

**WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY MASSES**

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

MON NO Mass at St. Thomas

TUE 6:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Cynthia Lawton.

WED 6:30 PM - Mass at St. Mary's followed by Exposition

THURS 8:00 PM - Mass at St. Mary's

FRI 8:00 AM - For the repose of the soul of Mary Kelczewski

January 7  
 SAT 4:30 PM - For the repose of the soul of Ruth Bechard by Betty O'Hara

January 8  
 SUN 8:30 AM - In memory of Leonard T. Kelly by the Kelly Family

**Message from Fr. Rick Mary, The Mother of God New Year's Day, January 1, 2012**

A Prayer of Praise to Christ at the Beginning of A New Year  
 "Christ Yesterday and today;  
 The Beginning and The End;  
 The Alpha and The Omega  
 All Time belongs to Him;  
 And all the ages.  
 To Him be glory and power;  
 Through every age and forever. Amen"

(Prayer of Blessing of The Paschal Candle at the Easter Vigil)

"At the very heart of the Christian revelation are certain extraordinary things that God has done.....Above all, God in Jesus Christ becomes one of us. That's not the ordinary run of things, that God, the infinite creator of all things, should become this tiny, helpless child. If you don't find that astonishing, you're not paying attention. Our Faith depends upon these astonishing things, and part of the spiritual life is paying close enough attention to catch their power"

(Fr. Robert Barron, WordOnFire.org, taken from "Living Faith" Daily Catholic Devotions, Vol. 27th, Creative Communication for the Parish. 2012)

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 7 & 8, 2012**

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

**CHRISTMAS THANK YOU'S!!** Once again I have been overwhelmed by the extraordinary kindness and generosity of all of you, the People of God here at St. Thomas/St. Mary Parishes!

Despite the tough economy we are all enduring these days so many of you responded with true Christian generosity to our parish *Food/Fruit Basket* appeal, and to our new parish youth service group, *The Beatitudes hats-socks-and-gloves* drive to benefit COTS in Burlington, and generous donations to our Jim Farrington Fund (which assists people in need in our community).

And, so many of you have been so very generous to me, with gifts of baked goods, cookies, sweets and chocolates, even soup and socks and cards and gifts—to all of you.....THANK YOU and may God bless you all with a healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year 2012!

**THE PRAYER CHAIN?** If you have a need for prayers for any reason, a group of parishioners have agreed to pray for your intention/s. You may give as much or as little information as you wish. Please contact Sandy Gosselin at 899-2060 or e-mail her at StThomasPrayers@aol.com.

**INITIAL OFFERING:** To help defray the cost of the boxed Offertory Envelopes, please consider using the "Initial Offering" - which is the first envelope in the set. Thank you.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** On the weekend of Jan. 7th and 8th, we will have a second collection for our "Fuel and Heat" fund. Please make checks payable to St. Thomas; cash gratefully accepted.

**Mary, The Holy Mother Of God**



**Parish Events**

Sunday	1/1		NO Coffee Hour NO Rel. Ed. classes K-8 NO Confirmation Classes
Tuesday	1/3	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Confessions Exposition o/t Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday	1/4	6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Confessions at St. Mary's Exposition at St. Mary's Women's Prayer/Discussion Grp.
Thursday	1/5	7:15 PM	Sacred Worship Meeting
Saturday	1/7	3:45 PM 4:10 PM	Confessions Rosary before Mass
Sunday	1/8	9:50-11:05 AM 3:45-5:30 PM	Rel. Ed. Grs. 1-8 - UCS Confirmation Class Years 1 & 2

**Stewardship - Dec. 24 & 25, 2011**  
 (Weekly Offertory Goal = \$2,850.00)

**Regular Weekend Offertory:**

54 Envelopes = \$2,186.00; Loose Currency = \$1,371.00  
 TOTAL = \$3,557.00

**Christmas Offertory:**

41 Envelopes = \$2,365.00; Loose Currency = \$1,390.00  
 TOTAL = \$3,755.00

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



**2012 CALENDARS & OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:**

We still have calendars left, please help yourselves. This is the last weekend that the boxed Offertory Envelopes will be available for pick up from the church. They will then be moved to the rectory porch. If they are unclaimed by the end of January, your name will be removed and they will be available to another family. If you would like to start using the Offertory Envelopes, please call the parish office.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** An American Red Cross community blood drive for area residents will take place on Wed., Jan. 11th. Eligible donors can give blood from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the United Christian Assembly Church on Raceway Road. Giving blood through the Red Cross is safe, simple, and virtually painless. What a great way to tithe, as we all have about 10 pints of blood in our bodies. Share the "gift of life" at this time when supplies of blood and blood products are critically low. Each presenting donor will receive a coupon for a pound of Dunkin' Donuts Coffee in addition to the yummy goodies.

**CARE NET FUNDRAISERS: CARBONARA NIGHT:** A *dinner club night* filled with great friends, great food donated by Three Tomatoes Restaurant, and soft live music. Bring your friends, it makes for a great date night—March 24th at 6:00 P.M. at Care Net, 56 Colchester Ave., Burlington.

**LIFE NIGHT:** A *coffee house/open mic night* for and by teens (watch the bulletin for the date and time which will be coming soon). Care Net would like to extend a special than you to St. Thomas parish for our prayers and financial support during this year. "Together we are making a difference in the lives of families, young people and the tiniest of babies in the greater Chittenden and Franklin county area."

**WORLD MARRIAGE DAY:** The Diocesan recognition of World Marriage Day for couples celebrating significant anniversaries will be held on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

 **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.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The next K of C Country Breakfast is scheduled for Sun., Jan. 22nd serving from 8:00 until 11:00 A.M. in the Parish Hall. Cost is by donation.



**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

Week of January 1st:

*For a Special Intention*  
requested by Diane

**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.

**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, 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, Sally Ann Bulger, Donna Smith, and all those preparing for or recovering from surgery.

**DECEASED:** For all who have died, especially Mary Kelczewski, Richard Wells Richard Masse, 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., Jan. 2**  
Saints Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church  
1 Jn 2:22-28  
Jn 1:19-28

**Tues., Jan. 3**  
1 Jn 2:29-3:6  
Jn 1:29-34

**Wed., Jan. 4**  
Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious  
1 Jn 3:7-10  
Jn 1:35-42

**Thurs., Jan. 5**  
Memorial of Saint John Neumann, Bishop  
1 Jn 3:11-21  
Jn 1:43-51

**Fri., Jan. 6**  
1 Jn 5:5-13  
Mk 1:7-11

**Sat., Jan. 7**  
1 Jn 5:14-21  
Jn 2:1-11

**Sunday, Jan. 8**  
The Epiphany of the Lord  
Is 60:1-6  
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Mt 2:1-12

