



Saint Anthony Church

15 Church Street

White River Jct. Vermont 05001

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 20, 2022

Father Charles R. Danielson, Pastor

Deacon John P. Guarino

Bishop of Burlington: Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne

Parish Office

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

11:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Closed on Wednesday

Secretary: Ms. Joanne Collins

Telephone: 802-295-2225, ext. 3

E-mail: stanthonychurch@vermontcatholic.org

Website: <https://stanthony.vermontcatholic.org>

Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM

Weekday: Monday & Friday 9:00 AM

Holy Days: Consult the parish bulletin

Rectory Chapel

Adoration in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel
has been temporarily suspended
due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Religious Education

Coordinator: Diane Usher, dmgu70@icloud.com

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday from 3:15 – 3:45 PM

Baptism: Parents must contact the rectory to get the necessary forms at least one month in advance.

Marriage: Couples must contact the parish at least six months in advance.

Mass Intentions

Personal safety issues are still present due to Covid 19. Children who have not been vaccinated, people whose health is compromised so that they have to avoid any risk of contagion as well as their caregivers, may in freedom choose not to attend Sunday Mass.

Saturday, February 19 4:00 P.M. Eileen M. Gregory by family & friends

Sunday, February 20 8:30 A.M. The People of Saint Anthony Parish

Monday, February 21 NO MASS

Friday, February 25 9:00 A.M. Marcelek and Sarenka (L) by family

Saturday, February 26 4:00 P.M. Deacon Christopher Keough by Deacon John & Mary Guarino

Sunday, February 27 8:30 A.M. The People of Saint Anthony Parish



Michelle Wegner
Pamela Marmon
Stephan Schools
Frank Klymn
Nicole Dunlap
Cynthia Elliott
Raymond Gregory
Rose Acker

Please also remember others who are in need of our prayers.

Names will be published in our bulletin for one month. If you would like to renew your prayer request after one month, please contact the parish office.

Sanctuary Lamps
will burn for:

Saint Anthony
Parishioners
& friends



Sacrificial Giving Report

To meet our expenses we need:	\$ 3,900.00
Offertory collection February 12-13:	\$ 4,868.00

**Thank You for Your Support
of Saint Anthony Church!**

Bless You: Saint Anthony Parish is truly blessed to have so many generous, caring folks who continue to support us with their donations. We understand that many of you have, and continue to experience financial hardship. Through prayer and trust in the Lord will we get through this together.

Low Gluten Altar Bread: Low gluten hosts for Communion are available to those who require them. When you come up to receive, let the minister know and they will get one for you.

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in the confessional at St. Anthony Church on Saturdays from 3:15-3:45 p.m. Individual confession is available by appointment.

Let us pray for one another and for all those impacted by Covid-19.

Message from Fr. Rick:

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

- February 20, 2022 -

The Scriptures this weekend set before us two startling examples of mercy shown to enemies.

David given the opportunity to kill King Saul his enemy refuses to take the life of Saul even though Saul is unjustly seeking David to kill him.

Jesus, who is the very mercy and compassion of God in the flesh likewise teaches us to imitate God who is Himself “kind to the ungrateful and the wicked” thus will we show ourselves to be children of the Most High.

This weekend the Church through the Holy Scriptures challenges us: Are we children of the Most High?

Fr. Rick

Office Closed: The parish office will be closed Monday, February 21st for the holiday. Responses to your messages will be made when we return Tuesday, February 22nd.

No Daily Mass: There will be no daily Mass Monday, February 21 due to the holiday.

Second Collection: Next weekend, February 26-27 we will accept your offerings for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Since the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991, Central and Eastern European countries have been working to rebuild political structures, social welfare, and their economies. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/ccee. Your offerings for this collection may be dropped into the basket at church next weekend or mailed to the parish office. *Please make checks payable to St. Anthony Church.*

Weekly Bulletin: Our bulletin is on our website <https://stanthony.vermontcatholic.org>. If you do not have web access, or prefer a printed version, you may pick up a bulletin outside the parish office in a plastic container on the porch near the office. You will also find the *Living Faith* booklet, *Vermont Catholic* magazine and other items. The box is replenished as needed.

Knights' Quilt Raffle: The Knights of Columbus of Michaud Council 2025 wish to thank the parishioners who supported our Raffle for handmade Quilt “Trip Around the World”. The winner was Tom Powers.

