

December 5, 2021

The bulletin is also available online at stjudevt.org

We are a Welcoming Community of Believers, Hopers 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 – Second Sunday of Advent

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

Attendance Last Week:
8:00 a.m. 24 11:00 a.m. 16

Offertory Last Week: \$491.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Development: \$132.00
Online Giving Last Week: \$790.00

Second Collection This Week for Maintenance
Second Collection Next Week for Religious Retirement

MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday December 4

4:30 p.m. (SJ) For Joseph Cioffi requested by his wife, Peggy.

Sunday December 5

8:00 a.m. (OLMC) For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes.

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

11:00 a.m. (OLMC) For Neddy Cartularo requested by Rosemarie Cartularo and Larry Poitras.

Monday December 6 8:00 a.m. (SJ)

Tuesday December 7 5:15 p.m. (OLMC)

Wednesday December 8 Immaculate Conception

7:00 a.m. (OLMC) For the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Jude Parishes

7:00 p.m. (SJ) For John and Michael Miner requested by Jean Miner.

Thursday December 9 5:15 p.m. (OLMC)

Friday December 10 8:00 a.m. (SJ)

Saturday December 11

4:30 p.m. (SJ) For Mary Gordon requested by Theresa and Steve Aube.

Sunday December 12

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

9:30 a.m. (SJ) For Roger Strong, Jr. requested by his Family.

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

Calendar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Events

-12/05 Family Faith Formation at 9:30 a.m. at St. Jude

Question of the Week: For what do I need to repent? Whom do I need to forgive?

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

Sunday: Rev. Dallas St. Peter
Monday: Rev. Timothy Sullivan
Tuesday: Rev. David Theroux, SSE
Wednesday: Rev. Richard Tinney
Thursday: Rev. John Tokaz, OFM, CAP
Friday: Rev. Richard VanderWeel, SSE
Saturday: Rev. Peter Williams

Schedule of Counters: **Monday, December 6, 2021**
George Gardner
Lee Cross
Marie Cookson

Schedules for December 12, 2021

Lector: 8:00 a.m. Bob Danyow
11:00 a.m. Tricia Sulva

EM: 8:00 a.m. Rose Bernier
11:00 a.m. Ray Curtis

Right To Life: *"Take My Hand, Not My Life"*
Massachusetts Citizens for Life

COVID Update: The voluntary use of face-coverings is encouraged with the renewed spread of COVID19 variants. Catholics parishes do not have any mandatory facemask policies at this time, although the practice is suggested for those with compromised health conditions, and/or who are unvaccinated. Decisions such as masking and precautions at individual parish events and programs will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Holiday Mass Schedules: The holiday schedule is as follows:

Immaculate Conception:

Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 a.m. at OLMC
Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:

Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. at The Old Lantern *with limited seating*

Friday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude
Friday, December 24 at 10:00 p.m. at OLMC
Saturday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Jude

New Year's Eve and Day:

Friday, December 31 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Jude
Saturday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m. at OLMC

Please Note: Because Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Saturday, there will be **NO** 4:30 p.m. Saturday evening Mass for Sunday obligation.

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, December 7** following the 5:15 p.m. Mass.

Men's Discussion Group: Join men from St. Jude's and OLMC at St. Jude's from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a Men's Discussion Group. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, December 7**. If interested or would like more information, please contact Mike Bullock at mt6@gmavt.net.



“Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

— Lk 3: 5 - 6

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

Immaculate Conception: Wednesday, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are 7:00 a.m. at OLMC, and 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude.

Giving Tree: The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Giving Tree is up with wishes from 11 children. In this difficult year for so many people, we are starting early for parishioners to have more time to shop and return their wrapped gift, with ornament attached, to the church on or before **Sunday, December 12**. Thank you in advance for bringing the joy and love of Christmas to a child in our community. If you have questions, please call 425-3252 or 425-2382.

St. Jude Craft Fair: There will be a Craft Fair at St. Jude Parish on **Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Many items will be available. Please join us.

Bambinelli Sunday: We will have a Bambinelli Sunday on the third Sunday of Advent, **December 12**. Children and adults are asked to bring figures of the Christ Child from their Nativity sets to be blessed at Mass. This is an Italian custom and the Pope blesses the infant figures in St. Peter's Square during the Angelus on the third Sunday of Advent.

