God takes reverence seriously: “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground” (Ex 3:5). Muslims take off their shoes in the mosque. Jewish men don a yarmulke at synagogue. We, Catholics, have the privilege of being in the very presence of the Son of God, Jesus himself in the tabernacle. Do we acknowledge God’s true presence when we enter the church?

Proximity has bred familiarity: “This people ... honors me with their lips alone, though their hearts are far from me, ... fear of me has become mere precept of human teaching” (Mt 15:8-9 and Mk 7:6-7 quoting Is 29:13).

“Fear of the Lord” meant both reverence and awe at the omnipotence of our God. In the Old Testament, at Sinai, the people “bowed down with their faces to the ground ... and worshiped” (2 Chron 7:3). When Elijah called down the Lord’s fire, “all the people fell prostrate” (1 Kgs 18:38-39). When the Book of the Law was read, “all the people ... knelt down and bowed (Neh 8: 5-6,3).

In the New Testament, at the manger Magi prostrate themselves (Mt 2:11); Peter falls down, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man” (Lk 5:8); the Centurion protests: “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof” (Mt 8:8); the cured woman approaches in fear and trembling (Mk 5:25-33); the man born blind worshiped him” (Jn 9:38); Thomas exclaims: “My Lord and my God!” (Jn 20:28).

If we met the pope, we would be on our best behavior. How much more for Jesus, present in the tabernacle, our savior, and our Lord?

We must bow down in humility before the God who is in our midst. The Mass is not just another pious devotion. The Divine Liturgy is our High Priest’s Last Supper, our New Covenant, the “source and summit of our Christian life” (Lumen Gentium, no. 11).

When we attend Eucharist, we are participants in the heavenly banquet. There “the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation.” We bow and pray: “may our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise” (Preface for Lent IV).

Instilling renewed reverence requires work: encountering Christ personally; proclaiming His love to others; and bringing them to the Eucharist.

First, we need to accept the popes’ calls to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ (Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel], to the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction (Pope Benedict XVI, God is Love, 1).

Secondly, we must let that encounter motivate us “to be actively engaged in evangelization; every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus (Joy of the Gospel, 120).

Finally, we need to bring others to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. The goal of all mission: “to bring Christ to others ... the gift of His very person. Anyone who has not shared the truth of love with his brothers and sisters has not yet given enough” (Pope Benedict XVI, The Eucharist as The Source And Summit Of The Church’s Life And Mission, 86).

We must learn again to “worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our maker (Ps 95:6) and ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil 2:12).

— Paul D. Turnley
Christ Our Savior Parish, Manchester Center

Eucharistic TESTIMONIALS

“Through Daily Mass, Adoration, and the Rosary, I feel like God, Mother Mary and the rest of the heavenly court are my BEST FRIENDS. I talk to them about everything and anything. I realized having those kind of friends, I’m NEVER alone.

I know that no matter what I do in a day, my Daily Mass is the MOST important thing I could do for it is the closest I will get to Jesus on earth, and that is irreplaceable.”

— Elaine Jacovini, Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Morrisville
Upcoming Events

11|02 Thursday
Spanish Mass, Day of the Dead
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Middlebury • 7 - 9 pm
There will be a Day of the Dead celebration, including Mass. Dominican Father Tim Danaher and Father Luke Austin, pastor, will be the celebrants of the 7 pm Mass in Spanish, followed by a procession around the Middlebury College campus to see the ofrendas and include music and dancing. All are welcome.

11|03, 04 Friday & Saturday
The Guiding Star Presents the Cycle Show
Parents: Friday 7-8:30 pm
Girls: Saturday, 9 am-2 pm
St. John Vianney Parish Hall, S. Burlington
The cycle show is an educational, interactive multi-media fertility awareness workshop for girls aged 9-12. This workshop is a desirable addition to the standard reproductive health education given in schools. The workshop was developed to give young girls knowledge of what is going on inside their bodies in relation to puberty. The parent presentation is available to equip parents with a thorough understanding of the themes and topics presented in the Cycle Show and allows the conversation to continue at home with solid education and resources. Cost is $50 per girl (scholarships are available). FOR MORE INFO: whelan.jessica@gmail.com

11|04, 05, 18 Saturdays
Women’s Walking Group
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am
SJV Women’s Ministry welcomes interested women to meet and walk together for roughly 45 minutes, usually leaving from the SJV parking lot. It’s a great, community-building way to get some steps in and meet some of your neighbors in a slightly social setting. On second and fourth Saturdays we will meet at alternate walking locations which will be announced ahead of time, usually on our website. In the event of inclement weather, check our website for a cancellation notice; stjohnvianneyvt.org/walking-with-wm.

11|04 Saturday
Italian Dinner Night
Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 5 - 7:30 pm
Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, Charles Phillips Council #14351. Limited seating — means reservations are required! $15 per plate. Contact Grand Knight, Bill Johnson, at coachjohnson@outlook.com or (802) 345-3828 to make your reservation for a wonderful meal and wonderful fellowship.

11|04 Saturday
Annual Chicken Pie to-go Dinner
St. Pius X, Essex Junction • 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Hosted by the Essex Knights of Columbus and the St. Pius Meal Team. Cost is $15 per person. Sign-up by calling Ron Rice at (802) 879-6989 or e-mail Georgie Tatro at s-gtatro@comcast.net. Cash or check for payment.

11|05 Sunday
Eucharistic Healing Service
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 - 4 pm
Benediction and Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 3 pm on the first Sunday of every month with Fr. Lance W. Harlow.

11|06 Monday
Spanish Mass at St. Michael’s College Chapel
St. Michael’s College, Colchester • 7:30 pm
Join our mailing list at: mrainville@smcvt.edu.

11|07 Tuesday
Our Lady’s Kitchen
St. Anthony, Bethel • 11 am - 1 pm
Free meal! Come one, come all!

11|08 Sunday
Monthly Knights of Columbus Fund Raising Breakfast
Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm
Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.

11|10 Friday
Essex Community Dinners
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 5:30 - 7 pm
These meals are free to all but donations to cover parish expenses are appreciated. In person dining starts at 5:30 pm at Holy Family Parish Hall on the second Friday of each month. Take out dinners are also available.

11|11 Saturday
St. Ambrose/St. Peter Youth Ministry Bingo
St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 am - 5 pm
Please join us for Bingo at St. Peter’s Parish Hall, 85 South Maple Street, Vergennes. 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.

FORGIVEN
THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF CONFESSION

Join Father William Beaudin’s 2023 Advent On-line Seminar:
FORGIVEN: The Transforming Power of Confession
Wednesdays during Advent (Nov. 29 to Dec. 20) • 7:30-8 pm
For information and zoom link: forgivencosp@gmail.com

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Progress: 80% to goal
Raised: $1,852,646
as of Oct. 18
Goal: $2,503,354

BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

80%