Meeting: Knights of Columbus Meeting will be held Sunday February 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the apartment of Bill Harty, 754 Sykes Mountain Ave, White River Junction. We will be selecting Delegates to the State Convention and reviewing Affiliate Member Initiative effect on our Council.

Respect Life: “We often assume parenthood happens easily after ‘I do,’ but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “*Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility*” respectlife.org/navigating-infertility



Lent begins next week

Guidelines for Lent

- The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- The **substantial** observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation.
- Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended.
- Parents and teachers should see to it that, even those who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence because of age, are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

Ash Wednesday Masses: Mass for Ash Wednesday will be celebrated at Saint Anthony Church Wednesday, March 2nd at 9:00 a.m. The Mass at St. Francis of Assisi in Windsor will be 5:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Almsgiving Collection: There will be a special collection on March 2nd, 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 may be made 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. Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the programs which Catholic Charities operates are more critical than ever. Please know that every gift - whatever the size - makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity.



Parish Staff / Volunteer Retreats: The Diocese will hold their annual Lenten Retreat Days for parish staff and volunteers. This is a free retreat, but pre-registration is required. The retreat will be held locally Wednesday, March 16 at Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph from 9:30 – 2:45 with break and lunch times. The theme of the retreats will be “Communion with God in the Desert” with presentations are by Fr. Rijo Johnson, S.D.V. The online retreat is Wednesday, March 30 from 9:00 - 11:45. Please register by March 11th. To register please go to:


https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegjTZpIzi2UlkYaOXkyxmJXco4KdtsE1HdMx7bJhEUs23_4w/vi ewform



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Our R.C.I.A. program continues most Monday evenings. Please pray for those involved in the program, candidates and leaders. A suggested prayer, text based on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults follows: *Lord and God, you know the secrets of our hearts and reward us for the good we do. Look kindly on the efforts and the progress of those who seek to complete their initiation into the Church. Strengthen them on their way; increase their faith and hope; and accept their repentance. Open to them your goodness and justice, and lead them to share in your sacraments on Earth until they finally enjoy your presence in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Men's Conference: The Diocese will hold their annual Men's Conference on Saturday, March 19 from 9AM to 2:15PM at Our Lady of Angels in Randolph. The theme this year is band of brothers and the deadline to register is March 4th. For more information or to register please go to vermontcatholic.org/men.

Women's Retreat: The Diocese will hold a 2nd Women's Retreat on Saturday, April 2 from 9AM to 2:15PM at Our Lady of Angels in Randolph. This will be the same retreat that was held in November, but for those who weren't able to attend (especially those closer to the southern part of the state). The deadline to register is Friday, March 11. For more information please go to <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/womens-retreat-2022/>.

Worship from
Home  **Catholic Mass on TV:** The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended for people in certain circumstances. Those unable to attend Sunday Mass in person may view celebration of Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m., livestreamed on our website, or watch:

Sunday mornings at 6:00 a.m. on WCAX-TV, channel 3; **Sunday** mornings at 10:00 a.m. on WNNE-TV, channel 13 (or consult your local listings.)

Televised Masses may be found on The CatholicTV Network, cable channel 166 (or consult your local listings) **Sunday** at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Daily Mass is Monday through Friday at 9:30 a.m., with rebroadcasts at 7 and 11:30 p.m.

Televised Masses may also be found on EWTN, channel 38 (or consult local listings) **Sunday** 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Daily Mass is Monday through Saturday at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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.

Haven: The Haven Food Shelf is open to anyone in our community. Curbside pick-up is available Monday through Wednesday 9:00 - 4:30, Thursday and Friday 9:00 - 3:00, Sunday from 12-3 p.m. for a week's worth of groceries, once a month, for anyone. Visit uppervalleyhaven.org/foodshelffaq/ for complete information. The curbside pickup process is extremely efficient and COVID safe. Saint Anthony Parish has long supported the Haven by collecting **non-perishable** food in the basket at the entrance of the church before and after Masses. We are pleased to be able to resume this practice.

The **Top Five Food Shelf Needs** this week are include tuna/chicken, soups/stews, oatmeal, baking mixes and salt/pepper/spices. **Always Needed Food Items** include the above plus pasta, canned vegetables, tomatoes and fruit, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter and rice. **Wish List** items are water/wind proof adult gloves, sleeping bags, snow boots, gas cards/gift cards to local grocery stores or Walmart. **Also Needed** are personal care items like shampoo, toothpaste & toothbrushes, shaving cream, diapers (sizes 5 & 6) and pull-ups (sizes 3T-4T). Thank you!

