

Offeratory: December 13, 2020 OLM \$166.00, OLV \$183.00, COS \$412.00, OLG \$415.00 Total - \$ 1176.00



## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

*Winter Schedule: All Daily Masses will be held in the Rectory Chapel 9 AM*

Saturday, December 19, 2020 For all Parishioners OLM  
 Saturday December 19, 2020 Joan Kopins RIP by Karen Shaw COS  
 Sunday, December 20, 2020 Francis & Molly Carroll RIP by Tom & Cynthia Rahmlow OLV  
 Sunday, December 20, 2020 Elmer Bodnar RIP by Demaris Bodnar COS  
 Wednesday, December 23, 2020 Rectory Chapel - NO DAILY MASS  
 Thursday, December 24, 2020 Rectory Chapel - NO DAILY MASS (SEE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE)  
 Friday, December 25, 2020 Rectory Chapel - NO DAILY MASS (SEE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE)



### Christ our Hope Campaign

Have you been thinking about a gift or pledge to the *Christ Our Hope* campaign? There is still time to join thousands across the Diocese who already have made donations.

With your help at Our Lady of Mercy and the West River Missions, the gifts and pledges received so far have moved us closer to **funding???**. The *Christ Our Hope* campaign is focused on building vibrant parishes, and we pray that our projects will strengthen us for the future.

You can return your completed pledge form or go online to [christourhopevt.org/donate](http://christourhopevt.org/donate) to make a gift.

### Readings for the Week of December 20, 2020

Sunday 12/20 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; ROM 16:25-27; LK 1:26-38  
 Monday 12/21 Zep 3:14-18a; PS 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; LK 1:39-45  
 Tuesday 12/22 1 SM 1:24-28; 1 SAMUEL 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ABCD; LK 1:46-56  
 Wednesday 12/23 MAL 3:1-4, 23-24; PS 25:4-5AB, 8-9, 10 AND 14; LK 1:57-66  
 Thursday 12/24 2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 AND 29; LK 1:67-79  
 Friday 12/25 Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18;  
 Saturday 12/26 ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59; PS 31:3CD-4, 6 AND 8AB, 16BC AND 17; MT 10:17-22

### Cursillo Webinar - 3rd Wednesday of Each Month @ 7pm

**The Permanent Meeting ID for Zoom: 83037321641, Password: Ultreya.**

#### Cursillo

##### Article 2

##### PRE CURSILLO

The Cursillo movement has three phases: a) Pre Cursillo, b) the Cursillo Weekend, and c) Post Cursillo.

Pre Cursillo is that part of the movement when some or our friends pray for us, engage us in discussion about our beliefs, our faith, our life, and about Cursillo and how it has helped them, and how it may be something we should consider. Hopefully as friends you will also talk about other things. Things like sports teams, the weather, your families etc. Because, that is what friends do.

My life before I made my Cursillo weekend was pretty unremarkable (but that won't stop me from remarking on it J). Mom and Dad were both faithful Catholics. I was raised in a small town and am the oldest of nine children. I attended church in the town's small Catholic Church and went to the local high school. After college I married my, from a different high school, sweet heart. After a brief stint in the army, I eventually ended up working at Vermont Yankee and being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

1998 was a difficult year for me at work, in both my work schedule and my responsibilities. One Sunday I was in church before Mass praying "Lord I need your help...". It could not have been 15 seconds later that Father Fred walked up to me and said, "How would you like to go to a Cursillo? It is like a retreat but better." That, essentially was what I initially perceived to be my Pre Cursillo. It was years afterward that I found out that several of my friends, who knew something about me, had been praying for me for many months. This was my experience with the Pre Cursillo.

**Online Giving** Please refer to our website, <https://ourladyofmercy.vermontcatholic.org/> for information regarding online giving, so that you may continue to support our church during this difficult time. Now online giving is easier than ever. Give online through our parish website or from the app. To get the online Giving app, go to OLGApp.com. Register the app with our organization ID#1345.



## Dear Parishioners

*As we move into these uncertain winter months, I want you to know that we at Our Lady of Mercy and the West River Missions are here for you. We miss you. We invite you to come back to Mass if you have been away, even if it is one of our weekday Masses with fewer people present. If you are unsure about attending Sunday Masses during this time of pandemic, simply call the rectory, and I or a minister in the Church will meet you at the church to offer Holy Communion. I am also available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Anointing of the Sick. For Catholics, the Sacraments are instituted by Christ to give us grace. Pope Francis reminds us that Communion is not a reward for good behavior but medicine for the sick. We all need Christ's help during these difficult times. Take time out each day for your own prayer. Pray as a family before meals. Watch Mass online if you don't feel safe coming to Mass, and join in the online offerings that our parish and diocese offer. I am here for you and pray daily for you. This is my duty and blessing for me as a parish priest.*

## Pope Francis Speaks to the Family Simplicity

Our gaze on the Holy Family lets us . . . be drawn into the simplicity of the life they led in Nazareth. It is an example that does our families great good, helping them increasingly to become communities of love and reconciliation, in which tenderness, mutual help, and mutual forgiveness is experienced . . . I would also like to encourage families to become aware of the importance they have in the Church and in society. The proclamation of the Gospel, in fact, first passes through the family to reach the various spheres of daily life.

--Angelus, St. Peter's Square,  
December 29, 2013

**Parish Annual Appeal: \$8,525.00**

**Christ our Hope Campaign: We have reached 60% of our Hope Goal of \$137,913.00. Please consider making a donation. Info at [christourhope.org/donate](http://christourhope.org/donate)**

**Bishop's Annual Appeal: We have reached 79% of our goal of \$22,789.00.**

**Thank you all for your generosity.**

## Covid-19 Note:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains lifted until further notice, especially if you are part of a vulnerable population and/or have an underlying health condition. Please approach the celebration of Mass with charity and love for our clergy and faith community by following the protocols:

- Stay home if you are sick or not feeling well.
- **Wear a mask in Mass.**
- **Sanitize your hands upon entry. Due to shortages of sanitizer, please bring your own if possible.**
- Sit in designated pews and respect social distance between others of 6 feet or more unless you are one family unit.
- Refrain from congregating in tight areas or entering cordoned off areas.
- Follow the protocols to receive Holy Communion as directed at Mass.

For more details about church protocols visit: [vermontcatholic.org/covid-19](http://vermontcatholic.org/covid-19). **Bishop Coyne**

## **Pope Francis' Prayer for a special Mass and act of prayer asking Mary to protect Italy and the world during of the coronavirus pandemic.**

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

## Prayer

Almighty God, you who have given us the light that is Jesus, teach us to rejoice in his coming as Mary rejoiced. When we light this tree of love, help us to remember that our lives, like the life that Jesus lived, should be light to our neighbors, light that shines toward you. This we ask through Jesus, your Son, the Light of the World today. Amen