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

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
February 19 — February 27, 2022
(Numbers next to a name indicate Anniversary of death)

Sat./Sun., Feb. 19/20 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 p.m. † Phil O'Neill - The Family
† Rose-Marie Santarcangelo - Martha & Ed Hojnowski
† Dodie Fraher Ruland
7:30 a.m. † Ralph Gustavson - The Family
9:30 a.m. Our Parish Family

Monday, Feb. 21 Saint Peter Damian
8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Tuesday, Feb. 22 The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle
8:00 a.m. † Rose Santarcangelo - Anthony & Elisabeth Tomasi

Wednesday, Feb. 23 Saint Polycarp
8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Thursday, Feb. 24 Weekday
8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Friday, Feb. 25 Weekday
8:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Sat./Sun., Feb. 26/27 Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 p.m. † Marie Maynard - Henry Maynard
7:30 a.m. † James LaCroix - The Family
† Leon & Beatrice Boutin - Daughter, Mary
9:30 a.m. † Scott Coulter - The Holy Family Prayer Group
† Mike Rinaldo - Carolyn & Gerry McMurray
(Living) For the health of Mark Fortun - Don McMahon

"But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." - Lk 6:35-36

Readings for the week of February 20, 2022

Sunday:	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38
Monday:	Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19
Wednesday:	Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11/Mk 9:38-40
Thursday:	Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/Mk 9:41-50
Friday:	Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12
Saturday:	Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16
Next Sunday:	Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

©LPi

Gospel Reflection

Encouraging a deeper understanding of scripture.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sometimes, Jesus' teachings don't seem to make practical sense. When we hear things like love your enemies and do good to them, turn the other cheek when struck, give to anyone who asks, do to others as you would have them do to you, be merciful, stop judging, forgive, and give to others, we get a bit unsettled. After all, it's okay for God to do all of these things, but does He really want us to do them, too? Many good-hearted Christians really draw the line with some of these ideals and say, "No way!" They even remark that if someone did something hurtful to someone they loved, they would have no reservations seeking severe retribution. There is still this persistent thinking, even among those who consider themselves Christian, that a violent action deserves a violent response. Somehow, we continue to justify this.

Yet, it is most clearly against the very grain of the Gospel. Part of our difficulty has more to do with understanding God's love. We wrongly think that sinful or hurtful actions and evil people somehow are seen as lesser in God's eyes. They are not. God loves the sinner as much as He does the saint. And, both of these inclinations exist in every human being, even those who consider themselves holy. Both the capacity for good and the disposition toward evil exist in every one of us. Viktor Frankl has this to say when reflecting on the Holocaust: "Our generation is a realistic generation because we have learned what a human being really is. When all is said and done, man is that same creature who invented the gas-chambers of Auschwitz; but he is also that being who walked upright into those chambers with the prayer 'Shema Yisrael' on his lips."

If we believe in God, we have to act like God. Whether we like that idea is another issue. If we don't then perhaps, we need to reconsider our faith and whether we really believe in Jesus Christ. We are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian must, at all costs, leave resentment and the need for retaliation behind, lose defensiveness and bring into the mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world. *©LPi*

Sunday Summary

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 Though David has the perfect opportunity, he will not kill his opponent once favored by God.

Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 God's compassion is boundless, well beyond what we deserve.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 Paul draws a distinction between the natural and the spiritual within all of us.

Luke 6:27-38 Jesus breaks open "do to others as you would have done to you" into its practical aspects.

"Have patience with all things, but, first of all with yourself."
~ St. Francis de Sales

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.

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

Sunday, March 13
6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Church

Join us on Sunday, March 13 for a Youth Group Game Night at St. John the Baptist Church in North Bennington.

All youth, grades 8th — 12th, are welcome. Come for fun, food, fellowship, board games, ping pong, air hockey, and more!! Hope to see you there!

FORMED® THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

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 February 20:

Watch: *The Spirit and the Desert*
Sometimes we might feel like we're stuck in spiritual deserts. In this episode of The Wild Goose, Fr. Dave Pivonka shares how the Holy Spirit is present even in these times of desolation.

Listen: *Love, Sacrifice, Trust: He Showed Us the Way*
In this talk, Fr. Mike Schmitz shares with us the need to pick up our crosses and embrace Christ in our own suffering. He reminds us that love often means sacrifice!

Faith Formation Updates...

Do you know anyone who is interested in the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist or Confirmation, or simply a child who wants to learn more about the Catholic Faith? **If so, please contact Kathy Murphy or Mary Drew at (802) 442-3141.**

Faith Formation dates for CGS and Grades 1 - 5
SHSF Church
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

- **April 17** - No Class - Happy Easter!
- **May 7** - **8** - Retreat, Reconciliation and First Eucharist
- **May 8** - No Class, but retreat for those receiving First Eucharist
- **May 22** - Last Class - Pentecost celebration

Save the Date for Confirmation
Saturday, April 30 at 11:00 a.m.
at Christ our Savior Church, Manchester, VT

Totus Tuus ~ Catholic Summer Camp

Save the Date

Grades 1 – 8: **June 20—24**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

High School: **June 19—23**, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Join us for a week of faith and fun! Totus Tuus is a high-energy dose of faith building led by four college-age young adults. Totus Tuus is Latin for "Totally Yours" and is a Catholic youth program dedicated to promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, evangelization, and Eucharistic worship. The goal of Totus Tuus is to help young people grow in their understanding of, and strengthen their faith in, Jesus Christ. The program strives to bring our faith to life.

