

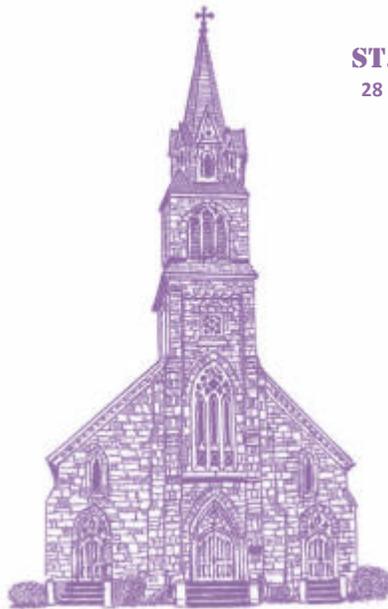
WEST RUTLAND-PROCTOR-CATHOLIC PARISHES

ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA CHURCH

11 Barnes St., West Rutland, VT.

MASS SCHEDULE
Daily: Wed & Fri 8:30 am
Saturday: 4:00 pm

CONFESSIONS
By appointment



ST. BRIDGET CHURCH

28 Church St. West Rutland, VT.

MASS SCHEDULE
Daily: Mon-Tues 8:30 am
Sunday: 9:00 am

CONFESSIONS
By appointment

Administrator, Rev. Avelino Vale
Music Ministry, Mrs. Angela Lundrigan
Mrs. Olivia Boughton, Marie Smith

Administrative Office:
28 Church Street
West Rutland, VT 05777
PHONE: 802-438-2490
Email: wrchurches@vermontcatholic.org
Office Hrs: Mon—Fri
8:30 am—3:00 pm

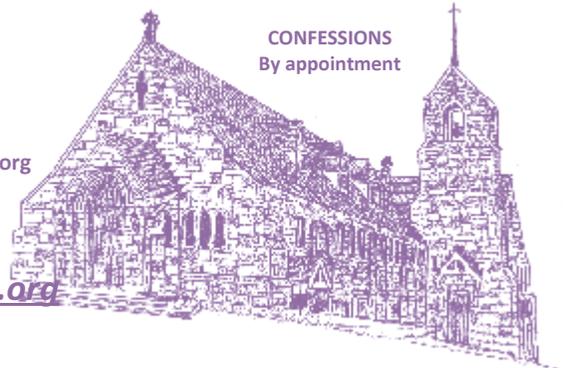
www.westrutlandcatholic.org

ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH

45 South Street, Proctor, VT.

MASS SCHEDULE
Daily: Thursday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 11:00 am

CONFESSIONS
By appointment



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21ST, 2021

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism—Parents or guardians seeking to have a child baptized should contact the rectory prior to the desired Baptism date to attend a Baptism preparation workshop.

RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If you are interested in what it means to be Catholic, please contact Fr. Vale.

Marriage—Registered parishioners need to make an appointment with the pastor six months prior to the requested date of marriage.

Anointing—Anyone who is seriously ill, anticipating surgery or weakened because of prolonged illness or advanced age is encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Please contact the priest.

St. Bridget, St. Stanislaus Kostka, Sacred Heart Cemetery—The cemetery located on Main Street opposite St. Stanislaus Kostka Church is situated on more than ten acres in a lovely, quiet, tree-lined neighborhood. The tranquility is enhanced by majestic pine trees and monuments dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. Our primary goal is to carry out the sacred religious functions of burial and care for the resting places of the deceased. The Catholic Church regards the burying of the dead as a deep spiritual significance and a Corporal Work of Mercy. Our cemetery has been serving the West Rutland area for more than 150 years. It was consecrated in May 1865 by Bishop Louis DeGoesbriand, the first bishop of Burlington, and is one of the oldest, active Catholic cemeteries in the diocese.

St. Dominic Cemetery— St. Dominic Cemetery is located across the street from St. Dominic Church sharing a common boundary with the South Street Cemetery. For more questions please contact Henry Socinski at 802-459-2262.

