

**Offertory:** Nov. 17, 2013 OLM \$431, OLV \$410, COS \$651, Total \$1,492.  
 Nov. 16, 2014 OLM \$767, OLV \$146, COS \$861, Total \$1,774.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday Nov. 29 OLM 4:00PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
 Saturday Nov. 29 COS 4:30 PM For Sue Driscoll, requested by Yoli & Ted Gochenour  
 Saturday Nov. 29 COS 6:00 PM For a Special Intention, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
 Sunday Nov. 30 OLM 8:30AM For Ambrosio Cabiluna, requested by Yoli & Ted Gochenour  
 Sunday Nov. 30 OLV 10:30AM For George E. Crombie (26th anniversary), requested by Eleanor Crombie  
 Sunday Nov. 30 COS 12:30PM For Robert Barry, requested by Carol Barry  
 Saturday Dec. 6 OLM 4:00PM For Terry Tyler, requested by Mary Tyler  
 Saturday Dec. 6 COS 4:30 PM For the Souls in Purgatory, requested by John Nappi, Jr.  
 Sunday Dec. 7 OLM 8:30AM For All our Parishioners  
 Sunday Dec. 7 OLV 10:30AM For Barbara L. and Mary W. Muise, requested by Vincent Muise  
 Sunday Dec. 7 COS 12:30PM For Joseph Sullivan, requested by Shirley and Jack Meyer

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Dec. 3 Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:00 PM, OLV  
**Dec. 5 First Friday Mass, 5:30 PM, St. Edmund of Canterbury, Saxtons River**  
 Dec. 5 Adoration, 3 PM, OLM  
**Dec. 7 SPECIAL COLLECTION, for fuel**  
**Dec. 8 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION, Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
 Dec. 11 Finance Council Meeting, 4:30 PM, Rectory  
 Dec. 12 Adoration, 3 PM, OLM  
**Dec. 14 SPECIAL COLLECTION, Retirement Fund for the Religious**  
 Dec. 17 Cursillo Ultreya, 7 PM, Anderbergs' Residence  
**Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE (OLM-6:00 PM; OLV-6:00 PM; COS-4:30 PM, 6:00 PM)**  
**Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY (OLM-8:30 AM; OLV-10:30 AM; COS-12:30 PM)**  
**Dec. 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE (OLM-4:00 PM; COS-4:30 PM)**

<p><b>Putney Food Shelf</b>                  If you are in need of food, drop by the Community Center on Christian Square:  <b>Tues. 6-7pm</b> or  <b>Sat. 9-10am (side ramp entrance).</b></p>  <p>Everyone is welcome—employed or not, on foodstamps or not, young or old. No names and no financial information are asked for; we only need to know how many persons come.</p>	<p>Mass Hours. for Monday, Dec. 8th,  <b>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</b>                  OLM - 5:30 PM                  OLV - 7:00 PM</p>   <p><b>Worn Again Thrift Shop,</b>                  Saxtons River  <b>Volunteers and Paper Bags are still needed desperately.</b>                  For questions, <b>Call Pauline, 802-732-8088</b></p> 
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**Mass Intentions:** If you wish to have a Mass said for a loved one at Our Lady of Mercy or any of the West River Mission churches, please try to schedule these **as early as possible (up to the following year, 2015)**. The Mass times fill up quickly with intentions and we want to make sure you can get the date you wish to have or as close to it as possible. Also, remember that a Mass can be said at the Rectory for your intentions. Envelopes are at the back of the church or call the Rectory at 802-387-5861.

<p><b>Weekly Intention</b></p> <p><b>For the grace this week to intensify our preparation for the coming of the Lord.</b></p>  
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**From Fr. Fred:**

This is a wonderful reflection on the meaning of Advent by Caryll Houselander in her spiritual classic, The Reed of God.

“ADVENT IS THE SEASON OF THE SECRET, THE SECRET OF THE GROWTH OF CHRIST, of divine love growing in silence. It is the season of humility, silence, and growth.

For nine months, Christ grew in his mother’s body. By his own will, she formed him from herself, from the simplicity of her daily life. She had nothing to give him but herself. He asked for nothing else. She simply gave him herself.

**Mary gives flesh to the Christ**

Working, eating, sleeping, Mary was forming Jesus’ body from hers. From her humanity she gave him his humanity.

Walking in the streets of Nazareth to do her shopping, to visit her friends, she set his feet on the path to Jerusalem. Washing, weaving, kneading, sweeping, her hands prepared his hands for the nails. Every beat of her heart gave him his heart to love with, his heart to be broken by love. All her experience of the world about her was gathered to Christ growing in her.

Looking upon the flowers, she gave him human sight. Talking with her neighbors, she gave him a human voice—the voice we still hear in the silence of souls saying: “Consider the lilies of the field.” Sleeping in her still room, she gave him the sleep of the child in the cradle, the sleep of the young man rocked in the storm-tossed boat. Breaking and eating the bread, drinking the wine of the country, she gave him his flesh and blood; she prepared the host for the Mass.

**Christ hides in our darkness**

This time of Advent is absolutely essential to our contemplation, too. If we have truly given our humanity to be changed into Christ, it is essential to us that we do not disturb this time of growth.

Advent is a time of darkness, of faith. We shall not see Christ’s radiance in our lives yet; it is still hidden in our darkness. Nevertheless, we must believe that he is growing in our lives; we must believe it so firmly that we cannot help relating everything, literally, to this almost incredible reality.

**Breathe Christ into the world!**

We ought to let everything grow in us, as Christ grew in Mary. And we ought to realize that in everything that does grow quietly in us, Christ grows. We should let thoughts and words and songs grow slowly and unfold in darkness in us. In the seasons of our Advent—waking, working, eating, sleeping, being—each breath is a breathing of Christ into the world.”

**Just for Fun:**

1st young boy: “Why do the birds fly south for the winter?”

2nd young boy: “Because it’s too far to walk?”



**Quote of the week:**



*“Compared with their Author, the sun and moon are but a fly and an ant. The whole universe cannot give us a right idea of the greatness of God; and it is only by signs, weak and slight in themselves, often by the help of the smallest insects and of the least plants, that we raise ourselves to God.”*

- St. Basil the Great



**Prayer for the Selection of a New Bishop**

*O God, Eternal Shepherd, who govern your flock with unflinching care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for the Diocese of Burlington who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Putney Food Shelf**

**What donations are needed:**

- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Peanut butter
- Canned tuna/ any canned meats
- Soups
- Beans
- Rice
- Cereal

