

Catholic Communities of Waterbury, Waitsfield, and Moretown

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St. Andrew's Church, Waterbury
109 S. Main Street



Our Lady of the Snows, Waitsfield
6305 Main Street



St. Patrick's Church, Moretown
1000 VT-100B

Saturday Masses

4:00 pm, St. Andrew's Church, Waterbury
6:00 pm, Our Lady of the Snows Church, Waitsfield

Sunday Masses

9:00 am, St. Andrew's Church, Waterbury • 11:00 am, St. Patrick's Church, Moretown

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:45 pm at St. Andrew's or by appointment.
Last Saturday of the month from 7:00 to 7:30 pm at Our Lady of the Snows

Weekday Masses

Consult the Liturgy Schedule inside this bulletin for this week's daily Masses.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please contact the rectory to schedule baptisms.

Sacrament of Marriage

Those intending to marry are asked to contact the Pastor at least six months in advance.

September 26, 2021 - Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday, September 25, 4:00 pm, St. Andrew's: Mike and Marsha Wood
Saturday, September 25, 6:00 pm, Our Lady of the Snows: Jeffrey Bittner by Lisa Healy
Sunday, September 26, 9:00 am, St. Andrew's: Bernadette Dagenais by the Family
Sunday, September 26, 11:00 am, St. Andrew's: All Souls in Purgatory
Monday, September 27, 8:00 am, St. Andrew's: Victor Fontecchio by John and Agnes Milne
Tuesday, September 28: NO MASS
Wednesday, September 29, 8:00 am, St. Andrew's: Marsha Wood by John and Agnes Milne
Thursday, September 30, 8:00 am, St. Andrew's: Jim Pratt by John and Agnes Milne
Friday, October 1, 8:00 am, St. Andrew's: Rev. Jeffrey Pomeisl by Marie Antunes
Saturday, October 2, 4:00 pm, St. Andrew's: All Parishioners and Visitors
Saturday, October 2, 6:00 pm, OLS: Conversion of Sinners to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Sunday, October 3, 9:00 am, St. A: O'Brien, Magee & Lumbra Families by Kathleen Lumbra
Sunday, October 3, 11:00 am, St. Patrick's: All Parishioners and Visitors

Weekly Offertory Donations: September 13-19, 2021

St. Andrew's: Offertory \$980; CUA \$25; Online \$350. *OLS/St. Patrick's*: Offertory \$800; Insurance \$25; Online \$225. *Thank you for your support!*

Prayers for the Sick

We pray for Migdalia Torres Bernal, Isaiah Callan, Daniel Caplinger, Janet Chadwick, Heidi Cervantes, Suzie Clark, Aiden Custodio, Janet DiBlasi, Bob and Sue Ellsasser, Jason Fowler, Raven Fowler, Patricia Gardner, Jan Gendreau, Alison Henry, John Hofmann, Brian Kellett, Wayne Lacaillade, Ann Lamarch, Holly LeClair, Grace Lee, Bernard Mahan, Patrick McNamara, Frank Miller, Scott Miller, Sidnia Orton, Joan Potter, Fran Raymond, Rob Scharges, Annette Schultz, Robert Shortridge, Bernard Sweet, Justina Torres, and Jim Vachris. If you know of anyone who would like a Communion visit, please let us know.

Faith Series on Prayer

Feel free to jump into the faith series on the meditations of St. Francis de Sales! We'll actually be looking at meditations 1-4 (chapters 9-12) this week. The meetings are on Thursdays at St. Leo's Hall **6:00** – 7:00 pm (earlier than typical). The PDF of the readings are on our website.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults begins this Sunday, September 26th, and will run weekly in preparation for full initiation into the Christian life at Easter. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating, let me know. 802-244-7734 or mattensch@gmail.com

Annual Bishop's Appeal

St. Andrew's has given \$13,039 towards the goal of \$19,867 for 66%. OLS/St. Patrick's has given \$17,884, exceeding its goal of \$15,123, at 116%. Thank you for your generosity!

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) and Confirmation Classes

We have received a few registrations, and need volunteers to help with student check in, making of materials, etc. Classes are held on Wednesday afternoons at St. Leo's Hall: CGS classes are from 3:00-5:00 pm, and Confirmation classes will be from 4:00-5:00 pm. Contact the office for more information, to volunteer to assist, or register online via our parish website.

A Life Symposium: October 2, 2021

Constitutional Law professor and pro-life champion Helen Alvare, co-founder of Women Speak for Themselves, will provide the keynote address at this day-long conference at the Doubletree by Hilton in Burlington, focusing on issues related to Proposal 5, a dangerous amendment aimed at enshrining the right to abortion in Vermont's Constitution, and expected to be put before voters in November 2022. Workshops will feature multiple speakers. Tickets are \$50; youth scholarships available. For more information and to register go to www.vrlc.net

Newman Night

Newman Night is fast approaching! It will be on Sunday, October 10th from 4:00-8:00 pm at Holy Family Church in Essex. It features a Knights of Columbus organized dinner, evening prayer, and two talks highlighting the work and impact of St. John Henry Newman, as well as time for fellowship and conversation. If you're interested in carpooling or getting a ride, email or call Kathleen Cosentino at kcosenino@madriver.com or 233-3009, and don't forget to send an RSVP email to vermontnewman@gmail.com to sign up if you haven't!

40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life is in full swing! It is a prayer and fasting campaign that "unites the Christian community in prayer for the unborn and others (persons working in the abortion industry) and praying to end abortion. In addition to the public witness and prayer at the vigil site, we are also united in individual or group prayer and fasting and community outreach." Visit www.40daysforlife.com/barre for more information.

Walking with Families in Grief

What do you say to families and friends who have lost a loved one from suicide? What are some helpful ways you can walk with these families? Join Sharon Trani, Marriage & Family Therapist from Vermont Catholic Charities, and Jennifer Ploof, Parish Catechetical Leader of Nativity BVM-St Louis Parish, as they discuss ways to find hope and healing for oneself and others. Join us on Wednesday, November 3, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm for this free webinar, which you can register for via the parish website.

Wisdom of the Saints

"Even if I must suffer greatly, thanks be to God's mercy, I will not lack courage."

~ *St. Genoveva Torres Morales*

"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become." ~ *St. Clare of Assisi*

Dear Parishioners,

It's been something of a somber week here at the parish. Three funeral Masses and a committal stacked up this week; Betty Fitzgerald, Marsha Wood, Mary Lou Brodman, and Donna Dolton all received the rites of the church and were laid to rest. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

Laid to rest. Rest in peace. These are not throwaway lines. The early Christians were not being poetic or sentimental when they started using them. They were simply describing the fact of the matter: that those who have died in Christ will rise again, like He did. Therefore, it's entirely accurate to say they are resting. They will awake. And that's the reason that the early Christians called their burial places "cemeteries." At the time, "cemetery" was not the everyday term for a burial place. The common term was necropolis, which means city of the dead. But the early Christians couldn't use that designation; their dead were not dead, they were sleeping, they were resting. Their beloved dead had died in Christ, and His tomb was empty. Christ had transformed the tomb into a temporary resting place, not a final and everlasting depository. Hence, they called the burial places "cemeteries" using the Greek word for dormitory or bedroom. The beloved who die with the Lord now sleep with the Lord.

This fact that the deceased are resting also determines the burial practices of the Church. For a long time, as many of you will remember, the Church forbade cremation. The reason is that cremation had and has deep roots in the pagan culture antithetical to Christianity. The Christians recognized the goodness of the body and its essential link with the spiritual soul. They recognized its dignity and destiny. Hence, they rejected the body's destruction. They preferred to "plant" their deceased loved ones, like a seed entrusted to the earth to sprout in due time. In their eyes cremation, practiced by the pagans, enacted the idea of a total ending of the person or their dissolution into nature. To this day a full body committal remains the preferred method of Christian burial. (As it turns out, there's a recent document on the topic. *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* was issued by the Vatican under Pope Francis in 2016.)

As you also know, however, the Church does permit cremation as a secondary option. Just as in the early Church, however, it is resolved to clearly affirm the Christian insight about death and resurrection. It remains firmly opposed to all unchristian ideas about death. The document mentions that "the conservation of the ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted... the ashes may not be divided among various family members. In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects." Why not? Because they're sleeping. And you don't break apart someone who's sleeping. May they rest in peace. Amen.

God bless,
Fr. Matthew