Advent Evening of Reflections, Confessions and Adoration: An Advent Evening of Reflection, Confessions and Adoration at St. Jude's Church on **Sunday, December 12 at 4:30 p.m.** This will be an opportune time to receive the sacrament of reconciliation for Advent.

FORMED

FORMED.org is a revolutionary online platform featuring the best Catholic videos, audio talks, eBooks and movies at **NO** cost to you. Visit **FORMED.org** to learn about these resources. To log in, go to FORMED.org, click "Sign up as a parishioner"; enter "Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Charlotte, VT. Register with your name, email, and your own password to create an account. If you have any question, please feel free to contact Marie.

Senior Bingo: Seniors, you are invited to a morning of free bingo at St. Jude's from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. The next Bingo is **Tuesday, December 14**. Reservations are required by **Wednesday, December 8**. **Masks and social distancing are required.** You will be given a packaged complete meal to take home, provided no charge by Age Well. Bingo prizes will be provided by St. Jude's. Contact Kathy and Ted Barrett at 453-3087 (leave a message) or email to tedbarrett79@gmail.com for reservations.

Bishop's Annual Appeal: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish is 73% (\$15,989) to our Bishop's Appeal goal of \$21,942. If you have not yet made a gift to the appeal or would like to make an additional gift online, visit vermontcatholic.org/giveonline.

Christ Our Hope: 80% (instead of 60%) of new gifts and pledges made in December will go back to the parishes to support their efforts and 20% will be split evenly between faith formation and emergency aid. On **December 6**, the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation will match the first 25 new online gifts and pledges of \$1,000 or more with a \$1,000 grant directly to the parish, no split. For example, if someone gives \$1,000, 80% or \$800 of that \$1,000 gift is distributed to the parish along with another \$1,000 from the foundation, totaling \$1,800. There will be only one match per parish. To make an online gift visit: <https://www.christourhopevt.org/donate>

Courageous Women Bible Study: Even though we don't often hear much about the women of the Bible, they have an important part in salvation history. This Advent and Christmas season, we at Saint John Vianney parish are looking to increase their visibility with a Bible study. The book we will use, *Courageous Women* by Stacy Mitch, was written with a female audience in mind, yet it is equally approachable for men and allows for well-rounded discussions of depth and breadth with both female and male participants. We will meet for 8 sessions on Tuesdays at 9:15 AM and at 6:30 PM, beginning on Tuesday, December 7; you can choose the time that fits your schedule best. Each session is mostly independent of the others, so participants are welcome to attend as many or as few as they can. Look for the sign-up sheet at the top of our ramp entrance. Copies of the book are available through our parish for \$12 each. Questions? Contact Connie McDonald in the office at 802-864-4166 x204 or at SJVGoodNews@gmail.com

Religious Retirement: Give in thanksgiving. "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

Red Cross Blood Drive: There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Jude's on **Thursday, January 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** To schedule an appointment please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter **HINESBURG**. We ask that appointments be made if possible as we may not be able to accommodate walk-ins due to the coronavirus. **MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS.**

****It is important to register online if possible as this allows the Red Cross to know what they can supply to the hospitals.**

Daily Mass at St. Jude's—Winter Weather: Once again the schedule for daily Mass at St. Jude's will follow the Hinesburg/Charlotte School System. If there is no school in Hinesburg and Charlotte due to the weather, there will be NO morning Mass on Monday or Friday mornings. Closings are found on the local radio and TV stations. In the event of Mass cancellation at St. Jude, Fr. Zuccaro will offer morning Mass at OLMC. Please use common sense and discretion if desiring to attend.

Advent Appeal: Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in supporting the Annual Advent Appeal. The "Season of Giving" has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonterers to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. With your help, we can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge. ***Help people like Brendan and Kelly keep the heat on. They live in rural Vermont getting by on a small pension. Due to unexpected medical expenses, they fell behind on their heating bill. Vermont Catholic Charities helped them avoid the disconnection of utilities so they could stay safe and warm. They said, "Thank you. We are relieved and so grateful for this support."***

Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, your gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donate, please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 or give online at www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal.