

December 6, 2015

The bulletin is also available online at olmctv.org

We are a Welcoming Community of Believers, Hoppers and Lovers. We are One Family in Baptism and the Holy Spirit, nourished with the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ. All are Welcome in this place.

Cycles of Faith –Second Sunday of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."
Today's Gospel reading references an ancient text from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. There, a prophecy was made that John the Baptist would fulfill many years later; John is the "voice of one crying out in the desert." And the message that John's voice proclaimed, in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, was a message of repentance.

The passage from Isaiah gives us some clues into what this repentance is supposed to do. It is meant to change us into people who can properly welcome the Lord when he comes. Using the poetic image of a path, the text describes the kind of path that is suitable for the Lord. He shouldn't have to navigate valleys, scale mountains, wind around twists and turns on the road, or traverse rough, difficult terrain. Instead, he should be able to move easily on smooth ground. Residents preparing to welcome an honored guest ought to do what they can to make the journey pleasant. The analogy relates to our souls.

As we prepare to welcome the Lord this Advent season, we should make the "path" of our souls level, straight, and smooth. We should "fill" the valleys of laziness or despair with diligence and joy. The mountains of pride and greed should be made low with humility and generosity. The winding roads of dishonesty and manipulation "shall be made straight" with commitment to the truth. And the rough ways of our selfishness and stubbornness should be made smooth through charity and docility to the Holy Spirit. When we live our faith with sincerity and devotion, our souls are transformed. This Advent, may our souls become a pleasant path for Christ.

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Readings for the Week of December 6, 2015

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday: Is 35:1-10/ Ps 85:9-14/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1, 9-13/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18-19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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Offertory Last Week: \$1,237.06
Electronic Giving: -0-

Second Collection This Week for Maintenance
Second Collection Next Week for Retirement Fund
for Religious

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun. Dec. 6 8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.

Sun. Dec. 6 11:00 a.m. For the recovery to good health of Paddy Griggs requested by the Landler Family.

Sun. Dec. 13 8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.

Sun. Dec. 13 11:00 a.m. For Reina Aube LaBerge, Roland LaBerge, Bedette Viens, Renette Procopio and Colleen McGrath requested by Leo LaBerge.

Pray for Vocations

Schedule of Counters: Monday, December 7, 2015

Nancy Calcagni
Jacqueline Jones
Margaret Titus

Schedule of Ministries: Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015

8:00 a.m. Altar Server: Anthony Seidita
Devan Lussier
Lector: Gail Blasius
Extraordinary Min: Bob Danyow
Wanda Bean

11:00 a.m. Greeters: Jacqueline Jones
Cyndy Marshall
Altar Server: William Evans
Lector: Ray Curtis
Extraordinary Min: Eileen Curtis
Ray Curtis

Calendar of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Events

-12/06 2nd Year Confirmation Class at 10:30 a.m.
-12/06 CCD Sunday at CCS at 9:00 a.m.
-12/13 Meet and Greet following the 8:00 a.m. Mass
-12/13 Bambinelli Sunday
-12/15 Salvation Army Dinner

Question of the Week: As the Jubilee Year of Mercy begins, what twists and turns do I need to let God untangle in my life? What rough edges smooth out? What mountainous of pride bring low? What valleys of indifference and neglect fill with mercy for others?

Time Off: Bishop Coyne has directed that every priest should have a full day off each week. After consideration, Father Cray has decided to make that day Wednesday. This will begin the first week in January 2016 and there will no longer be a daily Mass on Wednesdays.

Rosary: The Rosary is being said each Saturday at St. Jude's before the 4:30 p.m. Mass beginning at 4:10 p.m.

Holiday Mass Schedules: The holiday schedule is as follows:

Immaculate Conception:

--Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 a.m. at OLMC
--Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

--Thursday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m. at The Old Lantern
--Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude
--Thursday, December 24th at 10:00 p.m. at OLMC
--Friday, December 25th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Jude

New Year's Eve and Day:

--Thursday, December 31st at 4:00 p.m. at St. Jude
--Friday, January 1st at 10:00 a.m. at OLMC

OLMC Financial Summary for the 1st Quarter Ended 9/30/15:

-Total Offertory Income for the first three months of FY 2016 was \$28,582 versus \$28,823 for the prior year comparable period, a decrease of \$241.00.
-Religious Education Fees were down \$1,540 due to a reduced number of students enrolled this year.
-Gifts & Bequests Income for the three months ended 9/30/15 was \$9,918 compared to \$3,660 for the prior year comparable period.
-Of Note: In prior years the Parish recognized all of the annual building insurance expense in July when the bill is paid to the Diocese. This year we accrued the total paid as a Prepaid Expense and are recognizing one twelfth of the total expense each month (so the YTD operating expenses are lower and net income is higher than prior year comparable periods by the amount of the remaining insurance expense that has yet to be recognized.)
-Net Income for the first three months was \$8,408 versus \$3,124 for the first three months of FY 2015.
-Total Cash Balance at 9/30/15 was \$126,650.

