

Offertory: January 18, 2015 OLM \$605, OLV \$423, COS \$1,597 Total \$2,625
 January 17, 2016 OLM \$416, OLV \$481, COS \$1,678 Total \$2,575 (incl. online giving)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Feb 13, OLM 4:00 PM For Marybeth Gibson, requested by Karen Shaw
 Saturday, Feb 13, COS 4:30 PM For Billy Zimmerman, requested by the Zimmerman Family
 Saturday, Feb 13, COS 6:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Sunday, Feb 14, OLM 8:30 AM *open for your request*
 Sunday, Feb 14, OLV 10:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Sunday, Feb 14, COS 12:30 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Saturday, Feb 20, OLM 4:00 PM *open for your request*
 Saturday, Feb 20, COS 4:30 PM For Billy Zimmerman, requested by the Zimmerman family
 Sunday, Feb 21, OLM 8:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Sunday, Feb 21, OLV 10:30 AM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Sunday, Feb 21, COS 12:30 PM For Wiley Goodrich, requested by Karen Shaw



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb 14: St. Valentine's Day
Feb 13 & 14: Special Collection: Church in Latin America
 Feb 17: Cursillo Ultreya, 7:00 PM, Our Lady of the Valley, Townshend, **OPEN HOUSE**
 Feb 18: Finance Council Mtg., 4:30 PM, Rectory
 Feb 18: Parish Book Club, *Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism by Scott and Kimberly Hahn* 7:00-8:00 PM, Our Lady of the Valley, Townshend
 Feb 19: Adoration, 3:00 PM OLV



Cursillo

Making a Friend,
 Being a Friend
 Bringing a Friend to Christ

Men's Cursillo Weekend
Women's Cursillo Weekend

July 28-31st
August 4-7th

For information: Dan Daigler 257-7395, Carol Bemis 779-6412

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.
- Abstinence** refers to the eating of meat. The common estimation of the community is used to determine what falls under the category of meat. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years or older.
- 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 face the temptations of life by relying on the love of the Lord in our lives.



"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

~John F. Kennedy



Annual Appeal 2015-2016

Annual Appeal Goal \$30,000.00 ~ Contributions to Date \$23,565.00 ~ Balance Remaining \$6,435.00

Thank you to all who have made a contribution. There are envelopes in the back of the church if you did not receive one in the mail. Donations can be sent to: Our Lady of Mercy Rectory, PO Box 246, Putney, Vt. 05346

From Fr. Fred

We are united in Christ

Brazilian Dom Helder Camara (1909-1990) was the guiding force and conscience for Latin American bishops during the second half of the 20th century. Instrumental in creating the organization of Brazilian Bishops and the Council of Latin American Bishops, he is remembered for his humble lifestyle and his uncompromising commitment to the poor and oppressed.

*May these words, from **The Conversions of a Bishop** (1979), inspire us as Christ's disciples.*



Do you know what I thank the Creator and Father for most of all? I thank God for uniting me, in Christ, with all human beings of every race, every color and creed.

Christ teaches us more and more that all of us, absolutely all of us, without exception, have the same Father; and that, consequently, we are all sisters and brothers! And further, we human beings sense that our fraternity extends to include all creatures, animated or inert, great or small. All of us emerged from the hands of the Creator!

It is a pity that as we begin to reach out toward the stars, we leave behind us on earth an absurdity, a folly, an aberration: more than two-thirds of humanity living in subhuman conditions, suffering from poverty and starvation.

But what a joy it is to see how the Creator and Father rejoices to make us co-creators, how Christ rejoices to make us his co-liberators! Christ, our brother, urges us today more than ever to liberate ourselves and liberate our brothers and sisters from sin and the consequences of sin, from selfishness and the consequences of selfishness.

It is a pity that, as we continue to extend the limits of intelligence and creativity, we continue to be limited, so grossly selfish, and so incapable of imagining a world without empires to control and subjugate it, without oppressors and oppressed.

Resolve to make a difference in the world!

Nevertheless, in every country, and every race, and every religion, in every human group, the Spirit of God continues to inspire those who are resolved to make any sacrifice in order to create a world that is better to live in, more just and more humane: in order to liberate the world from the increasingly heavy and stifling structures that oppress practically everyone.

Among the oppressed you will find a profusion of divisions, splits, distrust, and conflict. Oppressors are skillful at sowing discord among the oppressed. It was no coincidence that, at the supreme moment of his life, Christ asked his Father for unity among all people.

Suggest, teach, persuade: the day will come when all the world will unite to construct a world that is more just and more humane, the day when we shall finally discover the nuclear force of Love!

Just for Fun:

Many years ago a lady was returning to Ireland from a trip to the Continent. At the Irish customs desk the inspector was checking her luggage.

Inspector: "Do you have any items to declare?"

Lady: "No."

Inspector: "What's in this thermos?"

Lady: "That's holy water from Lourdes."

The inspector was thorough and suspicious. He opened the thermos and sniffed it.

Inspector: "That's not holy water. That's whiskey!"

Lady: "Glory be to God! A miracle!!"



Quote of the week:

"Our Lord does not come down from Heaven every day to lie in a golden ciborium. He comes to find another heaven of our souls, created in His Image, the living temples of the Adorable Trinity."



St. Therese of Lisieux