



First Sunday of Lent
02/21/2026 — 03/01/2026

Welcome to Mater Dei Parish!



The Gospel According to Matthew...



This week we move on to Chapter 6 of St. Matthew's Gospel. The answers to these questions are found in Matthew 6:1-14

Circle the correct answer to each question and cut this section out of your bulletin. Write your name on the bottom of your entry and put it in the collection basket during Mass.

Last week's winner was **Kathy Fernandes**. Her entry will be submitted for the Grand Prize when we are finished with our study. Congratulations, Kathy!

- Who sees what is done in secret?
 - Jesus
 - The Spirit
 - The angels in heaven
 - The Father
- Why do pagans think they will be heard by God?
 - Because of their righteousness
 - Because of their many words
 - Because they pray in public
 - Because they weep and fast
- What does the Lord's prayer ask to be given to us?
 - Mercy
 - Forgiveness
 - Our daily bread
 - Daily blessings
- According to Jesus, when will your heavenly Father forgive you?
 - When you turn in repentance to Him
 - When you believe in Jesus
 - When you turn away from your sin
 - When you forgive those who sin against you

Answers to Last Week's Questions

- Jesus was led out into the wilderness by the Spirit. (B)
- What was the tempter's first temptation to Jesus in the desert? Turn the stones into bread (B)
- Who came and tended to Jesus after the devil left him in the desert? Angels (D)
- What were Peter and Andrew doing when they initially met Jesus? Casting their nets (B)

Name: _____

Thank You for Your Generosity to our Mater Dei Parish Churches
February 14th & 15th, 2026

Envelopes:	\$ 4,329.00
Loose:	\$ 1,895.00
eCatholic:	\$ 480.00
TOTAL:	\$ 6,704.00



Church in Central Europe:	\$ 1,338.00
Weekly Budget Expenses:	\$10,756.00
Deficit/Surplus:	\$ -4,052.00

There is a special collection this weekend for **Black & Indian Missions**. This collection supports missionary work among African Americans and Native American Catholics, helps to operate schools and parishes, provides missionary services to strengthen their faith and supports their spiritual growth. Please be as generous as possible. There is a special collection **NEXT WEEKEND** for **Fuel**. Your donations are especially needed this year to help us through this very cold winter. Thank you for your support of our parish.

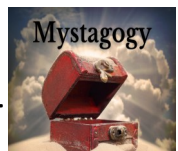
DURING LENT:



- ~ The Gloria is not prayed during Holy Mass.
- ~ Alleluia is not used for the Gospel Acclamation. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory** is proclaimed instead.
- ~ Don't forget to abstain from eating meat every Friday.

MATER DEI'S MYSTAGOGY IS NOW ON ZOOM!

Join Dr. Fred Barker anytime as we discover the ancient Catholic approach to the Book of Revelation.



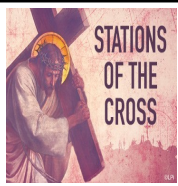
Here's the easy link: <https://youtu.be/gTC71UmfgB8?si=04N1JB4JQjP4edkT> or else go to Youtube, type in "Mystagogy Revelation", and scroll down.

K OF C EXEMPLIFICATION CEREMONY



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL BE HOLDING AN EXEMPLIFICATION CEREMONY TO INDUCT NEW MEMBERS INTO THEIR ORGANIZATION:

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026 AT 4:00 PM
CARMEL OF ST. JOSEPH
HOME OF THE CARMELITE COMMUNITY
386 STEPHENSON ROAD, LOWELL, VT
CHARITY, UNITY AND FRATERNITY



STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE FOR LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ARE PRAYED AT EACH OF OUR CHURCHES EVERY WEEK DURING LENT.

ST. EDWARD'S: EACH THURSDAY AT 5:30 PM AFTER 5:00 PM MASS.

SOUP AND BREAD WILL BE SERVED IN THE PARISH HALL AFTER THE STATIONS.

ST. JAMES: EACH FRIDAY AT 10:30 AM BEFORE 11:00 AM MASS

ST. MARY'S: EACH FRIDAY AT 5:30 PM

SOUP AND BREAD WILL BE SERVED IN THE RECTORY AFTER THE STATIONS.

PLEASE JOIN US AND WALK THE WAY OF THE CROSS WITH JESUS DURING THIS HOLY SEASON.

Christ is Our Sure Foundation

In his latest Pastoral Letter, Bishop John shared some disturbing statistics about the state of the Catholic Church in Vermont over the past 25 years.



Number of:	2000	2025
Baptisms	1679	353
1st Communions	1844	388
Confirmations	1194	430
Marriages	725	132
Mass Attendance	44,300	15,000
Active Priests	87	35
Churches	128	94

Of Vermont's 35 active diocesan priests, 9 priests are between the ages of 30 and 39, 5 are 40 to 49, 8 are 50 -59, 8 are 60-69 and 5 are over age 70. Right now, the diocese has only one seminarian.

On the positive side, parish OCIA programs report a significant increase in the number of adults looking to enter into a closer relationship with God. At our colleges, there is an increasing number of students looking to increase their faith. Positive signs that the Catholic Church in Vermont will grow and flourish. Vermont Catholics are challenged now more than ever to be disciples of Christ. Remember that when Bishop DeGoesbriand began our diocese in 1853, five priests served the entire state of Vermont. Pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire more young men to become "fishers of men". As Bishop John often reminds us, "God alone suffices!"

St. Mary's All Souls' Tabernacle Light

burns this week in loving memory of: † *Isabelle & Toussaint Families.*



VOCATIONISTS CORNER

"O my God and my all"



Holy Spirit, You led Jesus into the desert to prepare Him for His mission on earth. As we begin this Lenten season, lead us to a deeper relationship with You and others.



YOUNG APOSTLES

The Young Apostles meeting scheduled for this week has been **POSTPONED** because of school vacations.

The Young Apostles will meet on:

Thursday, March 5th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Join us for pizza at 5:00 pm in the meeting room at St. Mary's followed by a visit to the Joshua House Warming Shelter on Pleasant Street in Newport. Adoration will be from 6:15–7:00 pm. Plan to join us on March 5th for food, faith and fellowship!

SAVE THE DATES FOR ST. PAUL'S 23RD ANNUAL FISH FRY!

LENT IS HERE AND SO ARE ST. PAUL'S FAMOUS FISH FRIES!

2026 FISH FRY DATES ARE MARCH 13TH, 20TH & 27TH.



BARTON MEMORIAL HALL
19 VILLAGE SQUARE, BARTON, VT

EAT IN *or* TAKE OUT

MEAL INCLUDES FRIED HADDOCK, BAKED POTATO, VEGGIE, COLESLAW, ROLL, TARTAR SAUCE AND HOMEMADE DESSERT.

ADULTS: \$18.50

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER: \$10.25

FAMILY MEAL: 6 FOR \$100

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM. GUESTS WILL BE SERVED IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL.

NEW TO MATER DE PARISH? WELCOME!!



WE ARE BLESSED THAT YOU HAVE JOINED US AT MASS TODAY.

WE INVITE YOU TO REGISTER WITH THE PARISH.

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL OUR PARISH CHURCHES OR AT THE PARISH OFFICE IN NEWPORT. CONTACT US AT (802) 487-9881.

WEEKLY LENTEN TIP

#1: Commit yourself to attending daily Mass once or twice a week during Lent.

