

The Inland See

NEWS FROM

August 4-10, 2018

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

CHANGE COMING TO TIMING OF
THE SACRAMENT OF

Confirmation

Change is planned for the timing of the administration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Burlington.

After a yearlong process of consultation with priests, religious education directors and staff, Bishop Christopher Coyne has directed that by the 2021-2022 school year youth in the sixth grade will receive the sacrament, after a gradual lowering of the age at which it is received.

According to Michael Hagan, coordinator of religious education and catechesis for the Diocese, there are two main reasons for the change: to retain young members of the Church and to enrich them with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Sacrament of Confirmation more perfectly binds the baptized to the Church. Hagan explains, "The sacraments are not something that we earn or empty milestones that we reach. Rather, the sacraments are moments when we freely receive God's gift of grace, which actually affects change in us." The hope is that the decision to lower the confirmation age will encourage more children to receive the sacrament to strengthen them spiritually and enrich the entire body of Christ.

In the first centuries of the Church, the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation were celebrated along with the first reception of the Eucharist in one continuous rite, as is done in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults today. Beginning around the 5th-6th century, as conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation was reserved primarily to the bishop, a separation in time between the celebration of baptism and confirmation became the norm.

This has been the case in the Latin Rite Catholic Church since then, with various adjustments for the age of the confirmandi (those being confirmed) throughout the centuries. In that case, the focus of confirmation was on the full initiation of Catholics into the Church. Pastoral practice throughout the past 50-60 years in the United States also evolved with a greater tendency toward delaying confirmation into high school age, in some Dioceses even as late as age 18.

Recently, however, a number of Dioceses have lowered the age of confirmation significantly. The Diocese of Manchester,

New Hampshire, has lowered the confirmation age to third grade and returned to "restored order," which means the Sacraments of Initiation are received in the order of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. Here in Vermont, First Holy Communion will continue to be celebrated in the second grade with confirmation to follow in the sixth grade.

While the Diocese of Burlington is lowering the confirmation age, there will be no change in the order of the sacraments at this time.

Change will be made in coordination with priests and parish catechetical leaders who will be part of an ad hoc committee focused on the change.

For the 2018-2019 school year, plans call for confirmation to be administered in the 10th grade.

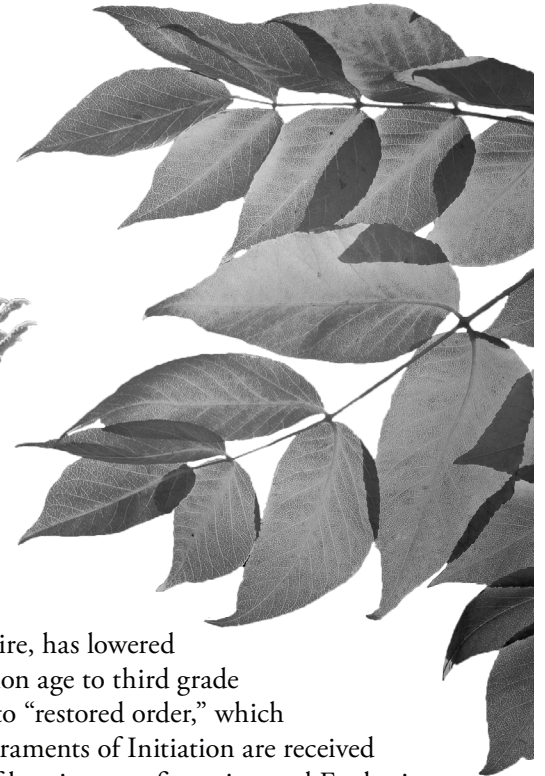
"There is a need for ongoing catechesis regardless of what age confirmation is received," said Hagan, who will help implement a new plan for confirmation preparation. "The constant unfolding of our faith is a process that can never be completed in this life. Confirmation is an important step in the journey of faith, but the expectation is that children — and adults — will continue to learn more and fall in love with the Church and God."

It is important that parishes provide a regular opportunity for this growth to occur and that parents model and encourage this deepening of faith.

