

February 16, 2020

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 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

People are not property. We cannot exchange them at will or simply use them for our own designs and purposes. What does the word “commitment” mean to you? We can begin to understand its meaning by looking at some synonyms: dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, and bond. Commitment is primarily about relationship, and Jesus is all about relationships. How our lives affect others, how we treat our brothers and sisters, how we resolve conflict, and how we view the vows of marriage. Jesus’ teachings on obeying the commandments, murder, reconciliation, marriage, divorce, and adultery all stem from the sacredness of commitment. All of this has a God connection.

We can easily see one another as interchangeable and dispensable. We treat so much of our lives this way. What works today may not be what I want tomorrow. We search and search for the right thing only to find our hearts still restless in the end. Is real happiness achievable this side of the grave? Sometimes we expect too much out of others and want our relationships to fill a hole that we must figure out how to fill ourselves. Any seasoned married couple will tell you that their love for one another changes as time passes. Even though the understanding of romance changes as life changes, the dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, and fidelity all remain and even deepen.

Some relationships can be hurtful, and God does not want us to live with abuse or pain. Also, how a relationship develops is sometimes out of our control, and we become the victim of someone else’s decision. But we can’t be self-focused in our relationships and see them exclusively as self-fulfilling ends. We are companions on life’s journey with varying depths of relationships being enjoyed by all who are with us along the way. We have the freedom to choose. God asks us to do so wisely, with right judgment and thinking.

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Offertory Last Week: \$1,938.04
Online Giving Last Week: \$553.00

**Second Collection Next Week for Church in
Central and Eastern Europe**

JULY 1st THRU DECEMBER 31st
(1st six months of the fiscal year)

**Offertory, Maintenance & Fuel Collections
amounted to \$77,345 this year compared to
\$88,419 last year, a decrease of \$11,074 or -
12.5%.**

**Total Donations including Gifts, etc., amounted
to \$92,540 this year compared to \$109,774 last
year, a decrease of \$17,234 or -15.7%.**

Attendance Last Week:
4:30 p.m. 62 9:30 a.m. 74

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat. Feb. 15 4:30 p.m. For John Barrett requested by his siblings.
Sun. Feb. 16 9:30 a.m. For the Intentions of Arnold and Janice Gratton requested by Sue and Stan Haselton.
Sat. Feb. 22 4:30 p.m. For John Barrett requested by Bob and Sandy Twombly.
Sun. Feb. 23 9:30 a.m. For the Parishioners of St. Jude and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes.

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

Sunday:	Rev. Richard Iaquinto, O.S.B.
Monday:	Rev. Joseph Ikegbunam
Tuesday:	Rev. Rijo Johnson, S.D.V.
Wednesday:	Rev. Daniel Jordan
Thursday:	Rev. Msgr. Richard Lavalley
Friday:	Rev. James Lawrence
Saturday:	Rev. Maria Lazar

Schedule of Counters: Monday, February 17, 2020
Bill Doris
George Gardner
Marie Cookson

Schedule of Ministries for February 22 and 23, 2020

4:30 p.m.	Greeters:	Dawn Griswold Peggy Cioffi
	Altar Server:	Jack St. Peter Theo St. Peter
	Lector:	Heidi St. Peter
	Extraordinary Min.:	Heidi St. Peter Joanne Cross Dawn Griswold
9:30 a.m.	Greeters:	Wendy Koenig Greg Tomczyk
	Altar Server:	Patrick Donegan Owen Fowler
	Lector:	Wendy Koenig
	Extraordinary Min:	Doug Taff Kim Fry Lynn Monty

Calendar of St. Jude Events:

-2/25 Senior Meal at Noon
-2/29 & 3/01 Book Discussion Sign Up

Question of the Week: With whom do I need to reconcile?
How can the Holy Spirit guide me in doing the right thing?

No Daily Mass: There will be **NO** daily Mass this **Tuesday, February 18 at 5:15 p.m. at OLMC** due to Father Cray being at St. Michael's College for meetings.

Saint Jude's Financial Summary for the Fiscal Quarter Ending - 12/31/2019

- St. Jude's had a Net Gain of \$7,997 for the year compared to a Net Gain of \$17,799 for the prior year, a decrease of \$9,802.
- Unencumbered cash reserves (Cash & Receivables Less Payables) were \$153,307 compared to \$140,762, an increase of \$12,545 or 8.9% of which \$62,000 will be used for the roof.

Mass Attendance

- Total weekend mass attendance for 2010 averaged 255 people, attendance in 2018 averaged 200 people and for 2019 we averaged 178 people (a decrease of 11.2% in one year).

Ash Wednesday: Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 26.** Mass and distribution of ashes will be held at OLMC at 7:00 a.m. and at St. Jude's at 7:00 p.m. This is a great way to begin the Lenten season.

Fasting and Abstinence in Lent: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of **both** fast and abstinence. The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two smaller meals, "Sufficient to maintain strength" are also allowed. Eating between meals breaks the fast but drinking liquids does not. Catholics aged 18-59 are bound to fasting. Abstinence refers to refraining from eating meat and applies to all Catholics aged 14 and older.

