

July 12, 2020

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 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Using the best seeds doesn't always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn't wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn't even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn't the seeds, it was the soil!

You cannot sow seeds in any old place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn't work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of his Word. What do we do with them?

If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God's Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God's seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and ego-checking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and time again, giving it another try.

If we have created a suitable bed for sowing, then once the seed is sown, we must properly maintain them. What is our maintenance plan for the seeds of God's Word? We need not only a source for water but a watering schedule. We need to weed, aerate the soil, nurture the young plants, protect them, and provide proper nutrients. What does our spiritual maintenance plan look like? If we have done all things well, imagine what the seeds of God's Word could produce in us!

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**JULY 1st THRU DECEMBER 31st
(1st six months of the fiscal year)**

**Offertory, Maintenance & Fuel Collections
amounted to \$77,345 this year compared to
\$88,419 last year, a decrease of \$11,074 or -
12.5%.**

**Total Donations including Gifts, etc., amounted
to \$92,540 this year compared to \$109,774 last
year, a decrease of \$17,234 or -15.7%.**

Attendance Last Week:
4:30 p.m. 13 9:30 a.m. 27

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS:

- Sat. July 11 4:30 p.m.** For the Parishioners of St. Jude and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes.
- Sun. July 12 9:30 a.m.** For Betsy Taff requested by Bridget Hanna.
- Sat. July 18 4:30 p.m.** For Janet Dubois requested by the Family.
- Sun. July 19 9:30 a.m.** For the deceased members of the Tomasella Family requested by the Family.

**Offertory Last Week: \$3,920.26
Maintenance: \$519.00
Church in Africa: \$30.00
Online Giving Last Week: \$188.00**

**Second Collection Next Week for the Solidarity Fund
For the Church in Africa**

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

- Sunday:** Rev. Christopher Micale
- Monday:** Rev. John Milanese
- Tuesday:** Rev. Curtis Miller
- Wednesday:** Rev. Maurice Moreau, O.F.M., cap.
- Thursday:** Rev. Thomas Mosher
- Friday:** Rev. Thomas Nadeau
- Saturday:** Rev. Timothy Naples

A Prayer for Priests: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

Calendar of St. Jude Events:

Question of the Week: How can I be more receptive to God's word, like rich soil? What specific action can I accomplish this week to bear fruit?

Welcome: Welcome to Fr. James Zuccaro and Fr. Tim Naples who are our new Parish Priests. Fr. Zuccaro is residing in the rectory at OLMC and can be reached at 425-2253. Fr. Naples is residing at St. John Vianney and can be reached at 864-4166. Please welcome them to our parishes.

Father Cray: For anyone who would like to send Fr. David some well wishes, his new mailing address is:

Rev. David Cray, SSE
994 Barnes Avenue, Apt. 7
Colchester, VT 05446-3132

Registering for Mass Attendance: Please remember to register if you are planning on attending Mass in the near future. With capacity being 58 for each Mass at St. Jude's and 33 for each Mass at OLMC, it is important that folks register. You can register online at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054faca62eaaf49-stjude> or contact Marie at 482-2290 (St. Jude), 425-2637 (OLMC) or email at marietcookson@aol.com. If you are planning on attending each week, please let her know and she will add your name so you don't need to register each week. She will automatically register you.

Musicians Needed: Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Charlotte is looking for musicians to help with the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses. Both Trina Bianchi, keyboard player at the 8:00 a.m. Mass, and Al Teodosio, guitar player at the 11:00 a.m. have decided to retire. If anyone is interested in joining either choir, please contact Marie at carmel@gmavt.net or 425-2637.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal: Thank you to those who have given to the 2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal. We are so grateful for the gifts we have received during these challenging times. Our parish goal is the same as last year. As of June 17 we had raised \$8,390 of our goal of \$24,739 (34%). Please visit bishopsappealvt.org for more information about your gift at work. Every gift makes a difference no matter the amount.

Daily Rosary Apostolate: The Diocese continues to offer a daily Rosary online. Individuals from around the diocese have been joining Valerie Parzyck in leading each day. Interested in helping to lead? Email Valerie at vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org with convenient times for you and when it is scheduled, Valerie will send you a link to Zoom for the appointed time. You may choose to show your face or, if you prefer, she can show slides for each mystery while you pray. If this is something you would like to participate in, please contact Valerie at the above email address.

Spiritual Listener: This time of pandemic can be very stressful and leave us filled with worry and anxiety. In the midst of this uncertainty, the Lord comes to offer us His peace (John 20:19). And in offering us His Peace, He invites us to walk with and accompany each other. If you would like to talk, share or pray with one of the Deacons of the Diocese of Burlington, please send an email to pgummere@vermontcatholic.org and leave your contact information. One of the deacons of the Diocese, skilled in the art of spiritual listening, will then reach out to you.



“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”

— Mt 13:22-23

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

Bulletins: Each week we will have bulletins available after Mass. If you would prefer to have the bulletin mailed or emailed to you, please contact Marie at 482-2290 (St. Jude), 425-2637 (OLMC) or marietcookson@aol.com and she will send a bulletin each week.

The Word Among Us and Living Faith Magazines: Because of the COVID-19 virus we have to remove all magazines from the lobby. If you would like a copy of the monthly Word Among Us and/or a quarterly copy of Living Faith (pocket-size booklet that is usually in the magazine rack), please let Marie know and she will mail you a copy.

FORMED.org: 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 on the tab “Enter Code”, the code is **HHY6Z9** (cases sensitive). Register with your name, email, zip code and your own password to create an account. If you have any question, please feel free to contact Marie.

