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 Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (the OCIA, known formerly as the 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 and 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, they receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist — usually at the Easter Vigil or in the Easter Season.

For these catechumens and candidates, Lent is a period of intensified spiritual preparation. At the beginning of Lent, the Diocese of Burlington 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, 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 our Catholic community.

All members of the faithful throughout the Diocese 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 Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington at 3 p.m.

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

“The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of my life and faith. … In the Eucharist, I receive a foretaste of Heaven and receive the strength necessary to, by the Grace of God, get there!”

— Deacon Phil Lawson, executive director of pastoral ministries for the Diocese of Burlington

Submit your Eucharistic Testimonial to: revival@vermontcatholic.org
Upcoming Events

**02|15 WEDNESDAY**
Franklin Deanery Holy Hour
St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 6 pm
The Franklin Deanery will host a Holy Hour, priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**02|19 SUNDAY**
Mardi Gras Celebration
St. Francis of Assisi, Windsor • 2 - 4 pm
Come join us at our "Fat Tuesday" celebration. Music is provided by the East Bay Jazz Quintet under the direction of Gerry Grimo. Traditional (as well as some novel), New Orleans Jazz selections, fitting the Mardi Gras pagentry, will surely lift your soul these last days before Lent. The festivities include a "Kings Cake" competition. To enter, simply bake and decorate your best Kings Cake recipe and bring it to the celebration for judging. Suggested donation is $10.00 per person to benefit the St. Francis Fuel Fund.

**02|18 SATURDAY**
Mardi Gras Dinner and Entertainment
Barton • 5:30 - 9 pm
Featuring the return of Wings-It, as well as other entertainers. Ham dinner and all the fixings, $15 for advance tickets, $15 at the door. Tickets are limited to 100. Location: Barton Municipal Building, downtown Barton. Sponsored by Most Holy Trinity Parish. For reservations call Linda at (802) 525-3137. Truly a night to be enjoyed!

**02|19 SUNDAY**
Knights of Columbus
St. Stephen’s Council #2284
Pancake Breakfast
St. Francis School Gym, Winooksi • 8 am - 12 pm
Cost is $10, includes pancakes — plain and blueberry — scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausage, coffee & juice.

**02|19 SUNDAY**
Community Family Breakfast
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Troy • 8 - 11 am
Knights of Columbus Father Meaney-Father St. Onge Council #7943 hosts an "all you can eat" community family breakfast every third Sunday.

**02|19 SUNDAY**
Blessing of the Snowmobiles
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Troy • 8 - 10:30 am
Riders, you and your organization’s members are cordially invited to attend a Catholic Blessing of your snowmobiles by Rev. Mr. Francis “Ward” Nolan.

**02|19 SUNDAYS**
Bible Study
Fr. Lively Center, St. Johnsbury • 1 - 2:30 pm
Dcn. Tom will lead a Bible study on the Parables of Matthew. This study began on Sunday, Feb. 5. On Feb. 12 we will study the parables of mercy and justice in chapters 18 and 20 and on Feb. 19 we will study the parables on being ready for Christ’s return in chapters 21 and 24.

**03|01 MON, TUES, WED**
A Lenten Retreat with Monsignor Richard Lavalley
Holy Family, Essex Jct. • 8:30 am - 12 pm
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 8:30 am Mass with a reflection by Monsignor Lavalley. Monsignor will be available for Confession and Spiritual Direction every morning after Mass until noontime.

Tuesday, February 28 at 7 pm: Monsignor will pray the Stations of the Cross with meditations at every Station. For more information or to schedule a time to meet with Monsignor, please call 802-878-5331. Everyone is welcome!

**03|04 SUNDAY**
Eucharistic Healing Service
St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 6 pm
Benediction and Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at the door. Tickets are limited to 100. Location: Barton Municipal Building, downtown Barton. Sponsored by Most Holy Trinity Parish. For reservations call Linda at (802) 525-3137.

**03|05 SUNDAY**
The Mystery of the Eucharist via Zoom • 7 - 8:30 pm
Join Christ Our Savior Parish for this weekly Lenten seminar. For information and to register: presencecosp@gmail.com.

**03|06 FRIDAY**
The Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion
Bishop Coyne on the first Sunday of Lent at St. Joseph's Cathedral. Friends and family of those participating in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion and all the faithful from around the diocese are invited to celebrate with us. A small reception follows the liturgy.

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**BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL**
**2022**
**UNITY IN FAITH**

To learn more or make a gift online visit: bishopsappealvt.org

2022 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

**Goal:** $2,105,401

**Actual:** $2,502,455

**84%**