

Important info about COVID-19 and St. Francis Parish

Effective Friday March 20th at least through Wednesday April 15th, (and possibly longer) the Public Celebration of ALL MASSES, Devotions, Meetings, activities are Suspended throughout the Diocese of Burlington at least through Wednesday April 15th, (please note, depending on the situation this suspension could be extended).

All Masses and Hospital/Care home visits by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are suspended until further notice.

My hope is to soon be able to provide "Live Streaming" Sunday Mass either from Saint Francis or another Parish as soon as possible. Links will be provided in future emails and posted on our Facebook page.

Bishop Coyne has directed that, where possible, Churches be opened for prayer for at least a few hours each day, if at all possible. We will send info as decisions are made.

The Sacrament of Confession is available and I will post times that I will make myself available for Confession.

Bishop Coyne recommended Collective Mass Intentions for the duration of the suspension of public Masses, if the person who requested the intention is willing to have his/her intention combined with other intentions in the same Mass.

Magnificat magazine has a number of free online resources available for two months.

There will be daily Facebook Live celebrations of The Rosary and the Divine Mercy Devotion.

Our secretary, Christine Porter, has been exposed to the Corona Virus and is in quarantine for 14 days effective yesterday. She will continue to check email, send email updates (like this one...), post our bulletins and other updates to the website, and monitor other office tasks from home.

I am maintaining office hours, but please be patient if trying to contact the office.

In 27 years as a Priest and in 61 trips around the Sun, never in a million years would I have imagined a scenario like this! But we are people of faith, God is with us and will never, ever, abandon us.

Please join me, Bishop Coyne, and all the priests and faithful around Vermont and around the World in praying, especially Pope Francis' Prayer to the Blessed Virgin.

My dear Parishioners,

I pray to God that you are all staying healthy and using this unexpected moment in history to stay faithful to Christ and His Church.

The Diocese of Burlington is providing online resources to help families live the faith intentionally in these challenging times. (see <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/covid-19/>)

The Diocese will be livestreaming Mass beginning this Sunday, March 22 @10:00 am, which will then be posted to every parish eCatholic website. <https://stfranciswindsor.org/> or <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass/>

I ask that you continue to support your parish financially by continuing your usual weekly parish support.

I am maintaining office hours in Windsor and can be reached there by calling 802-674-2157. If no one answers, please leave a message. I want to express my deep gratitude to Deacon John Guarino and Joanne Collins for their efforts to keep St. Anthony's office open for limited hours. St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be open for a few hours daily. For safety reasons, Ron Poulin or I will have to be present in the church (stay tuned for details). At Bishop Coyne's direction, a candle will be lit before the Statue of Our Lady and the Christ Child as a place dedicated to prayer for an end to this epidemic.

I ask you, my good parishioners, to pray for an end to this epidemic, for all who have died, for all who are sick, anxious, for those who have lost jobs, for Doctors, Nurses, first responders, EMT's and all health care workers, for parents, children, and families.

Lord, grant to us all a renewed hunger and thirst for you in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. So that when this trial ends, we may return with renewed devotion to your ALTAR!

Let us continue to pray for each other!
Saint Anthony, Pray for us!
Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!
Saint Joseph, Pray for Us!
Our Lady, Health of The Sick, Pray for us!

In Christ,
Fr. Rick Danielson.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

30 Union St., P.O. Box 46,
Windsor, Vermont 05089

Tel: 1-802-674-2157 Fax: 1-802-674-9416

March 21 & 22, 2020
4th Sunday of Lent

Pastor: Father Charles Danielson

OFFICE HOURS: Tues. & Sat. 9:30am—1:00pm

PARISH SECRETARY:

Christine Porter - adminstfrancis@comcast.net

Please note that Christine's office hours have changed. She will no longer be in the office on Thursday mornings. She will be in the office on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:30am to 1:00pm.

ALTAR SERVER COORDINATOR: Ron Hamel, Jr.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:

Sundays 9:15-10:15 for Grades K-7

Sundays 5:30-6:30 for Grades 8-10

NEW PARISHIONERS: Are welcome and urged to register with Parish Office

Finance Council: Richard Fenton 885-3598 – Ginny Fox 436-2831 — Frederick Lord 356-6496 –
Andrew Robbins 738-3512 John Scanlon 484-9427

Parish Council: Barbara Barbour 299-7117 – Joyce Corbin 484-3329—Janet Farley 674-6065 –
Mary Anne Mesropian 674-9284 — Colleen DeSchamp 484-5245 – Steve Giroux 674-9509



ALL PUBLIC MASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday & Thursday
Mass 9:00 am

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 10:30 am

HOLY DAYS

As Announced

RECONCILIATION

11:15-12:15

FUNERALS, MARRIAGES,

BAPTISMS

By arrangement

COLLECTIVE MASS INTENTIONS

The Bishop has decreed that during the suspension of public Masses, priests may offer collective Mass intentions. There will be a group of names/intentions for each private Mass. This permission has been given so that all requests for intentions can be fulfilled during this time. If you have a request for an intention, please email Christine at adminstfrancis@comcast.net

TV MASS

The celebration of all public Masses has been suspended by Bishop Coyne in light of recent and ongoing public health directives. We encourage you to view the celebration of Sunday Mass by Bishop Coyne at 10:00 a.m., livestreamed on <https://www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass/>. It will be available for viewing anytime on our website: <https://stfranciswindsor.org/>. Livestream of Daily Mass will also be found the Vermont Catholic site daily at 12:05pm.

