

February 14, 2021

The bulletin is also available online at olmcut.org

We are a Welcoming Community of Believers, Hoppers and Lovers. We are One Family in Baptism and the Holy Spirit, nourished with the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ. All are Welcome in this place!

Cycles of Faith – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclean or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves our attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclean, different or unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.

Where do we stand with all of this? Do we at least understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is compounded when the systems of operation and structure that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement raise their ugly heads and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed, not by erasing it but by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision.

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Attendance Last Sunday:
8:00 a.m.: 14 11:00 a.m.: 10

Offertory Last Week: \$1,700.00 Maintenance: \$165.00
Campaign for Human Development: \$20.00 Initial: \$10.00
Church in Eastern Europe: \$20.00
Home Missions: \$20.00
Online Giving Last Week: \$545.00

**Second Collection This Week for Church in
Central and Eastern Europe**

Second Collection Next Week for Home Missions

MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday February 13 (SJ)

4:30 p.m. For John Barrett requested by his siblings.

Sunday February 14

8:00 a.m. (OLMC) For Keith Mille

9:30 a.m. (SJ) For Arnold Gratton requested by his wife, Janice.

11:00 a.m. (OLMC) For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.

Monday February 15 8:00 a.m. (SJ)

Tuesday February 16 5:15 p.m. (OLMC)

Wednesday Ash Wednesday

February 17 7:00 a.m. (OLMC)

February 17 7:00 p.m. (SJ)

Thursday February 18 5:15 p.m. (OLMC)

Friday February 19 8:00 a.m. (SJ)

Saturday February 20 (SJ)

4:30 p.m. For John Barrett requested by Bob and Sandy Twombly.

Sunday February 21

8:00 a.m. (OLMC) For Anne Pidgeon requested by her mother, Irene Pierce.

9:30 a.m. (SJ) For Keith Mille

11:00 a.m. (OLMC) For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.

Ash Wednesday: Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 17.** Mass and distribution of ashes will be held at **OLMC at 7:00 a.m. and at St. Jude's at 7:00 p.m.** This is a great way to begin the Lenten season.

Calendar of OLMC Events:

- 2/16 Eucharistic Adoration following 5:15 p.m. Mass
- 2/18 Parish Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Question of the Week: What strained bond can I heal this week? What barrier can I break down?

Please pray for all priests in your daily prayers, especially the following this week:

Sunday:	Rev. Bernard Gaudreau
Monday:	Rev. William Giroux
Tuesday:	Rev. Scott Gratton
Wednesday:	Rev. Karl Hahr
Thursday:	Rev. John Hamilton
Friday:	Rev. John Hammond, OSB
Saturday:	Rev. Lance Harlow

Counters for Monday, February 15, 2021

Gail Blasius
Theresa Aube
Marie Cookson

Lectors for Sunday, February 21, 2021

8:00 a.m. Bob Danyow
11:00 a.m. Bill Geiger

OLMC--Charlotte Financial Summary for the Six Months Ended 6/30/20 (FY 2021):

- For the six months ended 12/31/20, Total Offertory, Taxable and Non-Taxable, was \$42,743 versus \$53,977 for the prior year comparable period, a decrease of (\$11,234) or (20.8%).
- Partially offsetting the decrease in Total Offertory Income was an increase in Total Gifts & Bequests. Gifts & Bequests Income (both those directed to charitable giving and those for ongoing parish support) was \$13,375 for the first six months of this year compared to \$8,200 for the same period last year, an increase of \$5,175 or 63%.
- Total Operating Expenses for the period were \$53,004 compared to \$65,454 for the prior year comparable period. It should be noted that this reduction in expenses through 12/31/20 appears to have been in large part driven by the timing of the billings for certain expenses which were not received as of 12/31/20.
- Net Income for the six months ended 12/31/20 was \$3,904 versus a Net Loss of (\$1,234) for the prior year comparable period.
- Total Cash balance at 12/31/20 was \$167,371 versus \$167,948, a decrease of \$577.

Contract Tracing Protocols: Registering for Mass

Attendance: Until further notice we ask everyone to give us their names and contact info in the event there is a need for contact tracing. This includes weekend and daily masses and funerals. We will have folks helping at the weekend masses and we ask everyone to sign the sheet in the doorway if they come in for daily mass. This is a mandate from Gov. Scott and Bishop Coyne. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe.

