

The Inland See

NEWS FROM

February 10–16, 2024

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Vermont Catholic Charities Ash Wednesday Collection

On Feb. 14, we begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday. These 40 days are a time when we can give things up, prioritize prayer, grow closer to God, and find ways to care more for the good of others than for self. We do this to prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter morning when we celebrate that Christ has risen!

As I begin to think about my own Lenten journey, I have been drawn to the parable of the Good Samaritan. Who today is lying by the side of the road needing my help? Who has been forgotten or marginalized? How can I reach out to support the stranger?

St. Augustine said, “Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two things: fasting and almsgiving.”

On Ash Wednesday, parishes throughout the Diocese of Burlington will take up a collection to support the outreach work of Vermont Catholic Charities. For more than 95 years, Vermont Catholic Charities has met individuals and families where they are — serving anyone in need, regardless of their faith, gender, race, or ethnicity. Serving means walking alongside our neighbors in need, making sure they are seen and heard. It means allowing ourselves to experience some part of their pain, so that we can truly connect with them, so that we can help them to find services and resources that will ease their burdens.

Guided by our faith, we do what we do because we are Catholic, not because those we serve are Catholic.

The clients that come to our “doors” are some of the most vulnerable in our communities. Due to budgetary constraints and increased needs because of rising costs, we are calling on you to join us in being a Good Samaritan so we can continue to serve fellow Vermonters. The work that you will support will help transform people’s lives.

Emergency Aid: Assisting more than 2,100 children and adults

Betty cares for her adult daughter and was concerned about how they would pay for their next fuel bill as the colder days of winter approached. “Thank you for ensuring we have continuous heat in our home,” she said.

Prison Ministry Transition Assistance:

Helping more than 28 clients

Mike had just been released after 12 years of incarceration and



was in desperate need of warm clothing as well as items to help set up his residence. Vermont Catholic Charities provided vouchers to help acquire the items he needed. “I am grateful for this support to assist me in getting a good start to re-establishing myself as a productive member of the community,” he said.

Counseling Services:

Supporting more than 160 clients a year

Megan and Dan shared the impact of counseling on their relationship: “Our marriage was good the first few years, and then we became overwhelmed with the stressors of children,

work, etc. and in addition did not have good communication and conflict-resolving skills. We lived in silent misery and even considered divorce but are so glad we decided to go to marriage therapy. Our marriage is better than ever.”

Residential Care Homes: Caring for more than 150 residents a year with more than 80 percent on Medicaid

“How do we measure how grateful our families are for the wonderful care given to our mother and our children’s grandmother and our children’s children’s great grandmother? You have a magical way of making it all work so seamlessly. Our mother is always made to feel comfortable, special, and dignified. You do this and so much more with such grace!”

As we begin this Lenten journey together, we ask you to prayerfully consider participating in the Ash Wednesday collection — any gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. As a Catholic community, let us be the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors in need. Let us be like the Good Samaritan who bent down to the stranger in need and took care of him. Let Christ’s love shine through our actions.

Donations can be given in pew during your parish’s Ash Wednesday Mass, mailed to Vermont Catholic Charities, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403 or made online at vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/catholic-charities/ash-wednesday-appeal.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Pinard

Mary Beth Pinard

Executive Director of Vermont Catholic Charities.

Upcoming Events



02|15, 03|14 THURSDAYS

Spanish Mass

St. Peter, Vergennes • 7 pm

Fr. Timothy Danaher, O.P., Campus Minister at Dartmouth will be offering the monthly Spanish Mass.



02|16 FRIDAY

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 5 - 7 pm

Cost is \$15 for adults, \$7 for children 9 and under, \$40 for an immediate family (5 or more). Tickets are required, call Dave (802) 864-4166 x 207.



02|18 SUNDAY

Blessing of Snowmobiles Breakfast

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Troy • 8 - 11 am

The Knights of Columbus of Father Meaney-Father St. Onge Council #7943 in Troy invites snowmobilers and clubs to attend a Catholic Blessing of Snowmobiles with an all-you-can-eat community family breakfast.



02|18 SUNDAY

Knights of Columbus Council #2284 Pancake Breakfast

St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski • 8 - 11 am

\$10 per person or \$25 per family of 4 (each additional \$5).



