

**Offertory:** February 13, 2016 OLM \$295, OLV \$696, COS \$1,043, Total \$2,034  
 February 11, 2017 OLM \$627, OLV \$611, COS \$2,016, Total \$3,254 (incl. online giving)

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, April 1, OLM 4:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
 Saturday, April 1, COS 4:30 PM For Billy and Frank Zimmermann, requested by the Zimmerman family  
 Sunday, April 2, OLM 8:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
 Sunday, April 2, OLV 10:30 AM For Ann Elizabeth Chapman, requested by Mark Chapman  
 Sunday, April 2, COS 12:30 PM For Aloysius Weimer, requested by Bill and Rosemary Warden  
 Saturday, April 8, OLM 4:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
 Saturday, April 8, COS 4:30 PM For Maureen, Anna May and Peter Herron, requested by Kate and Bob Zimmerman  
 Sunday, April 9, OLM 8:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
 Sunday, April 9, OLV 10:30 AM For Rose Franco, requested by Carol Bemis  
 Sunday, April 9, COS 12:30 PM For Edward F. and Elizabeth Sweeney, requested by Bill and Rosemary Warden



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

April 5: Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, 7 PM OLV  
 April 7: First Friday Mass, 5:30 PM, St. Edmund's, Saxtons River  
 April 7: Stations of the Cross, OLV 5:00 PM, Every Friday night through Lent  
 April 8: **Last Saturday Mass at Chapel of the Snows until Nov. 25, 2017**  
 April 8 & 9: **Special Collection, Fuel # 1**  
 April 9: **Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord**  
 April 11: The Chrism Mass, St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, 11 AM



At Our Lady of the Valley in Townshend, for the season of Lent, the Stations of the Cross are made every Friday at 5:00 PM. All are welcome.

**Weekly Intention:**

For the grace this week to return to the Father in true contrition and confession of our sins.



**Did you know? April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month...**

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is most appropriate that National Child Abuse Prevention Month is during the Lenten and Easter seasons. There is no better time to help heal those harmed by abuse and neglect, to reflect on the importance of child safety, and to renew our promise to protect our most valuable gift from God – our children. For information on how you can become more informed and involved in keeping our children safe, visit the “Child Safety” section of [www.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.vermontcatholic.org) or contact your parish office.

**The Chrism Mass** will be held Tuesday, April 11, at 11:00 am at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral in Burlington. At this special Mass celebrated by Bishop Coyne, the Oil of Chrism is consecrated, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the priests within the Diocese of Burlington recommit themselves to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. All are invited to join in celebrating this special Mass.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

<b>April 13: Holy Thursday</b>	<b>Our Lady of Mercy</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
	<b>Our Lady of the Valley</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>April 14: Good Friday</b>	<b>Our Lady of Mercy</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
	<b>Our Lady of the Valley</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>April 15: Holy Saturday</b>	<b>Our Lady of Mercy</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
	<b>Our Lady of the Valley</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
	<b>Chapel of the Snows</b>	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
<b>April 16: Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Our Lady of Mercy</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>
	<b>Our Lady of the Valley</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
	<b>Chapel of the Snows</b>	<b>12:30 PM</b>



**Just for Fun:** The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve. Surprise, surprise—it was an Apple, but with extremely limited memory. Just one BYTE then everything crashed.

**WORN AGAIN THRIFT SHOP BAG SALE!**

**APRIL 5, 7 & 8**  
 (EXCLUDES JEWELRY)

**\$3** /bag

Wed.-10-4  
 Friday-10-5  
 Sat.-10-4

**From Fr. Fred:**

***The Emperor's Seeds***

An emperor in the Far East was growing old and knew it was time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or his children, he decided something different. He called young people in the kingdom together one day. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you." The kids were shocked! But the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today, one very special seed. I want you to plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next emperor!"

One boy named Ling was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the story. She helped him get a pot and planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully. Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown.

After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Ling kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, 4 weeks, 5 weeks went by. Still nothing.

By now, others were talking about their plants but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. Six months went by; still nothing in Ling's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Ling didn't say anything to his friends, however. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot but his mother said he must be honest about what happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace.

When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other youths. They were beautiful—in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other kids laughed at him. A few felt sorry for him and just said, "Hey nice try."

When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the emperor. "Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. "The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!"

When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked his name. "My name is Ling," he replied. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked everyone to quiet down. He looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!"

Ling couldn't believe it. Ling couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor? Then the emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds, which would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"



**Quote of the week:** "God does not command that you must utterly forgo creaturely consolations; indeed, God created all things to serve you. But God did command that you use them with moderation, sobriety, and temperance, that you share them cheerfully with the needy, that your possessions not be your master but you theirs, and that you use them to attain God." St. Robert Bellarmine