On March 30 at 11 a.m., priests from throughout the Diocese of Burlington will join Bishop Christopher Coyne at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington for the celebration of the Chrism Mass. This annual Mass traditionally is celebrated on the morning of Holy Thursday but, as is done in most Dioceses in the United States, can be moved to another time around Easter. The 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 of the Diocese will stand before the bishop and renew the promises they made at their own ordination. 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 also exhorts everyone to pray for the priests and finally 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 join us for 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.”

Because of the limited capacity in the cathedral, seating for the general public will be limited. Those wishing to attend in person must RSVP online (vermontcatholic.org/events), and reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The Mass also will be live-streamed on the diocesan website and Facebook page. Priests or parish representatives designated by their pastors may come to the lower chapel following the Chrism Mass to pick up the holy oils for their respective church(es).

— Josh Perry is director of the Office of Worship of the Diocese of Burlington.
### Upcoming Events

**03|22, 29 MONDAYS**

**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.

**03|23 TUESDAY**

**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. [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/encounter-jesus-bible-study/all/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/encounter-jesus-bible-study/all/)

**03|23 – 04|02 TUESDAYS**

**The Sacraments**
via Zoom • 7:45 - 8:45 pm
Join Sacrament Coordinator Greg Caldwell to think about and reflect upon the Seven Sacraments. For Zoom information email Greg Caldwell at gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu.

**03|24 WEDNESDAY**

**7 Keys to Sharing Your Faith**
via Zoom • 7:30 pm
Thomas Smith will be joining us virtually to discuss his own conversion story (from Mormon missionary to Baptist Minister to Catholic evangelist) as a template for exploring with you seven keys for joyfully and fruitfully sharing your faith with others. Learn more at: [vermontcatholic.org/event/7-keys-to-sharing-your-faith](http://vermontcatholic.org/event/7-keys-to-sharing-your-faith)

**03|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)

**03|25 THURSDAY**

**Lenten Reflection with Bishop Christopher Coyne**
via Zoom • 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Join Bishop Coyne as he shares his Lenten reflection. All are welcome! Register at: [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/lenten-reflection-with-bishop-christopher-coyne/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/lenten-reflection-with-bishop-christopher-coyne/)

**03|26, 04|02 FRIDAYS**

**Live Stations of the Cross**
via Zoom • 11:30 am
Join Josh Perry and Valerie Parzyck as they pray Stations of the Cross online. This event will be streamed live at 11:30 am every Friday during Lent and at 7 pm on Good Friday. Register at: [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/live-stations-of-the-cross](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/live-stations-of-the-cross)

**03|27 SATURDAY**

**St. Ann Roast, Pork & Beans Dinner**
St. Ann, Milton • 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Sponsored by the Milton Knights of Columbus. Take-out only. Call St. Ann Rectory at (802) 893-2487 to order.

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### A bus ride from hell to heaven... **intrigued?**

Join us on this adventure as we read C.S. Lewis’ classic novel “The Great Divorce.” As we approach and celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection on Easter Sunday, we can hardly help but reflect on the “Four Last Things”: death, judgement, heaven, and hell.

Online, Tuesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 pm.
- March 30, 2021
- April 6, 2021
- April 13, 2021

Register at: [vermontcatholic.org/event/book-study-great-divorce](http://vermontcatholic.org/event/book-study-great-divorce)

### VERMONT CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB

Live captioning available.

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**CHRIST OUR HOPE
2020 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL**

**Goal: $2,651,157**

86% As of March 8, 2021: $2,278,829

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BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH**

To learn more or make a gift visit: [christourhopevt.org](http://christourhopevt.org)

**Goal: $9,582,456**

46% As of March 8, 2021: $4,378,367