

### PRAYER FOR MAKING A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Holy Eucharist. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEARING OF MASKS

*"Holy Spirit, whose very breath brought creation into existence, Grant me the grace to wear this mask, with all its discomforts and inconveniences, in wisdom and charity. Help me to bear this cross which I carry for the most vulnerable among us. Hold us all close in your care and bring this pandemic to a swift end. Amen."*

### CHRIST OUR HOPE CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, we place our hope in You to guide the Catholic Church in Vermont to renew our parishes, and engage our youth; to form lay leaders and serve the most vulnerable among us.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, help us build a vibrant Church in this time and place and for generations to come.

Seeking the intercession of our first bishop, Louis de Goësbriand, we pray this through Christ Our Lord, Amen. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

### A Prayer for Protection in Time of Pandemic

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

*Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis*

### PANDEMIC HOME BLESSING

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger to whom we turn in our distress: In faith we pray make this home a sanctuary from illness and disease, and keep far from it all anxiety and fear. May Christ dwell here, among us and within us. Bless those who reside here. As we face restrictions and quarantines, help us seek your face. Grant us the courage to follow the heart of your Son, who often retreated to quiet spaces to seek solace and intercede on behalf of others. Look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying. Give strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders, and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### TV MASS & SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

For the weekly schedule of Diocesan activities, including daily Mass at 12:05pm and Sunday Mass at 10:00am on Sunday, live rosary at 11:15am, visit [www.vermontcatholic.org/spiritualresources](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/spiritualresources)

Additionally, televised Masses can be seen on Windsor On Air Comcast Channel 8 & 1081 at the following times every week: Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 5:00 am, 7:00 am, and 5:00 pm and on WCAX-TV Channel 3 at 6:00 a.m.

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL APPEAL

Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in supporting the Annual Advent Appeal. The "Season of Giving" has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. With your help, we can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge. Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, your gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donate, please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 or give online at [www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal).

# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

30 Union St., P.O. Box 46,  
Windsor, Vermont 05089

Tel: 1-802-674-2157 Fax: 1-802-674-9416  
website: <https://stfrancis.vermontcatholic.org/>

**December 13, 2020**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Pastor: Father Charles Danielson**

OFFICE HOURS: Tues. & Sat. 9:30am—1:00pm

**PARISH SECRETARY:**

Christine Porter

email: [stfranciswindsor@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:stfranciswindsor@vermontcatholic.org)

### JOIN US AT MASS!

We have been working hard to ensure your safety. If you haven't yet come back, we encourage you to do so. Hopefully, you will notice all that we are doing to make sure that our Church building is a safe space. We are glad to see more and more of you coming back! Please be sure to sit only in seats designated in order to allow for proper social distancing. And remember your masks! Thank you!

**ALTAR SERVER COORDINATOR:** Ron Hamel, Jr.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:**

The new classes are just beginning. Contact Christine Porter for scheduling.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Are welcome and urged to register with Parish Office

**Finance Council:** Richard Fenton 885-3598 – Ginny Fox 436-2831 — Frederick Lord 356-6496 –  
Andrew Robbins 738-3512 John Scanlon 484-9427

**Parish Council:** Barbara Barbour 299-7117 – Joyce Corbin 484-3329—Janet Farley 674-6065 –  
Mary Anne Mesropian 674-9284 — Colleen DeSchamp 484-5245 – Steve Giroux 674-9509



### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday & Thursday  
Mass 9:00 am

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 6:00 pm  
Sunday 10:30 am

### HOLY DAYS

As Announced

### RECONCILIATION

11:15-12:00 noon

### FUNERALS, MARRIAGES,

### BAPTISMS

By arrangement

### MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass intention said for a friend or loved one, please contact the Parish office. There are many dates currently available.

*As we move into these uncertain winter months, I want you to know that we at St. Francis Parish are here for you. We miss you. We invite you to come back to Mass if you have been away, even if it is one of our weekday Masses with fewer people present. If you are unsure about attending Sunday Masses during this time of pandemic, simply call the rectory, and I or a minister in the Church will meet you at the church to offer Holy Communion. I am also available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Anointing of the Sick. For Catholics, the Sacraments are instituted by Christ to give us grace. Pope Francis reminds us that Communion is not a reward for good behavior but medicine for the sick. We all need Christ's help during these difficult times. Take time out each day for your own prayer. Pray as a family before meals. Watch Mass online if you don't feel safe coming to Mass, and join in the online offerings that our parish and diocese offer. I am here for you and pray daily for you. This is my duty and blessing for me as a parish priest.*

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

***Please remember in your prayers:***

Peg Grimard, Dale West, Jan Lepisko, Lisa Moeller, Kathy Whited, Rhonda McFarland, Christiane Zue, Claire Harlow, Elinor Garcia, Nancy LaBounty, Officer Kevin Valencia, Sandra Carney, Joan Schuyler, Renee Bowling, John Ayers, David Dillon, Joseph Farley, John Scanlon, Ron Poulin, Archer David Ruzik.

***Please pray for the repose of the souls of:***

William Tansey, Wesley Hrydziusko, Peter Kilfeather, Masie Ayers, Kacey Leavitt, John Crump, Gerald Lepisko, Father Raphael Kakwavu Nyabenda, Paul Koch, Peter Toepfer, Phil Turgeon, Shirley Bates, Hugh Duling, Phil Salzano, Anne Juzwiak, Nancy Levesque, Joan Lemire, Freida Leneau, Nancy Marsden, Nancy Hall, Earl White Sr., Charles Rushia, Mark Curtis and Margaret Rising.

