

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

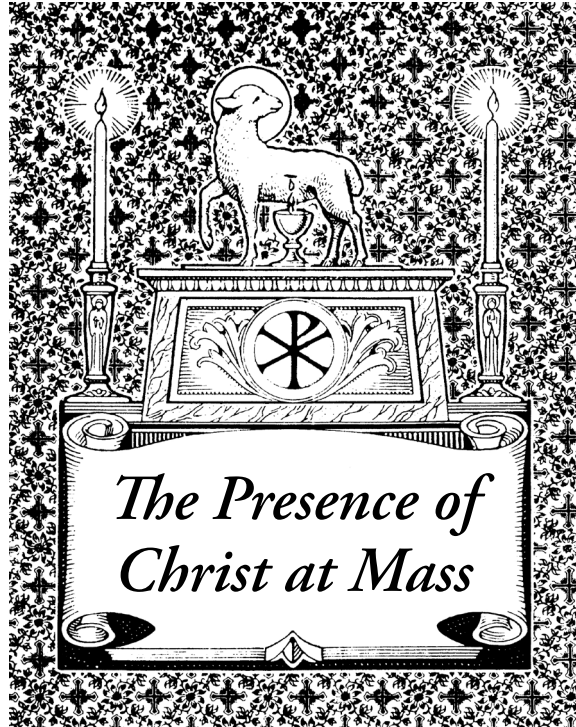
March 18–24, 2023

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

I love the gift of the Mass! We often hear the phrase that “Christ is present in the Mass,” and when we do hear this, our minds often, and rightfully, go to the Eucharist. Jesus Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine at Mass in a substantial and sacramental way. This Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is a truly miraculous event that occurs on our altars each and every day, and we have the opportunity — the invitation — to witness and receive this miracle when we attend Mass. The Eucharist is evidence of God’s love for us. Jesus is truly present, body and blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharistic species.

But God’s love for us is superabundant. This word has particular meaning in theology, but I want to use this word in a particular way in relation to the Mass. The Mass is the evidence of God’s superabundant love for us because in the Mass we encounter Jesus Christ not only in the Eucharist but in other ways as well. Christ’s presence is preeminent in the Eucharist — because the Eucharist is His body and blood, soul and divinity. But Christ is also present in the Mass through the Word of God proclaimed in the midst of the assembly, in the person of the priest and in the gathered assembly itself.

**In the Word proclaimed.** Christ is present in the Word proclaimed at Mass and in the sacraments. “Christ is present in his word; as he carries out the mystery of salvation, he sanctifies humanity and offers the Father perfect worship” (Introduction to Lectionary for Mass 4). I liken the encounter with the Word of God at Mass to coming to receive communion. There is an encounter between the communion minister and the communicant at which there is an exchange — the



giving and receiving of a gift, if you will. In this exchange, both minister and recipient encounter the presence of Christ. Likewise, in the act of proclaiming and hearing the Word of God at Mass, we find the presence of Christ in an exchange of the gift of His Word.

**In the person of the priest.** We see at the altar the priest, standing in the person of Christ who says, “This is my body. This is my blood.” In the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest offers the very body and blood of Jesus Christ, made present on the altar, as Christ did when He offered Himself as a sacrifice for us on the cross. The priest stands in the person of Christ and does what Christ does in offering the Eucharist. The priest also leads us in prayer to the Father as Christ leads us to the Father.

In the person of the priest, we encounter the very presence of Christ.

**In the gathered assembly.** Christ is present “when the Church prays and sings, for He promised “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Mt 18:20) (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 7). We encounter Christ in the others who pray with us. In fact, another name for the gathered Church is the Body of Christ.

May we give gratitude to God for the Mass and for the superabundance of His love. He wishes to be with us in multiple ways in the Mass. Let us be open to His invitation of encounter with God at Mass: in the word proclaimed, in the person of the priest, in the gathered assembly and most especially in the Most Holy Eucharist.

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



## Eucharistic TESTIMONIALS

Submit your Eucharistic Testimonial to:  
[revival@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:revival@vermontcatholic.org)

“During the Mass, I feel very close to my heavenly Father and my spiritual sisters and brothers and I know that Jesus will be among us in the consecration and pray with us the ‘Our Father.’ It is always amazing to be in touch with our spiritual family.”

— *Capitoline Nyirambarubukeye  
Parishioner at Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington*

# Upcoming Events



03|21, 28 TUESDAYS

## Taize Prayer

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington  
5:30 - 6:00 pm

Taize Prayer will be offered weekly on Tuesday evenings during Lent, beginning on Feb. 28 and ending on March 28. Taize is a village in France that is home to an ecumenical community of religious brothers who sing, fast and perform acts of charity throughout the world. The service will last about 30 minutes.



03|21 TUESDAY

## Fertility Care and the Catholic Church

St. Ann, Milton • 6:45 - 8:45 pm

Join us for a Lay Formation Project Presentation focusing in on God's design for our bodies and why understanding our own fertility (for both men and women) is important in living out a faithful, fruitful, and holy life. For questions, please contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org.



