As I’m reading the Eucharistic Testimonies that are coming in from around the Diocese, I’m continually struck by and grateful for the impact that both the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration have had on the lives of many Catholics. Today, I want to highlight the important relationship between the Mass and Eucharistic Adoration — whether that adoration happens in front of a closed tabernacle or during Eucharistic Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance.

To be clear, the Church speaks of the preeminence of the celebration of Mass over all other activities in which the Church engages, including Eucharistic Adoration:

The celebration of the Eucharist is the center of the entire Christian life. … ‘The other sacraments, all the ministries of the Church, and the works of the apostolate are united with the eucharist and are directed toward it. For the holy eucharist contains the entire spiritual treasure of the Church, that is, Christ himself. …’

— *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass* (HCOM), 1.

Speaking specifically of the worship outside of Mass that one offers to Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, the Church says that “the celebration of the eucharist in the sacrifice of the Mass … is truly the origin and the goal of the worship which is shown to the eucharist outside of Mass” (HCOM, 2). In other words, the worship that we offer in Adoration outside of Mass both flows from and returns to the celebration of Mass.

How, then, does our time in Adoration flow from the Mass? Simply put, our personal prayer in Adoration is an extension of our personal prayer that we offer at Mass. Indeed, in the Mass, we offer our “sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving” in union with the Sacrifice of Christ who offers Himself in a sacramental way back to God the Father. Our prayers and petitions are offered on the altar and are taken up into Christ’s very prayer to God the Father. That our prayer — our “sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving” — can be continually offered in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist in Adoration outside of Mass is truly a gift. I use the image of the votive candle that is lit at Mass which symbolizes our prayers continuing even though the Mass may have ended and we leave the Church. In a sense, those attending Adoration become the candle; their prayer becomes an extension of the prayers offered at Mass. In this way, our prayers in Eucharistic Adoration can never be seen as separate from what we do at Mass; our prayer at Adoration flows from our prayer at Mass.

How does our time in Adoration return us to the Mass? Adoration always points us back to the Mass because it is in the Mass that our prayers become most effective and it is in the Mass that we find sacramental union with God. It is true that Adoration allows us to pray in the presence of Christ in which we feel spiritually united to God, but Adoration should cause us to hunger for more — for sacramental communion with God. At Mass, not only do we pray in the presence of Christ, but our prayers are joined to the prayer and Sacrifice of Christ. In that joining, we find that full spiritual and sacramental communion which is expressed by receiving communion.

Let us always be mindful, then, that our prayer of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament is an extension of what we are called to do at Mass and should always leave us yearning for that spiritual and sacramental union that only the miracle of the Mass can offer us.

— *Josh Perry is the director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Burlington.*
Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.

$10/adults, $6/children 8-12 ($32 family maximum).

Upcoming Events

05|08 MONDAY
Bereavement Support Group
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 5:15 pm
All are welcome to join. In order to encourage discussion, these meetings are confidential.

05|10, 17, 24, 31 WEDNESDAYS
Good News Bootcamp
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:45 - 8:30 pm
Please join us in discussing how we as Catholics can bring healing, transformation, virtue, and enthusiasm to our world. See topics on our website at stjohnvianneyvt.org/good-news-bootcamp.

05|12, 19, 06|02, 09 FRIDAYS
The Chosen Season 3
St. Elizabeth Parish Hall, Lyndonville • 5 - 7:30 pm
Join us for dinner at 5; the show will start at 5:30. If you can't make it for dinner, no worries — just come for the show! Note: we will not meet on Memorial Day weekend.

05|13 SATURDAY
Bingo for St. Ambrose/St. Peter Youth Ministry
St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 9 pm
Doors open at 5 pm, Bingo starts at 6 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.

05|14 SATURDAY
Walk to Mary
Isle La Motte • 9 am - 2 pm
Join us for a 2.3 mile walk from St. Joseph, Isle La Motte to St. Anne’s Shrine starting at 9 am, praying the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet while we walk. When we get to the shrine, there will be Mass at 11 am, a break for lunch, then Stations of the Cross for Life at 1 pm. For those who cannot walk with us and would still like to participate, there will also be a Holy Hour of Adoration at St. Anne’s Shrine starting at 9:30 a.m. FOR MORE INFO: contact Janice (802) 848-3834, janicegodin@myfairpoint.net or Renee (802) 370-2231 or rjpatterson1962@gmail.com with any questions.

05|20 SATURDAY
St. Peter’s Cemetery Committee — Bingo
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. Peter’s Cemetery Committee to benefit the on-going efforts for cemetery improvements.

05|21 SUNDAY
“No Other Lake” Film
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 2 - 4 pm
Join us for a viewing of the documentary film “No Other Lake” produced by local Vermonters, Jordan Rowell and Duane Peterson III. A panel discussion will follow the viewing of the Documentary. Sponsored by Vermont Mercy Associates.

06|03 SATURDAYS
First Saturday Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
Every first Saturday starting with Confessions and the Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass at 8:30 am.

06|03 SATURDAY
First Saturday Devotions
Our Lady of Ephesus, Jamaica • 10 am
Every first Saturday starting with confessions followed by a Mass at 10:30.

06|04 SUNDAY
Eucharistic Healing Service
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 pm
Benediction and Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, first Sunday of the month with Fr. Harlow.

06|06 TUESDAYS
Our Lady's Kitchen — Bethel
St. Anthony, Bethel • 11 am - 1 pm
Free meal! Come one, come all!

06|16 FRIDAY
Worldpriest Rosary Relay
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 11:30 am
Join people around the world in praying the Rosary. Bishop Coyne will lead the Rosary and it will be live-streamed on the Diocesan website as well as aired on Our Lady of Perpetual Help radio.

06|23 FRIDAY
Diocese of Burlington Theology of the Body Formation Day
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 8 am - 5 pm
For more information, contact Daniel Lacourrege at dlacourrege@vermontcatholic.org.

07|21, 22, 23
Steubenville East 2023
Open to all rising 9th grade students up to just graduated seniors. FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/event/steubenville-east-2023.

5-Day Silent Retreat • St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte

Retreat begins Sunday, June 11 at 7 pm and concludes Friday, June 16 at 1 pm.

The Society of St. Edmund will be conducting a 5-Day Directed Retreat in the Ignatian tradition. Using principles from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, retreatants are invited to contemplate scripture passages in a silent environment, celebrate daily Eucharist and meet with a Spiritual Director each day. Spiritual Directors are specifically trained for this type of retreat and will serve as companions and co-discerners of the Spirit during the retreat. Applicants should be comfortable maintaining an atmosphere of silence and be able to share their prayer experience with a Spiritual Director in a daily meeting of about forty-five minutes.

The cost is $550 per person which includes private room and all meals. A $250 non-refundable deposit is due with application which can be obtained by calling Joe Gallagher at (802) 928-3362 or via email at jgallagher@sse.org. Space is limited due to private bedroom accommodations and married couples attending will be assigned to separate cabins.

St. John Vianney, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm
Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.