St. Anthony Parish would like to welcome all those who are visiting with us this weekend.

NEWS FROM The Inland See

February 19–25, 2022

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Sculptor Edmonia Lewis shares message of human dignity through time

Edmonia Lewis, the first African American and Native American sculptor to achieve international recognition through works that reflected her Catholic faith and the dignity of people, is being commemorated on a new postage stamp.

The stamp, the 45th in the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage series, will be issued Jan. 26 at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington.

The stamp's design features a painted portrait based on an Augustus Marshall photograph taken between 1864 and 1871 while Lewis was in Boston, the USPS said.

Lewis overcame multiple obstacles before arriving in Rome in 1865 and opening a studio where she incorporated the neoclassical style popular at the time and establishing herself as one of the most significant sculptors of the 19th century.

Her work is in the permanent collections at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Howard University Gallery of Art in Washington. Works also are scattered in church institutions in the U.S. and Europe. Some continue to be discovered after being missing for decades.

Art historian Elizabeth Lev, who grew up in Boston and has lived in Rome for 30 years, said it was in the Eternal City, where its cosmopolitan atmosphere meant skin color mattered little, that Lewis found inspiration to pursue sculpting in her preferred medium of marble.

Lev described Lewis' work as reflecting her mixed ancestry as she created sculptures of notable abolitionists as well as figurative images that reflected experiences of people of color, particularly following the abolition of slavery.

Lewis also portrayed religious images, at times imitating neoclassical and Renaissance artists.

Details of Lewis' early life are limited. She was born in 1844 in Greenbush, New York, near Albany. Her father was Haitian American and her mother was Chippewa. Both died before Lewis was 5.

Lewis was raised by her mother's family until she was 12 and was known as "Wildfire," according to a Smithsonian American Art Museum biography. In 1859 at age 15, her older

brother, who had become a successful gold miner in California, helped Lewis enroll at Oberlin College in Ohio, one of the first institutions in the country to admit African Americans. She took the name Mary Edmonia Lewis.

She did not graduate, however. Despite the school welcoming African Americans, Lewis was subjected to racism and sexism. In 1862, two friends became ill after Lewis served them wine, opening the way to charges that she poisoned them.

The charges were dismissed at trial, but soon after Lewis

was severely beaten by white vigilantes who left her for dead. About a year later, she was accused of stealing artists' materials from the school, but again was acquitted because of a lack of evidence. Lewis left Oberlin in 1863 for Boston, again with her brother's assistance. There she studied under portrait sculptor Edward Brackett.

Having saved enough money from the sale of her work, Lewis traveled to Europe in 1865 at age 20 in the hope of establishing her sculpting career. After stops in London, Paris and Florence, Italy, Lewis settled in Rome, where she opened a studio during the winter of 1865-1866 collaborating with other female sculptors in a male-dominated discipline.

Lev said that how Lewis became Catholic is uncertain. Lev related one story which finds that the Native American tribe that raised her in New York was being ministered to by Jesuit missionaries. Lev, however, doubts that was the case and points to Lewis' time in Rome as likely being more influential in the development of her Catholic faith.

One of Lewis' most well-known sculptures is "Forever Free," created in 1867. That sculpture and others, Lev said, is how Lewis used her art to communicate in a subtle and nuanced way to address issues of social justice.

"That's where I think we can learn from someone who knew about racism really, the woman who was beaten to within an inch of her life at Oberlin. The woman who every step of the way had to overcome obstacles," Lev told CNS.

Lewis died in London in 1907 at age 63. She never married and had no children. She is buried in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery in city's borough of Brent.

— **Dennis Sadowski, Catholic News Service**



Edmonia Lewis, an African American and Native American sculptor who was Catholic, is honored on a stamp as part of the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage series, set for release Jan. 26, 2022. — CNS photo/courtesy U.S. Postal Service

Upcoming Events



02|22 TUESDAY
Saints and Sinners
Online • 7 pm

Join us in February when Fr. Robert Murphy presents on Saints Therese of Lisieux. There will be time for prayer, small group and large group discussion. **For more info:** vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.



02|24 THURSDAY
Lenten Presentation "Quarantine"
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 8:30 pm
Fr. Richard Berube, SSE presents on The Forty

Days of Lent, of Jesus, of Elijah, and the desert experience of God's People. Israel.



