The annual Chrism Mass brings the diocesan community together as the bishop blesses the priests of the diocese and blesses the holy oils that will be used in the sacramental life of the Church in the coming year.

During the liturgy, the priests stand before the bishop and renew the promises they made at their own ordinations. They resolve to be “faithful stewards of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist” and “discharge the sacred office of teaching […] not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls.” The bishop exhorts everyone to pray for the priests and to pray for him so that he “may be made day by day a living and more perfect image of Christ, the Priest, the Good Shepherd, the Teacher, and the Servant of all.”

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Sacred Oils are blessed. Containers holding the three oils – Oil of the Sick, Oil of the Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism – as well as the perfume that is mixed into the Sacred Chrism to give it its rich aroma – are presented by deacons serving in the diocese. The Oil of the Sick is blessed for the healing of body, mind, and spirit. The Oil of Catechumens is blessed for the anointing of those preparing for Baptism. Through this anointing, they are strengthened by Christ to resist the power of evil in all its forms. The Holy Chrism is consecrated by the bishop and priests of the diocese to anoint infants after baptism, those who are to be confirmed, and bishops and priests at their ordination. It is also used to anoint altars and churches at the time of their dedication. After the Mass, the oils are distributed and brought back to all the churches in the diocese.

All are invited to this special liturgy to pray especially for our priests and for all who will be anointed by these oils in the coming year. As the bishop will pray at the Chrism Mass: “may the Lord keep us all in his charity and lead all of us, shepherds and flock, to eternal life.”

— Josh Perry, director of worship and liturgy, Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

Also at the Chrism Mass…

A new saint for Vermont?
Bishop Coyne plans to officially announce the canonization cause for the first bishop of the Diocese of Burlington, Bishop Louis deGoesbriand. The canonization cause is the process required by the Roman Catholic Church to officially recognize an individual as a saint.

A new plan for the Diocese
Bishop Coyne will officially promulgate the first synod document to come out of the Vermont Catholic Church in more than 50 years. The document is the product of a Diocesan Synod which was announced in spring of 2017 and concluded in January after four sessions. It was the first Diocesan Synod in Vermont since 1962. Copies of the document will be available at the Mass.

Read more about the cause for canonization of Bishop Louis deGoesbriand and about the outcomes of the Diocesan Synod at vermontcatholic.org/vtc.
04|16 TUESDAY
Chriwm Mass
St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington
11 am - 12:30 pm
Join Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne and the priests of the Diocese of Burlington for the annual Mass at which priests will renew the promises they made at their ordination and the holy oils used throughout the year in the sacramental life of the Church will be blessed. A reception follows in the church hall.

04|16 TUESDAY
Holy Week Taize Service
Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales, Bennington 7 pm
Join us for the annual Holy Week Service of Silent Prayer, Song and Adoration of the Cross in the tradition of Taize. Music of the late Jacques Berthier (1923-1994), who composed for the Taize community, will be sung. Throughout the Adoration of the Cross, Samuel Barber's celebrated composition, Adagio for Strings, will be performed at the church organ. Those who wish to do so may submit prayer intentions to be sung by a cantor during the service. People of all faiths are warmly invited to attend.

04|17 WEDNESDAY
Mater Christi School Open House
Mater Christi School, Burlington
8:30 - 11 am
Join us for our open house to see our campus and classrooms in action. This event is the perfect opportunity for families to tour our school, listen in classrooms, meet our faculty and staff and learn more about our approach to a values-based education. Limited availability in some grades. www.mcschool.org

04|18 THURSDAY
Mass of the Lord’s Supper with Bishop Coyne
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 7 pm

04|19 FRIDAY
Good Friday Service with Bishop Coyne
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 3 pm

04|20 SATURDAY
Easter Vigil with Bishop Coyne
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 8 pm

04|21 SUNDAY
Easter Sunday Mass with Bishop Coyne
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am

04|23 WEDNESDAY
VCP Networking Breakfast
Pomerleau Center, Saint Michael's College 8 - 9:30 am
Free event featuring networking and refreshments, and a talk by Lisa Ventriss, President & CEO of Vermont Business Roundtable. To register or for more information: vermontcatholic.org/vcp

04|25 THURSDAY
Bishop Robert Barron’s Catholicism Series
Holy Family, Essex Jct. • 9:30 - 10:30 am
Join us for Episode 7 – Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven. We will play one episode each week, ending on May 16. Series began on March 7.

04|28 SUNDAY
Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions
St. Lawrence Church, Essex Junction 2 - 4 pm
There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the singing the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Confessions will be heard beginning at 2 pm.

05|02 THURSDAY
Tortolano Organ Concert
St. Michael’s College Chapel, Colchester 7:30 pm
Join us for a celebration of two enduring College legacies: the Chapel’s 51-year old organ, which Tortolano designed in 1966, and the 89-year old Tortolano himself. Organist emeritus at the college, This will be the 51st recital on the chapel organ, which is dedicated to him. The concert is free and open to the public.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Totus Tuus Summer Coordinator
Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator
The Loretto Home, Rutland: Dir. of Nursing
The Loretto Home, Rutland: Residential Care Positions
St. Joseph Residential Care Home, Burlington: LPN

For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

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