

Hello my good and faithful parishioners!

I hope and pray you are all staying healthy, safe, and at home as much as possible?

As you all probably know by now, Gov. Phil Scott of Vermont has issued a mandatory "Stay at Home" order for all of Vermont, effective yesterday afternoon, (Wednesday March 25th).

Bishop Christopher Coyne last night directed all parish offices to close and all Churches to be locked up until further notice. I am asking all of you to join with me, with Bishop Coyne, with all my brother Priests in Vermont, in prayers, especially to Our Lady, Health of The Sick for a speedy end to this horrific pandemic.

Many of you have responded with your usual generosity to my appeal to continue to give as much as you can to the financial support of your parish. Please know how very grateful I am to all of you for whatever support you can give. For your convenience, we have added an online giving page to our website, which will accept credit/debit card or check payments. You can find it at <https://www.stfranciswindsor.org/donate>

Christine Porter is almost at the end of her self-quarantine. She continues to be symptom free and was planning on returning to the Church office on Tuesday March 31st. Because of the Stay at Home order, she will not be coming into work after all until at least April 15th. Stay tuned.....and please keep praying!

Saint Anthony, Pray for us!

Saint Francis, Pray for us!

In Christ, Fr.Rick.

HOW TO PRAY THE TV MASS FROM HOME

Creating a sacred space to reverently watch the mass in your home

Create a prayer altar under your TV or streaming device. Consider setting a crucifix or other sacred art in the prayer space.

Open your bible to the gospel of the day and place it on your "home altar" to remind you that the Word of God is among you.

Light a candle to symbolize the beautiful light that shines in the darkness and to help your home resemble the Church.

Set up chairs like a pew to help you engage in the mass and keep you from passively watching from the couch.

Get dressed as you normally would when attending mass. Keeping this routine is especially helpful for children.

If you have holy water at home, bless yourself and your family before you begin the mass.

Take a few moments of silence to transition from the busyness of your home to the sacredness of the mass.

Fully participate by standing, kneeling, sitting and responding according to the rubrics of the mass.

Engage in community by having coffee and breakfast with your family after mass or by calling your loved ones to connect.

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 28 & 29, 2020
5th Sunday of Lent

Pastor: Father Charles Danielson

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

PARISH SECRETARY:

Christine Porter - adminstfrancis@comcast.net

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
FATHER RICK CONTINUES TO OFFER DAILY MASS PRIVATELY FOR OUR INTENTIONS

WEEKDAY MASSES

SUSPENDED

WEEKEND MASSES

SUSPENDED

HOLY DAYS

As Announced

RECONCILIATION

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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 on-going 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://www.stfranciswindsor.org/mass-times>. 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.

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.

OFFERINGS **Offerings Report for FY 2020**

Since our Parish Secretary is currently under quarantine, numbers for the last week are not currently available.

We ask that you continue to support St. Francis financially by continuing your usual weekly parish support.

You can either mail a check to:
St. Francis of Assisi Parish
P.O. Box 46
Windsor, VT 05089

Or you can visit our website and make a donation online. You can setup a one-time or recurring donation. Visit <https://www.stfranciswindsor.org/donate> for more info...

Message from Fr. Rick, **5th Sunday of Lent**

"Lazarus, Come Out!"..... Did you read that?

"Lazarus, Come Out!"

And suddenly everything is different!

Everything!

A new power has entered the world:

"I am The Resurrection and the Life....."

Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, IS LIFE, the Life by which everyone lives. And so, when Life calls to Lazarus "Come Out!", Death releases Lazarus!

On Easter Sunday, we recite before the Gospel the "Easter Sequence", an ancient hymn including these verses: "Life and Death Contending in that Combat Stupendous..."

The raising of Lazarus is, if you will, the opening skirmish of that "Combat Stupendous"

"Lazarus Come Out!"

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.

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

During these challenging times, Catholics can still participate in devotions and worship remotely by tuning into daily Mass at 12:05pm and Sunday Mass at 10:00am on Sunday, live rosary at 11:15am, as well as many other spiritual engagement activities. You can access these live-streams from our website:

<https://www.stfranciswindsor.org/mass-times>

For the weekly schedule of activities, visit www.vermontcatholic.org/spiritualresources

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/>

VIRTUAL YOUTH SERVE FOR RELIGIOUS ED STUDENTS

Many of you know about the Diocesan summer program, VCYS, during which Vermont teens spread out through the Burlington area, serving the needy. In the spirit of VCYS, we're doing a Virtual Youth Serve. We can still serve the Lord's people even when we're stuck at home. Each day, we'll post a daily challenge for ways teens can serve their community and/or household.

<https://www.facebook.com/vermontcatholicyouth/>

COVID-19 UPDATE

Earlier this week, Vermont Governor Phil Scott issued a "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order and directed the closure of in-person operations for all non-essential businesses. The Governor's order directs "Vermonters to stay at home, leaving only for essential reasons, critical to health and safety. If leaving the home, Vermonters should adhere to social distancing policies, including remaining six feet from others (except for those with whom they share a home) and thoroughly and regularly washing hands.

Effective March 25, 2020 at 5:00pm, all businesses and not-for-profit entities not expressly exempted in the order must suspend all in-person business operations. Operations that can be conducted online or by phone, or sales that can be facilitated with curbside pickup or delivery only, can continue."

In keeping with the Governor's order, Bishop Christopher Coyne has directed that all Catholic churches, chapels and shrines throughout the state be closed as of 5 p.m. today and that all "non-essential" employees of the Catholic community (as defined by the governor's order) work remotely as need be.

CHECKING IN ON EACH OTHER

Visits to the sick have been suspended until further notice. If you are an Extraordinary Minister who brings Communion to local residents, consider making phone calls to those people you normally visit to check in with them and pray with them over the phone. Perhaps it will boost their spirits and yours, too! We encourage all parishioners to check in on each other, especially those parishioners who may not have internet access to receive these updates. Continue to pray for each other during this time.

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.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

The Windsor Area Covid Response Team is a coalition of professionals and citizens dedicated to helping the community meet the challenges of COVID-19 in a way that promotes the health and well-being of the community while keeping people safe and helping them have access to necessary services. The Windsor school system, Windsor town government, Mt Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, the Windsor Improvement Corporation, the Windsor Resilience Committee, Windsor churches and citizens comprise the core response team.

We are working as a team to provide support for access to food, medications, financial assistance, communication about COVID-19 and compassionate connections by phone for people who are vulnerable and in quarantine.

We have created links through a google doc., special e-mail and phone # so **that people can ask for help and volunteer help.**

For the online registration <https://sites.google.com/view/windsorvt-covid19/home>

For phone: (802) 674-5971

For e-mail: covidresponse@mahhc.org