

NEWS FROM The Inland See

August 20–26, 2022

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Priest's role at Mass is multi-faceted

One of my earliest memories of attending Mass as a child involved my thinking that God must be in the attic of the church. My mother and I most often sat about half-way back from the sanctuary; a perfect spot for a child like me to see not the altar or the priest, but the back of people's heads. I couldn't see a thing when everyone was standing, but I could hear everything through the sound system. I heard the voice over the sound system "Glory to God in the highest ... Let us pray ... This is my body ... This is my blood." Our speakers were hung from the ceiling, and so it sounded like a booming voice from above. For whatever reason, I associated that voice with God. And with the voice coming from above, I thought, "Could God be in the attic of the church?"

I find it intriguing that this memory came back to me as I began writing this article on the role of the priest at Mass. You see, the priest isn't the voice of God in the attic. The priest, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, stands in the midst of, or more appropriately, at the head of the liturgical assembly — the Body of Christ — as the very person of Christ as head of that body. No, Josh, God isn't in the attic when we celebrate liturgy. He is much, much closer.

The priest's role at Mass is multi-faceted, and the confines of this article unfortunately do not allow me to dive into the beauty of the priesthood as exercised in the liturgy. There's so much important imagery to uncover! At a very basic, human level though — perhaps the most fundamental level — the priest is seen as presiding over the gathered assembly. He leads the prayers and prompts the participation of the people. His leadership in the liturgical assembly can help

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express the faith of the Church (or obscure that expression of faith); his role can be instrumental in fostering unity in worship with the Church Universal (or fostering division).

He fulfills this role in the very way he celebrates the liturgy. It is for this precise reason that a priest is entrusted not only with the reverent celebration of liturgy but with the very careful preparation of the liturgy. Too often the temptation is to fall back onto the "ritual" and not be attentive to how one leads the liturgical assembly.

Although there is comfort in following the ritual structure, the danger is that one falls into a ritual "rut" and neglects attention to the preparation needed to celebrate liturgy "worthily and well."

This applies not only to the preparation of the priest but the preparation of all the ministers and to everyone who gathers for liturgy! In their 2009 document on music, "Sing to the Lord,"

the bishops of the United States said "faith grows when it is well expressed in celebration. Good celebrations can foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations may weaken it" (my emphasis).

I'll conclude with a word of gratitude to all the liturgical ministers — especially our priests and deacons — who, week after week, take the time to carefully prepare the liturgy, whether it be through attention to their homily, or to the ritual and music, or to how they voice the prayers or bodily express the faith. Your preparation fosters faith. Perhaps your preparation will even make a young child think that God can be found in the attic of the church. Or better yet — even closer.

— *Josh Perry is director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Burlington.*



Upcoming Events



08|23, 9|13, 27 TUESDAYS Grief & Loss Support Group for Widows/Widowers

St. Mark, Burlington • 9:45 - 11 am

The benefits of a support group with others who have experienced the loss of a spouse or partner helps universalize your experience. You are not alone, although it may feel that way sometimes. Listening to the experience of others who have traversed rough waters usually lends helpful insights into personal practices. Please join us every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the rectory parlor to explore supportive ways grief and loss can be the entry point for God's healing.



08|23 – 11|08 TUESDAYS The Creed Professed: a seminar on Part I of the U. S. Catholic Catechism for Adults via Zoom • 7 – 8 pm

This bi-weekly Zoom seminar is being offered as part of the Diocesan "Year of Communion: Unity in Creed, Worship and Life." The first session was held on May 10. For information and to register: studythecreed@gmail.com

Aug 23, Session 8: *The Saving Death and Resurrection of Christ*

Sep 13, Session 9: *Receive the Holy Spirit (Jn 20:22)*

Sep 27, Session 10: *The Church: Reflecting the Light of Christ*

Oct 11, Session 11: *The Four Marks of the Church*

Oct 25, Session 12: *Mary: The Church's First and Most Perfect Member*

Nov 8, Session 13: *Our Eternal Destiny*



08|24, 31 WEDNESDAYS Summer Reflection Series at Saint Anne's Shrine

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte • 11:15 am

We hope you can join us for the 11:15 am Mass followed by the presentation. Lunch is available in the cafeteria after the presentation, except for July 27 when you can bring your own picnic lunch. Please call or email us with any questions at (802) 928.3362 or sas@sse.org.