MASS INTENTIONS
First Sunday of Lent



Sat, February 20—
4:00 PM **SSK**

Sun, February 21—
9:00 AM In Memory of Francis Coppinger **SB**
Requested by his Family

11:00 AM In Memory of Vernon and Frances Smith **SD**
Requested by Marie Smith & Sharon Bales

Mon, February 22—The Chair of St. Peter, the Apostle
8:30 AM **SB**

Tue, February 23—Lenten Weekday
8:30 AM **SB**

Wed, February 24—Lenten Weekday
8:30 AM In Memory of Sophie Godzik **SSK**
Requested by Mary T. Nemeth

Thu, February 25—Lenten Weekday
5:30 PM **SD**

Fri, February 26—Lenten Weekday
8:30 AM **SSK**

Sat, February 27—Lenten Weekday
4:00 PM In Memory of John Krempa **SSK**
Requested by Mr. & Mrs. David Walczuk, Katie, Sara and Joe

Sun, February 28—Second Sunday of Lent
9:00 AM **SB**

11:00 AM **SD**



LENT CONFESSION TIMES: Weekday Confession Times will be immediately following Masses on Monday (SB), Tuesday (SB), Wednesday (SSK), and Friday (SSK). On Thursday at St. Dominic, confessions will be held at 5PM prior to Mass.

HOLY HOUR: First Friday of the month at St. Stanislaus-Kostka, 9:00-10:00 AM.

PRAYER VIGIL: Next Prayer Vigil will be held at **St. Dominic— 6PM, March 8th.**

MASS INTENTIONS: Most often we think of offering a Mass for someone who is deceased. There are other occasions too, such as birthdays, anniversaries, and special events that are nice to remember with Mass. These Mass requests are printed in the bulletin and offered up with the Prayers of the Faithful.

Our Thoughts and Prayers are with Parishioners and friends who are sick, suffering or in recovery: Marie Wysolmerski, Tiffany Marquis, Reilly Jakubiak, Bernice Bujak, Peg Patch, Donald Sevigny, Norman Sevigny, Lucien Wiskoski, Nina Flory, Kathi Scaralia, Dorothy Blicharz, Jean Wiskoski Davey, James McShane, Amy Kelley-Edwards, William Boutwell, Linda Ellis, Stephanie Chehy, and those who are homebound or in nursing facilities.



Our Military Members: Ross & Brittany Lowell, Seth LaChance.

2021 Remembering and Praying . . .

St. Bridget: Father Vincent Coppola, Antoinette Godrick.

St. Stanislaus: Joseph Czachor, Bill Kulig

St. Dominic: Bob Harger.



Lectors

THIS WEEKEND

SSK Feb 20: 4:00 pm Paul Kulig
SB Feb 21: 9:00 am Marie Dubray
SD Feb 21: 11:00 am Kevin Duggan

NEXT WEEKEND

SSK Feb 27: 4:00 pm Bob Smolinski
SB Feb 28: 9:00 am Bill Harvey
SD Feb 28: 11:00 am Marie Smith



FEBRUARY SANCTUARY CANDLE SPONSORS

SSK: In Memory of Michael Scott

Requested by Cecil, Steven and Mary

SUNDAY COLLECTION FEBRUARY 2021

	2/13-14
St. Bridget	\$1,256
St. Dominic	\$ 400
St. Stanislaus Kostka	\$ 821



LATIN MASS: Latin Mass is held on the first Sunday of the month at St. Bridget at 5:00PM. All are welcome.

SUNDAY FAMILY MASS: Every second Sunday of the month until further notice, Father Vale will be offering Children's Family Mass at St. Bridget's Church at 4:30 PM. Everyone, as well as families and their children are welcome and encouraged to attend. **Next Mass will be March 14th, 2021.**



Adjust to Scarcity

Rev. Mark Suslenko

Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Antoine de Saint-Exupery wrote, *"I have always loved the desert. One sits down on a desert sand dune, sees nothing, hears nothing. Yet through the silence something throbs, and gleams..."*

Deserts are difficult places in which to survive. The conditions found in a desert are quite unlike what most of us know as normal. But the desert has always been seen as a place of spiritual enlightenment, where human beings have profound awakenings and encounters with the Divine. Rich wisdom from the experiences of our desert fathers and mothers are at the foundation of our Christian spiritual tradition. Wonderful surprises and soul learning can be found in the desert silence, which isn't really silent at all. It's simply an environment free of distraction and excessive stimulation where one can begin to listen more deeply and keenly to what is going on.

