



SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS
Week of December 17, 2017

Sat 4:00 PM Barb Forguites by Family
Sun 10:00 AM Benware Family by Diane Benware
Mon 9:00 AM Adrian Lamarre by Jean Lamarre
Wed 9:00 AM Joseph Beck by Beck Family
Thurs 9:00 AM Spencer Shephard by Marjorie Shephard
Fri 9:00 AM Albert Campeau by Rita Bilodeau
Sat 4:00 PM Eva Ryder by Elizabeth Howland
Sun 10:00 AM Pro Populo

Parish Support

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

Sunday Collection

Loose \$284.52
Envelopes \$862.00
Total \$1146.52
Religious Retirement \$352.00

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 December 17, 2017

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27



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, and Brendan Holbritter.

Ministry Schedule



<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
12/16 Mary Bugnacki	Pike Mitchell
12/17 Charlotte Frankiewicz	Guy Beck
12/23 Joe Flynn	Tom Giblin
12/24 Robert Rojecki	Katie Murray
<u>Gift Bearers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
12/16 Thos. Howland Family	Jordan Bertrand
12/17 Shawn Ouelette Family	N.Depatie & A.Hayes
12/23 R. Howland Family	Brooke Bertrand
12/24 Thos. Depatie Family	B.Thornton&B.Stanley

Collection Counters



12/17 Donna Swington & Carolyn Walker
12/24 Glenda Gearwar & Tina Wiles



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 Dec.:

12/17 Utility Fund

12/25 Christmas Offering

Contribution Envelopes and Calendars for 2018 will be available for pick-up at the back of the church after mass. Please remember to get yours or sign up for one if you are not already on the list. Thank you

Social Concerns Meeting: Monday, December 18th at 6 PM

Reminder: Memorial Poinsettias for Christmas may be ordered at Carr's Florist and Gifts.

Advent Confession: Advent Confession for all parishioners will be Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00 PM.

Church Cleaning: Sunday, December 17th the Confirmation Class students will be staying after Mass to clean the Church. Anyone else that is willing to participate are more than welcome to stay. Extra buckets, vacuum cleaners and muscles are always appreciated. Many hands make the work light!!!! The following Sunday after Mass is the set up for Christmas, the creche, tree, decorations and etc. This too needs as many folks as possible. What gifts we have to offer to honor HIS birth.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Vigil Of Christmas (Christmas Eve)
4:00 PM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)
5:15 PM at St. Agnes (Leicester)
7:00 PM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)
Christmas Day
10:00 AM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)

New Year's Mass Schedule:

New Year's Eve
7:00 PM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)
New Year's Day
10:00 AM at OLGH (St. Mary's, Brandon)

I wish you all a very blessed and merry Christmas! Father Vincent

Diocesan News: **Christmas shopping for little Catholics** *Are you looking for the perfect gift for a young child in your family this year? Spread the Gospel and give them a gift they'll love. You may have heard it before, but it is worth repeating: If you have been baptized, it is your duty to spread the Gospel, and your family is a great place to begin. Your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and godchildren are all going to be expecting gifts this year, so give them something that will make them smile and will feed their soul.* **My Pick** My first suggestion is a new book: "King of the Shattered Glass" by Susan Joy Bellavance. It's a tale about a young kitchen maid and her courageous encounter with the King. The story is compelling, the pictures are beautiful and the conversation created between parents and children is priceless. This book will lead children and their parents to consider God's mercy in a whole new way. Don't be surprised if you have tears in your eyes by the end. The author also has free, down-loadable worksheets, coloring pages and discussion guides on her website — especially useful for a catechist who would like to use this book in the classroom. **Children's Bible Story Book** My second suggestion is to pick up a children's book of Bible stories for your little one. I still have good memories of my own growing up. I remember how foolish that man was for building his whole house on sand — and how joyful the woman was when she found just one lost coin in her house. Growing up with these stories is a great way to be introduced to the Bible and makes for a great conversation starter between children and their parents. Ignatius Press offers "A Child's Treasury of Bible Stories." For slightly older children, try "The Picture Bible" by Iva Hoth, which reads like a comic book. In the words of Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen: "This picture Bible for all ages is an excellent introduction to those who do not know the Bible and an excellent review for those who do." **Bible Playsets** Maybe the child you have in mind doesn't want a book — you're still in luck. Sometimes children need more than pages in their hands. Bring the stories of the Bible alive with the gift of a Bible story playset. Allow your children to set up their own Noah's ark with the BibleToys Noah's Ark 18 Piece Playset or put the apostles on their boat with the Galilee Boat 15 Piece Playset by BibleToys. If you're handy, you can always make and paint your own wooden figurines. All books and toys can be found on-line at Amazon* and other on-line retailers. *If you're shopping on Amazon, consider using AmazonSmile to donate a portion of your purchase price to Vermont Catholic Charities Inc. or another favorite charitable organization. **Michael Hagan is the coordinator of religious education and catechesis for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington.**

Reflections for the week

"I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice" ... In this third week of Advent, Isaiah's focus is joy and rejoicing in the gift to come ... Jesus ... salvation ... and hope. In my preparation during this season as I reflect upon joy, rejoicing and gifts in my life I am grateful for yesterday and today and hope for tomorrow. I am grateful for these gifts as they remind me of the presence of God in my life not just at this time but daily.

Gift of Time

To pause, breathe deeply and enjoy the present moment. To be mindful of the beauty in front of me, beside me and within me. *God is Present.*

Gift of Friendship

I said yes last week when 2 friends from high school reached out after 30+ years and suggested we get together. I almost missed this wonderful opportunity with many excuses of being busy, fear, and anxiety. But I said yes and enjoyed stories, laughter, and memories long forgotten. The 24 hours was filled with joy. *God was Present.*

Gif of Family

A loving husband who supports who I am and provides unending support for my work, my new projects, my school, and my ideas. Children who are grown but continue to reach back and let me know of their love and blessings in their life. *God is with us.*

Gifts of Spirituality and Faith

I said yes this year to co-facilitating a faculty led seminar on Ignatian Spirituality and have had the joy of meeting 18 new and wonderful members of our community. This past weekend I also said yes to a 24 hour retreat with the same community led by two wonderful experts who had us reflect and pray on the 6 characteristics of Ignatian Spirituality. *God was present.* In this 3rd week of Advent I am grateful and joyful and know *God is with me* always.

The "O Antiphons" begin today. These antiphons became the verses for the popular Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." We'll place them here, each day in the week ahead.

O WISDOM, You came forth from the mouth of the Most High and reaching from beginning to end, You ordered all things mightily and sweetly. Come and teach us the way of prudence.
onlineministries.creighton.edu