

Offertory: January 28, 2016 OLM \$377, OLV \$745, COS \$1,710, Total \$2,832  
January 26, 2017 OLM \$571, OLV \$920, COS \$1,262, Total \$2,753 (incl. online giving)

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, March 11, OLM 4:00 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by Karen Shaw  
Saturday, March 11, COS 4:30 PM For Ann Bidwell Adams, requested by her daughters, Donnie Bidwell and Pat  
Sunday, March 12, OLM 8:30 AM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
Sunday, March 12, OLV 10:30 AM For Arlene Salzbrunn, requested by Lenore and Dennis Salzbrunn  
Sunday, March 12, COS 12:30 PM For Nancy Delio, requested by Angela and Vincent Macri  
Saturday, March 18, OLM 4:00 PM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
Saturday, March 18, COS 4:30 PM For Richard Morgan, requested by Patricia Morgan  
Sunday, March 19, OLM 8:30 AM For Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
Sunday, March 19, OLV 10:30 AM For Edmund W. Dery, requested by Jack and Gill Winner  
Sunday, March 19, COS 12:30 PM For Richard Morgan, requested by Patricia Morgan



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

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  
March 17: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, OLV 4-5 PM  
March 24: Stations of the Cross, OLV 5 PM



At Our Lady of the Valley in Townshend, for the season of Lent, the Stations of the Cross are made every Friday at 5:00 PM. All are welcome.

  
**WHERE:** THRIFT SHOP-SAXTONS, St. Edmunds Church, Saxtons River  
**WHEN:** MARCH 15 (10am-4pm), 17 & 18 (10am-5pm)

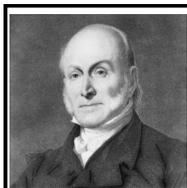
**St. Patrick's Day:**

In consideration that St. Patrick is the secondary patron of the Diocese of Burlington, Bishop Coyne is granting a dispensation from the precept of abstaining from meat on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. If you take advantage of this dispensation then you should add some other sacrifice/penance to your Lenten observances.

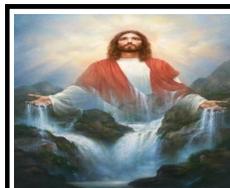
**Catholic Summer Camps**

Camp Fatima for boys and Camp Bernadette for girls are now accepting registrations for the 2017 summer season. The camps, located in the Lake Region of NH, offer 2-week overnight sessions for children, ages 6-15. For more information, please contact Michael Drumm at 603-364-5851 or email mdrumm@campsfatimabernadette.org, or visit the website at www.campsfatimabernadette.org

**High School and Middle School Rallies** -The Bennington Diocesan Youth Rally South will take place at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Parish from 3-7:30 p.m. March 25 for high schoolers and March 26 from 10:45 to 4:30 for middle school students. For more information call 658-6110 ext. 1240.



"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."  
~John Quincy Adams



**Weekly Intention:**  
For the grace this week to see the presence of Jesus in all circumstances and situations of life.



Thank you to all of our faithful parishioners for your support of the **Bishop's Fund Annual Appeal** – the Bishop's Fund Office is still hard at work processing your generous pledges from a successful In Pew Commitment Phase, and will continually post updates on our progress at [bishopsfund.org](http://bishopsfund.org). To date, our parish has pledged 94.15% toward our goal of \$24,495.

## From Fr. Fred:

I would like to share with you a wonderful short commentary on a passage in Isaiah, written by William C. Graham and John Craghan. It is very appropriate and inspirational for us this Lent. I have also included the passage from Isaiah.



*(Is this the manner of fasting I wish?)*

### ***A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Isaiah 58: 1-9a***

Thus says the Lord God:

Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast;  
Tell my people their wickedness, and the house of Jacob their sins.

They seek me day after day, and desire to know my ways,  
Like a nation that has done what is just and not abandoned the law of their God;

They ask me to declare what is due them, pleased to gain access to God.

“Why do we fast, and you do not see it? afflict ourselves, and you take no note of it?”

Lo, on your fast day you carry out your own pursuits, and drive all your laborers.  
Yes, your fast ends in quarreling and fighting, striking with wicked claw.

Would that today you might fast so as to make your voice heard on high!  
Is this the manner of fasting I wish, of keeping a day of penance:

That a man bow his head like a reed and lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly,  
untying the thongs of the yoke;

Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry,  
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them,  
and not turning your back on your own.

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be  
healed;

Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for help,  
and he will say: Here I am!

“Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?” (Isa 58:5). The prophet really lets us have it today. We have most likely set out bravely on our Lenten penances, perhaps giving up sweets or resolving to read a Scripture passage every day. But the prophet tells us that what God wants us to do is to make every effort to relieve the suffering of other people, our neighbors near and far. Being faithful to the other penances we have resolved is very good and we should not neglect them. But even more important is caring for others. Is there a local food kitchen where we could help feed the hungry? Is there a homeless shelter where we could volunteer our time or at least our extra blankets? Who are the elderly in our neighborhood who would love a visit and a little conversation? How can we relieve the anguish of the immigrants who are desperately seeking a place where they can settle and raise their children in peace? The reward for any of these practices is far greater than the cost. Not only will our hearts be filled up with joy, but God promises to be right there with us and to answer immediately when we call for help. Let us resolve in this Eucharist to carry the presence of Christ within us to someone, anyone who needs our help.

~ William C. Graham and John Craghan

### **Just for Fun:**

Why did the Amish couple get divorced?

He was driving her buggy.



**Quote of the week:** “Bringing the Gospel is bringing God’s power to pluck up and break down evil and violence, to destroy and overthrow the barriers of selfishness, intolerance, and hatred, so as to build a new world. Jesus Christ is counting on you! The church is counting on you! The pope is counting on you! May Mary, mother of Jesus and our mother, always accompany you with her tenderness: “Go and make disciples of all nations.”” (Pope Francis)