Trying to figure out who’s who is a common human activity. We like to know who we are sharing our time with and what relationship they have to us. So it is with the Church that gathers on Sunday for Mass. Many of the faces are as familiar as our own, but as with any healthy group, new faces are to be expected and welcomed. Some of those new faces may be responding to a call to find out more about Christ and His Church.

The Church opens its arms to these seekers with the wisdom and rituals of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. People who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith and its mission falls into two main groups: catechumens and candidates. A catechumen is someone who has never been baptized while there are others (called candidates), already been baptized in another Christian denomination, who desire to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church. Catechumens and candidates undergo a period of formation involving a number of steps and phases.

After this formation, usually at the Easter Vigil or in the Easter Season, they receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. In 2018, the Diocese of Burlington had 42 catechumens and 47 candidates.

For these catechumens and candidates, Lent is a period of intensified spiritual preparation. At the beginning of Lent, the Diocese celebrates a special ritual: the “Rite of Election” for the catechumens and the “Call to Continuing Conversion” for the candidates. Based on the testimony given by the sponsors and catechists, Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne will declare the catechumens to be “Elect,” chosen by God for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the upcoming Easter Vigil.

The bishop will also recognize the desire of the already-baptized candidates for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist within our Catholic Community.

All members of the faithful throughout the Diocese are encouraged to pray for and with the catechumens and candidates. Join us for the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, and commit to praying in Lent for these newest faces in your parish and throughout the Diocese.

The above article was written by Josh Perry, director of worship for the Diocese of Burlington, and Lauri Becker, a retired director of religious education from Minnesota who presented on the RCIA at last September’s Pastoral Ministries Conference.

All are encouraged to attend the Diocesan Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on March 1 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington at 3 p.m.
shipped to Haiti later in the spring. After the meal, all are
school supplies, which will be collected throughout Lent and
parish in Boc-Banic, Haiti. We will also accept donations of
support education and community development at our sister
will donation is requested (but not required) and will go to
variety of meatless soups and lots of good fellowship. A free
Stations of the Cross, followed by soup prepared by various
children 9 and under $6.50, immediate family of 5 $38.
baked dinner roll, beverage and dessert. Adults $13.50,
includes fried or baked haddock, French fries, coleslaw, fresh
light refreshments.

Mark on March 4, Saint Matthew on March 11, Saint Luke on
The Gospels, presented by Rev. Father John Milanese. Saint
Inspirational, educational, and insightful reflections on
Are you aging well? Does aging feel like a
thief in the night? Do you think that your age is not the best
age to be? Would you like to have more meaning and purpose
in your life? The Ageless in the Lord Lenten Retreat has
nothing to do with age, but everything to do with attitude!
This retreat will challenge those who are past their mid-life,
or are living in their senior years. Register by 2/28/2020:

Revolution of the Heart: 
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 8:30 pm
This new documentary explores the life, the faith, and
the ministry of this extraordinary woman who devoted
herself to the ideals of Catholic social teaching and the Preferential Option for the Poor. She is currently under
consideration for sainthood. Essex Catholic Community
is pleased to present this film as part of our “Series on
the Saints.”

Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family • 8 - 9:30 am
First Saturday of every month, rosary and reconciliation
begin at 8 am and Mass at 8:30.

St. Joseph’s Day Celebration
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington
5:30 - 8 pm
The Cathedral of Saint Joseph, in partnership with the World
Apostolate of Fatima — Our Lady’s Blue Army — is hosting
an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary for Vocations,
and Mass. The traveling Virgin Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of
Fatima will be at our Cathedral from March 7-21. During
this mission, we pray in a special way for the priests and
seminarians of our diocese as we celebrate the Solemnity
of Saint Joseph, Protector of the Church. 5:30 – 6:30
pm: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament;
Confessions. 6:30 pm: Rosary. 7 pm: Mass for the Solemnity
of Saint Joseph

Lenten Mission: 
Saint Sylvester, Graniteville • 7 - 8 pm
Inspirational, educational, and insightful reflections on
The Gospels, presented by Rev. Father John Milanese. Saint
Mark on March 4, Saint Matthew on March 11, Saint Luke on
March 18, and Saint John on March 25. If desired, bring your Bible and a notepad. Lent isn’t just about what you give up;
it is about who you become.

Taize Prayer Service
St. Jude, Hinesburg • 6:30 - 7:30 pm
All welcome; free will offering will be taken.

Lenten Mission: “Insight into The Gospels”
St. Ambrose, Brattleboro • 5 - 6 pm
Join us for all-you-can-eat fish fry. Meal includes fried or baked haddock, French fries, coleslaw, fresh
baked dinner roll, beverage and dessert. Adults $13.50,
children 9 and under $6.50, immediate family of 5 $38.

Stations and Soup
St. Michael, Brattleboro • 5:30 - 6:30 pm
On Fridays during Lent, we will pray the Stations of the Cross, followed by soup prepared by various
parish groups, served at St. Brigid’s Kitchen.

Lenten Soup Supper for Haiti
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6 - 7 pm
Join us for a modest Lenten meal, with a
variety of meatless soups and lots of good fellowship. A free
will donation is requested (but not required) and will go to
support education and community development at our sister
parish in Boc-Banic, Haiti. We will also accept donations of
school supplies, which will be collected throughout Lent and
shipped to Haiti later in the spring. After the meal, all are
invited to stay for Stations of the Cross in the church upstairs.

Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 8:30 pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DIocese of Burlington
CAREERS

Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator
Sacred Heart / St. Francis de Sales School,
Bennington: Administrator
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home,
Burlington: Full-Time LPN or Med Tech
— $1000 Sign-On Bonus
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home,
Burlington: Part-Time LPN or Med Tech
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home,
Burlington: Full-Time LNA or Caregiver — $500 Sign-On Bonus
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home,
Burlington: Part-Time LNA or Caregiver
Vermont Catholic Charities:
Counselor Full-Time

For More Info:
vermontcatholic.org/careers