

NOVEMBER 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

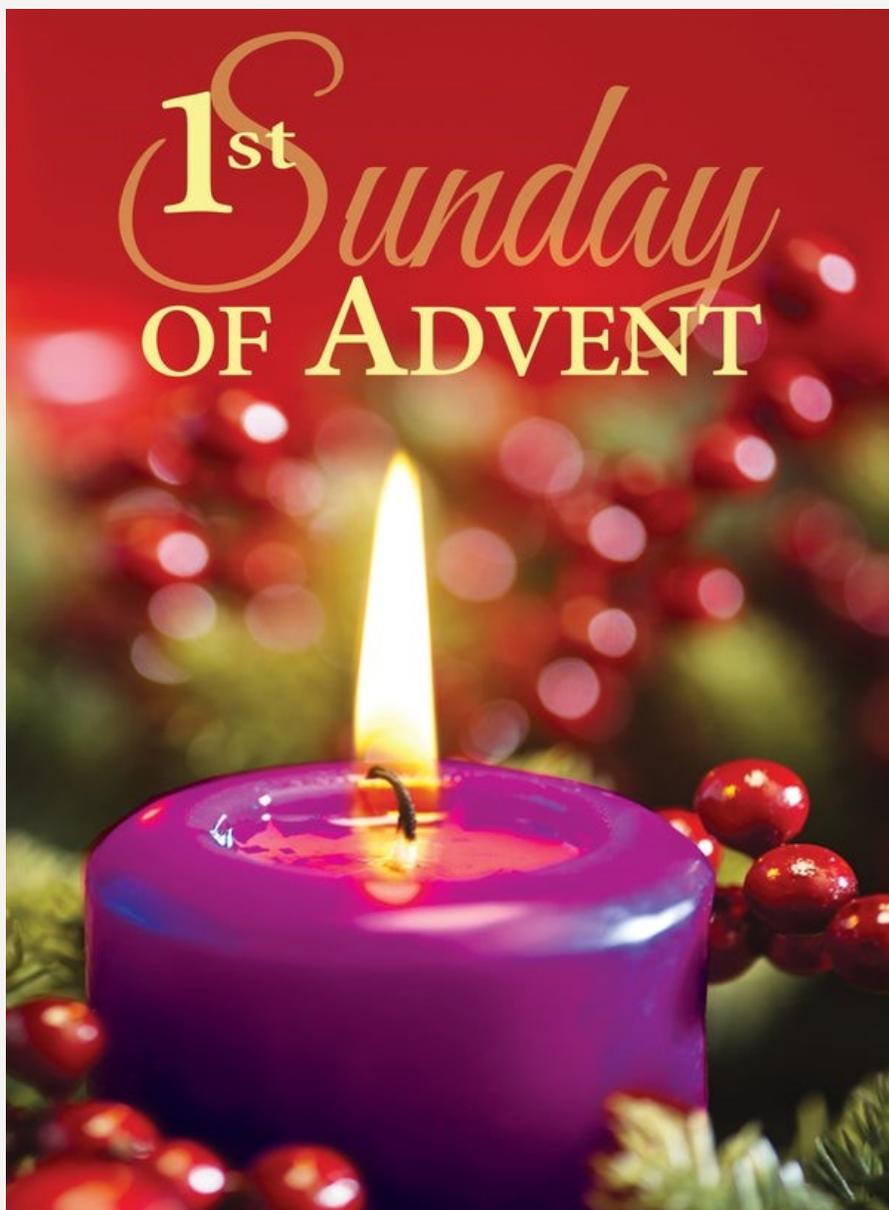
Reconciliation
Saturday 3:00-3:30 PM or by appointment



CONGREGATION OF
HOLY CROSS
EDUCATION • PARISH • MISSION

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.