02|26, 03|05, 12, 19, 26 SATURDAYS
SoulCore
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 3 - 4 pm

SoulCore is an invitation to nourish body, mind and soul through prayer and functional movement. Workout can be modified to suit ability and comfort level; the prayers are the main focus. Freewill donation. Suggested items: mat, water, weights (optional, 1-3 lbs popular).



03|03, 04, 05 THURSDAY - SATURDAY
40 Hours Devotion
St John Vianney, S. Burlington • 40 hours

Help us start Lent off with 40 continuous hours of Eucharistic Adoration and prayer. There will be Masses, a penance service, and other special devotions; please see schedule on our webpage: www.stjohnvianney.vermontcatholic.org/40hours. Adoration will begin after the 5:30 Mass on Thursday and continue until Benediction at 10 AM on Saturday. We are in need of two people for each shift, especially during the overnight hours which are traditionally difficult to cover. Sign up for a shift on our website. **MORE INFO:** Connie McDonald, [SJVGGoodNews@gmail.com](mailto:SJVGoodNews@gmail.com)



03|03, 10, 17, 24, 31, 04|07 THURS
Vermont Catholic Women's Group Lent 2022
via Zoom • 7:30 - 9 pm

Join the Vermont Catholic Women's Group on Zoom as we go through *Restore: A Guided Lent Journal for Prayer and Meditation* by Sr. Miriam James Heidland. YWe will have weekly edifying discussions. Join us for one or all meetings. Women of all ages are welcomed. Sign up for our mailing list at www.stlukev.org and contact Carolina for more details.



03|05 SATURDAY
First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

In these times, let us seriously consider one of the important messages from our Lady of Fatima — the First Saturday devotion for Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This would include attending five consecutive first Saturday masses, going to confession within eight days, receiving Holy Communion, and meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary for fifteen minutes. Please prayerfully consider this for 2022! The Saturday Vigil Mass (for Sunday) may be used for the First Saturday Devotion offered in reparation for offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



03|05 SATURDAY
Grief Support Group

Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 8-10 am
Calling all Widows and Widowers... You are

invited to join us for a support group, run by Catherine "Kate" King, UVM Mental Health Clinician (LCMHC) on the first Saturday of the month. Kate has been a group therapist in the community for over 20 years and is a widow herself. Join us for prayer, discussion and peer support for working through grief, at 8 am at Holy Family Parish Hall (upstairs' library). **FOR MORE INFO:** call Kate (802) 881-5973.



03|06 SUNDAY
Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 3 - 4 pm

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated by Bishop Coyne on the First Sunday at Lent. During the Rite of Election, the Church "elects" those seeking full initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at Easter. The Church also recognizes those already-baptized Christians seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church and pledges the support of prayer as they journey toward Full Communion in the Catholic Church. Friends and family of those being participating in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion and all the faithful from around the diocese are invited to celebrate with us. A small reception follows the liturgy.



03|09 WEDNESDAY
Dealing with Doubt — How will you Respond?

Holy Family, Essex Jct. • 7 - 8:15 pm

Speaker Joe Blanchette's lively presentation provides Catholic parents with well-researched, effectively presented talking points for defending the faith to counter the arguments presented by the secular world that young people are exposed to, especially when they first leave home for college. All are welcome. Sponsored by Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Fanny Allen #1060.



03|19 SATURDAY
Annual Men's Conference

Our Lady of Angels, Randolph • 8:30 am - 2 pm
Join with other Catholic Men for a day of

time of fellowship. This year's theme is 'Band of Brothers' and the keynote speaker will be Fr. Scott Gratton, serving as chaplain for the VT Air National Guard, recently deployed to Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Bishop Christopher Coyne will celebrate Mass. Please contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org or call (802) 658-6110, ext. 1131 for the link to register. Registration deadline is March 4, 2022. Lunch is included in the \$30 fee.



03|25 FRIDAY
The Challenge Club for Catholic Girls

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 6 - 8 pm

Challenge is a club for girls to grow in virtue, friendship and their Catholic faith. **FOR MORE INFO:** Mary Niekrewicz, mary.of.vt@gmail.com, (802) 878-5538 or Audrey Walko, audreycgsvt@gmail.com, (802) 373-9564.

A MESSAGE FROM THE
U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking



February 8 was the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, patroness of kidnapped and trafficked children. Situations caused by Covid-19 have pushed traffickers online and out of sight, making the exploitation of children more convenient.

