

Offertory: Nov. 5, 2017 OLM \$643, OLV \$579, COS \$507, Total \$1,729  
Nov. 6, 2016 OLM \$436, OLV \$636, COS \$324, Total \$1,396

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, Feb. 10, OLM 4:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
Saturday, Feb. 10, COS 4:30 PM For Peter, Anna May and Maureen Herron, requested by the Zimmermann family  
Sunday, Feb. 11, OLM 8:30 AM For Ronald Trahan, requested by Fr. Francis McMahon  
Sunday, Feb. 11, OLV 10:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
Sunday, Feb. 11, COS 12:30 PM For Edward Francis and Elizabeth Sweeny, requested by Bill and Rosemary Warden  
Saturday, Feb. 17, OLM 4:00 PM For Bill Snyder, requested by Fr. Francis McMahon  
Saturday, Feb. 17, COS 4:30 PM For Tom Rowley, requested by Fr. Francis McMahon  
Saturday, Feb. 17, COS 6:00 PM For Ronald Trahan, requested by Fr. Francis McMahon  
Sunday, Feb. 18, OLM 8:30 AM For Alex Raymond, requested by Heather and Normand Raymond  
Sunday, Feb. 18, OLV 10:30 AM For Maynard Bemis, requested by Martin and Carol Bemis  
Sunday, Feb. 18, COS 12:30 PM For Warren and Charlotte Warden, requested by Bill and Rosemary Warden

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Feb. 10 & 11: Special Collection: Church in Latin America  
Feb. 14: Holy Day of Obligation: Ash Wednesday, Mass OLM 5:30PM, OLV 7:30 PM, with distribution of Ashes

**GUIDELINES FOR LENT**

The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.

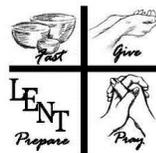
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

The rule of **fasting** states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength", are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from 18 to 59.

The **substantial** observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation.

Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended.

Parents and teachers should see to it that, even those who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence because of age, are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.



**Weekly Intention:** For the grace this week to reach out with compassion to those who are hurting.



**MARCH 3, 2018**  
**A FAITH- FILLED CONCERT EXPERIENCE!**  
The Array of Hope concert is a wide-ranging live concert experience that features multiple musical acts, motivational speakers and thought-provoking

films. Array of Hope is a journey of faith, hope and love, that entertains the audience, touching and transforming hearts through powerful witnessing to God's love for us. The Diocese of Burlington invites the **WHOLE FAMILY** for this vocation night with Father. Jon Schnobrich and Bishop Coyne. Focused on ages 7th - 12th grade.

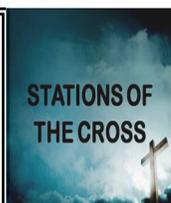
**Concert 1-4pm - Mass 4pm -evening end 7pm**

**COST: suggested contribution of \$10/ person or \$20/family--includes dinner**

**WHERE:** St. Michael School, 48 Walnut St., Brattleboro, VT 05301

To register, please contact Kerry by February 17, 2018 at St. Michael Parish at 802-257-5101 or via email at [parish@stmichaelvt.com](mailto:parish@stmichaelvt.com).

The **Stations of the Cross** are made every **Friday at 5:00 PM at Our Lady of the Valley in Townshend**, for the season of Lent. Starting February 16th. All are welcome.



**From Fr. Fred:** *(For me, reading this aloud to a friend makes it seem even more hilarious.)*

Imagine the conversation The Creator might have with St. Francis on the subject of lawns:

**GOD:** Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in North America? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon.

The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attract butterflies, honey bees, and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now...but all I see are these green rectangles.

**St. Francis:** It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**God:** Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

**St. Francis:** Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin in the spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**God:** The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

**St. Francis:** Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

**God:** They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?

**St. Francis:** No Sire. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

**God:** Now let me get this straight. They fertilize the grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away.

**St. Francis:** Yes, Sir.

**God:** These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on rain and turn up the heat. That slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**St. Francis:** You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing as fast they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

**God:** What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and brushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a perfect example of the natural circle of life.

**St. Francis:** You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

**God:** No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

**St. Francis:** After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

**God:** And where do they get this mulch?

**St. Francis:** They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

**God:** Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

**St. Catherine:** Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about...

**God:** Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story. from St. Francis.



**Quote of the week:** "To be friends with God means to pray with simplicity, like children talking to their parents."-Pope Francis

**Just for Fun:** *Psychiatrist:* Mr. Jones, I can say with confidence that after fifteen years of psychotherapy you are cured.  
*Patient:* Well, that's good I guess. But on the other hand, fifteen years ago I was God. Now I'm nobody.

