

FEBRUARY 21, 2021



SACRED HEART SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH • BENNINGTON, VERMONT

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Catholic parish family is united by God's love and our belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We live and share our faith in our daily actions as a parish, as a school and as individuals.

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil
4:00 PM

Sunday
7:30 AM & 9:30 AM

Monday through Friday
8:00 AM

First Fridays (only)
Holy Hour & Benediction: 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Adoration
Every Friday after Mass until 8:00 PM

Last Sunday (only)
Mass: 6:00 PM

Reconciliation
Saturday 3:00-3:30 PM or by appointment



Rev. Robert Wiseman, c.s.c.—Pastor
Rev. Hugh Cleary, c.s.c.—Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Gary Zack—Deacon

The Congregation of Holy Cross Priests and Brothers have offered continuous service for over 60 years to the Diocese of Burlington and the Bennington area.



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

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

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PARISH CENTER MAIN OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

And Liturgical Celebrations for
February 20—28, 2021

(Numbers next to a name indicate Anniversary of death)

- Sat./Sun., Feb. 20/21 First Sunday of Lent**
4:00 p.m. † Marie Maynard - Henry Maynard
7:30 a.m. † Bob Hannan - Friend, Mary Willette
Our Parish Family
9:30 a.m. † William D. & Elizabeth B. Clark
- Michael & Peg Daly
- Monday, Feb. 22 The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle**
8:00 a.m. † Audrey Flaiz - Cousin Adelaide
- Tuesday, Feb. 23 Saint Polycarp**
8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family
- Wednesday, Feb. 24 Lenten Weekday**
8:00 a.m. † John, Christina, Edmund Edwina Bard &
Rita Gauthier - A. Talbot
- Thursday, Feb. 25 Lenten Weekday**
8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family
- Friday, Feb. 26 Lenten Weekday**
8:00 a.m. † Norman Allard - Theresa Allard
- Sat./Sun., Feb. 27/28 Second Sunday of Lent**
4:00 p.m. † JoAnne & Dick Keough - Mary Morrissey
† Deborah Mears Stratton - Mom, Nan
7:30 a.m. † James LaCroix - The Family
9:30 a.m. † Richard Boisvert (6th)
- Wife, Noella & Children
Our Parish Family

Readings for the week of February 21, 2021

- Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/
1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
- Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
- Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/
Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/
Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3,
7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12
- Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/
Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
- Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16
17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

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Gospel Reflection First Sunday of Lent

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

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The **Second Collection** this weekend is for
European Relief.

The **Second Collection** next weekend is for
Home Mission & Black & Native Americans.

We thank you for your generosity!



Thank You!

On "Souper Sunday" our parishioners gave \$702.00 dollars for our food pantry. As always we thank you for your generosity!



Faith Formation Program

"Growing In Faith Together"

For more information contact the parish office at 442-3141 or shsffaithformation@vermontcatholic.org

You are invited to join us on Facebook – SHSF Faith Formation



The School of Sacred Heart

**St. Francis de Sales
307 School Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

**Mr. David Estes, Principal
442-2446**

Sharing the Gospel

1st Sunday of Lent • Mark 1:12-15

Every day turn back to God. If your bedroom is messy, straighten it up. If you push your sister off her bike, help her get up and ride again. If you tear down your brother's blocks, help him build something new. If you disobey your parents, go and do the right thing right now. Ask God to help you stay close to him today. Then you will be close to him in heaven forever.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, help me remember to obey you every day.

Something to Draw

Draw your family cleaning up your house and your backyard. Or shoveling the walkway.

Mission for the Week

I will be a builder, not a wrecker.



Parents make a difference every day! Parents strengthen our school community by being responsible citizens, good parents, and generous volunteers. In the process, we teach our children a most valuable life lesson. Even during these difficult times this is important.

Each of us is blessed with different gifts and talents, beliefs and backgrounds, and that is something to celebrate. For it is through the combination of these countless very different gifts that we are able to create a rich and vibrant community.

The most important thing to remember is to remain true to yourself and, wherever you are, do what you can to be of service each and every day. Whatever your gifts, each small action or kindness has a ripple effect. If you make a difference in the life of just one person, you have made our community a better place in which to live.

There could be no more powerful gift for our children than learning from the shining example of their parents. We each have the power to make a difference for our children and in our community every single day. Let's be sure that no matter who we are and what gifts we bring, the difference we make is a positive one.

Together, we can make our school the amazing community we want it to be. Let's begin today!

Funds Raised for HIS Pantry

A special thank you to all of the School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales for their fundraising efforts during Catholic Schools Week. The school raised \$262.00 which was donated to our food pantry.



Baptism
This past Sunday, February 14, we welcomed Kieran Maxwell Dresser and Liliyana Scarlett Dresser to our Catholic Community through the sacrament of Baptism. Congratulations to Kieran and Liliyana and their family.



