

WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY MASSES

December 3
 SAT 4:10 PM - Rosary before Mass
 4:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Peter Dufresne by the Dufresne Family

December 4
 SUN 8:30 AM - For the parishioners of St. Thomas & St. Mary's
 Gr. 3 participates at this Mass

MON 8:00 AM - For the repose of the soul of Laura Koniuto requested by Mom & Dad

TUE 6:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Harriette Carson by Roger & Kathy Koniuto

WED 6:30 PM - *Vigil Mass at St. Mary's - NO Adoration*

Holy Day of Obligation: The Immaculate Conception
 THURS 8:00 AM - Holy Day Mass at St. Mary's
 7:00 PM - Holy Day Mass at St. Thomas - For the parishioners of St. Thomas

FRI 8:00 AM - Health & healing of Tim Schaeffler by the Schaeffler Family

December 10
 SAT 4:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Ruth Bechard by friends of the Folk Group

December 11
 SUN 8:30 AM - In loving memory of Paul Nadeau by his family

Message from Fr. Rick

George Frideric Handel's masterpiece, "The Messiah", includes the words proclaimed in this weekend's First Reading: "Comfort, give comfort to my people says your God....."

Advent is all about comfort.....not comfort in the sense of being relaxed.....but comfort as in being comforted, consoled after some sorrow or trial. Advent is that blessed Season we are called upon to welcome our God who comes like the Shepherd Isaiah describes who, ".....feeds His flock, in His arms He gathers the lambs, carrying them in His bosom and leading the ewes with care".

ADULT ED. STUDY PROGRAM

Class #4 of *Catholicism Adult Study Program* will be repeated this Sunday, Dec. 4th at 10:00 A.M., in the Parish Hall. The theme for this session is "Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast—Mary, the Mother of God". This is the last class for this year's session.

Watch the bulletin; we will inform you of the 2012 schedule when it becomes available.

INSPIRATIONAL CATHOLIC CDs: We now have seven new titles in the CD rack in the back of the church. They are being offered to help augment our faith in and our love for God and His Catholic Church. This program is not a fundraiser, however, a voluntary donation of \$3 per CD will help us cover the cost and ensure that we can offer these and subsequent titles. Just in time for the new Roman Missal translation we would like to call your attention to, in particular, "A Walk Through The New Mass Translation" by Dr. Edward Sri, professor of Scripture and Theology at the Augustine Institute. This is truly a great opportunity for Catholics to enter more deeply into the biblical and theological richness found in the Liturgy, and to better worship God with our whole heart.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 10 & 11, 2011

Mass	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Altar Servers
4:30 PM Sat.	T Rivers J Burke	R Rivers	Please help!
8:30 AM Sun.	Deacon Peter R Koniuto K Koniuto	W Gardner S Fleming	O Gingras J Walko

The new Liturgy Schedule was mailed this week. Check to see if you have been scheduled for Christmas Masses; you will also be called.

MEMORIAL FLOWER DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS: If you would like to make a donation to the Christmas flower fund in memory of a loved one, please use the envelopes found in the pews. Just drop them in the offertory basket.

ADVENT WREATH FAMILIES



4:30 Mass Fr. Rick
 8:30 Mass Gardner's

Robinson's available

Walko's Gr 2 Rel Ed

Haupt's Gr 5/6 Rel Ed

Support Elderly Religious: A donor to the Retirement Fund for Religious writes, "We thank God for every religious sister who taught us in school, not only our ABCs, but also to love God." Show your support for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have made a positive difference in so many lives. Please *Share in the Care* and give generously to next week's second collection. Please make checks payable to St. Thomas and place checks or cash in the 2nd collection next weekend. Thank you for your support.

Stewardship - November 26 & 27, 2011
 (Weekly Offertory Goal = \$2,850.00)

51 Envelopes = \$1,326.00; Loose Currency = \$520.00
 TOTAL = \$1,846.00
 YTD Actual = \$58,461.22

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

Parish Events

Sunday	12/4	8:30 AM 9:50-11:05 AM 10:00 AM	Gr. 3 participation at Mass Rel. Ed. Classes, Grs. 1-8—UCS <u>Catholicism Adult Study Program</u> Repeat of Class #4 in Parish Hall - "Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast—Mary, the Mother of God"
		11:15 AM-1:00 PM	"The Beatitudes" Service Project Open to Grs. K-8 and parents. See bulletin announcement on top of page two for more info.
		3:45-5:30 PM	Confirmation Class Years 1 & 2
Tuesday	12/6	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Confessions Exposition o/t Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday	12/7	6:00 PM	Confessions at St. Mary's <i>NO Exposition at St. Mary's</i>
		7:00 PM	Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.
Saturday	12/10	8:30 AM	Christmas Choir Practice for 10:00 PM Vigil Mass-in church
		10:00-10:30 AM	Children's Christmas Choir Practice for 4 PM Vigil Mass-in church
		3:45 PM	Confessions
Sunday	12/11	8:00-11:00 AM 9:50-11:05 AM 3:45-5:30 PM	K of C Country Breakfast Rel. Ed. Classes, Grs. 1-8—UCS Confirmation Class Years 1 & 2 Confirmation students will be assembling St. Thomas' Christmas Fruit & Food Baskets during class

