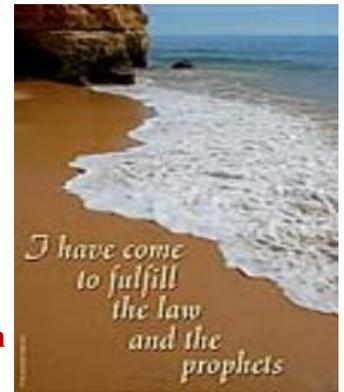


Offertory: December 15, 2015 OLM \$386, OLV \$502, COS \$886, Total \$1,774
 December 11, 2016 OLM \$157, OLV \$502, COS \$816, Total \$1,475 (incl. online giving)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Feb. 11, OLM 4:00 PM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Saturday, Feb. 11, COS 4:30 PM For Richard Morgan, requested by Patricia Morgan
 Sunday, Feb. 12, OLM 8:30 AM For Marc and Karen Shaw, requested by Karen Shaw
 Sunday, Feb. 12, OLV 10:30 AM For Alan Moss, requested by Carol Bemis
 Sunday, Feb. 12, COS 12:30 PM For Richard Morgan, requested by Patricia Morgan
 Saturday, Feb. 18, OLM 4:00 PM For Charles Kelleher, requested by Laura Kelleher
 Saturday, Feb. 18, COS 4:30 PM For Richard Morgan, requested by Patricia Morgan
 Saturday, Feb. 18, COS 6:00 PM For Frank Zimmermann, requested by Kate and Bob Zimmermann
 Sunday, Feb. 19, OLM 8:30 AM For the Shaw Family, requested by Karen Shaw
 Sunday, Feb. 19, OLV 10:30 AM For Irene Gage, requested by Carol Bemis
 Sunday, Feb. 19, COS 12:30 PM For Richard Morgan, requested by Patricia Morgan



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb. 11 & 12: Special Collection: Church in Latin America

Feb. 15: Cursillo Ultreya, 7 PM, at the Anderberg's
 Feb. 16: Finance Council Meeting, 6 PM, Rectory
 Feb. 17: Adoration, OLV, 3 PM

March 1: Ash Wednesday, Mass OLM 5:30PM, OLV 7:30 PM, with distribution of Ashes

"Don't count the days. Make the days count." -Muhammad Ali



Weekly Intention:

For the grace this week to obey the commandments and teach them to others.

-This weekend is the Collection for the Church in Latin America! Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection, which strengthens the faith of our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Your support is bringing the faith to those in remote villages who would otherwise not have access to church programs and outreach. Share your faith! Support the second collection. To learn more about the collection, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Pro-Life Answers to False Pro-Choice Arguments (Part III)

"Every child a wanted child".

Prior to the legalization of abortion over 40 years ago, advocates for abortion held out the panacea of the elimination of "unwanted children" if only abortion was legal. In fact, it was Planned Parenthood, which led this charge, coining the familiar slogan, "Every child a wanted child". Despite the fact that some 57 million "unwanted" babies have died in the intervening period, the pro-choice lobby still uses this argument to justify abortion.

In the 1960' and 70's the pro-choice position was that legalizing abortion would drastically reduce child abuse. America legalized abortion and during the next 40 plus years, child abuse has skyrocketed (from 167,000 cases in 1973 to 1,694,756 cases in 2002). Yet, despite this staggering increase in child abuse, the pro-choice lobby continues to tie itself in knots by now arguing that making abortion illegal would cause an increase in child abuse!!! How many more millions of children do we have to kill before their scheme starts to work?

We all agree that every child should be wanted. This is an idealistic goal, but sadly we do not live in an idyllic world. Wouldn't it also be a wonderful world if there were no unwanted wives, no aging unwanted parents, no unwanted Jews, blacks or Catholics or anyone else who is devalued or persecuted?

Moreover, since when does anyone's right to live depend upon someone else wanting them? Women rightfully resent that the value of a woman is sometimes determined by whether a man wants her. How can anyone possibly insist that the value of an unborn baby is to be determined by whether a mother wants him or her at any given time? To use being wanted by someone as a measure of whether a human life is allowed to live is a truly frightening concept. Its converse logically awaits us --- that the unwanted can be eliminated. Don't forget that Hitler's Germany was ideal for wanted Aryans. To make sense, the slogan: "Every child a wanted child" has to be completed "and if not wanted, aborted." To complete the sentence removes the mask from this misleading slogan and reveals it for the evil that it is!

