

NEWS FROM The Inland See

March 1–7, 2025

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



A Call for Spiritual Reorganization

On February 1, 2025, Bishop John McDermott sent a letter to priests of the Diocese of Burlington. In the letter he addressed the need for a spiritual reorganization and requested priests to take four actions to help achieve this.

“As the Diocese undergoes its administrative reorganization through the Chapter 11 bankruptcy, it has been on my heart to share that, while our administrative reorganization is necessary, it is even more important that we consider a ‘spiritual reorganization.’ St. Paul reminds us that ‘our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world ruler of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in heaven’ (Eph 6:12). I am convinced that our greatest challenge as a diocese and as a presbyterate is spiritual and not financial and so we must remember that we are called to holiness of life. With this in mind, I am asking that we accept a call to greater prayer and sacrifice to set an example for one another and the people we serve.”

The four requests that Bishop McDermott outlined are as follows:

- “Along with the traditional days of fast and abstinence we observe in the liturgical year, I am inviting all priests of the Diocese of Burlington to observe every Wednesday as a day of fasting.”
- “I am asking that we increase our time of daily prayer by 15 minutes on Wednesdays before the Blessed Sacrament, if possible, for the specific intention of our personal sanctification, the sanctification of our parishioners, and priestly vocations in Vermont.”
- “I also wish us to return to the observance of the traditional Ember Days during the liturgical year. These four three-day periods of fasting, abstinence, and prayer, tied to the four seasons and liturgical observances, will challenge us all to do with less worldly comfort and to rely more fully on God. The Ember Days in 2025 fall on March 12, 14, 15; June 11, 13, 14; September 24, 26, 27; and December 17, 19, 20.”

- “I am asking that throughout the Diocese of Burlington we pray together for vocations at the conclusion of the General Intercessions at all Masses for the Sunday obligation. We need to cry out to God that more men and women accept the call to labor in the ‘vineyard’ as priests and consecrated women and remind our people that this petition must be sought by all the faithful. I am instructing that we begin this diocesan vocation prayer on the First Sunday of Lent, March 8-9, 2025. I also encourage this prayer to be prayed at daily Masses.”

Bishop McDermott ended his letter with the statement “In a world that is in search for answers, our witness will hopefully lead others to know what we know, that ‘God alone suffices!’” Parishioners are invited to take on these actions as well and support their priests in their efforts.

Additionally, Bishop McDermott invites the faithful to pray for an increase of priestly vocations in the diocese, and for an enthusiastic response to all vocational callings:

Heavenly Father,

You have created us for a definite purpose.

**Grant us the grace to know the path
you have planned for all of us in this life
and to respond with a generous ‘yes.’**

**May men respond courageously to Your call
to be good and holy priests.**

**May women accept trustingly in Your call
to consecrated life.**

**Bless us with devoted deacons, holy marriages
and strong families.**

We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Through this spiritual reorganization, it is Bishop McDermott’s hope that the Diocese of Burlington more fully and enthusiastically embraces Christ’s call to evangelize the world — by our faith, our joy, and our example.

— *Vermont Catholic*

Upcoming Events



03|02, 09, 16, 23, 30 SUNDAYS
Conformation Formation Program for Adults

St. Norbert, Hardwick

This Diocese sanctioned program will be facilitated by Deacon David O'Brien to prepare adults who have not received this sacrament. For more information email: dmobrien.1948@gmail.com.



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



03|04 – 04|09
Hebrews – The New & Eternal Covenant

TUESDAYS: St. Anthony, Bethel • 3 pm

WEDNESDAYS: St. John the Evangelist, Northfield • 6 pm

FRIDAYS: Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 9:45 am

Weekly classes using program by Ascension Press.



03|05, 12, 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.



03|06 THURSDAY
Mount St. Joseph Academy Open House

Mount St. Joseph Academy Rutland • 5 - 7 pm

The Open House for prospective students and their families will include Student-Led Tours and Teacher-Student Presentations. MSJ student ambassadors will lead them through a guided tour of the school. Faculty and staff will be on-hand to answer questions and share insights into joining the MSJ family. Light refreshments will be provided.



03|07, 21, 04|04 FRIDAYS
Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Dinner

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 6:30 pm

\$13 adults, \$7 children 6-12 (cash or checks). For take-out reservations call (802) 877-3352.



03|07 FRIDAY
Annual Holy Family Fish Fry

Holy Family, Springfield • 5 - 6:30 pm

\$15 eat in/take out. Kids under 6 are free for eat in. Reserve take-out (802) 885-4123 prior to 2pm day of.



03|09 SUNDAY
Rite of Election & Call to Continuing Conversion

Cathedral of St. Joseph • 3 pm

Celebrated by Bishop McDermott on the First Sunday at Lent, during this rite, the Church "elects" those seeking full initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at Easter. Friends and family of those participating and all the faithful from around the diocese are invited to celebrate with us. A reception in the parish hall will follow.



03|09 SUNDAY
Vergennes Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet

St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 - 10 am

\$12 adults, \$7 children 8 to 12. Sponsored by the Vergennes Council Knights of Columbus.



03|11 TUESDAY
Our Lady's Kitchen Lunch

St. Anthony, Bethel • 11 am - 1 pm

Free hot meal for one and all!



03|12 WEDNESDAY
Grief Ministry and Support

All Saints, Richford • 6 pm

A time of openness regarding the loss of a loved one. Led by Deacon Armand Auclair.



03|14, 04|11, 05|09 FRIDAYS
Joy of Marriage Date Nights

St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 6 - 8 pm

These events are for married and engaged couples, featuring fellowship and presentations. Register by emailing: aauclair@vermontcatholic.org.



03|15 SATURDAY
St. Patrick's Day Dinner

St. Pius X, Essex Center • 5:30

Please join us for a traditional corned beef & cabbage dinner. \$17 per person. Due to limited seating, reservations are required and must be received by Monday, March 10. Takeout will not be offered. Contact: Jane Watson janewatsonvt@comcast.net.



Goal: \$2,503,354
Current: \$2,316,932
as of February 19

93%

Website:

vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

Call:

802.658.6110 x 1102

Mail:

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

**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