Salvation Army Dinner: Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be providing dinner at the Salvation Army on Tuesday, December 15. We are looking for food donations along with monetary donations. We will be purchasing the hams. Any extra funds will be used for future dinners.

***We are looking for food donations of scallop potatoes, green bean casseroles, rolls, desserts and milk. We are also looking for people to help serve. Sign up sheets are in the lobby. Food needs to be at OLMC on **December 15 by 3:00 p.m.** Workers at the Salvation Army by 4:30 p.m. **We need enough food to feed approximately 150 people.**

OLMC Giving Tree: The Giving Tree is up and has 21 ornaments on it, each a child's wish. Please return your gift by **December 13**. Thank you to all shoppers who will be making a wonderful memory for a child this Christmas.

Opening of the Holy Door: You are all invited to attend the ceremony for the opening of the Holy Door at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral on Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m. To receive the plenary indulgence on that day (or any other day) the pilgrim must make a sacramental Confession; receive Holy Communion; pass through the Holy Door at St. Joseph with the intention of receiving the indulgence; and, pray at least one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope. You may receive this indulgence more than once during the year, but only once a day. The indulgence can be applied to yourself or to a soul in purgatory. NOTE: This is not a Mass, but a special procession led by the Bishop with the Rite of the Opening of a Holy Door. Light refreshments will be served in the parish hall afterwards. Please join Catholics around the world on this day for the inauguration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the individual dioceses. The Holy Door will remain open until November 2016 during which time group and individual pilgrimages are encouraged.



“Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

— Lk 3:5-6

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970-CCD.

Meet and Greet: Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 13 for our next Meet and Greet. This will be done by our 3rd and 4th Grade students. Please plan to stop over at the parish hall after the 8:00 a.m. Mass to say hello and grab a cup of coffee and something to eat. See you then.

Bambinelli Sunday: We will have a Babinelli Sunday on the third Sunday of Advent, December 13. Children and adults will bring figures of the Christ Child from their Nativity Sets to be blessed at Mass. This is an Italian custom and the Pope blesses the infant figures in St. Peter's Square during the Angelus on the third Sunday of Advent.

Lector Workbooks: The new Lector Workbooks for 2016 are available in the sacristy for all current lectors. If you haven't yet picked one up, please do so this weekend.

St. Jude Craft Fair: There will be a Craft Fair at St. Jude Parish on Saturday, December 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Many items will be available. Please join us.

Senior Meals: St. Jude Parish offers lunches to area seniors on the 2nd and 4th **Tuesday** of each month. The next senior meals are scheduled for December 8 and 22 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Serving begins at 12:00 noon. All Seniors and Caretakers welcome.

Madrigal Singers: The CVU Madrigal Singers will be performing at St. Jude's on Monday, December 7 beginning at 6:30 p.m. A free-will offering will take place to benefit the Madrigals. All are welcome to this Christmas event and sing-along.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Light Is On For You: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on Wednesday, December 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Jude Parish. This is a Diocesan-wide event held December 16 by each pastor.

Penance Service: There will be an Advent Penance Service at St. John Vianney on Sunday, December 20 beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be priests from the South Burlington Deanery available for Reconciliation.

Christmas Flowers: There are collection envelopes in the back of the church for the Christmas Flowers. Your donations may be made in someone's memory. Please fill out the front of the envelope accordingly.

Christmas Eve Choir: All are welcome!! Adult and children singers. REHEARSAL will be held in the near future. Please call Marie at 425-2637 or email to marietcookson@aol.com if you are interested. We want to make sure we have enough music for everyone. This group will sing for the 4:00 p.m. Mass at the Old Lantern on December 24.

Helping Hands Sewing Ministry: The Helping Hands Sewing Ministry (St. Jude and the United Church) will be making distributions of adult smocks and walker bags to local nursing homes, etc., this month. Do you have a family member or know of anyone in our community that could use these items? Please contact Grace Link at 489-6200 with names or for more information.

Fabric Donations Needed: Helping Hands Sewing Ministry is in need of cottons, cotton blends and lightweight upholstery fabrics (at least ½ yd). If you have fabric you would like to donate or know of anyone who does, the HHSM would love to take the fabric off your hands. They are also looking for solid color sheets in good shape. If you have any of these items, please contact Grace Link at 489-6200.