For more information, contact Hagan at 802-658 6110 ext. 1146.

VTC • Cori Fugere Urban

A longer version of this article can be found at vermontcatholic.org/ConfirmationChange.



UPCOMING EVENTS



08|08 WEDNESDAY
Summer Reflection Series
St. Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte
 11:15 am - 2 pm

Edmundite Father David Cray presenting, "Praying with St. Dominic." Mass, followed by presentation and lunch.



08|11 SATURDAY
Padre Pio Mass
Holy Family Church, Essex Junction
 8 - 10 am

Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation at 8:30, Mass at 9, then adjourn to parish hall for presentation and refreshments.



08|12 SUNDAY
Messe en Français
St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington
 6 pm

Mass in French will be celebrated at the cathedral, animated by the Congolese community. Ideal for kids studying French at school to get in some extra credit!



08|15 WEDNESDAY
Closing Celebration for the 175 Anniversary of the Society of St. Edmund
St. Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte
 11:15 am and 7 pm

Feast of the Assumption and Closing Celebration, with a Mass at 11:15 am, Mass in the evening at 7 pm followed by the traditional candlelight procession. All welcome.



08|15 WEDNESDAY
St. Ambrose Lawn Party & Chicken Barbecue
St. Ambrose, Bristol
 5 - 8:30 pm

Held on the green. Chicken barbeque, pie contest and sale, fried dough, baked goods, white elephant table, face painting.



08|17-19 FRIDAY - SUNDAY
St. Thomas Fall Yard and Rummage Sale
St. Thomas, Underhill 9 am - 5 pm

Featuring house wares, dishes, toys, miscellaneous items, and, perhaps, a surprise or two. Rummage sale will feature fall and winter clothing for children and adults. Also a food concession stand. Rain or shine
FOR MORE INFO: rectory (802) 899-4632.



08|17 FRIDAY
Mass and Bingham Falls Hike
Stowe • 9:30 am

Father Jon Schnobrich, vocation director for the Diocese of Burlington, will celebrate Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church in Stowe at 9:30 am, followed by a hike to Bingham Falls. Bring a bag lunch and good hiking shoes. The Mass and hike are follow-up activities to the Steubenville Conference, but anyone is welcome.

FOR MORE INFO: Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (802) 658-6110 x1130 or 1240.



08|18 SATURDAY
Youth Ministry Training — Interactive YM
Holy Family, Essex • 9 am - 12 pm

3 hour long workshop on practical and fun ideas to engage today's young people. Open to anyone seeking to develop practical skills for reaching youth. Come ready to have some fun! This workshop is part of ongoing youth ministry trainings happening all over Vermont this year. Please RSVP to wgavin@vermontcatholic.org



08|19 SUNDAY
St. John the Baptist Annual Chicken Barbecue
St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 11 am - 1 pm
 Price: \$10. Dinner includes: 1/2 chicken, roll, salad, pickles, milk and dessert

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Marriage & Family Life Coordinator

Diocese: Youth and Young Adult Ministry Administrative Assistant

Diocese: Superintendent of Schools

Vermont Catholic Charities: Counselor/Psychotherapist Position

St. Luke/Ascension Parish, Fairfax: Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis

St. Peter's/St. Ambrose, Vergennes/Bristol: Youth Ministry

St. Augustine Catholic Parish, Montpelier: Director of Religious Education

Sacred Heart / St. Francis de Sales, Bennington: Part-time Coordinator of Catholic Youth Ministry and Evangelization

For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers



ROMAN CATHOLIC
 DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: vermontcatholic.org/events



THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON
 Year OF THE
Family
 THE JOY OF LOVE
CONFERENCE

August 25, 2018
9:30AM - 4PM
Capital Plaza Center, Montpelier

REGISTRATION AND INFO:
vermontcatholic.org/YearoftheFamilyConference

2018 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

The Office of Safe Environment Programs provides child safety training and background checks for 4,000 volunteers and 1,080 employees statewide. Support this office that ensures the protection of children with a donation to the Bishop's Annual Appeal at bishopsappealvt.org.

