

The Inland See

NEWS FROM

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

March 25–31, 2023

Full, Active, and Conscious Participation in the Mass

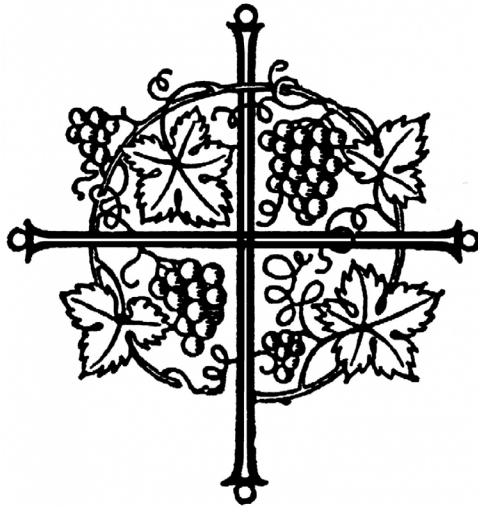
The Church calls each of us to full, active and conscious participation in the Mass, which is both internal and external. Through such participation, the faithful “derive the true Christian spirit” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 14). So how can we be full and active participants at Mass?

It may seem obvious enough, but the first act of participation is to show up! There’s a lot to reflect upon in this very act of showing up. Although it may not seem like it (especially if we’re attending Mass out of a sense of obligation), our spirits are drawn to Mass. Before our decision to get out of bed and attend Mass, there is Jesus’ invitation to us: “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you” (Lk 22:15). As Pope Francis reflects in his recently issued apostolic letter “Desiderio Desideravi” (DD), “every time we go to Mass, the first reason is that we are drawn there by [Jesus’] desire for us. For our part, the possible response ... is that surrender to this love, that letting ourselves be drawn by him” (6). In this first act of full, active and conscious participation, we find our soul’s surrendering to Jesus’ love. In this surrender, we move closer to the Eucharist. Let us, then, be mindful of Jesus’ invitation to us!

Full, conscious and active participation creates in us a spirit of humility as it situates us (as created beings) before the creator in a posture of worship. Participation in the liturgy helps us avoid “spiritual worldliness,” as Pope Francis puts it, by freeing us “from the prison of a self-referencing nourished by one’s own reasoning and one’s own feeling” (DD 19) and from the “presumption of salvation owned through our own efforts” (DD 20).

The liturgy is ultimately not of our own making. Liturgy, celebrated well and reverently, pulls us out of ourselves and

our own interests. It even can (and should) move us beyond our own preferences for what we “like” or “don’t like” in the liturgy. To fully, consciously and actively participate in the liturgy means that “we have no other boast but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (cf. Gal 6:14, DD 20). In this humility, formed by active participation in the liturgy, we move closer to the Eucharist. Let us, then, humble ourselves in the liturgy, putting aside our own preferences to focus on worshipping God within the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church.



The liturgy itself teaches and helps us be properly disposed for receiving the Eucharist in Communion. Surrendering to the presence of God by *showing up* and standing in the presence of God in humility *by fully, actively and consciously participating in the liturgy* leads us to a sense of wonder and awe which Pope Francis points out (DD 24-26). He notes that we stand in wonder and awe not before a mysterious, totally transcendent God hidden in mysterious ritual, but before something *already* revealed and proclaimed: a transcendent God who desires communion with us so much so that He came to dwell among us in His incarnation and opened the doorway for us for *eternal* communion with God through the Paschal Mystery. We participate in this reality of Jesus’ incarnation and Paschal Mystery every time we receive the Eucharist! Thus, in showing up and participating fully, consciously and actively in the liturgy, we approach the Eucharist with the proper disposition: surrendered to God, humbled before God and in amazement at what God has — and continues to do — for us!

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

— *Angie Paquette, All Saints Parish, Richford, VT*



Eucharistic TESTIMONIALS

Submit your Eucharistic Testimonial to:
revival@vermontcatholic.org

I am grateful for the Bread of Life; the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass becomes my great Thanksgiving. The Eucharist is Jesus in me, and I in Him.

— *Angie Paquette, All Saints Parish, Richford, VT*

Upcoming Events



03|28 TUESDAY
Taize Prayer

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

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.



03|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|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|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.



03|29 WEDNESDAY
**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: presencecosp@gmail.com.



03|30, 04|06 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|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|31 FRIDAY
Stations of the Cross

Danville & St. Johnsbury • 6 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 6:00pm on Fridays during Lent. Join us as we reflect on the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.



04|01 SATURDAY
**Bingo for St. Ambrose/St. Peter
Youth Ministry**

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 9 pm

Doors open at 5:00 PM, Bingo starts at 6:00 PM. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Ambrose & St. Peter's Youth Ministry to benefit the on-going program costs and the upcoming trip to Rome.



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, 05|08 MONDAYS
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
Chrism Mass

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 11 am

At this special Mass celebrated by Bishop Coyne, the Oil of Chrism is consecrated, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the priests within the Diocese of Burlington recommit themselves to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Parish representatives may pick up the holy oils for their parishes after the Mass in the lower chapel. A reception will follow in the parish hall.



04|04 TUESDAY
Special Holy Week Service

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
7 pm

Persons of all faiths are invited to gather 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.



04|16 SUNDAY
Divine Mercy Celebration

St. Michael, Brattleboro • 2 pm

Schedule: Holy Hour from 2 to 3pm. During the Holy Hour, confessions will be offered. At 3pm we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy together followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The time of prayer will be followed by a potluck in the youth center to end the Octave of Easter. **FOR MORE INFO: call (802) 257-5101 or email stmichael@vermontcatholic.org.**



04|16 SUNDAY
**Divine Mercy Chaplet
& Eucharistic Adoration**

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 2 - 3 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin at 2 pm, and the Chaplet (sung) and Benediction will take place at 3 pm. **FOR MORE INFO: call (802) 878-5331.**



05|14 SUNDAY
**Vergennes Council Knights
of Columbus Breakfast Buffet**

St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 - 10 am

\$10/adults, \$6/children 8-12 (\$32 immediate family maximum). Come join us!



05|14 SUNDAY
**Monthly COSP KofC Fund Raising
Breakfast**

Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm

Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.



05|20 SATURDAY
Walk to Mary

Isle LaMotte • 9 am - 2 pm

Join us for a 2.3 mile walk from St. Joseph, Isle La Motte, to St. Anne's Shrine starting, praying the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet while we walk, Mass at 11 am, a break for lunch, then Stations of the Cross for Life at 1 pm. **FOR MORE INFO: contact Janice (802) 848-3834, janicegodin@myfairpoint.net or Renee (802) 370-2231 or rjpatterson1962@gmail.com with any questions.**

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