

December 31, 2017

The bulletin is also available online at olmvt.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—Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned ... to their own town of Nazareth." Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who followed the norms of their religion. Today's Gospel describes the event we call "The Presentation." Jesus' parents, like every Jewish family, presented their infant son to the Lord in a formal ceremony at the temple in Jerusalem. Having done what their religious rites required (and having heard the prophetic words of Simeon and Anna), Mary and Joseph returned home. It was back in their native region of Galilee, amidst the daily routine of domestic life, that Jesus "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom."

As Christians, we too consecrate our children to the Lord when we have them baptized in the Church. Seeing our children receive this sacrament of initiation is always a moment of great joy and hope as we anticipate the life that lies ahead for them, both on earth and in eternity. But the baptism of a baby is only the beginning of this journey towards heaven. In truth, the little daily details, the simple living of family life in our own home paves the way for our children to reach their eternal home.

And so it was with the Holy Family. Jesus' childhood, his formation and development took place not primarily amidst the public drama of the temple, but in the quiet privacy of his home. How important this home was, where his parents raised him in their faith and helped him live in such a way that "the favor of God was upon him." May we too, in our homes and our families, remember that although our mission may be lived out in very small moments, taken together they have an eternal significance.

Liturgical Publications

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun. Dec. 31 8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.

Sun. Dec. 31 11:00 a.m. (No Intention)

Mon. Jan. 1 10:00 a.m. (No Intention)

Sun. Jan. 7 8:00 a.m. (No Intention)

Sun. Jan. 7 11:00 a.m. For Jason Wark requested by Rosemarie Cartularo and Larry Poitras.

Offertory Last Week: \$995.00 Maintenance: \$500.00
Christmas Flowers: \$37.00
Christmas: \$4,203.00
Electronic Giving: \$50.00

Second Collection Next Week for Maintenance

Pray for Vocations

Schedule of Counters: Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Gail Blasius
Sue Haselton
Trina Bianchi

Schedule of Ministries: January 7, 2018

8:00 a.m. Altar Server: CCD Altar Servers
 Lector: Mary Tierney
 Extraordinary Min.: Rose Bernier
 Tricia Sulva
 Mary Tierney

11:00 a.m. Greeters: Kyle & Katie Franko
 Altar Server:
 Lector: Charlie Tegatz
 Extraordinary Min.: Betsy Tegatz
 Fritz Tegatz

Calendar of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Events

-01/04 Liturgy Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

-01/07 CCD at CCS at 9:00 a.m.

-01/07 2nd Year Confirmation Class at 10:30 a.m.

Question of the Week: Do I display the attributes described in today's readings when relating to my own family? As we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, do I show these qualities in my relations with friends, coworkers, strangers?

New Year's Eve and Day: The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year because it falls on a Monday. However, Mass will still be celebrated as follows:

Sunday, December 31 at **4:30 p.m.** at St. Jude

Monday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m. at OLMC

Charlotte Food Shelf: The Charlotte Food Shelf is in constant need of healthy snacks for the children the Food Shelf serves. Items such as pudding snack packs, granola bars, microwave popcorn, peanut butter or cheese crackers, pretzels and fruit or applesauce cups are all samples of healthy, easy after school snack foods. Donations may be left in the OLMC vestibule or can be dropped off at the Food Shelf at the Congregational Church on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. or Thursday mornings 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

2018 Collection Envelopes: The collection envelopes for 2018 are available in the back of the church. 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.** Thank you.

Thank You: Sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make the Advent and Christmas season such meaningful and sacred times of worship for our parish family and friends. So many gave of their time and talents including our altar servers, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, greeters, musicians and singers, Confirmation students, ushers, decorators, those who helped to clean the church and helped with setting up and taking down for the service at the Old Lantern, Liturgy Committees and most especially Father Cray.

Holy Hour Of Eucharistic Adoration: St. Jude Parish will have a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on **Friday, January 5**, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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.

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 **January 9 and 23** from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Serving begins at 12:00 noon. All Seniors and Caretakers welcome.

Adult Confirmation: Are you an adult who has been baptized and received your First Communion in the Catholic Church but were never confirmed? We will be holding a 7 session preparation class in the spring for all those interested in being confirmed. If you are interested or would like more info, please contact the office at 425-2637 or carmel@gmavt.net and we will add you to our list and will notify you as we get closer to the start date.

Jay Peak Family Fun Package: St. Jude Parish is again raffling off the Jay Peak Family Fun Package with a \$725.00 value. Tickets are \$1/each or a book of 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will happen after the holidays. Tickets are available after the weekend Masses at St. Jude's or by calling Marie at 482-2290, 425-2637 or email marietcookson@aol.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive: There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Jude's on **Thursday, January 11** 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.

Re-engaging the Occasional Catholic: A Presentation by Bishop Coyne on **Wednesday, January 17**, will be offered at Holy Cross Parish in Colchester from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. This presentation will also be available via livestreaming on the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/vermontcatholic.com>.

Regional Listening Sessions with Bishop Coyne: As a part of our preparation for the Diocesan Synod, Bishop Coyne will be holding three regional listening sessions in January. These will be similar in format to the parish listening sessions, but with the Bishop present to hear people's input. The one in our area is **Saturday, January 13 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.** at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Burlington. All are welcome.

Synod Delegates – First Preparatory Meeting with Bishop Coyne: Bishop Coyne will hold his first preparatory meeting with the delegates to the Diocesan Synod on **Saturday, February 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The delegate for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is Lisa Beal with Tricia Sulva as the alternate.



*“For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.”*

— Lk 2:30-32

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass 02001, 1998, 1979 CCD

Living Out Christmas in the New Year: How do we live out the message of Christmas in the New Year, rather than pack it away with the ornaments? Each year the Octave Day of Christmas falls on the first day of the New Year, on which we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Her open heart and courageous “yes” to God show us how to live year-round—with hearts open to the Lord, following where He leads. We are called to place our trust in Him, to enter compassionately into the suffering of others, and to love one another as Christ loves us. Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance. One way to live out the message of Christmas and follow Our Lady's example is to join 9 Days for Life, a digital pilgrimage of prayer and charitable action. The U. S. Catholic bishops invite you to join thousands of Catholics nationwide from **Thursday, January 18 – Friday, January 26**. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: “The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me.” Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekends are March 16-18, 2018 in Isle LaMotte, VT and January 19-21, 2018 in South Kingstown, RI. For more information, call Gary and Lynn Root at 802-456-8114 or visit them at <http://www.mevt.org>.

Annual Mass and Rally for Life: The annual Mass and Rally for Life will be on **Saturday, January 13** in Montpelier. Bring family and friends to Montpelier for the Rally for Life Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Coyne at St. Augustine's at 9:30 a.m. There will be a warm-up immediately following the Mass in the church hall. The Mass is sponsored by the Diocese of Burlington. At 10:45 a.m. participants will begin to line up for the traditional march to the State House. Those who do not wish to join the march can head directly over to House Chambers. Once seated, participants will hear from the featured guest speaker, Ryan Bomberger of the Radiance Foundation. Light refreshments will be offered in the State House cafeteria. The March and State House Rally are sponsored by the Vermont Right to Life Educational Trust Fund and there is no charge to attend.