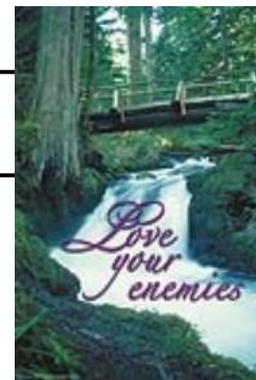


February 24, 2019 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Offertory: November 25, 2018 OLM \$429, OLV \$439, COS \$896, Total \$1,764
November 26, 2017 OLM \$513, OLV \$374, COS \$968, Total \$1,855



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Feb. 23, OLM 4:00 PM For Jennifer Duzinski, requested by Anne Duzinski
Saturday, Feb. 23, COS 4:30 PM For all my friends that have passed, AnnMarie, Judy, Christy and Jane, requested by Karen Shaw
Sunday, Feb. 24, OLM 8:30 AM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by Karen Shaw
Sunday, Feb. 24, OLV 10:30 AM For Jennifer Duzinski, requested by Anne Duzinski
Sunday, Feb. 24, COS 12:30 PM For Patti Yankowski-Bidwell, requested by Donnie Bidwell
Saturday, March 2, OLM 4:00 PM For Earnest Palmer, Sr., requested by Lolita Palmer
Saturday, March 2, COS 4:30 PM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
Sunday, March 3, OLM 8:30 AM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
Sunday, March 3, OLV 10:30 AM For Betty and Bert Copeland, requested by Karen Shaw
Sunday, March 3, COS 12:30 PM For Patti Yankowski-Bidwell, requested by Donnie Bidwell

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Feb. 24: Finance Council Meeting, 11:30AM, OLV

Feb. 27: Cursillo Ultreya, 6:30 PM at OLV

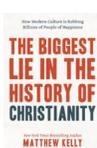
March 1: First Friday Mass, 5:30 PM, St. Edmund's, Saxtons River

March 2 & 3: Special Collection: Catholic Home Missions/ Black and Indian Missions

Weekly Intention: For the grace this week to be kind and forgiving with people we find difficult to deal with.



"Don't be so hard on yourself. The mom from E.T. had an alien living in her house for days and didn't notice."
~ unknown



Parish Book Club Announcement: Our March book club selection is the book gifted us all by Father Fred: **THE BIGGEST LIE IN THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY** by Matthew Kelly. Clear, insightful, bold, and practical this little book is packed with the ideas Christianity needs now—and going forward—in a deeply challenging world. Kelly is a *New York Times* bestselling author known for his strong faith, brilliantly executed ideas, and accessible writing style. **All reasons that Father Fred bought this book for his flock—that's US!**

Please join us for an hour of sharing and discussion on Wednesday, March 20th, from 7-8pm at Our Lady of the Valley. Contact Carol Bemis (802-779-6412) with any questions. Hope to see you at our club meeting!!!

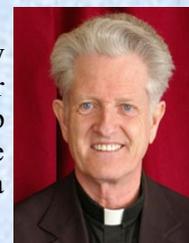
Annual Appeal 2018-2019 Annual Appeal Goal \$42,000.00. Contributions to Date: \$35,901.00. Balance Remaining \$6,099.00. Thank you to all who have made a contribution. There are envelopes in the back of the church if you did not receive one in the mail. Donations can be sent to: Our Lady of Mercy Rectory, PO Box 246, Putney, Vt. 05346

Michael James Mette and Family in Concert

All are welcome to join us for a concert with national performer Michael James Mette, **Friday, March 15th**, at St. Michael School in Brattleboro, VT, from **7-8:30PM**. Michael Mette travels all over the country with his family spreading the Gospel through music and personal witness. A father of six, the family is part of the musical performance. The evening will be inspiring and we hope you will bring the whole family. There is no cost, though a good will offering will be taken to defray the cost. Please register on the Diocesan website: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/michael-mette-concert-event

Special announcement from Fr. Fred

On June 26, 2019 I will turn 80 and will have served as a priest for over 55 years. My health is not what it used to be. After much thought and prayer, I have decided that it is time for me to retire. I have been here since 1996. The Edmundites are unable to replace me, but the Bishop of the Diocese is able to. When I spoke with him about this last summer he assured me that he would. I offered to stay on for one more year and he was very grateful for that. This gave him a better chance to plan next year's priestly assignments, which usually take place July 1st.



The Edmundites have a place for me at our house on the campus of St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT, near Burlington, and I am looking forward to joining by brothers there. There are many opportunities there, and in the nearby parishes, for part-time ministry without the responsibilities of running a parish. It will be up to me how much I am willing or able to do. It has been a difficult decision for me, but I believe that it is the right one at this time. I want you to know that I love all of you like a family, and that this has been the happiest assignment of my life as a priest.

From Fr. Fred:

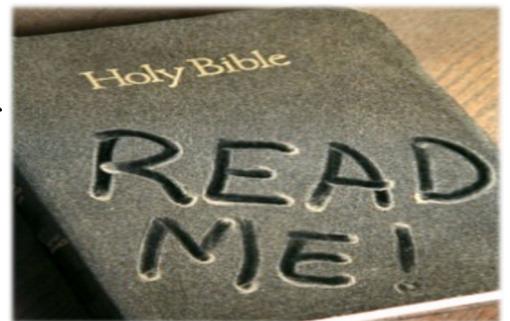
Do you like to read? Most of us do. What did we read this past week? A dozen or more E-mails every day? Countless web pages? Our favorite magazines? How many pages? How many pages each day connected to our work? It's amazing how much we read. What about the daily newspaper? One of my friends prided himself on reading the New York Times every day cover to cover! What about Facebook and Twitter and other sites on our phones?

Are we presently in the middle of a book? How many pages? Most novels are 200 to 500 pages long. Are there other books waiting to be read? How many will we read this year? What about our mail? How many pages do we read a day? It's amazing when we stop to think about it. We literally read thousands of pages every year. How many years have we been reading?

Okay. Let's stop and think about this for a moment. When we appear before the Lord at the end of our life and He asks us: "Have you read my Love Letter to you? My precious Gospels? My wonderful New Testament? My Bible?" Our truthful answer will probably be...NO. And our super-lame excuse will likely be: "I didn't have enough time."

In all the years that we have been alive, in all the hundreds of thousands of pages of unimportant things that we have read, we didn't have time to read the 150 pages of the Four Gospels, or the 200 other pages of the New Testament. We have read hundreds and hundreds of other books, but not the Greatest Book ever written. We have given our precious time to countless others, but not to Jesus!

Wow! Fortunately He's very patient. Fortunately He still loves us. Fortunately we still have time. Fortunately we can still purchase a copy of the New American Bible on Amazon or elsewhere or download it on our phone. What if we were to skip the Old Testament for now and just focus on the New? Would it be a big task? Would it take too much time? It would take 3 pages a day to do the Four Gospels during Lent, or only ONE PAGE A DAY if we include the Easter season. Life is short. Can we afford not to do it?



Quote of the week:

"A humble person sees only his or her own faults. It is a sign of little virtue to notice the imperfections of others."

~St. Claude de la Colombiere

Just for Fun:

Their son was home from college for the holidays and his mother was taking a picture of him with his father.

Mother to Father: "Don't just stand there beside him. Put your arm around his shoulder. Make it look more natural."

Father: "Wouldn't it look more natural if he had his hand in my pocket?"

