

Our Lady of the Valley & Chapel of the Snows



"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. 'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. *Matthew 5:38-48*

Ash Wednesday Almsgiving Collection

There will be a special collection on Ash Wednesday to support Vermont Catholic Charities. This agency provides financial and emotional support to individuals and families throughout Vermont through the programs offered which include Counseling, Emergency Aid, Prison Ministry, and Residential Care Homes. The clients that come to our "doors" are some of the most vulnerable in our communities. The work that you will support will help transform people's lives. Donations can be made through our website <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/catholic-charities/ash-wednesday-appeal/> or by mailing a check to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403. Please know that every gift—whatever the size—makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity.

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Readings for the Week of February 20, 2022.

Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Cor 3:16-23 /Mt 5:38-48

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6b, 12-14, 17/2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2/ Mt 6:1-6, 1618

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-6a, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Mass Intentions

Our Lady of the Valley

Sunday	10:45 AM RIP	Irene Gage
February 19		By: Martin & Carol Bemis

Chapel of the Snows

Saturday	4:30 PM INT	Sean Kopins
February 18		By: Karen Kopins-Shaw
Sunday	12:30 PM INT	For All Parishioners
February 19		

Weekly Offering

Weekend February 11, 2023 February 12, 2023

Our Lady of the Valley

Offering	\$ 932.00
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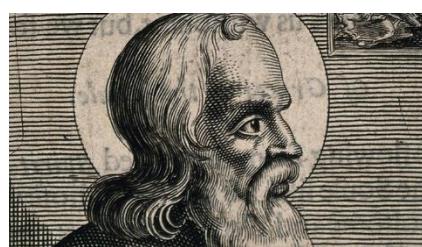
Chapel of the Snows

Offering	\$ 1356.00
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Online Giving

\$ 170.00

Saint of the Week ~ Polycarp



Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century. Polycarp was recognized as a Christian leader by all Asia Minor Christians—a strong fortress of faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. His own strength emerged from his trust in God, even when events contradicted this trust. Living among pagans and under a government opposed to the new religion, he led and fed his flock. Like the Good Shepherd, he laid down his life for his sheep and kept them from more persecution in Smyrna. He summarized his trust in God just before he died: "Father... I bless Thee, for having made me worthy of the day and the hour..."

**A Lenten
Scriptural
Journey With
Fr. Agnel**

GROW IN YOUR
**CATHOLIC
FAITH
DURING
LENT**



When: Lenten Wednesdays
From March 1st 2023 -
April 5th. 6:00 PM -7:00 PM

Where: St. Charles Parish
Social Center, Bellows Falls,
VT.

A Lenten Scriptural Journey with Fr. Agnel Samy HGN

Come join Fr. Agnel every Wednesday during Lent, starting on March 1st through April 5th. The Scriptural Journey will take place from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

at the St. Charles Social Center. Grow in your Catholic Faith during Lent. If you would like to attend, please email the Parish office at stcharlesrectory@comcast.net. Or call 802-463-3128. Thank you.



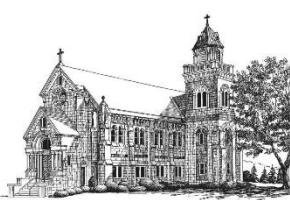
Organ Recital/ February 24th

Don McMahon, organist and director of music at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Church in Bennington, will give an organ recital at the church on Friday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. The performance — in celebration of his 60th birthday — will be presented in person and streamed live on the parish's website.

<https://sacredheartsaintfrancis.org/>

Trip to Divine Mercy Shrine

If you are interested in going on a day pilgrimage to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts on **Monday, February 20th from 8AM to 5PM**, please Call Kerry at St. Michael Church to reserve your seat. The cost is \$46 per person. Financial help is available. We will leave from the parking lot at Saint Michael Church in Brattleboro, Vermont at 8AM. Please call (802) 257-5101 or email stmichael@vermontcatholic.org for more information.



National Shrine of
The Divine Mercy

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth. The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible? The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness. (Copyright 2023 Loyola Press. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission. www.loyolapress.com)