“THE BEATITUDES CHRISTMAS PROJECT - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- The Beatitudes group will be putting together 50 Christmas Stockings/Sacks for the people that stay at the COTS Waystation & Eagle's Nest shelters (for homeless adults) on Christmas Eve this year. We will be stuffing these sacks with useful items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, homemade fleece scarves and some fun items like Christmas candy. We'd also like to add an item to each bag to help keep them warm during the upcoming cold months. **We were hoping that you could help us by donating a new hat, pair of socks or set of gloves.** We will have collection boxes in the church from this week-end until 12/18. We would greatly appreciate any support you'd be able to give us for this project. Thank you!

All children in grades K-8 invited to help (parents, too)!

We also have an opportunity for kids from K-8th grade (parents are welcome to join us) to help on this project. **THIS Sun., Dec. 4th from 11:15 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. in the parish hall after Religious Ed class, we will be decorating the sacks and making fleece scarves. We'd love to have you come help.** If you or your parents are interested in attending, please RSVP by 12/3 to Amy by having your parents email AmyBVT@gmail.com or calling 899-5080; you just need to have your parents complete a permission slip that day. We will have simple sandwich fixings for lunch and some snacks to share. **Forgot to sign up? Please come anyway.**

CHRISTMAS ADULT CHOIR PRACTICES: This vigil choir sings at the 10:00 P.M. Christmas Vigil Mass on Sat., Dec. 24th with a concert beginning at 9:30 P.M. and is open to all parishioners. There is *always* a need for more voices. The practice dates are Sat., Dec. 3rd, 10th and 17th. If an additional practice is needed, it will be scheduled. Please plan to join and attend the practices. Call Pat Rogers at 399-6226 for more information.

If you would like to sing at the 8:30 AM Christmas morning Mass, practice is on Mon., Dec. 19th at 7:00 P.M. in church. All are welcome.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR & PAGEANT SIGN-UPS will take place this Sunday, Dec. 4th, at the beginning of Rel. Ed. Children's practice dates are-**Choir:** Sat, Dec, 10th, 17th at 10:00-10:30 AM in church and again on Sun., Dec. 18th along with the Pageant practice which will follow the Christmas Party. The party will begin in the Parish Hall directly after Mass. No Rel. Ed. classes that day at UCS-everything will be at church.

RANGE ROAD CEMETERY: Please be advised that the Range Road Cemetery will close for the winter season on December 10th.



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS will be offered for sale after all Masses. The cost is \$30. Books for various other states are available by calling Ed Mathews at 899-4793. Great gift idea and a wonderful way to support St. Thomas' Knights of Columbus.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS: The Knights of Columbus are selling religious-themed Christmas Cards after all Masses until they sell out. Don't delay in purchasing your cards today.

COUNTRY BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY: The next Knights of Columbus Country Breakfast will be held **NEXT Sun., Dec. 11th, serving from 8:00 to 11:00 A.M.** in the Parish Hall. Cost is by donation. Proceeds will support various organizations.



SANCTUARY CANDLE

Week of December 4th:

*In memory of
Augustine Alepee*

requested by Michele and Janine Mullaly

FRUIT AND FOOD BASKETS: Through Sunday, Dec. 11th, all items collected in the decorated boxes during Mass will go to St. Thomas' Christmas Fruit and Food Baskets. These boxes will assist families in need in our parish and local communities. Please consider the kinds of items you would like to see on your table at Christmas. Please consider also we would appreciate small hams or turkeys, and monetary donations. Small religious articles are also welcome. The good of the human person includes the spiritual as well as the material. Share the coming of the Savior with joy. God bless.

Contact Chair, Laura Lynch Wells, for more information.

BULLETIN ADVERTISING: We will be sending the bulletin covers to the printers very soon. If anyone would like to advertise their business on the back of the bulletin cover, we have spaces available. The cost will be \$8.33 per month for one space and would continue through the end of June, 2012. Please call the Parish Office as soon as possible if interested; an application form will be sent to you.

