Unlike last year, Easter this year is a bit more festive, a bit more celebratory. If you recall, none of our churches were open for the Easter celebrations last year as we began the initial struggle to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. Most of you were able to celebrate Easter Mass through digital media or on television but were not able to attend Mass in person. We sang our “Alleluia” a bit more remotely than we would have liked perhaps, but it was still our Easter song.

Since then, we have been fortunate here in Vermont in that we have been able to return to public celebrations of the sacraments at 50 percent of capacity, with care to follow the safety protocols. Because we have been careful, we have had no major outbreaks or incidents in our churches and schools. As a result, we are quietly creeping back to normalcy. In spite of all the challenges we have faced, we have persevered in practicing our faith and being the bearers of “good news” to a community and culture that truly needs to hear the message of Christ.

Pope Francis once said, “We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when His light illuminates the dark moments of our existence.” I am amazed at how many of our parishioners, staff and clergy have stepped up during this past year to be “light-bringers.” I have witnessed a great deal of enthusiastic creativity in our community that has allowed us to stay connected as a people of faith; numerous acts of charity when people have gone out of their way to make sure their neighbors, especially the elderly and homebound, are taken care of; so many teachers and staff and volunteers in our Catholic schools who have done an incredible job to keep our schools open; so many good and faithful priests who have carried on in their care for their flock that I cannot help but say, “Amen! We are bringing light to the dark moments of existence. Alleluia is our song each and every day!”

I’ll leave you with this funny quote from the 20th-century humorist Evan Esar. He once said, “Easter is the only time when it’s perfectly safe to put all of your eggs in one basket.” Yes, indeed, especially if that “one basket” is our Catholic faith in Jesus Christ, our resurrected Lord and Savior.

God bless.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington
**Upcoming Events**

**04|07 WEDNESDAY**

**Saints and Sinners**  
via Zoom • 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
We are all called to be saints. Join us as we look at the life of St. Faustina and how she has influenced our guest speaker, Father Lance Harlow. There will be time for prayer and discussion with your hosts Michael Hagan, Terri McCormack, and Laura Underhill. Register at: [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/saints-and-sinners](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/saints-and-sinners)

**04|07 WEDNESDAY**

**Off the Hook: Dating in a Hook-up Culture**  
Online • 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
Sponsored by the Catholic Center at UVM. Tim O’Malley, Director of Education; Academic Director, Notre Dame Center for Liturgy will offer insight into the impact of the hookup culture on forming authentic relationships and ways to think about how we communicate and share love with those around us. Learn more: [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/off-the-hook-dating-in-a-hookup-culture/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/off-the-hook-dating-in-a-hookup-culture/)

**04|14 WEDNESDAY**

**Parent Cafe — Blessed are They That Mourn**  
Zoom • 7:30 - 8:15 pm  
Join Michael Hagan and Terri McCormack to discuss how suffering equips us with the strength to comfort and understand others. Short presentation on the second Beatitude, discussion, and prayer. [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/parent-cafe-blessed-are-they-that-mourn/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/parent-cafe-blessed-are-they-that-mourn/)

**04|28 WEDNESDAY**

**Vermont Catholic Professionals Virtual Event**  
Zoom • 8 - 9 am  
Our April guest speaker is Mary Anne Sheahan, Executive Director — Vermont Talent Pipeline Management Program, Vermont Business Roundtable. Learn more: [www.vermontcatholic.org/event/vermont-catholic-professionals-virtual-event-2/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/vermont-catholic-professionals-virtual-event-2/)

**05|08 SATURDAY**

**Food Drive at Cathedral of St. Joseph and St Mark Churches**  
Burlington • 9 - 11 am  
The Knights of Columbus de Goesbriand Council # 275 is conducting a food drive at both churches, with drop-off in the parking lot of nonperishable food items to benefit the North End Food Pantry. Please consider making a donation.

**05|13 THURSDAY**

**The Ascension of the Lord**  
Solemnity  
We commemorate the day Jesus ascended into heaven. Read about the Ascension in Acts 1: 6-12.

**05|23 SUNDAY**

**Pentecost**  
Solemnity  
We commemorate the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostles. Read about Pentecost in Acts 2: 1-13.

**Love one another**

**LOVE LANGUAGE REMINDER**

Choose at least two days this week to do something for your spouse that lets him/her know you love them dearly. If you need to revisit the quiz here’s the link: [www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/couples-quiz/](http://www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/couples-quiz/)  
(Quality Time, Gifts, Touch, Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service)

[vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge](http://vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge)

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**CHRIST OUR Hope**

**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 24, 2021: $4,392,707

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**DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS**

**Diocese:** Staff Accountant  
The Loretto Home, Rutland: Director of Nursing — Up to $7,500 Sign-on Bonus!

The Loretto Home, Rutland: Full-Time and Part-Time LNA or Nurse Aide — $500 Sign-On Bonus for Full-Time!

St. Joseph Kervick Home, Rutland: Full-Time and Part-Time LNA or Nurse Aide — $500 Sign-On Bonus for Full-Time!

The School of Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales, Bennington: Principal

For More Info: [vermontcatholic.org/careers](http://vermontcatholic.org/careers)

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**APRIL 4–10, 2021**

**CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE**

[Love Language Reminder](http://vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge)