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.

EUCHARISTIC 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

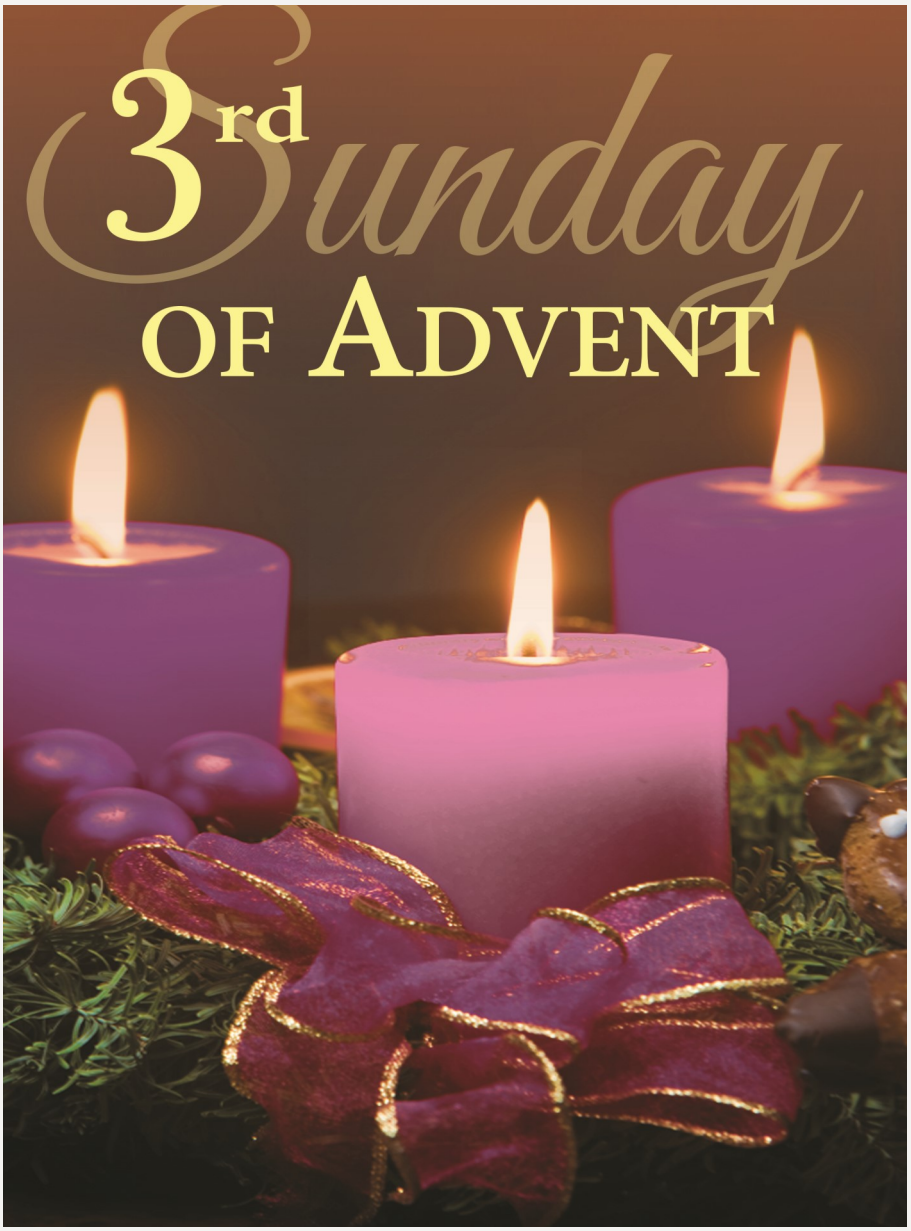
Last Sunday (only)
Mass: 6:00 PM

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.



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

And Liturgical Celebrations for
December 11 - December 19, 2021
(Numbers next to a name indicate Anniversary of death)

Sat./Sun., Dec. 11/12 Third Sunday of Advent
4:00 p.m. † Mary & Jerry Morin, Sr. - Daughter, Marie Ray
† Catherine Steele - Sister, Elizabeth Green
† Gerald Amadon - Marie Ray
7:30 a.m. † Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus, Council #307
9:30 a.m. † John & Shirley Lapean - Anthony & Cindy Lapean

Monday, Dec. 13 Saint Lucy
8:00 a.m. † Albina Boulet Guilmette - Doris & Ron Alderman

Tuesday, Dec. 14 Saint John of the Cross
8:00 a.m. † Bea Alderman - The Family

Wednesday, Dec. 15 Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. † George Maroney (7th) - The Family
† Mario Bolognani - Vicky & Family

Thursday, Dec. 16 Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. † Helen McKenna - Alberta Harrington & Dawn Mack

Friday, Dec. 17 Late Advent Weekday
8:00 a.m. In thanksgiving for all who attended Daniel Murphy's funeral Mass - Joan Murphy

Sat./Sun., Dec. 18/19 Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:00 p.m. † Charles Ray - Marie & Family
† Francis & Doris Tomasi - Mary Jane Liporace
For any woman (living or deceased) of the parish who has been a member of the Ladies of Ste. Anne - Marie Ray
7:30 a.m. † Richard Kuhn - The Family
† Priscilla Salem - The Murphy Family
9:30 a.m. † Jim Stewart (13th) - His wife Sharon & Family

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Saturday:	Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Next Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

©LPi

Gospel Reflection

Encouraging a deeper understanding of scripture.

December 12, 2021

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" ~ St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina) *©LPi*

Sunday Summary

Zephaniah 3:14-18a The time for joy is here, because God is in our midst with power to save.

Psalm 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 Sing with joy and gladness, for in the presence of the Holy One, we have nothing to fear.

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice always, and have no anxiety, for the Lord is near.

Luke 3:10-18 What should we do? Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

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

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.

Save the Date!

Sacred Heart St. Francis & St. John the Baptist

Christmas Pageant!

December 19 - 3:00 p.m.

All are invited to attend
and the event will be livestreamed
on the SHSF Parish Website

Featuring the talented youth of our parishes!
(ages six and up)

Participants: Singers, readers, actors, musicians, and stage hands
Performance Date: Sunday, December 19, 3:00 p.m.
Rehearsal Dates: December 17, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
December 18, TBD

Please email Jessica O'Connell
if you would like to participate or have any questions:
jessicaoconnell86@gmail.com

Participants will be socially distanced.

We Remember the Meaning of Advent

Third Candle ~ Color: Pink ~ Theme: Joy
Third Sunday of Advent ~ Light two purple and one pink candle
Read Isaiah 35:10

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who brings us great joy. We who have walked in the shadow of the valley of death have found life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 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.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Saint of the Week — Examples of Our Faith
St. Lucy | Feast Day December 13

A name that means "light," St. Lucy (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the "bearer" of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung. ©LPi

Kids' Corner ~ Sharing the Gospel

How can you show you love God? Instead of keeping all of your clothes and food, share some with people who don't have any. Be happy and thankful for all God has given you. When you love God more than money, you'll be happy to share.

Prayer: Dear God, help me to share happily with others.

Something to Draw: Draw a picture of yourself sharing a snack with a classmate who has none.

Mission for the Week: The next time you go grocery shopping with your parents, ask if you can pick out some foods to share with the poor. As a family, talk about how thankful you are for the many ways God takes care of you. *©LPi*
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Please remember the sick, including ~

Thomas Gauthier, Jim Derby, Sally Letourneau, Joan Douglass, Mark Fortun, 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 Van Derzee, Adrianna Dewey, Kenneth Swierad, Kathy Keenan, and this week we remember the residents of Bennington Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Votive Candles
December 2021 Intentions

† Perpetual for Frances Bender

† Beatrice Alderman
requested by Ron & Doris Alderman

† Clifford E. Abbott (11th anniversary)
requested by the Family

† Theresa & Bob Long, Sr.
requested by the Dale Long Family

† Lawrence Tiernan Family:
Dad, Mom, Brother (David), Sister (Cindy)
requested by Noreen & Mary

† Priscilla Salem
requested by the Drew Family

† Mark Lindsey
requested by the Family

† Charles Ray
requested by Marie & Family

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.

Join us for a Zoom Adult Enrichment on

Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life

by Donald McNeill, Douglas Morrison & Henri Nouwen

Dates & Times are as follows:
(Please read following pages before each.)

Jan 10, 2022 10:30 AM - 12 Noon Read pp 1-43

Jan 24, 2022 10:30 AM - 12 Noon Read pp 47-84

Jan 31, 2022 10:30 AM - 12 Noon Read pp 87-127

Feb 7, 2022 10:30 AM - 12 Noon Read pp 129-137

Please register through the Zoom registration link:
https://tinyurl.com/fwk2vh44

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Consider attending as many sessions as you can.

Books will be available at The Bennington Bookshop at the discounted price of $12.80. If all of these are sold, additional participants can order them for $16.

