

December 20, 2015

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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 -Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." What was the rush? Why did Mary go so quickly to visit her cousins Elizabeth and Zechariah? It's hard to know exactly what her purpose was, but one thing is clear: Mary and Elizabeth shared a special connection. Perhaps Mary was anxious to be in the company of someone who could understand her unusual situation.

At this point, Mary was newly pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. The verses preceding today's reading tell us about the appearance of the Angel Gabriel and Mary's willingness to become the mother of the Messiah. Now, this child was already growing within her womb, but the whole thing was an incredible secret. Who would believe her? In whom could Mary confide the unbelievable events that had taken place? We know that at some point later, Joseph had a vision in a dream that allowed him to understand. But before that dream came, he was planning to part ways with Mary. It must have been during that difficult time that Mary went to see Elizabeth. And what joy that upon her arrival, Elizabeth immediately understood. "Blessed is the fruit of your womb," Elizabeth cried out. The same Holy Spirit who conceived Jesus in Mary's womb enlightened Elizabeth at this moment. What a consolation this must have been to Mary.

This story reminds us of the importance of our own fellowship in the faith. Sharing our spiritual journey with other believers who are receptive to the Holy Spirit is meant to be a source of encouragement and strength. We are not supposed to be in this alone. As we worship and celebrate together with our faith community, may we share with each other the real joy of this sacred season.

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Readings for the Week of December 20, 2015

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a /Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/ Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52

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Offertory Last Week: \$1,984.00 Maintenance: \$50.00
Religious Retirement: \$945.00 Christmas: \$10.00
Immaculate Conception: \$212.00
Bishop deGoesbriand: \$25.00 Salvation Army: \$15.00
Electronic Giving: \$160.00

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun. Dec. 20 8:00 a.m. For Nancy and Joseph Blanchette Sr. requested by Joe and Peg Blanchette.
Sun. Dec. 20 11:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.
Thurs. Dec. 24 4:00 p.m. For Joe Bettis and Donna Emerton requested by Joan Bettis.
Thurs. Dec. 24 10:00 p.m. For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.
Sun. Dec. 27 8:00 a.m. For Alfred, Yvonne and Henry Gebo requested by Irene Pierce.
Sun. Dec. 27 11:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.

Pray for Vocations

Schedule of Counters: Monday, December 21, 2015

Jacqueline Jones
Margaret Titus
Marie Cookson

Schedule of Ministries: Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015

8:00 a.m.	Altar Server:	Mitch Tierney Mattison Tierney David Duffy
	Lector:	Joanne Duranceau Tom Reilly
	Extraordinary Min:	
11:00 a.m.	Greeters:	
	Altar Server:	Colleen Armstrong Susan Zahn Colleen Armstrong
	Lector:	
	Extraordinary Min:	

Calendar of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Events

-1/10 CCD Classes at CCS at 9:00 a.m.
-1/10 2nd Year Confirmation at 10:30 a.m. at St. Jude
-1/21 Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
-1/24 1st Year Confirmation at 10:30 at St. Jude

Question of the Week: How can I "go out of myself" this week and throughout the Christmas season to bring the "balm of God's tender mercy"? Think of a specific person or situation.

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:

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

Jubilee Year Of Mercy For Lay Ministers: You are all invited to attend the Jubilee Year of Mercy celebration recognizing Lay Ministries in the Diocese of Burlington at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral on Sunday, January 17 at 3:00 p.m. This celebration is going to focus primarily on Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Acolytes (Liturgical Lay Ministry). This celebration will include Solemn Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Eucharistic Exposition. Confessions will be made available for those people desiring to receive the Holy Year indulgence. Light refreshments will be served after. The Holy Door is now blessed and is open for group and individual pilgrimages throughout the year. (Please note this is not a Mass.)

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Birthday Celebration for Marie Cookson: The Cookson Children requests your presence at a birthday potluck celebration for their mother, Marie, on December 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Jude Parish. They are asking folks to provide something for this based on the first letter of your last name. **A-D:** beverages; **E-Z:** snack or finger foods, veggies and dip, chips and dip, etc. Please RSVP to Nicole Cookson at 373-9919 or email at nicole.cookson.219@gmail.com. All are welcome!!



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." — Lk 1:41-42

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass 02001, 1998, 1970 CCLD.

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.

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.

Red Cross Blood Drive: There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Jude's on **Wednesday, January 13** from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m. There is an urgent need for blood, especially this time of year. Please bring a friend and be sure to have your Blood Donor Card, Photo ID or two forms of ID.

Nate Fry: Click on this link, <https://vimeo.com/141578430>, to find out about Saint Jude parishioner Nate Fry's work in Kyrgyzstan, the Ala Archa Eco-Leadership Project. The project will bring together the concepts of social-ecological management and sustainability education, mountain adventure and leadership skills in a two week-long experience in August, 2016. Incidentally, it also features cooperation between an American University, UVM, and faculty and students in a former Soviet Socialist Republic, and the leadership of a devout Roman Catholic (that would be Nate) in a country that is more than 80% Muslim with only 1,500 Catholics served by seven Jesuit priests and five Franciscan sisters.

Salvation Army Dinner: Thank you to everyone who donated food, money and helped with the serving at our Salvation Army Dinner last Tuesday. It was a great success with our serving 122 meals. A special thank to Karen Doris, Diane Cote and Tricia Sulva for entertaining the clients with Christmas Caroling.

St. Michael's College Scholarship: Father Cray is able to nominate students who are active in our parish for a scholarship to St. Michael's College in Colchester. The scholarship is for \$5,000 per year for four years, and you must be a first-year applicant to St. Mike's. If interested, contact Father Cray for more information.

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.

St. Jude Craft Fair: Thank you to everyone who furnished food and helped out with the Craft Fair. A special thank you to our Confirmation students who helped out with set up, clean up and serving food. We had a great success. Thank you.

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.

Year of Encounter Workshop on Social Issues: Join in on Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's College for the "Year of Encounter Workshop on Social Issues". They will examine Pope Francis' inspiring messages on the issues of immigration, criminal justice, and racism. Sponsored by Vermont Interfaith Action and the Society of St. Edmund, this workshop will combine scripture study, story, and discussion to explore how community organizing techniques can help the faithful live out Catholic social teaching and take action in our communities. For more information or to register for this workshop, contact Marie at 482-2290 (parish office) or email at marietcookson@aol.com and information will be sent to you.

Tai Chi Level 2: A Tai Chi Level 2 class will begin Monday, January 4 through Wednesday, February 24 at 11:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at St. Jude Parish. It is Tai Chi for Arthritis, Fall Prevention and Health and is intended for those who have already taken the Level 1 class or have had previous experience with Tai Chi.