One of the most fascinating classes I had in graduate school was a course on the Eucharist. As we explored various Eucharistic prayers, it quickly became apparent that the prayer is meant to be understood as a unified whole, and our understanding of the Eucharist is diminished if we focus on only one or another part of the prayer.

I remember my professor posing this question: “How often do we pull out the Institution Narrative (the Consecration) as the most important part of the Eucharist Prayer? How often is the Consecration the point of focus so much so that it is separated from the rest of the prayer so that the rest of the prayer becomes a mumble of words?”

This really got me thinking, because I had thought of the Consecration as the moment in Mass. Understanding the fullness of the Eucharist Prayer, though, helps me set the Consecration in the proper context. Indeed, without the Consecration, the Eucharistic Prayer loses its meaning, but without the rest of the Eucharist Prayer, the Consecration loses its purpose.

The Eucharistic Prayer is an example of God’s superabundant graces given to us. It is miracle enough to have the Real Presence of the Christ through the Consecration. It would be enough to have the Consecration at Mass because we could still talk about the Real Presence, and we could still receive the sacramental presence of Christ at communion. But without the rest of the Eucharistic Prayer — specifically — without the few lines that are spoken immediately after the Consecration, the Real Presence of Christ simply remains on our altars.

That is miracle enough, but God desires — and does — more. Only in embracing the fullness of the Eucharistic Prayer do we understand that the Church — as the Mystical Body of Christ — does something with the Real Presence of Christ. In remembering the events of the Paschal Mystery — the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ — the Church offers that very presence of Christ back to God, the Father.

In calling to mind the events of the Paschal Mystery, we bring those same events to the present moment, and the Mystical Body of Christ offers all this, brought into the present moment in this particular Eucharistic celebration, to the Father. Here we have offering and sacrifice, and we begin to realize the Sacrifice of the Mass. Listen carefully, or you might miss it: “Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your son, His wondrous resurrection, and ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to His second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice” (Eucharistic Prayer III).

This is but one example of how the complete Eucharistic Prayer, taken as a single whole, offers a more complete picture of what happens at Mass.

May we more fervently join in the entire Eucharistic Prayer with our hearts and minds, remembering that through this prayer, the mission of the Church is accomplished.

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

08/16 – 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.
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

08/16 WEDNESDAY
St. Michael Church Summer Lecture Series
St. Michael, Brattleboro • 5 – 7 pm
A program on the saints pictured in the stained glass windows will be presented in the church by a number of visiting priests, artisans and teachers starting on Wednesday, June 28. The program begins at 5PM with evening prayer followed by the presentation.
08/16 Father Michael Pierz, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenfield, Massachusetts will discuss St. John the Baptist
08/17, 08/19, 08/21 THURSDAYS
Spanish Mass
St. Peter, Vergennes • 7 pm
Fr. Timothy Danaher, O.P., Campus Minister at Dartmouth College, will be offering Spanish Mass at 7 pm.
08/19, 08/19, 08/21 SATURDAYS
The Chosen —
Movie Night and Potluck
St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 5 – 6:45 pm
Come join us for a movie night and potluck dinner every third Saturday of the month. We will watch an episode of The Chosen together and have food and fellowship!
08/20 SUNDAY
Burlington Concert Band
at St. Mark Parish
St. Mark, Burlington • 5 pm
All are invited for an evening of music on our back lawn. Bring your own chairs, blankets, and picnic basket. Weather Permitting!

08/26 SATURDAY
Ascension Church Furnace
FUNDraiser Live Auction & Raffle
Ascension, Georgia • 11 am – 3 pm
Things are heating up with a live auction and raffle fundraiser to support Ascension Parish’s new furnace project! Light lunch items, raffle & silent auction will be available throughout the day. You may preview the live auction items from 11 am to 1 pm. The live auction will be held from 1–3 pm, by auctioneer Mike LaChance. FOR MORE INFO: Call Jean (802) 782-6491 or Alice (802) 524-3330.

08/27 SUNDAY
Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage
Mass at St. Anne’s Shrine
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 12:15-2:30 pm
Mass followed by the ceremony for the Installation of State Officers for the 2023-2024 fraternal year and an end-of-summer cookout. Lunch will include burgers, dogs, homemade potato salad and coleslaw, chips, dessert, condiments, and water & cold drinks. There is a suggested Donation of $7 per person for the cookout (make your own family discount for multiple kids). Any net proceeds from donations will benefit the charitable work of K. of C. District 1 councils. The collection at Mass will benefit St. Anne’s Shrine. RSVP for the lunch by going to the K. of C. State Chaplain’s Blog: ubipetrusvt.com/shrine2023.

09/02, 09/07 SATURDAYS
First Saturday Mass
All Saints, Richford • 7:30 – 9:30 am
Please join us every first Saturday for First Saturday confession, Mass, and devotions. Confessions from 7:30 to about 7:50. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 8 am, followed by the devotional prayers. All are welcome!
09/02, 09/07 SATURDAYS
First Saturday Devotions
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 8 am
Mass at 8 am, Holy Rosary and Confessions at 8:30 am. The Blessed Virgin Mary asked the three children at Fatima in 1917 that these devotions be followed to bring peace to the world.
09/02, 09/07 SATURDAYS
First Saturday Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
Confessions and Rosary at 8 am, Mass at 8:30.
09/03, 09/07 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.

09/06 – 10/27 WEDNESDAYS or FRIDAYS
Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible
Our Lady of Angels, Randolph
Wednesdays: 6:30 – 8 pm
Fridays: 9:45 am - 11:15 am
Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible helps you get the “big picture” by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows you how to read the Bible so that you can actually understand it. This eight-session study program includes video presentations that explore all twelve time periods of The Bible Timeline Chart.

09/10, 09/10 SUNDAYS
Monthly COSP Fundraising Breakfast
Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am – 12 pm
Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.
09/29 – 10/02 FRI, SAT, SUN, MON
Light of the World Retreat
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Junction
Parishioners from all parishes are welcome. Information and registration available at Essex Catholic Light of the World Retreat or email questions to ecc.engage@gmail.com. There is no registration fee.
10/08 SUNDAY
Fourth Annual St. John Henry Newman Night
Holy Family, Essex Jct. • 4 - 8 pm
An Evening in Honor of St. John Henry Newman, featuring solemn sung vespers, a first class dinner and dessert catered by Bill Rensch and the Knights of Columbus, and two presentations on the life and works of St. John Henry Newman. RSVP required: vermontnewman@gmail.com.

For the full listing of events, please visit the diocesan Events Calendar at vermontcatholic.org/events.

Progress: 66% to goal

Raised: $1,643,640
as of Aug. 2
Goal: $2,503,354