

December 13, 2015

The bulletin is also available online at stjudevt.org

We are a Welcoming Community of Believers, Hoppers and Lovers. We are One Family in Baptism and the Holy Spirit, nourished with the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ. All are Welcome in this place!

Cycles of Faith - Third Sunday of Advent

"I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals." So said John the Baptist in reference to Jesus. Tax collectors, soldiers, and countless other people gathered to hear John preach. There was an excitement in the air as they were all "filled with expectation." For generations upon generations they had been waiting for the coming of the promised Messiah--the Christ. And now, John the Baptist had appeared with such a striking message and such a powerful presence that "all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ."

But he wasn't. John's mission was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. In the process, however, people began to think that John was the main attraction. He set the record straight though, when he emphasized that "one mightier than I is coming." And then he made the remark about not being worthy to do even the most humble act of service--loosening sandal straps--for the Lord.

Imagine what the people must have been thinking. They all found John to be such a remarkable man, and yet he declared that he wasn't worthy? If this great prophet was so humble, how much more should they humble themselves in preparation for the coming of the Messiah? And shouldn't we do the same?

As we mediate upon the coming of Christ this Advent season, we would do well to make our approach towards Christmas with humble hearts. What have we done to deserve this incredible gift of a Savior? Are we worthy of his incarnation and his saving death? The fact is that nothing we could ever do would possibly earn our redemption. May we be humble enough to acknowledge that our salvation is the greatest gift we could ever receive.

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Readings for the Week of December 13, 2015

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Ps 85:9-14/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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**Offertory Last Week: \$2,405.00 Maintenance: \$540.50
Online Giving Last Week: \$513.00**

Second Collection This Week for Retirement Fund for Religious

**Attendance Last Week:
4:30 p.m.: 68 9:30 a.m.: 182**

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat. Dec. 12 4:30 p.m. For Anne Gardner requested by her husband, George.

Sun. Dec. 13 9:30 a.m. For Tobey Hockridge requested by Nathan and Kimberly Fry.

Sat. Dec. 19 4:30 p.m. For the Intentions of Cecile Auger requested by her daughter, Carmen Cote.

Sun. Dec. 20 9:30 a.m. For Hermina Giroux requested by her family.

Pray for Vocations

Schedule of Counters: Monday, December 14, 2015

Stan Haselton
Judi Maculan
Anne Donegan

Schedule of Ministries: December 19 and 20, 2015

4:30 p.m.	Greeters:	Joanne & Lee Cross
	Altar Server:	Noe Lindemuth
		Peter Stewart
	Lector:	Mike New
	Extraordinary Min.:	Joanne Cross
		Sue Haselton
		Stan Haselton

9:30 a.m.	Greeters:	The Marino Family
	Altar Server:	Theresa Christiansen
		Kali Turner
	Lector:	Sue McGurie
	Extraordinary Min.:	Tom Buzzell
		Stephanie Buzzell
		Sue McGuire

Calendar of St. Jude Events:

-12/12 & 13 Baminelli Sunday
-12/13 1st Year Confirmation Class at 10:30 a.m.
-12/13 HAS Concert at 4:30 p.m.
-12/19 & 12/20 Food Shelf Weekend
-12/20 Christmas Puppet Rehearsal at 10:30 a.m.
-12/21 Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.
-12/22 Senior Meal at Noon

Question of the Week: How can I answer the Gospel question "What should I do?" in a way that shows my heart "beats in time" with God's?

Time Off: Bishop Coyne has directed that every priest should have a full day off each week. After consideration, Father Cray has decided to make that day Wednesdays. This will begin the first week in January 2016 and there will no longer be a daily Mass on Wednesdays.

Lector Workbooks: The new Lector Workbooks for 2016 are available in the sacristy for all current lectors. If you haven't yet picked one up, please do so this weekend.

Holiday Mass Schedules: The holiday schedule is as follows:

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

--Thursday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m. at The Old Lantern
--Thursday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude
--Thursday, December 24th at 10:00 p.m. at OLMC
--Friday, December 25th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Jude

New Year's Eve and Day:

--Thursday, December 31st at 4:00 p.m. at St. Jude
--Friday, January 1st at 10:00 a.m. at OLMC

Senior Meals: St. Jude Parish offers lunches to area seniors on the 2nd and 4th **Tuesday** of each month. The next senior meal is scheduled for December 22 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Serving begins at 12:00 noon. All Seniors and Caretakers welcome.