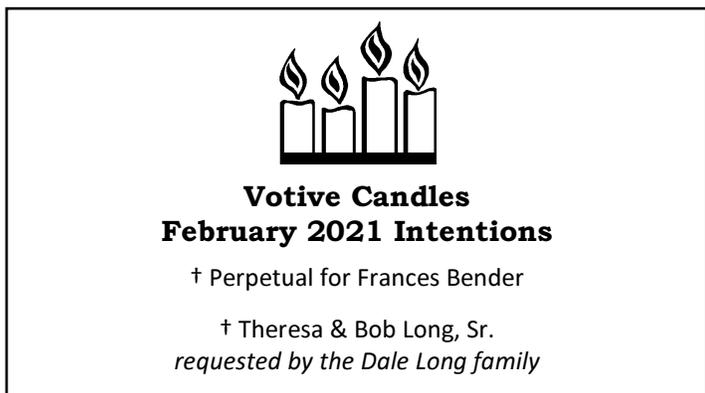
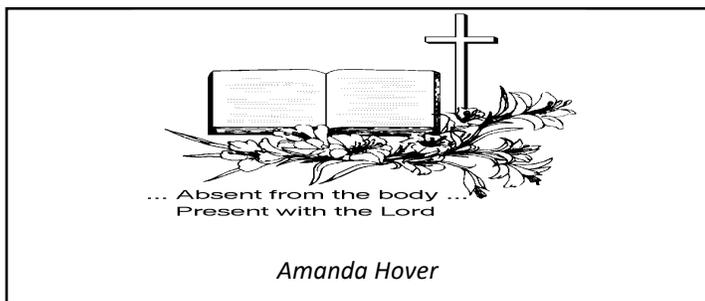
Winter Break

The school's winter break will run from February 15 through February 19. School resumes on Monday, February 22.



Please remember the sick, including ~

Nan Mears, Diane Roy, Dorothy Roy, Robin Tremblay, Rene Cassano, Caleb St. John, Marie Parker Mayer, Don Place, Cathy Place, Elaine Letourneau, Janet Sausville, Tina Harrington, A.J. Morton, Eden Jeannine Beckwith, Cindy Levitte, Christopher Rubino, Lena Reap, Dolores Pruden, Ruth Emaish, Matthew Rubino,, Wilfred LaBonte, Gloria VanDerzee, Adrianna Dewey, Kenneth Swierad, Kathy Keenan, and this week we remember the residents of Bennington Health and Rehabilitation Center.



Live the Liturgy – Inspiration for the Week

Throughout history God has given His people signs. Our season of Lent offers us God’s sign that it is time to stop the ordinary routines of our lives, create some desert space, and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. We are asked to unplug from our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness to clear the slate and take stock in who we have become. We are asked to remember the ancient sign of God’s covenant with humanity in which He vowed to nurture, sustain, and protect the relationship He has with His people. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God’s love and how we can better imitate God’s loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. Even though some good solid self-denial is the order of the day, greater happiness and wholeness will be the fruit of our labors. Pleasant journey through the desert!



**Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church
2021 Lenten Schedule**

Lenten Mission with Father Hugh

March 1 thru 3, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at SHSF in the church. You can participate live or remotely, link will be provided.

Light Shines in the Darkness Parish Retreat

March 11 Deacon Phil Lawson and Bill Gavin are offering us a live event here at SHSF in the church from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. An opportunity for Reconciliation will be offered.

Lenten Program**

Mondays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (March 15 & 22)

**Wild Goose continuation via Zoom; registration information provided through Flocknote

Daily Mass

Monday through Friday: Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

- ◆ Monday through Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass (self-guided).
- ◆ Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in the church. Our Faith Formation teachers will lead.

Family Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

**Led by the Spirit
40 Days to Grace and Glory**

Sign-Up for Free Daily Lenten Reflections
with Dr. Tim Gray

This Lent, we invite you to journey with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for FORMED Daily Lenten Reflections at formed.org/lent. Each day you will receive in your inbox a short video which features Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your Christian life.

Sign up today for free by visiting formed.org/lent!

NEWS FROM The Inland See

February 20-26, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Bishop Christopher Coyne and Josh Perry at the 2020 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington. — Carl Fugosa Urban photo

Trying to figure out who's who is a common human activity. We like to know who we are sharing our time with and what relationship they have to us. So it is with the Church that gathers on Sunday for Mass. Many of the faces are as familiar as our own, but as with any healthy group, new faces are to be expected and welcomed. Some of those new faces may be responding to a call to find out more about Christ and His Church. The Church opens its arms to these seekers with the wisdom and rituals of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (the RCIA).

