

FEBRUARY 28, 2021



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)
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
Rev. Mr. Gary Zack—Deacon

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.



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. - Mk 9:7-8

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

238 MAIN STREET, BENNINGTON, VT 05201 • 802.442.3141 • WWW.SACREDHEARTSAINTFRANCIS.ORG



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

And Liturgical Celebrations for
February 27—March 7, 2021

(Numbers next to a name indicate Anniversary of death)

Sat./Sun., Feb. 27/28 Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. † JoAnne & Dick Keough - Mary Morrissey
† Deborah Mears Stratton - Mom, Nan
7:30 a.m. † James LaCroix - The Family
9:30 a.m. † Richard Boisvert (6th)
- Wife, Noella & Children
Our Parish Family

Monday, Mar. 1 Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Tuesday, Mar. 2 Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. † Joe Anton - Michael & Peg Daly

Wednesday, Mar. 3 Saint Katharine Drexel

8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Thursday, Mar 4 Saint Casimir

8:00 a.m. † Noreen Watson - Paula Keatly

Friday, Mar. 5 Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Sat./Sun., Mar. 6/7 Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. † Edgar Lemieux - Jack & Gloria
† Helen Whitman - Mary Morrissey
Our Parish Family
7:30 a.m. † Bernadette Boutin & her children, Vickie & Tim
- He Sister, Mary
9:30 a.m. † Norbert Maroney (21st) - The Family
† Helen (6th) & Vin Wiggin - Rita & Family
† Michael E. Hogan (4th) - Sheila

**Gospel Reflection
First Sunday of Lent**

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.

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Readings for the week of February 28, 2021

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16
-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10
Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9 11 and 13 [cf.
103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23
[23b]/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/
Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/
Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-
19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-
12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9,
10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or
Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5
-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

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*The **Second Collection** this weekend is for
Home Mission & Black & Native Americans.*

*The **Second Collection** next weekend is for
our Parish School.*

We thank you for your generosity!



Faith Formation Program

"Growing In Faith Together"

For more information contact the parish office at 442-3141 or shsffaithformation@vermontcatholic.org

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



Catholic Schools
Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

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

Mr. David Estes, Principal
442-2446

Sharing the Gospel

1st Sunday of Lent • Mark 9:2-10

Peter, James, and John saw Jesus with dazzling white light shining from all parts of his clothes. They saw Moses and Elijah talking with him. Jesus asked the apostles not to tell anyone yet. They wanted to tell very much. This secret was hard for them to keep. After Jesus was raised from the dead, they told everyone they knew. Jesus can make your soul dazzling white with forgiveness. It is not a secret. You can tell everyone.

Prayer

Jesus, help me tell others about you.

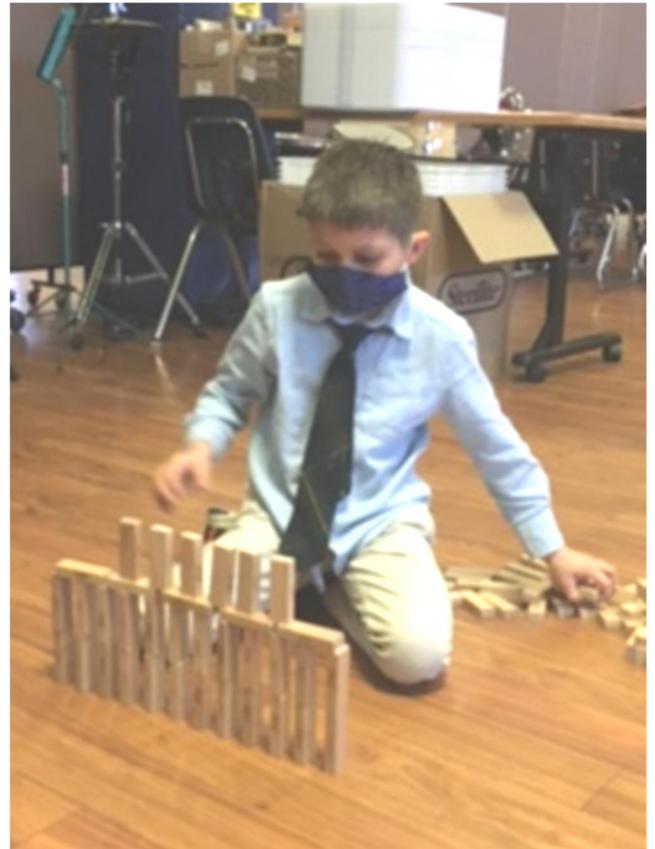
Something to Draw

Draw Jesus, Moses, and Elijah in a tent of their own.

Mission for the Week

I will tell my family and friends about God's love and forgiveness.

A Look Inside Our School.....



Second Grader, Storm White, builds a tower in the after school program.



Pray for us during this school year.

Lord, please protect us, physically, emotionally and mentally. Keep us safe and healthy; increase our strength and stamina now and in the future, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

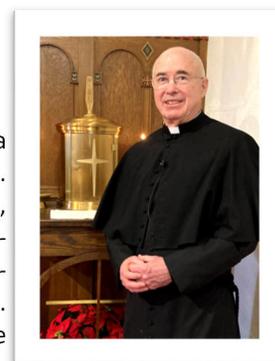


Please remember the sick, including ~

Robin Guertin, Nan Mears, Diane Roy, Dorothy Roy, Robin Tremblay, Rene Cassano, Caleb St. John, Marie Parker Mayer, Don Place, Cathy Place, Elaine Letourneau, Janet Sausville, Tina Harrington, A.J. Morton, Eden Jeannine Beckwith, Cindy Levitte, Christopher Rubino, Lena Reap, Dolores Pruden, Ruth Emaish, Matthew Rubino,, Wilfred LaBonte, Gloria VanDerzee, Adrianna Dewey, Kenneth Swierad, Kathy Keenan, and this week we remember the residents of the Centers for Living and Rehabilitation.

**Fr. Hugh's
Lenten Mission
March 1, 2 & 3**

Father Hugh will be offering a Lenten Mission at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church on March 1, 2, and 3 at 7pm. This event will be in-person at SHSF church in collaboration with Fr. John Britto's parish, St. John's in Viera, Florida. It will also be live-streamed.



This Lenten Mission extends over three evening reflections illuminating Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter "Miracles of Life." On Ash Wednesday we literally grounded ourselves in the realities of our creation. The breath of God promised us miracles beyond nature. Bread and wine become the living presence of Christ Himself; pain and suffering become instruments of redemption; death no longer has the last word. The Sacred Triduum are miracles of abundant, everlasting life.

Join us for one night or all three, in-person, or live streamed. The live video will be posted everyday to the website <https://www.stjohnviera.org/> right on the home page. You will need to scroll down just a little to find the link.

Editor's note: As this technology is new to many of us, if you want to be 100% guaranteed to hear and see Fr. Hugh, we highly recommend coming to the church.



**Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church
2021 Lenten Schedule**

Lenten Mission with Father Hugh

March 1 thru 3, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at SHSF in the church. You can participate live or remotely, link will be provided.

Light Shines in the Darkness Parish Retreat

March 11 Deacon Phil Lawson and Bill Gavin are offering us a live event here at SHSF in the church from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. An opportunity for Reconciliation will be offered.

Lenten Program**

Mondays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (March 15 & 22)

***Wild Goose continuation via Zoom; registration information provided through Flocknote*

Daily Mass

Monday through Friday: Mass at 8:00 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

- ◆ Monday through Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass (self-guided).
- ◆ Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in the church. Our Faith Formation teachers will lead.

Family Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Looking Ahead: A Special Holy Week Service

On Tuesday, March 30, at 7:00 p.m., you are warmly invited to gather in the church for a special service titled, "Lord, Let Me Walk That Lonely Road With You: A Service of Scripture and Song for Holy Week." Old and New Testament readings, a splendid array of musical selections for voice and piano (many of which you haven't heard before), and powerful images of Christ's Passion and Death will be presented. Social distancing and face masks required. Maximum capacity is 120. The service will be streamed live on the parish website. For more information, contact the Office of Music Ministry at (802) 442-3141 (Ext.5).



**Votive Candles
February 2021 Intentions**

† Perpetual for Frances Bender

† Theresa & Bob Long, Sr.

requested by the Dale Long family

NEWS FROM The Inland See

February 27–March 5, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

For Lent, ask if one's life is centered on God or oneself, pope says

Lent is a time to reconsider the path one is taking in life and to finally answer God's invitation to return to him with one's whole heart, Pope Francis said.

"Lent is not just about the little sacrifices we make, but about discerning where our hearts are directed," he said, "toward God or toward myself?"

The pope's remarks came in his homily at Mass Feb. 17 for Ash Wednesday. In his homily, the pope said one must bow to receive ashes sprinkled on the crown of the head, which reflects the "humble descent" one makes in reflecting on one's life, sins and relationship with God.

"Lent is a journey of return to God," especially when most people live each day ignoring or delaying their response to God's invitation to pray and do something for others.

"It is a time to reconsider the path we are taking, to find the route that leads us home and to rediscover our profound relationship with God, on whom everything depends," he said.

"The journey of Lent is an exodus from slavery to freedom," he said, noting the easy temptations along that journey, including yearning for the past, or hindered by "unhealthy attachments, held back by the seductive snares of our sins, by the false security of money and appearances, by the paralysis of our discontents. To embark on this journey, we have to unmask these illusions."

The way back to God, he said, starts with understanding, like the prodigal son, how "we have ended up with empty



Pope Francis elevates the Eucharist as he celebrates Ash Wednesday Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 17, 2021. — CNS/Guglielmo Mangiapane, Reuters photo

POPE FRANCIS'S FASTING SUGGESTIONS

Do you want to fast this lent?

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

hands and an unhappy heart" after squandering God's gifts "on paltry things, and then with seeking God's forgiveness through confession.

The pope again reminded confessors that they must be like the father in the story of the prodigal son and not use "a whip," but open their arms in a welcoming embrace.

"The journey is not based on our own strength. Heartfelt conversion, with the deeds and practices that express it, is possible only if it begins with the primacy of God's work" and through his grace, the pope said.

What makes people just is not the righteousness they show off to others, "but our sincere relationship with the Father," after finally recognizing one is not self-sufficient, but in great need of him, his mercy and grace.

The pope asked people to contemplate daily the crucified Christ and see in his wounds, "our emptiness, our shortcomings, the wounds of our sin and all the hurt we have experienced."

"We see clearly that God points his finger at no one, but rather opens his arms to embrace us," he said.

It is in life's most painful wounds, that God awaits with his infinite mercy because it is there "where we are most vulnerable, where we feel the most shame" and where he comes to meet his children again.

"And now," the pope said, "he invites us to return to him, to rediscover the joy of being loved."

— Carol Glatz, *Catholic News Service*

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the pantry food distribution is now being done outside, under tents in the parking lot. Now, more than ever, we need your support to help those struggling with food insecurities in our area. Here are some ways you can help:

Volunteering: We are in need of a few more volunteers during this difficult pandemic period. Here are some of the areas where we especially need help:

- * Outdoor setup & guest assistance: Wednesday afternoons and/or Friday mornings
- * Indoor stocking, food prep & packaging
- * People that can pick up donations from local stores

If you would like to become a volunteer at HIS Pantry or give us an additional hand in one of the areas listed above, please email hispantryshsf@gmail.com or call 802-823-0195.

Donations:

- * Shelf stable food and personal hygiene items are always welcome
- * 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 needed foods as we run low. Thank you for your generosity!

COVID Vaccine Assistance

As you may have heard the state has begun scheduling COVID vaccine appointments for those **age 70 and older**.

It is advised to schedule on line due to high demand, but you will also be able to call. We are reaching out to see if there are people who may need assistance scheduling their appointment.

If you know of someone who needs assistance in scheduling a COVID vaccination, please contact parishioner Janis Yannotti during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. by calling her cell phone 802-384-0316. If you don't get her directly, please leave a voicemail with your name, number and good time to reach you.



AARP Tax Aide Service

Each year at income tax time, AARP offers free tax preparation. Although special emphasis is on low and middle incomes and older taxpayers, there is no income level or age limit. There are, however, some limits on complexity. This year the Bennington area site is:

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Parish Center –

By appointment only – Call 447-1546

Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 am to Noon

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00-4:00 pm

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.

Parish Office

At this time the office continues to be closed on Wednesday afternoons until further notice.