1st Sunday OF ADVENT

PARISH CENTER MAIN OFFICE HOURS

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

SACRED HEART ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Mass Intentions for the Week

And Liturgical Celebrations for
November 27 - December 5, 2021

(Numbers next to a name indicate Anniversary of death)

Sat./Sun., Nov. 27/28 First Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. † Stephen Vaczi - The Family
† Eunice Jordan - Henry Maynard
7:30 a.m. † Priscilla Salem - Rose Santarcangelo
† Helen McKenna - Mary Brochu, sister
9:30 a.m. Our Parish Family

Monday, Nov. 29 Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Tuesday, Nov. 30 Saint Andrew

8:00 a.m. † Helen McKenna - Marie Ray, Jane & Rita

Wednesday, Dec. 1 Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. † John Brochu (3rd) - Mary Brochu
† Aime LaCroix & Joseph Dailey Families - Martha
Dailey

Thursday, Dec. 2 Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Friday, Dec. 3 Saint Francis Xavier

8:00 a.m. † Bert Trudeau (19th) - Vicky

Sat./Sun., Dec. 4/5 Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 p.m. † Priscilla Salem - The Keenan Family
† Gerald Amadon - The Lindsey Family
† Henry Maynard - Tom Maynard
7:30 a.m. † Priscilla Salem - George & Rosita Sleeman
9:30 a.m. † Sophie Anne Stehle - Her Daughters

Gospel Reflection

Encouraging a deeper understanding of scripture.

November 28, 2021

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love. ©LPI

*"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."*

"People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." — Lk 21:26-28

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

Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

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Faith Formation Program

"Growing In Faith Together"

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

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



The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales 307 School Street Bennington, VT 05201 Mrs. Tiffany McKenna, Principal 802-442-2446

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.

Volunteers Needed!



Our school is in desperate need of some extra hands to make light work.

- ◆ Arrival Crossing Guard (7:50-8:15 a.m.)
◆ Lunch Helpers (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mon & Fri)
◆ Parking Lot Snow Removal

Please reach out to tiffany.mckenna@sacredheartbennington.org OR marcia.hendery@sacredheartbennington.org



Save the Date!

Sacred Heart St. Francis and St. John the Baptist Christmas Pageant!

Calling all 1st graders and up! All talents, abilities, and interests!

- What we need: Singers, readers, actors, musicians, and stage hands
Performance Date: Sunday, December 19
Rehearsal Dates: December 10 & 17; 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., December 18 TBD

Keep an eye out for registration coming soon! Contact Jessica O'Connell with any questions: jessicaconnell86@gmail.com

Kids' Corner ~ Sharing the Gospel

When you are baptized, God gives you grace to help obey his commandments. These graces are like a pair of shoes with lights on them. They light the way to follow the example of Jesus. You will share your toys. You will take out the trash. You will take good care of your baby sister. The graces of baptism help you to love God above all else. Then God will welcome you into heaven.



Prayer: Lord, send me graces so I love you above everything.

Something to Draw: Draw yourself walking down God's path with the light of baptism on your shoes.

Mission for the Week: I will pray every morning that my family sees and stays on God's path.



The Many Symbols of the Advent Wreath

First of all, and most important, is the symbolism of light. It should be pointed out that at Christmas this changes, and the days begin to get longer and the nights shorter. The progressive lighting of candles symbolizes the coming of the spiritual light of Christ into the world. The wreath is circular and this is a symbol of the eternity of God, who, like a circle, has no beginning nor an end. The candles placed on the wreath remind us that in Jesus' birth at Bethlehem, He who was eternal, the Son of God, entered into our world of time and change. Each candle on the wreath stands for a Sunday (and its following week) of the Advent season. Candles 1, 2, and 4 are purple. In the ancient world purple dye was very expensive and could only be afforded by kings. The purple candles tell us that the one whose birth we are preparing to celebrate is our true King. The rose candle (3rd Sunday) tells us that Advent is half over and Christmas is getting nearer and nearer. Its lighter color is a symbolic anticipation of our joy when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

First Candle ~ Color: Purple ~ Theme: Hope
First Sunday in Advent ~ Light one purple candle
Read Isaiah 60:2-3

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. We who have sat in darkness have seen a great light, the light of Jesus Christ, our salvation. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



Please remember the sick, including ~

Jim Derby, Sally Letourneau, Joan Douglass, Mark Fortun, Yvonne LaFlamme, Kay Krawczyk, Pauline Restino, Adelaide Talbot, Nolin Danforth, Donna Peters, Kyle Dame, Rose Santarcangelo, Charlie Buckley, Frank Babcock, Tami Greene, Robin Guertin, Nan Mears, Diane Roy, Dorothy Roy, Rene Cassano, Caleb St. John, Elaine Letourneau, Janet Sausville, Christopher Rubino, Ruth Emaish, Matthew Rubino, Gloria VanDerzee, Adrianna Dewey, Kenneth Swierad, Kathy Keenan, and this week we remember the residents of Walloomsac Apartments.



