What is the Synod of Bishops?
A helpful short definition of the Synod of Bishops is a gathering of bishops that:

1. fosters closer unity between the bishops and the Pope.
2. provides counsel to the Pope on matters of faith and morals, and discipline of the Church.
3. studies questions concerning the Church in the world (c.f. Code of Canon Law c. 342).

Voting in the Synod of Bishops is limited to bishops present at the synod gathering. However, clergy, men and women religious, theologians, catechists, canon lawyers, and lay experts all participate in the synod gathering with bishops by providing their counsel.

What is Synodal Process?
The synodal process or synodality is not simply a gathering or meeting of bishops, nor is it a process of the administrative arm of the Church. Rather, synodality is the path and process of the Church as communion. It is the communion of all the baptized who are listening to each other, dialoguing with each other, and praying together to hear the voice of Holy Spirit as we all seek holiness and proclaim the Gospel. Synodality involves clergy, religious and laity listening and speaking, praying, and discerning together, and placing the hopes and concerns of the People of God at the foot of the bishops, who, united with the Pope, decide matters of faith and morals to preserve the faith and strengthen the Church throughout the world.

What is different about this Synod?
This Synod is unique because the Holy Father is asking that the entire Church participate in this Synod. The faithful, clergy and religious are invited to pray, listen, and talk together with the bishops before the 2023 gathering of Bishops in Rome. In our Diocese, we will pray, listen, and talk with one another through parish listening sessions, diocesan listening sessions and digital surveys.

Synod Timeline

- **November 21, 2021**
  - Synod Mass

- **November 22, 2021**
  - Synod website and digital Synod Survey launched

- **December 13, 2 pm**
  - Synod Zoom meeting for pastors and delegates

- **December – February 2022**
  - Parish Focus Groups

- **January 15, 2022**
  - Synod delegate meeting, location TBA

- **February 12, 2022**
  - Synod delegate meeting, location TBA

- **March – April 2022**
  - Analysis of data collected through focus groups, surveys, and synod delegate meetings
  - Submission of the diocesan synthesis report to the USCCB

― Bishop Christopher Coyne
Upcoming Events

11|30 TUESDAY
Saints & Sinners
Online - 7 pm
Join us online in November when Bishop Christopher Coyne presents on St. Peter. For more info: vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.

12|01 WEDNESDAY
Living Joy Discussion Group: Jesus Is the Journey
Online - 7 – 8 pm
Join Chris Stefanick’s Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Life, Joy Every Day. This is the last of eleven sessions that began in July. Offered by members of the Diocesan Evangelization Committee.

12|02 THURSDAY
Book Reading and Signing: “Called” by Mark Redmond
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. - 7 pm
Mark Redmond, member of the Essex Catholic community, will be holding a book reading and signing for his recently-published memoir, “Called”. Mark writes about his upbringing on Long Island and the impact Catholic education had on him for 16 years and the role it played in his decision to devote himself to working with homeless, runaway and at-risk youth. According to US Catholic magazine, “I cannot think of a better example of someone truly living their life’s vocation than Mark Redmond.”

12|03, 04 FRIDAY & SATURDAY
St Mary’s Christmas Bazaar
Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven - Join us for our annual Christmas Bazaar. There will be a basket raffle (do not need to be present to win), 50/50 raffle, our huge white elephant sale, food table, vendors and stay for supper/ lunch from our kitchen. Hours are 2 to 6 on Friday and 10 to 2 on Saturday.

12|03 FRIDAY
The Challenge Club for Catholic Girls
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston - 6–8 pm
Challenge is a club for girls to grow in virtue, friendship and their Catholic faith. It’s a place for girls to learn about themselves by doing apostolic projects and creating a positive impact on family, friends and the world. Challenge’s recipe for success is based on a combination of doing apostolic work and formation. FOR MORE INFO: Mary Niekrzewicz: mary.of.vt@gmail.com, (802) 878-5538 or Audrey Walko: audreycgsvt@gmail.com, (802) 373-9564

12|04 SATURDAY
All Saints Parish Annual Christmas Bazaar
All Saints, Richmond - 9 am – 2 pm
We will have our All Saints table, a white elephant table, homemade fudge, fresh homemade baked goods, a T-Cup auction, and a money raffle. Enjoy a light breakfast and a delicious lunch with a choice of various homemade soups and sandwiches. Buy your Christmas gifts from our many local artists and crafters!!! Questions? Call 848-7741

12|03, 04, FAR, SAT
Christmas Bazaar
Our Lady of Angels and Our Lady of the Valley
More than 20 vendors will offer a wonderful variety of merchandise: jewelry, cosmetics, toys, wreaths and centerpieces, candy, candles, needlework, quilts, arts & crafts, knitted items, collectable & vintage treasures, antiques — many terrific Christmas presents.

12|05, 12, 19 SUNDAYS
Sing We Now Noel
St. Albans, Colchester & Stowe - 2 pm
A celebration of Christmas and seasonal music will be presented at three different locations with Dr. William Tortolano as organist. The 92-year-old St. Michael’s College Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts and Music continues to avoid retirement. The acoustic and tonal resources of the different Vermont spaces will bring a wide variety of organ music and vocal soloists. The audience will have an opportunity to sing favorite carols from many countries. Organ solos are by J.S. Bach, Pachelbel, Brahms, Von and Rowley.

Dec. 5, St. Mary’s Church in St. Albans: soloists Jake Barickman and John Schreindorfer
Dec. 12, St. Michael’s College chapel in Colchester: soloist Jerry Proulx
Dec. 19, Blessed Sacrament Church in Stowe: soloist Elisabeth Ortiz.
The concerts are free and open to the public. An optional free will offering will be available.

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CARRERS

Christ the King School, Burlington:
Afterschool and Summer Camp Director
Diocesan Central Offices, South Burlington:
Human Resources Generalist
Diocesan Catechetical Leader
Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington:
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) — $1,000 Sign-On Bonus
St. Mark Parish, Burlington:
Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis

vermontcatholic.org/careers

Love one another

NOV. 28 - DEC. 4, 2021

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

The Advent season begins as we wait for the birth of our Savior. One way you can prepare and show your gratitude to God is to spend time this week making a list of how you could help others. Choose to set a budget on the gifts given this year, where half of what you gave last year can be donated to others.

vermontcatholic.org/marriag challeng