Additionally, televised Masses can be seen on Windsor On Air Comcast Channel 8 & 1081 at the following times every week: Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 5:00 am, 7:00 am, and 5:00 pm and on WCAX-TV Channel 3 at 6:00 a.m.

MASS ATTENDANCE

February 23	110
March 1	129
March 8	110
March 15	78

2nd COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend, your envelope box contains an envelope for the Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this special collection will provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Please prayerfully consider giving to the CRSC and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember in your prayers: Peg Grimard, Dale West, Jan Lepisko, Lisa Moeller, Kathy Whited, Rhonda McFarland, Theo Shyne, Christiane Zue, Claire Harlow, John Hofmann, Elinor Garcia, Nancy LaBounty, Officer Kevin Valencia, Sandra Carney, Joan Schuyler, Renee Bowling, John Ayers, David Dillon and Joseph Farley.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Ford Geno, Stephen Titus, Peter Barbour, Priscilla Spencer, Bill Moeller, Betty Lemire, Jackie Avery, Tom Baker, John M. Lynch, Nancy Hamilton, Janet McClellan, Pat Terry, Jean Hunt, William Tansey, Wesley Hrydziusko, Peter Kilfeather, Masie Ayers, Kacey Leavitt, John Crump, Gerald Lepisko, Father Raphael Kakwavu Nyabenda, Paul Koch, Peter Toepfer, Phil Turgeon, Shirley Bates, Hugh Duling, Phil Salzano, Anne Juzwiak, Nancy Levesque, Joan Lemire, Freida Leneau, and Nancy Marsden.

CATHOLIC LIFE CONFERENCE

PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 17, 2020.

Catholic Life Conference: Mass Mutual Center in Springfield, MA! The Catholic Life Conference is preparing a fabulous day for all Catholics, men and women, young and old, alike. Featuring speakers Scott Hahn, Hudson Byblow, and Trish Short, plus a full children's program including the performance of the famously wacky duo, Popple. Conference cost is \$50.00 for adults and \$15 for students and children, with a household maximum of \$150. Register at www.catholiclifeconference.org. Get ready for a day to fill you up and change you forever!

Message from Fr. Rick,

4th Sunday of Lent
"I am the Light of the World ..."

We probably all have our favorite passages, stories from the Scriptures. This healing of the man born blind is certainly one of mine! Again, we see the astounding love and mercy of Jesus extended to someone in dire need. A poor beggar, blind from birth.

Jesus comes to this man unmasked and heals him of his blindness!

How openhanded, big-hearted, and generous is Jesus' compassion. He comes to this man and heals him, "so that the works of God might be made visible through Him..."

Through this man—poor, despised, pitied, looked down on - God shows forth His mercy, not just for blind beggars, but for all of us. Poor, blind sinners stumbling through life, and along comes Jesus to anoint our eyes with His healing touch - to open our eyes to the reality of His amazing love!

3rd ANNUAL MEN'S CONFERENCE

Due to coronavirus concerns, this Men's Conference has been cancelled.

CHRIST OUR HOPE

The Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church campaign has been suspended. With events unfolding so rapidly, we await further information as to the status.

Daily Reflections for Lent: Check out our website to view Bishop Barron's Daily Lenten Reflections, www.stanthonyvt.org.

CHURCH VISITS

Please stay tuned for more info on visiting the Church for some prayerful time and on a schedule for Confessions to be heard.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR LENTEN WORSHIP

Bishop Barron will be offering Daily Lenten Reflections at <https://www.lentreflections.com/>

Magnificat magazine also has a number of free online resources available for two months. <https://us.magnificat.net/>

A NOTE ABOUT COVID-19

Beginning, Wednesday, March 4, 2020, Bishop Coyne has temporarily suspended communion from the cup until further notice. Communion will be distributed under the form of bread alone. It is recommended and encouraged that the reception of Holy Communion be in the hand only. For those wishing to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, please come to receive Holy Communion towards the end of the Communion line and receive from the priest.

Additionally, until further notice, the Sign of Peace at Mass is not to include any physical contact. The practice of holding hands during the Lord's Prayer, which is not envisioned in the rubrics of the liturgy, should cease as well.

Priests, lay ministers, and indeed all present for liturgy should be mindful of and practice good hygiene measures.

Effective March 14, 2020, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne has suspended the obligation for all Catholics to attend Sunday Mass. Sunday Mass will still be offered but the obligation has been lifted. While we encourage you to come to Mass and receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we ask you to use your best judgment and do what is most prudent for you and your family..

Religious education classes have been cancelled for March 22 and March 29. Classes have not been scheduled for April 5 (Palm Sunday) or April 12 (Easter Sunday). Therefore, our next class is currently scheduled for Sunday, April 19th.

GUIDELINES FOR LENT

The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity. Ash Wednesday & Good Friday, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength", are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from 18 to 59.

Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. The common estimation of the community is used to determine what falls under the category of meat. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years or older.

The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended. Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence because of age, are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.