


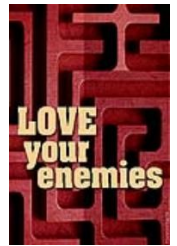
Offertory: December 15, 2015 OLM \$386, OLV \$502, COS \$886, Total \$1,774
 December 11, 2016 OLM \$157, OLV \$502, COS \$816, Total \$1,475 (incl. online giving)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Feb. 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
 Saturday, Feb. 25, OLM 4:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by Karen Shaw
 Saturday, Feb. 25 COS 4:30 PM For Richard Morgan, requested by Patricia Morgan
 Sunday, Feb. 26, OLM 8:30 AM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by Karen Shaw
 Sunday, Feb. 26, OLV 10:30 AM For Shirley Lane, requested by Deacon and Mrs. Richard Anderberg
 Sunday, Feb. 26, COS 12:30 PM For Richard Morgan, requested by Patricia Morgan


MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 1: Ash Wednesday, Mass OLM 5:30PM, OLV 7:30 PM, with distribution of Ashes
March 4 & 5: Special Collection, Easter Flowers
 March 3: First Friday Mass, 5:30 PM, St. Edmund’s, Saxtons River
 March 12: Daylight Savings Time begins, turn clocks ahead one hour 
 March 15: Cursillo Ultreya, St. Michael Parish, Brattleboro, 7 PM
 March 16: Finance Council Meeting, 6 PM Rectory




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

"You cannot legislate morality or force your religious views on others!"
 To say that laws cannot make an immoral person moral is correct. To say that we do not legislate morality is nonsense. Virtually every law is based on an idea of what is right or wrong.
 Laws are not passed to control thought, but to control behavior. For example, we impose our morality on rapists. We do not care so much why rapists rape, or what their moral and religious views are, or the reason why rapists disrespect women. Rape is evil and when people want to do evil, it is clearly correct for the government to impose its morality on them. Similarly, pro-lifers do not care so much what people think about babies, as long as they do not kill them.
 Indeed, if laws should not be based on morality, what on earth should they be based on? The reality is that laws are based on our collective moral values and is the way society decides which activities it will and will not tolerate.
 If we are going to reject a law simply because it is supported by religion, then we would have to abolish most laws. A person does not have to be especially religious to say that it is wrong to abort a child, any more than they would say it is wrong to steal money. Certain activities are unacceptable to civilized people regardless of religious beliefs. Abortion is one of those issues. In reality, abortion is a civil rights and a human rights issue.
 Let us not forget that the black civil rights movement was dominated by pastors and was often headquartered in churches. That did not make civil rights a religious issue!

Weekly Intention:
 For the grace this week to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us.

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."
 - Oscar Wilde

-A New Faithful Alternative for OBGY Care
 Do you feel that it's been a challenge to manage your reproductive health in a manner that respects your faith? Are you interested in a natural alternative to birth control? Do you suffer from infertility and wish there were more Catholic options? There is now a solution! Catholic Medical Center is pleased to announce the opening of the Women's Wellness and Fertility Center of New England featuring a family centered, holistic approach to obstetric and gynecologic care. Visit the website at cmcwomenswellness.org or call 603-314-7595 today!

 **Serving the Spiritual Needs of Grieving Parents**
 Losing a child under any circumstance is horrific. Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process can help tremendously. Please join us. All are welcome.
St. Anthony Shrine, Boston, MA is Offering Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents
Lenten One-Day Spiritual Retreat
March 11, 2017, 9:30am-7:30pm
Lenten One-Hour Spiritual Retreat "Death is Only the First Day of the Week" March 15, 2017
12:00pm-1:00pm
 For more information, Call Diane, Mother of Paul, at (617) 542-8057 Or see www.emfgp.org

From Fr. Fred: We have had quite a few deaths recently in our parish. That would be a horrible and eternal loss if it were not for Jesus. We know that He is the one sent from God to tell us the truth that there is a life after death. His death on the cross and His Resurrection opened up for us the gates of heaven and made it possible for us to have our sins forgiven by a loving God. We need to share this good news with others.

Here is a very consoling quote from the documents of Vatican Council II.



From the pastoral constitution on the Church in the modern world of the Second Vatican Council,
The mystery of death

In the face of death the enigma of human existence reaches its climax. Man is not only the victim of pain and progressive deterioration of his body; he is also, and more deeply, tormented by the fear of final extinction. But the instinctive judgement of his heart is right when he shrinks from, and rejects, the idea of a total collapse and definitive end of his own person. He carries within him the seed of eternity, which cannot be reduced to matter alone, and so he rebels against death. All efforts of technology, however useful they may be, cannot calm his anxieties; the biological extension of his life-span cannot satisfy the desire inescapably present in his heart for a life beyond this life.

Imagination is completely helpless when confronted with death. Yet the Church, instructed by divine revelation, affirms that man has been created by God for a destiny of happiness beyond the reach of earthly trials. Moreover, the Christian faith teaches that bodily death, to which man would not have been subject if he had not sinned, will be conquered; the almighty and merciful Savior will restore man to the wholeness that he had lost through his own fault. God has called man, and still calls him, to be united in his whole being in perpetual communion with himself in the immortality of the divine life.

This victory has been gained for us by the risen Christ, who by his own death has freed man from death.

Faith, presented with solid arguments, offers every thinking person the answer to his questionings concerning his future destiny. At the same time, it enables him to be one in Christ with his loved ones who have been taken from him by death and gives him hope that they have entered into true life with God.

Certainly, the Christian is faced with the necessity, and the duty, of fighting against evil through many trials, and of undergoing death. But by entering into the paschal mystery and being made like Christ in death, he will look forward, strong in hope, to the resurrection.

This is true not only of Christians but also of all men of good will in whose heart grace is invisibly at work. Since Christ died for all men, and the ultimate vocation of man is in fact one, that is, a divine vocation, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being united with this paschal mystery in a way known only to God.

Such is the great mystery of man, enlightening believers through the Christian revelation. Through Christ and in Christ light is thrown on the enigma of pain and death which overwhelms us without his Gospel to teach us. Christ has risen, destroying death by his own death; he has given us the free gift of life so that as sons in the Son we may cry out in the Spirit, saying: *Abba, Father!*

Just for Fun:

Overheard in a conversation: "I'm dreaming of the day when there will be enough money for all the schools, and the military will have to have car washes and bake sales to help pay for their bombers!"



Quote of the week:

"If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well." -Martin Luther King, Jr.



Annual Appeal 2016-2017

Annual Appeal Goal: \$30,000.00~ Contributions to Date: \$32,756.00!! 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