02|18 SUNDAY

Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 3 pm

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated by Monsignor McDermott on the First Sunday of Lent at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. During the Rite of Election, the Church "elects" those seeking full initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at Easter. Friends and family of those participating in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion and all the faithful from around the diocese are invited.



02|19, 20, 21 MON, TUES, WED

A Lenten Mission with Monsignor Lavalley

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8:30 - 11:30 am

Monsignor Lavalley will be at for the 8:30 am Mass to give an extended homily on the following topics:

Monday, Feb. 19 — The Neglected Virtue Trust in God

Tuesday, Feb. 20 — The Unwrapped Package The Gift of Monotony

Wednesday, Feb. 21 — The Impostor Versus The Beggar

He will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after each Mass. Join us as we begin our Lenten journey together.



02|19 VARIOUS DAYS

Bible Study: The Prophets — Messengers of God's Mercy

Locations include: Bethel, Northfield, Randolph

Classes begin the week of February 18 with a two week break at Easter.

Mondays 6-7:30 pm, Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph

Tuesdays 3-4:30 pm, St. Anthony, Bethel

Wednesday 6-7:30 pm, St. John the Evangelist, Northfield

Fridays 9:45-11:15, Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph

FOR MORE INFO: Elizabeth estuart@vermontcatholic.org.



02|20, 27, 03|05, 12, 19 TUESDAYS

Weekly Lenten Taize Prayer

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington

5:30 pm

Everyone is warmly invited to attend.



02|22, 29, 03|07, 14 THURSDAYS

Lenten Lecture Series: Eucharistic Miracles, Marian Apparitions & Interesting Saints

Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 6 - 8 pm

A potluck dinner and an interesting lecture highlighting, each evening, one Eucharistic Miracle, one Marian apparition, and one interesting Saint.



02|23 FRIDAY

Lenten Lecture Series: A Deep Dive into the Mass

St. John the Evangelist, Northfield • 6 - 8 pm

Potluck and a detailed look at the Mass, its roots in tradition and scripture, presented by Fr. Scott Gratton.



02|24 SATURDAY

Theology of Bread Retreat

All Saints, Richford • 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Join Sr. Paul Mary Dreger, FSE for a day long retreat, moving us to a deeper understanding of the Eucharist. Hands-on bread baking, Adoration and Mass. Learn more at: vermontcatholic.org/event/theology-of-bread-retreat/.



02|25 SUNDAY

Music Festival: a cappella liturgical music

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 4:30 - 8:30 pm

Organized by Father Matthew Rensch and Sharon Trani, in collaboration with Holy Family parish and Matthew Santos and a schola group from Thomas Aquinas College. Our goal is to warm our hearts and souls with some great music. Schedule for the evening: 4:30 – small group sharing, 5:30 – dinner, 6:30 – whole group together, 7:30 – sing at Mass, for those willing and able. RSVP and questions: Sharon Trani, sltrani@verizon.net.



03|02 SATURDAY

Free Community Dinner

St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls

5 - 6:30 pm

Please join us for a free community dinner open to all on the first Saturday of the month.



03|05 TUESDAY

Our Lady's Kitchen Luncheon

Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 11 am

Free meal! Come one, come all!



03|08, 04|12 FRIDAYS

Essex Community Dinners

Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 5:30 pm

Essex Community Dinners are intended to

feed the hungry, lonely and needy amongst us. These meals are free to all but donations to cover parish expenses are appreciated. Take out dinners are also available.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte

- Kitchen Steward
- Housekeeper

Contact Abbi Stumpf
at (802) 928-3362

or astumpf@saintannesshrine.org

Universal Synod Update



Following the Synod Assembly of Bishops in October 2023, each diocese around the world has been asked to continue the conversation by reflecting upon the synthesis report. The US Synod Team is asking each diocese to hold 2-3 listening sessions during Lent to reflect upon two guiding questions. A 3-5 page document synthesizing what was heard at the diocesan listening sessions will be incorporated into a summary from the USCCB to the Secretariat due in April 2024. Synod Zoom meetings for parish delegates and parishioners have been scheduled bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. The second Lenten meeting to reflect upon the two guiding questions is March 12, with additional meetings planned for May 14, July 16, Sept. 10, and Nov. 12.

Registration required: vermontcatholic.org/universalsynod.