



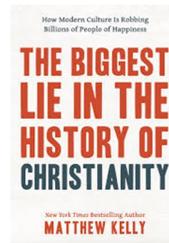
Offertory: December 16, 2018 OLM \$530, OLV \$471, COS \$790, Total \$1,791  
December 17, 2017 OLM \$476, OLV \$550, COS \$913, Total \$1,939

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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  
Saturday, March 23, OLM 4:00 PM For Theresa and Holly Longe, requested by Marlene and Rory Longe  
Saturday, March 23, COS 4:30 PM For Alzheimer’s care givers, requested by Karen Shaw  
Sunday, March 24, OLM 8:30 AM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
Sunday, March 24, OLV 10:30 AM For John Nappi, Jr., requested by Karen Shaw  
Sunday, March 24, COS 12:30 PM For Brooke and Maverick Shaw, requested by Karen Shaw

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

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  
March 22: Stations of the Cross, OLV 5:00 PM, Every Friday night through Lent  
**March 24: Bishop Coyne to visit OLM– 8:30AM, he will be available BEFORE mass to answer questions**  
**March 24: Bishop Coyne to visit OLV– 10:30AM, reception to follow mass**



**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!!!



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



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.

Our Lady of Mercy, Putney: Please arrive **BEFORE** the 8:30am mass if you wish to talk with Bishop Christopher Coyne.

Our Lady of the Valley, Townshend; Please join us for a reception following the 10:30am mass with Bishop Christopher Coyne.

Please mark your calendars and invite your friends!

**Weekly Intention:** For the grace this week to keep our eyes on Jesus, and truly live as citizens of heaven . 

“It is those things that are unchanging that allow us to make sense of change. So, at time when change has never been more constant or intense, what is unchanging is more valuable than ever.” ~Matthew Kelly

“Amen, I say to **you**, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”~ Mt. 25:40  
In years past our Parish has gifted to those incarcerated at Springfield Prison (SSCF) needed items. This program took place during Advent. We are now allowed to contribute throughout the year to those in need, so we are asking for donations of most needed items which happen to be men’s white socks and t-shirts. Leave them at the Church or give them to Deacon Anderberg who will get them to the Prison. Thank you for your help.

**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). Please note that you will be asked to choose your *primary church*, please mark down **Our Lady of Mercy, Putney**. You may also pick up a paper copy in the back of the Church. We really need your help in making this a success, so please participate.

**From Fr. Fred:**

*The Sign of the Cross*

Pope Benedict XVI once wrote: “The most basic Christian gesture in prayer is and always will be the Sign of the Cross.”

It goes all the way back to the Apostles. In the 2nd century Tertullian wrote: “In all our travels and movements, in all our coming in and going out, in putting on our shoes, at the bath, at the table, in lighting our candles, in lying down, in sitting down, whatever task occupies us, we mark our forehead with the sign of the cross.” Wow! check out that sentence again.

It’s the most universal gesture of our faith in all the world. It brings forth two great truths. One is the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus knew we wouldn’t understand it until we got to heaven, but He told us that truth anyway, to help us relate to God in different and wonderful ways. The second is the death on the cross and resurrection of Jesus, which opened heaven up for us and made it possible for us to have our sins forgiven right here on earth.

There’s much more. Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Eastern churches hold their fingers a little differently than we do. They join the thumb, index and middle finger at the tips. Those three fingers represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit united in the Trinity. The other two fingers, ring finger and little finger, are pressed together against the palm. They symbolize the two natures united in Jesus, human and divine, that He is both God and man.

When we make that wonderful sign of the cross, touching our forehead, our chest, our left shoulder and our right shoulder, and saying: “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”, let us make it with new and greater devotion. Let us never be afraid to let others see us doing it. Rather let us be eager to explain its meaning to anyone who is interested.

Romano Guardini says it very nicely. “When we cross ourselves, let it be with a real Sign of the Cross. Instead of a small cramped gesture that gives no notion of its meaning, let us make a large unhurried sign from forehead to breast, from shoulder to shoulder, consciously feeling how it includes the whole of us, our thoughts, our attitudes, our body and soul, every part of us at once, how it consecrates and sanctifies us. Think of these things when you make the Sign of the Cross. It is the holiest of all signs. Let it take in your whole being, body, soul, mind, will, thoughts, feelings, your doing and not doing, and by signing it with the cross strengthen and consecrate the whole in the strength of Christ, in the name of the triune God.”

**Quote of the week:**

“Feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society.”

~Pope Francis

**Just for Fun:**

Johnny was one of those students who could give the Religious Education teacher fits.

Johnny: “Teacher, is it true that God can do anything?”

Teacher: “Yes, it is.”

Johnny: “Well then, could God make a rock so heavy that He couldn’t lift it?”

