

January 7, 2018

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—The Epiphany of the Lord

"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." What a wonderful example the Magi give us in their visit to the infant Jesus. First of all, they demonstrate profound faith in God's word, spoken through the prophet Micah: "And you, Bethlehem ... from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel" (cf. 5:2). Embarking on a long and difficult journey, they trust that they will find this newborn king of the Jews in Bethlehem as the prophecy announced.

On their arrival at the home of the Holy Family, the Magi also give us an example of profound humility. These important men, to whom kings look for guidance and advice, do not hesitate to bow down, to "prostrate themselves" and give homage to a tiny babe. Putting their own position out of their minds, they reverently worship the infant Lord even as he sits on the lap of his mother.

The generosity of these three "kings" is also evident as they open their treasure boxes and give to the poor child the richest of gifts. Traditionally, we understand the gold to symbolize the earthly kingship of Christ, the frankincense to represent his divinity, and the myrrh to stand as a symbol of the anointing he will receive upon his death.

Finally, the wisdom of these men is evident in their decision to return to their country "by another way." Understanding the threat that King Herod posed to Jesus, they followed a plan that would help keep the divine child safe even though it meant inconvenience to themselves.

Faith, humility, generosity, and wisdom. These gifts are the real legacy of the Three Kings. Today, let us ask God for the blessing of having these gifts in our lives.

Liturgical Publications

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS:

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.
Sun. Jan. 14 8:00 a.m. For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.
Sun. Jan. 13 11:00 a.m. For Patricia O'Connor requested by Catherine Nolan and Family

Offertory Last Week: \$2,780.00 Maintenance: \$10.00
Christmas: \$430.00 Fuel: \$20.00
Solemnity of Mary: \$118.00
Initial Offering: \$20.00 Catholic Ed: \$10.00
Electronic Giving: \$100.00

Second Collection This Week for Maintenance
Second Collection Next Week for Fuel

Pray for Vocations

Schedule of Counters: Monday, January 8, 2018

Jacqueline Jones
Karen Doris
Trina Bianchi

Schedule of Ministries: January 14, 2018

8:00 a.m.	Altar Server:	Hadley Stockwell
	Lector:	David Duffy
	Extraordinary Min.:	Sheila Duffy Judy Laberge
11:00 a.m.	Greeters:	Rosemarie Cartularo
	Altar Server:	Ethan Croke Allie Croke
	Lector:	Deena Miller Leah Croke
	Extraordinary Min.:	David Croke Deena Miller

Calendar of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Events

-01/07 CCD at CCS at 9:00 a.m.
-01/07 2nd Year Confirmation Class at 10:30 a.m.
-01/18 Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Question of the Week: Is there something I realize that I changed after encountering the Lord? Is there something I realize now that I should change?

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.

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.

From Bishop Coyne--Sign of Peace and Communion from the Cup During Cold and Flu Season: The Sign of Peace has been an integral and valued part of the worship of the church for centuries in the form of a kiss of peace or handshake. As we enter this cold and flu season, it is important to recognize that some people are especially susceptible to the viruses that can be spread by contact and that some immune systems are very sensitive. Please understand that some people may choose not to shake hands during the Sign of Peace, but might simply greet you with a smile. Also, please use common sense and good judgment concerning Mass attendance if you are ill. If you do decide to come to church for Mass, please remember that frequent and thorough hand-washing, refraining from physical contact during the Sign of Peace, and refraining from receiving communion from the Chalice can help prevent the spread of germs. Thank you.

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.

St. Peter's Clearance Sale: St. Peter's in Vergennes has had a lot of clothes given to them since their last Rummage Sale and they would like to get them into the hands of those who need them. Bring your own bag and fill it to the rim. **The cost is by donation!!** This Clearance Sale will be held on **Saturday, January 13**. All are welcome.



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. — Mt 2:10-11

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

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.

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.