The Synod Process

I Convocation and Preparation of the Synod

1. The bishop convenes the synod with the consultation of the Presbyteral Council.

2. Preparatory Commission
   - Members of the preparatory commission are chosen by the bishop.
   - The preparatory commission assists the bishop in organizing and preparing for the synod.
   - The bishop establishes a synodal secretariat and possibly a press office.

3. Publication of the Synodal Directory
   The Synodal Directory includes:
   1. composition of the synod;
   2. norms by which elections of synodal members are to be conducted;
   3. various offices to be exercised by the synod;
   4. procedural norms of the synod meetings.

4. Preparatory phases of synod
   - Spiritual, catechetical and formational preparation
     1. All are invited to pray for the ongoing intention of the synod and its results, that it might become an authentic event of grace for the Church.
     2. All should be informed on the nature and purpose of the synod and the scope of its deliberations.
   - Diocesan consultation
     1. The faithful and the clergy of the Diocese are encouraged to express their needs, desires, challenges and opinions regarding the synod topics.
     2. Meetings take place at each parish, then deanery, to discuss synod topics.
   - Determining the questions
     The bishop determines the questions on which the synodal debate will concentrate.

II Conducting the Synod

- The actual synod consists of the synodal sessions, typically in the cathedral.
- Members of the synod make the profession of the faith before commencing synodal discussions.
- Themes to be examined are introduced from a brief report; discussion begins.
- Draft texts of synodal documents are prepared.

III Synodal Declarations and Decrees

- The bishop will prepare final drafts of synodal decrees and declarations, sign them and order their publication.
- Decrees and declarations consist of directives for future pastoral programs and/or affirmations of the faith.

Composition of the Synod

The diocesan bishop presides over the synod. Members of the synod by (Canon) law:
- vicars general, vicars episcopal, vicars judicial
- members of the council of priests
- deans
Elected members of the synod:
- lay members (including members of consecrated life)
- at least one priest from each deanery

For more information about the Diocese of Burlington’s 2018 synod process, visit: goo.gl/Xazc48
UPCOMING EVENTS

10|15 Consecration of Fatima Shrine
Our Lady of Fatima, Wilmington
Consecration of the new shrine to Our Lady of Fatima will follow the 9 am Mass, followed by breakfast. All are welcome to celebrate the Centennial of the “Dance of the Sun” that took place on Oct 15, 1917.

10|15 Youth Rallies: Middle School and High School
Christ the King, Burlington
The Middle School Rally will take place from 12:30 to 6:45 pm, and the High School Rally will be from 5:15 to 8:15 pm. Both rallies will feature Judy McDonald and Ben Walther and will include fun activities and inspiration. Cost is $10 per person.

10|15 Turkey Dinner
St. Isidore Parish Hall, Montgomery Center
12 pm
Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, rolls, squash, peas, cranberry sauce, pies, coffee, tea or punch. Adults $10; Ages 6-12 $5; Under 6 Free. Benefit: St. Isidore Church

10|15 St. Alphonsus Annual Harvest Dinner
St. Alphonsus Liguori, Pittsford • 4 - 6 pm
Turkey dinner with all the fixings, desserts, beverages: $12 Adults; $7 Children.

10|16, 23 Adult Enrichment: “Laudato Si’”
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
9:45 - 11 am or 7 - 8:15 pm
This four session adult enrichment series will study and share insights in regard to Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home. Run on September 18 & 15.
FOR MORE INFO: johnsonwa7@msc.com, (802) 681-7290

10|16, 22, 30, 11|12, 20, 12|03, 10 The Bible and the Sacraments
St Monica, Barre • 6:30 - 8 pm
11-part Bible study from Scott Hahn’s St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. Objectives: Discover the Old testament roots of the Sacraments instituted by Christ; grow in knowledge of the Sacraments; learn how the 7 Sacraments have the power to transform our lives and shape us for eternity. Program ran on Sept. 17, 25, Oct. 1 & 8 and continues through Dec. 10.
FOR MORE INFO: stmonicalif@gmail.com; (802) 476-4020

10|16, 23 The Gospel of the Patron Saint of Publishers
Holy Family Parish Center • 7 - 8 pm
Reflections on the Gospel of John by Rev. Richard Berube, S.S.E.