From Fr. Fred:

St. Catherine of Siena didn't think small. She didn't pray only for the people she knew personally or those who asked for her prayers. She thought big. She prayed for everyone. We should do the same.

From a dialogue On Divine Providence by Saint Catherine of Siena, virgin, and Doctor of the Church

The bonds of love

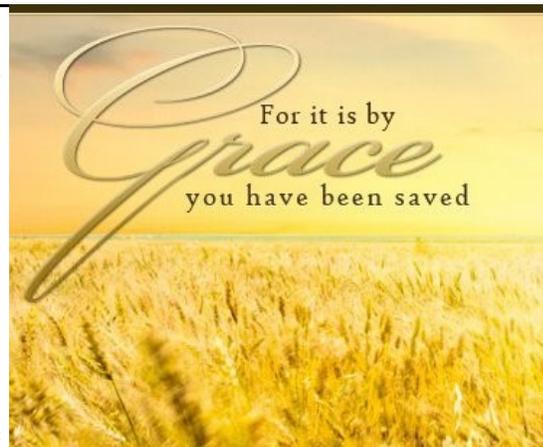
My sweet Lord, look with mercy upon your people and especially upon the mystical body of your Church.

Greater glory is given to your name for pardoning a multitude of your creatures than if I alone were pardoned for my great sins against your majesty. It would be no consolation for me to enjoy your life if your holy people stood in death. For I see that sin darkens the life of your bride the Church—my sin and the sins of others.

It is a special grace I ask for, this pardon for the creatures you have made in your image and likeness. When you created man, you were moved by love to make him in your own image. Surely only love could so dignify your creatures. But I know very well that man lost the dignity you gave him; he deserved to lose it, since he had committed sin.

Moved by love and wishing to reconcile the human race to yourself, you gave us your only-begotten Son. He became our mediator and our justice by taking on all our injustice and sin out of obedience to your will, eternal Father just as you willed that he take on our human nature. What an immeasurably profound love! Your Son went down from the heights of his divinity to the depths of our humanity. Can anyone's heart remain closed and hardened after this?

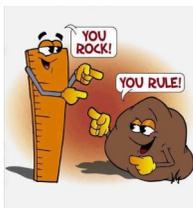
We image your divinity, but you image our humanity in that union of the two which you have worked in a man. You have veiled the Godhead in a cloud, in the clay of our humanity. Only your love could so dignify the flesh of Adam. And so by reason of this immeasurable love I beg, with all the strength of my soul, that you freely extend your mercy to all your lowly creatures.



Just for Fun:

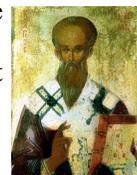
A pun involves a word that has two different meanings. A double pun has two words, side by side, with each word having two different meanings. What follows is the only triple pun I have ever heard.

An Irish woman's two sons came to America to find a better life. They started a cattle ranch. They decided to let their mother have the honor of naming the ranch. When they called her and asked, she replied: "Call it FOCUS." Puzzled, they asked: "Why FOCUS?" She answered: "Focus, where the SUN'S RAYS MEET!" (Sons Raise Meat)



Quote of the week:

"Martyrdom means bearing witness to God. Every soul that seeks in pureness of heart to know God and obeys the commandments of God is a martyr, bearing witness by life or by words.... That is why, in the gospels, the Lord praises the people who have left house or family or lands for Jesus' sake and for the gospel. Those people are blessed because they too are going to meet martyrdom simply by living in a way that is different from the crowd, because they are following the rule of the gospel for love of the Lord." St. Clement of Alexandria



Annual Appeal 2016-2017

Annual Appeal Goal: \$30,000.00~ Contributions to Date: \$31,706.00!! Thank you to all who have made a contribution! We are still accepting donations which can be sent to: Our Lady of Mercy Rectory, PO Box 246, Putney, Vt. 05346