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 2011 - A Merrier Christmas: The 17th annual Advent Appeal sponsored by Vermont Catholic charities and Vermont Catholic magazine is underway. With continued tough economic times, the needs are as great as ever. The campaign is designed to make Christmas a little merrier for people who need help. Won't you please make your contribution today? If you already have, a heartfelt thank you. To contribute, make checks payable and send to: Vermont Catholic Charities, Attention Advent Appeal, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403. Please identify yourself as a parishioner of St. Thomas in Underhill Center. Thank you.

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, Harriette Carson, 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, Mary Kelczewski, Joe Sprano, Tim Schaeffler, Shirley Daniels, and all those preparing for or recovering from surgery.

DECEASED: For all who have died, especially for Connie Dumas, Harriette Carson, 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. 5
Is 35:1-10
Lk 5:17-26

Tues., Dec. 6
Memorial of Saint
Nicholas, bishop
Is 40:1-11
Mt 18:12-14

Wed., Dec. 7
Memorial of Saint
Ambrose, bishop and
doctor of the Church
Is 40:25-31
Mt 11:28-30

Thurs., Dec. 8
Solemnity of the
Immaculate
Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9-15, 20
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
Lk 1:26-38

Fri., Dec. 9
Is 48:17-19
Mt 11:16-19

Sat., Dec. 10
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, Dec. 11
Third Sunday of
Advent
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11
Lk 1:46-48, 49-50,
53-54
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS OF THIS BULLETIN.....THEY SUPPORT US!!

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DECEMBER 2011

Please consult the weekly bulletin for revisions to this calendar.

8:30 Mass	Sun	10:30 Mass	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
Dec. 4	Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 AM Mass -Gr. 3 participation 9:50-11:05 AM - Rel. Ed. Grs. 1-8 at UCS 10:00 AM-Catholicism Adult Study Program, repeat of Class 4 10:30 AM Mass at St. Mary's 11:15 AM-1:00 PM: "Beatitudes" Service Project, Grs. K-8, in the Parish Hall after Rel. Ed. 3:45-5:30 PM-Confirmation Class Years 1 & 2	5	8:00 AM - Mass	6	6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM - Exposition	7	Holy Day of Obligation Immaculate Conception 8:00 AM Holy Day Mass at St. Mary's 7:00 PM - Holy Day Mass at St. Thomas	8	8:00 AM - Mass 8:30-10:00 AM: Christmas Vigil Choir practice in church 10:00-10:30 AM: Children's Choir Practice in church Retirement Fund for Religious Collection 3:45 PM - Confessions 4:30 PM - Mass 6:30 Mass at St. Mary's		
11	Retirement Fund for Religious 8:00-11:00 AM: K of C Country Breakfast Cost by donation 8:30 AM Mass at St. Thomas 9:50-11:05 AM - Rel. Ed. Grs. 1-8 at UCS 10:30 AM Mass at St. Mary's 3:45-5:30 PM-Confirmation Class Years 1 & 2 Students will assemble St. Thomas' Christmas Fruit & Food Baskets during class	12	8:00 AM - Mass	13	6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00-7:45 PM - Exposition 7:30 PM: Knights of Columbus Meeting	14	8:00 AM Mass at St. Mary's <u>NO</u> Maintenance Meeting 7:00 PM: Parish Council Meeting	15	8:00 AM - Mass 8:30-10:00 AM: Christmas Vigil Choir practice in church 10:00-10:30 AM: Children's Choir Practice in church 3:45 PM - Confessions 4:30 PM - Mass 6:30 Mass at St. Mary's		
18	Last Coffee Hour this year. All are invited! <u>NO</u> Rel. Ed. class at UCS but all will gather in Parish Hall after 8:30 Mass for Children's Christmas Party The Party will be followed by Pageant and Children's Choir Rehearsal in the church 10:30 AM Mass at St. Mary's 3:45-5:30 PM-Confirmation Class Years 1 & 2	19	8:00 AM - Mass 7:00 PM-Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 PM-Music Ministry Practice which will include practice for 8:30 AM Christmas Mass	20	6:00 PM Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass <u>NO</u> Exposition Confessions will also be heard after Mass from 7:00-8:30 PM	21	8:00 AM Mass at St. Mary's St. Mary's: 6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass <u>NO</u> Exposition Confessions will also be heard after Mass from 7:00-8:00 PM <u>NO</u> Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.	22	8:00 AM - Mass <u>NO</u> Confessions Christmas Vigils: 4:00 PM-Family Mass at St. Thomas (w/Children's Pageant and Children's Choir) 5:00 PM Mass St. Mary's 10:00 PM Mass at St. Thomas (9:30 PM-Concert)	23	8:00 AM - Mass
25	Christmas Day 8:30 AM Mass at St. Thomas 10:30 Mass at St. Mary's <u>NO</u> Rel. Ed. classes 1-8 <u>NO</u> Confirmation classes	26	<u>NO</u> Mass	27	6:00 PM Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass <u>NO</u> Exposition	28	<u>NO</u> Mass at St. Mary's St. Mary's: <u>NO</u> Confessions <u>NO</u> Mass <u>NO</u> Exposition <u>NO</u> Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.	29	31 3:45 PM - Confessions Vigil Mass for Holy Day 4:30 PM - Mass 6:30 Mass at St. Mary's		
Jan. 1	Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God 8:30 AM Mass at St. Thomas 10:30 AM Mass at St. Mary's <u>NO</u> Rel. Ed. classes 1-8 <u>NO</u> Confirmation classes	Jan. 2	<u>NO</u> Mass	Jan. 3	6:00 PM Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 PM - Exposition	Jan. 4	8:00 AM Mass at St. Mary's St. Mary's: 6:00 PM - Confessions 6:30 PM - Mass 7:00 Exposition 7:00 PM - Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.	Jan. 5	Jan. 7 3:45 PM - Confessions 4:10 PM - Rosary 4:30 PM - Mass 6:30 Mass at St. Mary's		



WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

As this is a very busy time of year here at our parish, below is information, times, deadlines, etc. for the various projects and activities where you can help or join. Additional information is listed in the bulletin or call the parish office.

Sunday, Dec. 3rd: Children are asked to sign-up at the beginning of Rel. Ed. class if they would like to be in the Children's Christmas Choir or Pageant on Sat., Dec. 24th.

Sunday, Dec. 3rd: "The Beatitudes" Service project in the Parish Hall after Rel. Ed. beginning at 11:15 AM—making Christmas Stockings/Sacks and scarves for COTS Waystation & Eagle's Nest shelters. Open to all students in grades K-8 (parents can help, too). Contact, Amy Boisvert at 899-5080.

Sunday, Dec. 11th: Knights of Columbus Country Breakfast. Cost by donation and all are welcome! The proceeds from this breakfast will support various charitable/service organizations of their choice.

Deadline: Dec. 11th: "St. Thomas Fruit & Food Baskets" - This is a St. Thomas Parish project. Christmas-meal food and religious articles should be placed in the boxes during the offertory collection at Mass. CASH donations are also needed (checks made payable to St. Thomas with "Fruit/Food in the memo) to off-set the cost of what will need to be purchased. Also needed are small hams/turkeys. Call chair, Laura Lynch Wells at 899-1120, for info.

Our Confirmation students will be assembling these baskets during class on DEC. 11TH, BUT CASH DONATIONS ARE WELCOME AT ANYTIME.

FOOD SHELF: Great way to add to your "Community Service Hours" for school or Confirmation.

Thurs., Dec. 15th: 6:30 PM: Local Food Shelf Set-up.....many hands make light work.

Sat., Dec. 17th: 9:30 AM: Food Shelf distribution at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Contact Louise Mathews at 899-4793. (Stock items always needed: peanut butter and baked beans.)

Deadline: Dec. 18th: "The Beatitudes" group are collecting new adult hats, socks and gloves to complete their Christmas service project; place in specially marked boxes at each church entrance.

Adult Christmas Choirs:

Vigil Mass practice: Sat., Dec. 3rd, 10th & 17th, 8:30-10:00 AM in the church. Contact Pat Rogers at 399-6226.

Christmas 8:30 Mass practice: Mon., Dec. 19th, 7:00 PM in the church. Contact Lucy Bathalon at 899-1338.

Children's Choir Practice: Sat., Dec. 10th, 17th (10-10:30 AM in church) & during the Pageant rehearsal on Sun., Dec. 18th. Contact Pat Rogers at 399-6226.

Children's Christmas Party: Sun., Dec. 18th after 8:30 Mass in the Parish Hall during coffee hour—All are invited.

Children's Pageant Practice: will take place in the church following the Children's Christmas Party. Contact is Laura Lynch Wells, 899-4770 or 899-1120.

Diocesan Advent Appeal: The diocesan-wide appeal helps parishioners in need providing assistance with medication, food, warm clothing, eye glasses, fuel and children's Christmas gifts. Cash donations are always needed. Make checks payable and send to: Vermont Catholic Charities, Attention Advent Appeal. 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403. Please identify yourself as a parishioner of St. Thomas, Underhill Center.