

ASSUMPTION PARISH

faith - community - prayer



FEBRUARY 14, 2021

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MUSIC DIRECTOR

STEVE BERTI

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TIM BISSAILLON

MAINTENANCE

OFFER



“See that you tell no one anything,
but go, show yourself to the priest
and offer for your cleansing what
Moses prescribed.”

MARK 1:44

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

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Office Hours

@ST. MARY'S RECTORY

159 Church Street

Cheshire, MA 01225

413.743.2110

THE OFFICE IS CURRENTLY
CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19



Connect

SAINTMARYSCATHOLIC.ORG

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Masses & Confession

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

INDOOR MASS - MAIN CHURCH

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 A.M.

JOIN US FOR MASS INSIDE OR SIT IN
YOUR CAR AND TUNE IN TO 91.3 ON
YOUR STEREO AND LISTEN

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

9:30 a.m. Bernard Houle (1st Anniversary) &
Rita Moffett
Req. by The Family

MONDAY - SATURDAY

No Daily or Saturday Masses

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

9:30 a.m. Ed Betit
Req. by John & Sue Burzimat

PARISH GIFTS

CANDLES GIVEN IN MEMORY OF
JOHN & LENA BURZIMATI
BY JOHN & SUE BURZIMATI

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 17th.

The following are our Mass times:

8:00 a.m. - St. Stanislaus Kostka, Adams

5:30 p.m. - St. Mary's, Cheshire

7:00 p.m. - Notre Dame, Adams

To prevent person to person contact, we will be distributing individual household packets of ashes at the end of Mass. This will be done in place of the priests administering the ashes to each person's forehead. Each packet will be blessed and you will receive instruction on how to anoint yourselves and your family once you have left the church. Packets will also be available to those who attend Mass in the parking lot. You may receive them by joining the Communion line at the end of Mass along the driveway.

For parishioners who watch Mass on TV or online from their home, household packets will be available for pick up at the rectory entrance on Tuesday, February 16th from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Any leftover ashes may be disposed of by sprinkling them on the snow or grass. The empty packet may then be discarded.

OUR GIVING

You may now give to our parish in the following ways:

- Mail a check/your envelope to the parish office
Make checks payable to ST. MARY'S
- Drop your envelope in the collection basket at Mass
- Set up online giving via the instructions below

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|----------|
| Regular Collection | \$1,436.00 | Snow Removal | \$290.00 |
| Fuel | \$120.00 | Easter Flowers | \$60.00 |

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Regular Collection | \$2,570.00 | Annual Gift | \$5,000.00 |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|------------|

Annual giving statements have been emailed and paper copies are available upon request. You may also access yours via the online portal through our website.

ONLINE GIVING

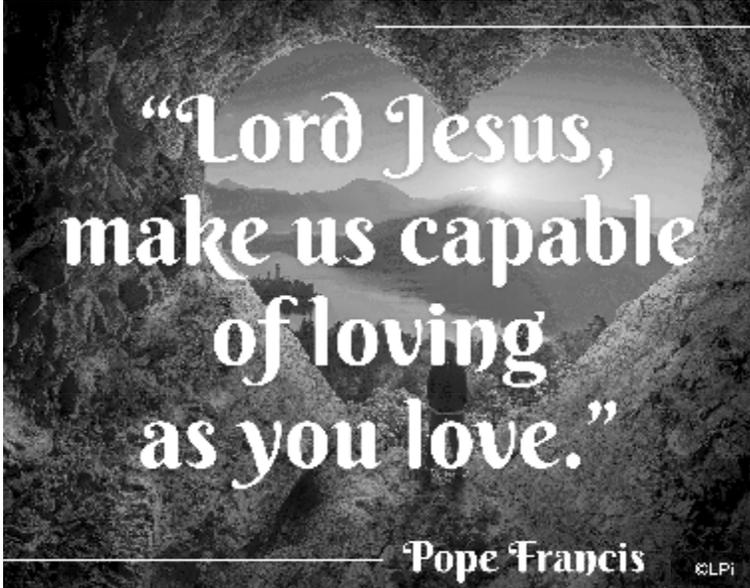
Our online giving system is easy to use and may be accessed via our website or via the link below.

The online giving system utilizes "Stripe" a payment processing interface used by thousands of businesses including Google, Amazon, and more! The interface links with our online parish database, so gifts made to the parish may be tracked on your online account.

1. Visit stmarys.breezechms.com/give/online
2. Next, enter the dollar amount you would like to give.
3. Choose to give via credit card or bank transfer (ACH)
4. Enter your information.
5. Choose if you would like your give to be one time, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or yearly.
6. Click "Donate Now" and your payment will process.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat as well as days of fast, when only one full meal is allowed.
2. On days of fast, two other meatless meals may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal a full meal.
3. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.
4. The obligation to abstain from meat begins at fourteen (14) years of age.
5. The obligation to fast begins at eighteen (18) years of age and ends at fifty-nine (59) years of age.
6. Although the faithful may excuse themselves for a just cause from these laws of fast and abstinence, there is an obligation to substitute another penance and no Catholic should lightly excuse him/herself from this obligation in the Lenten season.



**"Lord Jesus,
make us capable
of loving
as you love."**

Pope Francis

MASS UPDATE

WEEKEND MASSES

Masses are currently being held in Adams and Cheshire at their regularly scheduled times. **In order to provide the safest environment for everyone, we strongly encourage as many people as possible to take advantage of the FM transmitter option to listen to Mass outside:**

Adams - listen on 91.7 FM

Cheshire - listen on 91.3 FM

At St. Mary's, you may listen from anywhere in the church parking lot or in the adjacent school lots. We distribute Communion near the chapel entrance on the driveway at the end of Mass.

Please be sure to thoroughly review and follow the COVID guidelines listed to the right. Also, if you have any potential symptoms of a cold or are not well, please do not seek to receive Communion, even outside. Our Extraordinary Ministers are still in contact with the occupants of other vehicles, and with other volunteers, so it is important we all do our part to keep our parish family healthy.

- Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone safe!

IMPORTANT COVID & HEALTH NOTICES

*****If you have tested positive for COVID and have attended one of our Masses or entered one of our buildings, please contact the parish office. Contacting us directly will allow us to quickly contact trace, notify others, and further disinfect our spaces.**

*****If you have traveled outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, please follow State and Local guidelines and either have a COVID-19 test within 72 hours before entering the State or quarantine for 14 days after arriving in the State.**

Now that we are in cold and flu season, in addition to COVID, we kindly ask that you be sure to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Wear a mask, wash your hands, hand sanitize
- Social distance and avoid personal contact with others
- Stay home if you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, cold symptoms, and/or feel generally unwell
- Consider listening to Mass on the radio from our parking lot on 91.3 FM, watching online, or via TV if you are in a high risk category (the Dispensation from attending Mass is still in place)

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclean or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves out attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclean, different or

unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.

Where do we stand with all of this? Do we at least understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is

compounded when the systems of operation and structure that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement raise their ugly heads and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed, not by erasing it but by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision.



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