Lenten Book Club: There will be a Lenten Book Group this Lenten Season. The book that is recommended is C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letter" Described at Amazon as, "*The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis is a classic masterpiece of religious satire that entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis's The Screwtape Letters is the most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written.*" Sign up for the book group will be the weekend of February 29 and March 1. In signing up you will receive a copy of the book at that time. A suggested donation of \$10 is appreciated but not required. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you would like to pre-register for this book club, please contact Marie at stjude@gmavt.net or 482-2290 and she will register you. Folks will read the book and the discussion session is planned for **Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude's.**

Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Jude's every Friday evening during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross with Josh Perry: Josh Perry, from the Worship Department at the Diocese will be joining us on **Friday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.** He will give a short reflection on the Stations of the Cross and lead us through the Stations. We encourage everyone, especially families, to join us for this evening.

COTS Walk—Save The Date: For the first time, St. Jude and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parishes are creating a parish team to participate in this year's **COTS Walk on Sunday, May, 3.** This event raises money to help COTS combat homelessness in our area. All are welcome to participate. More details coming soon!



“Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all. Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ ”

— Mt 5:33-34a, 37

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

Taize Prayer Service: The Taize Community will hold an evening of music at St. Jude's on **Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.** There is **NO CHARGE** but a **FREE WILL OFFERING** basket will be available. All are welcome.

Calling All Adults: We are looking for adults who might be available during the week and are interested in altar serving for funerals. If interested in helping out with this ministry, please contact Marie at 482-2290 or stjude@gmavt.net.

2019 Contributions: Because of the new changes in itemized deductions, most people will be unable to deduct their 2019 contributions on their tax return. If you would like a copy of your contributions for 2019, please leave your name and address on the sheet in the lobby of the church or email Marie at stjude@gmavt.net and one will be mailed to you.

Ash Wednesday Almsgiving Collection: There will be a special collection on Ash Wednesday to support Vermont Catholic Charities. This agency provides financial and emotional support to individuals and families throughout Vermont through the programs offered which include Counseling, Emergency Aid, Prison Ministry, Project Rachel and Residential Care Homes. A portion of the collection will go to help fund the Bishop deGoesbriand grants which are awarded to Vermont nonprofits who are making a difference in their communities. Please know that every gift—whatever the size—makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity.

Red Cross Blood Drive: There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Jude's on **Friday, March 20 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. ****It is important to register online if possible as this allows the Red Cross to know what they can supply to the hospitals.**

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.

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 **February 25 and March 10 and 24** from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Serving begins at 12:00 noon. All Seniors and Caretakers welcome.

Lenten Retreat: A Lenten retreat day for anyone who works for or ministers in the parish including administrative assistants, bookkeepers, religious education leaders, maintenance personnel, music directors, parish volunteers including religious ed teachers and aides, greeters, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, counters, musicians and singers, ushers and other parish staff and volunteers. The retreat will be facilitated by the Diocesan Department of Evangelization & Catechesis. Location and date in our area is **Saturday, March 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Williston.** To register or for more info contact Valerie Parzyck at 846-5813.

Men's Spiritual Development Workshop: All men are invited to a Spiritual Workshop on **Saturday, February 22, "What Is Humility"** presented by Anthony Rosselli, Director of Evangelization & Discipleship at St. Luke Parish. The event will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall in Williston from 8:15-10:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be available. This is a great preparation for Lent. Contact Bill Rensch at 872-8063 for more info.

Catholic Men's Conference: The 3rd Annual Vermont Catholic Men's Conference will be held on **Saturday, March 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at St. Anthony Parish in White River Jct.** Mass with Bishop Coyne. Keynote speakers will be Captain Guy Gruters, a Vietnam Veteran and POW, and Msgr. John McDermott and Paul Kendall. For more info or to register go to vermontcatholic.org/men.

Surviving Divorce—Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family: *Surviving Divorce* is a divorce support group based on the teachings of the Catholic Church that will help bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. The next 12-week series will be starting on **February 20 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. Peter Church in Vergennes.** Each session contains video presentations and group discussion that will answer questions, restore hope and begin authentic healing. This program is open to the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. Call 802-877-6585 for more info and to register.

Rummage Sale: There will be a Rummage Sale at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple Street in Vergennes on **Friday, February 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Lots of great treasures! All proceeds benefit the Youth Ministry mission trip to North Carolina.

Looking for Host Families: Host families are needed for students ages 15 to 18 who come to the U.S. for one or two academic semesters. The students bring spending money, health insurance and the desire to experience American culture. Host families volunteer to provide room and board and a supportive family environment. Students attend the local public school and local support is provided to students, families and schools. Families can choose a student who is a good match for their student's interests and lifestyle. If you are interested in learning more or have questions, please contact Emily Trostel at em.trostel@gmail.com or at 570-650-9787.

Meals on Wheels: Hinesburg needs Meals on Wheels drivers. This is usually a 2 hour commitment each week but it can be more or less, whatever you prefer. The meals are picked up at St. Jude's. For some folks this is the best food they get all week. Contact Jane Gage at jgcatchapaw@gmail.com or 482-6096 or Ted Barrett at tedbarrett79@gmail.com or 453-3087 for more info. It is easy and you'll be glad you did it.

Cold and Flu Season: The Sign of Peace has been an integral and valued part of the worship of the church for centuries in the form of a kiss of peace or handshake. As we enter this cold and flu season, it is important to recognize that some people are especially susceptible to the viruses that can be spread by contact and some immune systems are very sensitive. Please understand that some people may choose not to shake hands during the Sign of Peace but might simply greet you with a smile. Also, please use common sense and good judgment concerning Mass attendance if you are ill. If you do decide to come to church for Mass, please remember that frequent and thorough hand-washing, refraining from physical contact during the Sign of Peace, and refraining from receiving communion from the chalice can help prevent the spread of germs.