

**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***Monday, February 15**

8:00am – Alexandre Crezpo by Ingrid Hennig Cabral

**Tuesday, February 16**

8:00am – Healing for Pamela Mary Woods

by Mark Templeton

**Ash Wednesday, February 17**

8:00am - Mass with Distribution of Ashes

12:10pm – Distribution of Ashes

5:10pm Distribution of Ashes

**Thursday, February 18**

8:00am – Merrily Main by husband, Hugh

**Friday, February 19**

8:00am – Abraham Madkour by the Family

**Saturday, February 20**

5:30pm – Halley Monforte by the Dingley Family

**Sunday, February**

8:00am – Helene E. Meunier by her Daughter, Collette Galusha

10:00am – Alice Wey by Ray and Carolyn Smith

**Let us remember in prayer:**

Ben Nawrath, all the sick, the dying, and those who care for them.

Dear All,

It is ironic that, on the biggest candy day of the year, I get to talk about Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent; but stranger things have happened.

You will find the regulations for Lenten fast and abstinence elsewhere in this publication. But I want to suggest a really difficult ‘unregulated’ practice for this lent in particular: no whining!

Let me be clear that honest description of pain, frank asking for help and a good scream into one’s pillow – whether in the a.m. or the p.m. --, these are not whining. Whining means that no conversation is free of such phrases as *I can’t wait until ...*, or *Do you think that we will ever get back to ...*, or *I’m so sick and tired of ...*

It’s not that you are not entitled to your feelings; but when they are everyone else’s feelings too, unrelenting talking about them just reinforces the malaise – and even depression – that others are feeling. Productive conversation about our shared misery (does anyone not know what I’m talking about?) does not mean pretending that we are not miserable, but it does mean that we find and we talk about reasons to be thankful, hopeful, patient and glad that we are able to be together at all.

Saying good things may seem Pollyanna-ish, but it allows us to shift our focus from what cannot be helped to what actually does help.

Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower, made a vow of sorts when she was twelve or thirteen that no one would ever again know that she was not happy. She kept it!

Her autobiography is full of one tragic event after another, not the least of which is her discovery of her own agonizing tuberculosis. Any yet, in every circumstance, she finds that her knowledge of God’s love for her is a power of strength and patience and gratitude and hope. By talking about what God’s love does for her, she never lies about what is going on in her life, but she always assures her interlocutor that God’s love is always going on in her life as well.

The Apostle James tells us that a man of unguarded tongue is like a ship without a rudder, tossed about by every wind and happenstance. Since we are all in the same boat, wouldn’t it be neat if we were to take turns steering our common life by speech that causes joy and finds causes for thanksgiving and brings hope into every interaction?

They tell me that Pope Francis has a sign on this door – not for himself, but for those who enter --, that reads *Non lamentarsi! Stop your whining!*

For those who claim to like the Pope, take his advice this Lent.

Really and truly and uncomplainingly yours,  
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**GUIDELINES FOR LENT**

- 1) The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.
- 2) **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. **All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.**
- 3) The rule of **fasting** states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, “sufficient to maintain strength”, are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from 18 to 59.
- 4) **Abstinence** refers to the eating of meat. The common estimation of the community is used to determine what falls under the category of meat. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years or older.
- 5) The **substantial** observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation.

**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.

**The Church in Central and Eastern Europe** is the beneficiary will of this weekend’s 2<sup>nd</sup> collection. This collection supports Catholic organizations that provide food, shelter, medical care, catechesis, and companionship for the lonely in a region still struggling in the aftermath of atheistic Soviet rule. Our donations help to restore the strength of the Church in the region. Please give generously to this cause! Visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections) to learn more.

**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 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.

**Forty days for life**

Is a focused pro-life campaign that seeks to access God’s power through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and a loving vigil to end abortion. Participants gather across the street from Planned Parenthood in Rutland on each day of Lent until Palm Sunday. For further details you can contact Delia Warnecke at [havefaith180103@yahoo.com](mailto:havefaith180103@yahoo.com) or you can check out the *Forty days for Life* website.

*While we remain in a Co-vid cautionary state, there are no special Lenten Programs scheduled for the Parish this year. However, the Church is open 24/7 for prayer before the Eucharistic Lord – we have been fasting too long from The Bread of Life – or the Stations of the Cross. Of course, there is room at weekday Mass. With the vaccination program moving forward, this can become a more viable option (with masking and spritzing and social distancing, of course) than it has been. Do not return to Mass if you feel the least bit unwell or if you have been travelling and have not received a clean test after quarantining. But know that we cannot live forever without each other.*