Men's and Women's Discussion Groups: The Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. The Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the rectory. All are welcome.

Helping the Homeless: The Driver Family (Andrew, Chrissy and children) is collecting monetary donations for the homeless in our area. They are hoping to give 15 homeless families at COTS each \$100 in gifts cards (\$50 calling cards and \$50 Hannaford cards). They will be handing these out on Christmas Eve. They are accepting donations until December 20th. Look for the collection box in the lobby. Thank you.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Light Is On For You: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered on Wednesday, December 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Jude Parish. This is a Diocesan-wide event held December 16 by each pastor.

Advent Penance Service: There will be an Advent Penance Service at St. John Vianney on Sunday, December 20 beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be priests from the South Burlington Deanery available for Reconciliation.

Christmas Eve Choir: All are welcome!! Adults and children, singers and instrumentalist. REHEARSAL will be held on Monday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Please call Michelle Keller at 482-6490 or John Penoyar at 482-3449 or leave your name on the sign-up sheet in the lobby so that we have enough music for all. This group will sing for the 7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Jude on December 24.

***We are also looking for singers for the 4:00 p.m. Mass at the Old Lantern on Christmas Eve. Rehearsal times will be announced shortly. If you are interested in joining the choir at the Old Lantern Mass, please leave your name on the sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Marie at 777-3513 or email at marietcookson@aol.com.

Calling All Puppeteers: There is a sign up sheet in the lobby for those wanting to participate in the Gospel presentation for the 7:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. You are never too old for this ministry. Rehearsal will be Sunday, December 20 following the 9:30 a.m. Mass. If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Underwood at 434-2408.

Ministries for Christmas Masses: The sign up sheets are in the sacristy for Altar Servers, Greeters, Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve Masses.

Special Collection for the Drivers: As the enclosed note states the Drivers have moved out of the rectory. We want to thank them for their years of service to our parish and to show our appreciation we will be taking up a collection for the next couple of weeks for them as a Christmas Housewarming gift. There will be a basket in the lobby for this. Thank you.



John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." — Lk 3:16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 C.C.D.

Opening of the Holy Door: You are invited to attend the ceremony for the opening of the Holy Door at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral on Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 p.m. To receive the plenary indulgence on that day (or any other day) the pilgrim must make a sacramental Confession; receive Holy Communion; pass through the Holy Door at St. Joseph with the intention of receiving the indulgence; and, pray at least one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope. You may receive this indulgence more than once during the year, but only once a day. The indulgence can be applied to yourself or to a soul in purgatory. NOTE: This is not a Mass, but a special procession led by the Bishop with the Rite of the Opening of a Holy Door. Light refreshments will be served in the parish hall afterwards. Please join Catholics around the world on this day for the inauguration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the individual dioceses. The Holy Door will remain open until November 2016 during which time group and individual pilgrimages are encouraged.

Christmas Flowers: There are collection envelopes in the lobby for the Christmas Flowers. Your donations may be made in someone's memory. Please fill out the front of the envelope accordingly.

Helping Hands Sewing Ministry: The Helping Hands Sewing Ministry (St. Jude and the United Church) will be making distributions of adult smocks and walker bags to local nursing homes, etc., this month. Do you have a family member or know of anyone in our community that could use these items? Please contact Grace Link at 489-6200 with names or for more information.

Fabric Donations Needed: Helping Hands Sewing Ministry is in need of cottons, cotton blends and lightweight upholstery fabrics (at least ½ yd). If you have fabric you would like to donate or know of anyone who does, the HHSM would love to take the fabric off your hands. They are also looking for solid color sheets in good shape. If you have any of these items, please contact Grace Link at 489-6200.

Birthday Celebration for Marie Cookson: The Cookson Children requests your presence at a birthday potluck celebration for their mother, Marie, on December 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Jude Parish. They are asking folks to provide something for this based on the first letter of your last name. **A-D:** beverages; **D-Z:** snack or finger foods, veggies and dip, chips and dip, etc. All are welcome!!

