

MAY 3, 2020



SACRED HEART SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH • BENNINGTON, VERMONT

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Catholic parish family is united by God's love and our belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We live and share our faith in our daily actions as a parish, as a school and as individuals.

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil
4:00 PM

Sunday
7:30 AM & 9:30 AM

Monday through Friday
8:00 AM

First Fridays (only)
Mass: 9:00 AM
Holy Hour & Benediction: 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Adoration
Every Friday after Mass until 8:00 PM

Last Sunday (only)
Mass: 6:00 PM

Reconciliation
Saturday 3:00-3:30 PM or by appointment



Rev. Robert Wiseman, c.s.c.—Pastor
Rev. Hugh Cleary, c.s.c.—Parochial Vicar

The Congregation of Holy Cross Priests and Brothers have offered continuous service for over 60 years to the Diocese of Burlington and the Bennington area.



4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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PARISH CENTER MAIN OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:30 AM–Noon & 1:00–4:30 PM
email: benncath@comcast.net



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

Effective Friday, March 20, all regularly scheduled public celebrations of the Catholic Mass, sacraments and devotions are suspended until further notice.

If you had a Mass Intention scheduled during this time please reach out to us once we begin holding Mass again and we will be happy to work with you to reschedule.

Also, we are not scheduling any new intentions at this time. Once Mass resumes we will begin to schedule intentions again.



“I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

– Jn 10:9-10

Readings for the week of May 3, 2020

- Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10
- Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:11-18
- Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Ps 117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30
- Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 [4]/Jn 12:44-50
- Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20
- Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6
- Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14
- Next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12

Sunday Summary

Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 36-41 The message of Pentecost nets 3,000 new believers.

Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 God is the good and faithful shepherd of the weary soul.

1 Peter 2:20b-25 Like sheep gone astray, we are gathered up in Christ.

John 10:1-10 Jesus is the shepherd and gateway to abundant life.

Gospel Reflection Fourth Sunday of Easter

With whom do we converse and listen to the most? Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn't hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God's. He is the Good Shepherd who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God's presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home.



Faith Formation Program

"Growing In Faith Together"

For more information contact the parish office at 442-3141 or 1kathy.murphy@gmail.com

*You are invited to join us on Facebook –
SHSF Faith Formation*

Families of Religious Education and Confirmation Programs

Teachers of Religious Education and Preparation for Sacraments are working on ways to keep your family engaged in deepening your faith. The Diocese has provided some guidance and we are blessed with formed.org. Flocknotes will be forthcoming to classes and sacramental preparation programs as details unfold.

From the Diocese of Burlington:

- ◆ First Reconciliations and First Communions will be postponed until the liturgical suspension is lifted. When it is, decisions about celebrating or rescheduling First Reconciliations and First Communions will be at the discretion of the pastor.
- ◆ Please see our diocesan COVID-19 page for prayer, resources and updates on the situation.

Pray for Sacramental preparation students.

- ◆ Confirmation **would have been** Saturday, April 26 and will be rescheduled to the fall.
- ◆ First Communions that were scheduled for May 5 will be rescheduled when the churches reopen.
- ◆ Diaconate ordination for Robert Murphy will be private on May 30 in our parishes unless the governor opens up gathering restrictions.
- ◆ Baptisms will be scheduled when churches reopen.
- ◆ Reconciliations available by appointment with the priests.

Diocese of Burlington Weekly offerings and spiritual resources: <https://vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/evangelization-catechesis/spiritual-resources-for-covid-19/>

Don't Take a Break from Your Faith

Visit **FORMED.org** and use parish code **JHGX4D** to keep you connected.



**The School of
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales
307 School Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

**Mr. David Estes, Principal
442-2446, Ext. 3**

Providing excellence in academics and a deepening faith in God and Gospel Values in an environment that is caring, challenging, and respectful, striving to develop in every student the habits of thinking critically and acting responsibly in daily life.

Wonderful News for Our School!

Dear Families of The School of Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales:

I hope that this letter finds you doing well and enjoying this beautiful Easter Season. Our Lord's Resurrection is certainly a cause for great joy!

As a community, we have another reason to be joyful. In light of the COVID-19 situation and how this has impacted our ability to move the principal selection process forward, I am pleased to share with you the news that Mr. Estes has agreed to remain as our school principal for the 2020 – 2021 school year. I am deeply grateful to Mr. Estes and his family for this wonderful gift to our community. His ministry has been a beautiful gift for over 40 years and we feel blessed that he will continue at the helm of our school during this uncertain time and as we work to resume full school operations as soon as it is determined safe to do so.

Please join with me in expressing a great deal of gratitude to our Principal Search Committee members: Warren Roaf, Committee Chair, Father Hugh Cleary, John Ulrich, John Wright, Kathi Marcoux, Laura Nesbit, and Chrissy Morrissey. Each member of the Committee gave a great deal of thought, time, and talent to the process and we owe them a deep debt of gratitude for this. Their commitment to doing what was best for the school was evident throughout the process and for this they have my sincere admiration.

Be assured that we will reinitiate the search when the time is appropriate and will keep you apprised as this unfolds over the course of the next school year. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

A special thanks to Jeanne Gearon Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools, who provided wonderful assistance to us in the past few months.

In Christ,

Father Bob Wiseman, CSC
Pastor



Please remember the sick, including ~

Don Place, Cathy Place, Elaine Letourneau, Janet Sausville, Tina Harrington, Ray Vivaldi, A.J. Morton, Eden Jeannine Beckwith, Cindy Levitte, Christopher Rubino, Lena Reap, Dolores Pruden, Ruth Emaish, Matthew Rubino, Abigail Grace Lamar, Wilfred LaBonte, Therese Long, Gloria VanDerzee, Adrianna Dewey, Kenneth Swierad, Kathy Keenan, and this week we remember the residents of River's Edge Community Care Home.



Flocknote enables you to receive parish event information, Holy Day reminders, Mass time changes and inspirational resources via text and/or email. Flocknote is free and you may unsubscribe at any time. Please take advantage of this invitation to join today!

Visit our church at: www.flocknote.com/vermontcatholic OR

Text vermontcatholic to 84576 from your phone

Smile.....You're on CAT-TV

Below is the CAT-TV schedule of when Masses will be shown. They can be found on Channel 15.

Sunday 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday 4:30 p.m.

Friday 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 11:00 a.m.

Websites with Masses and prayer resources.

www.formed.org

<https://www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass/>

<https://campusministry.nd.edu/>

<http://www.catholicstv.org/>

<https://www.ewtn.com/>

Our Church Websites:

<https://sacredheartsaintfrancis.org/>

<https://sjtbcc-vt.org/>

Pope's Prayer to Mary for a protection during the coronavirus pandemic

O Mary,
you always shine on 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, keeping your
faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother
of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in
trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and
blessed Virgin.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe
that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though You have already come,
I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;
never permit me to be separated from You.-

*"As we walk the road of our spiritual journey,
let us not miss the opportunity to offer a smile and
a word of kindness to every person we encounter,
for we are welcoming the presence
of Christ among us."*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Msgr. John McDermott, vicar general of the Diocese of Burlington, offered this weekly message of hope to diocesan staff.

What are you most looking forward to doing when the quarantine and Stay Home-Stay Safe order is eased/lifted? For some it may be the ability to come back to the office each day to work, but I imagine for most of us it will be the ability to get together again with family and friends without the worry of maintaining a safe distance or the need to wear masks and gloves. If there is one thing that this time has taught us, as well as the rest of the state and country, we should never take the simple things for granted again. There have been far too many stories of people passing away without the comfort of family being by their side because of the coronavirus, and far too many instances of people only being able to meet via the internet or through a glass window or door.

We are by nature social beings. This is lived out in family life, community life, work life and church life. Community and social interaction allows us to live full and joy-filled lives. So, it is essential that we keep supporting one another through prayer, regular communication and gestures of fellowship especially when we can't be together physically. Let's never forget that during this Easter season, when we are celebrating Christ's victory over sin and death that, it is our faith in the risen Christ that strengthens our hope and sustains us while apart. May St. Paul's words to the Romans encourage us:

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ [Jesus] who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? ...No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

— Msgr. John McDermott, Vicar General
of the Diocese of Burlington

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



HIS Pantry
“Seeing Christ in the hungry”
Phone Number: 442-1720
hispantryshsf@gmail.com

HIS Pantry at SHSF (Facebook link)
Wednesdays 1:00 – 3:30 pm
Fridays 10:00 am – 11:30 am

HIS Pantry is a volunteer-run parish ministry which assists those in need of food in our local community. We are very grateful for the continued donations and assistance from all who are able to lend a hand!

Here are some ways you can help:

- **Groceries:** rice, spaghetti, pasta sauce, healthy cereals, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned beans, shelf stable juices, tuna, canned chicken
Please call ahead if you wish to drop off food in order to be certain that someone is here to receive it.
- **Financial support:** Cash donations, VISA or store gift cards (can bring to the parish office or place in the collection basket in an envelope marked for HIS Pantry). Note that these gift cards are used solely by pantry volunteers to purchase the above groceries as we run low. Thank you for your generosity!
- **Personal hygiene items:** deodorant, shampoo, bars of soap, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine products, hand sanitizer
- **Miscellaneous:** laundry detergent, clean plastic or reusable bags, diapers (all sizes)
- **Volunteering:** If you would like to become a volunteer at HIS Pantry, please call 802-442-1720 or email hispantryshsf@gmail.com. All new hands and hearts are welcome!

As directed by Bishop Coyne, effective Friday, March 20, all regularly scheduled public celebrations of the Catholic Mass, sacraments and devotions are suspended until further notice.

Closings & Openings for Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales and St. John the Baptist

- ♦ Parish Offices ~ Staffed, limited hours.
CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.
Call if assistance is needed. Or email: benncath@comcast.net (SHSF)
Sacred Heart St. Francis - 442-3141
St. John the Baptist - 447-7504
- ♦ Parish food pantries ~ Open for take-away only
Sacred Heart St. Francis - Wednesdays 1 - 3:30
Fridays 10:00 - 11:30 am
St. John the Baptist - Please call for times
- ♦ Parish churches ~ Closed
- ♦ Parish Religious Education ~ Closed
Some remote and online learning
- ♦ Perpetual adoration Chapels ~ Closed

**Fr. Bob and Fr. Hugh are offering daily prayers
for your well-being and safety.**

Collections

Please continue to support our parish by making offertory contributions to insure we remain financially stable during these difficult times. You may mail contributions directly to the parish at 238 Main Street.

We thank you for your generosity!

Parish Resources

Baptism - Contact Kathy Murphy at the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact Kathy Murphy in the Parish Office.

Marriage

Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact the pastor a minimum of 6 months prior to the requested date of marriage.

Care of the Sick

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the Parish Office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.