

April 22, 2018

Offertory: Dec. 17, 2017 OLM \$476, OLV \$550, COS \$913, Total \$1,939
Dec. 18, 2016 OLM \$157, OLV \$502, COS \$816, Total \$1,475



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 21, OLM 4:00 PM For Tom Rowley, requested by Fr. Francis McMahon
Sunday, April 22, OLM 8:30 AM For Terry Kauffman and all deceased *FRIENDS* supporters, requested by Jacob Schroeder
Sunday, April 22, OLV 10:30 AM For Kathleen LaTaille, requested by Walter and Elaine Meyer
Sunday, April 22, COS 12:30 PM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
Saturday, April 28, OLM 4:00 PM For all *FRIENDS Missionaries*, requested by Jacob Schroeder
Sunday, April 29, OLM 8:30 AM For Tom Rowley, requested by Fr. Francis McMahon
Sunday, April 29, OLV 10:30 AM For Terese Heard, requested by Eleanor Crombie
Sunday, April 29, COS 12:30 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.

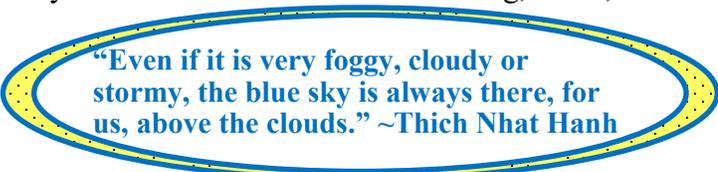
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 28 & 29: Special Collection: Catholic Home Missions, Black and Indian Missions

April 29: Confirmation, 2:00 PM St. Michael's, Brattleboro
May 2: Parish Pastoral Council Meeting, 7 PM, OLV

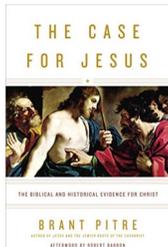
APRIL

National Child Abuse Prevention Month



 **Weekly Intention:** For the grace this week to keep Christ's commandments and to be perfected in his love.

Next week, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Right now, over 40% of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.uusccb.org/home-missions



Parish Book Club Announcement: Our May book club selection is *The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ* by Brant Pitre. Father Fred presented each parish family with this book during Lent.

BRANT PITRE is a Professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the bestselling author of *Jesus, the Tribulation, and the End of Exile* and *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*, among others.

We live in deeply challenging times. Spring is a time of sweeping off and greening up. Let's sweep away the cobwebs of our minds about our Lord and our faith and take on Brant Pitre's groundbreaking challenge that dispels the skeptics and makes an iron-clad case—through the Gospels—for Jesus Christ. Please consider reading this transformational book. Then, join us for an hour of sharing and discussion on Wednesday, May 23rd from 7-8pm at Our Lady of the Valley. Contact Carol Bemis (802-779-6412) with any questions. Hope to see many of you at our club meeting!!!

 **Did you know? The Diocese of Burlington is committed to protecting the youth in our care...** The Diocese of Burlington hosts a variety of programs and events in which there is regular contact with children and young people. With many children and young people entrusted to our care, it is our sacred and ethical responsibility to protect the rights of children and be alert to the possibility of child abuse.

If you know or suspect that a minor (person under 18 years of age) has been abused/neglected, you must make a report to local law enforcement or call the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) at 1-800-649-5285. This number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If a child is in immediate danger of harm, dial 911. Follow up by making a report to DCF.

The Diocese of Burlington also provides a Victim Assistance Hotline for reporting the abuse of a minor (in the past or presently) by a member of the clergy or other church personnel: **1-866-485-2488**. The Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator will respond to calls to the hotline. A report to the diocese does not relieve a mandated reporter of the duty to report child abuse to civil authorities as required by Vermont State Law.

From Fr. Fred

Scripture doesn't lie. It truly is the word of God. But taking a passage of Scripture out of its context can lead to false conclusions. For example Scripture says: "There is no God!" Really. Look it up. (Psalm 14,1 and Psalm 53,1) If you do look it up you'll immediately see that the context changes everything. In context it says: "Fools say to themselves, 'There is no God!'" See what I mean?

The most common and dangerous example, I think, is when our brethren in another Christian denomination try to get us to join them by saying that only 144,000 people will be saved. They quote the Bible to prove it. Guess what? It actually does say that! Here it is: "Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion; with him were 144,000 people who have his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven that sounded like a roaring waterfall, like a loud peal of thunder. It sounded like the music made by musicians playing their harps. The 144,000 people stood before the throne, the four living creatures, and the elders; they were singing a new song, which only they could learn. Of the whole human race they are the only ones who have been redeemed." (Revelation 14,1-3)

Sounds might convincing, doesn't it? It certainly was to the two young women missionaries who quoted it for me. But it is taken out of context! The two young women were totally shocked when I borrowed their bible and showed them from the same book of Revelation that the 144,000 were all men, and all Jews. They were all Virgins, and all men who had never told a lie, and all were faultless. (Revelation 14, 4-5 and Revelation 7, 4-8) No wonder there were only 144,000 of them, The women just hadn't read the next two verses and chapter 7!

However the young ladies were astonished and delighted when I also showed them Revelation 7, 9-10. This last one says: "After this I looked, and there was an enormous crowd—no one could count all the people! They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood in front of the throne and of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They called out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb!"

Makes a huge difference, doesn't it, when we actually look it up in the Bible and read it in context. The Lamb, of course, is Jesus. He came to save all of us, men and women, all over the world. God loves us. We are his children, and he wants all of us to be with him in heaven.

Perhaps you might want to save this, and show it to the next person who tells you about the 144,000.

Just for Fun: After preaching an appeal for the missions in a parish, the visiting missionary was greeting people at the back of the church as they left. One little boy said to him: "When I grow up I'm going to give you a lot of money!" The missionary said: "That's wonderful! May I ask why?" The boy replied: "Because my father said that you are the poorest preacher we've ever had here."



Quote of the week: "Be prepared for periods of darkness, anxiety, doubts, fears, and temptations. For if these were nothing to bear, for what would you go to heaven? If there were no trials, there would be no struggle. Without a struggle, victory would be impossible, and without victory, there is no reward."
~St. Maximilian Kolbe