Traditionally, throughout the month of November the Church remembers those who have died and prays for their souls. The month begins with All Saints’ Day on Nov. 1 on which we remember the official saints of the Church that serve as models of Christian living. On Nov. 2, All Soul’s Day is celebrated as we remember not only our deceased loved ones but all who have died. These two days remind us that we belong to the Communion of Saints. In our worship, we join in that “great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and the Lamb” (Rv 7:9). We are reminded that we are in communion with those that have gone before us in faith — saint and sinner. Our love and prayers on Earth can be a blessing to those who have died, just as their love is a blessing for the living.

During November, many churches set aside special places to remember and pray for our deceased loved ones. With a sense of gratitude for the love and care they have given us in life, we come to these places to pray for them, perhaps inscribing their name in a special Book of Remembrance or lighting a candle in their memory. The special area may include photos of our deceased loved ones, a visual reminder of our hope that they have joined us now in the Communion of Saints. We remember them, too, at every Mass by praying for the dead both in the Universal Prayer (the General Intercessions) and in the Eucharistic Prayer.

November is also a time to remember our own mortality. The readings at Mass in the weeks leading up to Advent serve as a reminder that “heaven and earth will pass away” and “of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mk 13:31a, 32; Gospel for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time). It is a time to remember the corporal work of mercy to bury the dead and the spiritual works of mercy to comfort the sorrowful and to pray for the living and the dead. How might you engage in the Church’s ministry to the dead and to those who mourn? Perhaps you may consider attending a funeral in your parish of someone you did not know well or at all. Attend not as a family member or close friend of the deceased but as a member of the Body of Christ. As the Church reminds us: The faith of the Christian community in the resurrection of the dead brings support and strength to those who suffer the loss of those whom they love. To put it simply: When someone can’t pray because of grief and loss, the Church — you and I — pray for and with them.

These days remind us that it is good to speak about the dead, to remember them and to pray for them. This month, let us ask God to bring us the light of His kingdom where justice will flourish, life will be lived in its fullness and death itself will die.

For more information about and reflection on the Church’s ministry surrounding death — especially on the funeral rites of the Church — visit the Liturgy and Worship webpage at vermontcatholic.org/worship.

— Josh Perry, Director of Worship,
Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington
10/28 SUNDAY
Ham Dinner
Our Lady of Fatima, Craftsbury • 12 - 1:30 pm
Menu: ham, mashed potatoes, beans, cole
slaw, pickled beets, rolls, dessert & beverage. Cost: donations.

10/28 SUNDAY
Jay Peak Clips and Reels Event
Jay Peak • 2 - 3:30 pm
Join other teens from around northern Vermont for a fun event at Jay Peak Clips and Reels Rec Center. Contact Bill Gavin at wgavin@vermontcatholic.org or call 802-658-6110 ext. 1240

10/29 MONDAY
Youth Ministry Training —
Theology of the Body
St. Monica Parish Hall, Barre • 6 - 8 pm
This workshop will give a cursory overview of Saint John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body”. The “Theology of the Body” is St. John Paul II’s integrated vision of the human person. According to this teaching, the human body has a specific meaning, making visible an invisible reality, and is capable of revealing answers regarding fundamental questions about us and our lives. John Paul II encourages a true reverence for the gift of our sexuality and challenges us to live it in a way worthy of our great dignity as human persons. Presented by Father Jon Schnobrich, Diocesan Vocation Director. This workshop is part of an ongoing series of Youth Ministry trainings happening all over Vermont this year. Please RSVP to wgavin@vermontcatholic.org

10/29, 11/5, 12 MONDAYS
Reflections on the Gospel according to St. Luke
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 7 - 8 pm
This short course will introduce the Gospel that will be read on the Sundays of the liturgical year 2019 (beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018). The title for the series is taken from St. Luke’s own prologue to his Gospel (Lk1:3). It expresses both his purpose in writing and our own interest in studying his work. This series began on October 22.

11/02 FRIDAY
Christmas-themed Bring-a-Gift Bingo
St. Amadeus, Alburgh • 5 pm
Doors open at 5 pm, and the games begin at 6. Cost: $5 for 18 (or fewer) cards plus a wrapped gift ($8-10 value). The snack bar will be open offering Maurice’s dinner specialties. Bring a new friend and receive a gift.

11/03, 10, 12 SATURDAYS
CYO Clinics
Rice Memorial High School, S. Burlington
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Attention all 5 – 8 graders! Come on out to Rice Memorial High School for these basketball clinics. Learn skills, play and have fun with other youth from around Burlington! Open to both boys and girls! All are welcome! 5th – 6th grade boys: 9:30-11 a.m. 5th – 6th grade girls: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. $20 for all four clinics (total $20)

11/06 TUESDAY
Hope, Healing and Outreach for Catholics Who are Separated or Divorced
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 10 am – 3 pm
A workshop for those affected by divorce and those who minister to them: church layty, priests, deacons, parish staff, parish catechetical leaders. Keynote speaker is Lisa Duffy. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost, but prior Registration is requested: vermontcatholic.org/event/workshop-for-separated-and-divorced-catholics/

11/08 THURSDAY
Youth Ministry Training — Interactive Youth Ministry
St. Michael Parish Center, Brattleboro • 6 - 8 pm
Interactive Youth Ministry will be a 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. Presented by Bill Gavin, Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Please RSVP to wgavin@vermontcatholic.org

11/10 – 20
Silent 10 Day Retreat
Our Lady of Life Institute, Saint Paul’s Abbottsford, QC
9:30 am - 7 pm
Teaching will center on responding to God’s desire to live His life in us, with Pope Francis in Rejoice and Be Glad. An optional roundtable conversation about putting prayer into daily life is planned. Time for prayer, reading, walking and resting in the Lord, with Mass and Reconciliation. Lunch is in silence; dinner is joyful fellowship. For more information and to register, contact Teresa at email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org. (Passport or enhanced travel document needed.)

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Diocese: Marriage & Family Life Coordinator
Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator
Diocese: Youth and Young Adult Ministry Administrative Assistant
Vermont Catholic Charities: Accountant
Vermont Catholic Charities: Residential Care Home Administrator
St. Luke / Ascension Parish, Fairfax: Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis
St. Peter / St. Ambrose, Vergennes/Bristol: Youth Ministry
Sacred Heart / St. Francis de Sales, Bennington: Part-time Coordinator of Catholic Youth Ministry and Evangelization
For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

2018 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
Thank you to all who have generously given to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal in support of the Vermont Catholic community and the many ministries that it provides throughout the state. There is still time to make your gift at bishopsappealvt.org

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