

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

February 20–26, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

## The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Bishop Christopher Coyne and Josh Perry at the 2020 Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington. — Cori Fugere Urban photo

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 (the RCIA).

People who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith and its mission fall into two main groups: catechumens and

candidates. A catechumen is someone who has never been baptized while candidates are those who have 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. Then, after this formation — usually at the Easter Vigil or in the Easter Season — they receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. In 2020, the Diocese of Burlington had 23 catechumens and 36 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, 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 also will recognize the desire of the already-baptized candidates for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist within the Catholic community.

The faithful throughout the Diocese are encouraged to pray for and with the catechumens and candidates this Lent, especially for the new faces they may see in their own parishes.

All are encouraged to attend (either virtually or in person) the diocesan Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion on Feb. 28 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington at 3 p.m.

— *Josh Perry, Director of Worship, Diocese of Burlington*

## Lent: A time for prayer

with the Diocese of Burlington Rosary Apostolate

Lent will begin Wednesday, February 17; Lent is a time for penance, reflection and spiritual growth. One way we can increase our holiness is to incorporate the Rosary into our daily prayer life. Each day the Diocese of Burlington offers a recitation of the Rosary featuring a member of our Vermont diocesan community. If you are looking for ways to grow in holiness this Lenten season, consider visiting our

Rosary page at [www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/rosary/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/rosary/) to pray with fellow Vermont Catholics, or to sign up to lend your voice for a recording.

Saint Padre Pio has been quoted as saying, “The Rosary is the weapon for these times.” May we grow together in holiness and protection from all evil. For more information email Valerie Parzyck [vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org)



# Upcoming Events



02|22, 03|01, 08, 15, 22, 29 MONDAYS  
**Living in the Father's Love  
 Women's Bible Study**  
*via Zoom • 7 - 8:30 pm*

Each session will focus on how to improve our relationship with God and those He places on our journey. Discover how God really loves you. Hosted by Terri McCormack and Mary Alice Walker. **Register here:** [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/living-in-the-fathers-love-womens-bible-study/2021-02-22/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/living-in-the-fathers-love-womens-bible-study/2021-02-22/)



02|22 MONDAY  
**Lent with St. Joseph**  
*Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington  
 7 - 8 pm*

Holy Hour with the Litany of St. Joseph and spiritual reflections on St. Joseph by Brandon Schneider, seminarian. Confessions will be available during Adoration.



02|23, 03|02, 9, 16, 23 TUESDAYS  
**Encounter Jesus Bible Study**  
*via Zoom • 7 - 8 pm*

Each week will focus on a different encounter with Jesus as described in the Gospels which in the words of Pope Francis, "changes our lives... and fills us with joy." Hosted by Deacon Phil Lawson. **Learn more and register at:** [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/encounter-jesus-bible-study/all/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/encounter-jesus-bible-study/all/)



02|23 - 04|20 TUESDAYS  
**The Sacraments**  
*via Zoom • 7:45 - 8:45 pm*

Join Seminarian Greg Caldwell to think about and reflect upon the Seven Sacraments. For Zoom information email Greg Caldwell at [gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu).



02|24 - 05|12 WEDNESDAYS  
**Awaken / Light of the World**  
*via Zoom • 7 - 8:30 pm*

It's Time to AWAKEN! Awaken is an innovative new program developed by Light of the World Evangelization Ministries (the same people that sponsor the Light of the World retreats) designed to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus and His Church. The program is a completely on-line series of 12 sessions using Zoom and prepared videos followed by small group discussions building on the video themes. Essex Catholic Community is planning to begin Awaken during Lent on Wednesday nights. There is no cost to participate. If you think you might be interested in participating or have questions, e-mail or phone Deacon Gerry Scilla at [vtscilla@comcast.net](mailto:vtscilla@comcast.net), 878-0639.



02|24 WEDNESDAY  
**Emotional Virtue for a Drama  
 Free Life with Sarah Swafford**  
*Zoom • 7:30 pm*

The Catholic Center at UVM is hosting well-known speaker and author, Sarah Swafford. To register for this online event visit: [www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b-4dabab2aa6f49-evening](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b-4dabab2aa6f49-evening)



02|24, 03|10, 24, 04|07 WEDNESDAYS  
**Saints and Sinners**  
*via Zoom • 7:30 - 8:30 pm*

Sinners as saints? Join us as we look at the lives of four saints and how his or her life can inspire us to live the plan God has for each one of us. There will be time for prayer and discussion with your hosts Michael Hagan and Terri McCormack. All are welcome! Register at: [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/saints-and-sinners](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/saints-and-sinners)



02|25 THURSDAY  
**Dispel the Darkness —  
 An Evening of Light and Hope**  
*St. Monica, Barre • 6:30 - 8 pm*

Come rest in the light and the hope of Christ. Whatever the darkness you may find yourself in, come discover the hope of God. Evening will include reflections and prayers led by Deacon Phil Lawson, with music by Bill Gavin. There will be adoration, the Luminous Mysteries of the rosary and an opportunity for confession. This event will be live streamed for those who are unable to attend in person.



03|03 WEDNESDAY  
**Building a Culture  
 of Encounter Through Fasting,  
 Prayer, Almsgiving**  
*via Zoom • 6:30 - 8 pm*

All are welcome to attend this virtual evening of reflection and conversation, offered by Josh Perry, Director of the Office of Worship, that will help us consider anew the traditional Lenten disciplines: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Between each reflection, there will be time for conversation and questions, silent prayer and guided meditation, and music. Register at: [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/an-evening-of-reflection-building-a-culture-of-encounter-through-fasting-prayer-almsgiving/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/an-evening-of-reflection-building-a-culture-of-encounter-through-fasting-prayer-almsgiving/)



03|04 THURSDAY  
**Dispel the Darkness —  
 An Evening of Light and Hope**  
*Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 6:30 - 8 pm*

Come rest in the light and the hope of Christ. Whatever the darkness you may find yourself in, come discover the hope of God. Evening will include reflections and prayers led by Deacon Phil Lawson, with music by Bill Gavin. There will be adoration, the Luminous Mysteries of the rosary and an opportunity for confession. This event will be live streamed for those who are unable to attend in person.



03|09 TUESDAY  
**Dispel the Darkness —  
 An Evening of Light and Hope**  
*All Saints, Richford • 6:30 - 8 pm*

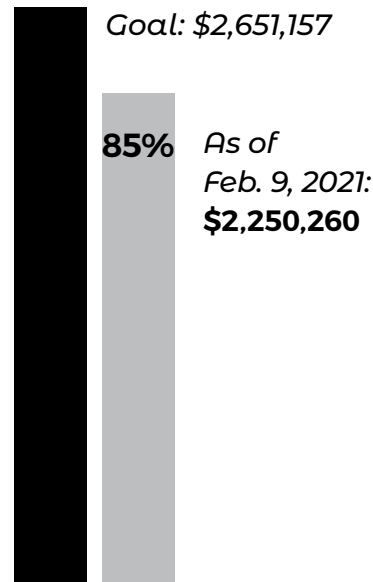
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CHRIST OUR

*Hope*



2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



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BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH

