

WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY MASSES

December 24 – Vigil of Christmas
SAT 4:00 PM - Mass at St. Thomas with children's pageant and choir—For the parishioners of St. Thomas & St. Mary's
 5:00 PM - Mass at St. Mary's, Fr. Berube S.S.E. celebrant
 (9:30 PM - concert of carols before Mass)
 10:00 PM - Mass at St. Thomas—For the repose of the soul of Jasimer Sullivan by the Sullivan Family

December 25 – The Nativity of The Lord
SUN 8:30 AM - Mass at St. Thomas—For the repose of the soul of Tess Ledwith by Sean & Mary Ann Ledwith & Family
 10:30 AM - Mass at St. Mary's

MON NO Mass at St. Thomas

TUE 6:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Judy Bernasconi by Al Bernasconi
 Confessions will be heard before Mass at 6:00 PM but NO Exposition this evening

WED NO Mass at St. Mary's, No Confessions, No Exposition

THURS NO Mass at St. Mary's

FRI NO Mass at St. Thomas

December 31 - Vigil
SAT 4:30 PM - In memory of Leonard T. Kelly by the Kelly Family

January 1 - Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God
SUN 8:30 AM - For the repose of the soul of Jacqueline McDermott by Laura Wells

Looking ahead, NO Mass on Monday, Jan. 2, 2012 but the remainder of the week's Mass, Confessions, and Exposition schedule resumes as normal beginning Tues., Jan. 3rd.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - Dec. 31, 2011 & Jan. 1, 2012

Mass	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Altar Servers
4:30 PM Sat.	T Potvin T Rivers	R Rivers	Please help
8:30 AM Sun.	Deacon Peter N Scott L Wells	B MacDonough A Bernasconi	G Gosselin K Groff

2012 CALENDARS & OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: We still have calendars left, please help yourselves. Also please pick up your boxed offertory envelopes found in the back of the church.

Holy Day, Dec. 8, 2011	
19 Envelopes = \$185.00; Loose Currency = \$39.00	TOTAL = \$224.00
Stewardship - Dec. 10 & 11, 2011 (Weekly Offertory Goal = \$2,850.00)	
67 Envelopes = \$2,082.00; Loose Currency = \$490.00	TOTAL = \$2,572.00
YTD Actual = \$64,646.22	
Stewardship - Dec. 17 & 18, 2011	
71 Envelopes = \$2,447.00; Loose Currency = \$948.96	TOTAL = \$3,395.96
YTD Actual = \$68,042.18	

Please remember to make up your contributions if you are away on vacation. Thanks.

Message from Fr. Rick

Merry Christmas!

“And this will be a sign for you:
 You shall find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.....”

A sign for you.....Centuries earlier Isaiah had prophesied that God Himself would give His people a sign, “.....a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel.” St. Matthew the Evangelist and Apostle tells us in his Gospel account: Emmanuel means “God with us”. And so He is, wrapped in swaddling clothes bound so as to be virtually unable to move his tiny limbs lying in a manger, a feed box for animals. What could be more helpless, more vulnerable. What could be less threatening, more inviting, than this tiny babe. And yet from the beginning there would be those who will close their hearts and minds to this tiny child. From the beginning there would be those threatened by this infant lying in this most unlikely of cribs. The homicidal malice of Herod would soon enough send Joseph and Mary and the infant Jesus fleeing for their lives into Egypt.


Still there were those, shepherds, mysterious Magi “from the east”, an old and pious man, and an old devout woman, and of course, before any of these others there was Mary and Joseph who all wondering welcomed Emmanuel, and made room for Him in their lives.....This Christmas, as always, the mystery beckons to us, calls to us, invites us to kneel, to wonder, to adore, to welcome Him;

Emmanuel: God with us.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY: The Diocesan recognition of World Marriage Day for couples celebrating significant anniversaries will be held on Feb. 5th at the 11:00 A.M. at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral, Burlington. Bishop Matano will be the main celebrant. If you are celebrating a milestone church wedding anniversary of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 years, etc., and would like to attend this Mass, please call the parish office to register by Jan. 16th.

CHRISTMAS FOOD AND FRUIT BASKETS: Thank you to all who contributed to our parish's ministry of distribution of Christmas Food and Fruit Baskets for needy families in our parish and surrounding community, a ministry of Christian love for God and our neighbor. Thank you to our parish secretary, Donna Schaeffler for covering the boxes; to our children and teachers in the Religious Ed program grades 1-8, who decorated the boxes; members of the parish who contributed food staples, hams and turkeys, and monetary donations; to our Confirmation students who assembled the baskets; and to the Knights of Columbus who contribute monetarily. May our Lord Jesus bless us all and guide us through the New Year. Amen. *On behalf of our parish, we would like to thank Laura Lynch Wells for chairing this Christmas ministry.*

Parish Events

Sunday	12/25	Merry Christmas	<u>NO</u> Coffee Hour <u>NO</u> Rel. Ed. classes K-8 <u>NO</u> Confirmation Classes
Tuesday	12/27 6:00 PM	Confessions	<u>NO</u> Exposition o/t Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday	12/28 6:00 PM	<u>NO</u> Confessions at St. Mary's <u>NO</u> Exposition o/t Blessed Sacrament	<u>NO</u> Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.
Saturday	12/31 3:45 PM	Confessions	
Sunday	1/1		<u>NO</u> Coffee Hour <u>NO</u> Rel. Ed. classes K-8 <u>NO</u> Confirmation Classes



Donations for Christmas Flowers have been made in memory of the following:

Alepee Family
 Fleri Family
 Mullaly Family
 Christina Benes
 Benes Family
 Connie Hanover
 The Perron & Scott Families
 Deceased family members of Roger & Diana Nadeau
 Narcisse Boucher
 Leona Breault
 Leonard Breault
 Boisjoli, Dufresne, Raymond, Lessard Families
 McBride Family
 Tomassi Family
 Russell H. Danielson
 George & Beatrice Danielson
 Charles R. Danielson
 Joseph & Virginia Crivello
 Nicholas Minici
 Mario & Frances Baudanza
 Diane Baudanza
 James V. LoGuidice
 Kasmir Kelczewski
 The Kelczewski Babies
 Harold & Fern Blatchford
 The Bousquet Baby
 Msgr. Kenneth Roeltgen
 Rev. Normand Nadeau
 Most Rev. John A. Marshall
 Jasmine
 Mary Kelczewski
 Joreen Silk
 Harriette Carson
 Martin & Virginia Babicz
 Ronald & Victoria Babicz
 The Nadeau Family
 The Monta/LaCassa Families
 Raymond Nadeau, Sr.
 Deceased members of the Nadeau family
 Deceased members of the Tyler Family
 Mom & Dad
 Doris Ruth McMahon
 Thomas Lorne McMahon
 Mark Thomas McMahon
 Marlon Rice

Roland Reny
 Mike Reny
 Michael Kellner
 Faith Kellner
 Lauryn Stockdale
 Connie Hanover
 Deceased members of the Reyome Family
 Deceased members of the Reynolds Family
 Louis Fugere & family
 Roseanna & Martin Mathews & Family
 Zelma Vigneau & Vigneau family
 Genevieve Blakey
 Ross Perri
 Josie Blanckmeister
 Dale A. Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Groschen
 Douglas Fyfe
 Susana Silmaro
 Sergio Nisnisan
 James Gatido
 Harriette Carson
 Kay Carson
 Grace Richard
 Elizabeth Fitzgerald
 Bernadette Brosseau
 Edith Holsten
 Ruth Gardner
 Deceased members of the Pollak & Belton Families
 Robert & Margaret Bassett
 Eugene Lavigne
 Vincent & Lillian Lavigne
 Marion Haylette
 Howard & Margaret Wagner
 Anselme & Violette LeCours
 Lysle & Natalie Boulrisse
 Antonio & Jeanne Lehouiller
 Lynne Kittell
 Gerald Lehouiller
 Emmanuel & Laurette Lavigne
 Conrad Lavigne
 Alison Morse Dombroski
 Martha G. Dombroski
 Frank R. Dombroski
 Deceased members of the Pollak & Belton Families
 Irv & Ann Wejroch
 Al May

We would like to thank all those who gave a donation to our Christmas Memorial Flower Fund.



K of C SCHOLARSHIP - All information is on the bulletin board regarding this yearly Scholarship available to high school seniors who are planning to attend college. Your father or grandfather must be a Knight—see all details and application information. If interested, take home a packet. For more information, contact Matt Hurley at 899-4341.

THANK YOU: "Keep Christ in Christmas", Christmas card sale was a great success. We sold out two weeks ago and wish to thank all those who supported the sale. Proceeds of \$176 will again go to support "Care Net".

THANK YOU to all who attended the K of C Country Breakfast. We realized a net profit of \$250.



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Week of December 25th:

For all deceased children of parishioners of St. Thomas and St. Mary's

requested by the family of Greg Lehouiller

THE CATHOLIC GOLDEN AGE Christmas Luncheon with Bishop Matano will take place on Fri., Jan. 6th at the Double Tree Hotel on Williston Rd. at 12:00 noon. Reservations no later than December 27, 2011 by calling 862-4564.

ANNUAL GAME SUPPER sponsored by Essex Junction K of C will be held on Sat., Jan. 21st at St. Pius X Parish Hall, Rte. 15 in Essex Ctr. For tickets/reservations, call Barry Corbin at 878-8314; Adults-\$15.00, under 12-\$6.00.

Rally for Life - Sat., Jan. 21, 2012: When it would have been easier to look the other way, guest speaker Jill Stanek's commitment to Christ led her to risk her job, reputation and friendships to stop the terrible practices of abortion and infanticide. A registered nurse in the Labor & Delivery Department at Christ Hospital in Illinois, Jill discovered not only were abortions being committed, babies were being aborted alive to die without medical care. When hospital leaders said that they would not stop, Jill went public and has become a national figure in the effort to protect both born and pre-born infants. The *Annual Rally for Life* is held each year to commemorate the US Supreme Court decision, *Roe v Wade*, handed down on January 22, 1973 that legalized abortion throughout pregnancy and overturned the laws protecting unborn babies in every state. More info to follow.

2012 MARCH-FOR-LIFE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. for High School students, parents and chaperones. Bus departs on Sun., Jan 22, 2012 from South Burlington and returns on Tues., Jan. 24th in the early morning. Cost is \$20 per person. Register early; contact Dorothy Barewicz at 802-846-5812 or e-mail dbarewicz@vermontcatholic.org.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR: Marion Brooks will be stepping down from hosting the Sunday morning Coffee Hour after the 8:30 A.M. Mass. We are looking for someone who would like to take over this task. The last Coffee Hour this year will be the Sunday before Christmas, Dec. 18th. Marion has offered to assist anyone by showing the new host the routine and what is involved. There will be no Coffee Hour on Christmas morning or New Years morning. Then Coffee Hour will start up again on Sun., Jan. 8th. Please call Marion at 899-3674 for details.

ADVENT APPEAL is a Diocesan program which helps those in need. Monetary donations are always accepted. Please make checks payable to Vermont Catholic Charities, Attention Advent Appeal, 55 Joy Drive, So. Burlington, VT 05403. *We would like to thank Louise Mathews for chairing this ministry.*

WE PRAY FOR

SICK: For all our sick: Jay Tisbert, Viola Esterino, Maria & Tom Sweeney, Roland Boisjoli, Gasper Tavormina, Elizabeth Grant, Lorraine Bruns, Stan Koniuto, Jill Akerley, Anthony Minadeo, Nancy Guaman, Fran Morrisseau, Hilde Rivadeneira, Carmela Cardenas, Conlan Shaw, Shirley Dorcy, Darlene Klatke, Arvind Benkataraman, Don Beaulieu, Patricia Meagher, Frank Livingstone, Kathy Blair, Roger Nadeau, Paul Keeler, Ann Kelly, Yvonne Cross, Arthur Frazer, Bret Johnson, Riley McLaughlin, Agnes Ghioni, Dina Remillard, Michael Chandler, Marlene Fitzgibbons, Emerson Royer, Cathryn Rotando, Yuriy Bihun, Silvio Desjardins, Madeline Lamb, Mary Sevcik, Lynn McLaughlin, Olivia Pierce, Martha Wagner, Abby Wintersteen, Donald Potvin, Gary Strait, Richard Masse, Kathryn Devlin, Erin Barch, Anna Tavormina, Janis Peyser, Ray Mathieu, Jim Mcgonagle, Janine Mullaly, Frank McCarthy, Sr., Theresa MacDonald, Joe Sprano, Tim Schaeffler, Shirley Daniels, Joan Siekman, and all those preparing for or recovering from surgery.

DECEASED: For all who have died, especially Mary Kelczewski, Richard Wells (brother-in-law of Laura Wells), and all deceased members of St. Thomas and St. Mary's parishes.

Other Intentions: Matt C., Jen G., Mike A., and Matt A.

Readings For the Week



Mon., Dec. 26
 Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr
 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17
 Mt 10:17-22

Tues., Dec. 27
 Feast of Saint John, Apostle and evangelist
 1 Jn 1:1-4
 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
 Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Wed., Dec. 28
 Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs
 1 Jn 1:5-2:2
 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8
 Mt 2:13-18

Thurs., Dec. 29
 1 Jn 2:3-11
 Lk 2:22-35

Fri., Dec. 30
 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3
 Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
 Lk 2:22-40

Sat., Dec. 31
 1 Jn 2:18-21
 Jn 1:1-18

Sunday, Jan. 1
 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
 Nm 6:22-27
 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
 Gal 4:4-7
 Lk 2:16-21

