



SCHEDULES & MASS INTENTIONS
Week of December 10, 2017

Sat 4:00 PM David Driscoll Jr. by Laura Driscoll
Sun 10:00 AM Alice Quesnel by Cram & Quesnel Families
Mon 9:00 AM Archie Jefferson by Fran&Sally Jeffrey
Wed 9:00 AM Marie Schmitt by Marietta Sheenan
Thurs 9:00 AM Paul Matthew Quesnel by Donna Swingleton
Fri 9:00 AM Arthur Pfenning by Jean Pfenning
Sat 4:00 PM Barb Forguites by Family
Sun 10:00 AM Benware Family by Diane Benware

Parish Support

Offering for the weekend of December 3, 2017
(Our Goal is \$1,800.00 each week)

Sunday Collection

Loose	\$290.54
Envelopes	\$824.00
Total	\$1114.54
Restoration Fund	\$471.50

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 10, 2017

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

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

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

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

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



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 Holbriiter.

Ministry Schedule



<u>Eucharistic Ministers</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
12/09 Marge Munger	Marge Munger
12/10 Robert Rojecki	Laura O'Brien
12/16 Mary Bugnacki	Pike Mitchell
12/17 Charlotte Frankiewicz	Guy Beck
<u>Gift Bearers</u>	<u>Altar Servers</u>
12/09 Scott & Marge Munger	Brooke Bertrand
12/10 Russell Doty Family	ADepatie & M.Harding
12/16 Thos. Howland Family	Jordan Bertrand
12/17 Shawn Ouelette Family	N.Depatie &A.Hayes

Collection Counters



12/10 Mike Frankiewicz & Carol Bertrand
 12/17 Donna Swingleton & 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.:

12/10 Retirement Fund for Religious
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

Parish Council Meeting: Thursday, December 14th at 7 PM

Thank you: The parish hall looks great! Thank you to Diane, Cristy, Mary, and Jean for their hard work.

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.

"Re-engaging the Occasional Catholic" A Presentation by Bishop Coyne on January 17th, will be offered at Holy Cross Parish in Colchester from 6:30-8pm. This presentation will also be available via livestreaming on the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/vermontcatholic.com>

First Annual Catholic Men's Conference: Saturday, February 17, 2018 9 AM-3:30 PM at Holy Family Parish Center, 28 Lincoln St., Essex Junction, VT. Mass with Bishop Coyne. [Learn more or register at: vermontcatholic.org/men](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/men)

Diocesan News: Vermont Catholic Charities 2017 Advent Appeal
 As we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior into the world, we ask you to join Vermont Catholic Charities, Inc. in answering the call to show 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. Scott and Rachel avoided homelessness. Scott and Rachel and their three school aged children were struggling to make ends meet because Scott's hours were reduced. Vermont Catholic Charities provided them with back rent assistance so they could remain in their home and the kids could stay in their school district. Stacey kept heat and electricity on in her house. Stacey is a mom of two children and recently left an abusive relationship. Her eight-year-old daughter has a medical condition where uninterrupted electricity is vital. We helped Stacey avoid a disconnect and made sure that the utility company was aware of the medical situation with Stacey's daughter. 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 over 1,400 adults and 1,000 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 or giving online at: 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

Advent has only three full weeks this year. Christmas Eve's being on a Sunday means that the fourth week is only a short few hours. "So", we say-pray, "Better get with the program." We wish sincerely that we could be better, shape up, repent, respond, re-up, re-everything! Within this Advent-sense of our being behind spiritually, comes our First Reading for this Eucharist's liturgy. Israel, aka Zion, Jerusalem, is in captivity, far from their holy temple, far from feeling any "comfort" or any sense of being carried or cared-for. We hear the Prophet shouting to the alienated what he himself has heard. Our whole First Reading contains promises and hopeful images of just what God is going to do. A negative misunderstanding is easily made while we listen to the declaration of God's fidelity contained in this reading. We can interpret that we do all the work of straightening our roads, filling in our valleys, leveling our mountains and then the Shepherd will be pleased and will return us to our holy-selves. This does not sound much like "comfort." One form of Advent-prayer is to sit in the exile of 'not-being-enough' surrounded by the valleys of insufficiency and the mountains of religious "shoulds" and "ought-tos." All our Advent Readings and liturgies can be interpreted as a series of divine finger-pointing and demands for "more of this and less of that!" The Psalm-Response places the emphasis directly on what the Lord does always. The real question is about whether Advent is the time for our coming close to God or God's already being closer to us than we are to ourselves. Advent is our prayer-time to get closer to where God already has come, our holy temple, our simple selves. This closeness is where the Spiritual Life is lived and what goes on in Advent is not so much repentance and reconciliation, but *recovery*. As is said in the Twelve Step programs, "The road to recovery is always under construction." In our northern sections of the United States, it is said, that there are two seasons within the year, winter and road-repair. Advent is the season to allow ourselves time for God's recovery of ourselves. The Gospel of Mark contains the opening dramatic presentation, that all the verses of this Gospel are "Good News" of Jesus' being the Son of God. The first scene in the playing-out of this Good News is John the Baptist's fulfilling the prophecy we hear in our First Reading. John clarifies so early in his preaching and baptizing that he is not the Son of God, but a prophet-Isaiah fulfiller. There is to be a mightier-One Who will be the Giver of a new baptism. The baptism will be the embrace of the human condition by the Creating-spirit. This Spirit will continue the reconstruction of our creation. It will aid the recovery of our self-sad-ifying negativity about how deep we are in our valleys. The mountains of a false sense of pride convince us that we *should* be better and holier and *ought* to have been and *will* be gooder for Christmas this year! This new baptism is for the *recovery of who we really are; the ones sought-for, cared-for, created-for*. We have three weeks and a part of a day, plus the rest of our lives to allow Jesus to advance toward us, not with the finger of disappointment and accusation, but the inviting gesture of recovery. Jesus is not coming; He is here! Our Advent prayer is to reside again, re-home where He comforts and re-covers our images of His Self in ours.
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