***While at St. Jude's you no longer need to pre-register, you do need to leave your name and contact info with those checking you in. We are encouraging folks who attend mass at St. Jude's to pre-register if possible. Those attending Our Lady of Mount Carmel must pre-register. Registration online is at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054faca62eaf49-stjude> or contact Marie at 482-2290 (St. Jude), 425-2637 (OLMC) or email at marietcookson@aol.com if you want her to register you. **PLEASE NOTE: MASKS ARE MANDATORY AT ALL TIMES IN THE CHURCH.**



A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

— Mk 1:40-41

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration and Confession: Our Lady of Mount Carmel will have a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament along with Confessions every Tuesday following the 5:15 p.m. Mass. The next Adoration will be **Tuesday, February 16** following the 5:15 p.m. Mass.

Fasting and Abstinence in Lent: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fast and abstinence. The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two smaller meals, "Sufficient to maintain strength" are also allowed. Eating between meals breaks the fast but drinking liquids does not. Catholics aged 18-59 are bound to fasting. Abstinence refers to refraining from eating meat and applies to all Catholics ages 14 and older. ALL Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

Ash Wednesday Almsgiving Collection: There will be a special collection on Ash Wednesday to support Vermont Catholic Charities. This agency provides financial and emotional support to individuals and families throughout Vermont through the programs offered which include Counseling, Emergency Aid, Prison Ministry, Project Rachel and Residential Care Homes. Donations can be made through the Diocesan website <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/catholic-charities/ash-wednesday-appeal/> or by mailing a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403. Please know that every gift—whatever the size—makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity.

Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Jude's every Friday evening during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

2020 Contributions: Because of the new changes in itemized deductions, most people will be unable to deduct their 2020 contributions on their tax return. If you would like a copy of your contributions for 2020, please call the church at 425-2637 or email Marie at carmel@gmavt.net and one will be mailed to you.

Guidelines for Lent:

--The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.

--Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

--The rule of **fasting** states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength", are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from 18 to 59.

--**Abstinence** refers to the eating of meat. The common estimation of the community is used to determine what falls under the category of meat. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years or older.

--The **substantial** observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation.

--Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended.

--Parents and teachers should see to it that, even those who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence because of age, are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

Charlotte Food Shelf: We will be holding a drop-off food drive at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish on **Saturday, February 27 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon**. We are looking for non-perishable food items, personal care items and monetary donations to help out the Charlotte Food Shelf. You can drop off the items in the comfort of your vehicle in the OLMC parking lot. (In the event of severe weather, we will hold the food drive on Saturday, March 6.) Please consider helping your neighbor in need any way you can. Thank you.

Feed A Neighbor-Help A Friend: There will be a food distribution for any and all families at the Vibrant Church on Williston Road in South Burlington **every Saturday in February from 10:00 a.m. to Noon**. FREE thirty pound boxes of fresh produce, dairy, and meats. Sponsored by Convoy for Hope where you can grab a box for friends and neighbors in need. No names taken and no addresses required. Just show up and the food goes from TRUCK TO TRUCK!

Ash Wednesday Distribution of Ashes

The following guidelines have been issued for the Diocese of Burlington concerning the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday:

- Imposition of ashes happens in the normal way, with the minister sanitizing hands before and after the ritual. **Minister and participant both wear masks. To impose ashes, the minister reaches for the forehead from the side, rather than moving his or her hand directly in front of the person's mouth/nose. Contact with the forehead is made solely with the thumb; do not place your entire hand on the top of the head.**
- The formula "Repent and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return" will be said ONCE over all before imposing ashes, rather than to each individual. Individual imposition of ashes is done in silence.
- Those not comfortable with physical contact, but still want ashes may approach the minister AFTER the Mass/service, where the minister will impose ashes by sprinkling a small amount over the top of the head.

The faithful are reminded that there is **NO OBLIGATION TO RECEIVE ASHES** even if they attend Mass on Ash Wednesday. Ashes are an external sign of the interior disposition to contrition and penance. What is important is fostering the interior disposition.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls: In the spirit of Almsgiving during Lent, there are Rice Bowls available in the lobby of the church. Take a Rice Bowl and fill it with change to help feed those less fortunate. Rice Bowls are then returned by Easter.

Lenten Fish Fry: There will be a Lenten Take Out Fish Dinner sponsored by the St. Peter's Knights of Columbus on **Friday, February 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Main Street in Vergennes**. Menu includes Baked Beer Battered Haddock, Zesty Fries, Coleslaw, Mixed Vegetables and Chocolate Chip Brownies. \$10/Adult, \$5/child six and under. For Reservations, please call St. Peter's Office at 802-877-2367.