Lent invites us into the desert. As the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert, so that same Spirit drives us into that same place of peace filled scarcity. We live a simpler, more reflective life for forty days hoping to confront some of the demons that bind us to our weakness and imperfections. They weigh us down with their burdens and make life much heavier than it really needs to be. Freely choosing to limit our distractions, obsessions, illusions, dependencies, securities, and familiarities for forty days opens the door to greater self-awareness and freedom. Preparing a suitable desert place requires some brutal honesty with ourselves and a willingness and desire to grow and change.

It's easy to give up the chocolate, coffee, or wine for a time, but without some real soul searching, reflection, prayer, and perseverance what really changes at the end of these forty days? We learn little if we simply resume business as usual. The success of our Lenten desert journey will come to light when we acknowledge that God is making good on his promises without reservation. If we do not believe that God is real and actively involved with us on a personal level, then Lent will have little value. God's covenant has to mean something to us.

Whether we realize it, we struggle with two gods. One is real and the other is not. Our world and the life we create for ourselves can easily become our "god," requiring our daily allegiance. We can find that we get tired worshipping this god we have created and literally "sell our soul" as it demands. We even willingly sacrifice principles and morals. We run after this god as if on an endless treadmill, never quite catching up or getting where we think we need to be. Exhausted from all of the effort, we have little energy left to do much else.

The real God, however, is the God who created and fashioned us out of love and made a timeless covenant with us. He will be our God and we will be his people. It is this God whom we find in the desert and the very presence that "throbs and gleams" in the silence. It is when we are able to peel away all of the superficialities and unnecessary business of life that we learn to live with more scarcity and discover what is really needed for happiness.

The desert brings us to courage and strength. It is easy to become apathetic amid the world's uncertainties and struggles. The flame of God's presence can lead us from the land of "why bother" to the land of hope and surprises. The desert teaches us what really matters, lessons like those we have learned during this time of pandemic. We begin to rely more on the inner strength that comes from God rather than the minimal and passing comfort provided by created things. Transformed by the desert winds and challenges, we can become more credible witnesses not of what the world can do for us, but what God can do and is doing!

Getting to this point requires that we deal with an extremely important question. Are we willing to repent of any behaviors, attitudes, ideologies, agendas, or short-sighted opinions that directly oppose God's Will? Jean-Pierre de Caussade in *"The Joy of Full Surrender,"* says that, "Nothing is essential, real, or of any value unless it is ordained by God, who adapts all things and makes them suitable to the soul. Aside from God's will, everything is hollow, empty, and vacant: there is nothing but falsehood, vanity, nothingness, shallowness, the letter of the law, death. The will of God is the salvation, health, and life of both body and soul, no matter what may be its ways of reaching us ... It is the will of God, given in and through these things, that effectively works to renew the image of Jesus Christ deep within our hearts ... God's will is everything that is good and true in all things."

Repenting of the falsehoods and empty pursuits will produce within us the fruit of a holy Lent. The god of the world comes with many falsehoods, distractions, hollow promises, distorted ideologies, and things that compromise humanity. We need to separate from all of that and discover the truth. Jesus came out of the desert proclaiming the Gospel of God. How will we come out of our desert experience? What may change? What is known for certain is that God has not abandoned us or given up on all that he made. It is quite the contrary. God always starts new and fresh and desires nothing more than for us to love him. There is no better way to show that love than to choose the real God over the false one. God is paving the way for a new plan for humanity. Making that vision real will require that we become less of an image of ourselves and more of an image of Jesus Christ. Having met God in the desert, his presence will throb within us and our presence will reflect the glorious light of Christ!

Gawet

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