



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, 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 Brian Kilpeck (son of Wanda Murray).*

**SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS**

**Week of December 9, 2018**

**Sat 4:00 PM** For the People  
**Sun 11:00 AM** Gilbert Rossa by the Depatie Family  
**Wed 9:00 AM** For the People  
**Thurs 9:00AM** For the People  
**Sat 4:00 PM** Noella Bertrand by Kathy Bertrand  
**Sun 11:00 AM** For the People



**Ministry Schedule**

<b><u>Eucharistic Ministers</u></b>	<b><u>Lectors</u></b>
12/08 Bob Rojecki	Joe Flynn
12/09 Sally Foster	Wanda Murray
12/15 Donna Swington	Pike Mitchell
12/16 Jeannine Griffin	Trish Bertino
<b><u>Gift Bearers</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Servers</u></b>
12/08 E. Parmelee & S. Munger	Jordan Bertrand
12/09 R. Doty Family	Ashlynn & Olivia Depatie
12/15 T. Howland Family	Brooke Bertrand
12/16 T. Depatie Family	B. Stanley & A. Hayes

**Collection Counters**



12/09 Mike Frankiewicz & Carol Bertrand  
 12/16 Donna Swington & Paula Bizon  
 12/23 Glenda Gearwar & Tina Wiles

**St. Mary's Cemetery**



Location: RT 73 E. Forest Dale Rd, Brandon  
 Contact Information - Please call St. Mary's Rectory. The cemetery is closed for the winter.

**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).

**Office is open on Wednesday**  
**10:00 am—3:00 pm**  
**Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Parish Hall Library— by appointment.**  
**Please call Emilie at 458-7962**

**2nd Collection for weekends in Dec.:**

**12/09 Retirement Fund for Religious**  
**12/16 Utility Fund (Goal \$500)**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Dodge House:** Update: We are collecting items for the Dodge House in Rutland. We are not collecting clothing except for socks, gloves, hats and warm thermals. We are also collecting personal care items such as razors, shaving cream, shampoo and soap. Other items needed are umbrellas and hand knit/crocheted blankets. Boxes are in the back of the church until Dec. 15th. Thank you.

**Pot Luck Supper:** We will be having a pot luck supper after the 4PM Mass on Saturday, December 15th. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church. Please sign up to bring a dish. This is a free meal to get together for the holidays. Hope to see many there!

**Reminder: Memorial Poinsettias for Christmas** may be ordered at Brandon Florist Shoppe at 256 Grove St.

**Penance Services:**

December 16th at 3 PM at Christ the King in Rutland  
 December 19th at 7 PM at Our Lady of Good Help  
 December 23 at 3PM at St. Mary's in Middlebury

**Christmas Mass Schedule:**

**Vigil of Christmas** (Christmas Eve):  
 4:00 PM at St. Alphonsus in Pittsford  
 6:00 PM at St. Agnes in Leicester  
 8:00 PM at Our Lady of Good Help in Brandon  
**Christmas Day:**  
 9:00 AM at St. Alphonsus in Pittsford  
 11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of Good Help in Brandon

**Diocesan News: Vermont Catholic Charities 2018 Advent Appeal:**

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior into our world, we ask you to join Vermont Catholic Charities Inc. in answering the call to show our love and compassion for Vermonters in need of emergency assistance by making a gift to the annual Advent Appeal. The "Season of Giving" has no bounds for people in need. At Christmastime and throughout the year, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. This Advent Season, please help people in crisis, especially the most vulnerable among us — children, struggling parents, the elderly and the sick. *Help people like Grace and John keep the electricity and heat on. Grace, John and their three children were struggling to keep the utilities on as John's hours at work had been reduced and they faced unexpected medical bills. We helped them avoid the disconnection of their utilities and provided food cards for the family. Help people like Sharon avoid homelessness. Sharon is a mom of a 4-year-old girl and recently left an abusive relationship. Due to this turmoil, she had fallen behind on rent and faced an eviction notice. We assisted her with her rent so she and daughter could remain in their home. These are real people, and with your support we can assist people just like them, our neighbors in need. Your gift helps us to continue to show God's love in concrete ways like this. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we provided assistance to more than 1,600 adults and 1,400 children through the Advent Appeal and Emergency Aid Program. We ask for your prayerful consideration of a donation to this year's Appeal; every gift — whatever the size — makes a difference. Please support this worthy effort by sending a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 or giving online at [vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal](http://vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal). On behalf of Vermont Catholic Charities and all the Vermonters you will help this year, thank you. May you have blessed Advent and Christmas seasons. — Mary Beth Pinard, Executive Director of Vermont Catholic Charities*

**Reflections for the Week**

What a beautiful prayer imbedded in the reading from Philipians. Paul begins with the simple statement, *I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you* and continues by stating his confidence that the one who began the good work in you will continue until the end of all mankind. To me, the "one" Paul is referring to is the Holy Spirit, who joined us at the time of our baptism, which ties in nicely with the Gospel reading about John the Baptist and our baptism of repentance and forgiveness of sin. Then, with the simplest of prologues, *And this is my prayer*, Paul continues: *that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.* To me, the essence of his prayer is that we as Christians must let the Holy Spirit fill us with an ever-increasing love that knows no limits. What a wonderful thought and prayer that is, but in today's world (especially in the United States), with the slanted news coverage that is spewed 24/7 on every cable news show, and the animosity cultivated on social media websites, is this possible? How can we let love grow in our hearts and minds when we are constantly bombarded by spite and condemnation? How can we let love grow in our hearts when we are constantly being conditioned to find fault in our neighbor's actions, rather than to extend forgiveness and understanding? Maybe Paul gives us a clue about how to let the Holy Spirit enter more deeply into our lives, one that is consistent with our daily Examen of Conscience, when he prays that we learn to "discern what is of value" from a heart that is filled with love instead of animosity. The practice of discernment is not an easy task but it is something we should strive to incorporate more and more into our daily. When we are engaged with someone, whether through business or personal interactions, we should try and view them and our conversation with an open heart, not one closed off by presupposed feelings or prejudices. And this is doubly true with spouses and family. All too often we pick the smallest of "hills to die on" because our hearts are closed off and we have not let the Holy Spirit take control. Through the daily practice of discernment, we can grow closer to God, so we can learn to take notice when our actions and personal motives are interfering with our freedom to live our lives in faith, hope and love. So, on this Second Sunday of Advent and as we continue with the "New Year of the Church" it is not too late to make a New Year's resolution that through our continued discernment, we will become more in concert with God, who is not only present in our every moment but in everything in the Universe, so our hearts can be filled with love. [onlineministries.creighton.edu](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu)

**Parish Support**

Offering for the weekend of December 2, 2018  
 (Our Goal is \$1,250.00 each week)

**Sunday Collection**

<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$379.75</b>
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$908.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1287.75</b>
<b>Bldg. &amp; Maint.</b>	<b>\$544.00</b>

**Important Change: Checks:** The Diocese has informed us that we are technically St. Mary Parish Charitable Trust in terms of financial matters and not Our Lady of Good Help. So please **make out any checks to St. Mary Parish** from now on. Thank you.

**GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER. - 2 Corinthians 9:7**

**Readings for the Week of December 9, 2018**

**Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Next Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18