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 (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 having already 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. After this formation, usually at the Easter Vigil or in the Easter Season, they receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

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, Burlington 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.

All members of the faithful throughout the Diocese of Burlington are encouraged to pray for and with the catechumens and candidates this Lent, especially for the new faces you may see in your own parishes.

All are encouraged to join us for the Diocesan Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion that will be celebrated on March 6 at St. Joseph Cathedral in Burlington at 3 p.m.

— Josh Perry, Director of Worship, Diocese of Burlington
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocesan Central Offices, South Burlington:
- Diocesan Catechetical Leader
- Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister

Rice Memorial High School, South Burlington:
- Principal
- Director of Donor Engagement and Major Gifts

St. Monica-St. Michael School, Barre: Principal

vermontcatholic.org/careers

DIocese of Burlington

CAREERS

Upcoming Events

03|08 TUESDAY
Grief & Loss Support Group for Widows/Widowers
St. Mark, Burlington • 9:45 - 11:15 am
Please join us every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the rectory parlor, beginning March 8, to explore supportive ways grief and loss can be the entry point of God’s healing in your life.

03|10, 17, 24, 31, 04|07 THURS
Deep Dive Into
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 5:30 pm
Join us for this 5-part series led by Fr. Scott Gratton. Each evening will begin with Stations of the Cross, followed by dinner and a one hour talk on the Mass. This event is free.

03|12, 19, 26 SATURDAYS
SoulCore
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 3 - 4 pm
SoulCore is an invitation to nourish body, mind and soul through prayer and functional movement. Workout can be modified to suit ability and comfort level; the prayers are the main focus. Freewill donation. Suggested items: mat, water, weights (optional, 1-3 lbs popular).

03|09 WEDNESDAY
Dealing with Doubt — How will you Respond?
Holy Family, Essex Jct. • 7 - 8:15 pm
Speaker Joe Blanchette’s lively presentation provides Catholic parents with well-researched, effectively presented talking points for defending the faith to counter the arguments presented by the secular world that young people are exposed to, especially when they first leave home for college. All are welcome. Sponsored by Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Fanny Allen #1060.

03|10, 17, 24, 31, 04|07 THURS
Vermont Catholic Women’s Group Lent 2022
via Zoom • 7:30 - 9 pm
Join the Vermont Catholic Women’s Group on Zoom as we go through Restore: A Guided Lent Journal for Prayer and Meditation by Sr. Miriam James Heidland. We will have weekly edifying discussions. Join us for one or all meetings. Women of all ages are welcomed. Sign up for our mailing list at www.stlukevt.org and contact Carolina for more details.

03|19 SATURDAY
Annual Men’s Conference
Our Lady of Angels, Randolph • 9 am - 4 pm
Join with other Catholic Men for a day of time fellowship. This year’s theme is ‘Band of Brothers’ and the keynote speaker will be Fr. Scott Gratton, serving as chaplain for the VT Air National Guard, recently deployed to Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Bishop Christopher Coyne will celebrate Mass. Please contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org or call (802) 658-6110, ext. 1131 for the link to register. Registration deadline is March 4, 2022. Lunch is included in the $30 fee.

03|25 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. FOR MORE INFO: Mary Niekrewicz, mary.ofvt@gmail.com, (802) 878-5538 or Audrey Walko, audreygcsvt@gmail.com, (802) 373-9564.

03|29 TUESDAY
Saints and Sinners
Online • 7 pm
Join us in February when Fr. Tim Naples presents on Saint Anthony of Padua. There will be time for prayer, small group and large group discussion. For more info: vernontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.

03|31 THURSDAY
Lenten Presentation
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 7 pm

A MESSAGE FROM THE

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

Ending Slavery is Everyone’s Work
March — Learn about Labeling for Lent, a national initiative of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking; include human trafficking issues in your prayers in church and with other groups; contribute to help abolish this crime.

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking is a 501 c (3) organization, 2039 N Geyer Road, St. Louis, MO 63131 (sistersagainsttrafficking.org)

YOUR FAMILY PILGRIMAGE

The journey you are on can be filled with abundant graces through abundant challenges. Living daily is an act of faith. This week, plan “Parent Time” to reflect in a journal these questions: Do I believe God has made me for a purpose? When in my life have I felt most sure of God? When in my life have I felt least sure of God?

vermontcatholic.org/familychampions