

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in

Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing. *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

Mass Intentions

This Weekend

Saturday December 12	RIP 4.00 PM	Jean Ashcroft By: Ann & Meg Ashcroft
Sunday December 13	RIP 10.00 AM	Norman LaCoille By: His family

Daily Masses

Monday December 14	RIP 9:00 AM	Theresa Jurkoic (death rem) By: Her family
Tuesday December 15	INT 9:00 AM	Fr. Maria By: a parishioner
Wednesday December 16	INT 9:00 AM	Richard & Patricia LaHood By: Axelson Family
Thursday December 17	RIP 9:00 AM	Linda Zayas By: Sandi Gaspardino
Friday December 18	No Mass	

Next Weekend

Saturday December 19	RIP 4.00 PM	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Waryas By: Fred Waryas
Sunday December 20	INT 10.00 AM	Dan Green By: his friends

Readings for the Week of December 14, 2020.

- Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/(Ps)Lk 1:46-50, 53-54/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab, 10-14/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:3-4, 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 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Parish Support

Weekend of December 5, 2020 & December 6, 2020

Weekly Offertory:	\$ 1200.00
Envelopes	\$ 890.00
Loose Donations	\$ 310.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 70.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 165.00
Votive Candles	\$ 54.50
	\$ 1489.50

**Last Year's Offertory Collection
December 8, 2019 \$ 3408.00**

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains lifted until further notice, especially if you are part of a vulnerable population and/or have an underlying health condition. Please approach the celebration of Mass with charity and love for our clergy and faith community by following the protocols:

- Stay home if you are sick or not feeling well.
- **Wear a mask in Mass.**
- **Sanitize your hands upon entry.**
- Sit in designated pews and respect social distance between others of **6 feet or more** unless you are one family unit.
- Refrain from congregating in tight areas or entering cordoned off areas.
- Follow the protocols to receive Holy Communion as directed at Mass.

For more details about church protocols visit: vermontcatholic.org/covid-19. **Bishop Coyne**

St. Charles is open for daily and weekend mass.

Mass schedule is as follows during this time:

Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM

Saturdays 4:00 PM / Sundays 10:00 AM

Confessions are at 3:00 on Saturday



*Third Sunday of
Advent*

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. *Romans 12:12*

Pray for Healing and Comfort Especially for: Dan Green, Frances Vaine, Richard Whitcomb, Barbara Stickney, Mary H. Smith, Constance Burns, Deacon John Blicharz, Doreen Aldrich, Nick Hudson, Mary Frances Branch, Warren Peschl, Theresa Nauceder, Monica Luedtke, Lois Woodard, Joseph Marion, Jr., Paul Desruisseaux, Betsy Bashaw, Betsy & Bob Anderson, Frances Gallagher, Mary Damon, Grace Shelc, Tom Shelc, Ed Hindes, Maria Coyne, Madison Bills, Robert Brown, Mary Folsom, Peggy Lafave, Lorraine Reynolds, Bob Hanold, Marilyn Lemoine, Patrick Barry, Robert Fogg, Bernie Hindes, Nick Deistler, Ted Waryas, Peter Bodner, Ellah Williams, Fred Waryas, Maybelle Long, Joseph Mitchell, Heather Rodger, Patricia Jones, Frances Hackett, Colleen Paquet, David Robarge, Kathy Mcarthy, Tom Burns, Mary Lou Fogg, Jim Nyberg, Cheryl Elysse Garrett, Ed Atkins, Conner Glover. **Please contact the rectory (463-3128) if you wish Father Maria Lazar to make a sick call or bring Holy Communion to someone who is unable to attend Mass.**

Third Sunday of Advent

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John. John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine. The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day. The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. (Copyright © 2020 Loyola Press. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission. www.loyolapress.com)



Christ our Hope Campaign

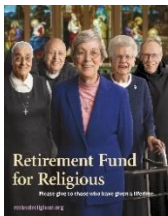
Have you been thinking about a gift or pledge to the *Christ Our Hope* campaign? There is still time to join thousands across the Diocese who already have made donations. The *Christ Our Hope* campaign is focused on building vibrant parishes, and we pray that our projects will strengthen us for the future. You can return your completed pledge form or go online to christourhopevt.org/donate to make a gift. As of 12/4/20 we are at \$5464.00 which is 5% of our goal.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Our Goal for this year's appeal is \$21,263.00 as of 12/4/20 we are at **\$8925.00** which is **42%** of our goal. If you would like to make a pledge please go to <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/donate/bishops-annual-appeal/give-online/annual-appeal-pledge-2/>



Please select St. Charles Parish



Retirement Fund for Religious Collection Weekend of December 12th & 13th

"Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

CCD registration is on December 13th. There will be a parent meeting at the Social Center at 8:30 am



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Knights of Columbus #753

With the colder weather upon us, the Knights of Columbus have become aware of children in need of coats, gloves, and hats. If you are interested in making a donation to help this worthy cause, donations are being accepted. Please help us "Leave No Neighbor Behind" by sending a donation to: The Knights of Columbus, P.O. Box 335, Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101. Thank you

Parishioners need to register to attend the Christmas Vigil Mass and the Christmas Day Mass.

The Mass times have changed as well.

December 24th – Christmas Vigil –
2:00 PM **79 seats open**
4:00 PM **28 seats open**



December 25th – Christmas Day 10:00 AM **105 seats open**

To register, please email the Parish office stcharlesrectory@comcast.net, or call 802-463-3128.

Praying with Scriptures Lectio Divina December 22, 2020 7:30 – 8:00 pm

This Advent, prepare for the coming of Christ by praying with the Scriptures. Bring a prayerful end to your day as Michael Hagan guides you in reading, reflecting, responding, and resting with the previous Sunday's Gospel reading. This will be a Zoom webinar – participants will not be on camera/microphone but will be able to interact through chat. To register please go to <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/praying-with-the-scriptures-in-advent-3/>