For more information, please email: shsftotustuus@gmail.com.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Please remember the sick, including ~

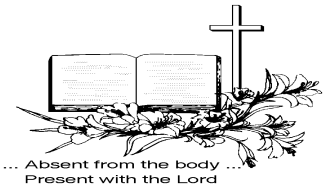
Barbara Marino, Dottie DePollo, Donna Savoia, Jean Thomson, Jim Derby, Joan Douglass, Mark Fortun, Kay Krawczyk, Pauline Restino, Adelaide Talbot, Donna Peters, Kyle Dame, Charlie Buckley, Frank Babcock, Tami Greene, Robin Guertin, Nan Mears, Diane Roy, Dorothy Roy, Rene Cassano, Caleb St. John, Elaine Letourneau, Janet Sausville, Christopher Rubino, Ruth Emaish, Matthew Rubino, Gloria Van Derzee, Kenneth Swierad, Kathy Keenan, and this week we remember the patients of Southwestern Vermont Medical Center.

Votive Candles
February 2022 Intentions

† Perpetual for Frances Bender

† Theresa & Bob Long, Sr.
requested by their Children & Families

† Lollie Hogan
requested by her Family



Donna M. Peters

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

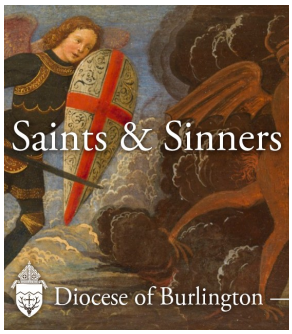
Occasionally we need a reminder about how important it is to spend some time in the presence of the Holy Sacrament. Jesus is in the Holy Eucharistic flesh and blood. This is the perfect time to bring to Him all our concerns and difficulties. His will is always for our best interests.

Hoping you will have some time to share. He loves you and wants to spend Eternity with each of us.

Come and Rest in the Lord

Find Solace in Christ's Redeeming Love through Scripture and Song in the Tradition of Taize

Tuesday evenings throughout Lent
March 8 through April 5
5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Diocese of Burlington Online Ministry February 22

Join Fr. Robert Murphy reflect on the life of **St. Therese of Lisieux** Tuesday, **February 22** from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Saints and Sinners is a Diocese of Burlington online Ministry.

Learn more about how a particular saint has influenced the life of our guest speaker. There will be time for prayer, and small group and large group discussion with our special guests. Join one or all!

Please register by going to vermontcatholic.org/events/saints-and-sinners-5/2022-02-22/. A link will be sent to you upon registration.

Men's Conference March 19

The Diocese will hold their annual **Men's Conference** on **Saturday, March 19** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels in Randolph. The theme this year is **Band of Brothers**. For more information or to register, please go to vermontcatholic.org/men. The deadline to register is March 4.

Women's Retreat April 2

The Diocese will hold a second **Women's Retreat** on **Saturday, April 2** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at Our Lady of Angels in Randolph. This will be the same retreat that was held in November, but for those who were not able to attend (especially those closer to the southern part of the state). For more information, please go to vermontcatholic.org/event/womens-retreat-2022/. The deadline to register is March 11.

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.

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

Lev described Lewis' worked 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

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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING℠
tacklehunger.org

Thank you for your generosity!

Last weekend was the annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" at which time our Confirmation students collected money for our food pantry after each Mass.

Due to your generosity, HIS Pantry will receive $1,147.00!

The **Second Collection** this weekend is for European Relief.

The **Second Collection** next weekend is for Home Missions and Black & Native Americans.

We thank you for your generosity!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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 (802) 447-1546

Mondays - Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Bennington Performing Arts Center
March 19 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

This is a FREE event with a performance by two choirs from The Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church. Plus, the winner of the 2022 Martin Luther King High School Poster Contest will be recognized. Speakers include Grace Winslow and Dan Lucy. A free-will offering will benefit Bennington County Open Arms.

This event is organized by the Greater Bennington Peace and Justice Center and the Greater Bennington Interfaith Council.

This event will be held at The Performing Arts Center/Oldcastle Theatre located at 331 Main Street in Bennington. Participants are required to wear a mask and provide proof of vaccination.

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading: King David exercised great restraint and forgiveness in not taking the life of Saul. What do you think is needed to live one's life with this kind of spiritual disposition?

Second Reading: Paul speaks of believers in the present age bearing the image of the "earthly one" (Adam) and in the future bearing the image of the "heavenly one" (Christ). What do you think bearing the image of Christ looks like?

Gospel: Jesus taught his disciples some very challenging moral imperatives, such as love of enemy, non-retaliation, and unconditional forgiveness. In what ways are you able to live out these ethical standards in your life?

©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."