



**SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Week of February 11, 2018**

<b>Sat 4:00 PM</b>	Pro Populo
<b>Sun 10:00 AM</b>	Gil, Ellie & Mike Kupfer by Laura & Pam
<b>Mon 9:00 AM</b>	No Mass
<b>Wed 9:00 AM</b>	Mass for Ash Wednesday
<b>Wed. 7:00 PM</b>	Mass for Ash Wednesday
<b>Thurs 9:00 AM</b>	No Mass
<b>Fri 9:00 AM</b>	No Mass
<b>Sat 4:00 PM</b>	Pro Populo
<b>Sun 10:00 AM</b>	Larose Family by Diane Benware

**Parish Support**

Offering for the weekend of February 4, 2018  
(Our Goal is \$1,800.00 each week)

**Sunday Collection**

<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$230.00</b>
<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>\$823.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1053.00</b>
<b>Restoration</b>	<b>\$430.00</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 11, 2018**

**Sunday:** Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

**Monday:** Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday:** Jas 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21

**Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

**Next Sunday:** Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15



*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>
02/10 Donna Swingleton	Diane Benware
02/11 Jeannine Griffin	Guy Beck
02/14	Joe Flynn
02/17 Mary Bugnacki	Pike Mitchell
02/18 Sally Foster	Katie Murray
<b><u>Gift Bearers</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Servers</u></b>
02/10 Karen Decker	David Bertrand
02/11 S. Ouelette Family	B. Stanley & M. Harding
02/17 T. Howland Family	Jordan Bertrand
02/18 T. Depatie Family	B.Thornton&A.Hayes

**Collection Counters**



02/11 Helen Williams & Paula Bizon
02/18 Donna Swingleton & Kathryn Bryant
02/25 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](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.:**

- 02/11 Church in Latin America**
- 02/14 Vermont Catholic Charities**
- 02/25 Utility Fund**

**Annual Financial Contribution Statements** for 2017 taxes that were requested are available 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.

**Ash Wednesday** is Wednesday, February 14. There will be masses at **9 AM and 7PM.**

**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.

**Saturday Night Dinner :** March 10th at 5PM. Baked stuffed chicken/ Mashed potatoes/Corn/Cole Slaw/Rolls/Dessert. \$8.00 per person/ 6-12 yrs. \$5.00/ Under 5 Free. Tickets are available before and after Mass on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Diocesan News:** On Ash Wednesday, there will be a collection to support the outreach work of Vermont Catholic Charities, including the Bishop deGoesbriand Grants for Human Advancement. These grants are awarded to Vermont non-profit organizations which are making a difference in the daily lives of people living in their communities. Since 2011, Vermont Catholic Charities has been awarding Bishop deGoesbriand grants. To date, 180 grants have been given out totaling over \$377,000. Agencies receiving funding have included homeless shelters, right to life programs, and food programs for children and families, to name just a few. Here are a few examples of how these grants impact the lives of Vermonters. ♦♦ At **Martha's Kitchen** in St. Albans, the grant was used to sustain their hours of operation to include 7 days a week. Martha's Kitchen served over 23,000 meals in 2017 and they continue to see an increase in the number of seniors who do not have food security. ♦♦ At the **Good Samaritan Haven** in Barre, the grant was used for the Emergency Shelter Program which provided shelter and support to over 200 people. ♦♦ At the **Addison County Community Action Group, HOPE**, the grant gave the agency the ability to respond to clients' needs for assistance. The agency commented, "Your support has a tremendous impact on our ability to respond to the needs of some of the most vulnerable populations in our county. Thank you for your continued commitment and support to our community — we truly appreciate it." ♦♦ At the **Community Emergency Relief Volunteers** in Northfield, the grant made a difference in the lives of more than 2296 families (6214 individuals) who visited the food shelf. The coordinator said, "We are grateful for the grant. We cannot imagine what the families would have done without your generosity." Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the 40 days of Lent dedicated to reflection, prayer, fasting and good works in preparation for Easter. As we begin this journey, we ask you to prayerfully consider participating in the Ash Wednesday collection - any gift no matter the size makes a difference!

As a Catholic community, let's continue to do Christ's work here in Vermont and show Christ's love to our neighbors in their times of need. Let us embrace the 2017 Ash Wednesday message from Pope Francis, "Lent is the time to start breathing again. It is the time to open our hearts to the breath of the One capable of turning our dust into humanity." — *Mary Beth Pinard, Director, Vermont Catholic Charities*

**Reflections for the week**

Leprosy – a word that struck fear in people centuries and millennia ago. No one knew what caused it until the late 19th and early 20th centuries. People deduced it was infectious, and so the societal intervention was simply to segregate the victims of the disease from the healthy population in the hopes of slowing its impact. In its advanced stages the disease is disfiguring, and so the victims were ostracized for their appearance. Since so little was known about the causes, even skin issues that we identify today as normal might have been classified as leprosy. We now know that the disease is much less infectious than was once believed, and there are treatment regimens that result in complete cures. Nonetheless, in some parts of the world victims still are treated by segregation and faced with shame. Leviticus describes the Hebrew response to leprosy – first the diagnosis by the priest, and then the duty of the victim to self-segregate. Imagine yourself as the poor victim who has this incurable and disfiguring disease – society expected you to wander about announcing to all that you are unclean. Personal illness and self-proclaimed public shame – you are the lowest of the low. Jesus doesn't follow the norm of avoiding this leper; instead He cures him. Jesus felt the pain of the leper – was moved with pity – and so He responded by easing the poor man's suffering. Jesus took the pain of the leper into His own heart, just as He took on the pain of our sins to His own heart and, as the psalmist states, took away his/our guilt. When Paul calls us to imitate Christ, on one level we could conclude we should follow His example to do what we can to help cure lepers and our sisters and brothers who suffer from physical and emotional pain. Paul isn't calling on us specifically to cure, though. It seems to me he is calling us to emulate Christ's attitude – avoid offending people, acting not for self but for others, doing everything for the (greater) glory of God. When we encounter pain and suffering, disfigurement and other physical woes in the person in front of us, Paul is challenging us to be an imitator of Christ. Jesus would not walk away, but would engage. Jesus would not recoil, but embrace. Jesus would not turn away His eyes, but deeply connect. Even if Jesus did not cure the physical pain, He would share the emotional turmoil and console. And so my prayer today is a combination of those of both Francis and Ignatius: Lord, give me the grace to imitate Jesus, to: Feel the pain of the leper as if it were my own; Console the hurting; Bring joy to the saddened; Create hope for the disconsolate; Give what is needed; Toil without counting my personal cost; and Do your will. [onlineministries.creighton.edu](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu)