Sound familiar?” is what I’m always tempted to ask after the readings on Holy Days, such as Christmas Day or Easter Sunday. The nature of the ritual involves repetition. The liturgical year is arranged the same way each year (with minor adjustments from year to year), but we can safely say Advent always comes before Christmas and Lent before Easter. There is an extended season of Christmas after Christmas Day; likewise, an extended time of Easter follows Easter Sunday. The lectionary, the book that contains the readings we hear at Mass, assigns particular readings to every day of the year. Although the priest has some discretion to choose other readings within limited circumstances, we often hear the same readings from year to year, every other year, or every three years.

The readings that are assigned in the lectionary for weekday Masses are arranged in a 2-year cycle: Years I and II. The readings that are assigned to Sunday Masses (and Saturday Masses of anticipation) are arranged in a 3-year cycle: Years A, B, and C. On certain Holy Days of Obligation such as Christmas Day and Easter Sunday — because of their importance to the Catholic faith — the same readings are assigned every year. We will hear the story of Jesus’s birth on Christmas morning and the story of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Currently, in July 2023, we are in Year A/Year I.

Notice that I used the term “cycle” above. Oftentimes, we think of the liturgical year or the cycle of readings in a circular way; they repeat after a certain duration, and we’re back to where we began one, two, or three years ago. But the liturgical year and the cycle of readings can be better thought of in terms of a spiral. There’s a circular motion in a spiral, but the design of the spiral never returns to the original point. This is a better description of the liturgical year and the cycle of readings. Even though the readings repeat from year to year, you and I are different than we were the last time we encountered particular words from Scripture, and we might hear those words of Scripture very differently than before. I hear the Christmas story and the Resurrection story differently than I did three years ago, 10 years ago, or 50 years ago. My life experiences have changed me, and hopefully, my faith life has deepened. So even though the Church will not surprise you with a different passage of Scripture read on Pentecost Sunday, and you will hear the story about the Holy Spirit coming to the Apostles, you may be surprised by what God says to you in the hearing of that same Pentecost story this year.

Listen carefully, then, to the readings proclaimed in Scripture. Listen as if you’re hearing those readings for the first time. Let your life experiences interact with the Holy Word of God, and in that space of interaction, allow the Holy Spirit to enter and communicate what God needs to communicate to you. You may be surprised at how unfamiliar, new, and exciting the story seems to you.

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

07/02, 08/06 SUNDAYS
Eucharistic Healing Service
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 pm
Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Sunday of every month with Fr. Harlow.

07/05 WEDNESDAY
Summer Lecture Series on Stained Glass: A Foretaste of Heaven
Saint Michael, Brattleboro • 5 pm
Dr. Jennifer Healy, Ph.D in Visual and Language Arts, will focus on the window featuring Saint Patrick. Program will begin with evening prayer followed by the presentation.

07/12 – 08/30 WEDNESDAYS
Wednesday Reflection Series
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am
Join us for Mass at 11:15 am followed by the presentation. Lunch is available in the cafeteria after the presentation, or you can bring your own picnic lunch. FOR MORE INFO: (802) 928.3362 or sas@sse.org.

07/05:
Fr. Michael Carter, SSE
- Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist

07/12:
Fr. David Theroux, SSE
- Faithful Celebration of the Mass

07/19:
Fr. Richard Myhalyk, SSE
- Understanding the Parables of Jesus

07/26:
Feast of St. Anne — No Reflection Series

08/02:
Fr. Richard Berube, SSE
- From Jesus to Gospels: Why They Wrote and How

08/09:
Msgr. Peter Routhier
- Praying at Eucharistic Adoration

08/16:
Fr. Michael Carter, SSE

St. Justin Martyr on the Eucharist
08/23
Fr. David Theroux, SSE
180 Years of Edmundite Ministry Since 1843
08/30
Fr. Richard Myhalyk, SSE
The Life of St. Edmund of Canterbury

07/09, 08/13 SUNDAYS
Monthly COSP KofC Fund Raising Breakfast
Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am – 12 pm
Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.

07/09 SUNDAY
Annual Diocesan Family Day Mass and Picnic
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 12:15 pm
Msgr. John McDermott will be the celebrant. The shrine will be providing a free-will-donation barbecue after the Mass. Visitors are welcome to bring their own picnic as well as lawn chairs and lawn games.

07/09, 16, 23, 30 SUNDAYS
Teachings on Spiritual Discernment
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 1 pm
For four Sundays in July during which Fr. Harlow and Deacon Tom Lovett will offer sessions dealing with spiritual discernment. The sessions will include teaching and time for discussion. Plan to come and bring a friend!

07/09 – 08/04 MONDAY – FRIDAY
Totus Tuus
Totus Tuus is one week long, with the grade school (grades 1-8) session during the day from 9am to 3pm, and a session for high school students each evening. The week is led by our enthusiastic team of Totus Tuus missionaries! To download a registration form, visit: vermontcatholic.org/totustuus.

07/02, 08/06 SUNDAYS
Eucharistic Healing Service
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 pm
Benediction and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Sunday of every month with Fr. Harlow.

07/05 WEDNESDAY
Summer Lecture Series on Stained Glass: A Foretaste of Heaven
Saint Michael, Brattleboro • 5 pm
Dr. Jennifer Healy, Ph.D in Visual and Language Arts, will focus on the window featuring Saint Patrick. Program will begin with evening prayer followed by the presentation.

07/12 – 08/30 WEDNESDAYS
Wednesday Reflection Series
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am
Join us for Mass at 11:15 am followed by the presentation. Lunch is available in the cafeteria after the presentation, or you can bring your own picnic lunch. FOR MORE INFO: (802) 928.3362 or sas@sse.org.

07/05:
Fr. Michael Carter, SSE
- Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist

07/12:
Fr. David Theroux, SSE
- Faithful Celebration of the Mass

07/19:
Fr. Richard Myhalyk, SSE
- Understanding the Parables of Jesus

07/26:
Feast of St. Anne — No Reflection Series

08/02:
Fr. Richard Berube, SSE
- From Jesus to Gospels: Why They Wrote and How

08/09:
Msgr. Peter Routhier
- Praying at Eucharistic Adoration

08/16:
Fr. Michael Carter, SSE

St. Justin Martyr on the Eucharist
08/23
Fr. David Theroux, SSE
180 Years of Edmundite Ministry Since 1843
08/30
Fr. Richard Myhalyk, SSE
The Life of St. Edmund of Canterbury

07/09, 08/13 SUNDAYS
Monthly COSP KofC Fund Raising Breakfast
Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am – 12 pm
Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.

07/09 SUNDAY
Annual Diocesan Family Day Mass and Picnic
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 12:15 pm
Msgr. John McDermott will be the celebrant. The shrine will be providing a free-will-donation barbecue after the Mass. Visitors are welcome to bring their own picnic as well as lawn chairs and lawn games.

07/09, 16, 23, 30 SUNDAYS
Teachings on Spiritual Discernment
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 1 pm
For four Sundays in July during which Fr. Harlow and Deacon Tom Lovett will offer sessions dealing with spiritual discernment. The sessions will include teaching and time for discussion. Plan to come and bring a friend!

07/09 – 08/04 MONDAY – FRIDAY
Totus Tuus
Totus Tuus is one week long, with the grade school (grades 1-8) session during the day from 9am to 3pm, and a session for high school students each evening. The week is led by our enthusiastic team of Totus Tuus missionaries! To download a registration form, visit: vermontcatholic.org/totustuus.

07/13, 14, 15, 16 THURSDAY – SUNDAY
Padre Pio Relic Events
Padre Pio Relics will be touring the diocese, visiting four locations July 13 – 16.

07/13 — St. Mary Star Of The Sea, Newport
Veneration 9 am – 6:30 pm, Mass 6:30 pm

07/14 — St. Monica, Barre
Veneration 7 am – 7 pm, Mass 7 am

07/15 — Christ the King, Burlington
Veneration 10:30 am – 6:00 pm, Mass 10 am

07/16 — St. John the Baptist, Bennington
Veneration 10:30 am – 6 pm, Mass 10 am

07/19 WEDNESDAY
Vermont Catholic Professionals Networking Breakfast
Chancery, S. Burlington • 8:30 am
Our speaker will be David Young, Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Light breakfast foods provided. Zoom option available. Register for either option at: vermontcatholic.org/vcp

Eucharistic TESTIMONIALS

“‐The Mass and Adoration are highlights in my week; one unites me with many as we hear the Word of God, the other is a quiet time, a precious gift for each of us to communicate with our Lord.”

— Mary Ann Church
Our Lady of the Valley, Bethel

Read the full Eucharistic Testimonial and others at: vermontcatholic.org/eucharistic-testimonials

Submit your Eucharistic Testimonial to: revival@vermontcatholic.org

BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

Progress: 46% to goal

Raised: $1,145,375 as of June 21

Goal: $2,503,354

Ways to give

Give Online
vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

Donate By Mail
Bishop’s Annual Appeal
Diocese of Burlington
55 Joy Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

Stock Gifts/Planned Gifts
802-658-6110 ext.1226
ekane@vermontcatholic.org