Come, Follow Me: Bishop Coyne and the Office of Vocations will be hosting a Vocations Awareness Evening, “**Come, Follow Me**” on Sunday, December 6 at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Burlington. If you are a high school or college aged student who is discerning your vocation or if you are wondering just how to discern your vocation, join them for this evening of prayer, reflection and discussion; come and get answers to your questions.

Hinesburg Community Christmas Concert: The Hinesburg Artist Series will present the annual Hinesburg Community Christmas Concert next Sunday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Jude’s. Admission to the concert is free. Donations are greatly appreciated, and all are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item for the Hinesburg Food shelf.

Ministries for Christmas Masses: The sign up sheets are in the back of the church for Altar Servers, Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve Masses.

Help Needed: We are looking for help for the Christmas Eve Mass at the Old Lantern. This special Mass takes a village to make it happen. On Thursday, December 24th at 8:30 a.m. we need help transporting to and setting up at the Old Lantern. On Saturday, December 26th, at 9:00 a.m. we need help in cleaning up and breaking down. The sign-up sheet is in the back of the church

Retirement Fund for Religious: Support elderly religious! A parishioner writes, “As a Catholic school student from grades K-12, I was formed to be the person I am by many religious brothers and sisters, and I am forever grateful.” Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Collection Envelopes: The collection envelopes for 2016 are available on the back pew. Envelopes are in alphabetical order. If you have not used the collection envelopes in the past but would like to do so now, please take a box without a name on it. **Please be sure to write your name and address on the envelopes for the first few weeks you are using them. Also, please do not use leftover envelopes from previous years. Some of the numbers have been changed due to the fact that we ordered less this year in order to not have so many leftover and thrown out.** Thank you.

Support Vermont Catholic Charities’ 21st Annual Advent Appeal: Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in supporting the 21st Annual Advent Appeal. Your generosity is essential as the “Season of Giving” has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, there are basic needs to be met: food, shelter, and heat, to name but a few. With your help, Vermont Catholic Charities can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge. Many Vermonters are struggling to put daily bread on the table or to keep the lights and heat on in their homes. Last year, Vermont Catholic Charities provided assistance to over 1,407 individuals, including 645 children under the age of 16. During the Christmas season, support was given to 260 family households with 503 children under the age of 16. Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1,000 or more, your gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donation please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, PO Box 226, South Burlington, VT 05407 or give online at www.vermontcatholic.org.

Project Rachel: Find hope and healing from abortion. Project Rachel is a healing ministry for individuals who have been affected by abortion, helping them to grieve, receive forgiveness, and find peace. For more information about Project Rachel or to speak to a trained Project Rachel professional, please contact 658-4118.

World Apostolate of Fatima: Please come and join The World Apostolate of Fatima (Blue Army) on Wednesday, December 16 for an Advent gathering at St. John Vianney Church in South Burlington. Mass will begin at 5:00 p.m.; Rosary at 5:30 p.m.; followed by a pot luck dinner in the Parish Center (next to the church). They will do something fun; please bring in a gift to swap with each other (not required). Little gift can be handmade or homemade item, baked goods, a package of cookies, etc. Just come, your presence makes Our Lady happy. This is also a farewell to Fr. Joseph Lively, the Blue Army Spiritual Director, before he flies to Florida for the winter season. Please come and wish him well as he travels. Call Yorini with questions at 864-0561.

Vermont Rally for Life: You are invited to participate in the Vermont Rally for Life on Saturday, January 16, 2016 in Montpelier. Mass at St. Augustine Church in Montpelier beginning at 9:30 a.m., celebrated by Bishop Coyne; March: After Mass, participants will gather behind City Hall in Montpelier to begin the march down State Street at 11:00 a.m., ending at the State House; Rally: Bishop Coyne will present opening remarks in the House Chamber along with a Pro-life Youth Speaker.

March for Life, Washington, DC: The March for Life will be held in Washington, DC at the National Mall on January 22, 2016. Even if you can’t travel, you can participate! In concert with the Annual March for Life, the U.S. Bishops invite all Catholics to pray for the protection of all human life by participating in a special novena called **9 Days for Life**, from January 16 through January 24. Join thousands of others in praying for the protection of all human life. Download the novena online or participate through Facebook, email, text message or an app. Join at www.9daysforlife.com. If you don’t have a computer but would like a copy of the Novena, please contact Marie at 482-2290 and one will be sent to you.

Lessons and Carols: Join the Saint Michael’s Chorale on Friday, December 11 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel for their annual service of *Lessons and Carols*. This year’s service features scripture readings and carols in Czech, Welsh and Rumanian, familiar carols sung by the congregation, and a special guest appearance by the Vermont Boychoir. College organist Susan Summerfield accompanies. All are welcome.