

December 22, 2019

The bulletin is also available online at stjudevt.org

We are a Welcoming Community of Believers, Hopers 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 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. *"When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit."* For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet *"do not be afraid,"* the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of *"Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"* Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to *"expose [Mary] to shame."* Yet he was prepared to *"divorce her quietly"* all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?

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Offertory Last Week: \$3,474.00
Online Giving Last Week: \$300.00

JULY 1ST THRU NOVEMBER 30TH
(1ST five months of the fiscal year)

Offertory, Maintenance & Fuel Collections
amounted to \$62,287 this year compared to
\$66,938 last year, a decrease of \$4,651 or -7.0%.

Total Donations including Gifts, etc., amounted
to \$71,091 this year compared to \$72,548 last
year, a decrease of \$1,457 or -2.0%.

Attendance Last Week:

4:30 p.m. 58 9:30 a.m. 118

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat. Dec. 21 4:30 p.m. For Therese Richard requested by her husband, Ronald.

Sun. Dec. 22 9:30 a.m. For Hermina Giroux requested by the family.

Tue. Dec. 24 7:00 p.m. For Roger Strong Jr. requested by the family.

Wed. Dec. 25 10:00 a.m. For Donald Boss Jr. requested by his parents, Jean and Donald Sr.

Sat. Dec. 28 4:30 p.m. For Joseph and Jeannine Cote requested by Helen Cote.

Sun. Dec. 29 9:30 a.m. For Paul Casey requested by the family.

Please pray for all priests in your daily prayers, especially the following this week:

Sunday:	Rev. Robert Wiseman, CSC
Monday:	Rev. James Zuccaro
Tuesday:	Rev. Fidelis Agughara
Wednesday:	Rev. Ilayaraja Amaladass, HGN
Thursday:	Rev. Julian Asucan
Friday:	Rev. Michael Augustinowicz
Saturday:	All Deceased Priests

Schedule of Counters: Monday, December 23, 2019

Rick Dinkle
Linda Savalli
Marie Cookson

Schedule of Ministries for December 28 and 29, 2019

4:30 p.m.	Greeters:	The Dufault Family
	Altar Server:	Annie Dufault Meredith Dufault
	Lector:	Mike Bullock
	Extraordinary Min.:	Peter Dufault Erin Dufault Mike Bullock

9:30 a.m.	Greeters:	Lynn Monty
	Altar Server:	Elizabeth Bullock Patrick Donegan
	Lector:	Sue McGuire
	Extraordinary Min:	Sue McGuire Doug Taff Lynn Monty

Calendar of St. Jude Events:

-12/22 Puppet Show Rehearsal at 10:30 a.m.
-12/22 Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

Question of the Week: What is my mission? What is God calling me to do? How can I fulfill my mission?

Holiday Mass Schedules: The holiday schedule is as follows:

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:

Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. at The Old Lantern

Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude

Tuesday, December 24 at 10:00 p.m. at OLMC

Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Jude

New Year's Eve and Day:

Tuesday, December 31 at **4:30 p.m.** at St. Jude

Wednesday, January 1 at 10:00 a.m. at OLMC

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, New Year's Eve.

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 22 following the 9:30 a.m. Mass (10:30 a.m.)**. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Shepardson at dmshepardson56@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. Choir: All are welcome! Adults and children, singers and instrumentalists. REHEARSAL will be held on **Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 p.m.** Please contact Michelle Keller at 482-6490 or vtkeller@gmavt.net if you are interested in joining 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.

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

Red Cross Blood Drive: There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Jude's on **Thursday, January 9 from 12:30 to 6:00 p.m.** We are in need of food donations. Sign up sheets are in the lobby. To sign up to donate blood choose a timeslot online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>. Walk ins are welcome but may have a slight wait.

Advent Food Bags: We have Advent Food Bags. We are asking parishioners to take a bag or two and fill each bag with a day's worth of food for a needy family in our area. We will be collecting these throughout Advent. All food bags will be donated to the Hinesburg Food Shelf. Thank you.

Senior Meals: St. Jude Parish offers lunches to area seniors on the 2nd and 4th **Tuesday** of each month. The next senior meals are scheduled for **January 14 and 28** from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Serving begins at 12:00 noon. All Seniors and Caretakers welcome.

2020 Collection Envelopes: The collection envelopes for 2020 are available in the lobby of the church. 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.** Thank you.

Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration: St. Jude Parish will have a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on **Friday, January 3** following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.



Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." — Mt 1:20-21

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

Kids At Christmas: Thank you to everyone who took a child to sponsor in the St. Jude's Kids At Christmas Program or who made a monetary donation. We helped 37 children in our area. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Christmas Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: St. John Vianney Parish in So. Burlington will host a Christmas Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on **Friday, December 27 at 6:30 p.m.** Short scriptural readings are interspersed with the singing of Christmas Carols with organ accompaniment in a beautiful and meditative service. Cookies and eggnog to follow in the Church hall. All are welcome!!

Daily Mass at St. Jude's—Winter Weather: Once again the schedule for daily Mass at St. Jude's will follow the Hinesburg/Charlotte School System. If there is no school in Hinesburg and Charlotte due to the weather, there will be NO morning Mass on Monday or Friday mornings. Closings are found on the local radio and TV stations.

Adult Confirmation: Are you an adult who has been baptized and received your First Communion in the Catholic Church but were never confirmed? We will be holding a 7 session preparation class during Lent for all those interested in being confirmed. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the office at 482-2290 or email at stjude@gmavt.net and we will add you to our list and will notify you as we get closer to the start date. Adult Confirmation is held on Pentecost Sunday, May 31.

FORMED.org: FORMED.org is a revolutionary online platform featuring the best Catholic videos, audio talks, eBooks and movies at **NO** cost to you. Visit **FORMED.org** to learn about these resources. To log in, go to FORMED.org, click on the tab "Enter Code", the code is **HHY6Z9** (cases sensitive). Register with your name, email, zip code and your own password to create an account. If you have any question, please feel free to contact Fr. Cray or Marie.