

NEWS FROM The Inland See

February 15–21, 2025

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

Trying to figure out who's who is a common human activity. We like to know who we are sharing our time with and what relationship they have to us. So it is with the Church that gathers on Sunday for Mass. Many of the faces are as familiar as our own, but as with any healthy group, new faces are to be expected and welcomed. Some of those new faces may be responding to a call to find out more about



Christ and his Church. The Church opens its arms to these seekers with the wisdom and rituals of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (the OCIA; known formerly as the RCIA).

People who are not yet Catholics but who desire to learn more about the Catholic faith and its mission fall into two main groups: catechumens and candidates. A catechumen is someone who has never been baptized while candidates are those who, having already been baptized in another Christian denomination, desire to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church. Catechumens and candidates undergo a period of formation involving a number of steps and phases. After this formation, usually at the Easter Vigil or in the Easter Season, they receive the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

For these catechumens and candidates, Lent is a period of intensified spiritual preparation. At the beginning of

Lent, the Diocese celebrates a special ritual: the “Rite of Election” for the catechumens and the “Call to Continuing Conversion” for the candidates. Based on the testimony given by the sponsors and catechists, Bishop John McDermott, in the name of the Catholic Church in Vermont, will declare the catechumens to be “Elect,” chosen by God for the Sacraments

of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the upcoming Easter Vigil. The Bishop will also recognize the desire of the already-baptized candidates for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist within our Catholic community.

This year, a good number of our parishes have multiple people in the OCIA process seeking the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. All members of the faithful throughout the diocese are encouraged to pray for and with the catechumens and candidates this Lent, especially for those new faces you may see in your own parishes.

All are encouraged to join us for the Diocesan Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion which will be celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, March 9 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Burlington at 3:00 pm.

— *Josh Perry is the director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Burlington*



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

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Upcoming Events



02|19, 26 WEDNESDAYS
Bible Study

Holy Cross, Colchester • 12 - 1 pm

Interested in joining an informal bible study group? Our bible study meets weekly to discuss and discern how to put God's Word into practice in our lives. If you have questions, please call the parish office at (802) 863-3002.



02|22, 03|01 SATURDAYS
SoulCore

St. Andrew, Waterbury • 9 - 10 am

New class session and location! SoulCore is a combination faith and fitness class based on the Most Holy Rosary. Class is about 1 hour. Everyone is welcome, bring your mat and water. Suggested Donation of \$10.



02|22 SATURDAY
Chicken & Biscuits Dinner

Nativity of the BVM, Swanton • 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Serving chicken & biscuits, stuffing, cranberry sauce, coleslaw and dessert. \$12 adults, \$6 kids 6-12 years. Take-Outs Available. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



02|24, 26 MONDAY & WEDNESDAY
Diocesan Lay Formation Information Webinar

via Zoom • 7 pm

The Diocesan Lay Formation Leadership Program seeks to form laity to assist in leadership roles in their parishes. This is a 2-year program that meets one Saturday a month in person, with additional formation taking place via online courses.

Register online at:

Monday, February 24: tiny.cc/2hv5001

Wednesday, February 26: tiny.cc/6hv5001



02|25 TUESDAY
St. JH Newman Sermon Seminars

via Zoom • 6 pm

Fr. Kevin Chalifoux will discuss Parochial and

Plain Sermons, Volume I, Sermon 22: "Witnesses of the Resurrection." Visit page for Zoom link: vermontcatholic.org/event/st-john-henry-newman-series-of-sermon-seminars/



03|01, 04|05 SATURDAYS
BINGO

All Saints, Richford • 11:30 am - 3 pm

Doors will open at 11:30 am and the games

will begin at 1 pm. Homemade lunch, desserts & beverages. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #2610.



03|01 SATURDAY
Cemetery Committee Bingo

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 8 pm

Please join us for Bingo in the parish hall.

Doors open at 5pm, Bingo starts at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold.



03|04, 11, 18, 25, 04|01, 08, 15 TUES.
Wilderness Within

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am / 6:30 pm

This Lent, St. John Vianney Women's Ministry presents "Wilderness Within," a multimedia journey on Tuesdays at 9 am or 6:30 pm. Using daily reflections, journaling, and video presentations, Sr Josephine Garrett, CSFN, will guide us to discover the ways in which Christ wants to transform and heal our hearts. More information and registration are at stjohnvianneyvt.org/wilderness-within



04|01 TUESDAY
Shroud of Turin Presentation

St. Pius X Church, Essex • 7 - 9 pm

The Essex Catholic Community will host a presentation on the Shroud of Turin by Jim Bertrand, a retired teacher, a member of St. Peter Parish in Lincoln, Nebraska, and a member of the American Confraternity of the Holy Shroud.



04|06 SUNDAY
Eucharistic Healing Service

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 pm

Father Lance Harlow will conduct a

Eucharistic Healing Service, with Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and praying over by Father Harlow.



04|11 FRIDAY
Essex Community Dinner

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 5:30 pm

These meals are free to all but donations are appreciated to cover parish expenses. Take-out available.

**United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Vermont
In re Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, Vermont,
Case No. 24-10205-HZC**

Claims Notice for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Others With Claims Against the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, Vermont

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Diocese, a Catholic parish, or Catholic school within the geographic area of the Diocese, or have any claims against the Diocese, you must file a claim by **April 4, 2025**.

For more diocesan information: visit vermontcatholic.org

*For the bankruptcy docket: visit
<https://case.stretto.com/diocesefurburlington>*

*For U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Vermont
information: visit vtb.uscourts.gov*

For advice about your rights: contact an attorney



**BISHOP'S
ANNUAL APPEAL**

Progress

GOAL: \$2,503,354

92%

2,313,254

as of January 29



Website:
[vermontcatholic.org/
giveonline](https://vermontcatholic.org/giveonline)

Call:
802.658.6110 x 1102

Mail:
Bishop's Annual Appeal
55 Joy Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403