



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 Holbritter, Rosa Santos and Brian Kilpeck (son of Wanda Murray).

SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS

Week of December 16, 2018

Sat 4:00 PM Noella Bertrand by Kathy Bertrand
Sun 11:00 AM Mary Ellen Thornton by the Thornton Family
Wed 9:00 AM For the People
Wed. 7:00 PM Penance Service
Thurs 9:00AM For the People
Sat 4:00 PM James & Katherine Delorm by Scott & Marge Munger
Sun 11:00 AM For the People

Parish Support

Offering for the weekend of December 9, 2018
 (Our Goal is \$1,250.00 each week)

Sunday Collection

Loose \$378.76
Envelopes \$955.00
Total \$1333.76
Religious Retirement \$310.80

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 16, 2018

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

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



Ministry Schedule

<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
12/15 Donna Swingleton	Marge Munger
12/16 Jeannine Griffin	Trish Bertino
12/22 Mary Bugnacki	Laurie Bertrand
12/23 Guy Beck	Terry Zimmer
12/24 Marge Munger	Wanda Murray
12/25 Bob Rojecki	Guy Beck
<u>Gift Bearers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
12/15 T. Howland Family	Brooke Bertrand
12/16 T. Depatie Family	B. Stanley & A. Hayes
12/22 R. Howland Family	David Bertrand
12/23 Glenda & Bob Gearwar	BThornton&NDepatie



Collection Counters

12/16 Donna Swingleton & Paula Bizon
 12/23 Glenda Gearwar & Tina Wiles
 12/30 Helen Williams & Katherine Bryant



St. Mary's Cemetery

Location: R1T 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 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.

**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.:

**12/16 Utility Fund (Goal \$500)
 12/25 Christmas Offering**

Third Sunday of Advent

Contribution Envelopes are now available at the back of the church. Please check off your name when you take yours and those without may sign up for unused numbers that are available. Thank you

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

Live Nativity Event & Carol Sing : at the Brandon Baptist Church on Sunday, December 16th at 6:00 PM. Food and refreshments will be served immediately following the program. For more information please call the church office at 247-3339.

New Year's Mass Schedule:

New Year's Eve: 4 PM Vigil at Our Lady of Good Help

New Year's Day: 9 AM Mass at St. Alphonsus

11 AM mass at Our Lady of Good Help

December 16, 2018

Diocesan News: Call To Discipleship: Each of the past four years of my time here as bishop of the Diocese of Burlington have been marked by a particular theme. We began with Pope Francis' call for the celebration of a Year of Mercy in 2016, followed by the Year of Creation linked to Francis' encyclica on the environment, "Laudato Si," and finally, this year's celebration of the Year of the Family. During each year's celebration, volunteers and diocesan staff have coordinated a wealth of opportunities for us to pray, reflect, and act upon God's mercy, God's creation and God's gift of the family. I thank all who have worked so hard to make all of these endeavors possible and successful. For the past year and a half, the people of the Diocese of Burlington have also been engaged in a Diocesan Synod. Out of all of the surveys, consultations and meetings, the Synod delegates, comprised of representatives from each parish or parish-cluster as well as clergy and religious, have discerned three priorities that will direct our pastoral work here in Vermont: evangelization, vibrant parishes and good communication. Each of these priorities are seen, not as unique silos, but intertwined one with the other. In order to evangelize, you need to have vibrant parishes and good communication. Vibrant parishes are built upon people who revel in the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ and are alive with an evangelical faith. That faith, that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life in and through his Holy Church, has to be communicated across a wide variety of means. Each of these priorities in the end is focused toward the creation of disciples, children, men and women who are believers. In light of this, I have designated this coming year as the Call to Discipleship. A disciple of Jesus Christ understands Him to be the way, the truth and the life. It is Christ who points us toward the Father, to be one with Him, as He is one with the Father. It is Christ who told us that the Father will send us the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, so that we will not be left orphans. It is Christ who established the Church upon the rock of His apostles to go and make "disciples of all in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." To be a disciple is to embrace the fullness of faith in the Church and its teachings. To be a disciple is to live in the gift of the Church's sacraments. The Call to Discipleship is personal and communal. It calls us out of ourselves to go and spread the good news that Jesus is Lord and Savior of all. As we venerate the first of the disciples, Mary and Joseph, during this Advent and Christmas season, may we be open to responding to the promise of salvation found in their child Jesus as they did. --Yours in Christ, The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne Bishop of Burlington

Reflections for the Week

"Promise" is one of the major themes in Luke, who wrote the Gospel reading for today, and in the early chapters of his Gospel Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon, and Anna all stress that God is keeping His promises, although it is actually only one single promise in various forms. In the Old Testament God made a number of promises, all of them having some meaning that people could understand directly, but there was always a deeper meaning. At the end of the Garden story God promised very little that is clear (Gen 3:15), and there is also the promise to Noah after the flood (Gen 8:21--9:17), in appearance also somewhat limited, but then there are all the promises to Abraham, the first believer. Then came the prophets, whose foretellings had that same double nature of the direct applicability and then the far deeper meaning; today's first reading, from Zephaniah, and the "psalm" (actually from Isaiah 12), are good examples of this. God's word eventually gave shape to Israel's hope for a Messiah and, as always, He delivered more than we expected, Jesus, the gift that never stops giving. All the work of Christ points to the restoration of our lost innocence and a return to the Garden, the New Creation. He is not the Messiah people expected, or even the one that we actually desire in our own day (we prefer the old wine... Luke 5:39). God is always beyond us, always calling us further. Christmas is a principal step in this same keeping of promises, of God being with His people (Immanuel), but in a way that goes far, far beyond what anyone had understood the Old Testament promises to mean, and in a way, a very important way, this is what Advent is about: waiting filled with holy hope, in a world of darkness and sin, for a savior, for the hand of God to intervene, just as He promised, and to change a world that we cannot. This is why Mary's Magnificat at the Visitation is such a song of amazement and joy (Luke 1:46-55): "He has come to the aid of Israel his servant, mindful of His mercy - according to the promise he made to our ancestors, of his mercy to Abraham and his descendants forever." And this is the joy and amazement that we celebrate today as we see God's love coming to light... This is why we rejoice, why we celebrate "Gaudete" Sunday. If we truly have faith in God and His promises and place all our hope in Him and not in ourselves, if we seek to imitate the Father and the Son and the Spirit in being nothing but love focused beyond ourselves, we must be the Alleluia people we proclaim ourselves to be at the Easter Vigil, light in the darkness, pointing to the Eternal Light. Be joy then, be love and hope for the world in the name of the Lord whom we await.

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