



Offertory: December 9, 2018 OLM \$549, OLV \$466, COS \$783, Total \$1,798  
December 10, 2017 OLM \$282, OLV \$654, COS \$838, Total \$1,774

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, March 9, OLM 4:00 PM For Polly McAllister, requested by her family  
Saturday, March 9, COS 4:30 PM For Frank and Billy Zimmerman, requested by Catherine and Robert Zimmerman  
Sunday, March 10, OLM 8:30 AM For prayers for President Trump, requested by Karen Shaw  
Sunday, March 10, OLV 10:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
Sunday, March 10, COS 12:30 PM For John and Joan Kopins, requested by Karen Shaw  
Saturday, March 16, OLM 4:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
Saturday, March 16, COS 4:30 PM For John Mendolia, requested by Deborah Phillips  
Sunday, March 17, OLM 8:30 AM For the Alpert family, requested by Karen Shaw  
Sunday, March 17, OLV 10:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
Sunday, March 17, COS 12:30 PM For Marc and Karen Shaw, requested by Karen Shaw

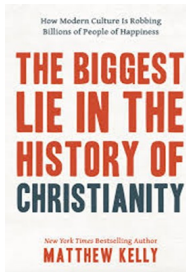
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**March 9 & 10: Special Collection: Easter Flowers**  
March 13: Parish Pastoral Council meeting, 7 PM, OLV  
March 15: Stations of the Cross, OLV 5:00 PM, Every Friday night through Lent  
March 17: Finance Council Meeting, 11:30AM, OLV  
March 20: Book Club Meeting, The Biggest Lie in the History of Christianity by Matthew Kelly, 7-8 PM, OLV

**Weekly Intention:** For the grace this week to face the temptations of life by relying on the loving protection of the Lord.



“The goal of fasting is inner unity. This means hearing, but not with the ear; hearing, but not with the understanding; it is hearing with the spirit, with your whole being.” Fr. Thomas Merton



**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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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!!!



**MJM7 Mette Family Concert:** All are welcome to join us for a concert with national performer Michael James Mette, Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at St. Michael School in Brattleboro, VT, from 7:00-8:30PM. 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. Please register on the Diocesan website:

[www.vermontcatholic.org/event/michael-mette-concert-event](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/michael-mette-concert-event). A good will offering will be taken at the end of the event.

**Survey Reminder:** Don’t forget to share your feedback on the Disciple Maker Index! The survey is LIVE and will be open until March 25, 2019. You can visit [www.disciplemakerindex.com](http://www.disciplemakerindex.com). Or pick up a paper copy in the back of the Church. We really need your help in making this a success, so please participate.



Our Bishop, Christopher Coyne will be visiting our parish on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. He will be at the 8:30am Mass at Our Lady of Mercy in Putney and the 10:30am Mass at Our Lady of the Valley in Townshend. He is also eager to talk with you **BEFORE** the 8:30am Putney Mass and **AFTER** the 10:30am Townshend Mass. Please mark your calendars and invite

**Annual Appeal 2018-2019:** Annual Appeal Goal \$42,000.00. Contributions to Date: \$36,225.00. Balance Remaining \$5,775.00. 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

## From Fr. Fred:

*In the past I used to think: “Why doesn’t God just appear to us and tell us what He wants? Or explain things more clearly?” He appeared to people in the past, and talked with them. But He doesn’t seem to be doing that now. St. John of the Cross answers that question for me very clearly in this beautiful passage from his book The Ascent of Mount Carmel.*

“Under the ancient law prophets and priests sought from God revelations and visions which indeed they needed, for faith had as yet no firm foundation and the gospel law had not yet been established. Their seeking and God’s responses were necessary. He spoke to them at one time through words and visions and revelations, at another in signs and symbols. But however he responded and what he said and revealed were mysteries of our holy faith, either partial glimpses of the whole or sure movements toward it.

But now that faith is rooted in Christ, and the law of the gospel has been proclaimed in this time of grace, there is no need to seek him in the former manner, nor for him so to respond. By giving us, as he did, his Son, his only Word, he has in that one Word said everything. There is no need for any further revelation.

This is the true meaning of Paul’s words to the Hebrews when he urged them to abandon their earlier ways of conversing with God, as laid down in the law of Moses, and to set their eyes in Christ alone: *In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets in various ways and manners; but now in our times, the last days, he has spoken to us in his Son.* In effect, Paul is saying that God has spoken so completely through his own Word that he chooses to add nothing. Although he had spoken but partially through the prophets he has now said everything in Christ. He has given us everything, his own Son.

Therefore, anyone who wished to question God or to seek some new vision or revelation from him would commit an offence, for instead of focusing his eyes entirely on Christ he would be desiring something other than Christ, or beyond him.

God could then answer: *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear him.* In my Word I have already said everything. Fix your eyes on him alone for in him I have revealed all and in him you will find more than you could ever ask for or desire.

I, with my Holy Spirit, came down upon him on Mount Tabor and declared: *This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear him.* You do not need new teachings or ways of learning from me, for when I spoke before it was of Christ who was to come, and when they sought anything of me they were but seeking and hoping for the Christ in whom is every good, as the whole teaching of the evangelists and apostles clearly testifies.”

### **Quote of the week:**

“A single act of love makes the soul return to life. Let us often make use of this means.”

~St. Maximillian Kolbe

**Just for Fun:** A pastor in a parish far from Vermont was filling in the annual statistics form for the Diocese. As he was finishing he thought: “We all go through this every year. I wonder if it is worth the effort. I’ll bet no one ever reads these forms anyway.” On a whim he decided to find out. So he added a zero to everything and then sent it in. Sure enough he never heard anything from the Diocese. The following year he smiled as he added two zeros to everything. Several months later though he did get a phone call from the Diocese. The caller asked him: “Father, the organist in the parish next to yours is sick, would you be so kind as to lend them one of your 200 organists?”