People who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith and its mission fall into two main groups: catechumens and

candidates. A catechumen is someone who has never been baptized while candidates are those who have been baptized in another Christian denomination who desire to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church. Catechumens and candidates undergo a period of formation involving a number of steps and phases. Then, after this formation — usually at the Easter Vigil or in the Easter Season — they receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. In 2020, the Diocese of Burlington had 23 catechumens and 36 candidates.

For these catechumens and candidates, Lent is a period of intensified spiritual preparation. At the beginning of Lent, the Diocese celebrates a special ritual: the "Rite of Election" for the catechumens and the "Call to Continuing Conversion" for the candidates. Based on the testimony given by the sponsors and catechists, Bishop Christopher Coyne will declare the catechumens to be "Elected," chosen by God for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the upcoming Easter Vigil. The bishop also will recognize the desire of the already-baptized candidates for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist within the Catholic community.

The faithful throughout the Diocese are encouraged to pray for and with the catechumens and candidates this Lent, especially for the new faces they may see in their own parishes.

All are encouraged to attend (either virtually or in person) the diocesan Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on Feb. 28 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington at 3 p.m.

— *Josh Perry, Director of Worship, Diocese of Burlington*

Lent: A time for prayer

with the Diocese of Burlington Rosary Apostolate

Lent will begin Wednesday, February 17; Lent is a time for penance, reflection and spiritual growth. One way we can increase our holiness is to incorporate the Rosary into our daily prayer life. Each day the Diocese of Burlington offers a recitation of the Rosary featuring a member of our Vermont diocesan community. If you are looking for ways to grow in holiness this Lenten season, consider visiting our

Rosary page at www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/rosary/ to pray with fellow Vermont Catholics, or to sign up to lend your voice for a recording.

Saint Padre Pio has been quoted as saying, "The Rosary is the weapon for these times." May we grow together in holiness and protection from all evil. For more information email Valerie Parzyck vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



HIS Pantry

"Seeing Christ in the hungry"

Phone Number: **442-1720**

hispantryshsf@gmail.com

HIS Pantry at SHSF

(Facebook link)

Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Fridays 10:00 am – 11:30 am

HIS Pantry is a volunteer-run parish ministry which assists those in need of food in our local community.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the pantry food distribution is now being done outside, under tents in the parking lot. Now, more than ever, we need your support to help those struggling with food insecurities in our area. Here are some ways you can help:

Volunteering: We are in need of a few more volunteers during this difficult pandemic period. Here are some of the areas where we especially need help:

- * Outdoor setup & guest assistance: Wednesday afternoons and/or Friday mornings
- * Indoor stocking, food prep & packaging
- * People that can pick up donations from local stores

If you would like to become a volunteer at HIS Pantry or give us an additional hand in one of the areas listed above, please email hispantryshsf@gmail.com or call 802-823-0195.

Donations:

- * Shelf stable food and personal hygiene items are always welcome
- * Cash donations, VISA or store gift cards (can bring to the parish office or place in the collection basket in an envelope marked for HIS Pantry). Note that these gift cards are used solely by pantry volunteers to purchase needed foods as we run low. Thank you for your generosity!

COVID Vaccine Assistance

As you may have heard the state has begun scheduling COVID vaccine appointments for those **age 70 and older**.

It is advised to schedule on line due to high demand, but you will also be able to call. We are reaching out to see if there are people who may need assistance scheduling their appointment.

If you know of someone who needs assistance in scheduling a COVID vaccination, please contact parishioner Janis Yannotti during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. by calling her cell phone 802-384-0316. If you don't get her directly, please leave a voicemail with your name, number and good time to reach you.

Thank You

FOR YOUR HELP

Interfaith Dinner

On Sunday, February 7, a group of parishioners answered our call to lend a hand with the Interfaith Dinner at the Second Congregational Church. A special thank you to **Gerry & Carolyn McMurray, Dan & Janet Lucy, Julie Guasconi and Peg Daly**. We truly appreciate your willingness to lend your time, talent and treasure to this worthwhile community outreach.

Second Congregational church has gone to great lengths to create protocols that keep everyone safe during this time of the pandemic. If you (or a group) would be interested in hosting one of these dinners, just give the office a call at 442-3141. Thank you.

For 2021 we still have 7 more months in need of volunteers. Please consider lending a hand to this worthwhile community outreach.

Parish Resources

Baptism - Contact Kathy Murphy at the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact Kathy Murphy in the Parish Office.

Marriage

Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact the pastor a minimum of 6 months prior to the requested date of marriage.

Care of the Sick

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the Parish Office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Parish Office

At this time the office continues to be closed on Wednesday afternoons until further notice.

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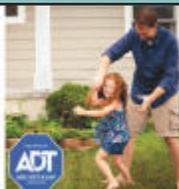
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