For more information, contact facilitator Wilma Ann Johnson at johnsonwa7@msn.com or 802-681-7290

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.

"The Eucharist, in the Mass and outside of the Mass, is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, and is therefore deserving of the worship that is given to the living God, and to him alone."

– Pope John Paul II

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.

NEWS FROM
The Inland See
December 11–17, 2021
FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

What is Prop 5?

Join webinar to learn more.

Tuesday, December 14
7:00 pm

Register at:
vermontcatholic.org/event/prop-5-webinar

Please join Burlington Bishop Christophe Coyne, Mary Hahn Beerworth and Deacon Pete Gummere for an important webinar explaining Proposal 5 on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m.

Bishop Coyne will offer the opening prayer and remarks.

Mary Beerworth, executive director of the Vermont Right to Life Committee, will present on Proposal 5 and what it means for Vermonters.

Deacon Gummere, a bioethicist and diocesan director of the permanent diaconate, will present on ethical issues, including respect for the human person.

What is Proposal 5?

Sec 2. Article 22 of Chapter 1 of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

> **Article 22. [Personal reproductive liberty.]**
> *That an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.*

Why a webinar and why should you be concerned?

Vermont already has in place a law guaranteeing a woman's right to abortion, all the way through birth. Act 47, an act relating to preserving the right to abortion, was passed in 2019 by Vermont legislators. It was signed into law by Gov. Phil Scott on June 10, 2019.

Regardless of what happens to Roe v. Wade, women in Vermont will continue to have the right to seek an abortion, up to and including during labor. This current proposal would take this a step further. It would enshrine a right to abortion, and potentially other reproductive rights, into the state constitution. It is unclear what "personal reproductive autonomy" will mean in the future.

The language of Prop. 5 is deliberately vague, meaning that there could be unintended consequences. Even proponents of Prop. 5 have admitted that the full impact of this amendment will not be seen until it is clarified through the courts.

Please join the webinar. Get the facts. Get involved. Most of all, pray.

Go to vermontcatholic.org for more info or register at vermontcatholic.org/event/prop-5-webinar.

This webinar will be recorded. Registrants will receive an email with the recording.

— Phyllis Harkonen is the respect life coordinator for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

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.

CHRIST OUR Hope
BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH

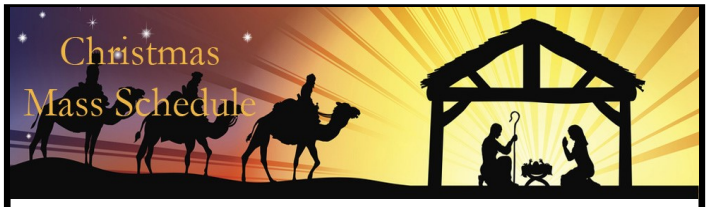
Capital Campaign

As we wrap up the Christ Our Hope campaign this month, 80% (instead of 60%) of new pledges and gifts made in December will go directly back to parishes to support our goals and 20% will be split evenly between faith formation and emergency aid. The primary goal of the campaign has always been building vibrant parishes and this additional 20% boost will help many of us reach at least one of our goals. Thank you to those who have given to the Christ Our Hope Campaign. Please consider a gift if you have not yet done so. To make an online gift visit: https://www.christourhopevt.org/donate

*The **Second Collection** this weekend is for the maintenance of our church.*

*The **Second Collection** next weekend is for the Religious Retirement Fund.*

We thank you for your generosity!



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24
4:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.
12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25
9:00 a.m.

Music for the Christmas Masses will be led by the angelic voices of our talented parish cantors, along with our magnificent pipe organ and chimes. Traditional carols with participation of the congregation will be sung beforehand.

St. John the Baptist ~ North Bennington

Christmas Eve - Friday, December 24
4:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Saturday, December 25
10:00 a.m.

Live the Liturgy - Inspiration for the Week

Shout for joy! When was the last time you ever felt like doing that? Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of joy. We can never predict what life will bring. As unsettling as that can often seem, life's unpredictability is also the very thing that allows it to be exciting and adventuresome! We know that life can be difficult, and it is unrealistic to expect it to be otherwise. God never promised an easy road. But, when a person truly falls in love with God and discovers the peacefulness and assurance of God's presence, then a depth of understanding will be brought to everything they do and experience. Nothing will be able to rob them of joy! When we realize that God, the King of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We celebrate the beauty and wonder of God's gift of joy today as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. There is a power and presence within us, our God, who has made us, who loves us and who will keep us. What more do we need? Rejoice!

"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."