Dear Mom,

How many of you reflect on or regret missed time with a loved one? I regret the times I could have called my mom just to chat. My mother hid her dementia from me and my siblings for years. Spending most of her time in the warmer southern states, she would visit each of us for a few weeks each year. Near the end of her life, she was placed in a nursing home, and she did not recognize any of her family — she was not the mother we grew up with. She was not able to hug us, tell us she loved us or sing us silly songs. I miss that woman, the mother of my youth.

I ask that this Mother’s Day we each take time to honor those women who have influenced us in our lives. Just as we honor our Blessed Mother Mary, who influences us daily in various ways, we must honor the “mothers” in our communities — those maternal influences of motherhood.

Take time today to thank those women who have maternally influenced you. If she is still with you, start with your own mother. Then your neighbor, a cousin, sister, aunt, family friend or teacher. Pray for her and for women contemplating motherhood. Pray for women unable to conceive, that they may experience the gift of motherhood in relationship with others.

— Terri McCormack, Marriage and Family Life Coordinator

All-loving God, we give thanks and praise for mothers young and old.

We pray for your mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen.
Upcoming Events

05|22 SATURDAY
Walk to Mary
Isle La Motte • 9 am - 3 pm
We will be make a 2.3 mile walk from St Joseph's Church to St Anne's Shrine, praying the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Following the walk there will be Mass, time for picnic lunch, Stations of the Cross for Life and closing prayers. For more info: Janice (802) 848-3834, janicegodin@myfairpoint.net or Renee (802) 370-2231, ripatterson1962@gmail.com.

06|19 SATURDAY
Ordination Mass
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am
The Diocese of Burlington joyfully celebrates the ordination of two men to Holy Orders. Deacon Robert Murphy will be ordained to the priesthood and Mr. Gregory Caldwell will be ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Christopher J. Coyne. Due to the seating capacity restrictions, attendance at the Mass will be by invitation only to allow for the priests of the diocese, Robert and Greg’s family and friends, and members of their home parishes to attend. The Mass will be live-streamed on the Diocesan website.

07|11 SUNDAY
Family Mass with Bishop Coyne
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 12 pm
More information will be shared soon!

Love one another

MOTHER’S DAY
In honor of Mother’s Day, pray the rosary together (or maybe a decade every night to start with). Include prayers for our communities to welcome new life, and to respect the dignity of each person. Honor your wife with a gift using her love language.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

Worldpriest Annual Global
ROSARY RELAY
Friday, June 11, 2021 • 2 p.m.

- Live-streamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington
- Rosary to be led by Bishop Christopher J. Coyne
- Join us on www.vermontcatholic.org or facebook.com/DioBurlington/
- Learn more about the Worldpriest Annual Global Rosary Relay at worldpriest.com/annual-global-rosary-relay/
- Questions? Email Valerie Parzyck at vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org
- How many Vermonters can we get praying the Rosary together? Join us to find out!

CHRIST OUR
Hope
2020 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

MAY 9 – 15, 2021

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

Goal: $2,651,157

87%
As of April 27, 2021: $2,313,725

Thank you to all those who have made a gift already. We ask those that can to please consider making a gift. You can make a gift online at: vermontcatholic.org/donate