In his exhortation, “The Joy of Love” (“Amoris Laetitia”), Pope Francis reminds families of the importance of the sacrament of Reconciliation and how the graces of the sacrament help individuals face challenges in family life. A beautiful way to encounter Jesus in this sacrament is to go together as a family.

Pamela and Larry King and their two daughters, Chasca (Rice Memorial High School) and Zerima (St. Francis Xavier School) live in Milton and attend church at St. Mary’s where Pamela serves as the Director of Religious Education. The family recently shared their feelings about the importance of Reconciliation and the joys and challenges of setting aside time as a family to celebrate this sacrament. Larry explained that one of the benefits of going to Reconciliation as a family is that he and his wife can set an example for their daughters by demonstrating that this sacrament is important for kids and parents. In this Year of the Family, and always, families are encouraged to go to Reconciliation together. Although it can seem impossible to find time in one’s family schedule to do this, many parishes offer times for confession before and/or after regularly scheduled Masses. By allowing room for Jesus’ healing graces in the confessional, family members are strengthened to practice reconciliation and forgiveness in their daily lives and with each other.

To hear more about the King family and their experience attending Reconciliation as a family, including how they prepare for the sacrament and the changes they see in their children, check out the third video in the Year of the Family video series “Called to Holiness” at facebook.com/dioburlington/videos.

— Michael Hagan, Coordinator of Religious Education and Catechesis for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington and member of the Year of the Family committee
UPCOMING EVENTS

03|18 SUNDAY
Regional Parishes Lenten Penance Service
St. Monica Parish, Barre • 2 pm
St. Monica Parish, Barre • 2 pm
Penance Service, followed by Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, with Solemn Benediction at 3:45 pm. Several priests will be present and available for Confessions. Come pray with our Eucharistic Lord and make a good Confession in preparation for Holy Week and Easter!

03|18 SUNDAY
Lenten Penance Service
St. Paul, Barton • 2 pm

03|18, 23 SUNDAY & FRIDAY
Living Stations
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 7:30 pm
This annual event portrays the Stations of the Cross with live tableaux and music.

03|20 TUESDAY
Open House at Saint Francis Xavier School
Saint Francis Xavier School, Winooski • 9 am - 2 pm
Saint Francis Xavier School serves students from Pre-School (age 3) to 8th grade. Our goal? Developing the whole person... academics, character, community and faith. Come see what we have to offer. Walk-ins are welcome, but we also encourage RSVPs by calling (802) 655-2600 or email info@sfxvt.org. Visit our website at www.sfxvt.org.

03|20 TUESDAY
Taize Prayer Service
St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Hinesburg • 7 pm
Join us for this Taize Community evening of music. Free will offering at the door. All are welcome.

03|21 WEDNESDAY
Laetare Living — Lenten Retreats

St. Jude, Hinesburg
9:30 am – 3 pm
Lenten Parish Retreats for all Parish Volunteers and Staff. Join us for a day of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration! REGISTRATION: ldatudelin@vermontcatholic.org

03|22 THURSDAY
Year of the Family Foster Care Live-stream Presentation
Facebook 10 - 11 am
The diocesan office will host a presentation on foster care, respite care, adoption and what families and churches can do to help. This will be presented by the Vermont Department of Children and Families and will be live-streamed for anyone who can view on the diocesan Facebook page.

03|23 FRIDAY
St. Ambrose 18th Annual Lenten Fish Fry
St. Ambrose Parish Hall • 5 - 7 pm
Adults $12.50, children nine and under $6, immediate family of five $37.

03|23 FRIDAY
St. Paul's School Lenten Fish Fry
St. Paul School, Barton • 5 pm

03|23, 30 FRIDAYS
Friday Lenten Fish Fry
Maturity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Springfield • 5 - 7 pm
To place a take-out order call after 3 pm on day of fish fry (802) 885-4123. This event is sponsored by St. Mary’s Social Function and is a fund raiser to benefit the parish.

03|23 FRIDAY
Living Stations of the Cross
St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 6:45 pm
The program will start at 6:45 pm with a brief teaching and history of the Stations followed by a narration of the Stations with music, acting and prayer beginning at 7:00 pm. Confessions will immediately follow. Please join us for this unique Lenten opportunity.

03|25 SUNDAY
Palm Sunday Breakfast
St. Rose of Lima, South Hero • 7:30 am

03|25 SUNDAY
Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast
St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 8 am - 12 pm
Gluten free options available. Adults $9, Children $4. Proceeds support the religious education program.

03|25 SUNDAY
Praise & Worship
All Saints, Richford • 4 - 5 pm
Praise & Worship lead by Bill Gavin from the Diocese of Burlington, including adoration and confessions until 5 pm. A potluck meal will follow the event at Dorion Hall. Please come and join us in prayer, adoration and fellowship.

03|27 TUESDAY
Taize Prayer
Sacred Heart School, Bennington • 7 pm
Annual Holy Week Service of Silent Prayer, Song and Adoration of the Cross in the Tradition of Taize.

04|03 TUESDAY
Sacred Relics of the Saints: Treasures of the Church
St. Augustine, Montpelier • 6 pm
Fr. Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross has a special ministry of bringing sacred relics to the faithful. He will talk about relics and then invite attendees to examine and venerate the 150+ relics that will be displayed. These relics are of famous saints as well as of relatively unknown saints, some modern and some very ancient. Join us!

04|06, 07, 08
Rice Memorial High School Spring Musical “Anything Goes”
Rice Memorial High School • 8 pm
Rice Memorial High School’s Music and Theater Department will present Cole Porter’s beloved musical, four show times: Friday 7 pm, Saturday at 2 pm and 7 pm, Sunday at 2 pm. $15 General Admission; $12 Student/Senior. Buy tickets at Rice 11:00–12:00 weekdays, or email: lynam@rmhsvt.org.

04|15 SUNDAY
Social Impacts and Responses to Opiate Abuse in our Community
Mater Christi School, Burlington • 2 - 4 pm
The Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Associates are sponsoring a panel that will seek to address the problem of opiate abuse in Vermont. Panel: TJ Donovan, VT State Attorney; Mark Redmond, Director of Spectrum Youth and Family Services; and Dr. Stephen Leffler, UVM Chief Medical Officer. Facilitator: Dr. John Reuwer, Emergency Medical Physician and Adjunct Professor of Peace and Justice, St. Michael’s College. A portion of the Hungry Heart, a prize winning documentary film by Bess O’Brien, will be shown.

PRESENTATION: Vermont Catholic Advance Directives — How and Why
Bioethicist Deacon Pete Gummere will lead a discussion on the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive (VCAD) and distribute VCAD preparation packets at this presentation. The VCAD complies with Vermont’s Advance Directive Law as well as with Church teaching. FORE MORE INFO: respectlife@vermontcatholic.org

03|20 TUESDAY
St. John Vianney Parish Hall, S. Burlington • 6:30 pm
03|21 WEDNESDAY
St. Michael’s Parish Center Brattleboro • 10:30 am & 6:30 pm
03|22 THURSDAY
St. Theresa’s Church Parish Center, Orleans • 6:30 pm
04|19 THURSDAY
St Monica Parish Hall Barre, Vermont • 3:00 pm & 6:30 pm
05|01 TUESDAY
St. Edward Parish Hall, Derby Line • 3:30 pm & 6:30 pm