

Offertory: December 26, 2021 OLV \$844.00, COS \$1860.00, OLG \$115.00 Total \$2819.00  
 Offertory: January 2, 2022 OLV \$823 .00, COS \$612.00, OLG \$ 100.00 Total \$1535.00



**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

January 9, 2022 Troy Dube by Dan Daigler OLV  
 January 8, 2022 RIP Chuck McMahon by Nancy McMahon COS  
 January 9, 2022 RIP Maria Sassi by Frank & Rosa Cannella COS

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20  
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28  
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39  
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45  
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12  
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17  
 Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11



The Knights of Columbus recently hosted a *Keep Christ in Christmas Contest*. There were a total of twenty-one entries. The selection committee would like to congratulate the winners: Spencer Claussen, Kaylee Frost, Samantha Kopij, Max Hazzelrigg, and Emma Santonastaso. Winners will receive \$25.

*Mass for Life 2022 with Bishop Christopher J. Coyne will be held at St. Augustine Church, Montpelier, Vermont on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022—9:30 A.M. Rosary before Mass 9 A.M., following mass: walk from the church to the Rally for Life, at the Vermont State House*

**Bishop’s Annual Appeal** - Please consider a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal.  
 To learn more visit: [bishopsappealvt.org](http://bishopsappealvt.org). Please choose Our Lady of Mercy.  
 As of 12/22/2021 Our Lady of Mercy and the W.R. Missions is at 47% of our goal.

**Christ Our Hope—Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!**  
 Thanks to your generosity, we have reached 64% of our goal. Donations may be made using the online giving app or by returning your donation in the envelope provided.



**Diocesan Synod for a Synodal Church**  
 Pope Francis has asked dioceses around the world to take part in the celebration of the 2021-2023 “Synod for a Synodal Church.”  
 The theme for a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.



**Adoration** Every first Friday of the Month at Our Lady of the Valley 3-4 P.M.

**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



## **Pope Francis Speaks to the Family The Power of a Grandparent's Prayer**

In a special way, old age is a time of grace, in which the Lord renews his call to us: he calls us to pray, especially to intercede; he calls us to be close to those in need...The elderly, grandparents, have the ability to understand the most difficult of situations: a great ability! And when they pray for these situations, their prayer is strong; it is powerful!

### **Saint of the Week**

#### **Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys' Story**

"God closes a door and then opens a window," people sometimes say when dealing with their own disappointment or someone else's. That was certainly true in Marguerite's case. Children from European as well as Native American backgrounds in 17th-century Canada benefited from her great zeal and unshakable trust in God's providence.

Born the sixth of 12 children in Troyes, France, Marguerite at the age of 20 believed that she was called to religious life. Her applications to the Carmelites and Poor Clares were unsuccessful. A priest friend suggested that perhaps God had other plans for her.

In 1654, the governor of the French settlement in Canada visited his sister, an Augustinian canoness in Troyes. Marguerite belonged to a sodality connected to that convent. The governor invited her to come to Canada and start a school in Ville-Marie (eventually the city of Montreal). When she arrived, the colony numbered 200 people with a hospital and a Jesuit mission chapel.

Marguerite established a school for Indian girls in Montreal. At the age of 69, she walked from Montreal to Quebec in response to the bishop's request to establish a community of her sisters in that city. By the time she died, she was referred to as the "Mother of the Colony." Marguerite was canonized in 1982.

### **Wisdom of Fulton Sheen**

Never forget that there are only two philosophies to rule your life: the one of the cross, which starts with the fast and ends with the feast. The other of Satan, which starts with the feast and ends with the headache. January 9

The refusal to take sides on great moral issues is itself a decision. It is a silent acquiescence to evil. The Tragedy of our time is that those who still believe in honesty lack fire and conviction, while those who believe in dishonesty are full of passionate conviction. January 10

### **Prayer of the Synod:**

#### **Adsumus Sancte Spiritus**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit  
as we gather together in your name.

With you alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance  
lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father  
and the Son, forever and ever. Amen

### **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord  
Monday: First Week in Ordinary Time  
Thursday: St. Hilary  
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

### **Do Something Beautiful For God The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa**

Holiness does not consist in doing extraordinary things. It consists in accepting, with a smile, what Jesus sends us. It consists in accepting and following the will of God. January 10

Prayer makes your heart bigger, until it is capable of containing the gift of God himself. January 11

Peace and war begin at home. If we truly want peace in the world, let us begin by loving one another in our own families. If we want to spread joy, we need for every family to have joy. January 14

At the moment of death we will not be judged according to the number of good deeds we have done or by the diplomas we have received in our lifetime. We will be judged according to the love we have put into our work. January 15