On Sunday, **December 12**, we will have our annual deanery-wide Advent Penance Service at 3:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church. Come join us for this beautiful service of the Word and song to prepare for Christmas – and experience Christ’s Peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



**Adoration Fridays in the chapel
from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

Sign-up sheets for one hour shifts are in the chapel.

Mass Intentions for 2022

We are now taking Mass Intentions and Votive Candle requests for 2022. Requests can be made in person during parish office hours, by mail, email (benncath@comcast.net), or in a separate envelope and placed in the offertory basket. Please be sure to include:

- ◆ who the Mass is for
- ◆ who the Mass is from
- ◆ the date and time requested
- ◆ your phone number
- ◆ your mailing address

You will be notified when your Mass(es) have been scheduled. The stipend remains at \$10.00 per Mass.

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading: The prophet Jeremiah speaks of God’s promise to fulfill the covenant made with King David, four hundred years earlier in 1000 B.C. As we enter into the season of Advent, how might you show your fidelity to God?

Second Reading: Paul’s prayer for the believers in Thessalonica is to abound in love and strength for one another in preparation for the return of Christ. How do you think communities of faith can support each other during the Advent season?

Gospel: In Jesus teaching the disciples about the coming end times and judgement day, he warns them not to be too distracted by the stresses and anxieties of daily life. How do you keep focused on your spiritual life amongst the many daily challenges we face?

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FORMED gives you access to the best Catholic content on any device, including your computer, smartphone and tablet with internet access. Go to FORMED.org and use parish code JHGX4D.

Pick of the Week for November 28:

Listen: *Prepare the Way of the King* by Dr. Scott Hahn
Your Advent journey will take on new meaning with Dr. Scott Hahn's illuminating presentation on the greatest gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ.

Learn: *Advent*
This Advent prepare your heart through this exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus Christ.



**Votive Candles
November 2021 Intentions**

- † Perpetual for Frances Bender
- † Kelly Smith Wright & Gavin Smith
requested by the Family
- † Theresa & Bob Long, Sr.
requested by the Dale Long family
- † Constance, Edward, Bernard , & Richard Kuhn
requested by Ann & Jeff and Family
- † Lollie, Arthur, & John Hogan
requested by the Family

NEWS FROM The Inland See

November 27 – December 3, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



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. Similar to our recent diocesan synod, all Catholics in Vermont will be invited to participate in parish listening sessions, diocesan listening sessions and digital surveys.”

— Bishop Christopher Coyne



What is the Synod of Bishops?

A helpful short definition of the Synod of Bishops is a gathering of bishops that:

1. fosters closer unity between the bishops and the Pope.
2. provides counsel to the Pope on matters of faith and morals, and discipline of the Church.
3. studies questions concerning the Church in the world (c.f. Code of Canon Law c. 342).

Voting in the Synod of Bishops is limited to bishops present at the synod gathering. However, clergy, men and women religious, theologians, catechists, canon lawyers, and lay experts all participate in the synod gathering with bishops by providing their counsel.

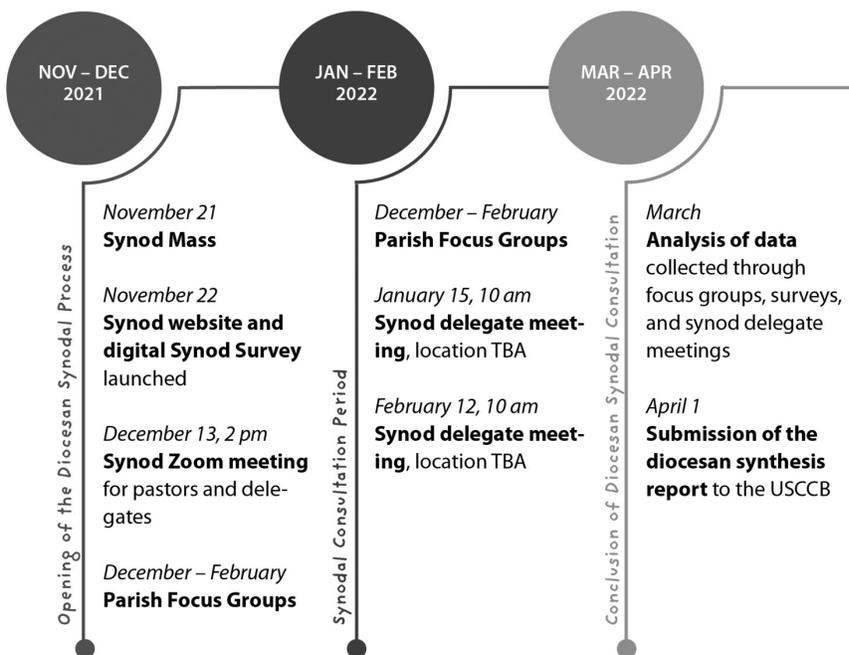
What is Synodal Process?

