

**Saturday, February 6**5:30pm – *Pro Populo***Sunday, February 7**

8:00am – Barb Brewster

by Frank and Grace Sutton

10:00am – Betsy LeVecchia

by Barry and Carol Patterson

**Monday, February 8**

8:00am – Dorothy Leubert by daughter, Carolyn Smith

**Tuesday, February 9**

8:00am – Healing for Pamela Mary Woods

by Mark Templeton

**Wednesday, February 10**

8:00am – Johnny Kardas Jr. by Meghan and Troy

**Thursday, February 11**

8:00am – Felipe Vasconcelos

by Ingrid Hennig Cabral

**Friday, February 12**

8:00am – Cathy Stiller

by parents, Harold &amp; Kathleen Hogstrom

**Saturday, February 13**

5:30pm – Dick Miller by Frank and Grace Sutton

**Sunday, February 14**

8:00am – Elizabeth Klauder

by Mark &amp; Priscilla Klauder

10:00am – *Pro Populo***Let us remember in prayer:**

the sick, the dying and those who care for them.

Dear All,

Both Peter and Paul had experienced the merciful presence of the Risen Christ in their lives. Thus, each was convinced that, if even sin could not keep Christ away, no good thing – not even circumcision – could do so. It was the oneness of Christ and the immensity of his love that led them to a broader vision of the Church that would include both former Jews and newly baptized Gentiles, with no further requirement than their faith in the Lord.

Everyone has always known that there cannot be two *true churches founded by Jesus Christ*. This led to a kind of assumption that every ‘church’ but one’s own is *false*; and there were argument after argument piled up to prove just this. At a longish historical remove from those ages in which there came to be ‘denominations of Christians’, thinkers began to understand that *true/false* is not the only way to approach the matter of disunion.

All Christian denominations profess – as did Peter and Paul – that it is Christ who saves, and only Christ. Similarly, all Christian denominations practice Baptism in the Name of the Trinity. In these two things, which were the foundations of the one church that emerged from the work of Peter and Paul, every ‘denomination’ was and is at one with the Church of the Apostles. So it is, in careful ecumenical language, that no one speaks of *church-es* any longer. There is, indeed, a divided Church; but it is one Church that is divided.

There are, then, new questions to be asked instead of *who was right or wrong?*

What historical factors led to the split?

What expedients might have prevented the original split?

Has the passage of time changed the importance of the issues?

Can we find a new way to deal with those historical issues and, so, make the split no longer unavoidable?

What will that new way be?

It is amazing that, over only one century, the historical divisions in Christianity have been re-evaluated and de-valued, and are no longer seen to be of more importance than the oneness of our confession of Christ and the saving power of baptism. It almost as amazing to see that so much remains to be worked on. Centuries of division have led to diversity in other areas; and there is

sometimes little motivation to recover structures long abandoned.

It is just as well, then, that the flood of ecumenical optimism that followed Vatican II has ebbed. The hard and boring work can now go on at its own laborious pace. But where that flood has not receded there is sometimes a facile, superficial and enthusiastic ‘ecumenism in the pews’ that actually creates a dead end of disappointment and frustration. And those are harder and more laborious that real work.

Pray for the unity of the Church. Pray for those who have made it their life’s work.

After all, this is what Jesus prayed for at the Last Supper: *that we may be one.*

Really and truly and prayer-fully yours, tm

**During the month of February, you will be offered the opportunity to take part in the larger mission of the Church beyond Manchester in ways:**

- The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will take place on the weekend of 14 February. This collection supports the ongoing work of rebuilding the Church and re-evangelizing the society that were devastated by years of Communist regimes.
- The annual collection for Black and Indian causes seems more poignant this year, when we are becoming more aware of the unequal toll that Co-Vid takes on these populations. Watch for it on 2/21.

**Ash Wednesday Almsgiving Collection**

There will be a special collection on Ash Wednesday to support Vermont Catholic Charities. This agency provides financial and emotional support to individuals and families throughout Vermont through the programs offered which include Counseling, Emergency Aid, Prison Ministry, and Residential Care Homes.

Donations can be made on line at <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/catholic-charities/ash-wednesday-appeal/> or by

mailing a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403. Please know that every gift—whatever the size—makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!**

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and some span multiple weeks on a given weekday. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God’s plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call John & Diane Forcier at 802-657-3083 or visit them at <https://wwmevtw.org/>.

“Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” Does your marriage give glory to God? Learn how to let your Sacrament shine on an upcoming virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on Feb 22-Mar 15, 2021 in VIRTUAL 3RE, NY and Mar 19-21, 2021 in HAWTHORNE, NJ