

Offertory: Oct. 1, 2017 OLM \$688, OLV \$699, COS \$708, Total \$2,095
Oct. 22, 2016 OLM \$1,076, OLV \$817, COS \$646, Total \$2,539

MASS INTENTIONS

- Saturday, Jan. 6, OLM 4:00 PM For Jane Engel, requested by Bill Engel
- Saturday, Jan. 6, COS 4:30 PM For Joan Kopin, requested by Karen Shaw
- Sunday, Jan. 7, OLM 8:30 AM For Lauren JoAnne Airoidi, requested by David Airoidi
- Sunday, Jan. 7, OLV 10:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
- Sunday, Jan. 7, COS 12:30 PM For Maverick Shaw, requested by Karen Shaw
- Saturday, Jan. 13, OLM 4:00 PM **OPEN FOR YOUR REQUEST**
- Saturday, Jan. 13, COS 4:30 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
- Saturday, Jan. 13, COS 6:00 PM **OPEN FOR YOUR REQUEST**
- Sunday, Jan. 14, OLM 8:30 AM **OPEN FOR YOUR REQUEST**
- Sunday, Jan. 14, OLV 10:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.
- Sunday, Jan. 14, COS 12:30 PM For Thomas Wosko, requested by the Schwaner family



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Jan. 13 & 14: Special Collection: Vermont Catholic Magazine
- Jan. 17: Cursillo Ultreya, 6:30 PM, at the Anderbergs
- Jan. 18: Finance Council Meeting, 6:30 PM, OLV



First Annual Catholic Conference –JUST FOR MEN!

Calling all Husbands, Fathers, Sons and Men of God
Date: Saturday - February 17, 2018 - 9am - 3:30pm, Holy Family Parish Hall, 28 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction, VT. Conference will include Lunch and Mass with Bishop Coyne
Keynote: Dr. Ray Guarendi -- more info at <http://drray.com>
 Other speakers include: Fr. Tim Naples and David Allbee.
Cost: \$30

The U.S. bishops annual novena 9 Days for Life takes place Thursday, January 18 – Friday, January 26. Pray for the respect and protection of all human life with new intentions, brief reflections, and more each day. Download the novena online, or participate through Facebook, email, text message or an app. Join at www.9daysforlife.com!



Annual Appeal 2017-2018 Annual Appeal Goal \$30,000.00. Contributions to Date: \$25,955.00. Balance Remaining \$4,045. 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

Weekly Intention: For the grace this week to surrender all selfish ways and follow the Way who is Christ .

Quote of the week:
 “ O Lord my God, how deep are your secret places, and how far from them have the consequences of my sins cast me! Heal my eyes, and let me share in the joy of your light.” St. Augustine



Just for Fun:
 The tour guide at the capitol in Washington, D.C. pointed out the congressional chaplain. A lady asked: “What does the chaplain do? Does he pray for the Senate or House?” The Guide answered: “No, he gets up, looks at the Congress, then prays for the country!”

From Fr. Fred:

Many Catholics and others too are bothered by changes in the Church. They might say: "We've always done it this way." They reason that if a change is made, then what went before must not be true. They think the Church of God is unchangeable.

That is only partly true. We must distinguish between 1.) Teachings that are relatively unimportant, like what is proper to wear in Church or when to kneel or stand, which can be easily changed according to the circumstances, and 2.) Teachings that are important, like the language to be used in the Liturgy, or whether priests should be married or celibate, which can be changed but not easily, and 3.) Teachings that are extremely important, like the doctrine that the one God is a Trinity of persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which we cannot change.

However in 3.), though the essence of the teaching cannot change, our understanding of it can grow and develop. St. Vincent of Lerins, a priest monk, and expert on the Fathers of the Church, in the year 434 explained it very clearly in his book, *COMMONITORIUM*. I quote from Bulter's *Lives of the Saints*.

"In this book of forty-two short chapters, which St. Robert Bellarmine described as being "small in bulk but very great in value", we find enunciated for the first time the axiom that for a dogma to be regarded as Catholic truth it must have been held always, everywhere, and by all the faithful. The Bible cannot be regarded as the sole test of truth, because it is subject to different interpretations and is quoted as much in the interests of heterodoxy as of orthodoxy; it must be interpreted according to the tradition of the Church, which alone has the right to expound it. If a new doctrine is advanced, it must be confronted with the universal teaching of the Church. Progress indeed there must be, but it must be like the growth of the acorn, or the development of the child into a man: it must preserve identity and all essential characteristics. The chief work of the councils has been to elucidate, define and emphasize that which had already been widely taught, believed and practiced."

Let's hear it from St. Vincent himself in this quote from his book.

"Is there to be no development of religion in

the Church of Christ? Certainly, there is to be development and on the largest scale.

Who can be so grudging to men, so full of hate for God, as to try to prevent it? But it must truly be development of the faith, not alteration of the faith. Development means that each thing expands to be itself, while alteration means that a thing is changed from one thing into another.

The understanding, knowledge and wisdom of one and all, of individuals as well as of the whole Church, ought then to make great and vigorous progress with the passing of the ages and the centuries, but only along its own line of development, that is, with the same doctrine, the same meaning and the same import.

The religion of souls should follow the law of development of bodies. Though bodies develop and unfold their component parts with the passing of the years, they always remain what they were. There is a great difference between the flower of childhood and the maturity of age, but those who become old are the very same people who were once young. Though the condition and appearance of one and the same individual may change, it is one and the same nature, one and the same person.

The tiny members of unweaned children and the grown members of young men are still the same members. Men have the same number of limbs as children. Whatever develops at a later age was already present in seminal form; there is nothing new in old age that was not already latent in childhood.

There is no doubt, then, that the legitimate and correct rule of development, the established and wonderful order of growth, is this: in older people the fullness of years always brings to completion those members and forms that the wisdom of the Creator fashioned beforehand in their earlier years.

If, however, the human form were to turn into some shape that did not belong to its own nature, or even if something were added to the sum of its members or subtracted from it, the whole body would necessarily perish or become grotesque or at least be enfeebled. In the same way, the doctrine of the Christian religion should properly follow these laws of development, that is, by becoming firmer over the years, more ample in the course of time, more exalted as it advances in age."