The synodal process or synodality is not simply a gathering or meeting of bishops, nor is it a process of the administrative arm of the Church. Rather, synodality is the path and process of the Church as communion. It is the communion of all the baptized who are listening to each other, dialoguing with each other, and praying together to hear the voice of Holy Spirit as we all seek holiness and proclaim the Gospel. Synodality involves clergy, religious and laity listening and speaking, praying, and discerning together, and placing the hopes and concerns of the People of God at the foot of the bishops, who, united with the Pope, decide matters of faith and morals to preserve the faith and strengthen the Church throughout the world.

What is different about this Synod?

This Synod is unique because the Holy Father is asking that the entire Church participate in this Synod. The faithful, clergy and religious are invited to pray, listen, and talk together with the bishops before the 2023 gathering of Bishops in Rome. In our Diocese, we will pray, listen, and talk with one another through parish listening sessions, diocesan listening sessions and digital surveys.

Synod Timeline



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 p.m.

Fridays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

HIS Pantry is a volunteer-run parish ministry which assists those in need of food in our local community.

If you would like to become a volunteer at HIS Pantry please email hispantryshsf@gmail.com or call 802-823-0195.

Donations:

For those of you who would like to donate items to the pantry, we have a continued need for the following items, which the Foodbank usually does not supply:

- ◆ Peanut butter
- ◆ Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- ◆ Shampoo

Due to increased concern over the delta variant, we will be continuing to operate outside on Wednesdays and Fridays for the next few months.

We can not accept any more of the following donations: used shoes, adult diapers, books and miscellaneous household items. We are overflowing and have little space left! As the weather begins to turn cooler we are accepting warm winter coats and blankets.



Christmas Gifts for Children in Need

Green Mountain Christian Center is sponsoring "A Green Mountain Christmas". If you would like to provide a toy for a child in need (ages infant to 10 years old), you are welcome to purchase one and **drop it off at Sacred Heart St. Francis in the large box to the parking lot side of the altar or to the office in the parish center** between now and **November 28**. Gifts can be of any value and should be left **unwrapped**. We will ensure that the gifts are delivered to the center. (No clothing or stuffed animals, please.)

*The **Second Collection** this weekend is for Christmas Flowers.*

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

We thank you for your generosity!



Advent Appeal - 2021

Please join Vermont Catholic Charities in supporting the Annual Advent Appeal. The "Season of Giving" has no bounds for people in need. Whatever the season, it is a daily struggle for many Vermonters to maintain housing, stay warm or feed their families. With your help, we can make a difference in lives of those living on the edge.

Help people like Brendan and Kelly keep the heat on. They live in rural Vermont getting by on a small pension. Due to unexpected medical expenses, they fell behind on their heating bill. Vermont Catholic Charities helped them avoid the disconnection of utilities so they could stay safe and warm. They said, "Thank you. We are relieved and so grateful for this support."

Whether your gift is \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, your gift will make a difference in the life of a needy family. To donate, please mail a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 or give online at www.vermontcatholic.org/adventappeal.

Thank You!

- Thanks for the gift of \$9,238.58 to support Haiti's rebuilding efforts. The generosity of both parishes makes it possible for Holy Cross to care and support those most impacted by devastating disasters. Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters have served Haiti since the 1940s.

~ Father Thomas Eckert, C.S.C.

Director of Holy Cross Mission Center, Notre Dame, IN

- Thank you for your generosity in last week's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, one in six people lives in poverty, and one out of every five children. With this collection, you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect will remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.