Married women appear to have a lower risk of experiencing domestic violence than do cohabiting or dating women. **29** A child who is not living with his or her own two married parents is at greater risk of child abuse. **30** There is a growing marriage gap between college-educated Americans and less-educated Americans.

**Reflections for the week**

Recently a family in our parish went through a series of tragedies which required them to move. They are a three generation family, including a terminally ill grandmother, an elementary school age child, and the daughter/mother. They did not have the finances to hire somebody to move them, they didn't have a lot of friends who could help them, so they turned to me to see if I could find some help. In this case I turned to the Knights of Columbus and several people volunteered to meet on a Saturday morning and load the moving van. Several days before the day of the move, I started to get sick. On the day of the move I was indeed sick but I couldn't stand the thought of lining up a work crew to help me and then not showing up. Several days later the group needed to do another load and this time they told me to stay home. I think I felt a lot like Simon's mother-in-law in today's gospel. She has been looking forward to Simon and his friends coming. The thought of having the new, dynamic teacher with them excites her. She wants everything to be just right. Hospitality is her thing. But she has a fever and cannot even get out of bed. I know that terrible feeling. All she wants to do is serve her guests and she cannot. What a delight it must have been for Jesus to cure her. In my case the irritation wasn't even the sickness; it was the inability to fulfill my offer of hospitality. You see the servant heart in Simon's mother-in-law; as soon as she realizes she is healed, she begins to serve the group and make them comfortable in her home. We see the heart of a servant in Jesus, too. He spends most of the day healing the sick and they keep coming and coming until after sunset. "The whole town was gathered at the door." Jesus had to be worn out but he kept on serving. When he awoke from sleep the next morning, but before anyone else was up, he needed to get away to pray and he found a deserted place. Simon and the other disciples looked for him and on finding him essentially said, "Jesus, you've made it big. Everyone is looking for you. Now's the time to negotiate that big television contract or get an advance on a book." Jesus will have none of that. Throughout Mark's Gospel Jesus appears to want no one to know who he is. The demons shout out who he is and he tells them to be quiet. Of course, Jesus doesn't need a recommendation from demons but it appears to be more than that. He heals people and then tells them not to tell anyone about it. Most of them go out and tell everyone they can. In today's story, Jesus can stay and make a name for himself but he says that it is time to move on. Why? Jesus is a servant of God. He does not come to make a splash - to impress people - to become well known. He simply wants to proclaim the good news and heal people. How many servants of God have fallen away from their first love because of human adulation which led to pride? They made a name for themselves and true service to others became a thing of the past. They now spend their time marketing themselves. Is it possible to remain a humble servant of God when you are famous? Jesus shows us that it is. He knows who he is. He is not full of himself. He does not forget his mission. Famous or not, may God grant us the grace to remember why we have been sent into the