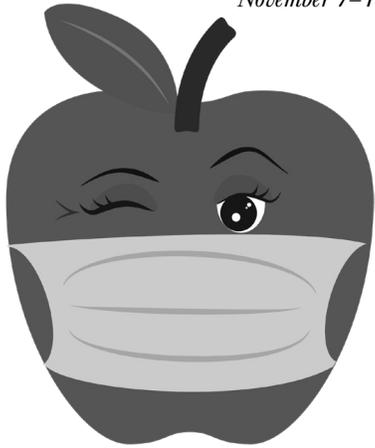


NEWS FROM The Inland See FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

November 7-13, 2020



Religious education INITIATIVES

Just as schools have faced pandemic-related challenges as they prepared to open for the 2020-21 school year, so too did religious education programs in the Diocese of Burlington. But thanks to support from diocesan staff and the work of pastors, religious educators and parents, programs are underway — some in-person, some online and others a hybrid.

“This is a challenging year to be sure. It is encouraging to see so many of our parish leaders step up to meet the challenge by adapting their programs,” said Michael Hagan, manager of religious education and catechesis for the Diocese of Burlington.

Taking cues from the Vermont Department of Health and the Catholic schools, the Diocese released protocols in August for in-person religious education for the current school year. “Temperature checks, wearing masks and social distancing are key elements of keeping religious education a relatively safe environment for our children to learn about Jesus Christ together,” he said.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based religious education program, faces some additional challenges in keeping children separated and the atrium (classroom space) sanitized, but parishes are finding various solutions to these challenges, he explained.

Kathy Murphy, coordinator of faith formation at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Parish in Bennington, has been communicating with each family to see what works best for

them. In some cases, she will be meeting families individually in the atrium. “This is a beautiful example of the personalized approach our Church needs to have in walking alongside people on their path to Jesus Christ,” Hagan said.

Many parishes are doing online formation and hope to transition back to in-person formation later in the year if possible.

“The Diocese continues to support parish leaders and their programs,” Hagan said, noting that there was a religious-ed online “check in” for all catechetical leaders and catechists in October, which was an opportunity for parish religious educators to encourage one another, share ideas and pray together.

In addition, the Diocese will offer online catechist formation opportunities throughout the year.

Candidates who would have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring were confirmed in regional confirmations in September and October. Candidates currently in seventh and eighth grade are beginning preparations to receive the sacrament in the spring. The Diocese still is transitioning to sixth-grade confirmation, which will begin next year.

“Many catechetical leaders have gone above and beyond in reaching out individually to families to make sure they know they are welcome and missed in their parish,” Hagan said. “That kind of one-on-one accompaniment with our young families is key to navigating our Church through this pandemic.”

VTC • Cori Fugere Urban

CHRIST OUR

Hope

BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH



Christ Our Hope Campaign Update

A portion of the funds raised through the *Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church* campaign supports these types of ministries through the faith formation fund established in the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation. This will ensure stable income for vital faith formation ministries, especially in times of crisis. To learn more about the campaign or make a gift online visit: www.christourhopevt.org.

20%

As of October 28: \$ 1,959,047

Goal: \$10,000,000

Upcoming Events



11|10, 17 TUESDAYS The Apostles Creed: Reflection Group

Zoom Meeting • 7:45 - 8:45 pm

The Apostle's Creed is the oldest of the official creeds of the Church and is still used today as our baptismal creed. Join Seminarian Greg Caldwell for a series of reflections followed by discussion upon the Apostle's Creed. Email gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu to get Zoom information to join.



11|12 THURSDAY Theology on Fire

UVM Catholic Center and Maille Dairy Farm, Burlington • 6:45 - 8 pm

Young adults are invited to gather for Theology on Fire, a series of conversations on theological topics. We'll begin with Mass at the UVM Catholic Center at 6pm. Following, join us at the Maille Dairy Farm, just 15 minutes away on Dorset Street. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothes! On October 29, Fr. Matthew Rensch will lead our discussion on "Conscience and the Holy Spirit."



11|14 SATURDAY Padre Pio Devotions

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 10 am

The Padre Pio Prayer Group meets the second Saturday of each month. Rosary starts at 8am followed by Mass, Special Intentions for the intercession of Saint Padre Pio and then learning about Padre Pio's life,

ministry and spiritual gifts will follow in the Holy Family Parish Hall after Mass.



11|14 SATURDAY Women's Retreat 2020

Zoom Meeting • 9 am - 12:30 pm

This year's theme: *Walking with Mary — Our Mother, Our Hope*. Keynote Speaker — Sister Marie Benedict of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. Registration is free, registration deadline Nov. 11. More info and register at: vermontcatholic.org/event/womens-retreat-2020/



11|09 THURSDAY Virtual Theology on Tap

Zoom Meeting • 7 - 8 pm

Grab a pint and join us over Zoom for Theology on Tap! Fr. Steven Marchand, Parochial Vicar in Rutland will be our speaker. Theology on Tap is a lecture and discussion series for young adults ages 18-39. Register at: vermontcatholic.org/event/virtual-theology-on-tap-2/



11|22 SUNDAY Holy Hour Prayers in One Accord

St. John Vianney, South Burlington • 3 pm

The Blue Army friends are hosting this special intention prayers with Adoration, chanted Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the Litany of Reparation in honor to the Blessed Sacrament. Please come and pray together, Jesus is waiting for you. Ask and you shall receive.

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator

St. Joseph Kervick Home, Rutland:
Resident Services Coordinator

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home,
Burlington:* Cook

*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

For More Info:

vermontcatholic.org/careers



NOV. 8-14, 2020

**CHALLENGES
TO GROW
YOUR
MARRIAGE**

NURTURE YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE TOGETHER

Attend Mass together taking time after to talk about the homily, spend a half-hour in silence together (listen to how God is calling you) and then share what you experienced, pray the Way of the Cross in a church or take a Rosary Walk.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

CHRIST OUR

Hope

2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



As we launch the Christ our Hope campaign, we ask that you first prayerfully consider your annual gift to the Bishop's Appeal which helps support statewide ministries today: bishopsappealvt.org. If you are able, we then ask that you prayerfully consider making a gift to our first-ever statewide campaign over a three-year period to ensure the vibrant future of our parishes, schools and ministries to the poor.

100%

2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal Goal: \$2,651,157

72%

As of October 28: **\$1,908,631**