10|18 Mass with Healing Service
St. Mary Star of the Sea, Newport • 5:15 pm
Fr. Lance Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of his Masses of Thanksgiving for 25 years of priestly ordination. Eucharistic Adoration and Healing Service will follow Mass. All invited.

10|21 “A Day of Hope” post-abortion healing retreat
Burlington Area
The Project Rachel Ministry will present the one-day retreat designed to help women hurt from past abortions experience the personal love of Christ and find hope for healing. All team members are committed to absolute confidentiality. Registrants will be informed privately of the exact location, which is kept confidential to protect the privacy of those who attend. Project Rachel is a healing ministry for individuals who have been affected by abortion, helping them to grieve, receive forgiveness and find peace.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 658-4118 or projectrachel@vermontcatholic.org.

10|21 Catechist Formation Day
 Christ the King Church, Rutland
9 am - 1 pm
This half-day program is specifically aimed at our catechists, coordinators, and directors of religious education. Pastors are welcome to join as well! Participants will attend workshops of their choice — ranging from learning more about the faith to how to engage parents in the parish — and have the opportunity to network and share best practices with other catechists around the state.
FOR MORE INFO or RSVP: Lori Daudelin at Idaudelin@vermontcatholic.org.

10|21 Nonviolence: Power for Peace and Justice
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 9 am - 3 pm
This is a nonviolence workshop/retreat. Registration and coffee and bagels open at 8:30; and the cost is $10.

10|21 Harvest Dinner
St. Amadeus, Alburgh
5 - 7:30 pm
Two seatings: 5 and 6:15 pm. Menu includes roast beef, fresh autumn vegetables and assorted desserts. Cost: $10 adults, $5 children 7-12, under 7 free! Take out will be available if you call 802-796-6000 during the dinner. Proceeds to benefit the St. Amadeus Parish renovation fund.
FOR MORE INFO: parish office (802) 796-3481 or stamadeus@fairpoint.net.

10|22 Praise & Worship
All Saints, Richmond • 5 - 6 pm
Bill Gavin, Director of Youth Ministry from the Diocese of Burlington, will lead us with Praise & Worship during a Holy Hour which includes adoration and confession. A potluck dinner will follow at the Dormion Hall.

10|25 St. Monica-St. Michael Raffle
St. Monica St. Michael School, Barre
First prize is a John Deere Gator—XUV590i Power (retail value $11,600) or $10,000 cash. Second prize is $1,000 cash, and there are three third prizes of $100 cash. Tickets are $50 each with only 1,500 tickets available. Drawing will be Sunday, Oct. 25. Tickets are available in the school office.

10|25 Mater Christi School Fall Open House
Mater Christi School, Burlington • 8:30 - 11 am
We are a close-knit community and value-centered school where all are welcome! Our school combines rigorous, 21st-century academics with a global philosophy in the Mercy tradition. A Mater Christi education transforms our students’ futures and prepares them to transform our world.
FOR MORE INFO: or to register, (802) 658-3992

10|25, 11|8, 15 The Wild Goose
Holy Cross, Colchester • 6:30 - 7:30 pm
The Wild Goose is a three-part series on discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit. Learn how the Holy Spirit can enrich your life, give you strength and power over the things that hold you back from the true freedom, peace and joy that God wants for you.
FOR MORE INFO: parishoffice@holycrossvt.org (802) 863-3002.

10|28 Sisters of Mercy bazaar
Mater Christi School, Burlington
9 am - 2 pm
Featuring home grown/canned goods of many varieties, fudge and new or gently used items including books, toys, knit goods, household items and decorations.

The Diocese of Burlington
CAREERS

- Development Donor Systems Specialist
- Human Resources Generalist
- PT Administrative Assistant / Medical Billing Specialist

FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/careers

Submit your event to the diocesan calendar! vermontcatholic.org/calendar