

Offertory: December 14, 2014 OLM \$541, OLV \$508, COS \$619, Total \$1,668
 December 13, 2015 OLM \$341, OLV \$472, COS \$711, Total \$1,524 (does not incl. online giving).

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Jan 9, OLM 4:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Saturday, Jan 9, COS 4:30 PM For the Shaw Family, requested by Karen Shaw
 Saturday, Jan 9, COS 6:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Sunday, Jan 10, OLM 8:30 AM For Natalie Saft, requested by Steve and Michele Saft
 Sunday, Jan 10, OLV 10:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
 Sunday, Jan 10, COS 12:30 PM For Grey Gerwig, requested by Karen Shaw
 Saturday, Jan 16, OLM 4:00 PM For Faye E. Kelleher, requested by Laura Kelleher
 Saturday, Jan 16, COS 4:30 PM For the Kopins family, requested by Karen Shaw
 Saturday, Jan 16, COS 6:00 PM For the Dougherty Family, requested by Karen Shaw
 Sunday, Jan 17, OLM 8:30 AM For Anna Napolitano, requested by Steve and Michele Saft
 Sunday, Jan 17, OLV 10:30 AM For Dom Tagariello, requested by Ray and Claire Sorrentino
 Sunday, Jan 17, COS 12:30 PM For Shelly and Sophie Gibson, requested by Karen Shaw

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan 9 & 10: Special Collection, Vermont Catholic Magazine

Jan 15: Adoration, 3:00 PM, OLV
 Jan 17: Jubilee Year of Mercy, 3:00 PM, recognizing Lay Ministries in the Diocese of Burlington, St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington
 Jan 20: Cursillo Ultreya, 7:00 PM, St. Michael's, Brattleboro
 Jan 21: Finance Council Meeting, 4:30 PM, Rectory

Jan 30 & 31: Special Collection: Catholic Education

Feb 1: All VIRTUS and Shield the Vulnerable users should now have Safe and Sacred training. Please visit VermontCatholic.org



Special Thank You

Thank you for your prayers, your cards and your gifts this Christmas. I am so happy and blessed to be here with you. May God grant you His choicest blessing.

Fr. Fred



Parish Book Club Announcement: Thursday, February 18th, 7-8 pm, at Our Lady of the Valley in Townshend. Our February book club selection is *Rome Sweet Home: Our Journey to Catholicism* by Scott and Kimberly Hahn. They have been traveling throughout North America in recent years speaking about their conversion to Catholicism. ROME SWEET HOME, written with joy and verve, tells their story.



Book details: Scott and Kimberly Hahn, ROME SWEET HOME (1993), 182 pages. Available in paperback and eBook. Peter Kreeft, author of BACK TO VIRTUE, has this to say about ROME SWEET HOME: "One of the beautiful and bright-shining stars in the firmament of hope for our desperate days is this couple, the Hahn's, and this story of their life and conversion."

Please consider reading this story of a modern American couple and their faith journey. Then, join us for an hour of lively discussion on Thursday, February 18th, 7-8 pm, at Our Lady of the Valley in Townshend.

Contact Carol Bemis (802-779-6412) with any questions. Hope to see many of you at our club meeting!!!

Vermont Rally for Life

January 16th, 2016 in Montpelier

The day will begin with Mass at St. Augustine Church at 9:30AM celebrated by Bishop Coyne. After Mass, participants will gather behind City Hall to begin the march down State Street at 11AM, ending at the State House. Bishop Coyne will present opening remarks in the House Chamber.

If You Are A Current Employee or Volunteer: Employees and volunteers in the diocese who are currently utilizing VIRTUS and *Shield the Vulnerable* will be required to take the training in *Safe and Sacred* by **February 1, 2016**. Once you have switched over to *Safe and Sacred*, you no longer have to complete the VIRTUS monthly bulletins. Type in this link to take you directly to the Safe and Sacred website:

<https://safeandsacred-vermontcatholic.org/login/index.php>

Weekly Intention:

For the grace this week to live our baptismal promises with deeper authenticity and fervor.

"If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you."

~Fred DeVito



From Fr. Fred:

This is taken from a beautiful sermon of St. Gregory of Nazianzus (330-390 A.D.). Bishop of Constantinople, and one of the greatest saints of the early Church he was St. Basil the Great's (330-379 A.D.) closest and lifelong friend. Basil was the Bishop of Caesarea.

The baptism of Christ

“Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptized; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.

John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: *I ought to be baptized by you.* He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again. *I ought to be baptized by you;* we should also add: *and for you,* for John is to be baptized in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as to an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead. A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honor to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honor to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received—though not in its fullness—a ray of its splendor, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen”



Just for Fun:

One evening two rednecks were looking at the moon.



Redneck #1: “I wonder which is closer, Florida or the moon.”

Redneck #2: “Doh! You can *SEE* the moon!”

Quote of the week:

“Love is the guarantee that the life of the Spirit is growing in us. Love is the sign of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church and in the world.”

~Thomas Merton