August 24: Monsignor Peter Routhier,

The Role of Saints in the Life of the Church

August 31: Rev. Richard Myhalyk, S.S.E.,

How We See God: Our Spiritual Lens on Life



08|24 – 10|28 WEDNESDAYS "The Search" Video Series

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:45 - 8:30 pm

Why are we here? What's life all about? What happens when we die? Have you ever pondered the answers to these questions, or others like them? Do you wonder what kinds of answers the Catholic faith has given throughout the centuries? To get to the crux of the matter, please consider joining us "The Search" video series: viewing, brief discussion, and some light refreshments. **FOR MORE INFO:** [Connie, sjvgoodnews@gmail.com](mailto:Connie_sjvgoodnews@gmail.com).



08|25 THURSDAY Our Lady's Kitchen & Catholic Movie Night

Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 6 – 8 pm

Free meal for the poor, the hungry and the lonely. Also,

Catholic Movie Night will take place with free popcorn and a screening of "The Count of Monte Cristo." Come join us for food, fellowship, and faith!



08|26, 09|02, 09, 16, 23, 30 FRIDAYS SoulCore

Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 9 - 10:30 am

Join us on Fridays after the 8:30 am Mass.

SoulCore is an apostolate that intentionally engages the whole person in the sacred experience of the rosary. Integrating the prayers of the rosary with core strengthening, stretching and functional movements to nourish body & soul and encourage deeper reflection on the virtues. A gentle path to grow in virtue and cultivate interior peace. Bring a mat and water, weights optional (1-3lbs). SoulCore is self-paced and can be modified for any ability



08|27 SATURDAY Informational: "Reproductive Liberty Amendment" Article 22

Holy Family, Essex Jct. • 9 – 10:30 am

Vermont Representative Anne Donahue is the featured speaker. There will be an opportunity for asking questions as well as discussion. Come learn why Article 22 is worded to win your support and why you should oppose it. Light refreshments.

FOR MORE INFO: (802) 878-3568



09|02 FRIDAY The Women Ancestors of Jesus and Salvation History

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte • 10 am - 3 pm

This day long event includes Mass and a day of recollection, prayer and reflection at peaceful and beautiful Saint Anne's Shrine in Isle La Motte. Directed by Brother Frank Hagerty, S.S.E. Begins at 10 am, includes lunch and concludes at 3 pm.



09|06 TUESDAY Article 22 (Prop 5) Discussion

St. Augustine, Montpelier • 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Fr. Julian Asucan has invited Representative

Anne Donahue to host a discussion on Article 22. Representative Anne Donahue is a spokesperson for Vermonters for Good Government, which seeks to educate the public about the ramifications of adding Article 22 — originally called Prop 5 — to our Vermont constitution. She is the vice-chair of the House Health Care committee and has served in the legislature since 2003, representing Northfield and Berlin.



09|17 SATURDAY Vermont Catholic Daughters Fall Retreat: The Rosary

Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 9 am – 2 pm

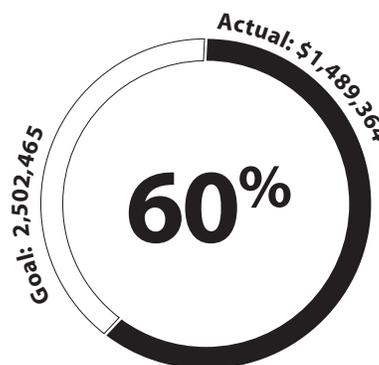
The Vermont Catholic Daughters Fall Retreat will be lead by Father Brandon Schneider. There will be a series of short talks and Mass will be celebrated during the retreat. Father will be available for confessions. Snacks and lunch will be provided. We will be raising awareness of the need to support our seminarians. There is no fee for this event if you register by Sept. 7. **Please pre-register by Sept. 7:** [Debbie, dgbrown264@gmail.com](mailto:Debbie_dgbrown264@gmail.com).

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



2022
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respect
LIFE
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

AFFIRMING A CULTURE OF LIFE

It is time for some of us to confess/repent of a serious sin: judging the struggling, single mother and thinking "this situation is her fault, the result of her irresponsible behavior and poor choices." "A person reaps what they sow. . ." We resent that we are now burdened by her needs (and the needs of the child), because of her "poor choices."

Shame, shame, shame on any of us who have such thoughts. *This mother chose life!* She chose life for her child, and we should celebrate and rejoice. Rather than the easy way, she has chosen the hard path, the path of self-sacrifice for the sake of her child. It is on us to walk beside her, and help however we can. There are only two choices that really matter in life — the last one, and the next one. Her last choice was life. Let us rejoice!

Let us affirm life — please vote "no" to Article 22.