**MASS ATTENDANCE**

November 15	61
November 22	69
November 29	67
December 6	67
December 8—Holy Day	19

**OFFERINGS**

**Offerings Report for FY 2021**

Weekly Offertory for December 6, 2020: \$1,714.00  
Weekly Offertory Goal: \$1,951.14

Offertory Collected (Year to Date): \$38,264.00  
Offertory Year to Date Goal: \$44,876.22

Donations/Fees (fuel fund, stipends etc.) received in addition to Offertory:  
December 6, 2020: \$1695.00

Total Donations/Fees (Year to Date): \$ 3,583.00  
Donation/Fee Year to Date Goal (\$935.12/wk): \$21,759.64

**In addition to regular offertory, we received, \$10 for Mass Stipends, \$40 for hymnal purchase, \$1000 for fuel, \$250 for religious education, \$200 in memory of Earl White, \$195 in unrestricted gifts**

**We also received \$500 for Christmas Collection and \$65 for Immaculate Conception Holy Day**

**2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND**

“Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses,” says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

**NEW COVID PROTOCOL**

In response to new Covid-19 guidelines issued by the State of Vermont, Bishop Coyne directs all parishes to maintain an attendance log for all liturgical celebrations in the parishes of the Diocese of Burlington. The log information shall be maintained by the parish for 30 days after the liturgical celebration in the event contact tracing needs to be followed because of an outbreak of Covid-19 tied to one of our churches (note there has not been one to date...). This log requirement applies to daily Masses, funerals, etc. Please be aware our cooperation with these guidelines will help us keep our Churches open as places of prayer and worship essential in these troubled times.

***Message from Fr. Rick,***

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

Traditionally the 3rd Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day, the Rose colored candle on the Advent Wreath is lit and Rose colored vestments may be worn. It sets the tone of joyful anticipation of the Lord’s birth and Second Coming ....

Writing to the Christians of Thessalonika, Saint Paul urges them, (and us too!): “Rejoice always pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks ....”

In all circumstances?

Give thanks?

Even in a year of Pandemic, of so much upheaval - personal, political, economic — so much upheaval and chaos, the Church holds out to us the perennial call: Rejoice always, give thanks pray without ceasing.

Why?

Because the King has come. Moreover, the king is coming back.

Despite all the challenges, all the troubles and sorrows of this past “Anno horribilis” (“Terrible year”), we have every reason to rejoice, to pray always, to give thanks always. “Jesus is Lord!

On December 8, 2020, The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, our Holy Father Pope Francis proclaimed a holy year in honor of the 150th Anniversary of Saint Joseph being declared the patron of the universal Church. The year runs from December 8, 2020 until December 8, 2021. Catholics are encouraged to deepen devotion to Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster Father to Jesus, the Incarnate Word. Please note St. Teresa of Avila, a Doctor of the Church, recommended devotion to St. Joseph, noting that in her own prayer life, she never knew St. Joseph to fail when she turned to him to ask for his intercession.

**MISSALS AND HYMNALS**

Because of continued COVID concerns, we have not placed an order for hymnals for the 2021 season as we don't know when we would be able to use them once again. We are, however, giving our parishioners the opportunity to order their own missals or hymnals. These would be your own copies to keep, which you can bring back and forth to Mass each week, or use to follow along at home if watching the Diocesan live-stream. You can order the Living with Christ Sunday Missal for \$8.00 each or your own Breaking Bread combination hymnal/missal for \$20.00. If interested in purchasing a copy, please email Christine.

**CHRIST OUR HOPE CAMPAIGN**

Have you been thinking about a gift or pledge to the Christ Our Hope campaign? There is still time to join thousands across the Diocese who already have made donations.

With your help at St. Francis, the gifts and pledges received so far have moved us closer to funding our furnace. The Christ Our Hope campaign is focused on building vibrant parishes, and we pray that our projects will strengthen us for the future.

You can return your completed pledge form or go online to [christourhopevt.org/donate](http://christourhopevt.org/donate) to make a gift.

**BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAYS WITH THE GIVING TREE**

Thanks to your generosity, we helped provide gifts to 90 children in our area! Just a reminder that **wrapped gifts with the gift tag attached must be dropped off ASAP.** Thank you for your support of this important program.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

During these times of COVID, we have been pondering how to keep our safety measures in place for Christmas Masses when we typically have many more people attending. We want to be compassionate, yet maintain the safety of all. We decided the best way of keeping everyone safe is to once again implement signups for Mass seats. Signups only apply to 6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass and 10:30am Christmas Day Mass.

We wanted to open up these signups to you first before opening to the general public, as you are our faithful parishioners. We do not want you to miss the opportunity to attend Mass on the date of your choosing. Please see Christine and let her know which Mass you will attend and how many people in your party. She will be sure to have reserved seats for you.

**SCAM ALERT**

Last year, we sent out a notice about folks pretending to be Father Rick and asking for gift cards. It appears as though a new wave of this scam is recurring. In the last few weeks, several folks from both St. Francis and St. Anthony’s have reported receiving text messages and emails from someone pretending to be Father Rick, asking for a favor. When folks reply, the scammer asks for gift card codes. This is just a reminder that no one from our Church or Diocese will call, text, or email you to ask you for this type of information. If it happens to you, we ask that you do not respond to the message in any way and please let us know about it. Thank you!

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday 12/12 6:00pm**  
For the repose of the souls of Leonard White Sr and Gladys White by their son

**Sunday 12/13 10:30am**  
For the Parishioners and Benefactors of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

**Tuesday 12/15 9:00am**  
For the repose of the soul of Mark Curtis by Helen George

**Thursday 12/17 9:00am**  
For the intentions of Michael and Elise Marinelli and family

**Saturday 12/19 6:00pm**  
For the repose of the souls of Bert and Ida Norman by their children

**Sunday 12/20 10:30am**  
For the Parishioners and Benefactors of St. Francis of Assisi Parish