

Offertory: November 16, 2014 OLM \$769, OLV \$861, COS \$146, Total \$1,007
 November 15, 2015 OLM \$600, OLV \$806, COS \$539, Total \$1,945 (incl. online giving).

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec 12, OLM 4:00 PM For Henry Wajdowicz, requested by Mathew and Theresa Wajdowicz
 Saturday, Dec 12, COS 4:30 PM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Sunday, Dec 13, OLM 8:30 AM For All Our Parishioners
 Sunday, Dec 13, OLV 10:30 AM For the Parish Community of Our Lady of the Valley, requested by Deacon Richard and Daisy Anderberg
 Sunday, Dec 13, COS 12:30 PM For Isabella Gozzo, requested by the Flaherty Family
 Saturday, Dec 19, OLM 4:00 PM For Terry E Tyler, requested by Lois Tyler
 Saturday, Dec 19, COS 4:30 PM For Sue Driscoll, requested by Deacon Jerry
 Sunday, Dec 20, OLM 8:30 AM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Sunday, Dec 20, OLV 10:30 AM For Margaret and William Schaefer, requested by Eleanor C. Crombie
 Sunday, Dec 20, COS 12:30 PM For the Jesser, Matthy and Walsh Families, requested by Rob and Joan Walsh

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dec 12 & 13: Special Collection, Retirement Fund for Religious

Dec 16: Cursillo Ultreya, 7 PM *cancelled*
Dec 17: Communal Penance Service, 7 PM, OLV
 Dec 17: Finance Council Meeting, 4:30PM, Rectory
 Dec 18: Adoration, 3PM, OLV
 Dec 20: Our Lady of Ephesus House of Prayer, 4:15 PM
Dec 24: Christmas Eve
Dec 25: Christmas Day



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve, 12/24 OLM-4:00 PM
 OLV- 6:00 PM
 COS- 4:30 PM
 6:00 PM

Christmas Day, 12/25 OLM- 8:30 AM
 OLV-10:30 AM
 COS-12:30 PM

Aging religious need your help. In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

Theology on Tap-Young Adult Group: Young adults between the ages of 21 and 35 are invited to join us for Theology on Tap at Church Street Tavern in Burlington starting at 7pm on December 17th. This month's speaker will be His Excellency, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne. We also host a Bible study every Tuesday night at 8pm in the St. Anthony conference room at 305 Flynn Ave. Burlington. For more info, email burlingtonareayoungadults@gmail.com or search for Burlington Area Catholic Young Adults on Facebook!

Weekly Intention:
 For the grace this week to be joyful during this Advent Season.

"When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?"
 ~Eleanor Roosevelt

Our Lady of Ephesus House of Prayer
 35 Fawn Ledge Lane, Jamaica, VT
ourladyofephesushouseofprayer.org

20th Ecumenical Festival of Lights
 Sunday, December 20th, 2015

Our Lady of Ephesus House of Prayer invites you to come celebrate the 20th Ecumenical Festival of Lights.

4:15PM ~ Gathering time
4:30PM ~ Procession and Caroling to the Living Crèche
5:00PM ~ Turning on all the Lights for the Season

Children are invited to come dressed as shepherds or angels!!

BONFIRE ~ HOT CHOCOLATE ~ DOUGHNUTS

For directions and information call 802-896-6000 or check our web page: ourladyofephesushouseofprayer.org
Please use the directions from our web page, not your GPS.

From Fr. Fred:

Here is an inspirational story of an innocent mistake that revealed an unexpected truth.



CHRISTMAS LOVE

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations — extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas. My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in 10 minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song. Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas", I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment— songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love", I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of this classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row—center stage—held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas", a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy", and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love." The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her—a small, quiet girl, in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down—totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of the 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W". Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together.

A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood—the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear: CHRIST WAS LOVE. And, I believe, He still is.



Just for Fun:

Here's a classical pun from ancient Greece. In ancient times a man walks into a tailor shop in Athens carrying two torn garments.

Tailor: "Euripides?"

Customer: "Yes. Eumenides?"



Quote of the week:

"Whenever a hand reaches out to do good or to show the love of Christ, to dry a tear or bring comfort to the lonely, to show the way to one who is lost or to console a broken heart, to help the fallen or to teach those thirsting for truth, to forgive or to offer a new start in God...Know that the Pope is at your side and supports you."

(Pope Francis during his U.S. visit)