03|21, 28, 04|04 TUESDAYS

## Come Pray with Us

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston  
7:30 - 8:30 pm

Begins with Eucharistic Adoration after Mass, followed by group prayer at 7:50 PM, concludes with Benediction.



03|22, 29, 04|12, 19, 26

## Contemplative Prayer Series

Holy Family-St. Lawrence Parish Center, Essex Jct. • 9:15 - 10:15 am

Join us for this series led by Louise Boisvert, a member of Notre Dame de Vie, a Secular Institute, founded in the 20th century by Blessed Marie Eugene of the Child Jesus, a carmelite father. Silent prayer is not well known to the general public and yet we are all called to it through the grace of our baptism.



03|22 WEDNESDAYS

## The Chosen Season 2

St. Elizabeth, Lyndonville • 6 - 8 pm  
Join us for Season 2 of *The Chosen* at St.

Elizabeth Catholic Church in Lyndonville. You are invited to join in this second season as we continue to journey through the life of Jesus in this multi-season TV show.



03|22, 29 WEDNESDAYS

## Presence: 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: presencecop@gmail.com.



03|23 THURSDAY

## Black Catholic Nuns in the Long African American Freedom Struggle

Saint Michael's College, Colchester • 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Dr. Shannen Dee Williams, Associate Professor of History at Dayton University, will deliver a lecture on her research about the involvement of Black Catholic nuns in the Civil Rights Movement. The lecture will take place in the Farrell Room of Saint Edmund's Hall (third floor) at the college. Open to all.



03|23 THURSDAYS

## Lenten Series

Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Come join Fr. Gratton as we learn about

Eucharistic miracles, marian apparitions, and inspiring saints throughout Lent. We begin with Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm, followed by a free meal provided by the KofC Council #14351 (please bring potluck sides), and this inspiring series. Come ignite your faith during this Lenten Season!



03|23, 30 THURSDAYS

## Lent with the VT Catholic Women's Group

Online • 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Grow with the Vermont Catholic Women's Group on Zoom as we go through the "Holy is His Name" Video study by Dr. Scott Hahn. Join us for one or all meetings. Women of all ages are welcome. Contact Carolina for more details: caro3600@gmail.com.



03|24 FRIDAY

## St. Paul's Catholic School — Lenten Fish Fry

St. Paul's Catholic School, Barton • 2:30 - 5 pm

Pre-order week before desired meal. Two pick up times: 2:30-3 pm and 4:30-5 pm. Adults: \$15, Children: \$10. FOR MORE INFO: call (802) 525-3711



03|24 FRIDAYS

## St. Peter's Take Out Fish Dinners

St. Peter's Parish Hall, Vergennes • 5 - 6:30 pm  
Take out fish dinners-serving 5:00-6:30pm

(take out). \$13/adults \$7/children 6-12. For reservations, please call (802) 877-2367.



03|24 FRIDAYS

## Community Soup and Bread Supper

St. Catherine of Siena, Shelburne • 5 - 7 pm

Please join us for a meatless soup and bread meal in the parish hall at 5 pm. Afterwards, join us for Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm in the church. Bring a friend.



03|24, 31 FRIDAYS

## Stations of the Cross and Meal

St. Mark, Burlington • 6 - 7:30 pm

Stations of the Cross prayer followed by a Lenten meal in the parish center dining room.



03|24 FRIDAY

## Stations of the Cross

St. Johnsbury & Danville • 6 - 7 pm

Stations of the Cross are being held at both St. John the Evangelist in St. Johnsbury and Our Lady, Queen of Peace in Danville at 6 pm on Fridays during Lent. Join us as we reflect on the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.



03|29, 30 WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

## Lenten Retreat — Growing in the Interior Life through the Sacraments

Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Come join Fr. Brandon Schneider for a two-day Lenten Retreat. Wednesday: 5:30 pm Potluck Dinner, followed by inspiring talks, Confessions/Adoration. Thursday: 5:30 pm Stations of the Cross, followed by a provided meal (please bring potluck sides), inspiring talks, and Holy Mass.



04|02 SUNDAY

## Eucharistic Healing Service

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 pm  
Benediction and Exposition of the Most

Blessed Sacrament at 3 pm on the first Sunday of every month with Fr. Lance Harlow.



04|03 MONDAY

## Bereavement Support Group

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 5:15 pm  
Bereavement Support Group led by Kyle

Sipples in the church hall. All are welcome to join this brand new ministry. In order to encourage discussion, these meetings are confidential.



04|04 TUESDAY

## Special Holy Week Service

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington  
7 pm

Persons of all faiths are invited to gather at for a special service titled, "Lord, Let Me Walk That Lonely Road With You: A Service of Scripture and Song for Holy Week." Old and New Testament readings, a splendid and deeply spiritual array of musical selections and powerful images of Christ's Passion and Death will be presented.

## BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



To learn more or make a gift online  
visit: [bishopsappealvt.org](http://bishopsappealvt.org)