Hinesburg Community Christmas Concert: The Hinesburg Artist Series will present the annual Hinesburg Community Christmas Concert next Sunday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Jude's. Admission to the concert is free. Donations are greatly appreciated, and all are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item for the Hinesburg Food shelf.

World Apostolate of Fatima: Please come and join The World Apostolate of Fatima (Blue Army) on Wednesday, December 16 for an Advent gathering at St. John Vianney Church in South Burlington. Mass will begin at 5:00 p.m.; Rosary at 5:30 p.m.; followed by a pot luck dinner in the Parish Center (next to the church). They will do something fun; please bring in a gift to swap with each other (not required). Little gift can be handmade or homemade item, baked goods, a package of cookies, etc. Just come, your presence makes Our Lady happy. This is also a farewell to Fr. Joseph Lively, the Blue Army Spiritual Director, before he flies to Florida for the winter season. Please come and wish him well as he travels. Call Yorini with questions at 864-0561.

Vermont Rally for Life: You are invited to participate in the Vermont Rally for Life on Saturday, January 16, 2016 in Montpelier. Mass at St. Augustine Church in Montpelier beginning at 9:30 a.m., celebrated by Bishop Coyne; March: After Mass, participants will gather behind City Hall in Montpelier to begin the march down State Street at 11:00 a.m., ending at the State House; Rally: Bishop Coyne will present opening remarks in the House Chamber along with a Pro-life Youth Speaker.

March for Life, Washington, DC: The March for Life will be held in Washington, DC at the National Mall on January 22, 2016. Even if you can't travel, you can participate! In concert with the Annual March for Life, the U.S. Bishops invite all Catholics to pray for the protection of all human life by participating in a special novena called **9 Days for Life**, from January 16 through January 24. Join thousands of others in praying for the protection of all human life. Download the novena online or participate through Facebook, email, text message or an app. Join at www.9daysforlife.com. If you don't have a computer but would like a copy of the Novena, please contact Marie at 482-2290 and one will be sent to you.

Rosary: The Rosary is being said each Saturday at St. Jude's before the 4:30 p.m. Mass beginning at 4:10 p.m.

Collection Envelopes: The collection envelopes for 2016 are available in the lobby. Envelopes are in alphabetical order. If you have not used the collection envelopes in the past but would like to do so now, please take a box without a name on it. **Please be sure to write your name and address on the envelopes for the first few weeks you are using them.** Also, please do not use leftover envelopes from previous years. Some of the numbers have been changed due to the fact that we ordered less this year in order to not have so many leftover and thrown out. Thank you.

Religious Retirement Collection: Aging religious need your help. In the United States today, there are more than 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. These religious worked tirelessly in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies, usually for little to no pay. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate savings for retirement and eldercare. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. Please be generous.

Project Rachel: Find hope and healing from abortion. Project Rachel is a healing ministry for individuals who have been affected by abortion, helping them to grieve, receive forgiveness, and find peace. For more information about Project Rachel or to speak to a trained Project Rachel professional, please contact 658-4118.

Year of Encounter Workshop on Social Issues: Join in on Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's College for the "Year of Encounter Workshop on Social Issues". They will examine Pope Francis' inspiring messages on the issues of immigration, criminal justice, and racism. Sponsored by Vermont Interfaith Action and the Society of St. Edmund, this workshop will combine scripture study, story, and discussion to explore how community organizing techniques can help the faithful live out Catholic social teaching and take action in our communities. For more information or to register for this workshop, contact Marie at 482-2290 (parish office) or email at marietcookson@aol.com and information will be sent to you.

St. Michael's College Scholarship: Father Cray is able to nominate students who are active in our parish for a scholarship to St. Michael's College in Colchester. The scholarship is for \$5,000 per year for four years, and you must be a first-year applicant to St. Mike's. If interested, contact Father Cray for more information.

Tai Chi Level 2: A Tai Chi Level 2 class will begin Monday, January 4 through Wednesday, February 24 at 11:30 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at St. Jude Parish. It is Tai Chi for Arthritis, Fall Prevention and Health and is intended for those who have already taken the Level 1 class or have had previous experience with Tai Chi.