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org)



for a
communal
Church

"Pope Francis has announced a universal Synod inviting all Catholics across the globe to discern together how to better listen and communicate with each other to bolster our communion in Christ Jesus." — Bishop Coyne

We are asking every parishioner to participate by completing the online survey: vermontcatholic.org/universalsynod

Sunday, Feb 20, 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It's a long road to freedom

Justice feels good—if we're on the side of the angels when it's meted out. Which means in most cases, the struggle for justice will cost us. This was certainly true for Frederick Douglass (1818-95), born enslaved yet becoming the first black American to gain a vote for president of the United States. As he wrote in his 1852 July Fourth speech: "The . . . conscience of the nation must be roused . . . the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be denounced." On this World Day of Social Justice, consider the price you're willing to pay for justice.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38 (81). *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."*

Monday, Feb 21, 2022

MEMORIAL OF PETER DAMIAN, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Turn toward the good

Saint Peter Damian had two brothers—one bad, one good. The first treated him like a servant, the second had him educated, which led to Peter becoming a Benedictine monk. Humble and pious, he only reluctantly accepted when his community chose him to be their leader—and he was so good at it that some of those he directed became saints themselves. It was said of him that "his genius was to exhort and impel to the heroic, to praise striking achievements and to record edifying examples—an extraordinary force burns in all that he wrote." Like Peter, we've all encountered people who hold us down and others who lift us up. Which influence do you allow to shape you?

TODAY'S READINGS: James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29 (341). *"Everything is possible to one who has faith."*

Tuesday, Feb 22, 2022

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER THE APOSTLE

Please be seated

The topic of papal infallibility relates to today's feast. A pope only makes infallible statements of faith when he speaks *ex cathedra*—Latin for "from the chair." *Cathedra*, from which we also get the word "cathedral," refers to a bishop's throne, a visual symbol of authority and governance harkening back to monarchical times. It's symbolic of a bishop being the seat of government for a particular locality. In this case, the pope is actually bishop of Rome, as Saint Peter was . . . and the Roman Catholic Church recognizes Rome's bishop as having authority over all the rest. Pray for Peter's successor today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). *"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."*

Wednesday, Feb 23, 2022

MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

Make our mark

Saint Polycarp was born around the year 69, and it is said he was a direct student of Saint John, the evangelist, and may have compiled, edited, and published many of the texts now found in the New Testament. He helped advance recognition of Paul as an apostle and the now common practice of biblical interpretation. He suffered a martyr's death by proclaiming a higher authority than the Roman emperor. His dying prayer included the words: "Lord

God Almighty, I bless you, for having made me worthy of this day and hour." Let the breadth and strength of Polycarp's faith be an inspiration as you strive to trust in the Lord during challenging times.

TODAY'S READINGS: James 4:13-17; Mark 9:38-40 (343). *"There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me."*

Thursday, Feb 24, 2022

Take a step toward wholeness

Today's gospel refers three times to Gehenna. Typically, Gehenna is interpreted as another term for hell. Who is in hell? Can we go to hell after we die? These questions have puzzled believers and scripture scholars for centuries, and the living cannot answer them from direct experience. The church teaches in the catechism that "this state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called 'hell.'" We know what separates us from God, and we know what unites us with God. Take a step today, no matter how small, to unite yourself with God.

TODAY'S READINGS: James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50 (344). *"Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor? Keep salt in yourselves."*

Friday, Feb 25, 2022

When together forever is causing real harm

Sometimes relationships don't work out. In the case of marriage, the Catholic Church urges reconciliation and offers pastoral help. But sometimes even reconciliation is impossible, especially when harm is present. That is why the church encourages people not to enter into marriage lightly, or any life commitment for that matter. The tools of discernment, prayer, spiritual reading, and seeking wise counsel can help you as you determine your best path. If you or a loved one need more information about beginning or ending a marriage or other life vocation, seek out the church's help.

TODAY'S READINGS: James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12 (345). *"The Lord is compassionate and merciful."*

Saturday, Feb 26, 2022

Learn some childish ways

The question of how children were viewed and treated in biblical times is a complicated one, but it seems safe to say they were often not extended the full rights and protections we assume for them today. The fact that Jesus treats them as fully formed persons, in fact as possessing qualities of innocence and trust that are essential for a full embrace of his saving message, would have struck his followers as remarkable. But Jesus has a way of turning our expectations upside down. What can you learn from the little persons in your own life?

TODAY'S READINGS: James 5:13-20; Mark 10:13-16 (346). *"Whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."*

Be merciful,
JUST AS YOUR FATHER
is merciful.
LUKE 6:36

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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