

Offertory: Sept. 24, 2017 OLM \$572, OLV \$697, COS \$726, Total \$1,995
Sept. 25, 2016 OLM \$476, OLV \$462, COS \$327, Total \$1,265

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Dec. 29, OLM 4:00 PM For Polly McAllister, requested by her family
Saturday, Dec. 29, COS 4:30 PM For Peter, AnnaMay and Maureen Herron, requested by the Zimmermann family
Sunday, Dec. 31, OLM 8:30 AM For Jane Engel, requested by Bill Engel
Sunday, Dec. 31, OLV 10:30 AM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
Sunday, Dec. 31, COS 12:30 PM For Jane Engel requested by Bill Engel


Monday, January 1, 2018 OLM 6:00 PM For all Parishioners
Monday, January 1, 2018 OLV 6:00 PM For all Parishioners


Saturday, Jan. 6, OLM 4:00 PM OPEN FOR YOUR REQUEST
Saturday, Jan. 6, COS 4:30 PM For Joan Kopin, requested by Karen Shaw
Sunday, Jan. 7, OLM 8:30 AM For Lauren JoAnne Airoidi, requested by David Airoidi
Sunday, Jan. 7, OLV 10:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
Sunday, Jan. 7, COS 12:30 PM For Maverick Shaw, requested by Karen Shaw



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan, 1, 2018: Special Collection: New Year’s Day, Mary Mother of God, OLM-6:00 PM, OLV-6:00 PM
Jan. 5: First Friday Mass, 5:30 PM, St. Edmund’s, Saxtons River
Jan. 13 & 14: Special Collection: Vermont Catholic Magazine

 **Weekly Intention:** For the grace this week to commit ourselves to a firmer prayer life.

 **Saturday, January 13**
Rally for Life Mass 9:30 a.m. St. Augustine Church in Montpelier. Bishop Coyne will be the main celebrant.
Rally for Life 10:45 a.m. in Montpelier - After Mass, participants will gather behind City Hall to line up for the march to the steps of the State House, where opening remarks will be followed by speakers indoors.
Description—Ryan Bomberger of the Radiance Foundation, author of “Not Equal: Civil Rights Gone Wrong,” will be the keynote speaker at the Jan. 13 Rally for Life in Montpelier sponsored by the Vermont Right to Life Committee Inc. According to publicity materials, “Bomberger has a rather unique perspective of the innate nature of Purpose. His biological mother was raped, yet courageously gave him a chance to live and the beautiful gift of adoption. He was adopted at six weeks of age and grew up in a loving, multi-racial Christian family of 15. With siblings of varying ethnicities he grew up with a great appreciation for diversity. Ten of the thirteen children were adopted in this remarkable family. His life defies the myth of the ‘unwanted’ child as he was adopted, loved and has flourished.” To open the day’s events, Catholics are invited to join Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne for the annual Rally for Life Mass at St. Augustine Church, 16 Barre St. at 9:30 a.m. Mass will be followed by a coffee-and-doughnut warm-up in the parish hall before pro-life advocates gather behind City Hall to begin the march to the Statehouse at 10:45 a.m. The Rally for Life will take place inside the House Chambers at the Statehouse.

happy new year
Mass Schedule

OUR LADY OF MERCY

Mary Mother of God, New Year
Sunday 12/31 8:30AM
Monday **New Year’s Day** 1/1/2018 6:00PM

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY

Mary Mother of God, New Year
Sunday 12/31 10:30AM
Monday **New Year’s Day** 1/1/2018 6:00PM

CHAPEL OF THE SNOWS

Mary Mother of God, New Year
Sunday 12/31 12:30PM

From Fr. Fred:

Opportunity of a Lifetime:

Our Bishop, Christopher Coyne, is asking us something very unusual. He is actually asking us for our advice! No kidding. He has called a Synod to discern the work of the Catholic Church in Vermont now and in the future. He wants to listen to us, the laity and the clergy. He wants to hear our ideas and then make them the agenda for the Synod. The laity will far outnumber the clergy as delegates to the synod. (More information on the process can be found at vermontcatholic.org/synod) Our parish listening sessions have already taken place and the results sent in. The questions we responded to were: 1- As the Catholic Church in Vermont, what are we doing well? 2- What are we doing that we should be doing better? 3- What are we not doing that we should be doing?

Even if you were not at those listening sessions (or were and have more to say) you still have a golden opportunity to be heard. You can give your input online at vermontcatholic.org/synod. Click on ABOUT US and CONTACT US to do it by e-mail. Or you can type or hand-write a letter and send it to DIOCESAN SYNOD, 55 JOY DRIVE, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT 05403

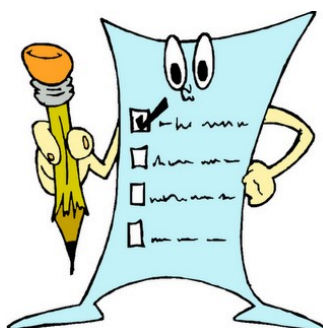
In all cases, our Bishop asks, please keep the letter to ONE PAGE. May I gently suggest that it might be most practical to restrict it to things that he can actually do here in Vermont.

What an amazing opportunity to really work together for the Lord! Pray, discern and let your voice be heard. It is the opportunity of a lifetime.



Quote of the week:

“In a family it is normal to take charge of those who need help. Do not be afraid of frailty.”
Pope Francis



Just for Fun:

GIRL: The man I marry must be great company, tell jokes, be musical, dance well, and stay home every night.

MOTHER: You don't want a husband—you want a TV set.