

**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. 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  
 Saturday, Feb. 24, OLM 4:00 PM For Bill Snyder, requested by Fr. Francis McMahon  
 Saturday, Feb. 24, COS 4:30 PM For Tom Rowley, requested by Fr. Francis McMahon  
 Sunday, Feb. 25, OLM 8:30 AM For Al and Francis Pope, requested by Fr. Francis McMahon  
 Sunday, Feb. 25, OLV 10:30 AM For Irene Gage, requested by Martin and Carol Bemis  
 Sunday, Feb. 25, COS 12:30 PM For Barbara De Angelis, requested by Frank J. and Rosa Cannella

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Feb. 16: Stations of the Cross, OLV 5:00 PM, Every Friday night through Lent  
**Feb. 17 & 18: Special Collection: Easter Flowers**  
 Feb. 21: Cursillo Ultreya, 6:30 PM, Brattleboro  
 Feb. 23: Stations of the Cross, OLV 5:00 PM, Every Friday night through Lent  
 March 2: First Friday Mass, 5:30 PM, St. Edmund's, Saxtons River  
 March 2: Stations of the Cross, OLV 5:00 PM, Every Friday night through Lent  
 March 3: Array of Hope Concert, 1:00PM-4:00PM, St. Michael's School, Brattleboro



**★ 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**



For the season of Lent, the **Stations of the Cross** are made **every Friday at 5:00 PM** at **Our Lady of the Valley in Townshend**. All are welcome



**Weekly Intention:** For the grace this week to face the temptations of life by relying on the love of the Lord in our lives.

**★ Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

“The kingdom of God is at hand.” As we begin Lent, let us try to bring the kingdom of God to our marriages by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Mar 16-18, 2018 in Isle La Motte, VT and Mar 9-11, 2018 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Gary & Lynn Root at 802-456-8114 or visit them at <https://wwmevt.org>.



**Annual Appeal 2017-2018 Annual Appeal Goal \$30,000.00. Contributions to Date:**

**\$27,795.00. Balance Remaining \$2,205.** 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

A man complained bitterly to God about the cross he had to bear in life. It was too heavy, too awkward, too rough. He thought God was being unfair to him in giving him such a burden.

Lo and behold, one day an angel appeared to him and whisked him up to a huge room beyond the clouds. It was filled as far as the eye could see with crosses of every size and shape imaginable. The angel said: "God has answered your prayers. These are all the crosses of everyone in the world. You can have whichever one you want." "Wow! That's more like it!" the man said. He threw down his cross and began to check them out and try them on.

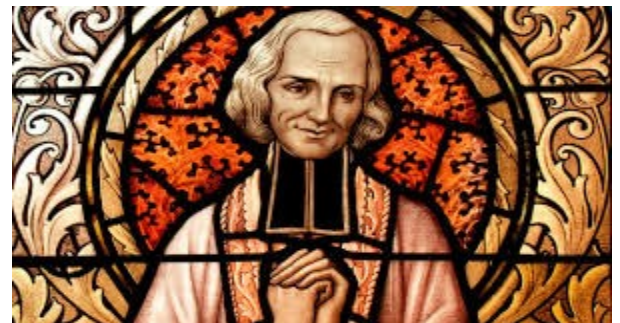
One smaller cross attracted him. It wasn't all that heavy, but when he tried it on it was awkward and unbalanced and extremely rough and irritating. "Whose cross is this?" he asked. The angel replied: "Oh, that belongs to a little blind girl." "Well, I sure don't want that one!" the man replied as he tossed it aside.

Another one caught his eye. It was very smooth and perfectly balanced and beautiful to behold. But as soon as he picked it up it was extremely heavy. "Yikes", he said. "Whose is this?" The angel replied: "That one belongs to a Bishop with a lot of serious responsibilities." "No way do I want this one!" the man replied as he dropped it to the floor.

After hours and hours of circling around and trying on crosses he was getting quite frustrated. There was something very wrong with every one of them. Finally he picked one up and was startled and delighted. It was not too rough or too awkward. It fit perfectly and was not too heavy. He called out to the angel and said: "I've found it. This is the one I want. It's perfect." The angel said: "Are you sure?" "Absolutely", he replied as he headed for the door. "If I can keep this one, I'll never complain again." "Okay", the angel replied. "You can keep it. But there is something I think you should know. That's the same one you put down when you came in!"



**Quote of the week:** "I love you, O my God, and my only desire is to love you until the last breath of my life. I love you, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving you, then live without loving you. I love you, Lord, and the only grace I ask is to love you eternally...My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love you, I want my heart to repeat it to you as often as I draw breath." St. John Vianney (The curé of Ars)



**Just for Fun:** A lady was returning to Ireland and going through customs. The officer asked: "Do you have anything to declare?" "No", she replied. "What's in that large thermos bottle?", he asked. She replied: "That's holy water from Lourdes." He was suspicious, took off the cap and sniffed it. "Lady, that's not holy water. That's whiskey!" Her eyes suddenly went wide and she exclaimed: "Glory be to God! A miracle!"

