

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his

words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. *Luke 1:26-38*

Mass Intentions

This 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

Daily Masses

Monday December 21	INT 9:00 AM	Lori Miller By: Betsy Mercier
Tuesday December 22	RIP 9:00 AM	Paul Brodeur (death rem) By: Karen Brodeur
Wednesday December 23	RIP 9:00 AM	Carole Zinter By: Friends of St. Charles
Thursday December 24	RIP 2:00 PM	Norman LaCoille By: Kristen, Tony & Chad
	RIP 4:00 PM	Michael Shaughnessy James & Ryan Jones & Sean Doyle
Friday December 25	RIP 10:00 AM	Joanne Joy By: Barb Joy

Next Weekend

Saturday December 26	RIP 4:00 PM	Joseph Nowotny By: Sharon & Jim Williams
Sunday December 27	RIP 10:00 AM	Norman LaCoille By: Toni & Kim

Readings for the Week of December 21, 2020.

- Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
- Monday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/(Ps)1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
- Wednesday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66
- Thursday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79
- Friday:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Saturday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6-8b, 16bc, 17/Mt 10:17-22
- Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-5/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Parish Support

Weekend of December 12, 2020 & December 13, 2020

Weekly Offertory:	\$ 4620.00
<i>Envelopes</i>	\$ 890.00
<i>Loose Donations</i>	\$ 3730.00
<i>Christmas Flowers</i>	\$ 195.00
<i>Votive Candles</i>	\$ 49.00
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	\$ 4864.00

Retirement for Religious \$ 339.00

Last Year's Offertory Collection
December 15, 2019 \$ 1772.00

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



Let the Lord enter; He is king of glory.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. *1 John 4:8*

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.**



Christ our Hope Campaign

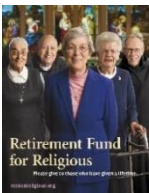
Have you been thinking about a gift or pledge to the *Christ Our Hope* campaign? There is still time to join thousands across the Diocese who already have made donations. The *Christ Our Hope* campaign is focused on building vibrant parishes, and we pray that our projects will strengthen us for the future. 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

Thanks for Giving "We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year," says a Catholic sister. "Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters."

Thank you for donating to last week's collection.

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 **27 seats open**



December 25th – Christmas Day 10:00 AM **105 seats open**
Email stcharlesrectory@comcast.net or call 463-3128



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

Dear brothers and sisters,

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" –

2 Corinthians 9:15

Christmas might be slightly different this year, but that does not mean we have to lose the season's spirit or meaning. Luckily, the reason we celebrate is a timeless story that will help carry us through any obstacles we may face. If we think about it, the very first Christmas took place amid chaos. Mary and Joseph had to leave their home and travel miles, only to be turned away when trying to find shelter. Eventually, they welcomed their son in a manger filled with hay and animals. Amid the gloominess brought about by the pandemic, we hear from prophet Isaiah "upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom; a light has shone" (Isa 9:2). After his December 6 Angelus, Pope Francis reminds us that no pandemic or crisis can extinguish the light of Christmas, the light that is Jesus who reveals to us God's love and who makes infinite goodness shine on the world. As we grapple with our fears and anxieties, the scripture tells us not to be afraid, for unto us has been born a savior who is Christ the Lord.

We should look upon the challenges of this year as an opportunity to embrace the spirit and joy of Christ's birth once again. And while such a celebration may not look as it has for in recent years, there are things we can do meaningfully in the given situation to embrace the spirit of Christmas. Let us take advantage of this time to refocus on the true meaning of the season- Christ's birth. Thus, today we are given much-needed hope to help us deal with the difficulties and challenges. But we are invited to be channels of hope to those who most need it as we strive to overcome the numerous inequalities and injustices in our world and that the pandemic has revealed. Perhaps this pandemic Christmas might be a good time for us to allow the meaning of Christmas indeed to enter our hearts and transform our lives.

May the Divine Child Jesus shine in your hearts and lives, now and always.

I wish you a joy-filled Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fr. Maria Lazar

From All of us here at
 St. Charles Church

We would like to wish you a
 Merry Christmas!

Fr. Maria, Betsy & James

